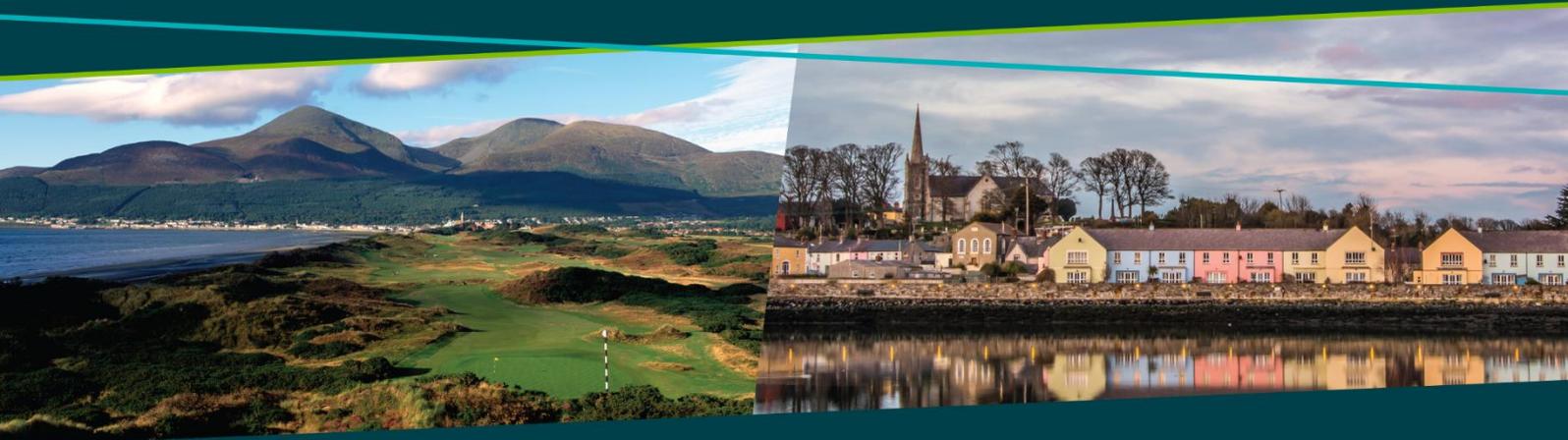


Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Plean Forbartha Áitiúil an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin Breithmheas Inbhuanaitheachta - Tuarascáil Eatramhach Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan 2030 Sustainability Appraisal - Interim 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 Interim Report

This Sustainability Appraisal Interim 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 Scoping 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	or	Downpatrick Planning Office
O'Hagan House		Downshire Civic Centre
Monaghan Row		Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road
Newry BT35 8DJ		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 Scoping 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

The purpose of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Local Development Plan (LDP) is to inform the public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested parties of the policy framework and land use proposals that will implement the strategic objectives of the Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS) and 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 the district. It will ensure that land is zoned appropriately and that our infrastructure is enhanced to develop the district 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), the UK Marine Policy Statement and, when published, the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs).

What is Sustainability Appraisal?

A Sustainability Appraisal is being carried out alongside preparation of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Local Development Plan. Local Planning Authorities use Sustainability Appraisal to assess plans against a set of sustainability objectives developed in consultation with local stakeholders and communities. This assessment helps the Council to identify the relative environmental, social and economic performance of possible strategic, policy and site options, and to evaluate which of these may be more sustainable. Sustainability Appraisal is a statutory process incorporating the requirements of the European Union Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

What is the purpose of this document?

The purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report is to:

- Document the appraisal of options and alternatives against a sustainability framework consisting of fourteen objectives, which has helped to determine the preferred options;
- Identify where there are significant effects of a preferred option and, where these are negative effects, identify how these could be addressed;
- Present any cumulative effects identified in the appraisal; and
- Present any assumptions used in the appraisal, including assessing the significance of effects.

Sustainability Objectives for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

The objectives for sustainable development are to...

- 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 resources

Outcome of Appraisal and Next Stages

The appraisal assessed the options presented for the planning issues identified and considered the possible effects of each approach. Through this process the preferred options were identified and in all cases these represented the most sustainable option. The appraisal also found that the proposals, considered together, had a cumulative positive effect on the majority of the sustainability objectives.

Sustainability appraisal will continue throughout Plan preparation and a Sustainability Report will be published with the draft Plan Strategy. This will take account of the representations on the sustainability appraisal made during public consultation.

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List of Abbreviations

ACMD	Area of Constraint on Minerals Development
ADAP	Ards and Down Area Plan 2015
AoC	Area(s) of Constraint
AoHSV	Area of High Scenic Value
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Monitoring Area(s)
BNMAP	Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015
DAERA	The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Dfi	Department for Infrastructure
DOE	Department of the Environment
EAPP	Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
KSR	Key Site Requirement(s)
LDP	Local Development Plan
MSZ	Mineral Safeguarding Zone
N&M	[the former district of] Newry and Mourne
NI	Northern Ireland
NIW	Northern Ireland Water
NMD	Newry, Mourne and Down
PfG	Programme for Government
POP	Preferred Options Paper
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
PSRNI	Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland
RDS	Regional Development Strategy
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SCA	Special Countryside Areas
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPPS	Strategic Planning Policy Statement
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
TOZ	Tourist Opportunity Zone(s)

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Sustainability Interim Report

This Interim Report is part of the sustainability appraisal process for the Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan (LDP) and is accompanied by the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. It documents the appraisal of options and alternatives against a sustainability framework consisting of fourteen objectives, relating to social, economic and environmental themes, which has helped to determine our preferred options. This process identifies where there are significant effects of a preferred option and, where these are negative effects, identifies how these could be addressed.

1.2 Newry, Mourne and Down District Local Development Plan

This section is also covered in detail in Chapter 4 of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and in depth in the Preferred Options Paper (POP).

The purpose of the Newry, Mourne and Down District LDP is to inform the public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested parties of the policy framework and land use proposals that will implement the strategic objectives of the Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS) and 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 lands are appropriately zoned 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 RDS, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). The new LDP will replace the following Plans, which were prepared prior to April 2015:

- Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 (BNMAP) [adopted October 2013]
- Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 (ADAP) [adopted March 2009]

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).

Following publication of the Preferred Options Paper, the Plan will be produced in two parts consisting firstly of a Plan Strategy followed by a Local Policies Plan. The Plan Strategy will set the aims, objectives, growth strategy and strategic policies applicable to the Plan Area. The Local Policies Plan will provide site specific policies and proposals, including settlement limits, land use zonings and environmental designations.

The LDP is informed by an iterative sustainability appraisal which will run parallel to the preparation of the Preferred Options Paper, Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan. An integral part of the Sustainability Appraisal is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which will examine the environmental effects of the LDP proposals. The sustainability appraisal process aims to ensure that the policies and proposals in the LDP are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.

The preparation of the Scoping Report is the first stage in the undertaking of the SA / SEA. The Scoping Report sets out the evidence base and framework of sustainability objectives against which the social, economic and environmental effects of implementing the draft plan can be appraised.

1.3 Spatial Scope and Profile of the Plan Area

Newry, Mourne and Down district is located to the south east of Northern Ireland (NI) and covers parts of Counties Down and Armagh. To the north the district borders with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Ards and North Down Borough Council. To the west and south it borders Monaghan and Louth County Council areas in the Republic of Ireland. The Council area consists of seven District Electoral Areas.

The district is strategically located along the key transport corridor between Belfast and Dublin. The district's main settlement, Newry, is identified as a main hub and as the Southern Eastern City Gateway with the Republic of Ireland by the RDS. The district's second largest settlement, Downpatrick, is also identified as a main hub while Warrenpoint and Newcastle are identified as local hubs. Warrenpoint port is the second busiest port in the province, whilst Kilkeel and Ardglass fishing harbours play a significant role with the majority of NI's fishing fleet based in these two harbours.

The district covers an area of approximately 1,700km² and has approximately 160km of coastline taking in stretches of Strangford Lough, the Irish Sea and Carlingford Lough. It contains a diverse range of landscapes including the Mourne Mountains, Ring of Gullion, the drumlins and islands around Strangford Lough, Quoile Valley lowlands, coastal dunes and Newry basin. There are three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which cover 55.7% of the district. These areas have a distinctive character and have been designated in recognition of the quality of their landscape, heritage and wildlife.

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

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

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.

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

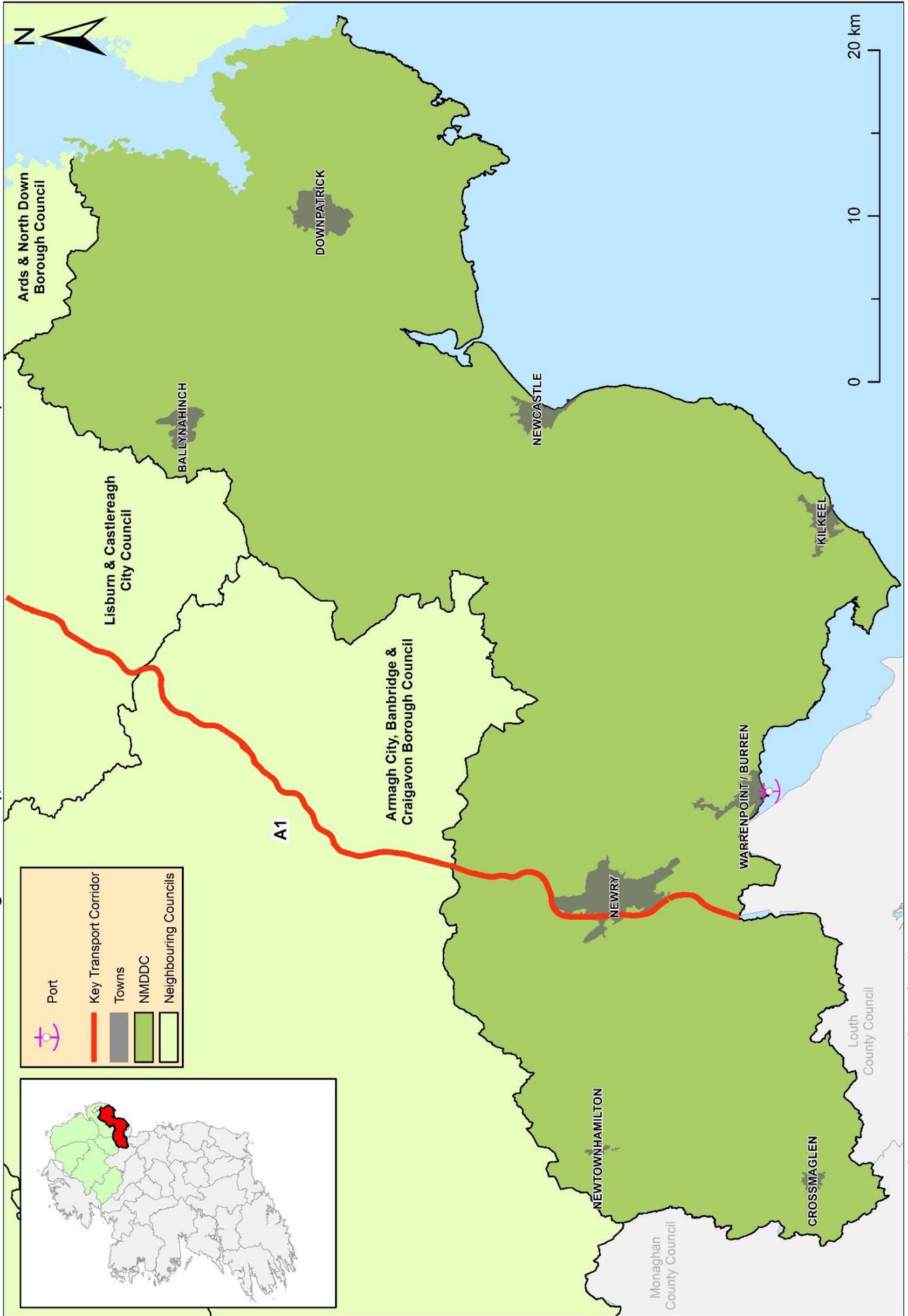
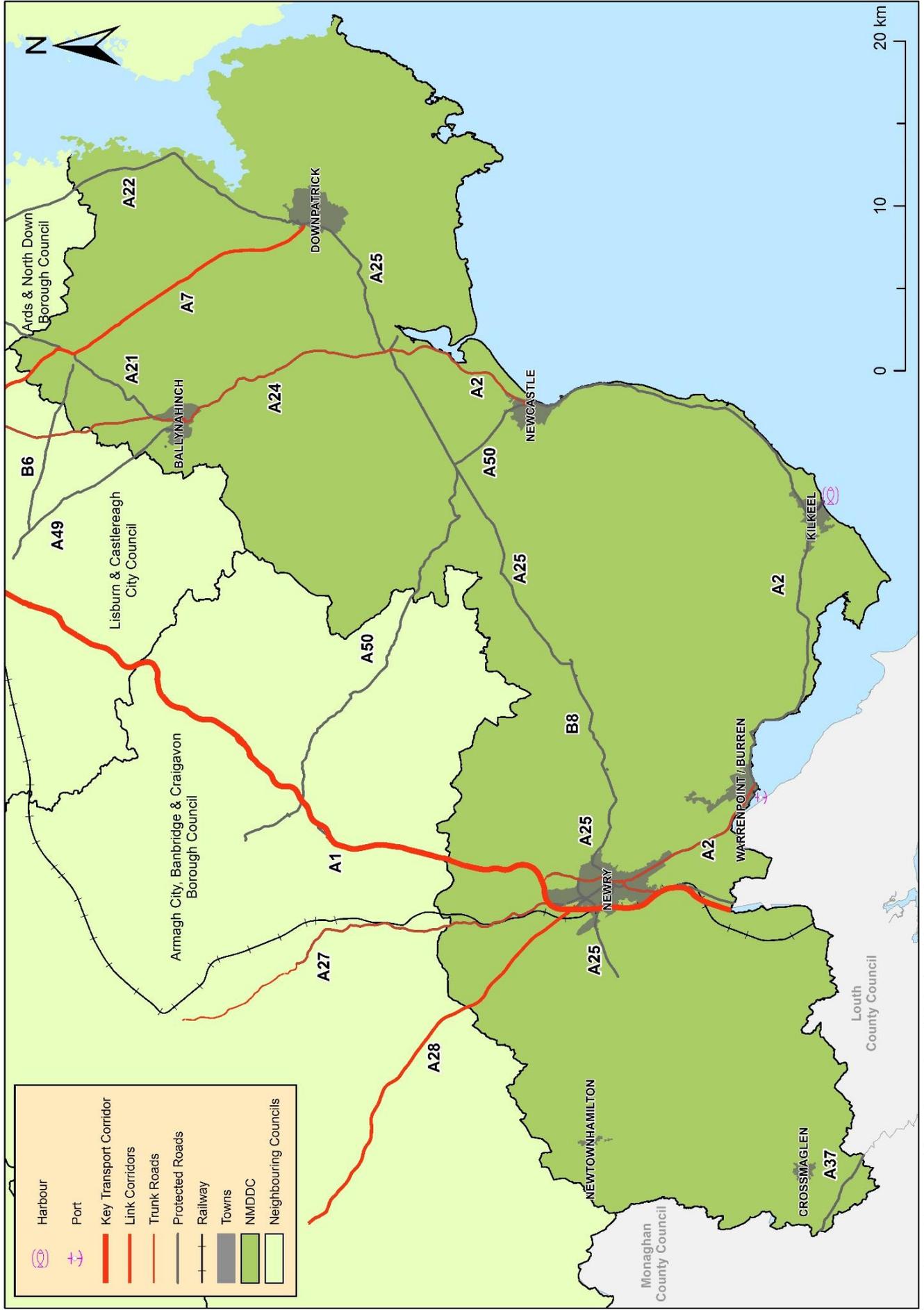


Figure 2. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Transport Map



1.4 Sustainability Appraisal Context

1.4.1. 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. In Northern Ireland the Directive's requirements are taken forward through The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (EAPP) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004. The EAPP (NI) Regulations set out more detailed requirements for the process and content of the environmental assessment of plans and development. Appendix 1 records how these regulations are being complied with.

1.4.2. Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

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

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

The approach in this report is informed by Development Plan Practice Note 04: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (DOE, 2015)⁴. 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.

1.4.3. Habitats Regulations Assessment

Habitats Regulations Assessment is a provision of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended). The regulations require assessment of possible adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas) as a result of plans and policies in the LDP. Assessment is also carried out for Ramsar sites (a wetland of international importance under the provisions of the Ramsar Convention). Baseline information for Habitats Regulations Assessment is included in Appendix 7 of the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. A draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) will be published for consultation with the Draft Plan Strategy and Draft Local Policies Plan. A final HRA will be published when each of these are adopted.

1.4.4. 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 DAERA provides advice on carrying it out in 'Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing'. Rural proofing is the process

⁴ Department of the Environment (2015) Development Plan Practice Note 04: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment

by which all major policies and strategies are assessed to determine whether they have a differential impact on rural areas and, where appropriate, adjustments are made to take account of particular rural circumstances.

The Scoping Report considers rural populations and how the LDP could affect them in the evidence base for the community topic. Data on rural populations, where available, is also included under other topics, for example health, education and infrastructure. Key sustainability issues for the district 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 can be considered in more depth. A rural proofing checklist, reflecting the advice in 'Thinking Rural', will be included in the Sustainability Appraisal Report for Plan Strategy.

1.4.5. Interim Report Structure

The report continues with Chapter 2 which presents our approach to carrying out and documenting the sustainability appraisal of the Preferred Options Paper, including how we assessed the significance of effects, and any limitations and difficulties that were encountered. Chapter 3 summarises the appraisal findings and Chapter 4 describes the cumulative impact of the preferred options and summarises the outcome and the next steps for the appraisal process for the LDP. Appendix 4 presents the detailed record of the sustainability appraisal.

2 Sustainability Appraisal: The Approach

2.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the approach taken to carry out sustainability appraisal for the Preferred Options Paper. The Strategic Context for sustainability appraisal and the preparation of LDPs is presented in Section 3.3 of the Scoping Report.

2.2 Sustainability Appraisal and the LDP

The SEA Directive requires assessment of the likely significant effects of implementing the plan, and 'reasonable alternatives'. Developing options and alternatives is an important part of both the plan-making and sustainability appraisal process. For the Preferred Options Paper the reasonable alternatives are the different options put forward during the preparation of the paper.

2.2.1. 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. It is presented in Chapter 6 and Appendix 5 of the Scoping Report. All stages of plan-making will be assessed using the Framework which may be updated as further information becomes available.

2.2.2. The Sustainability Objectives

A total of fourteen social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives were identified in the Scoping Report. These were informed by the strategic and policy context, a review of baseline information for the Council and any evidence of trends and issues. The objectives for sustainable development for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council are to:

- 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, protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources

The sustainability objectives follow, with a short rationale and description of what each seeks to achieve.

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 adaptation 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.

The Key Sustainability Issues relating to each sustainability objective along with prompts to guide sustainability appraisal can be found in the Sustainability Appraisal Guide in Appendix 5 of the Scoping Report.

2.2.3. Assessment Method

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

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

Table 2.1: Outline Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

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

Table 2.2: Scoring and definitions for Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

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

Key:	++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No overall effect	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	? Score uncertain
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2.2.4. The Appraisal Meeting and Write-Up

Appraisal of the options presented in the Preferred Options Paper was carried out on the 12th and 14th of March 2018. The appraisal panel comprised of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Planning team and a number of additional staff from the council’s Environmental Health, Biodiversity, Tourism, Museums, Economic Development, Leisure and Community Planning departments.

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

2.2.5. Assessing the Significance of Effects

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

Sustainable development is an underlying principle of plan preparation therefore for the majority of issues the positive effects of all options already outweigh the negative effects and few options were put forward which were considered to have a significant negative effect for any sustainability objective. In appraising the options some ways in which negative effects could be reduced or offset and positive effects could be enhanced were identified and these are presented where applicable.

2.2.6. Consideration of Potential Mitigation Measures

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

2.2.7. Appraisal Limitations and Assumptions

The assessment reflects baseline information from the Local Development Plan evidence papers, information provided by consultees, and the experience and judgement of the panel carrying out the appraisal meeting. In some cases, there is uncertainty about how a given approach would be implemented due to insufficient detail about the proposal which is a consequence of this early and strategic stage of plan preparation. Where necessary 'uncertain' was recorded and a note made of further information that could inform future appraisal. For some options, the approach has an uncertain relationship with the sustainability objective where it could have both positive and negative effects. In these situations 'uncertain' was also recorded and potential impacts noted in the explanation. Sometimes the same score has been given for the effects of different options, however more subtle differences may be described in the explanations.

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

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

2.2.8. Cumulative Effects

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

2.2.9. Compatibility of Sustainability Objectives

A comparison has been drawn between all of the sustainability objectives to identify any conflicts between them and is presented in Appendix 2. No sustainability objectives were considered to be incompatible with the rest of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. In some cases, however the effect is uncertain.

2.2.10. Compatibility of Sustainability Objectives with Newry Mourne and Down District Council's LDP Strategic Objectives.

Chapter 4 of the POP explores the link between the LDP and the Council's Corporate and Community Plans. It also invites comment on the proposed vision and identifies five overarching principles along with a number of strategic social, economic and environmental objectives for the LDP.

The Vision for the LDP 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"*

Almost all of the sustainability objectives are clearly supported by the LDP objectives as identified in Appendix 2.

There are some LDP objectives which could conflict with sustainability objectives, if implemented in isolation without the balance of other LDP objectives and policies. Some of the LDP objectives have an uncertain relationship with a number of sustainability objectives. This reflects uncertainties about, for example, economic objectives for job creation and facilitating economic growth which potentially could have adverse effects on natural heritage and water resources. The LDP objective to protect strategically important transportation routes was not considered to be compatible with the SA objective on Maintaining and enhancing landscape character. The POP includes specific issues to ensure a balanced approach and invites comment on its approach to reviewing and bringing forward policy. In the process of finalising the LDP vision and objectives, they will be reviewed to assess their compatibility with the sustainability objectives individually and cumulatively.

3 Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Findings

3.1 Introduction

The POP proposals are grouped under the headings of Spatial Growth Strategy, Social, Economic and Environmental. In each group there are a number of headings for which Key Issues are identified. There are 5 Key Issues for the Spatial Growth Strategy, 5 for the Social theme, 9 for the Economic theme and 5 for the Environmental theme.

Up to three options were identified for each Issue. In a few cases there was no feasible alternative therefore only one option was put forward. All options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 4. For each Key Issue the preferred option is presented first, followed by all alternatives that were considered. These are followed by a figure which summarises the long term effects. The key for scoring can be found in Table 2.2.

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

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

3.2 Spatial Growth Strategy - Promoting Urban Centres and Supporting Rural Development

Key Issue 1: Settlement Hierarchy

Preferred Option: Option 3 - As per Option 2 while also considering the potential for identifying a number of new small settlements. Consideration would also be given to declassifying small settlements where it was considered that they have no discernible service function or focal point for the rural community.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 1 - To retain the settlement hierarchy as set out within the existing Area Plans with no adjustments or amendments proposed.

Alternative Option 2 - To re-examine the existing settlement hierarchy in order to identify if any settlement should be reclassified based on their function and range of services.

	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
Option 1	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	- -	-	0	0	0	0	0
Option 2	++	++	+	++	++	+	+	+	-	+	++	0	0	+
Option 3	++	++	+	++	++	+	+	+	-	+	++	0	0	+

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Overall, Option 3 is considered to be the most sustainable option. Options 2 and 3 both received the same pattern of scoring but the comments recorded during the appraisal process highlight that Option 3 delivers slightly more than Option 2 for the social and economic sustainability themes. Each of these options achieves a strong positive effect on the social sustainability objectives of improving health and wellbeing and strengthening society from the medium term onwards. They also bring strong positive effects from the medium term on the economic objectives of high quality education and sustainable economic growth. The evidence-based review allows development to be directed to appropriate locations which have the capacity to absorb an increase in population and maintains efficient land use. This brings minor positive effects to many of the environmental sustainability objectives and significant positive effects on the water objective. It is acknowledged that increasing the density of development in settlements may have a minor negative effect on air quality.

The absence of a completed evidence-based review under Option 1 means that this objective performs less positively than options 2 and 3 against the objectives. While the existing hierarchy has many positive attributes, it requires updating to reflect the population changes that have occurred in a number of settlements since the current hierarchy was established. This may be constraining economic growth in some settlements and reducing opportunities for access to new infrastructure and services.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified in the medium-long term for the objectives to 'improve health and well-being', 'strengthen society', 'enable access to high quality education' and 'enable sustainable economic growth'. Significant positive effects over the medium – long term were also identified for the objective to 'protect, manage and use water resources sustainably'.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Consultation/community engagement to understand the factors influencing local identity and 'sense of place' and to inform a place making strategy. Other measures include selection criteria (e.g. adequate current/feasible future waste water treatment capacity), policies to protect sensitive landscapes/landscape features and important buildings, identifying conservation areas, identifying areas of townscape/village character, site design guides and building design guides.

Key Issue 2: Quantity of Housing Land

Preferred Option: Option 1 - Retain current level of zoned housing land. Provision from committed sites and zoned sites together with completed sites represents 96% of the district HGI for the Plan period (no allocation for housing in the countryside). A full review of all housing land, including the

potential for delivery will be undertaken. A phased approach to release of housing land would be introduced, with surplus zoned lands being held in reserve to meet long-term housing need.

What alternatives have been considered?

No other options have been appraised.

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Only one option was brought forward for this issue. The option scores positively for all of the social and economic sustainability options, extending to a significant positive on the objective for the provision of good quality sustainable housing. The scores for the environmental sustainability objectives reflect the fact that increasing the quantity of housing can place pressure on the environment, particularly in respect of loss of greenfield land and associated reductions in biodiversity and natural resources. These losses can be mitigated through the application of criteria in identifying zonings, directing new development towards brownfield sites and avoiding or conserving areas with high biodiversity value. The phased approach to releasing land is a more sustainable approach, as it means that settlement growth should be proportionate and matched with the pace of developing new services and infrastructure to sustain and support an increased population.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objective to ‘provide good quality, sustainable housing’.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Accessibility analysis for services, facilities and employment, transport analysis, biodiversity/ecological surveys, identification of sites that should be protected from development, Key Site Requirements to protect local environmental features, landscape analysis and policy to protect sensitive landscape features, use of SuDS, energy assessment for new builds, partnership working and site design guides.

Key Issue 3: Distribution of Housing Land

Preferred Option: Option 3 – Balanced approach between options 1 and 2. This would still focus development within the settlements over 5,000 but at a lesser figure than the 60% while recognising that there is a need to sustain the rural community. The allocation to the countryside and villages is uplifted to maintain growth at current levels whilst a small reduction in the allocation to small settlements limits development opportunities to small scale development sites and infilling.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 1 – Based on current population distribution. Each settlement is allocated a fair share of new housing allocation based on 2011 Census data. Under this option each settlement would be allocated a share of new housing based on its existing share of households in 2011, with the countryside receiving the remainder.

Alternative Option 2 – Based on RDS 60% target. This option would seek to directly meet the RDS target of 60% of all new housing to be located in ‘brownfield’ sites of settlements greater than 5,000. In Newry, Mourne and Down this includes the main city/town of Newry and Downpatrick and the smaller towns of Kilkeel, Warrenpoint, Ballynahinch and Newcastle.

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option 3 is considered to be the most sustainable option. This option brings a balanced approach which sustains the rural community and maintains vitality and vibrancy in rural settlements, while directing the majority of new housing to hubs and towns. Consequently, the option scores positively in achieving the social sustainability objectives, increasing to significantly positive for the medium-long term in the objectives of health and well-being and strengthening society. It has a minor positive effect on the economic sustainability objectives and has a minor positive influence on the majority of the environmental objectives, although it is recognised that increasing the quantity of housing can place pressure on biodiversity and natural resources and increasing development creates added pressure on achieving air quality objectives, particularly in hubs and towns.

Option 2 also has a broadly positive relationship with the sustainability objectives, however the effects are minor rather than significant and it does not deliver as much for the social sustainability objectives as Option 3. Option 2 has an uncertain relationship with the objectives of strengthening society, education and built and cultural heritage as it will result in significant decreases in the proportion of households in the countryside, potentially reducing vitality and vibrancy in rural areas.

Option 1 is the least sustainable option. It can be seen that it has a negative relationship with most of the social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives. Maintaining a high proportion of households in the countryside negatively affects the achievement of the environmental objectives, particularly physical resources. Significant long term negative effects were also anticipated for the objectives of encouraging active and sustainable travel, water resources, landscape character and built and cultural heritage.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objectives to ‘improve health and well-being’ and to ‘strengthen society’ in the medium – long term.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Accessibility analysis for services, facilities and employment, housing needs analysis, transport analysis, developer contributions, energy assessment for new builds, building design guides, partnership working, site design guide, biodiversity/ecological surveys, key site requirements to

protect local environmental features, landscape analysis and policy to protect sensitive landscape features, use of SuDS and identification of sites that should be protected from development.

Key Issue 4: Quantity of Employment Land

Preferred Option: Option 2 - Uplift the overall amount of land zoned for employment by 20%. This option seeks to ensure there is a balanced reserve of employment land, reflecting the existing business base across the district, by increasing the availability of non Invest NI lands. This would result in a greater choice of sites for those businesses that have a smaller turnover and/or whose focus is the domestic market.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 1 - No overall increase in the amount of land zoned for employment. Whilst this option would meet the overall projected need on the basis of the overall quantum of employment land it does not take into account the significant proportion of zoned employment land held by Invest NI.

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option 2 is the most sustainable option. It has a minor positive effect on the objective of strengthening society, but otherwise has no relationship with the social sustainability objectives. This option would create more opportunities for small/family businesses and businesses in rural areas, which was considered to have a significantly positive effect on the objective of sustainable economic growth and minor benefit in terms of the provision of skills training for the education objective.

Option 2 has a range of effects on the environmental sustainability objectives. The zoning of economic land is expected to have a minor negative on physical resources through greenfield losses, although it is recognised in the comments that the practice of zoning land leads to more efficient land use overall and directs industrial development to sites that are best suited to accommodating this type of development, leading to negligible effects on the climate change, landscape and built and cultural heritage objectives. Minor negative effects are also predicted for air quality. The zoning of economic development land has an uncertain relationship with the water and natural resources objectives, as the effects are difficult to determine without knowing what types of industry would be established and what their locations would be.

Option 1 receives a similar pattern of scoring to Option 2 for the environmental sustainability objectives. Its influence on the environmental objectives may be slightly less than Option 2, as it involves a smaller amount of land. The difference does not affect the score to a perceptible degree, as the overall uptake of land at the end of the Plan period is not likely to be significantly increased by Option 2. This option has restrictions on the type of economic development that can occur for part of the zoned land and as such it cannot deliver as much for the social and economic sustainability objectives as Option 1.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objective to ‘enable sustainable economic growth’.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Accessibility analysis for services, facilities and employment, transport analysis, developer contributions, energy assessment for new builds, building design guides, biodiversity/ecological surveys, key site requirements to protect local environmental features, landscape analysis and policy to protect sensitive landscape features, use of SuDS and identification of sites that should be protected from development.

Key Issue 5: Distribution of Employment Land

Preferred Option: Option 2 – As per Option 1 however evaluate all current zonings and designations, as contained in BNMAP and ADAP, and rezone unsuitable or unnecessary land. Consider opportunities for local sites at village level across the whole district similar to the Industrial Policy Areas in the ADAP, within smaller population centres but still located on the main road network. Consider need for additional strategic located sites in Newry adjacent to the A1 Belfast – Dublin key transport corridor, Warrenpoint Port, Downpatrick close to the key link corridor to Belfast and Ballynahinch to maximise opportunities provided by the new by-pass.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 1 – Retain broad balance of remaining employment land provision across the district (currently 132 ha (former N&M district) and 42 ha (former Down district) as contained within the BNMAP and ADAP.

Alternative Option 3 – Focus on hubs only (Newry & Downpatrick). Based on the 2011 census 26, 893 people lived in Newry (71.2% of NMD), 10,874 people lived in Downpatrick (28.8% of NMD).

Apportioning growth on this basis and focusing on the main hubs only, suggests that of the 169 hectares, 120 hectares should be allocated to Newry, and 49 hectares for Downpatrick.

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option 2 is the most sustainable option. By spreading employment opportunities across more settlements in the district, this option has a minor positive effect on most of the social sustainability objectives. It also acts positively on the economic objectives, extending to significant positive for encouraging sustainable economic growth. The scores for the environmental sustainability objectives recognise that economic development has the potential to place pressure on the environment

however the comments reflect that there are opportunities to mitigate some of the impacts and that Option 2 can deliver more in this respect.

Option 1 has fewer negative impacts than Option 3. It was not thought to significantly influence the social sustainability objectives and brings minor benefits to the education and economic growth objectives. Its relationship with the environmental objectives is largely a minor negative one, reflecting the nature of the development type. The relationship with active and sustainable travel is uncertain, as much of the existing zoned land is poorly linked with active and sustainable transport modes and thus depends on whether access would be created retrospectively.

Option 3 would confine economic development land to the two hubs. While this would benefit the population living in these areas, it would reduce opportunities to access employment for people living elsewhere in the district. This was judged to have minor negative effect on the social sustainability objectives. The option would not take advantage of key infrastructure outside of these hubs, such as Warrenpoint harbour. Option 3 would also create a lot of pressure and demand for land around the two hubs. This could particularly affect Downpatrick, which has restricted land availability to the east and north, due to its flood plain and may not be able to accommodate significant increases in HGV traffic.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objective to 'enable sustainable economic growth' throughout all timescales and the objective 'to encourage active and sustainable travel' in the medium-long term.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Accessibility analysis for services, facilities and employment, transport analysis, developer contributions, energy assessment for new builds, building design guides, biodiversity/ecological surveys, key site requirements to protect local environmental features, landscape analysis and policy to protect sensitive landscape features, use of SuDS and identification of sites that should be protected from development.

3.3 Social - Accommodating People and Improving Health and Well-being

Key Issue 6: Social Housing Need

Preferred Option: Option 4 – Combination of Options 1 & 3.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 1 - Set out a Strategic Policy requiring all housing sites, over a certain threshold to provide a proportion of social housing. The NIHE have suggested that a 20% proportion could be required for developments of 50 units or more (or 1 hectare or more) in urban settlements. In areas of high social housing need the threshold could be reduced to 25 units in urban areas and 10 units or more (or 0.5 hectare or more) in rural areas. Social housing units should be pepper potted throughout a development to encourage 'tenure blind' homes.

Alternative Option 2 – Zone sites solely for social housing. However, the NIHE have concerns that developing large scale social housing (generally over 50 units) will prohibit the creation of balanced and sustainable communities.

Alternative Option 3 – Zone sites for social housing (not large scale) and in addition facilitate social housing as a proportion of larger housing schemes through key site requirements (KSRs) as currently operating under BNMAP.

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

All the options scored positively with regard to sustainable housing, with Option 4 scoring significantly positive in terms of this objective, based on its potential to provide social housing using a range of approaches in line with local need. In terms of strengthening society, Options 1 and 4 scored minor positive whilst Options 2 and 3 scored negative on the basis that zoning areas for social housing could lead to social exclusion and pockets of deprivation. Overall, Option 4 was slightly more positive due to its combination of approaches that could be adapted to suit local circumstances.

Option 4 could enable a higher level of housing provision and greater flexibility in terms of social housing provision. Ensuring all housing sites provide a proportion of social housing in ‘tenure blind’ developments has potential to meet locally identified need whilst reducing inequalities experienced by deprived communities. Zoning land for social housing and supporting social housing through KSRs safeguards land for social housing ensuring that social housing provision can be addressed in all circumstances. The degree of flexibility offered by this approach has the potential to be more effective in terms of addressing need and safeguarding land for future need.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objective to ‘provide good quality, sustainable housing’.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Accessibility analysis for services, facilities and employment, requirement for public transport provision, housing needs analysis, building design guides, partnership working, site selection criteria/key site requirements including SuDS linkages with active and sustainable travel routes and policy to protect sensitive landscape features.

Key Issue 7: Housing in the Countryside

Preferred Option: Option 2 - Adopt the existing policy approach but in addition provide clarification and minor changes to current policies to address a number of shortfalls. This option would seek, where feasible, to tailor existing policy to the needs of the district. Initially this would involve clarification and minor changes to the carried forward policies. Following the outcome of the SPPS review into ‘Development in the Countryside’ the Council would further consider the scope within the revised SPPS to vary its housing in the countryside policies within the context of the Council’s spatial growth strategy and strategic housing allocation.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 1 - Adopt existing policy approach. This option would adopt the current policy approach as set out in Planning Policy Statement 21 (PPS21) and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) for single dwellings in the countryside. It provides the same level of development opportunity as currently provided and is in keeping with the SPPS.

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Both options scored the same across all the objectives with both scoring positive for strengthening society as both options could reduce factors causing inequalities and meet identified needs. Both options scored positively for sustainable housing although was noted that Option 2 provided more opportunity to clarify some areas within the policy which may help to meet needs. Both options were considered to have a negative effect across almost all of the remainder of the sustainability objectives, reflecting the possible impacts from housing in the countryside.

Option 2 provides scope to vary housing provision in line with the Council's Strategic Growth Strategy and Housing Allocation Strategy. This option provides opportunity to consider other policies ensuring an informed approach which has the potential to be more effective in addressing need appropriately. Tailoring and clarifying existing policy provides opportunity to ensure policy is practical and meaningful.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No likely significant effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Biodiversity measures; other planning policy; Habitats Regulation Assessments; other designated sites; rural design guides; green building design – energy efficiency measures; landscaping measures and SuDS.

Key Issue 8: Future Proofing and Housing for All

Preferred Option: Option 3 - Introduce new strategic policy covering lifetime homes and wheelchair accessible housing to require the provision of an appropriate supply of homes for children, older people and those with physical disability. This would require at least 20% of homes across all tenures, on sites of 50 or more dwellings, to be built to lifetime homes standard. Introduction of wheelchair accessible homes as per Option 2.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 1 - To retain the current design approach as set out in Planning Policy Statement 7 (PPS7) Policy QD1 (general criteria for meeting housing design) with no adjustments or amendments.

This is in effect a 'do nothing' approach as the current policy does not require lifetime homes or wheelchair accessibility standards to be met by private developments.

This option would fail to ensure the provision of lifetime homes and wheelchair accessible homes within the district.

Alternative Option 2 - Promote/encourage the provision of lifetime homes and require wheelchair accessible housing, across all tenures, to ensure an appropriate supply of homes for children, older people and those with physical disability. This could be achieved by the formulation of a checklist which sets out the requirements necessary for new homes to meet lifetime homes standard. It could also be stipulated that a minimum of 5% of private units within major development (50 units or more) should be designed to be wheelchair accessible

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option 3 scored most positively across health and wellbeing, strengthening society and provision of sustainable housing based on its potential to provide suitable accommodation for those with a health problem or a disability. Option 2 scored uncertain for the same objective as the option did not guarantee the take up of lifetime homes standard unlike Option 3 which made lifetimes homes a requirement. Option 1 was the least positive option scoring negative for both health and wellbeing and strengthening society.

Option 3 could have potential to deliver suitable accommodation for those with long-term health problems or a disability. This option has potential to address specific needs, promote inclusion and reduce inequalities. This option is sustainable in terms of strengthening society, provision of sustainable housing and improving health and well-being.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No likely significant effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No measures were identified.

Key Issue 9: Integrated Renewable Energy and Passive Solar Design

Preferred Option: Option 3 - The integration of renewable energy and/or passive solar design should be a requirement in certain new development e.g. the public sector and on private developments

over a certain threshold. This could apply to larger schemes, e.g. sites over 1 hectare or buildings over 1000m². It could also include development in the countryside including individual dwellings.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 1 -The integration of renewable energy and passive solar design should be encouraged in all new development.

Alternative Option 2 - The integration of renewable energy and/or passive solar design should be a requirement in certain new development e.g. the public sector.

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Overall Option 3 scored more positively than Options 1 and 2 having scored significantly positive for sustainable housing and positive in the long term for enabling sustainable economic growth and strengthening society, based on its potential to reduce inequalities, for example, fuel poverty. Option 2 was neutral in terms of sustainable housing and Option 1 scored uncertain in terms of climate change.

Option 3 provides a comprehensive approach in terms of addressing integration of renewable energy and passive solar design within new developments over a certain threshold. This option has the potential to deliver more energy efficient buildings as part of large scale development and rural development. This option has the potential to reduce fuel costs and reduce the number of unfit homes in the future. Option 3 is the most sustainable in terms of its ability to reduce the causes of climate change for example greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objective to ‘provide good quality, sustainable housing’.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Policy to protect sensitive landscape features, building design guides and policy to protect important buildings.

Key Issue 10: Open Space Provision

Preferred Option: Option 2 – Identify and evaluate current open space provision in the district. Protect existing and any subsequent additional land required for open space, sport and recreation.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 1 - Protect existing and zoned open space provision as identified in the BNMAP and ADAP.

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option 2 scored significantly positive in terms of health and well-being, strengthening society, education and biodiversity. Option 2 could provide more opportunities for physical activity and improve public access to open space reducing factors causing inequalities, it also has greater potential in terms of promoting positive social interaction. Option 1 scored positively against many of the same objectives except for sustainable travel where it scored neutral overall in terms of the objective making it less positive overall.

Option 2 is most sustainable in terms of its ability to review and address the imbalance of open space provision across the district and protect land for future use. This option could deliver more in terms of health and wellbeing and strengthening society. This option provides versatility when considering potential for multi-use facilities in the future and has greater potential in terms of protecting and enhancing biodiversity, and contributing to green infrastructure and active travel in general.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objectives to ‘improve health and well-being’, to ‘strengthen society’, to ‘enable access to high quality education’ and to ‘protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity’.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Accessibility analysis of open space including play facilities, partnership working and developer contributions.

3.4 Economic - Creating Jobs and Promoting Prosperity

Key Issue 11: Economic Development in the Countryside

Preferred Option: Option 2 – Consider scope under the SPPS to allow a more flexible approach. Currently the SPPS states “A small scale new build economic development project may be permissible outside a village or small settlement where there is no suitable site within the settlement.” This option would explore the potential to:

- Provide small scale workshop style development in the countryside which is ancillary to an existing dwelling. Small scale would be defined in terms of the floor space of the development which is ancillary to an existing dwelling. A floor space restriction of 100m² could be applied.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 1 – Adopt existing policy as set out in Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning and Economic Development (PPS4) in respect of economic development in the countryside. Adopt the policy approach as set out in PPS4 which:

- Allows for controlled expansion of existing industry in the countryside.
- Prohibits new business start-ups in rural areas.

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option 2 is the most sustainable option in respect of the social and economic sustainability objectives. Increasing the opportunities for self-employment and establishing micro businesses in rural areas creates a minor positive effect on strengthening society and a significant positive on enabling sustainable economic growth. It is acknowledged that economic development in the countryside can place pressure on material assets and physical resources, however Option 2 is considered to be somewhat self-limiting and could be mitigated in this respect, as the criteria permit only small businesses. Investors are unlikely to develop sites where the infrastructure is not fit for purpose. In terms of the environmental sustainability objectives, Option 2 performs less positively than Option 1 but it was felt that the social and economic benefits for this option outweigh the reduced environmental benefits.

Option 1 does not create any perceptible positive effects on the social sustainability objectives and it only has a minor positive effect on the economic sustainability objectives. The restrictiveness of this policy option indirectly helps to support a number of environmental sustainability objectives, with minor positive effects on physical resources, active and sustainable travel, biodiversity/natural resources and built and cultural heritage. Despite these environmental benefits, it is felt that this option delivers less overall when all three sustainability themes are considered.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified in the medium-long term for the objective to ‘enable sustainable economic growth’.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Conditions on policy and criteria, floor space restrictions, restrictions on range of developments, species surveys, ecological/biodiversity surveys, package treatment of waste water/discharge consents, landscape analysis, and rural design guides.

Key Issue 12: Alternative uses on land Zoned for Economic Development

Preferred Option: Option 2 – Degree of Flexibility - Allow a limited number of alternative compatible use/business falling outside Part B ‘Industrial and Business Use’ of the Planning (use Classes) Order (NI) 2015 within zoned economic land. Potential uses could include sale of motor vehicles, use as a scrapyard or breaking of motor vehicles, or the storage and distribution of minerals.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 1 – Status Quo - Safeguard land zoned for economic development for industrial, business and storage and distribution uses only.

Alternative Option 3 – Greater flexibility - Allow retail, commercial leisure and other alternative uses falling outside Part B within zoned economic land subject to the adoption of a sequential approach ensuring that city/town centres are considered first and demonstrate a support function to existing economic uses.

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option 1 and Option 2 received the same pattern of scoring across the fourteen objectives. Both options were found to have no perceptible effects on the social sustainability objectives and a strong positive effect on the economic sustainability objective of sustainable economic growth. The greater flexibility and range of opportunity afforded by Option 2 means that it delivers slightly more for the economic growth objective than Option 1 and is probably the more sustainable of the two options. The type of economic development land use in land that has already been zoned for economic development has limited influence on the environmental objectives, however it was noted that some types of industrial/economic development have the potential to have minor negative effects on water resources.

Option 3 does influence the social sustainability issues, by broadening the range of uses on economic zoned land to include retail and commercial leisure. It may bring minor benefits to health and wellbeing by, for example, allowing gyms and leisure sites to be located closer to workplaces. This

may have minor negative effects on the strengthening society objective, if it directs people and shared space away from town centres. Option 3 also risks the deterioration of economic growth in town centres. Diversification in zoned land may create pressure, in that space which is only suitable for manufacturing/industry is displaced by development that could have been more easily sited elsewhere. The influence of this option on the vitality and vibrancy of town centres creates minor negative effects on the active and sustainable travel and built and cultural heritage objectives.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Accessibility analysis, transport analysis, requirement for public transport provision, drainage assessment, flood risk assessment, water pollution prevention local policy guidelines, require use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), policy to protect important buildings or defence/industrial heritage assets.

Key Issue 13: Tourism Development

Preferred Option: Option 2 – In addition to retaining the existing policy led approach bring forward Tourist Opportunity Zones (TOZs). This would identify tourism sites for attractions and accommodation to promote opportunities for dedicated sustainable tourism options over the plan period. For example Kilbroney Park, Cranfield and Delamont Country Park. TOZs are considered to offer opportunities for the development of a range of appropriate quality tourism and recreation schemes to build on the existing tourism base, and enhance the tourism product. These would generally be outside urban and rural settlements.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 1 – Retain existing policy led approach as set out within PPS 16 with minor amendments tailored to meet the needs of the district.

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option 2 has a positive effect on the social sustainability objectives of health and well-being and strengthening society, as development for tourism may also benefit the resident community. No effects are predicted on housing. In terms of the economic sustainability objectives, Option 2 has a positive effect on sustainable economic growth, extending to significant positive in the medium– long term. Although the comments show some possible influences on education and material assets, these are not thought to be strong enough to create an overall effect. Option 2 has a mixture of scores across the environmental objectives, primarily because the focus of the TOZs will be outside rural and urban settlements. Minor negative effects were identified in respect of physical resources and the effects on air quality and the climate change objectives were uncertain. Minor positive effects

were identified in respect of active and sustainable travel and natural resources. Cultural tourism forms a large portion of the district's tourism offering and is identified as a potential area for strong growth. This option is therefore expected to bring strong positive effects in the medium –long term on the built and cultural heritage objective.

Option 1, which is largely based on the existing policy, delivers minor positive effects on many of the social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives and has no identified negative effects. However, the absence of a spatial element which encourages focused and appropriate tourism development means that it does not deliver as much for the social and economic objectives as option 2.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objectives to 'enable sustainable economic growth' and 'to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources' in the medium-long term.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

These could include: developer contributions, building design guides, partnership working, transport analysis, site selection criteria, integration with other policies such as mineral constraint zones and protection of sensitive landscape features, water pollution prevention local policy, ecological surveys and landscape analysis.

Key Issue 14: Minerals Development

Preferred Option: Option 3 – As per Option 1 but also identify Mineral Safeguarding Zones (MSZs), this would help to ensure that valuable mineral resources, where identified were not unnecessarily sterilised when considering planning applications.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 1 – Adopt a policy led approach in relation to Mineral Development. This option involves all applications for mineral development within the district being determined against a criteria based policy and if the proposal meets the criteria then it will be acceptable. Such a policy may take account of factors such as landscape character, residential amenity, safety, natural and built heritage. No Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development would be identified.

Alternative Option 2 – In addition to retaining minerals development policies, as per Option 1, adopt Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMD). This would seek to protect valuable landscapes, such as land within AONBs, Areas of High Scenic Value and Archaeological Interest.

Alternative Option 4 – Adopt a policy led approach but also include a combination of both Areas of Mineral Constraint and Mineral Safeguarding Zones.

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option 3, along with the other options, has no perceptible effect on the social sustainability objectives. The identification of MSZ in appropriate locations will help to safeguard the future operation of the minerals industry, bringing significant positive effects to the sustainable economic growth and physical resources objectives in the medium to long term. The criteria-based policy approach helps to minimise negative effects on the environmental sustainability objectives, making this the most sustainable option.

Option 1 is similar to Option 3 in that its criteria-based approach helps to avoid negative effects on environmental objectives. The option's effects on sustainable economic growth are uncertain, as while it enables the extractive industry to develop and evolve, it does not provide safeguarding from resource fragmentation and may undermine assets which are important for tourism.

Through the establishment of Areas of Constraint, Option 2 may have a minor negative effect on sustainable economic growth and physical resources, by placing extensive restrictions on what areas within the district can have minerals development. This may indirectly lead to increased transportation requirements for building materials, which would have a minor negative effect on the transport objective. The restrictive nature of this option results in minor positive scores for many of the environmental objectives but these do not outweigh the negative effects.

Option 4 seeks to create a more balanced approach through areas of constraint and mineral safeguarding zones. Whilst this would safeguard minerals development in certain areas and delivers minor positives for economic growth and physical resources, there would still be considerable spatial restrictions. It may not be able to make the best use of location in all cases but it delivers minor positive effects for the environmental objectives relating to natural resources and the historic environment. Although Option 4 is also a sustainable option, it does not deliver the strong positive effects for economic sustainability that Option 3 does.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objectives to 'enable sustainable economic growth' and 'to protect physical resources and use sustainably'.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Site selection criteria, planning conditions, landscape analysis, ecological surveys, identification of sites to protect from development, landscaping plans, water pollution prevention local policy guidelines, policy to limit noise/air pollution in proximity to sensitive receptors. Requirement for reinstatement/restoration plans.

Key Issue 15: Proposed Transportation Schemes

Preferred Option: Option 2 - Include non-strategic road schemes in the LDP which have been justified by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) through a Local Transport Strategy for which there is a reasonable prospect of delivery. Non-strategic schemes, previously identified, include the Rathfriland Road Link, Newry as well as the widening of Bridge Street in Newry.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 1 - Protect land for any strategic road scheme identified by DfI. Proposed Strategic schemes include the Newry Southern Relief Road, Ballynahinch Bypass and Strangford Road to Saul Road link, Downpatrick.

Alternative Option 3 - Protect land for all identified road schemes (strategic and non-strategic) irrespective of their status.

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option 1 received the same pattern of scoring as option 2. None of the three options bring any perceptible effects on the social sustainability objectives. Both Options 1 and 2 bring strong positive effects in terms of sustainable economic growth. The scores for the environmental sustainability objectives reflect that the use of land for road projects is not compatible with many environmental sustainability objectives, particularly landscape, however negative effects can be reduced through conscientious route selection and incorporation of mitigation. The comments reflect that the slightly greater land uptake that may be facilitated through Option 2 makes it slightly less favourable for environmental objectives than Option 1. Conversely, Option 2 may bring slight advantages over Option 1 in terms of economic effects in the longer term, by safeguarding the routes of the non-strategic road schemes.

Option 3 is less sustainable than Options 1 and 2. It may result in land that may never be used becoming sterilised which would reduce the option's net benefit for the economic development objective. It may also conflict with minerals development and result in losses of larger areas of greenfield land in the long term which could create significant negative effects. As with Options 1 and 2, this option also has a generally negative relationship with the environmental objectives.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objectives to 'enable sustainable economic growth'. There were significant negative effects identified for the objective 'to maintain and enhance landscape character'.

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

Sensitive design, landscaping plans, screening/planting with native trees and shrubs, lighting plans and, where possible, maintaining natural slope angles will all help with integration into the landscape.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Identification of sites to protect from development, planning conditions, ecological surveys, local policies on water pollution prevention, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), incorporation of measures which help promote active/sustainable travel (e.g. cycle lanes, park and ride/park and share), integration with public transport, policy to protect important buildings, policy to limit noise in proximity to sensitive receptors.

Key Issue 16: Provision of Park and Ride/Share Schemes

Preferred Option: Option 2 - As per Option 1 and consider the potential for additional park and ride/share sites to be identified across the District.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 1 - Identify and protect existing and proposed park and ride sites across the District.

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Both options 1 and 2 received the same pattern of scoring across the 14 sustainability objectives. Identifying and protecting park and ride/share sites has minor positive effects on the social sustainability objectives of improving health and wellbeing and strengthening society but has no perceptible effect on the housing or education objectives. Park and ride/share sites have a minor positive effect on the economic sustainability objective of enabling sustainable economic growth. In terms of environmental sustainability objectives, these options both deliver strong positive effects on the objective of enabling active and sustainable transport. However, large areas of hardstanding was considered to have minor negative effects on the objectives relating to water resources, natural resources / biodiversity and landscape character. These effects could be reduced through the application of site selection criteria and the implementation of mitigation measures such as SuDS. The comments reflect that the slightly greater land uptake that may be facilitated through Option 2 makes it slightly less favourable for environmental objectives than Option 1. Conversely, Option 2 may bring slight advantages over option 1 in terms of social and economic effects by facilitating park and ride/share facilities to a greater number of settlements. Overall, both options are considered to be sustainable.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objective ‘to encourage active and sustainable travel’.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Partnership working, site design guide, site selection criteria, key site requirements, transport analysis, integration with public transport provision, integration with green/blue infrastructure, landscape analysis, landscaping plan including screening and planting, drainage and/or flood risk assessment.

Key Issue 17: Sustainable/Active Travel and Identification of Greenways

Preferred Option: Option 2 – Introduce a new policy promoting active travel (walking, cycling, and integrating with public transport) in new development. New development proposals will need to demonstrate how they support and enhance linkages to greenways. This option would address both strategic and community greenways. The Local Development Plan will seek to identify and protect community greenways which will establish linear connections between areas of open space, connect communities with services and generally enhance the environment for pedestrians and cyclists.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 1 – Retain the existing policy approach toward sustainable transport and active travel. No specific policy on greenways, retain existing designation for protected railway lines in line with BNMAP & ADAP. Identify and protect new strategic greenways.

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option 2 scored significantly positive in terms of health and wellbeing, strengthening society and encouraging sustainable active travel based on its potential to encourage physical activity, increase connectivity of communities and services and increase accessibility to shared space as well as promoting positive social interaction. Whilst Option one scored positive for the same objectives as Option 2, overall Option 2 has the potential to deliver more.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objectives ‘to improve health and well-being’, ‘to strengthen society’ and to encourage active and sustainable travel’.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No measures were identified.

Key Issue 18: Telecommunications

Preferred Option: The Council's preferred option is to adopt current policy contained within PPS10. This option would adopt the current policy based approach as set out in Planning Policy Statement 10 (PPS10) Telecommunications and the SPPS subject policy for telecommunications. This option provides the same level of development opportunity as currently provided and is in keeping with the SPPS. No additional designations such as areas of constraint on telecommunications are proposed.

What alternatives have been considered?

No alternative options were appraised.

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Only one option was brought forward for this issue. The option scores positively for the social sustainability objectives of improving health and wellbeing and strengthening society but has no perceptible effect on the housing objective. In terms of economic sustainability, this option has minor positive effects on enabling access to high quality education and significant positive effects on sustainable economic growth and material assets. The comments and scores reflect that telecommunications infrastructure generally has a small footprint and does not require significant quantities of land take, reducing their influence on the environmental sustainability objectives. The application of criteria such as site-sharing and consideration of landscape character, along with policy directing towards mitigation such as sympathetic design and colour in sensitive areas means that negative effects to landscape and built and cultural heritage objectives are unlikely.

Overall the option would contribute to the objective of sustainable development.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

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

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Partnership working, key site requirements, landscape analysis, policy to protect sensitive landscape features, buffer distances from dwellings, requirements for mast/site sharing, consideration of colour and treatment of masts and cabinets in sensitive landscape areas, policy to remove equipment where it is no longer required.

Key Issue 19: Renewable Energy

Preferred Option: Option 1 - adopt current policy contained within PPS18. This option would adopt the current policy based approach as set out in Planning Policy Statement 18 (PPS18) 'Renewable Energy' and the SPPS subject policy for renewable energy projects. This option provides the same level of development opportunity as currently provided and is in keeping with the SPPS. Following the outcome of the SPPS review into 'Renewable Energy' the Council would consider the need for any revision to its renewable energy policies.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 2 – as per Option 1 maintain the principle of the current policy but in addition create 'Areas of Constraint'

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option 1 was considered to have no perceptible effect on any of the social sustainability objectives. The policy allows scope for developers to apply for renewable energy projects throughout the district, thus having a significant positive effect on material assets objective. The option also supports the climate change objective through its potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase renewables use. Negative effects on water resources, natural resources/biodiversity and built and cultural heritage are unlikely due to the criteria-based policy and other policies which restrict development on sites designated for their nature conservation or other environmental significance. It was noted in the appraisal that some minor negative effects could occur on landscape character from larger turbine developments.

Option 2 also has no perceptible effect on social sustainability objectives. The application of Areas of Constraint (AoC) for certain types of renewables would reduce the scale of the option's positive effect on sustainable economic growth as the AoCs would restrict this type of development across a very considerable proportion of the district and may mean that localised opportunities for small-scale development that may have been able to be absorbed within the landscape are prevented. This option has a spatially protective element which brings certainty to the protection of sites designated for the nature conservation/biodiversity significance and therefore increases to a minor positive effect on this objective. Overall it is considered that although Option 2 brings greater certainty to the protection of landscape and natural resources in the district, its restrictiveness would discourage investment in the district and may mean that opportunities are lost. Option 1 can provide protection to the environmental objectives while enabling appropriate types and scales of renewables development in the district and consequently it is considered to be the more sustainable option overall.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objective to ‘manage material assets sustainably’.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Site selection criteria, landscape analysis, policy to protect sensitive landscape features, policy to protect designated and undesignated biodiversity, policy to protect heritage assets, local policy guidelines for water pollution prevention, developer contributions and planning conditions.

3.5 Environmental - Protecting and Enhancing the Environment

Key Issue 20: Conservation Areas & Areas of Townscape Character

Preferred Option: Option 2 – Review existing Conservation Area and Area of Townscape Character designations to consider whether they should be extended, reduced, removed or re-graded.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 1 - Status Quo - Identify and carry forward existing Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape Character in their current form.

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Both options scored the same across all the objectives however Option 2 was noted to be slightly more positive in some of the objectives. It was noted that option 2 had the potential to improve designations as it provided the opportunity to review and amend boundaries, making it slightly more positive in terms of landscape. Option 2 was also noted to be slightly more positive in terms of economic growth where it could support sustainable tourism and vitality and vibrancy of town centres as well as potentially supporting locations for economic growth.

Option 2 provided greater potential to reinforce or consolidate existing designations and re-grade designations. This option was most sustainable in terms of protecting and conserving the historic environment. In general, this option has the potential to protect and contribute to areas designated for townscape character, make the district a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest and maximise economic benefits of sustainable tourism. It could also create and enhance shared space and encourage/support civic pride.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objective to ‘protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources’.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Building design guides, landscape character assessments – local detailed analysis and other planning policies.

Key Issue 21: Non- Designated Heritage Assets

Preferred Option: Option 1 – Carry forward existing policy and consider the scope to strengthen existing policy to afford protection to non-designated heritage assets

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 2 – Develop a criteria based approach for identifying non-designated heritage assets within the district that will be used to create a Local Heritage List.

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option 1 and 2 scored neutral across the majority of the objectives except for historic environment, landscape character, economic growth and sustainable housing. Option 1 scored significantly positive for historic environment including its ability to conserve cultural heritage and ‘sense of place’. Option 2 also had positive effects for this objective, but the score was considered to be minor positive reflecting the positive effects but also the potential risks with this approach. Both options scored minor positive for landscape character and sustainable housing. Option 1 was more favorable in terms of economic growth based on its potential to create tourism opportunities and improve vitality and vibrancy in. Option 2 scored uncertain for economic growth due to uncertainty around the retention of identified assets and lack of knowledge of existing assets making potential outcomes uncertain. Overall Option 1 scored slightly more positive than Option 2.

Option 1 is considered to be the most sustainable option in terms of its potential to conserve ‘sense of place’ and contribute to the protection of rural settings and local distinctiveness. Overall this option was generally positive for landscape character, economic growth and housing. This option could reduce the number of unfit homes and support the refurbishment and reuse of buildings as tourism assets helping to create more attractive places to live, work, visit and invest.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objective to ‘protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources’.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Partnership working and public engagement.

Key Issue 22: Protection of Sensitive Upland Landscapes

Preferred Option: Option 3 – Review and extend Special Countryside Areas. This option enables a review of the existing designations to ensure they are appropriate and to make any necessary changes including extending, reducing or removing the designation. It will also seek to balance the protection afforded to our sensitive upland landscapes by extending the existing SCAs (High Mournes and Slieve Croob) as designated under BNMAP to those corresponding upland landscapes within the former Down district which are not currently afforded any additional protection.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 1 – No Special Countryside Areas designated. This option would remove the existing SCA designations and would afford no additional protection to these exceptionally scenic and sensitive upland areas. All development proposals would be assessed on their individual merits under existing and any carried forward policies.

Alternative Option 2 – Maintain the status quo. This would carry across existing designations as contained in the BNMAP. This would retain the imbalance of designations across the High Mournes and Slieve Croob with only those areas covered by the extant BNMAP being afforded protection.

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option 3 scored significantly positive for landscape given its potential to protect landscapes from visual intrusion, and protect prominent features and local distinctiveness. In terms of physical resources Option 3 scored positive for its potential to minimise loss of greenfield land and protect areas designated for their exceptional landscape. It was also positive in terms of protecting biodiversity, sustainable economic growth and built and cultural heritage. In comparison, Options 1 and 2 scored negative on a number of the same objectives that scored positive for option 3 with Option 1 being significantly negative for landscape character.

Option 3 was most positive in terms of its potential to protect areas designated for their landscape character. The review and extend approach provides opportunity to allow ‘sense of place’ to be conserved in rural settings and protect local distinctiveness. It could also minimise loss of greenfield land and provide added protection for tourism assets. This option provides opportunity to address any imbalance in existing policy and afford greater overall protection to sensitive upland landscapes.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objective ‘to maintain and enhance landscape character’.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Development guidelines, landscape character assessments, historic guides, design guides, AONB management plans, native planting schemes and biodiversity measures – ecological buffer zones.

Key Issue 23: Coastal Erosion and Land Instability

Preferred Option: Option 3 - Targeted and measured approach. Identify areas of existing and potential coastal erosion and land instability. Within these areas adopt a high level criteria based policy on coastal erosion and instability. This could include the following:

- 1) Development proposals should avoid areas vulnerable to coastal erosion and land instability. Exceptions would be permitted where there is a demonstrated need for a coastal location;
- 2) Development proposals accompanied by a coastal change vulnerability assessment An assessment the impact of development on any existing coastal defence infrastructure; and
- 3) Proposals for new or replacement coastal defences could be permitted where it can be demonstrated that they work with natural processes and there will be no significant adverse impact on the coast or associated habitats and the development will not result in increased coastal erosion or flooding elsewhere on the coastline.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 1 - Status Quo. No areas of erosion and land instability identified. Development assessed on a case by case basis in line with the SPPS and carried forward Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (PSRNI) policies.

Alternative Option 2 - Targeted and preventative approach. Presumption against development within areas of potential erosion and land instability. Elsewhere development assessed on a case by case basis in line with the SPPS and carried forward PSRNI policies. The LDP would identify those areas to be most at risk. This would be subject to detailed data of areas of erosion and instability being available.

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Both Options 2 and 3 scored positive on a number of the same objectives except for economic growth and landscape character. In terms of economic growth Option 3 scored positively for this objective on the basis that there was more scope to protect environmental assets whilst offering flexibility in terms of economic development where there is room for development in exceptional circumstances but at the same time could provide bespoke protection. Option 2 scored uncertain in terms of economic growth where identifying areas of high risk may hinder tourism potential whilst assessing

development on a case-by-case bases may stifle protection of existing assets. With regards to landscape character, Option 2 scored positively on the basis that it provided increased protection given there is a presumption against development whilst Option 3 scored neutral.

Option 3 provided the most comprehensive approach in terms of assessing vulnerability and minimising risk. This option has wider scope for the protection of vulnerable assets where it could identify areas of coastal erosion and land instability and permit coastal defences where it can be demonstrated that they work with natural processes. Option 3 has greater potential to consider and address potential risks.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No likely significant effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No measures were identified.

Key Issue 24: Flood Risk Management

Preferred Option: Option 2 – Precautionary approach toward development in flood prone areas as with Option 1. In addition, the Council would seek to address the issue of surface water flooding with SuDS being required on zoned sites through the use of key site requirements or alternatively incorporated into a new policy covering SuDS for all new development.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option 1 – Precautionary approach towards development in flood prone areas in line with the SPPS and carried forward PPS15 policies. This option maintains the status quo and therefore it does not extend beyond the current encouragement of the use of SuDS in new development as set out in regional policy.

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

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Both options scored positively in terms of climate change, water resources and biodiversity with Option 2 scoring significantly positive for water resources for its potential to minimise flood risk and improve water quality. Both options scored neutral across a number of objectives, however, it was noted that Option 2 was slightly more positive for its potential to integrate SuDS into open space and protect against soil erosion and damage to historic buildings as a result of flooding.

Option 2 protects floodplains against development and also seeks to address surface water flooding through the incorporation of SuDS. This option has the ability to improve ground and surface water quality in line with water quality objectives and also provides an opportunity to enhance biodiversity. This option was most sustainable in terms its ability adapt to climate change and reduces the risk of damage to property from flooding.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objective to 'protect, manage and use water resources sustainably'.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Local water pollution prevention guidelines and Key Site Requirements.

4 The Impact of the Preferred Options

This section considers the preferred options, grouped by POP theme, in terms of how they cumulatively relate to the fourteen sustainability objectives. Appendix 3 illustrates how the preferred options were scored for each sustainability objective. In each case, the score for the long-term effects is used.

Overall the combined effect of all the preferred options was found to make a positive contribution to delivery of the majority of the sustainability objectives. For those relating to physical resources, natural resources and biodiversity, and landscape the POP was found to have mixed effects with the negative effects arising from some of the growth, housing and transport proposals. These were balanced by positive effects from other proposals. The cumulative impact on air quality was found to be negative. This reflects that a plan for growth is unlikely to improve air quality however it can aim to provide conditions to encourage the behavioural changes required for this to happen and to support wider initiatives and negative impacts will be further considered at later stages of plan preparation.

4.1 Improve Health and Wellbeing

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 to minimise the detrimental impacts of noise. This can be achieved by creating an environment that is clean and attractive; encourages healthy lifestyles; protects tranquil and quiet areas and enables access to healthcare facilities for all.

Spatial: The preferred options selected within the Spatial Growth Strategy will help to promote urban centres and support rural development. This will help to support access to high quality healthcare and recreation opportunities whilst encouraging active lifestyles. Of the five preferred options contained within the Spatial Growth Strategy, the preferred options on the settlement hierarchy and the distribution of housing land were considered to have significant positive effects for this objective, These scorings reflect the view in the appraisal that the preferred options will allow the majority of the population to readily access healthcare provision and publicly available open space, but will also help to maintain rural populations needed to sustain rural healthcare services. Two preferred options were considered to have positive effects and one to have a neutral effect.

Social: Where an impact was identified in the preferred options which make up the Social theme it was a positive one with one exception, housing in the countryside, which was found to have an uncertain effect. Three of the preferred options had positive effects in this theme and one had significant positive effects. Significant positive effects were identified for the option which relates to open space provision, reflecting the links between open space, recreation and physical and mental health.

Economic: Within the Economy theme where an impact was identified it was positive although many of the preferred options were considered to have neutral effects on this objective. The preferred option which will facilitate active travel and the identification of greenways was considered to have a significant positive effect for health and wellbeing as it will encourage active lifestyles.

Environmental: All of the preferred options contained in the Environmental theme were found to have no direct effect on this objective although a clean and attractive environment has indirect benefits.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on health and wellbeing.

4.2 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.

Spatial: The preferred options selected within the Spatial Growth Strategy will help to promote urban centres and support rural development and were all considered to have positive effects for strengthening society. The preferred options for re-examining the settlement hierarchy was considered to have a significant positive effect because having an evidence-based review could bring better outcomes by more efficiently linking population to services. The preferred option on the distribution of housing land was also considered to have significant positive effects because it will take a balanced approach which will slightly reduce the proportion of new housing in the countryside, but would continue to sustain a level necessary to maintain and support rural communities and their services.

Social: All of the preferred options were found to have positive effects for this objective. The preferred option, which will make provision for open space, was found to have significant positive effects recognising the role that open space can play in bringing generations together and providing opportunities for people to meet and share interests.

Economic: Where an effect was identified for the preferred options under the economic section, it was a positive effect. There was a neutral effect identified for four of the preferred options. Three of the preferred options had positive effects identified and one had significant positive effects identified. The preferred option to promote sustainable and active travel and identify greenways was considered to have significant positive effects for strengthening society as it could increase opportunities for positive social contact.

Environmental: With the exception of one, all of the other preferred options contained in the Environmental theme were found to have no effect on this objective. One option which provides for conservation areas and areas of townscape character was found to have positive effects for this objective, due to the links with sense of place and pride in local areas.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on strengthening society.

4.3 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.

Spatial: Within the Spatial Growth Strategy theme three out of five of the preferred options were considered to have positive effects for this objective (one with significant positive effects), reflecting the value of using a settlement hierarchy to promote urban centres while sustaining rural communities through support of rural development. The preferred option to retain the current level of zoned housing land but include a review was considered to have significant positive effects because it will enable housing for a variety of household types, including social housing to meet locally identified needs.

Social: Within the Social theme, other than one preferred option which was found to have a neutral effect, all of the preferred options had positive effects. Two of these were found to have significant

positive effects, that which dealt with social housing need, and integrating renewable energy and passive solar design.

Economic: Within the Economic theme there was a low level of influence of the preferred options on the objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing. All of the preferred options in this section were considered to have neutral effects other than one which presented the approach to telecommunications reflecting the role that this provision has on connectivity particularly in more rural locations.

Environmental: Under the Environmental theme one preferred option was found to have an uncertain effect, and one to have a positive effect. The others were found to have no effect.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on delivering good quality sustainable housing.

4.4 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.

The LDP has limited impact on access to high quality education and many of the aspects of the plan were considered to have a neutral effect.

Spatial: All of the preferred options in the Spatial Growth Strategy were considered to have a positive effect for this objective including one where a significant positive effect was identified. The preferred option which will review and retain the settlement hierarchy was considered to have significant positive effects for enabling access to high quality education, as it could help to consolidate or maintain the population in some rural settlements, supporting decision-making on the future status of local schools.

Social: Most of the preferred options identified under the Social theme were considered to have no effect on this objective, although one was found to have uncertain effects. The preferred option on open space provision was found to have significant positive effects as it could improve opportunities for multiple use of recreation and sport facilities which could have benefits for local schools and colleges.

Economic: Except for one positive scoring, all of the preferred options in the Economic theme were found to have a neutral effect on this objective.

Environmental: All of the preferred options contained in the Environmental theme were found to have a neutral effect on this objective other than the one that will provide for telecommunications.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on enabling access to high quality education.

4.5 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.

Looking at the preferred options in their entirety it is apparent that there is a very high level of correlation between the impact of the options and this objective. In all 19 of the preferred options were given a positive scoring, and nine of these were considered to have significant positive effects.

Spatial: The effects of the preferred options contained in the Spatial Growth Strategy were all found to contribute to the objective to enable sustainable economic growth with a positive scoring, and three of those were found to have significant positive effects. The preferred options which allow the settlement hierarchy to be reviewed and retained, and the two options which deal with the quantity and distribution of employment land were all considered to have significant positive effects. This reflects the views that the approach taken will help to create a better spread of towns across the district, increasing its economic base, whilst supporting vibrancy and vitality in settlement centres. The proposals on employment land zoning will support innovation and competitiveness within the local economy, particularly for small to medium sized enterprises.

Social: The preferred options in the Social theme were more mixed with two options being given a positive scoring, one negative and two neutral.

Economic: Within the Economy theme, there is a high frequency of significant positive effects identified for the preferred options. Out of nine preferred options, six had a significant positive scoring and two had positive effects identified. The preferred options which had significant positive effects related to economic development in the countryside, alternative uses on land zoned for economic development, tourism development, minerals development, proposed transportation schemes and telecommunications reflecting the role that these planning approaches will take in developing sustainable economic growth across the district, and in urban and rural contexts.

Environmental: All of the preferred options presented in the POP were found to have positive effect except one which was considered to have a neutral effect.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on enabling economic growth.

4.6 Manage material assets sustainably

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

Spatial: Four out of the five preferred options which form the Spatial Growth theme are considered to positively contribute to the sustainable management of material assets and have a positive scoring. One preferred option was considered to have neutral effects. The scoring in the appraisal reflects the view that allowing growth and development to progress in a planned and strategic manner will facilitate efficient provision of recycling and waste management services and other infrastructure, including energy infrastructure.

Social: Three of the preferred options were found to have a neutral effect on this objective, with one having a positive effect and one having a negative effect.

Economic: When the preferred options presented within the Economic theme were appraised, there was also a mixed picture. Overall, two of the preferred options were considered to have significant positive effects. The preferred option which will provide policy for telecommunications infrastructure was found to have significant positive effects for this objective as it could make improvements to the level of coverage for mobile data connectivity. The preferred option which will provide policy to provide for renewable energy development was found to have significant positive effects as it will support the creation of diversity in the regional energy supply.

The preferred option which will facilitate economic development in the countryside was considered to have negative effects for this objective and six of the preferred options were considered to have neutral effects.

Environmental: All of the preferred options presented in the Environmental theme were found to have a neutral effect on the objective.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on managing material assets sustainably.

4.7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably

Minerals, earth science sites, geothermal energy, land and soil are resources that require protection from degradation and safeguarding for future use. Sustainable use of physical resources can help to support the economy.

Spatial: When we consider the preferred options presented within the Spatial Growth Strategy there is a mixed picture. Whilst the approach will promote urban centres and support rural development it is likely to mean a loss of green-field land for housing and employment purposes. However the use of the settlement hierarchy and the approach taken to the distribution of housing land were considered to have positive effects for this objective as they will focusing more growth on the urban centres than in rural locations.

Social: Two of the preferred options were found to have negative effects and two were found to have positive effects. One was found to have a neutral effect.

Economic: Within the Economic theme, there was also a mixed picture with one of the preferred options having significant positive effects, and three of the options having negative effects. The preferred option to provide an approach to minerals development was considered to have significant positive effects for this objective as it will allow the mineral industry to operate sustainably and enable future use of quarries. It will also allow materials to be locally sourced.

The preferred options which deal with economic development in the countryside, tourism development, and the proposed transportation scheme were all considered to have negative effects for this objective through the potential loss of green-field land associated with all of these land uses. The remaining preferred options within the Economic theme were considered to have neutral effects on this objective.

Environmental: Most of the preferred options in the Environmental theme were considered by the appraisal to have a neutral effect on this objective, however two were found to have positive effects.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative mixed effect on protecting physical resources and using them sustainably therefore potential negative effects need to be further considered during the next stages of plan preparation.

4.8 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 makes travel more affordable, brings added health benefits and also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Measures that help reduce car use and improve accessibility to or encourage a shift to travel by public transport, walking and cycling will contribute to this goal.

Spatial: All of the preferred options which form the Spatial Growth Strategy were considered to positively encourage use of active and sustainable travel and one was found to have significant positive effects. Promoting urban centres using a settlement hierarchy will enable people to live in

locations that allow convenient access to public transport, whilst supporting rural development in and near to hubs for rural public transport. The preferred option which covers the distribution of employment land was found to have significant positive effects for encouraging active and sustainable travel as this option may establish a wider distribution of employment areas across the district, allowing shorter commuting distances, increasing opportunities for active and sustainable travel. The option also may allow sustainable transport to be considered within the evaluation of zonings and designations.

Social: Two of the preferred options within the Social theme were found to have positive effects for this objective, and one to have negative effects. The remaining option was found to have neutral effects for this objective.

Economic: Within the Economic theme, the majority of preferred options were found to have positive effects and two of them were found to have significant positive effects. The preferred option which will identify and protect existing and proposed park and ride sites was found to have significant positive effects for this objective as it could make using public transport more accessible and convenient. Similarly the preferred option which will promote sustainable and active travel and the identification of greenways could have significant positive effects though helping to connect communities with services. Two of the preferred options were found to have uncertain effects, reflecting the uncertainties around behaviour change needed to meet this objective.

Environmental: All of the preferred options in the Environmental theme were found to have neutral effects on this objective.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on encouraging active and sustainable travel.

4.9 Improve air quality

Air pollution can have 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.

Spatial: None of the preferred options which form the Spatial Growth Strategy are considered to positively contribute to this objective reflecting that there would be an adverse impact on air quality associated with all development, no matter where it takes place. However the appraisal of the preferred options does show that the options were considered to minimise these impacts where possible while still providing for growth in the district. All of the preferred options under this theme were given a negative scoring in the appraisal.

Social: Within the Social theme, two preferred options were found to have positive effects, and two to have neutral effects. The one remaining preferred option was found to have a neutral effect.

Economic: Within the economic theme, most of the preferred options were considered to have neutral effects. The preferred option to retain the policy approach to tourism development and also bring forward Tourism Opportunity Sites was considered to have uncertain effects for air quality. The economic theme also contained the preferred option to protect land for strategic road schemes which was given a negative scoring at the appraisal. This reflects the inevitable conflict between road infrastructure improvements and the need to reduce car emissions.

Environmental: All of the preferred options within the Environmental theme were found to have a neutral effect on this objective.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative negative effect on improving air quality. The appraisal recognises that a plan for growth is unlikely to improve air quality, but that it can aim to

provide conditions to encourage the behavioural changes required for this to happen. This will be further assessed at the next stages of plan preparation taking account of more specific proposals including location. The effect of the preferred options on this objective will be strongly influenced by whether people change their behaviour and change their mode of transport especially for short journeys.

4.10 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 reduce greenhouse gas emissions, however adaptation is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change.

Spatial: Four out of five of the preferred options within the Spatial Growth Strategy were considered to have a positive effect on this objective and one was considered to have neutral effects. The approach to promote urban centres whilst supporting rural development will have positive effects for climate change. As the allocation of the majority of housing is planned for the urban centres this should help to reduce the need for private car journeys and promote a move towards active and sustainable travel, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions overall.

Social: When the appraisal considered the impact of the preferred options within the Social theme on the objective to reduce the causes of and adapt to climate change, a mixed result was determined. Two preferred options were found to have positive effects and two to have negative effects. One was found to have neutral effects.

Economic: Over half of the preferred options presented within the Economic theme are considered to have neutral effects on this objective as little direct connection was found. The preferred option which provides for Tourism Development was considered to have uncertain effects in the appraisal reflecting the potential impacts which could result from increased vehicle use associated with some types of tourism development. The preferred option to protect land for proposed transportation schemes was considered to have negative effects for this objective as it is unlikely to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and could lead to loss of flood plains, although these effects would be likely to be considered within Environmental Impact Assessments prior to development.

Environmental: Two of the preferred options were found to have positive effects and the remainder had neutral effects.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on reducing causes of and adapting to climate change. The appraisal recognises that a plan for growth is unlikely to make a significant contribution to this objective but that it can aim to provide conditions to encourage the behavioural changes required to reduce emissions and also to plan to incorporate climate change adaptation.

4.11 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.

Spatial: The preferred option to retain and review the settlement hierarchy is considered to have significant positive effects. This reflects the view in the appraisal that where growth is allocated using a spatial hierarchy, it will encourage development to be directed towards areas that are best equipped to accommodate expansion. Water resource and treatment capacities would form part of this decision making process. The preferred option for distribution of housing land was also

considered to have positive effects for similar reasons. However, the preferred option which provides for the quantity of employment land was considered to have uncertain effects recognising that future development of this kind could lead to increases in hard-standing and covered areas which will need careful consideration depending upon the scale, and type of industry or economic development. The preferred option for the distribution of employment land was considered to have negative effects again recognising the risks associated with using land for business and industry, with associated hard standing and covered areas, leading to flood risk on site or elsewhere.

Social: For the Social theme, there was a mixed result where two of the options were found to have negative impacts, and one was found to have positive impacts. The one remaining preferred option was considered to have neutral effects.

Economic: Within the economic theme, six out of seven of the preferred options were found to have a neutral effect on this objective. However two preferred options were considered to have negative effects reflecting the inherent risks to water quality and drainage that can occur with medium and large scale development, but attention was drawn to potential measures to mitigate these risks.

Environmental: When the appraisal looked at the preferred options contained in the Environmental theme, most were found to have neutral effects and two to have positive effects. One of these positive effects was considered to be significant, reflecting the provision in the POP for flood risk management and its potential benefit for water quality and reducing the risk of flood events.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably, however considering the mitigation of negative effects will be an important function as the plan progresses and within development management requirements.

4.12 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.

Spatial: When we consider the preferred options presented within the Spatial Growth Strategy three out of the five are considered to have negative effects for this objective and one is found to have uncertain effects. One was found to have neutral effects. The scoring reflects the impact of any form of development on biodiversity, wildlife corridors and semi-natural areas, both in rural and urban/sub-urban contexts. The appraisal provides a basis to consider these effects at this stage of plan making and beyond, to ensure opportunities to avoid biodiversity loss are not missed.

Social: When the appraisal considered the preferred options grouped within the Social theme, it was found that two of the options had negative effects and two had neutral effects. The preferred option for open space provision was found to have significant positive effects because it has the potential to protect and enhance natural areas and support biodiversity.

Economic: The Economic theme was considered to have no measurable effect upon this objective for five of the preferred options out of nine. Two of the preferred options under this theme were found to have positive effects, those that covered tourism development, and the support for sustainable travel and identification of greenways. However, two preferred options under this theme were found to have negative effects. These were the preferred options which dealt with proposed transportation schemes, and the provision of park and ride/share schemes.

Environmental: Two preferred options under this theme was found to have positive effects and the remainder to have neutral effects.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative mixed effect on protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity however the appraisal identified the importance of mitigation and careful consideration of impacts on natural resources at future stages.

4.13 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 seascapes and to protect and enhance open spaces and the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors.

Spatial: Three of the preferred options identified within the Spatial theme were found to have a neutral effect on the objective to maintain and enhance landscape character. The preferred option which covers the distribution of employment land was found to have negative effects for this objective however that which covered the distribution of housing land was found to have positive effects.

Social: One preferred option within this theme was found to have negative effects and three were found to have negative effects. One preferred option was found to have neutral effects.

Economic: Three out of nine of the preferred options within the Economic theme were found to have negative effects including those that deal with the provision of park and ride/share sites, and facilitating renewable energy development. The preferred option which deals with proposed transport routes was considered to have significant negative effects reflecting the visual impacts of road building within sensitive landscapes. Two of the preferred options presented within the economic theme were considered to have positive effects for landscape. These are the preferred options on tourism development and sustainable/active travel, including the identification of greenways.

Environmental: Three of the preferred options contained in the Environment theme were found to have positive effects and this effect was significant for the preferred option to protect sensitive upland habitats. The remaining two had neutral effects.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative mixed effect on maintaining and enhancing landscape character however impacts on landscape for some of the preferred options will need to be carefully considered and mitigated.

4.14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage

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.

Spatial: Within the Spatial theme, two of the preferred options were found to have positive effects and one was found to have negative effects while one was considered to have a neutral effect.

Social: Three of the preferred options presented within the Social theme of the POP were found to have neutral effects for this objective. One was found to have negative effects and one positive effects.

Economic: Under the Economic theme five of the preferred options were found to have no effects on this objective and one was found to have uncertain effects. Three were considered to have positive effects including the preferred option which will provide for tourism development, which was found to have significant positive effects. This reflects the significant opportunities that exist for directing prospective developers towards the conversion and reuse of existing buildings and potential to provide opportunities for cultural activities and interpretation facilities.

Environmental: One of the preferred options presented within the Environmental theme was found to have a neutral effect on this objective. All of the others under this theme were found to have positive effects including two where significant positive effects were identified. These were the preferred options which provided for conservation areas and areas of townscape character, and non-designated heritage assets. Allowing existing approaches on designating areas of townscape character and conservation areas to be retained and reviewed could allow existing designations to be consolidated or re-graded, providing further opportunities for sense of place and local distinctiveness to be maintained and enhanced. The preferred option on non-designated heritage assets was found to have significant effects for this objective as it will consider the scope to strengthen existing policy to increase protection to non-listed vernacular assets of local importance.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on protecting, conserving and enhancing built and cultural heritage.

4.15 Outcome and Next Steps

The sustainability appraisal process has helped influence the content of the POP by contributing to the critical review of the issues and the options put forward as reasonable alternatives. Sustainability appraisal will continue throughout Plan preparation and a Sustainability Report will be published with the draft Plan Strategy. This will take account of the representations on the sustainability appraisal made during public consultation.

In developing the Plan Strategy we will ensure that no significant negative effects for the sustainability objectives are likely or that where they are unavoidable they can be mitigated. We will also seek to ensure that positive effects are enhanced where appropriate.

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 Interim Report or the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report is identified.

Requirement	Location
1. An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	An introduction to the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council LDP is presented in Chapter 4. Appendix 4 of the SA Scoping Report 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.	SA Scoping Report Chapter 5 SA Scoping Report Appendix 5 presents Key Sustainability Issues.
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	SA Scoping Report Chapter 5. More detail will be added to this at Plan Strategy stage. The Key Sustainability issues are also presented in Appendix 5 of the Scoping Report.
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 of the SA Scoping Report identifies environmental problems. The Key Sustainability issues are also presented in Appendix 5 of the Scoping Report. The SA Scoping report Appendix 7 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.	SA Scoping Report Chapter 5 outlines the main policy themes for each topic and Appendix 4 outlines the relationship with other plans, programmes and policies.
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;	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 Scoping Report.

Requirement	Location
(iii) human health; (iv) fauna; (v) flora; (vi) soil; (vii) water; (viii) air; (ix) climatic factors; (x) material assets; (xi) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; (xii) landscape, and (xiii) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub paragraphs (i) to (xii).	Interrelationships have been covered in Chapter 2 and Appendix 2 of this SA Interim Report.
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.	Mitigation measures are referred to in both Chapter 3 and in the matrices presented in Appendix 4 of this report. We have used the term 'significant negative effects'.
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 this report considers this in general. Chapter 3 and Appendix 4 provide more detail on the options appraised and any 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: Compatibility of Sustainability Objectives & Newry Mourne and Down District Council Local Development Plan Strategic Objectives.

Sustainability Appraisal Framework	1 Improve health and well-being.	2 Strengthen society.	3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4 Enable access to high quality education.	5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	6 Manage material assets sustainably.	7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	9 Improve air quality.	10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	14 Protect, conserve and enhance historic environment
Plan Vision														
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.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social Objectives <i>Accommodating People, Improving Health and Wellbeing</i>														
To further develop Newry City as a regional gateway city and Downpatrick as a main hub within the district	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	✓	?
To protect and sustain the role of local towns and villages so that they act as local centres for shops and community services meeting the daily needs of their rural hinterland	○	✓	○	○	✓	○	?	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?
To provide for vital and vibrant rural communities, whilst protecting the countryside in which they live by accommodating sustainable growth	?	✓	?	○	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
To accommodate 15,092 new homes by 2030 in a range of housing designed to meet the district's housing need	?	✓	✓	?	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

Sustainability Appraisal Framework	1 Improve health and well-being.	2 Strengthen society.	3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4 Enable access to high quality education.	5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	6 Manage material assets sustainably.	7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	9 Improve air quality.	10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	14 Protect, conserve and enhance historic environment
To support the regeneration of disadvantaged and deprived areas	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
To recognise the need of growing families, elderly and disabled by accommodating development which allows people to remain within their communities	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
To facilitate the development of new community facilities at locations accessible to the communities they serve, through a variety of modes of transportation	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	✓
To protect and enhance the provision of open space across the district to support health and wellbeing	✓	✓	○	○	○	?	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?
To provide for quality public spaces and 'shared spaces' that are accessible to all.	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	?	?	✓	?	?	?	?	?	✓
Economic Objectives <i>Creating Jobs and Promoting Prosperity</i>														
To facilitate the creation of 9,213 new jobs, by 2030 at a variety of locations where they are accessible to all members of the community, including those without a private car	✓	✓	○	○	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	○
To recognise and accommodate entrepreneurship and innovation for large, medium and small firms by attracting new firms and accommodating new and expanding indigenous business	○	✓	○	○	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

Sustainability Appraisal Framework	1 Improve health and well-being.	2 Strengthen society.	3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4 Enable access to high quality education.	5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	6 Manage material assets sustainably.	7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	9 Improve air quality.	10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	14 Protect, conserve and enhance historic environment
To facilitate Newry to capitalise on its role as the South Eastern City Gateway, on the Belfast-Dublin economic corridor, whilst similarly maximising Warrenpoint as a local hub and major port	✓	✓	○	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?
To support the district as a major tourist destination whilst respecting its heritage assets, and exceptional landscape setting.	✓	✓	○	○	✓	?	?	?	?	?	○	○	?	✓
<i>Supporting the Transportation Network and Other Infrastructure</i>														
To promote integration between transportation and new development so as to reduce the need to travel and reduce dependency upon travel by car	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	✓	✓	✓	○	○	?	?
Promote opportunities for sustainable travel including walking, cycling, and public transport and reduce the need to travel by private car	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	?	?	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?
To protect strategically important transportation routes	✓	✓	○	○	✓	✓	?	✓	?	?	?	?	x	?
To support renewables infrastructure whilst affording protection to the environment	✓	✓	○	○	✓	✓	?	○	✓	✓	✓	?	?	○
To support digital connectivity which meets the needs of business and private households while reducing the need to travel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	○	?	?	○	○	○	○
To manage mineral resources in a sustainable manner	○	○	○	○	✓	✓	?	○	○	○	○	○	?	○

Sustainability Appraisal Framework	1 Improve health and well-being.	2 Strengthen society.	3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4 Enable access to high quality education.	5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	6 Manage material assets sustainably.	7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	9 Improve air quality.	10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	14 Protect, conserve and enhance historic environment
Accommodate investment in public utilities and waste management.	o	o	✓	o	✓	✓	?	o	✓	?	?	?	?	?
Environmental Objectives <i>Protecting and Enhancing the Environment</i>														
Protect and enhance the environment to achieve biodiversity, quality design, enhanced leisure and economic opportunity and promote health and wellbeing	✓	✓	o	o	?	?	?	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?
To protect our built heritage assets and promote their sensitive re-use	✓	✓	✓	o	✓	✓	✓	o	o	?	?	?	✓	✓
To conserve our Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape Character as important assets	✓	✓	o	o	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	✓	✓
To protect our sensitive upland landscapes from inappropriate development	✓	?	o	o	✓	?	✓	o	o	?	?	✓	✓	✓
To reduce vulnerability to climate change and prevent inappropriate new development in areas known to be at risk of flooding or coastal erosion.	✓	✓	o	o	?	o	✓	o	o	✓	✓	?	?	o

Compatible	✓	No relationship	o	Uncertain relationship	?	Incompatible	x
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APPENDIX 3: Impact of Preferred Options on Sustainability Objectives

	Code	Issue	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.
Spatial Growth Strategy	KI 1	Settlement Hierarchy	++	++	+	++	++	+	+	-	+	++	0	0	+	
	KI 2	Quantity of Housing Land	+	+	++	+	+	-	+	-	+	0	-	0	0	
	KI 3	Distribution of Housing Land	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	
	KI 4	Quantity of Employment Land	0	+	0	+	++	0	-	+	-	0	?	?	0	0
	KI 5	Distribution of Employment Land	+	+	0	+	++	+	-	++	-	+	-	-	-	-
Social	KI 6	Social Housing Need	0	+	++	0	0	0	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	0
	KI 7	Housing in the Countryside	?	+	+	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
	KI 8	Future Proofing and Housing for All	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	KI 9	Integrated Renewable Energy and Passive Solar Design	+	+	++	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	-	-
	KI 10	Open Space Provision	++	++	0	++	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	+
Economic - Jobs & Prosperity	KI 11	Economic Development in the Countryside	0	+	0	0	++	-	-	?	0	0	0	0	0	+
	KI 12	Alternative uses on land Zoned for Economic Development	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	+	0	0	-	0	0	0
	KI 13	Tourism Development	+	+	0	0	++	0	-	+	?	?	0	+	+	++
	KI 14	Minerals Development	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	KI 15	Proposed Transportation Schemes	0	0	0	0	++	0	-	?	-	-	0	-	-	?
	KI 16	Provision of Park and Ride/Share Schemes	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	-	-	-	0
	KI 17	Sustainable/Active Travel and Identification of Greenways	++	++	+	0	+	0	0	++	0	+	0	+	+	+
	KI 18	Telecommunications	+	+	0	+	++	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
	KI 19	Renewable Energy	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	+	0	0	-	0
Environmental	KI 20	Conservation Areas & Areas of Townscape Character	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++
	KI 21	Non- Designated Heritage Assets	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++
	KI 22	Protection of Sensitive Upland Landscapes	0	0	?	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	+
	KI 23	Coastal Erosion and Land Instability	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	+
	KI 24	Flood Risk Management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	0	0

APPENDIX 4: Sustainability Appraisal Matrices

Key Issue 1: Settlement Hierarchy												
Options	Option 1 - To retain the settlement hierarchy as set out within the existing Area Plans with no adjustments or amendments proposed.			Option 2 - To re-examine the existing settlement hierarchy in order to identify if any settlement should be reclassified based on their function and range of services.			Option 3 - As per Option 2 while also considering the potential for identifying a number of new small settlements. Consideration would also be given to declassifying small settlements where it was considered that they have no discernible service function or focal point for the rural community.					
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	This option helps to direct growth to settlements that already have good health services in place, or have the capacity to increase their provisions. It was noted in the appraisal that there are currently some settlements that are under-serviced in terms of healthcare and open space/recreation provision.	+	++	+++	The evidence-based review incorporated in this option can bring better outcomes by more efficiently linking population to services. It would allow intermediate-sized settlements to be recognised for their growth potential. Reclassifying appropriate settlements to a higher position on the hierarchy would help to strengthen the case for establishing appropriate levels of local service provision in areas where it is currently lacking and support improved access to health care.	+	++	+++	The evidence-based review incorporated in this option can bring better outcomes by more efficiently linking population to services. It would allow intermediate sized settlements to be recognised for their growth potential. Reclassifying appropriate settlements to a higher position on the hierarchy or identifying new settlements would help to strengthen the case for establishing appropriate levels of local service provision in areas where it is currently lacking and support improved access to health care.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	The existing hierarchy strengthens and supports society. However, it is acknowledged that some settlements would gain greater benefit, such as access to funding for shared spaces, by being included or reclassified within the hierarchy.	+	++	+++	This option may give rural communities in certain areas better access to facilities and services and may help to promote social interaction in rural areas. The reclassification of a number of settlements that are performing better than their associated populations may suggest would allow them to work with stakeholders to address local need and gain access to funding linked with their growth. It will help to focus	+	++	+++	This option may give rural communities in certain areas better access to facilities and services and may help to promote social interaction in rural areas. The reclassification of settlements that are already 'punching above their weight' may allow these settlements to work with stakeholders to address local need and gain access to funding linked with their growth. It will

						resources on settlements with high potential.			help to focus resources on settlements with high potential.			
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	The hierarchy creates the framework to allocate housing, but doesn't directly affect the quality of housing stock. Classification within the hierarchy is relevant to the RDS in respect of enabling larger zonings which can result in a better mix of housing type and tenure. It is noted that some settlements have potential growth opportunities that are not currently being realised.	+	+	+	The hierarchy creates the framework to allocate housing, but doesn't directly affect the quality of housing stock. Classification within the hierarchy is relevant to the RDS in respect of enabling larger zonings which can result in a better mix of housing type and tenure. By enabling settlements with strong potential for sustainable growth to be raised in the hierarchy, this option can deliver slightly more for this objective.	+	+	+	The hierarchy creates the framework to allocate housing, but doesn't directly affect the quality of housing stock. Classification within the hierarchy is relevant to the RDS in respect of enabling larger zonings which can result in a better mix of housing type and tenure. By enabling settlements with strong potential for sustainable growth to be classified or reclassified higher in the hierarchy, this option can deliver slightly more for this objective.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	The hierarchy creates the framework to allocate education resources to areas where there is sufficient demand, but doesn't directly affect the quality of education and skills provision.	+	++	++	The hierarchy creates the framework to allocate education resources to areas where there is sufficient demand, but doesn't directly affect the quality of education and skills provision. This option would allow the consolidation/maintenance of some smaller settlements, which can support decision-making on whether to maintain or close a rural school.	+	++	++	The hierarchy creates the framework to allocate education resources to areas where there is sufficient demand, but doesn't directly affect the quality of education and skills provision. This option would allow the consolidation/maintenance of some smaller settlements, which can support decision-making on whether to maintain or close a rural school and in some cases may help a settlement fulfil the required conditions for establishing a new school. This option can deliver slightly more for this objective.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	-	-	-	The hierarchy creates focal points to direct infrastructure provision and investment. However, settlement and economic growth is also driven by other factors and this does not always match the concept of the hierarchy over the longer timescale. The present hierarchy has been established through two separate Area Plans which were prepared a number of years ago and	+	++	++	The reclassification brought about by this option would help to strengthen settlements that are capable of sustainably increasing their population. The option can allow anomalies in the hierarchy to be rectified and would create a better spread of towns across the district, helping to increase its economic base. It may help to maintain vibrancy and vitality in settlement	+	++	++	The reclassification brought about by this option would help to strengthen settlements that are capable of sustainably increasing their population. The option can allow anomalies in the hierarchy to be rectified and would create a better spread of towns across the district, helping to increase its economic base. It may help to maintain vibrancy and vitality in settlement

			have used different approaches in their development. This option would not provide any opportunity to recognise and address the changes that have occurred since the former Area Plans were published.			centres and protect businesses. Reclassification to a lower tier could also benefit certain settlements, e.g. by removing restrictions on the types of economic development which may be permitted in town centres.			centres and protect businesses. Reclassification to a lower tier could also benefit certain settlements, e.g. by removing restrictions on the types of economic development required in town centres.			
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	The hierarchy creates focal points on which to direct infrastructure provision.	+	+	+	The hierarchy creates focal points on which to direct infrastructure provision. Reclassification upwards in the hierarchy could place pressure on infrastructure through rapid population increase. Changes within the hierarchy may help to provide the justification to improve infrastructure in certain areas, especially where it is needed to support larger populations. Settlement growth can encourage the use of derelict/contaminated land and can facilitate more efficient waste management.	+	+	+	The hierarchy creates focal points on which to direct infrastructure provision. Reclassification upwards in the hierarchy could place pressure on infrastructure through rapid population increase. However, changes to the hierarchy may also help to provide the justification to improve infrastructure in certain areas, especially where it is needed to support larger populations. Settlement growth can encourage the use of derelict/contaminated land and can facilitate more efficient waste management.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	The presence of a hierarchy directs development to settlements and helps to minimise greenfield losses that might otherwise occur through more dispersed patterns of settlement. It makes land use more efficient and allows development to be directed around earth science features and other physical resources.	+	+	+	The hierarchy directs development towards settlements. It helps to minimise greenfield losses that might otherwise occur through more dispersed patterns of settlement, establishing a more efficient use of land. Changes within the hierarchy may increase growth and initiate greater losses of greenfield land in the reclassified settlements. However, this development/growth would probably have occurred somewhere in the district, so a net difference to the overall loss is unlikely. The review element would deliver more in respect of preserving the important physical resources within the district.	+	+	+	The hierarchy directs development towards settlements. It helps to minimise greenfield losses that might otherwise occur through more dispersed patterns of settlement, establishing a more efficient use of land. Changes to the hierarchy may increase growth and initiate greater losses of greenfield land in the newly classified or reclassified settlements. However, this development/growth would probably have occurred somewhere in the district, so a net difference to the overall loss is unlikely. In any new small settlements, development would be directed towards infilling/rounding off existing clusters to consolidate the cluster, which should not significantly reduce greenfield land. The review

								element would deliver more in respect of preserving the important physical resources within the district.				
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	-	-	-	The hierarchy identifies settlements as focal points on which to direct the provision of public transport. In the appraisal it was noted that that public transport services are extremely limited in some areas and not fit for purpose. The provision of active travel opportunities outside the principal hubs is also very limited.	+	+	+	Allowing changes within the hierarchy can help to address current deficiencies and may create more opportunities in the long term to expand the network of active and sustainable travel routes. This may benefit those without access to a car. Enabling the provision of more locally-centred services through upwards reclassification may reduce travelling distances which in turn may also reduce the requirement for car use.	+	+	+	Allowing changes within the hierarchy and adding new settlements can help to address current deficiencies and may create more opportunities in the long term to expand the network of active and sustainable travel routes. This may benefit those without access to a car. Enabling the provision of more locally-centred services through upwards reclassification may reduce travelling distances which in turn may also reduce the requirement for car use.
9.... improve air quality.	-	-	-	Directing development towards settlements may help to reduce the rate at which emissions are increasing. However, increasing population densities will nonetheless create additional pressure on the air quality objective.	-	-	-	Directing development towards settlements may help to reduce the rate at which emissions are increasing. However, increasing population densities will nonetheless create additional pressure on the air quality objective. Allowing reclassification within the hierarchy may open up new opportunities to establish new active and sustainable transport routes, which may indirectly help to reduce vehicle emissions.	-	-	-	Directing development towards settlements may help to reduce the rate at which emissions are increasing. However, increasing population densities will nonetheless create additional pressure on the air quality objective. Allowing classification or reclassification within the hierarchy may open up new opportunities to establish new active and sustainable transport routes, which may indirectly help to reduce vehicle emissions..
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Directing development towards settlements may help to reduce causes of climate change through enabling greater efficiency of development. It may also aid in implementing climate change adaptation. However, greater densities of development are likely to increase pressure on achieving the climate change objective. Overall the existing hierarchy is not thought to	+	+	+	Directing development towards settlements may help to reduce causes of climate change through enabling greater efficiency of development. Changes within the hierarchy may enable more opportunities for active and sustainable travel. The option may also aid in implementing climate change adaptation by directing development away from areas that are more vulnerable to the effects of climate	+	+	+	Directing development towards settlements may help to reduce causes of climate change through enabling greater efficiency of development. Changes within the hierarchy may enable more opportunities for active and sustainable travel. The option may also aid in implementing climate change adaptation by directing development away from areas that are more vulnerable to the effects of climate

			create an influence that is significant enough to raise an effect.				change. However, greater densities of development could still create pressures on climate change objectives.				change. However, greater densities of development could still create pressures on climate change objectives.	
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The hierarchy directs development towards areas (settlements) that usually have provisions in place for adequate water supply and waste water treatment and supply. There are settlements within the hierarchy that have limitations on their possible future expansion due to flood risk.	+	++	++	The review would allow new development to continue to be directed towards areas that are best equipped to accommodate expansion. Water resource/treatment capacities would form part of the criteria for reclassification. Upgrading requirements and their feasibility would be taken into consideration during the review, as would current and predicted future flood risk. Increased treatment standards are required on reaching a certain population threshold, therefore this option could result in improvements to treated effluent discharges in some areas over the long term.	+	++	++	The review would allow new development to continue to be directed towards areas that are best equipped to accommodate expansion. Water resource/treatment capacities would form part of the criteria for reclassification. Upgrading requirements and their feasibility would be taken into consideration during the review, as would current and predicted future flood risk. Increased treatment standards are required on reaching a certain population threshold, therefore this option could result in improvements to treated effluent discharges in some areas over the long term. The identification of new settlements may create a case for waste water infrastructure to be provided in new areas.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Having a settlement hierarchy helps reduce impacts on the countryside by focusing development in an efficient manner, reducing biodiversity losses. The hierarchy takes into consideration the areas where large-scale development would impact natural resources, mitigating negative effects at the district level.	0	0	0	Having a settlement hierarchy helps reduce impacts on the countryside by focusing development in an efficient manner, reducing biodiversity losses. When classifying or reclassifying a settlement, consideration is given to whether the surrounding environment is capable of accommodating the type and scale of development that would be expected for the settlement's position within the hierarchy. This helps mitigate against significant negative effects. Moving settlements upwards in the hierarchy may involve the development of greenfield sites. The review element would help to ensure the most efficient	0	0	0	Having a settlement hierarchy helps reduce impacts on the countryside by focusing development in an efficient manner, reducing biodiversity losses. When classifying or reclassifying a settlement, consideration is given to whether the surrounding environment is capable of accommodating the type and scale of development that would be expected for the settlement's position within the hierarchy. This helps mitigate against significant negative effects. Moving settlements upwards in the hierarchy or identifying new settlements may involve the development of greenfield sites. The review element

									use of land and minimise losses to biodiversity on a more local level, resulting in a negligible effect overall.				would help to ensure the most efficient use of land. Identifying new settlements may potentially reduce levels of dispersed housing in rural areas. Overall this may help minimise losses to biodiversity on a more local level, resulting in a negligible effect overall.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	It is acknowledged that development in general can create adverse impacts on landscape. Having a settlement hierarchy helps reduce impacts on the countryside by focusing development on areas which are best equipped to absorb growth/new development.	0	0	0	It is acknowledged that development in general can create adverse impacts on landscape. Having a settlement hierarchy helps reduce impacts on the countryside by focusing development on areas which are best equipped to absorb growth/new development. Moving settlements upwards in the hierarchy may take up new greenfield areas whereas expanding existing urban areas may create less of an effect. The overall effect on the objective is predicted to be negligible, however mitigation is necessary to achieve this.	0	0	0	It is acknowledged that development in general can create adverse impacts on landscape. Having a settlement hierarchy helps reduce impacts on the countryside by focusing development on areas which are best equipped to absorb growth/new development. Identifying new settlements or moving settlements upwards in the hierarchy may take up new greenfield areas whereas expanding existing urban areas may create less of an effect. The overall effect on the objective is predicted to be negligible, however mitigation is necessary to achieve this.	
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	At present, the hierarchy is not thought to influence this objective to a perceptible degree.	+	+	+	It was acknowledged in the appraisal that the expansion of smaller settlements has the potential to adversely affect 'sense of place'/local distinctiveness. It was therefore recognised that any reclassification should be accompanied by a robust place-making strategy to ensure that local sense of place is maintained or enhanced in these settlements. The expansion of settlements may also lead to the restoration and conservation of older buildings and the discovery and interpretation of new archaeological sites.	+	+	+	It was acknowledged in the appraisal that the expansion of smaller settlements or the identification of new settlements has the potential to adversely affect 'sense of place'/local distinctiveness. It was therefore recognised that classification changes should be accompanied by a robust place-making strategy to ensure that local sense of place is maintained or enhanced in these settlements. The expansion of settlements may also lead to the restoration and conservation of older buildings and the discovery and interpretation of new archaeological sites.	

<p>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Overall, Option 3 is considered to be the most sustainable option. Options 2 and 3 both received the same pattern of scoring but the comments recorded during the appraisal process highlight that Option 3 delivers slightly more than Option 2 for the social and economic sustainability themes. Each of these options achieves a strong positive effect on the social sustainability objectives of improving health and wellbeing and strengthening society from the medium term onwards. They also bring strong positive effects from the medium term on the economic objectives of high quality education and sustainable economic growth. The evidence-based review allows development to be directed to appropriate locations which have the capacity to absorb an increase in population and maintains efficient land use. This brings minor positive effects to many of the environmental sustainability objectives and significant positive effects on the water objective. It is acknowledged that increasing the density of development in settlements may have a minor negative effect on air quality. The absence of a completed evidence-based review under Option 1 means that this objective performs less positively than options 2 and 3 against the objectives. While the existing hierarchy has many positive attributes, it requires updating to reflect the population changes that have occurred in a number of settlements since the current hierarchy was established. This may be constraining economic growth in some settlements and reducing opportunities for access to new infrastructure and services.</p>	
<p>The most sustainable option: Option 3 - As per Option 2 while also considering the potential for identifying a number of new small settlements. Consideration would also be given to declassifying small settlements where it was considered that they have no discernible service function or focal point for the rural community.</p>	<p>The preferred option: Option 3 is the preferred option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified in the medium-long term for the objectives to 'improve health and well-being', 'strengthen society', 'enable access to high quality education' and 'enable sustainable economic growth'. Significant positive effects over the medium – long term were also identified for the objective to 'protect, manage and use water resources sustainably'.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Consultation/community engagement to understand the factors influencing local identity and 'sense of place' and to inform a place making strategy. Other measures include selection criteria (e.g. adequate current/feasible future waste water treatment capacity), policies to protect sensitive landscapes/landscape features and important buildings, identifying conservation areas, identifying areas of townscape/village character, site design guides and building design guides.</p>	

Key Issue 2: Quantity of Housing Land

Option	Option 1 - Retain current level of zoned housing land. Provision from committed sites and zoned sites together with completed sites represents 96% of the district HGI for the Plan period (no allocation for housing in the countryside). A full review of all housing land, including the potential for delivery will be undertaken. A phased approach to release of housing land would be introduced, with surplus zoned lands being held in reserve to meet long-term housing need.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	The policy means that areas zoned for housing will be located in appropriate locations, with access to services. The flexibility afforded through this option should match the pace of housing development with the pace of provision of services and infrastructure. Overall the policy is expected to help improve access to health care, reduce response times for the emergency services and enable the creation of good quality open space with public access. The option is also thought to give the best chance for improving the ability to reach schools and workplaces by active travel.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	The policy allows for a controlled approach to the release of housing land which should mean more efficient development at a pace which matches the provision of services. This may promote social cohesion and helps avoid the potential for 'ghost estates'. The option should help to place people in locations where they have access to shared services and shared space which meets their needs.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	++	++	++	The policy will enable/encourage a variety of household types and size, including social housing which can be targeted to meet locally identified needs. Larger housing zonings help to meet the needs of specific groups (e.g. single people, couples, retired people, people with a disability) by enabling a greater range of housing types and tenures to be built. The policy addresses housing need in an effective and efficient manner.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	This policy creates greater certainty for planning the availability of educational resources. The phasing of land release could be informed by how the population would link in with local schools.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	This policy helps to make the district a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. It makes the best use of location and should ensure that the vitality and vibrancy of city and town centres can be maintained or improved. The policy would seek to avoid zoning on land that would have poor access to employment.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	The phased approach advocated in this policy will allow a more efficient roll-out of infrastructure that is in keeping with the pace of expansion.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	-	-	The conversion of greenfield land to housing will negatively affect the physical resources objective. However, the review process will help to reduce the potential scale of impact and mitigation will form an integral part of the process of assessment. Sites with ownership issues or current zoned which is unlikely to ever be brought forward for development may be dezoned, but in this event alternative housing lands would be allocated. The policy would seek to prioritise the development of brownfield land over greenfield, where appropriate.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The review process would include a review of accessibility maps (for areas with population >5,000, where available) and assessment of current and future potential transport and infrastructure linkages in the site selection process. This should give the best chance of including the enabling of active/sustainable travel in the decision-making process. The policy would also encourage the critical mass approach needed to support provision of new active/sustainable travel routes.
9.... improve air quality.	-	-	-	New/increased housing development in the district is unlikely to improve local air quality. The policy aims to reduce the scale of emissions, where possible, by supporting behavioural change in respect of car use and more sustainable travel choices.

10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Flood Risk and Hazard mapping will form an important part of the zoning/re-zoning process. Lands may be reallocated to a different use type where they may better serve the purpose of aiding climate change adaptation (e.g. open space that can also act as a flood water attenuation/storage area). The review process and phased approach aims to encourage behaviour that will support this objective, such as connectivity with active/sustainable travel hopefully helping to reduce dependence on private vehicles.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Housing zoning will avoid flood plains and will also take account of local water supply or wastewater treatment capacity issues. Policy relating to the incorporation of SuDS will be linked with the development of housing land, with the aim of reducing the rate of surface water runoff from new development and mitigating against the deterioration of local water quality.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	-	-	-	Converting greenfield land to new housing development will reduce the quantity of natural resources across the district. However, the review process would aim to protect the quality of the local biodiversity. Areas that are zoned for housing would seek to avoid important habitats. In addition, Key Site Requirements would be used to protect locally-important features.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	It was acknowledged in the appraisal that development can adversely affect landscapes. The review and zoning process would take account of local landscape character and Local Landscape Policy areas. The aim of the policy would be to protect sensitive landscapes and prevent deterioration of landscape character, while still accommodating the necessary levels of development. With mitigation in place, the overall effect is anticipated to be negligible.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	The policy is not expected to adversely affect the historic environment and cultural resources. Key Site Requirements may be included to highlight or preserve built heritage features. There is the potential for new development to allow previously unrecorded archaeological features to be assessed, recorded and preserved.
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Only one option was brought forward for this issue. The option scores positively for all of the social and economic sustainability options, extending to a significant positive on the objective for the provision of good quality sustainable housing. The scores for the environmental sustainability objectives reflect the fact that increasing the quantity of housing can place pressure on the environment, particularly in respect of loss of greenfield land and associated reductions in biodiversity and natural resources. These losses can be mitigated through the application of criteria in identifying zonings, directing new development towards brownfield sites and avoiding or conserving areas with high biodiversity value. The phased approach to releasing land is a more sustainable approach, as it means that settlement growth should be proportionate and matched with the pace of developing new services and infrastructure to sustain and support an increased population.</p>				
<p>The most sustainable option: Option 1 - Retain current level of zoned housing land. Provision from committed sites and zoned sites together with completed sites represents 96% of the district HGI for the Plan period (no allocation for housing in the countryside). A full review of all housing land, including the potential for delivery will be undertaken. A phased approach to release of housing land would be introduced, with surplus zoned lands being held in reserve to meet long-term housing need.</p>			<p>The preferred option: Option 1 is the only option.</p>	
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified for the objective to ‘provide good quality, sustainable housing’.</p>				
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>				

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Accessibility analysis for services, facilities and employment, transport analysis, biodiversity/ecological surveys, identification of sites that should be protected from development, Key Site Requirements to protect local environmental features, landscape analysis and policy to protect sensitive landscape features, use of SuDS, energy assessment for new builds, partnership working and site design guides.

Key Issue 3: Distribution of Housing Land

Options	Option 1 – Based on current population distribution. Each settlement is allocated a fair share of new housing allocation based on 2011 Census data. Under this option each settlement would be allocated a share of new housing based on its existing share of households in 2011, with the countryside receiving the remainder.			Option 2 – Based on RDS 60% target. This option would seek to directly meet the RDS target of 60% of all new housing to be located in ‘brownfield’ sites of settlements greater than 5,000. In Newry, Mourne and Down this includes the main city/town of Newry and Downpatrick and the smaller towns of Kilkeel, Warrenpoint, Ballynahinch and Newcastle.			Option 3 – Balanced approach between options 1 and 2. This would still focus development within the settlements over 5,000 but at a lesser figure than the 60% while recognising that there is a need to sustain the rural community. The allocation to the countryside and villages is uplifted to maintain growth at current levels whilst a small reduction in the allocation to small settlements limits development opportunities to small scale development sites and infilling.					
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	-	-	-	This option would lead to almost one third of new housing being located in the countryside. This may create a strain on rural health services and access to healthcare, and may negatively affect emergency response times. In rural areas it may be more difficult to reach workplaces and schools via active travel, but it was acknowledged in the appraisal that living in the countryside can also result in a healthier lifestyle. It was also noted in the appraisal that housing in the countryside can help to maintain social/intergenerational contact in rural areas. The overall effect is considered to be minor negative, primarily due to its effect on access to healthcare resources.	+	+	+	This option would focus a greater proportion of new housing in urban areas, where residents should be able to readily access healthcare services and open space with public access. The option would also result in the proportion of new housing in the countryside being reduced to half of its current rate. A sharp decline in the provision of housing in the countryside may mean that some rural healthcare services become more difficult to maintain due to population/demographic changes and that social and intergenerational contact decreases over the longer term.	+	++	++	This option would mean that the majority of the population would be located in urban/semi-urban areas where residents should be able to readily access healthcare services and open space with public access. It will also help maintain the populations needed to sustain rural healthcare services. This option delivers slightly more over the medium-long term as it will allow social contact and intergenerational contact (including family cohesion and care) to be maintained in rural areas.
2.... strengthen society.	-	-	-	This option would maintain the status quo. It was acknowledged in the appraisal that some rural areas are disadvantaged in the provision and accessibility of shared space and do not	?	?	?	A sharp decline in the provision of housing in the countryside may undermine the strength of society in the countryside. Rural family networks could be forced to separate and	+	++	++	The balanced approach brought by this option would slightly reduce the proportion of new housing in the countryside, but would continue to sustain a minimum level necessary to

			have access to certain facilities and services. It would, however, promote and sustain social interaction in rural areas.				disperse into towns. However, the policy may strengthen society in urban areas, increasing the proportion of houses with access to shared space and facilities and therefore creating more balanced communities. The overall effect of this option on the objective cannot be predicted.				maintain and support rural communities and their services. While supporting rural communities, the majority of new housing would still be directed to the city and towns, enabling their residents to have access to good quality shared space or facilities and creating more balanced communities.	
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	The option will help with the provision of housing which meets locally identified needs, however the lower proportion of new homes in the city and towns means that the opportunities to meet the needs of specific groups (e.g. single people, couples, retired people, people with a disability) may be more limited.	+	+	+	Focusing a greater proportion of housing in the city and towns means that this option would help to provide housing which meets locally identified needs. It is more likely to enable/encourage the development of social housing in urban areas. This option may also incentivise the restoration/refurbishment of derelict houses, helping to fill vacant dwellings and reducing the number of unfit homes.	+	+	+	Focusing a greater proportion of housing in the city and towns means that this option would help to provide housing which meets locally identified needs. It is more likely to enable/encourage the development of social housing in both urban and rural areas. This option may also incentivise the restoration/ refurbishment of derelict houses, helping to fill vacant dwellings and reducing the number of unfit homes.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	-	-	-	Under the current system in some rural areas primary schools are struggling to attract the numbers required to sustain them. It was also noted that a lack of young people in certain catchment areas is also affecting the viability of some secondary schools.	?	?	?	This option may lead to insufficient populations of young people to support rural primary schools in some areas, particularly over the longer term. Primary school closures and amalgamations could make it more difficult for rural communities to access education. Rapid growth in urban areas may become problematic if surrounding school capacity does not match the pace of growth. Primary schools in particular could become over-subscribed, meaning that families may not necessarily secure a place in their closest school. However, this option would result in a higher proportion of young people being located closer to third level skills and education providers. The overall effect this option	+	+	+	This option would help to support the population needed to maintain rural primary schools that are otherwise vulnerable to closure. It would also avoid creating significant pressure on urban/suburban primary school provision. With this option a significant proportion of new housing would also be located within easy access of secondary and third level education and skills providers.

								will have on the objective cannot be predicted.				
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	?	?	?	The current pattern has resulted in economic issues in some areas, particularly rurally, while other settlements are thriving. There are a number of dormant villages. It was noted in the appraisal that people don't always spend their money where they live.	+	+	+	This option has the potential to enhance city and town centre vibrancy and vitality. It may locate a greater proportion of households closer to employment opportunities. However, a sharp reduction in new housing in the countryside may cause rural centres to decline.	+	+	+	This option would sustain populations in small settlements and rural areas, helping support local rural services and maintaining vibrancy in rural centres. It would also keep a high proportion of new housing close to the areas with greater employment opportunities and maintain city and town centre vibrancy.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	-	-	-	Currently a third of households live rurally. The district is among the poorest connected in NI in terms of mobile services and fixed line broadband and this is unlikely to improve significantly over the plan period. A high proportion of rural dwellings places greater strain on utilities resources and makes waste/recycling collection less efficient.	+	+	+	This option would focus 68.5% of new housing development in the city and towns, where infrastructure is usually better and there is more choice for provision of utilities. It may encourage the redevelopment of urban brownfield sites, potentially reducing derelict and contaminated land. The strong urban focus may make the provision of waste collection and recycling services more efficient for the district overall. This option delivers slightly more for this objective.	+	+	+	This option would focus 62% of new housing development in the city and towns, where infrastructure is usually better and there is more choice for provision of utilities. It may encourage the redevelopment of urban brownfield sites, potentially reducing derelict and contaminated land although demand may not be as great for this option as Option 2. The slightly greater urban focus may make the provision of waste collection and recycling services slightly more efficient for the district overall.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	-	-	This option would direct less than 50% of new housing to the city and towns. High proportions of dispersed housing could result in relatively greater loss of greenfield land and greater resource usage per housing unit. Unconstrained/dispersed rural settlement can also reduce the areas available for future resource extraction.	+	+	+	This option would focus 68.5% of new housing development in the city and towns, which is more likely to result in higher per-unit housing densities in these areas with lower per-unit resource consumption. It may also enable a relative reduction in loss of greenfield land in comparison to the current distribution policy. It may also contribute to safeguarding some rural areas for future resource extraction. This option delivers slightly more for this objective.	+	+	+	This option would focus 62% of new housing development in the city and towns. This is likely to result in higher per-unit housing densities in some areas, with lower per-unit resource consumption. The relative loss of greenfield land is likely to be slightly lower than under current distribution policy.

<p>8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.</p>	-	-	--	<p>Housing in the countryside is much less likely than urban housing to have access to active/sustainable transport routes. As this option would maintain a proportion of new housing in excess of 30%, it could result in a significant increase in reliance on cars over the long term.</p>	+	+	+	<p>By focusing over two thirds of new housing in the city and towns, this option could enable greater access to active/sustainable travel routes and may encourage the use of other modes of transport to the car. It was also noted in the appraisal that switching to active/sustainable travel relies strongly on behavioural change and that increasing the quantity of housing in these areas may also increase traffic congestion. This option can deliver slightly more for this objective.</p>	+	+	+	<p>By focusing the majority of new housing in the city and towns, this option could enable greater access to active/sustainable travel routes and may encourage the use of other modes of transport to the car. It was also noted in the appraisal that switching to active/sustainable travel relies strongly on behavioural change and that increasing the quantity of housing in these areas may also increase traffic congestion. This option would maintain a ratio of around one in five new homes in the countryside, which are less likely to have access to active/sustainable transport routes.</p>
<p>9.... improve air quality.</p>	-	-	-	<p>Increasing the number of housing units will lead to increased emissions from central heating, etc. Housing in the countryside is much less likely than urban housing to have access to active/sustainable transport routes, leading to potentially greater levels of vehicle emissions, albeit not as concentrated in urban areas.</p>	-	-	-	<p>Increasing the number of housing units will lead to increased emissions from central heating, etc. Increasing the proportion of new housing in the city and towns is unlikely to reduce traffic congestion although it may enable greater access to active/sustainable transport routes. It may increase the pressure on achieving air quality targets in the AQMA at Newry.</p>	-	-	-	<p>Increasing the number of housing units will lead to increased emissions from central heating, etc. Increasing the proportion of new housing in the city and towns is unlikely to reduce traffic congestion although it may enable greater access to active/sustainable transport routes. It may increase the pressure on achieving air quality targets in the AQMA at Newry.</p>
<p>10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.</p>	-	-	-	<p>Increasing the number of housing units is unlikely to reduce overall energy consumption. Maintaining the current proportion of new housing in the countryside is unlikely to reduce the need to travel by vehicle. Dispersed housing in the countryside may be less energy efficient than more concentrated housing units in urban areas.</p>	+	+	+	<p>Increasing the number of housing units is unlikely to reduce overall energy consumption. However, focusing a greater proportion of new housing in the city and towns can lead to increased energy efficiency potential and reduced reliance on vehicles. This option can deliver slightly more for this objective.</p>	+	+	+	<p>Increasing the number of housing units is unlikely to reduce overall energy consumption. However, focusing a slightly greater proportion of new housing in the city and towns can lead to increased energy efficiency potential and reduced reliance on vehicles.</p>

<p>11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</p>	-	-	--	<p>By maintaining a proportion of 30% of new housing in the countryside, this option could place significant pressure on water resources in terms of water supply infrastructure and septic tank discharges. There would be increased risk of leakage and waste. Through its additional land take, this option may also increase runoff and reduce the infiltration capacity of catchments.</p>	+	+	+	<p>This option focuses the greatest proportion of new housing in areas with adequate water supply and waste water treatment infrastructure. Development of new housing would be avoided in areas known to be at flood risk. This option can deliver slightly more for this objective.</p>	+	+	+	<p>This option focuses a greater proportion of new housing in areas with adequate water supply and waste water treatment infrastructure and avoiding areas known to be at flood risk. However, it would still maintain a level of new housing in the countryside which may place some pressure on water resources; this can be reduced through appropriate mitigation.</p>
<p>12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	-	-	-	<p>High proportions of dispersed housing could result in relatively greater loss of greenfield land and may reduce biodiversity. This option may place indirect pressure on designated areas and does not support the development or enhancement of green/blue infrastructure.</p>	-	-	-	<p>This option would focus the majority of new housing development in the city and towns and would encourage the reuse of brownfield sites. It may enable a relative reduction in loss of greenfield land in comparison to the current distribution policy, helping to reduce biodiversity loss. It may encourage the development of green/blue infrastructure, but may also create indirect negative effects on designated sites or their buffers.</p>	-	-	-	<p>This option would focus most of the new housing development in the city and towns, with a smaller proportion in villages and small settlements and would encourage infill development and the reuse of brownfield sites. It may enable a relative reduction in loss of greenfield land in comparison to the current distribution policy, helping to reduce biodiversity loss. It may encourage the development/enhancement of green/blue infrastructure, but may also create indirect negative effects on designated sites or their buffers.</p>
<p>13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	-	-	--	<p>High proportions of new dispersed housing in the countryside may increase visual intrusion and negatively impact on areas designated for landscape. This option may serve to detract from the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors. This option may make it more difficult to manage new development to integrate with and enhance local distinctiveness. These adverse effects are likely to become significant over time.</p>	+	+	+	<p>This option would focus development in the city and towns while allowing more control over the design of new housing, maintenance of landscape and local distinctiveness. It may result in relatively lower levels of visual intrusion. This option can deliver slightly more for this objective.</p>	+	+	+	<p>This option would result in a balance of development across the city/towns and the countryside. It allows some control over the design of new housing, maintenance of landscape and local distinctiveness. However, new housing in the countryside can increase visual intrusion and may negatively impact on areas designated for their landscape quality.</p>

<p>14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.</p>	-	-	--	<p>High proportions of new dispersed housing in the countryside may negatively impact 'sense of place' in rural settings. It may detract from built and cultural heritage.</p>	?	?	?	<p>This option would focus development in the city and towns. This option may help to protect and conserve built and cultural heritage in some areas. However, this option may undermine the strength of society in the countryside which may negatively affect cultural heritage and 'sense of place'. The use of housing zonings allows for the prior assessment of potential impacts of development on archaeological sites adjacent to settlements.</p>	+	+	+	<p>This option would help to sustain rural communities and keep these areas vibrant. The option would assist in maintaining rural distinctiveness and 'sense of place'. The use of housing zonings allows for the prior assessment of potential impacts of development on archaeological sites adjacent to settlements.</p>
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Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Option 3 is considered to be the most sustainable option. This option brings a balanced approach which sustains the rural community and maintains vitality and vibrancy in rural settlements, while directing the majority of new housing to hubs and towns. Consequently, the option scores positively in achieving the social sustainability objectives, increasing to significantly positive for the medium- long term in the objectives of health and well-being and strengthening society. It has a minor positive effect on the economic sustainability objectives and has a minor positive influence on the majority of the environmental objectives, although it is recognised that increasing the quantity of housing can place pressure on biodiversity and natural resources and increasing development creates added pressure on achieving air quality objectives, particularly in hubs and towns.

Option 2 also has a broadly positive relationship with the sustainability objectives, however the effects are minor rather than significant and it does not deliver as much for the social sustainability objectives as Option 3. Option 2 has an uncertain relationship with the objectives of strengthening society, education and built and cultural heritage as it will result in significant decreases in the proportion of households in the countryside, potentially reducing vitality and vibrancy in rural areas.

Option 1 is the least sustainable option. It can be seen that it has a negative relationship with most of the social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives. Maintaining a high proportion of households in the countryside negatively affects the achievement of the environmental objectives, particularly physical resources. Significant long term negative effects were also anticipated for the objectives of encouraging active and sustainable travel, water resources, landscape character and built and cultural heritage.

<p>The most sustainable option: Option 3 – Balanced approach between options 1 and 2. This would still focus development within the settlements over 5,000 but at a lesser figure than the 60% while recognising that there is a need to sustain the rural community. The allocation to the countryside and villages is uplifted to maintain growth at current levels whilst a small reduction in the allocation to small settlements limits development opportunities to small scale development sites and infilling.</p>	<p>The preferred option: Option 3 is the preferred option.</p>
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What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified for the objectives to 'improve health and well-being' and to 'strengthen society' in the medium – long term.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Accessibility analysis for services, facilities and employment, housing needs analysis, transport analysis, developer contributions, energy assessment for new builds, building design guides, partnership working, site design guide, biodiversity/ecological surveys, key site requirements to protect local environmental features, landscape analysis and policy to protect sensitive landscape features, use of SuDS and identification of sites that should be protected from development.

Key Issue 4: Quantity of Employment Land

Options	Option 1 - No overall increase in the amount of land zoned for employment. Whilst this option would meet the overall projected need on the basis of the overall quantum of employment land it does not take into account the significant proportion of zoned employment land held by Invest NI.			Option 2 - Uplift the overall amount of land zoned for employment by 20%. This option seeks to ensure there is a balanced reserve of employment land, reflecting the existing business base across the district, by increasing the availability of non Invest NI lands. This would result in a greater choice of sites for those businesses that have a smaller turnover and/or whose focus is the domestic market.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the delivery of this objective was identified.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the delivery of this objective was identified.
2.... strengthen society.	0	0	0	This option would allow fewer opportunities for new small/family businesses to be established. It may reduce the scope for service provision outside hubs and towns.	+	+	+	This option may increase the opportunities for rural communities to have appropriate access to facilities and services and may help to reduce the factors causing inequalities. It may also enable greater prospects for small/family businesses.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the delivery of this objective was identified.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the delivery of this objective was identified.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Larger businesses in industrial/enterprise zones are more likely to have links with education and skills providers. It may create some scope for apprenticeships and mentoring through links with colleges.	+	+	+	This option may encourage the establishment of more small and medium-sized business which may create some additional training opportunities however larger businesses in industrial/enterprise zones are more likely to have links with education and skills providers. It may create some scope for apprenticeships and mentoring through links with colleges.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	This option supports innovation and competitiveness within the local economy. It would help to ensure sufficient land supply in appropriate locations for economic growth. It may also support creation of a range of job types that are accessible, especially to areas of deprivation. It supports enhancement of the skills base and helps make Newry, Mourne and Down a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. However, it may not make the best use of location.	++	++	++	This option supports innovation and competitiveness within the local economy. It would help to ensure sufficient land supply in appropriate locations for economic growth and would allow greater opportunities for smaller businesses to establish and expand. It may also support creation of a range of job types that are accessible, especially to areas of deprivation. It supports enhancement of the skills base and helps make Newry, Mourne and Down a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. This option delivers more for the objective as it is able to reach more potential businesses.

6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Zoning land ensures that infrastructure requirements are fully assessed and could be delivered without adversely affecting provision elsewhere.	0	0	0	Zoning land ensures that infrastructure requirements are fully assessed and could be delivered without adversely affecting provision elsewhere.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	-	-	Zoning land for employment is likely to result in a net loss of greenfield land. The effect of this can be moderated through the zoning process, by the selection of lands that are suited to this type of use, encouraging re-development of brownfield sites and avoiding areas where significant negative effects may result.	-	-	-	Zoning land for employment is likely to result in a net loss of greenfield land. The effect of this can be moderated through the zoning process, by the selection of lands that are suited to this type of use, encouraging redevelopment of brownfield sites and avoiding areas where significant negative effects may result. By increasing the amount of zoned economic land, this option may result in a slightly less efficient use of land than the existing policy.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The zoning of economic land allows sites to be located in areas where there are already active/sustainable transport routes present, or where their provision is feasible.	+	+	+	The zoning of economic land allows sites to be located in areas where there are already active/sustainable transport routes present, or where their provision is feasible. This option could enable a more focused approach and would include areas suited to accommodating smaller businesses, which may help more people to walk or cycle to their workplace, potentially reducing the scale of increase to traffic congestion.
9.... improve air quality.	-	-	-	More industrial development would most likely lead to an increase in emissions. Zoning can help to direct development to locations that are suited to the use, e.g. away from residential areas or environmentally sensitive areas.	-	-	-	More industrial development would most likely lead to an increase in emissions. Zoning can help to direct development to locations that are suited to the use, e.g. away from residential areas or environmentally sensitive areas.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Zoning land directs development to areas that are determined to be appropriate for this type of land use. The zoning should take advantage of opportunities to reduce dependence on vehicles and be accessible via active travel methods. It also avoids flood risk areas.	0	0	0	Zoning land directs development to areas that are determined to be appropriate for this type of land use. The zoning should take advantage of opportunities to reduce dependence on vehicles and be accessible via active travel methods. It also avoids flood risk areas.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	?	?	?	Zoning directs businesses to sites with the necessary services to treat waste effluent. Some types of industry may result in a lot of water usage, however there should be adequate infrastructure in place (or planned for) in zoned areas to cope with increased demand. It was noted in the appraisal that the development of zoned land may result in large areas of hardstanding/covered areas which may increase runoff rates and increase flood risk. The incorporation of SuDS could help to reduce the scale of adverse effects. The overall effects of this	?	?	?	Zoning directs businesses to sites with the necessary services to treat waste effluent. Some types of industry may result in a lot of water usage, however there should be adequate infrastructure in place (or planned for) in zoned areas to cope with increased demand. It was noted in the appraisal that the development of zoned land may result in large areas of hardstanding/covered areas which may increase runoff rates and increase flood risk. The incorporation of SuDS could help to reduce the scale of adverse effects. The overall effects of this

				option on water resources are dependent on what type of industry/economic development takes place.				option on water resources are dependent on what type of industry/economic development takes place.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	?	?	?	The development of land zoned for employment is likely to result in a net loss of greenfield land and thus may potentially negatively affect biodiversity across the district. The effect of this can be moderated through the zoning process, by selecting lands that are suited to this type of use, encouraging re-development of brownfield sites and avoiding areas where significant negative effects may result. Without a spatial element and the knowledge of how much of the zoned area would end up developed, it is difficult to ascertain the overall effect of this option on this objective. It is likely that effects would be negative in the absence of mitigation.	?	?	?	The development of land zoned for employment is likely to result in a net loss of greenfield land and thus may potentially negatively affect biodiversity across the district. The effect of this can be moderated through the zoning process, by selecting lands that are suited to this type of use, encouraging re-development of brownfield sites and avoiding areas where significant negative effects may result. Without a spatial element and the knowledge of how much of the zoned area would end up developed, it is difficult to ascertain the overall effect of this option on this objective. It is likely that effects would be negative in the absence of mitigation.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	New development can adversely affect landscapes. The zoning process would take account of local landscape character and Local Landscape Policy areas. The aim of the policy would be to protect sensitive landscapes and prevent deterioration of landscape character, while still accommodating the necessary levels of development. With mitigation in place, the overall effect is anticipated to be negligible.	0	0	0	New development can adversely affect landscapes. The zoning process would take account of local landscape character and Local Landscape Policy areas. The aim of the policy would be to protect sensitive landscapes and prevent deterioration of landscape character, while still accommodating the necessary levels of development. Although this option may result in slightly more dispersed development, with mitigation in place, the overall effect is anticipated to be negligible.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	Development may adversely affect cultural heritage and the setting of built and archaeological heritage. The zoning process would take account of important heritage assets and would aim to protect these, while still accommodating the necessary levels of development. With mitigation in place, the overall effect is anticipated to be negligible. New development may allow archaeological features to be discovered, assessed, recorded and preserved.	0	0	0	Development may adversely affect cultural heritage and the setting of built and archaeological heritage. The zoning process would take account of important heritage assets and would aim to protect these, while still accommodating the necessary levels of development. With mitigation in place, the overall effect is anticipated to be negligible. New development may allow archaeological features to be discovered, assessed, recorded and preserved.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Option 2 is the most sustainable option. It has a minor positive effect on the objective of strengthening society, but otherwise has no relationship with the social sustainability objectives. This option would create more opportunities for small/family businesses and businesses in rural areas, which was considered to have a significantly positive effect on the objective of sustainable economic growth and minor benefit in terms of the provision of skills training for the education objective. Option 2 has a range of effects on the environmental sustainability objectives. The zoning of economic land is expected to have a minor negative on physical resources through greenfield losses, although it is recognised in the comments that the practice of zoning land leads to more efficient land use overall and directs industrial development to sites that are best suited to accommodating this type of development, leading to negligible effects on the climate change, landscape and built and cultural heritage objectives. Minor negative effects are also predicted for air quality. The zoning of economic development								

land has an uncertain relationship with the water and natural resources objectives, as the effects are difficult to determine without knowing what types of industry would be established and what their locations would be.

Option 1 receives a similar pattern of scoring to Option 2 for the environmental sustainability objectives. Its influence on the environmental objectives may be slightly less than Option 2, as it involves a smaller amount of land. The difference does not affect the score to a perceptible degree, as the overall uptake of land at the end of the Plan period is not likely to be significantly increased by Option 2. This option has restrictions on the type of economic development that can occur for part of the zoned land and as such it cannot deliver as much for the social and economic sustainability objectives as Option 1.

The most sustainable option: Option 2 - Uplift the overall amount of land zoned for employment by 20%. This option seeks to ensure there is a balanced reserve of employment land, reflecting the existing business base across the district, by increasing the availability of non Invest NI lands. This would result in a greater choice of sites for those businesses that have a smaller turnover and/or whose focus is the domestic market.

The preferred option: Option 2 is the preferred option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified for the objective to 'enable sustainable economic growth'.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Accessibility analysis for services, facilities and employment, transport analysis, developer contributions, energy assessment for new builds, building design guides, biodiversity/ecological surveys, key site requirements to protect local environmental features, landscape analysis and policy to protect sensitive landscape features, use of SuDS and identification of sites that should be protected from development.

Key Issue 5: Distribution of Employment Land

Options	Option 1 – Retain broad balance of remaining employment land provision across the district (currently 132 ha (former N&M district) and 42 ha (former Down district) as contained within the BNMAP and ADAP.			Option 2 – As per Option 1 however evaluate all current zonings and designations, as contained in BNMAP and ADAP, and rezone unsuitable or unnecessary land. Consider opportunities for local sites at village level across the whole district similar to the Industrial Policy Areas in the ADAP, within smaller population centres but still located on the main road network. Consider need for additional strategic located sites in Newry adjacent to the A1 Belfast – Dublin key transport corridor, Warrenpoint Port, Downpatrick close to the key link corridor to Belfast and Ballynahinch to maximise opportunities provided by the new by-pass.			Option 3 – Focus on hubs only (Newry & Downpatrick). Based on the 2011 census 26,893 people lived in Newry (71.2% of NMD), 10,874 people lived in Downpatrick (28.8% of NMD). Apportioning growth on this basis and focusing on the main hubs only, suggests that of the 169 hectares, 120 hectares should be allocated to Newry, and 49 hectares for Downpatrick.					
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective, however it was noted in the appraisal that having a variety of job opportunities accessible to the resident population can improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	This option would provide greater opportunity for local employment provision. Having a variety of job opportunities accessible to the resident population can improve health and well-being.	-	-	-	This option would not address local employment needs outside the two main hubs. A lack of local jobs and/or having to commute long distances to reach employment can have an adverse effect on health and well-being.
2.... strengthen society.	0	0	0	It was noted in the appraisal that some areas have issues with employment availability and deprivation that are not being addressed by the current distribution of employment land. This option targets larger companies however some opportunities for smaller employers may be missed. Overall the effect was considered to be negligible on this objective.	+	+	+	This option may enable greater access to employment, particularly for rural communities. It may allow more opportunities to target areas where more employment is needed.	-	-	-	This option may reduce the spatial extent of employment opportunities and may disadvantage rural communities.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the delivery of this objective was identified.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the delivery of this objective was identified.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the delivery of this objective was identified.

<p>4.... enable access to high quality education.</p>	+	+	+	<p>Larger businesses in industrial/enterprise zones are more likely to have links with education and skills providers. This option creates some scope for apprenticeships and mentoring through links with colleges. It was noted in the appraisal that existing links between employers and colleges could be improved, but location is not the sole factor affecting these relationships.</p>	+	+	+	<p>This option would help encourage the establishment of more small and medium-sized businesses and open up new areas in suitable villages, which may create some additional training opportunities. However larger businesses in industrial/enterprise zones are probably more likely to establish links with education and skills providers. This option may encourage a broader business base which in turn may drive the need for a wider range of skills training.</p>	+	+	+	<p>This option creates some scope for apprenticeships and mentoring through links with colleges. By focusing on the hubs only, this option may place further education colleges outside the hubs (e.g. Ballynahinch and Kilkeel) at a disadvantage in terms of the availability of business/training partnerships.</p>
<p>5.... enable sustainable economic growth.</p>	+	+	+	<p>This option supports innovation and competitiveness within the local economy and may make the best use of location by spreading employment opportunities through the district.</p>	+++	+++	+++	<p>This option supports innovation and competitiveness within the local economy. It would help to ensure sufficient land supply in appropriate locations for economic growth, including suitable villages and key transport corridors, and would create more opportunities for smaller businesses to establish and expand. It may also support creation of a range of job types that are accessible, especially to areas of deprivation. This option delivers more for the objective as it can bring benefits to a much wider area.</p>	-	-	-	<p>This option does support economic growth, but not in a manner that is sustainable across the district. It does not provide land in many appropriate locations for economic growth. It would not support the creation of a range of accessible jobs, especially to areas of deprivation. It would not make the best use of locations along major transport corridors, including ports/harbours. It may result in decreased vibrancy in town and village centres outside the hubs.</p>
<p>6.... manage material assets sustainably.</p>	0	0	0	<p>This option is unlikely to place a strain on utilities/infrastructure provision as the zoning process should take account of constraints/opportunities.</p>	+	+	+	<p>This option is unlikely to place a strain on utilities/infrastructure provision, as the zoning review should take account of constraints/opportunities. A review of the existing zonings and designations could allow un-zoned areas of derelict/contaminated land to be considered for economic development, where suitable. It also would take advantage of strategic road infrastructure.</p>	-	-	-	<p>By focusing solely on two hubs, this option may place some pressure on utilities/infrastructure, particularly at Downpatrick. It would also not promote or encourage the reuse of derelict or contaminated land in areas outside the hubs. The option may reduce opportunities for investment in new infrastructure outside the hubs.</p>

7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	-	-	The development of land zoned for employment is likely to result in a net loss of greenfield land. The effect of this is moderated through the zoning process, by selecting lands that are suited to this type of use and avoiding areas where significant negative effects may result.	-	-	-	The development of land zoned for employment is likely to result in a net loss of greenfield land. The effect of this can be moderated through the review process, by selecting lands that are suited to this type of use, encouraging re-development of brownfield sites and avoiding areas where significant negative effects may result. The slight negative effect of this option is less pronounced than for other options.	-	-	-	This option has a potentially larger land-take and may result in greater losses of greenfield land. This option could result in possible losses of high quality and high value agricultural land, due to flood risk areas constraining the areas of land with potential for development.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	?	?	?	This option locates employment land across a range of sites. Dispersed employment zonings across the main settlements in the district can help to support rural public transport routes. It was noted in the appraisal that some of the current economic development zones do not have satisfactory links to public transport. There are also poor links between employment areas and active travel routes in many areas, especially in the vicinity of strategic roads.	+	++	+++	This option may establish a wider distribution of employment areas across the district. This may allow more people to have shorter journeys to work, increasing their options for use of active/sustainable travel. The evaluation of zonings and designations would allow a more detailed examination of access options and enable alternative modes of transport to the car to be better integrated with transport corridors and hubs.	+	+	+	This option would focus employment areas around the hubs which are the largest centres of population. It may therefore provide the opportunity for a higher proportion of the population in the district to access work via active/sustainable travel. However, it risks significantly increasing traffic congestion in hubs, particularly on routes to/from Downpatrick and would not give any benefit to people living outside the hubs without access to a car.
9.... improve air quality.	-	-	-	More industrial development would most likely lead to an increase in emissions. This option does not give an opportunity to improve air quality in problem areas by decreasing/moving zonings to more suitable sites.	-	-	-	More industrial development would most likely lead to an increase in emissions. This option allows a better spread of zoning across the district and specifically aims to link in with the strategic road network and other transport corridors, which may help to keep HGVs out of town centres and mitigate against increasing congestion.	--	--	--	This option would lead to significantly greater numbers of HGVs and other traffic in the two hubs. This is likely to have significant negative effects on air quality.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Increasing the amount of lands allocated to economic development is unlikely to reduce overall energy consumption, however larger sites may	+	+	+	Zoning land directs development to areas that are identified as being appropriate for this type of land use. The evaluation exercise would provide	0	0	0	This option may provide the opportunity for a higher proportion of the population in the district to access work via active/sustainable travel. Overall the

			be more suited to integration with renewable energy generators. Maintaining the current distribution of employment land is unlikely to reduce the need to travel by vehicle. Overall the influence of this option was not considered to have a perceptible effect on the objective.				an opportunity to select sites that are better suited to reducing dependence on vehicles and which can be made accessible via active travel methods. It would also help to avoid zoning areas which may contribute to flood risk, or habitats which have a protective function.			influence of this option was not considered to have a perceptible effect on the objective.		
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	-	-	-	The development of zoned land for industrial/commercial use may result in large areas of hardstanding/covered areas, which may increase runoff rates and increase flood risk. The adverse effects of land use change could be mitigated through the application of measure such as SuDS. Without appropriate regulation and treatment, industrial land uses could cause a deterioration in water quality, particularly if they are located in sensitive catchments.	-	-	-	The development of zoned land for industrial/commercial use may result in large areas of hardstanding/covered areas, which may increase runoff rates and increase flood risk. The adverse effects of land use change could be mitigated by careful site selection in the evaluation exercise and the application of measures such as SuDS. This option provides the opportunity to choose the most appropriate sites for development based on up to date information and avoid areas at higher risk of water quality impacts, meaning that the scale of negative effects brought by this option may be reduced.	-	-	-	The development of zoned land for industrial/commercial use may result in large areas of hardstanding/covered areas, which may increase runoff rates and increase flood risk. Newry and Downpatrick are both significant flood risk areas. The adverse effects of land use change could be mitigated through the application of measure such as SuDS, however this option may be difficult to execute successfully. Without appropriate regulation and treatment, industrial land uses could cause a deterioration in water quality, particularly if they are located in sensitive catchments.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	-	-	-	The development of land zoned for employment is likely to result in a net loss of greenfield land and thus may potentially negatively affect biodiversity across the district. This option would not provide an opportunity to review zonings in the light of up to date information.	-	-	-	The development of land zoned for employment is likely to result in a net loss of greenfield land and thus may potentially negatively affect biodiversity across the district. This option would provide an opportunity to evaluate zonings and avoid sensitive or important areas using up to date information. This would ensure that the scale of the negative effect brought by this option may be reduced.	-	-	-	The development of land zoned for employment is likely to result in a net loss of greenfield land and thus may potentially negatively affect biodiversity in the areas surrounding the hubs.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	-	-	-	New development can adversely affect landscapes. The zoning process takes account of local landscape character	-	-	-	New development can adversely affect landscapes and this option would result in a wider distribution of land zoned for	-	-	-	New development can adversely affect landscapes. This option would result in very widespread zoning of land for

			and Local Landscape Policy Areas, however this option would not provide any opportunity to review zonings in the context of up to date landscape character assessment.				employment. This option would allow the opportunity to review potential zonings in the context of up to date landscape character assessment, meaning that the scale of the negative effect brought by this option may be reduced.				employment around the two hubs. The potential scale of development at both hubs could potentially cause an issue for landscape/setting in respect of surrounding AONB designations, particularly at Downpatrick.	
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	-	-	-	New development may adversely affect cultural heritage and the settings of built and archaeological heritage. The zoning process takes account of important heritage assets and aims to protect these, while still accommodating the necessary levels of development. This option would not provide any opportunity to review zonings in the context of up to date information on the historic environment.	-	-	-	New development may adversely affect cultural heritage and the settings of built and archaeological heritage. The zoning process takes account of important heritage assets and aims to protect these, while still accommodating the necessary levels of development. The evaluation aspect would allow the inclusion of more up to date information in this process. This option may encourage some industrial heritage and traditional skills/industries to be maintained in areas such as Kilkeel, which is known as a centre of excellence for maritime engineering and has a skills legacy linked to the fishing industry.	-	-	-	New development may adversely affect cultural heritage and the settings of built and archaeological heritage. This option would result in very widespread zoning of land for employment around the two hubs. The prospective scale of development at both hubs could potentially cause an issue for the setting of surrounding features and assets, e.g. the early Christian heritage in the surroundings of Downpatrick.

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Option 2 is the most sustainable option. By spreading employment opportunities across more settlements in the district, this option has a minor positive effect on most of the social sustainability objectives. It also acts positively on the economic objectives, extending to significant positive for encouraging sustainable economic growth. The scores for the environmental sustainability objectives recognise that economic development has the potential to place pressure on the environment however the comments reflect that there are opportunities to mitigate some of the impacts and that Option 2 can deliver more in this respect.

Option 1 has fewer negative impacts than Option 3. It was not thought to significantly influence the social sustainability objectives and brings minor benefits to the education and economic growth objectives. Its relationship with the environmental objectives is largely a minor negative one, reflecting the nature of the development type. The relationship with active and sustainable travel is uncertain, as much of the existing zoned land is poorly linked with active and sustainable transport modes and thus depends on whether access would be created retrospectively.

Option 3 would confine economic development land to the two hubs. While this would benefit the population living in these areas, it would reduce opportunities to access employment for people living elsewhere in the district. This was judged to have minor negative effect on the social sustainability objectives. The option would not take advantage of key infrastructure outside of these hubs, such as Warrenpoint harbour. Option 3 would also create a lot of pressure and demand for land around the two hubs. This could particularly affect Downpatrick, which has restricted land availability to the east and north, due to its flood plain and may not be able to accommodate significant increases in HGV traffic.

<p>The most sustainable option: Option 2 – As per Option 1 however evaluate all current zonings and designations, as contained in BNMAP and ADAP, and rezone unsuitable or unnecessary land. Consider opportunities for local sites at village level across the whole district similar to the Industrial Policy Areas in the ADAP, within smaller population centres but still located on the main road network. Consider need for additional strategic located sites in Newry adjacent to the A1 Belfast – Dublin key transport corridor, Warrenpoint Port, Downpatrick close to the key link corridor to Belfast and Ballynahinch to maximise opportunities provided by the new by-pass.</p>	<p>The preferred option: Option 2 is the preferred option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified for the objective to ‘enable sustainable economic growth’ throughout all timescales and the objective ‘to encourage active and sustainable travel’ in the medium-long term.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Accessibility analysis for services, facilities and employment, transport analysis, developer contributions, energy assessment for new builds, building design guides, biodiversity/ecological surveys, key site requirements to protect local environmental features, landscape analysis and policy to protect sensitive landscape features, use of SuDS and identification of sites that should be protected from development.</p>	

Key Issue 6: Social Housing Need

Options	Option 1 - Set out a Strategic Policy requiring all housing sites, over a certain threshold to provide a proportion of social housing. The NIHE have suggested that a 20% proportion could be required for developments of 50 units or more (or 1 hectare or more) in urban settlements. In areas of high social housing need the threshold could be reduced to 25 units in urban areas and 10 units or more (or 0.5 hectare or more) in rural areas. Social housing units should be pepper potted throughout a development to encourage 'tenure blind' homes.	Option 2 – Zone sites solely for social housing. However, the NIHE have concerns that developing large scale social housing (generally over 50 units) will prohibit the creation of balanced and sustainable communities.	Option 3 – Zone sites for social housing (not large scale) and in addition facilitate social housing as a proportion of larger housing schemes through key site requirements (KSRs) as currently operating under BNMAP.	Option 4 – Combination of Options 1 & 3.												
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and wellbeing.	0	0	0	This option scored neutral for health and wellbeing, however, it was noted that well connected developments could have benefits in terms of health and wellbeing although this option would be dependent on developers coming forward with proposals that meet the threshold.	0	0	0	This option scored neutral for health and wellbeing. Zoning sites could ensure they are well connected with potential associated benefits in terms of health and wellbeing. However, it was noted that zoning land solely for social housing could decrease social contact and create pockets of deprivation.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on the objective. However, it was noted that well connected developments could have benefits in terms of health and wellbeing.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on the objective. However, it was noted that well connected settlements could have benefits in terms of health and wellbeing.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	This option could positively impact this objective by promoting positive social interaction and inclusion of	-	-	-	Zoning large scale sites solely for social housing could lead to pockets of deprivation. This may result in	-	-	-	Zoning sites solely for social housing could lead to pockets of deprivation. This may result in inequalities	+	+	+	This option benefits from flexibility as it is a combination of Options 1 and 3. This approach could

				all groups. It could also give rural communities appropriate access to facilities and service and reduce factors causing inequalities.				inequalities associated with deprivation, for example lack of integration and decreased positive social interaction.				associated with deprivation. However, it is noted that facilitating housing through KSRs could provide opportunities for pepper potting social housing in larger developments. This could bring positive effects although it is recognised that this is dependent on developers coming forward with proposals that meet the thresholds.				be tailored to maximise benefits by applying the most appropriate elements based on local circumstances.	
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	This option could be positive in a number of ways for housing. For example, it could enable/encourage social housing and a variety of household types and sizes. This option could also help meet locally identified needs.	+	+	+	This option could enable/encourage social housing, meet locally identified needs and reduce homelessness. However, it was noted that zoning sites for social housing does not guarantee its delivery.	+	+	+	This option benefits from the combination approach by zoning sites for social housing and facilitating housing through KSRs. This option could enable/encourage social housing and a variety of household types and sizes. This option could also help meet locally identified needs.	+	+	+	+	This option could be significantly positive, based on its potential to achieve a high level of social housing provision by providing strategic policy in addition to zoning sites and using KSRs. This approach could also be tailored to maximise benefits by applying the most appropriate elements, based on local circumstances.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	-	-	This option does not avoid/minimise loss of greenfield land, however, it was noted that areas that were likely to be acceptable for housing were unlikely to	-	-	-	This option could be negative for physical resources as it could potentially lead to loss of greenfield land. However, it was noted that the zoning	-	-	-	This option could create potential for loss of greenfield land although it was noted that sites suitable for development are unlikely to be greenfield and the	-	-	-	This option could create potential for loss of greenfield land although it was noted that sites suitable for development are unlikely to be greenfield and the	

			be greenfield, in line with planning policy.			approach could control/restrict this potential loss.			zoning approach could help control/restrict this.			zoning approach could help control/restrict this.				
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective, although it was noted that this option had less potential for encouraging locations that would benefit from active/sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The zoning approach could allow for greater consideration and control in terms of allocating sites that are accessible and benefit from good connectivity.	+	+	+	The zoning element within this this option could provide opportunity for consideration and control in terms of allocating sites that are accessible and benefit from good connectivity.	+	+	+	The zoning element within this this option could provide opportunity for consideration and control in terms of allocating sites that are accessible and benefit from good connectivity.
9.... improve air quality.	-	-	-	This option is unlikely to improve air quality and could increase air pollution	-	-	-	This option is unlikely to improve air quality and could increase air pollution, although, it was noted that there was potential to consider Air Quality Monitoring Areas (AQMAs) when zoning for housing.	-	-	-	This option is unlikely to improve air quality and could increase air pollution, although, it was noted that there was potential to consider Air Quality Monitoring Areas (AQMAs) when zoning for housing.	-	-	-	This option is unlikely to improve air quality and could increase air pollution, although, it was noted that there was potential to consider Air Quality Monitoring Areas (AQMAs) when zoning for housing.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	-	-	-	Development is likely to increase greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption. This option is unlikely to reduce any causes of climate change.	-	-	-	Development is likely to increase greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption. However, it was noted that zoning land for housing could provide opportunities to protect/incorporate green space and future proof housing from potential flood risk which is important to climate change adaption.	-	-	-	Development is likely to increase greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption. However, it was noted that zoning land for housing could provide opportunities to protect/incorporate green space and future proof housing from potential flood risk.	-	-	-	Development is likely to increase greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption. However, it was noted that zoning land for housing could provide opportunities to protect/incorporate green space and future proof housing from potential flood risk.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	-	-	-	Development is unlikely to improve water quality or minimise the risks of flooding.	-	-	-	Development is unlikely to improve water quality or minimise the risks of flooding although it was noted that zoning in appropriate locations would help control/minimise risks.	-	-	-	Development is unlikely to improve water quality or minimise the risks of flooding although it was noted that zoning in appropriate locations would help control/minimise risks.	-	-	-	Development is unlikely to improve water quality or minimise the risks of flooding although it was noted that zoning in appropriate locations would help control/minimise risks.

12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	-	-	-	Development is unlikely to protect or enhance local biodiversity and could negatively impact ecosystems and green/blue infrastructure.	-	-	-	Development is unlikely to protect or enhance local biodiversity and could negatively impact ecosystems and green/blue infrastructure. However, it was noted that there may be potential to incorporate green space into development.	-	-	-	Development is unlikely to protect or enhance local biodiversity and could negatively impact ecosystems and green/blue infrastructure. However, it was noted that there may be potential to incorporate green space into development.	-	-	-	Development is unlikely to protect or enhance local biodiversity and could negatively impact ecosystems and green/blue infrastructure. However, it was noted that there may be potential to incorporate green space into development.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	-	-	-	Development could lead to visual intrusion which could negatively impact landscape character although it was noted that negative impacts would be dependent on location.	-	-	-	Development could lead to visual intrusion which could negatively impact landscape character. However, it was noted that negative impacts would be dependent on location. This can also be taken into consideration when zoning for housing.	-	-	-	Development could lead to visual intrusion which could negatively impact landscape character. However, it was noted that negative impacts would be dependent on location. This can also be taken into consideration when zoning for housing.	-	-	-	Development could lead to visual intrusion which could negatively impact landscape character. However, it was noted that negative impacts would be dependent on location. This can also be taken into consideration when zoning for housing.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: All the options scored positively with regard to sustainable housing, with Option 4 scoring significantly positive in terms of this objective, based on its potential to provide social housing using a range of approaches in line with local need. In terms of strengthening society, Options 1 and 4 scored minor positive whilst Options 2 and 3 scored negative on the basis that zoning areas for social housing could lead to social exclusion and pockets of deprivation. Overall, Option 4 was slightly more positive due to its combination of approaches that could be adapted to suit local circumstances. Option 4 could enable a higher level of housing provision and greater flexibility in terms of social housing provision. Ensuring all housing sites provide a proportion of social housing in ‘tenure blind’ developments has potential to meet locally identified need whilst reducing inequalities experienced by deprived communities. Zoning land for social housing and supporting social housing through KSRs safeguards land for social housing ensuring that social housing provision can be addressed in all circumstances. The degree of flexibility offered by this approach has the potential to be more effective in terms of addressing need and safeguarding land for future need.</p>																
<p>The most sustainable option: Option 4 – Combination of Options 1 & 3.</p>									<p>The preferred option: Option 4 is the preferred option.</p>							
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified for the objective to ‘provide good quality, sustainable housing’.</p>																
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>																

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Accessibility analysis for services, facilities and employment, requirement for public transport provision, housing needs analysis, building design guides, partnership working, site selection criteria/key site requirements including SuDS linkages with active and sustainable travel routes and policy to protect sensitive landscape features.

Key Issue 7: Housing in the Countryside

Options	Option 1 - Adopt existing policy approach. This option would adopt the current policy approach as set out in Planning Policy Statement 21 (PPS21) and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) for single dwellings in the countryside. It provides the same level of development opportunity as currently provided and is in keeping with the SPPS.			Option 2 - Adopt the existing policy approach but in addition provide clarification and minor changes to current policies to address a number of shortfalls. This option would seek, where feasible, to tailor existing policy to the needs of the district. Initially this would involve clarification and minor changes to the carried forward policies. Following the outcome of the SPPS review into 'Development in the Countryside' the Council would further consider the scope within the revised SPPS to vary its housing in the countryside policies within the context of the Council's spatial growth strategy and strategic housing allocation.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and wellbeing.	?	?	?	This option has uncertain effects for this objective overall, as it was considered to have both positive and negative influences. Housing in the countryside can help to allow people to live close to family, which can play a role in provision of care. However, living in more remote places can also isolate individuals and place a burden on the emergency services to provide services.	?	?	?	This option has uncertain effects for this objective overall, as it was considered to have both positive and negative influences. Housing in the countryside can help to allow people to live close to family, which can be play a role in provision of care. However living in more remote places can also isolate individuals and place a burden on the emergency services to provide services.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	This option was considered to have potential to strengthen society by allowing opportunities for intergenerational contact and by generally keeping population in rural areas, contributing to the vibrancy and vitality of villages and small settlements.	+	+	+	This option was considered to have potential to strengthen society by allowing opportunities for intergenerational contact and by generally keeping population in rural areas, contributing to the vibrancy and vitality of villages and small settlements.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	This option will allow some housing to be created in line with the policy approach.	+	+	+	This option will allow some housing to be created in line with the agreed policy approach.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	?	?	?	This option will help to sustain rural schools. However those living in these locations will have to travel long distances to attend further and higher education.	?	?	?	This option will help to sustain rural schools. However those living in these locations will have to travel long distances to attend further and higher education.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	-	-	-	Housing in the countryside has potential to detract from the landscape as a tourist resource, but might help people to live closer to their business in rural areas. Overall this option could have a negative impact on this objective.	-	-	-	Housing in the countryside has potential to detract from the landscape as a tourist resource, but might help people to live closer to their business in rural areas. Overall this option could have a negative impact on this objective.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	-	-	-	Housing development in the countryside could lead to increased demand on infrastructure which may not be fit for purpose and does not benefit from critical mass. Overall this option could have a negative impact on this objective.	-	-	-	Housing development in the countryside can lead to increased demand on infrastructure which may not be fit for purpose and does not benefit from critical mass. Overall this option could have a negative impact on this objective.

7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	-	-	Development in the countryside could increase the loss of greenfield land. It could also negatively impact earth science features and soil quality.	-	-	-	Development in the countryside could increase the loss of greenfield land. It could also negatively impact earth science features and soil quality.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	-	-	-	Housing in the countryside could increase car use in the countryside and is unlikely to improve access to public transport or benefit those without access to a vehicle.	-	-	-	Housing in the countryside could increase car use in the countryside and is unlikely to improve access to public transport or benefit those without access to a vehicle.
9.... improve air quality.	-	-	-	It is unlikely that development in the countryside would improve air quality. This option could increase car use and air pollution.	-	-	-	It is unlikely that development in the countryside would improve air quality. This option could increase car use and air pollution
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	-	-	-	It is unlikely that development in the countryside would reduce causes of climate change. This option could increase car use and air pollution. It could also negatively impact attenuation features.	-	-	-	It is unlikely that development in the countryside would reduce causes of climate change. This option could increase car use and air pollution. It could also negatively impact attenuation features.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	-	-	-	Development could reduce the quality of surface and ground water and could lead to an increase in the number of septic tanks sporadically located in the countryside which could negatively impact water quality objectives.	-	-	-	Development could reduce the quality of surface and ground water and It could lead to an increase in the number of septic tanks sporadically located in the countryside which could negatively impact water quality objectives.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	-	-	-	Development in the countryside is unlikely to protect or enhance designated sites or their buffers. This option is unlikely to protect or enhance local biodiversity.	-	-	-	Development in the countryside is unlikely to protect or enhance designated sites or their buffers. This option is unlikely to protect or enhance local biodiversity.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	-	-	-	Development in the countryside could lead to visual intrusion and may negatively impact areas designated for their landscape character. New development could also detract from prominent features and may be difficult to integrate which could reduce local distinctiveness.	-	-	-	Development in the countryside could lead to visual intrusion and may negatively impact areas designated for their landscape character. New development could also detract from prominent features and may be difficult to integrate which could reduce local distinctiveness.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	It was noted that this option may allow for adaptation of heritage buildings however, overall this option is likely to have negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	It was noted that this option may allow for adaptation of heritage buildings. However, overall this option is likely to have negligible effect on the objective.

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Both options scored the same across all the objectives with both scoring positive for strengthening society as both options could reduce factors causing inequalities and meet identified needs. Both options scored positively for sustainable housing although was noted that Option 2 provided more opportunity to clarify some areas within the policy which may help to meet needs. Both options were considered to have a negative effect across almost all of the remainder of the sustainably objectives, reflecting the possible impacts from housing in the countryside. Option 2 provides scope to vary housing provision in line with the Council’s Strategic Growth Strategy and Housing Allocation Strategy. This option provides opportunity to consider other policies ensuring an informed approach which has the potential to be more effective in addressing need appropriately. Tailoring and clarifying existing policy provides opportunity to ensure policy is practical and meaningful.

<p>The most sustainable option: Option 2 - Adopt the existing policy approach but in addition provide clarification and minor changes to current policies to address a number of shortfalls. This option would seek, where feasible, to tailor existing policy to the needs of the district. Initially this would involve clarification and minor changes to the carried forward policies. Following the outcome of the SPPS review into 'Development in the Countryside' the Council would further consider the scope within the revised SPPS to vary its housing in the countryside policies within the context of the Council's spatial growth strategy and strategic housing allocation.</p>	<p>The preferred option: Option 2 is the preferred option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects Biodiversity measures; other planning policy; Habitats Regulation Assessments; other designated sites; rural design guides; green building design – energy efficiency measures; landscaping measures and SuDS.</p>	

Key Issue 8: Future Proofing and Housing for All

Options	Option 1 - To retain the current design approach as set out in Planning Policy Statement 7 (PPS7) Policy QD1 (general criteria for meeting housing design) with no adjustments or amendments. This is in effect a 'do nothing' approach as the current policy does not require lifetime homes or wheelchair accessibility standards to be met by private developments. This option would fail to ensure the provision of lifetime homes and wheelchair accessible homes within the district.	Option 2 - Promote/encourage the provision of lifetime homes and require wheelchair accessible housing, across all tenures, to ensure an appropriate supply of homes for children, older people and those with physical disability. This could be achieved by the formulation of a checklist which sets out the requirements necessary for new homes to meet lifetime homes standard. It could also be stipulated that a minimum of 5% of private units within major development (50 units or more) should be designed to be wheelchair accessible.	Option 3 - Introduce new strategic policy covering lifetime homes and wheelchair accessible housing to require the provision of an appropriate supply of homes for children, older people and those with physical disability. This would require at least 20% of homes across all tenures, on sites of 50 or more dwellings, to be built to lifetime homes standard. Introduction of wheelchair accessible homes as per Option 2.									
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and wellbeing.	-	-	-	This option could have a negative impact on health and wellbeing as it does not improve access to suitable accommodation for those with long-term health care problems or a disability.	?	?	?	This option takes a 'promote and encourage' approach which depends on voluntary take up of lifetimes homes. Lack of certainty around take up of these standards makes potential outcomes unclear.	+	+	+	This option would set criteria for the requirement of lifetime homes housing standard and wheelchair accessible housing. This option could provide accommodation for those with long term health problems or a disability.
2.... strengthen society.	-	-	-	Not bringing forward policies on lifetime homes and wheelchair accessible housing may increase inequalities experienced by specific groups. It could also inhibit the inclusion of groups.	?	?	?	This option takes a 'promote and encourage' approach, which depends on voluntary take up of lifetime homes. Lack of certainty around take up of these standards makes potential outcomes unclear.	+	+	+	This option could have the potential to reduce factors causing inequalities and meet identified needs for certain groups, e.g. disabled people. This option promotes accessibility and inclusion of specific groups, making it positive for strengthening society.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	?	?	?	This option has the potential to meet locally identified needs and the needs of specific groups of people, including those with a disability, making it positive for sustainable housing. Lack of certainty around take up of these standards makes potential outcomes unclear.	?	?	?	This option takes a 'promote and encourage' approach which depends on voluntary take up of lifetimes homes. Lack of certainty around take up of these standards makes potential outcomes unclear.	+	+	+	This option would set criteria for the requirement of life time homes housing standard and wheelchair accessible housing. This option has the potential to meet locally identified need and the needs of specific groups of people, including those with a disability, making it positive for sustainable housing.

4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Option 3 scored most positively across health and wellbeing, strengthening society and provision of sustainable housing based on its potential to provide suitable accommodation for those with a health problem or a disability. Option 2 scored uncertain for the same objective as the option did not guarantee the take up of lifetime homes standard unlike Option 3 which made lifetimes homes a requirement. Option 1 was the least positive option scoring negative for both health and wellbeing and strengthening society.

Option 3 could have potential to deliver suitable accommodation for those with long-term health problems or a disability. This option has potential to address specific needs, promote inclusion and reduce inequalities. This option is sustainable in terms of strengthening society, provision of sustainable housing and improving health and well-being.

The most sustainable option: Option 3 - Introduce new strategic policy covering lifetime homes and wheelchair accessible housing to require the provision of an appropriate supply of homes for children, older people and those with physical disability. This would require at least 20% of homes across all tenures, on sites of 50 or more dwellings, to be built to lifetime homes standard. Introduction of wheelchair accessible homes as per Option 2.

The preferred option: Option 3 is the preferred option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects were identified for the preferred option.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects. No measures were identified.

Key Issue 9: Integrated Renewable Energy and Passive Solar Design

Options	Option 1 -The integration of renewable energy and passive solar design should be encouraged in all new development.			Option 2 - The integration of renewable energy and/or passive solar design should be a requirement in certain new development e.g. the public sector.			Option 3 - The integration of renewable energy and/or passive solar design should be a requirement in certain new development e.g. the public sector and on private developments over a certain threshold. This could apply to larger schemes, e.g. sites over 1 hectare or buildings over 1000m ² . It could also include development in the countryside including individual dwellings.					
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and wellbeing.	+	+	+	Encouraging integration of renewable energy could be positive for health and wellbeing. This option could be positive for maintaining good air quality.	+	+	+	Integration of renewable energy and passive solar design in certain new types of development could be positive for maintaining for good air quality.	+	+	+	Integration of renewable energy and passive solar design for certain new developments over a threshold. This option could be positive for maintain good air quality.
2.... strengthen society.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	+	Future proofing buildings could be positive for society, in particular for public buildings and homes. This option could make buildings more energy efficient and reduce fuel costs, benefiting people who live and work in these types of developments.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Encouraging the integration of renewable energy and passive solar design could benefit sustainable housing by creating more energy efficient homes and potentially reducing the number of unfit homes in the future.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	++	++	++	This option could significantly benefit sustainable housing, by making the integration of renewable energy and passive solar design a requirement for developments over a certain threshold. This option has the potential to deliver more energy efficient buildings as part of large scale development. This option could reduce the number of unfit homes in the future.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.

5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	This option could benefit economic growth. Integration of renewable energy and passive solar design could make developments more desirable to live and work in and add market value, contributing to economic growth. Positive outcomes would be dependent on voluntary uptake of this type of design.	+	+	+	This option could benefit economic growth. Integration of renewable energy and/or passive solar design could make developments more desirable to live and work in and add market value, contributing to economic growth. This option has the potential to deliver positive outcomes for certain types of development.	+	+	+	This option could benefit economic growth. Integration of renewable energy and/or passive solar design could make developments more desirable to live and work in and add market value, contributing to economic growth. This option has the potential to deliver positive outcomes for certain types of development on a commercial scale that meet the thresholds.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	This option has the potential to enable renewable energy production/connections and supports the development of renewables.	+	+	+	This option has the potential to enable renewable energy production/connections and supports the development of renewables. This option could also encourage the proximity principal for the location of assets.	+	+	+	This option has the potential to enable renewable energy production/connections and supports the development of renewables. This option could also encourage the proximity principal for the location of assets.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Encouraging the integration of renewable energy could be positive for the potential future use of geothermal energy.	+	+	+	The integration of renewable energy into certain types of development could be positive for the potential future use of geothermal energy.	+	+	+	The integration of renewable energy in to certain types of development of a threshold could be positive for the potential future use of geothermal energy.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
9.... improve air quality.	+	+	+	Encouraging integration of renewable energy and passive solar design could be positive for maintaining good air quality.	+	+	+	Integration of renewable energy and passive solar design as a requirement for certain types of development could be positive for maintaining good air quality.	+	+	+	Integration of renewable energy and passive solar design as a requirement for certain types of development could be positive for maintaining good air quality.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	This option encourages integration of renewable energy and passive solar design into new developments which could reduce causes of climate change, for example reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It may also reduce energy consumption. However, this option is dependent on voluntary uptake of this	+	+	+	This option sets a requirement for the integration of renewable energy and/or passive solar design into certain types of new developments which could reduce causes of climate change for example reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It may also reduce energy consumption.	+	+	+	This option sets a requirement for the integration of renewable energy and/or passive solar design into certain types of new developments which could reduce causes of climate change for example reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It may also reduce energy consumption.

				type of technology making potential outcomes uncertain.								
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	-	-	-	Encouraging integration of renewable energy and passive solar design in developments could be negative for landscape character. New development could detract from the setting of prominent features.	-	-	-	Integration of renewable energy and passive solar design in certain types of developments could be negative for landscape character. New development could increase visual intrusion and detract from the setting of prominent features. This option may also negatively impact landscape designations including AONBs and related management plans.	-	-	-	Integration of renewable energy and passive solar design in certain types of development could be negative for landscape character. New development could increase visual intrusion and detract from the setting of prominent features. This option may also negatively impact landscape designations including AONBs and related management plans.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	-	-	-	This option could damage the setting of cultural heritage assets and negatively impact 'sense of place' and reduce local distinctiveness.	-	-	-	This option could damage the setting of cultural heritage assets and negatively impact 'sense of place' and reduce local distinctiveness.	-	-	-	This option could damage the setting of cultural heritage assets and negatively impact 'sense of place' and reduce local distinctiveness.
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Overall Option 3 scored more positively than Options 1 and 2 having scored significantly positive for sustainable housing and positive in the long term for enabling sustainable economic growth and strengthening society, based on its potential to reduce inequalities, for example, fuel poverty. Option 2 was neutral in terms of sustainable housing and Option 1 scored uncertain in terms of climate change.</p> <p>Option 3 provides a comprehensive approach in terms of addressing integration of renewable energy and passive solar design within new developments over a certain threshold. This option has the potential to deliver more energy efficient buildings as part of large scale development and rural development. This option has the potential to reduce fuel costs and reduce the number of unfit homes in the future. Option 3 is the most sustainable in terms of its ability to reduce the causes of climate change for example greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption.</p>												
<p>The most sustainable option: Option 3 - The integration of renewable energy and/or passive solar design should be a requirement in certain new development e.g. the public sector and on private developments over a certain threshold. This could apply to larger schemes, e.g. sites over 1 hectare or buildings over 1000m². It could also include development in the countryside including individual dwellings.</p>						<p>The preferred option: Option 3 is the preferred option.</p>						
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified for the objective to 'provide good quality, sustainable housing'.</p>												

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Policy to protect sensitive landscape features, building design guides and policy to protect important buildings.

Key Issue 10: Open Space Provision

Options	Option 1 - Protect existing and zoned open space provision as identified in the BNMAP and ADAP.			Option 2 – Identify and evaluate current open space provision in the district. Protect existing and any subsequent additional land required for open space, sport and recreation.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and wellbeing.	+	+	+	Protecting existing and zoned open space provision could provide opportunities for healthy active lifestyles, increase positive social contact and create open space with shared access.	++	++	++	Reviewing and protecting existing land and future land for open space, sport and recreation could provide opportunity for promoting healthy active lifestyles, increase positive social contact and creating open space with shared access. Reviewing the existing provision could provide opportunities to identify areas lacking in open space provision and create opportunities to address the imbalance. This option could be significantly positive for health and wellbeing.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	This option has the potential to retain and maintain access to shared space and promote positive social interaction. However, it was noted that current provision may not be balanced across the district.	++	++	++	This option has the potential to retain, create and enhance shared space, promote positive social interaction and promote inclusion of all groups. Reviewing the existing provision could provide an opportunity to identify areas lacking in open space provision and create opportunity to address imbalance.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Protecting existing and zoned open space provision could provide the opportunity for multiple use of facilities, making it positive for education.	++	++	++	Reviewing and protecting land and future land for open space, sport and recreation could improve opportunities for multiple use of facilities which could be significantly positive for education.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Protecting existing and zoned open space provision could help make the district a more attractive place to live, work and visit.	+	+	+	Reviewing and protecting existing land and future land for open space, sport and recreation could help make the district a more attractive place to live, work and visit.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Protecting existing and zoned open space provision could be positive for physical resources as it protects open space against development.	+	+	+	Reviewing and protecting land and future land for open space, could be positive for physical resources as it protects open space against development.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	0	0	This option could help retain and enhance walking and cycling routes however this option does not provide the opportunity to	+	+	+	Reviewing and protecting existing land and future land for open space, sport and recreation could enhance walking or cycling

				review provision levels across the district which could make its effects neutral overtime.				routes and contribute to green infrastructure linkages and encourage active travel.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	+	Protecting existing and zoned open space provision could contribute to wider green infrastructure which in the future could contribute to active travel. It could also help to maintain air quality and provide opportunity for hedging/landscaping.	0	0	+	Reviewing and protecting existing land and future land for open space, sport and recreation could contribute to wider green infrastructure which in the future could contribute to active travel. It could also help to maintain air quality and provide opportunity for hedging/landscaping.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Protecting existing and zoned open space provision could protect natural assets and attenuation features while also promoting walking/cycling.	+	+	+	Reviewing and protecting existing land and future land for open space, sport and recreation could protect natural assets and attenuation features while also promoting walking/cycling.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Protecting existing and zoned open space provision could minimise risk of flooding and protect and enhance floodplains making it positive in terms of the objective.	+	+	+	Reviewing and protecting existing land and future land for open space, sport and recreation could minimise risk of flooding and protect and enhance floodplains making it positive in terms of the objective.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Protecting existing and zoned open space provision has the potential to protect/enhance designated sites and their buffers and biodiversity.	++	++	++	This option protects green infrastructure for open space, sport and recreation and has the potential to protect/enhance designated sites and their buffers and biodiversity. This option has the potential to be significantly positive for the objective.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Protecting existing and zoned open space provision could protect areas designated for landscape, minimise visual intrusion and help to protect and enhance the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors.	+	+	+	Reviewing and protecting existing land and future land for open space, sport and recreation could protect areas designated for landscape, minimise visual intrusion and help to protect and enhance the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	Protecting existing and zoned open space provision could allow 'sense of place' and local distinctiveness to be conserved and protected and provide opportunities for cultural activities.	+	+	+	Reviewing and protecting existing and zoned open space provision could allow 'sense of place' and local distinctiveness to be conserved and protected and provide opportunities for cultural activities.

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Option 2 scored significantly positive in terms of health and well-being, strengthening society, education and biodiversity. Option 2 could provide more opportunities for physical activity and improve public access to open space reducing factors causing inequalities, it also has greater potential in terms of promoting positive social interaction. Option 1 scored positively against many of the same objectives except for sustainable travel where it scored neutral overall in terms of the objective making it less positive overall.

Option 2 is most sustainable in terms of its ability to review and address the imbalance of open space provision across the district and protect land for future use. This option could deliver more in terms of health and wellbeing and strengthening society. This option provides versatility when considering potential for multi-use facilities in the future and has greater potential in terms of protecting and enhancing biodiversity, and contributing to green infrastructure and active travel in general.

<p>The most sustainable option: Option 2 – Identify and evaluate current open space provision in the district. Protect existing and any subsequent additional land required for open space, sport and recreation.</p>	<p>The preferred option: Option 2 is the preferred option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified for the objectives to ‘improve health and well-being’, to ‘strengthen society’, to ‘enable access to high quality education’ and to ‘protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity’.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects Accessibility analysis of open space including play facilities, partnership working and developer contributions.</p>	

Key Issue 11: Economic Development in the Countryside

Options				Option 1 – Adopt existing policy as set out in Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning and Economic Development (PPS4) in respect of economic development in the countryside. Adopt the policy approach as set out in PPS4 which:				Option 2 – Consider scope under the SPPS to allow a more flexible approach. Currently the SPPS states “A small scale new build economic development project may be permissible outside a village or small settlement where there is no suitable site within the settlement.” This option would explore the potential to:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allows for controlled expansion of existing industry in the countryside. ▪ Prohibits new business start-ups in rural areas. 						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide small scale workshop style development in the countryside which is ancillary to an existing dwelling. Small scale would be defined in terms of the floor space of the development which is ancillary to an existing dwelling. A floor space restriction of 100m² could be applied. 		
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	
1.... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Restricting development may adversely affect health and wellbeing in situations where people living in the countryside would like to have the opportunity to set up their own business at home/locally, but are not able to. It may inhibit social and intergenerational contact (including family cohesion and care) in rural areas. Overall the option’s effect on this objective is not expected to occur to a perceptible extent.	0	0	0	This option would enable some people to remain closer to home for work. There may be small benefits to well-being through enabling small businesses in which the entrepreneur is able to personally maximise their opportunities. Overall the option’s effect on this objective is not expected to occur to a perceptible extent.	
2.... strengthen society.	0	0	0	This option was considered to have a negligible effect on this objective, however it was noted in the appraisal that allowing economic development in the countryside, even with restrictions, can help to give rural communities access to facilities and services.	+	+	+	Permitting a slightly more flexible approach to economic development in the countryside may help to give rural communities greater access to facilities and services therefore reducing rural inequalities, particularly if the nature of the business is provision of a service. More generally, it can help promote positive social interaction.	
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option provides a small degree of potential for businesses in the countryside to offer skills training/apprenticeships. Overall the option’s effect on this objective is not expected to occur to a perceptible extent.	0	0	0	This option provides a small degree of potential for businesses in the countryside to offer skills training/apprenticeships. Overall the option’s effect on this objective is not expected to occur to a perceptible extent.	
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Current policy directs economic development towards settlements and only permits economic development in the countryside in very	+	++	++	This option would maintain the positive aspects of the existing policy, by continuing to direct the majority of new economic	

				exceptional circumstances. This helps maintain the vitality and vibrancy of settlements, by keeping development focused on centres. The policy helps support innovation and competitiveness within the local economy and supports creation of a range of job types that are accessible to areas of deprivation (principally in urban areas).				development to settlement centres. However, it would enable the establishment of new micro-businesses in the countryside, stimulating rural entrepreneurship and allowing prospective entrepreneurs to make best use of their location. Controlled/regulated development in the countryside is unlikely to detract from settlement vitality and vibrancy, but it was noted in the appraisal that the criteria under which development would be permitted would form an important element in mitigating against adverse effects on settlement centres.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The current policy places the onus on the developer/applicant to ensure that sufficient infrastructure is in place or can be feasibly put in place to accommodate their needs. It is unlikely that new development enabled under this option would place pressure on local infrastructure, or that it would directly influence the provision of new infrastructure that would benefit a wider local area.	-	-	-	This option has the potential to place additional pressure on rural infrastructure. The electricity grid in rural areas has been designed to primarily meet residential rather than business requirements. Increased demand for services could present difficulties for utility providers. It was noted in the appraisal that this option would be self-limiting to a certain extent, in that the establishment or expansion of businesses with particular demands would not be possible, if fit-for-purpose infrastructure was not present. Mitigation would include criteria to restrict the size and nature of development to reduce the likelihood of significant demand on services and infrastructure.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Directing economic development towards settlements helps to avoid greenfield losses and helps to safeguard potential mineral resource areas. Policy also favours the use of brownfield/previously developed sites.	0	0	-	The aim of this policy is to enable small-scale business development ancillary to existing dwellings or in existing buildings. As such it would be unlikely to result in significant greenfield losses, as new development would typically be within the curtilage of an existing dwelling. However, it was noted in the appraisal that if a business becomes successful and expansion becomes necessary, it may be difficult in practice to refuse an application to expand. This may lead to some cumulative effects in respect of greenfield loss and possible future constraints on areas available for minerals sourcing in the longer term.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The current policy, which directs economic development towards settlements, helps to increase the opportunities for commuters to reach their employment through active/sustainable travel routes. Traffic congestion is a problem in many settlements. Many rural areas have public transport that primarily serves as school transport and is not flexible enough for workers and businesses.	?	?	?	This option would maintain the positive aspects of the existing policy, by continuing to direct the majority of new economic development to settlement centres where opportunities for using active/sustainable transport are greater. However, it would enable the establishment of new micro-businesses in the countryside which may be more reliant on cars for access (although it may permit some to work from home). It is difficult to predict what

							effect this option would have on this objective as it depends on what type of business would be established and where.	
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The policy, which allows new development in the countryside to facilitate controlled expansion of an existing business, is unlikely to perceptibly influence the achievement of the air quality objective.	0	0	0	The scope and scale of development in the countryside associated with new micro-business which this option would enable over the existing policy, is unlikely to perceptibly influence the achievement of the air quality objective.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The policy, which allows new development in the countryside to facilitate controlled expansion of an existing business, is unlikely to perceptibly influence the achievement of the climate change objective.	0	0	0	The scope and scale of development in the countryside associated with new micro-business which this option would enable over and above the existing policy, is unlikely to perceptibly influence the achievement of the climate change objective.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Directing economic development towards settlements helps ensure that adequate water supply, waste water treatment and drainage infrastructure is in place to accommodate the new development. The policy is unlikely to improve water quality or reduce flood risk, but should not contribute to its deterioration.	0	0	0	Allowing new small-scale economic development in the countryside has the potential to place pressure on water supply infrastructure. Waste water or trade effluent would require treatment prior to discharge, but development in the countryside may not have access to the municipal waste water treatment network. Risks to water quality may be mitigated through the application of criteria, or by regulation/monitoring. An applicant may be required to demonstrate that there is the capacity/capability for adequate treatment of waste water (e.g. through Water (NI) Order consent to discharge) prior to receiving planning consent. With appropriate regulation in place, negative effects should not be perceptible.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Directing economic development towards settlements and existing buildings helps to minimise greenfield losses and helps to safeguard biodiversity across the district. There may be more opportunities for employment sites to be linked with green/blue infrastructure.	0	0	0	This policy option would continue to direct the majority of new economic development towards settlements, but would enable small-scale business development ancillary to existing dwellings in the countryside. As such, it would be unlikely to result in significant greenfield losses or impacts on biodiversity, though it is noted that certain species are at risk from new development/redevelopment and loss of natural land cover may cumulatively increase over time if successful businesses are allowed to expand. These effects may be moderated through mitigation.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Directing economic development towards settlements and existing buildings helps to maintain landscape character across the wider district, but does not contribute to any enhancement.	0	0	0	This option would retain the existing policy (settlements/existing buildings first) but would permit some new small-scale development in the countryside. This would only occur at sites where there is already existing development and therefore new development would be grouped/clustered with existing buildings.

							Provided that new economic development is sensitively integrated with the existing development (in accordance with the policy – mitigation may be necessary) it should not create perceptible adverse effects.	
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	Directing economic development towards settlements and existing buildings creates potential to regenerate/reuse old and listed buildings in town centres and villages. It may help protect local distinctiveness and allow ‘sense of place’ to be conserved in townscape and rural settings.	+	+	+	Directing economic development towards settlements and existing buildings creates potential to regenerate/reuse old and listed buildings in town centres and villages. It may help protect local distinctiveness and allow ‘sense of place’ to be conserved in townscape and rural settings. This option would also incentivise the reuse/restoration of old and derelict buildings in the countryside, as the policy would direct towards reuse of existing buildings first.
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Option 2 is the most sustainable option in respect of the social and economic sustainability objectives. Increasing the opportunities for self-employment and establishing micro businesses in rural areas creates a minor positive effect on strengthening society and a significant positive on enabling sustainable economic growth. It is acknowledged that economic development in the countryside can place pressure on material assets and physical resources, however Option 2 is considered to be somewhat self-limiting and could be mitigated in this respect, as the criteria permit only small businesses. Investors are unlikely to develop sites where the infrastructure is not fit for purpose. In terms of the environmental sustainability objectives, Option 2 performs less positively than Option 1 but it was felt that the social and economic benefits for this option outweigh the reduced environmental benefits. Option 1 does not create any perceptible positive effects on the social sustainability objectives and it only has a minor positive effect on the economic sustainability objectives. The restrictiveness of this policy option indirectly helps to support a number of environmental sustainability objectives, with minor positive effects on physical resources, active and sustainable travel, biodiversity/natural resources and built and cultural heritage. Despite these environmental benefits, it is felt that this option delivers less overall when all three sustainability themes are considered.</p>								
<p>The most sustainable option: Option 2 – Consider scope under the SPPS to allow a more flexible approach. Currently the SPPS states “A small scale new build economic development project may be permissible outside a village or small settlement where there is no suitable site within the settlement.” This option would explore the potential to: Provide small scale workshop style development in the countryside which is ancillary to an existing dwelling. Small scale would be defined in terms of the floor space of the development which is ancillary to an existing dwelling. A floor space restriction of 100m² could be applied.</p>					<p>The preferred option: Option 2 is the preferred option.</p>			
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified in the medium-long term for the objective to ‘enable sustainable economic growth’.</p>								
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>								

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Conditions on policy and criteria, floor space restrictions, restrictions on range of developments, species surveys, ecological/biodiversity surveys, package treatment of waste water/discharge consents, landscape analysis, and rural design guides.

Key Issue 12: Alternative uses on land Zoned for Economic Development

Options	Option 1 – Status Quo - Safeguard land zoned for economic development for industrial, business and storage and distribution uses only.			Option 2 – Degree of Flexibility - Allow a limited number of alternative compatible use/business falling outside Part B ‘Industrial and Business Use’ of the Planning (use Classes) Order (NI) 2015 within zoned economic land. Potential uses could include sale of motor vehicles, use as a scrapyards or breaking of motor vehicles, or the storage and distribution of minerals.			Option 3 – Greater flexibility - Allow retail, commercial leisure and other alternative uses falling outside Part B within zoned economic land subject to the adoption of a sequential approach ensuring that city/town centres are considered first and demonstrate a support function to existing economic uses.					
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective. No direct impacts were identified.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective. No direct impacts were identified.	+	+	+	This option would allow leisure facilities such as gyms to be located in industrial/economic land zonings. This can be of health and well-being benefit to those working in these employment areas.
2.... strengthen society.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	-	-	-	This option may attract certain types of development that enable social interaction away from town centres.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on this objective. It was noted in the appraisal that the option could create some opportunities for skills training, but it would not influence this objective to a perceptible degree.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on this objective. It was noted in the appraisal that the option could create some opportunities for skills training, but it would not influence this objective to a perceptible degree.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on this objective. It was noted in the appraisal that the option could create some opportunities for skills training, but it would not influence this objective to a perceptible degree.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	++	++	++	This option allows economic development and supports new job creation, but protects town centres. It makes the best use of location.	++	++	++	This option allows economic development and supports new job creation. This option delivers slightly more by providing more opportunities for establishing or relocating a business. The alternative compatible uses enabled	-	-	--	While the sequential approach provides some protection to town centres, establishing retail/commercial development on land zoned for economic development could detract from town centres. There is also a risk

						by this option are, in general, not well suited to town centres, therefore this option would not detract from these and makes the best use of location.				that enabling too much diversification in economic zonings may deplete land space that is suited to manufacturing, meaning that locations for this type of industry become limited in their availability.		
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Infrastructure provision is generally good, or can be easily provided within zoned areas. It also encourages the redevelopment of brownfield land.	0	0	0	Infrastructure provision is generally good, or can be easily provided within zoned areas. It also encourages the redevelopment of brownfield land.	0	0	0	Infrastructure provision is generally good, or can be easily provided within zoned areas. It also encourages the redevelopment of brownfield land. Opening up retail/leisure uses can create additional demand for car parking.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	The option relates to the usage of land that has already been zoned. The type of industry within the land use zoning is unlikely to influence physical resources.	0	0	0	The option relates to the usage of land that has already been zoned. The type of industry within the land use zoning is unlikely to influence physical resources.	0	0	0	The option relates to the usage of land that has already been zoned. The type of industry within the land use zoning is unlikely to influence physical resources.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	+	The zoning process would take account of transportation links and access, although it was noted in the appraisal that many of the areas currently developed for economic purposes do not have fit-for-purpose links to active and sustainable transport routes. The focusing of industrial employment areas into zones can help to establish the critical mass of commuters/employees needed to support the longer term provision of public transport or active travel routes.	0	0	+	The zoning process would take account of transportation links and access, although it was noted in the appraisal that many of the areas currently developed for economic purposes do not have fit-for-purpose links to active and sustainable transport routes. The focusing of industrial employment areas into zones can help to establish the critical mass commuters/employees needed to support the longer term provision of public transport or active travel routes.	-	-	-	This option may take traffic away from town centres, where active/sustainable travel is more likely to be available. Encouraging retail or commercial leisure development in areas zoned for industry or employment could reduce the viability of public transport routes serving town centres. This option may indirectly increase reliance on cars.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The option relates to the categories of business that would occupy the land that has already been zoned for industrial, business, or storage and distribution uses. Whilst all economic development is expected to generate some form of emissions, the specific use	0	0	0	The option relates to the categories of business that would occupy the land that has already been zoned for industrial, business, or storage and distribution uses. Whilst all economic development is expected to generate some form of emissions, the specific use	0	0	0	The option relates to the categories of business that would occupy the land that has already been zoned for industrial, business, or storage and distribution uses. Whilst all economic development is expected to generate some form of emissions, the specific use

			type is unlikely to perceptibly influence air quality.				type is unlikely to perceptibly influence air quality.				type is unlikely to perceptibly influence air quality. It was also noted that this option could increase reliance on cars.	
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The separate zoning process would take account of transportation links and access, flood risk and other factors. The specific use type is unlikely to perceptibly influence this objective.	0	0	0	The separate zoning process would take account of transportation links and access, flood risk and other factors. The specific use type is unlikely to perceptibly influence this objective.	0	0	0	The separate zoning process would take account of transportation links and access, flood risk and other factors. The specific use type is unlikely to perceptibly influence this objective although this option could increase the overall reliance on cars.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	-	-	-	The option relates to the categories of business that would occupy the land that has already been zoned for industrial, business, or storage and distribution uses. No likely issues with water supply are indicated. Industrial or manufacturing uses and large warehouse type buildings could create high rates of runoff which may require attenuation measures to avoid increasing flood risk elsewhere. Certain industrial uses may generate waste effluent which would require treatment before discharge to a watercourse. These potentially negative effects should be eliminated by mitigation.	-	-	-	The option relates to the categories of business that would occupy the land that has already been zoned for industrial, business, or storage and distribution uses. No likely issues with water supply are indicated. Industrial or manufacturing uses and large warehouse type buildings could create high rates of runoff which may require attenuation measures to avoid increasing flood risk elsewhere. Certain industrial uses may generate waste effluent which would require treatment before discharge to a watercourse. These potentially negative effects should be eliminated by mitigation.	-	-	-	The option relates to the categories of business that would occupy the land that has already been zoned for industrial, business, or storage and distribution uses. No likely issues with water supply are indicated. Industrial or manufacturing uses and large warehouse type buildings could create high rates of runoff which may require attenuation measures to avoid increasing flood risk elsewhere. Certain industrial uses may generate waste effluent which would require treatment before discharge to a watercourse. These potentially negative effects should be eliminated by mitigation.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	The option relates to the usage of land that has already been zoned. The type of industry within the land use zoning is unlikely to influence natural resources to a perceptible effect. It was noted in the appraisal that existing industrial zonings have mammal underpasses and other mitigation measures incorporated within them.	0	0	0	The option relates to the usage of land that has already been zoned. The type of industry within the land use zoning is unlikely to influence natural resources to a perceptible effect. It was noted in the appraisal that existing industrial zonings have mammal underpasses and other mitigation measures incorporated within them.	0	0	0	The option relates to the usage of land that has already been zoned. The type of industry within the land use zoning is unlikely to influence natural resources to a perceptible effect. It was noted in the appraisal that existing industrial zonings have mammal underpasses and other mitigation measures incorporated within them.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	The option relates to the usage of land that has already been zoned. The type	0	0	0	The option relates to the usage of land that has already been zoned. The type	0	0	0	The option relates to the usage of land that has already been zoned. The type

			of industry within the land use zoning is unlikely to influence landscape character to a perceptible effect.				of industry within the land use zoning is unlikely to influence landscape character to a perceptible effect.				of industry within the land use zoning is unlikely to influence landscape character to a perceptible effect.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	The option relates to the usage of land that has already been zoned. The type of industry within the land use zoning is unlikely to influence the historic environment or cultural resources to a perceptible effect. Some sites zoned for industry have conditions attached to protect listed buildings within the zoning. The redevelopment of former industrial heritage sites (e.g. mills) can benefit this objective.	0	0	0	The option relates to the usage of land that has already been zoned. The type of industry within the land use zoning is unlikely to influence the historic environment or cultural resources to a perceptible effect. Some sites zoned for industry have conditions attached to protect listed buildings within the zoning. The redevelopment of former industrial heritage sites (e.g. mills) can benefit this objective.	-	-	-	The option relates to the usage of land that has already been zoned. The type of industry within the land use zoning is unlikely to influence the historic environment or cultural resources to a perceptible effect. Some sites zoned for industry have conditions attached to protect listed buildings within the zoning. The redevelopment of former industrial heritage sites (e.g. mills) can benefit this objective. This option may move business away from town centres and make the restoration or occupation of older buildings or heritage assets in centres less likely.

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Option 1 and Option 2 received the same pattern of scoring across the fourteen objectives. Both options were found to have no perceptible effects on the social sustainability objectives and a strong positive effect on the economic sustainability objective of sustainable economic growth. The greater flexibility and range of opportunity afforded by Option 2 means that it delivers slightly more for the economic growth objective than Option 1 and is probably the more sustainable of the two options. The type of economic development land use in land that has already been zoned for economic development has limited influence on the environmental objectives, however it was noted that some types of industrial/economic development have the potential to have minor negative effects on water resources.

Option 3 does influence the social sustainability issues, by broadening the range of uses on economic zoned land to include retail and commercial leisure. It may bring minor benefits to health and wellbeing by, for example, allowing gyms and leisure sites to be located closer to workplaces. This may have minor negative effects on the strengthening society objective, if it directs people and shared space away from town centres. Option 3 also risks the deterioration of economic growth in town centres. Diversification in zoned land may create pressure, in that space which is only suitable for manufacturing/industry is displaced by development that could have been more easily sited elsewhere. The influence of this option on the vitality and vibrancy of town centres creates minor negative effects on the active and sustainable travel and built and cultural heritage objectives.

The most sustainable option: Option 2 – Degree of Flexibility - Allow a limited number of alternative compatible use/business falling outside Part B ‘Industrial and Business Use’ of the Planning (use Classes) Order (NI) 2015 within zoned economic land. Potential uses could include sale of motor vehicles, use as a scrapyard or breaking of motor vehicles, or the storage and distribution of minerals.	The preferred option: Option 2 is the preferred option.
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What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects were identified for the preferred option?

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Accessibility analysis, transport analysis, requirement for public transport provision, drainage assessment, flood risk assessment, water pollution prevention local policy guidelines, require use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), policy to protect important buildings or defence/industrial heritage assets.

Key Issue 13: Tourism Development

Options	Option 1 – Retain existing policy led approach as set out within PPS 16 with minor amendments tailored to meet the needs of the district.			Option 2 – In addition to retaining the existing policy led approach bring forward Tourist Opportunity Zones (TOZs). This would identify tourism sites for attractions and accommodation to promote opportunities for dedicated sustainable tourism options over the plan period. For example Kilbroney Park, Cranfield and Delamont Country Park. TOZs are considered to offer opportunities for the development of a range of appropriate quality tourism and recreation schemes to build on the existing tourism base, and enhance the tourism product. These would generally be outside urban and rural settlements.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	The policy, while aimed at developing tourism, enables the creation of open space with public access. It encourages the establishment of walking/cycling paths, parks, trails and other assets which can be used by the resident community as well as tourists to get outdoors and be active.	+	+	+	The policy, while aimed at developing tourism, enables the creation of open space with public access. It encourages the establishment of walking/cycling paths, parks, trails and other assets which can be used by the resident community as well as tourists to get outdoors and be active. This option may allow opportunities for new development that would otherwise be prevented by PPS16. If the TOZs are extensive, then this could become significant.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	The option gives rural communities access to services and may increase the opportunities for enhancement of shared space through facilities developed in conjunction with tourism. It was noted in the appraisal that this can lead to conflict, if residents perceive that tourism interests are taking over local areas.	+	+	+	The option gives rural communities access to services and may increase the opportunities for enhancement of shared space through facilities developed in conjunction with tourism. It was noted in the appraisal that this can lead to conflict, if residents perceive that tourism interests are taking over local areas.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option would not create a perceptible effect on this objective, however it was noted in the appraisal that outdoor centres and facilities which enable closer access to nature may be of benefit as a teaching resource.	0	0	0	This option would not create a perceptible effect on this objective, however it was noted in the appraisal that tourism assets which include interpretive facilities can have indirect benefits for education. There is greater potential from this option for enabling a shared use of resources.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	PPS16 does allow some development, but only in quite limited circumstances. It may not encourage the right sort of development to stimulate economic growth.	+	++	++	This option would allow a better use of location and tourism businesses would have greater ability to maximise the benefits of their location in terms of landscape/natural attributes and attractions. Overall, the policy may help make the district a

							more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. Over time, the TOZs may become self-selling and should attract more economic development, in keeping with the location.	
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective. Tourism businesses of the type enabled by this policy tend not to be heavily dependent on infrastructure.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective. There is the possibility that the policy may encourage investment in communication infrastructure in areas where existing telecommunications are poor. It is unlikely that new development enabled by this option would adversely affect existing infrastructure.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	The existing policy does not protect physical resources, however it is unlikely to result in significant use or sterilisation of physical resources.	-	-	-	This option may result in greater overall land use outside settlements. It could result in areas with potential for resource extraction becoming fragmented. Severe impacts can be avoided through mitigation.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Greenways and blue infrastructure are currently being actively pursued in the district through this policy option. The current policy is a reactive one – benefits could be improved on.	+	+	+	This option would allow a more strategic approach to be taken – particularly on the provision of active travel routes. Active/sustainable travel routes could be planned and incorporated within the overall concept for a TOZ. Where roads are not fit to accommodate additional vehicle traffic, alternative strategies may need to be developed. TOZs could also could incorporate hubs for linking blue / green infrastructure. This option delivers more for this objective.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option does nothing proactive to improve air quality, but is also unlikely to cause air quality to deteriorate. There is currently congestion around key sites for tourism.	?	?	?	This option may bring more visitors to the district. An active transport plan would be required to address some of the challenges this could bring. The effects of this option on the objective are uncertain, as they are dependent on how the plan is implemented.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Tourism businesses of the type enabled by this policy tend not to be located on flood plains, peatlands or other adaptive habitats, although some sand dune formations are found at coastal locations within the district. They are also unlikely to be heavy energy consumers. This option includes nothing proactive to reduce the causes of, or adapt to, the effects of climate change.	?	?	?	Tourism businesses of the type enabled by this policy tend not to be located on flood plains, peatlands or other adaptive habitats, although some sand dune formations are found at coastal locations within the district. They are also unlikely to be heavy energy consumers. This option includes nothing proactive to reduce the causes of, or adapt to, the effects of climate change. The option may result in an increase in vehicle use in the TOZs. The effects of increased visitors on the climate change objective are dependent on behavioural change and therefore are uncertain.

11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Any predicted impacts on water resources (e.g. a new discharge point for foul waste water) would be mitigated as part of the application process. This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Any predicted impacts on water resources (e.g. a new discharge point for foul waste water) would be mitigated as part of the application process. Adequate capacity for waste water to be treated and discharged safely could form part of the selection criteria for TOZs. This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	An indirect benefit of PPS16 is to protect natural resources, by limiting the scope and scale of development in the countryside. It has allowed green/blue infrastructure to be progressed.	+	+	+	While this option would maintain the existing policy-led approach, which indirectly protects natural resources, the establishment of TOZs could influence natural resources and biodiversity as they may result in the loss of greenfield land. The process of identifying TOZs should provide spatial protection to important and designated conservation sites and should direct sustainable levels of tourism development to appropriate areas, avoiding adverse effects.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	+	An indirect benefit of PPS16 is to protect landscape character, by limiting the scope and scale of development in the countryside.	0	0	+	While this option would maintain the existing policy-led approach, which indirectly protects landscape character, the identification and establishment of TOZs would need to take into account landscape character and should include appropriate criteria and policy to avoid negative effects.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	The existing policy directs the prospective developer toward the conversion and reuse of existing buildings. This can help to protect and conserve built and cultural heritage. Tourism can also provide opportunities for cultural activities.	+	++	++	The existing policy directs the prospective developer toward the conversion and reuse of existing buildings. This can help to protect and conserve built and cultural heritage. An amended policy, with the inclusion of TOZs, could encourage developers to focus on heritage sites that are under used or under developed at present and maximise their potential. Tourism can provide opportunities for cultural activities. There may be more scope to develop interpretation facilities supporting heritage assets.
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Option 2 has a positive effect on the social sustainability objectives of health and well-being and strengthening society, as development for tourism may also benefit the resident community. No effects are predicted on housing. In terms of the economic sustainability objectives, Option 2 has a positive effect on sustainable economic growth, extending to significant positive in the medium– long term. Although the comments show some possible influences on education and material assets, these are not thought to be strong enough to create an overall effect. Option 2 has a mixture of scores across the environmental objectives, primarily because the focus of the TOZs will be outside rural and urban settlements. Minor negative effects were identified in respect of physical resources and the effects on air quality and the climate change objectives were uncertain. Minor positive effects were identified in respect of active and sustainable travel and natural resources. Cultural tourism forms a large portion of the district’s tourism offering and is identified as a potential area for strong growth. This option is therefore expected to bring strong positive effects in the medium –long term on the built and cultural heritage objective.</p>								

Option 1, which is largely based on the existing policy, delivers minor positive effects on many of the social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives and has no identified negative effects. However, the absence of a spatial element which encourages focused and appropriate tourism development means that it does not deliver as much for the social and economic objectives as option 2.

The most sustainable option: Option 2 – In addition to retaining the existing policy led approach bring forward Tourist Opportunity Zones (TOZs). This would identify tourism sites for attractions and accommodation to promote opportunities for dedicated sustainable tourism options over the plan period. For example Kilbroney Park, Cranfield and Delamont Country Park. TOZs are considered to offer opportunities for the development of a range of appropriate quality tourism and recreation schemes to build on the existing tourism base, and enhance the tourism product. These would generally be outside urban and rural settlements.

The preferred option: Option 2 is the preferred option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified for the objectives to ‘enable sustainable economic growth’ and ‘to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources’ in the medium-long term.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: These could include: developer contributions, building design guides, partnership working, transport analysis, site selection criteria, integration with other policies such as mineral constraint zones and protection of sensitive landscape features, water pollution prevention local policy, ecological surveys and landscape analysis.

Key Issue 14: Minerals Development

Options	Option 1 – Adopt a policy led approach in relation to Mineral Development. This option involves all applications for mineral development within the district being determined against a criteria based policy and if the proposal meets the criteria then it will be acceptable. Such a policy may take account of factors such as landscape character, residential amenity, safety, natural and built heritage. No Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development would be identified.			Option 2 – In addition to retaining minerals development policies, as per Option 1, adopt Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMD). This would seek to protect valuable landscapes, such as land within AONBs, Areas of High Scenic Value and Archaeological Interest.			Option 3 – As per Option 1 but also identify Mineral Safeguarding Zones (MSZs), this would help to ensure that valuable mineral resources, where identified were not unnecessarily sterilised when considering planning applications.			Option 4 – Adopt a policy led approach but also include a combination of both Areas of Mineral Constraint and Mineral Safeguarding Zones.						
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	This policy option, when correctly applied, should not lead to adverse effects on health and well-being, e.g. from noise or other nuisances. It was noted in the appraisal that usual practice (e.g. buffer zones and screening/planting) appears to be working satisfactorily.	0	0	0	This option may result in fewer quarrying operations than under the current system. Adverse effects on health and well-being, e.g. from noise or other nuisances are unlikely, as the current regime operates satisfactorily.	0	0	0	This policy option, when correctly applied, should not lead to adverse effects on health and well-being, e.g. from noise or other nuisances. It was noted in the appraisal that usual practice (e.g. buffer zones and screening/planting) appears to be working satisfactorily.	0	0	0	This policy option, when correctly applied, should not lead to adverse effects on health and well-being, e.g. from noise or other nuisances. It was noted in the appraisal that usual practice (e.g. buffer zones and screening/planting) appears to be working satisfactorily.
2.... strengthen society.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective. It was noted in the appraisal that the local availability of construction	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective. It was noted in the appraisal that the local availability of construction	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective. It was noted in the appraisal that the local availability of construction	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective. It was noted in the appraisal that the local availability of construction

			materials may indirectly influence the affordability of new houses.			materials may indirectly influence the affordability of new houses.			materials may indirectly influence the affordability of new houses. This option may sterilise some areas from being developed for housing.			materials may indirectly influence the affordability of new houses. This option may sterilise some areas from being developed for housing.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	?	?	?	This option would have positive effects on the extractive industries and construction and would potentially allow the best use of location to be made. However, this option may negatively affect the landscape and natural resource assets which drive the district's attractiveness as a tourism destination.	-	-	-	This option may significantly reduce the area available for resource extraction; if the ACMDs include AONB there would be no new sand, gravel or sandstone quarries in the district. This would drive up costs for the construction sector and have a number of indirect negative economic effects. This option could slightly enhance the district's attractiveness as a tourism destination	+	+	+	This option would protect key landscapes while maintaining a local supply of aggregates. While the areas available for potential resource extraction would be reduced by the ACMDs, the mineral safeguarding zones would help to safeguard the remaining resource areas, supporting the local extractive and construction industries.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective. The extractive industry typically has its own generating plant (often mobile plant) and does not rely heavily on external infrastructure.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective. The extractive industry typically has its own generating plant (often mobile plant) and does not rely heavily on external infrastructure.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective. The extractive industry typically has its own generating plant (often mobile plant) and does not rely heavily on external infrastructure.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	This option allows mineral extraction to be considered where the demand is and enables materials to be locally sourced. It enables the minerals industry to	-	-	-	This option may significantly reduce the area available for resource extraction. It reduces the ability of the minerals industry to operate sustainably and does not	+	+	+	This option enables the minerals industry to operate sustainably and enables future use/benefit of quarries. It allows materials to be locally sourced.

			operate sustainably, but does not protect important resource areas or safeguard the future of the local extractive industry, as resource sites may be lost if other development occurs on them.			protect potential future use/benefit of quarries. It may slightly reduce short term greenfield land losses but over the long term there are unlikely to be net losses following restoration/reinstatement.					remaining resource areas, supporting the local extractive and construction industries. The benefits of this option are dependent on how the boundaries are drawn in relation to the location of resources. It may be difficult to achieve benefits in practice.					
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option allows local sourcing of construction materials. It neither exacerbates nor improves the factors relating to the transport objective.	-	-	-	This option would reduce the local opportunities for sourcing construction materials. Materials would potentially need to be transported over longer distances which may add to congestion.	0	0	0	This option allows local sourcing of construction materials. It neither exacerbates nor improves the factors relating to the transport objective.	?	?	?	The effects of this option are dependent on where the balance lies in relation to whether this option would permit the maintenance of a sufficient supply of local resources to meet demand, or whether there would be shortfall resulting in the need for transportation of materials from outside the district.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	In general, the extractive industry is well regulated and no adverse effects occur from quarrying itself. This option may have indirect influences in respect of emissions from vehicles transporting the quarried materials, however these are not considered to create a perceptible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	In general, the extractive industry is well regulated and no adverse effects occur from quarrying itself. This option may have indirect influences in respect of emissions from vehicles transporting the quarried materials, as transport distances may be increased by this option. These are not considered to create a perceptible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	In general, the extractive industry is well regulated and no adverse effects occur from quarrying itself. This option may have indirect influences in respect of emissions from vehicles transporting the quarried materials, however these are not considered to create a perceptible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	In general, the extractive industry is well regulated and no adverse effects occur from quarrying itself. This option may have indirect influences in respect of emissions from vehicles transporting the quarried materials, as transport distances may be increased by this option. These are not considered to create a perceptible effect on the objective.

<p>10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>This option was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective. It was noted in the appraisal that enabling local production and being self-sufficient for quarried products would reduce transportation and energy requirements. The policy led approach alongside these areas' general unsuitability of ground conditions for mineral extraction means it is unlikely to negatively affect peatlands/wetlands.</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>While this option provides more certainty on the protection of peatland, wetlands and other natural assets, it may result in a deficit of locally sourced quarry products. This may increase energy and transport requirements. The overall effect on the objective is uncertain.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>This option was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective. It was noted in the appraisal that enabling local production and being self-sufficient for quarried products would reduce transportation and energy requirements. The policy-led approach alongside these areas' general unsuitability of ground conditions for mineral extraction means it is unlikely to negatively affect peatlands/wetlands.</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>While this option provides more certainty on the protection of peatland, wetlands and other natural assets, it may result in a deficit of locally sourced quarry products. This may increase energy and transport requirements. The overall effect on the objective is uncertain.</p>
<p>11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Quarrying has the potential to adversely impact surface or groundwater quality. However, the extractive industry is well regulated and no adverse effects currently occur from quarrying. Overall the effect is considered to be negligible.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Quarrying has the potential to adversely impact surface or groundwater quality. However, the extractive industry is well regulated and no adverse effects currently occur from quarrying. This option may provide more certainty on the protection of designated waterbodies against accidental pollution. Overall the effect is considered to be negligible.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Quarrying has the potential to adversely impact surface or groundwater quality. However, the extractive industry is well regulated and no adverse effects currently occur from quarrying. Overall the effect is considered to be negligible.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Quarrying has the potential to adversely impact surface or groundwater quality. However, the extractive industry is well regulated and no adverse effects currently occur from quarrying. This option may provide more certainty on the protection of designated waterbodies against accidental pollution. Overall the effect is considered to be negligible.</p>
<p>12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>The current policy takes a reactive approach and includes criteria for the protection of natural resources including biodiversity. Mineral extraction can lead to localised short term losses to biodiversity, but over the long term, with restoration</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>This option may significantly reduce the area available for resource extraction. This would indirectly protect natural resources and biodiversity as areas of high ecological value often coincide with areas</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Mineral extraction can lead to localised short term losses to biodiversity, but over the long term, with restoration and reinstatement, these losses can usually be reversed. The identification of MSZs would aim to avoid</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>The identification of MSZs would aim to avoid areas of high ecological value. Natural resources and biodiversity would also receive further indirect protection as areas of high ecological value often coincide with areas</p>

			and reinstatement, these losses can usually be reversed.				designated for their landscape.				areas of high ecological value.				designated for their landscape.	
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	The current policy takes a reactive approach. It includes criteria for the protection of landscape character and the policy is regarded as being successful in preventing deterioration of landscape character.	+	+	+	The aim of this option is to protect valuable landscapes, such as land within AONBs, Areas of High Scenic Value and Archaeological Interest. In doing so it would significantly restrict the future areas available for resource extraction. It was noted in the appraisal that the policy would not act to enhance landscape character, therefore a significant effect is not predicted.	0	0	0	This option would influence the spatial distribution of quarries through the MSZ designation, for which landscape would be taken into consideration. Unacceptable sites would be excluded from MSZs, preventing deterioration of landscape character.	0	0	0	This option would protect the most valuable landscapes and would focus the spatial distribution of quarries through the MSZ designation, which would take landscape into consideration. Unacceptable sites would be excluded from MSZs, preventing deterioration of landscape character.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	The current policy takes a reactive approach. It includes criteria for the protection of built heritage.	+	+	+	This option includes the protection of areas of significant archaeological interest. It gives greater certainty over the protection of the historic environment.	0	0	0	This option would take a reactive approach and would include criteria for the protection of built heritage. It would also influence the spatial distribution of quarries through the MSZ designation, for which historic environment assets would be taken into consideration.	+	+	+	This option includes the protection of areas of significant archaeological interest. It gives greater certainty over the protection of the historic environment.

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Option 3, along with the other options, has no perceptible effect on the social sustainability objectives. The identification of MSZ in appropriate locations will help to safeguard the future operation of the minerals industry, bringing significant positive effects to the sustainable economic growth and physical resources objectives in the medium to long term. The criteria-based policy approach helps to minimise negative effects on the environmental sustainability objectives, making this the most sustainable option.

Option 1 is similar to Option 3 in that its criteria-based approach helps to avoid negative effects on environmental objectives. The option's effects on sustainable economic growth are uncertain, as while it enables the extractive industry to develop and evolve, it does not provide safeguarding from resource fragmentation and may undermine assets which are important for tourism.

Through the establishment of Areas of Constraint, Option 2 may have a minor negative effect on sustainable economic growth and physical resources, by placing extensive restrictions on what areas within the district can have minerals development. This may indirectly lead to increased transportation requirements for building materials,

which would have a minor negative effect on the transport objective. The restrictive nature of this option results in minor positive scores for many of the environmental objectives but these do not outweigh the negative effects.

Option 4 seeks to create a more balanced approach through areas of constraint and mineral safeguarding zones. Whilst this would safeguard minerals development in certain areas and delivers minor positives for economic growth and physical resources, there would still be considerable spatial restrictions. It may not be able to make the best use of location in all cases but it delivers minor positive effects for the environmental objectives relating to natural resources and the historic environment. Although Option 4 is also a sustainable option, it does not deliver the strong positive effects for economic sustainability that Option 3 does.

The most sustainable option: Option 3 – As per Option 1 but also identify Mineral Safeguarding Zones (MSZs), this would help to ensure that valuable mineral resources, where identified were not unnecessarily sterilised when considering planning applications.

The preferred option: Option 3 is the preferred option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified for the objectives to ‘enable sustainable economic growth’ and ‘to protect physical resources and use sustainably’.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Site selection criteria, planning conditions, landscape analysis, ecological surveys, identification of sites to protect from development, landscaping plans, water pollution prevention local policy guidelines, policy to limit noise/air pollution in proximity to sensitive receptors. Requirement for reinstatement/restoration plans.

Key Issue 15: Proposed Transportation Schemes

Options	Option 1 - Protect land for any strategic road scheme identified by DfI. Proposed Strategic schemes include the Newry Southern Relief Road, Ballynahinch Bypass and Strangford Road to Saul Road link, Downpatrick.			Option 2 - Include non-strategic road schemes in the LDP which have been justified by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) through a Local Transport Strategy for which there is a reasonable prospect of delivery. Non-strategic schemes, previously identified, include the Rathfriland Road Link, Newry as well as the widening of Bridge Street in Newry.			Option 3 - Protect land for all identified road schemes (strategic and non-strategic) irrespective of their status.					
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	The protection of land has no direct effects on health and well-being. Once constructed, strategic road schemes may bring vehicles away from town centres and allow more free-flowing traffic, which may reduce noise and air pollution in town centres, but may increase these along the site of the new routes.	0	0	0	The protection of land has no direct effects on health and well-being. Once constructed, strategic road schemes may bring vehicles away from town centres and allow more free-flowing traffic, which may reduce noise and air pollution in town centres, but may increase these along the site of the new routes.	0	0	0	The protection of land has no direct effects on health and well-being. Once constructed, strategic road schemes may bring vehicles away from town centres and allow more free-flowing traffic, which may reduce noise and air pollution in town centres, but may increase these along the site of the new routes.
2.... strengthen society.	0	0	0	The protection of land has no direct effects on strengthening society. Once constructed, strategic road schemes may make facilities and services more accessible.	0	0	0	The protection of land has no direct effects on strengthening society. Once constructed, strategic road schemes may make facilities and services more accessible.	0	0	0	The protection of land has no direct effects on strengthening society. Once constructed, strategic road schemes may make services more accessible. This option would protect land for schemes which do not have a reasonable prospect of being delivered.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The protection of land for strategic road schemes will not conflict with the provision of housing. Once constructed, certain strategic road schemes are likely to be accompanied by new housing zonings.	0	0	0	The protection of land for strategic road schemes will not conflict with the provision of housing. Once constructed, certain strategic road schemes are likely to be accompanied by new housing zonings.	0	0	0	The protection of land for strategic road schemes will not conflict with the provision of housing. Once constructed, certain strategic road schemes are likely to be accompanied by new housing zonings. This option may enable a greater number of housing areas to be accessible in the long term.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The protection of land has no direct effects on access to education. Once	0	0	0	The protection of land has no direct effects on access to education. Once	0	0	0	The protection of land has no direct effects on access to education. Once

			constructed, strategic road schemes may reduce journey times to certain schools and colleges.				constructed, strategic road schemes may reduce journey times to certain schools and colleges.				constructed, strategic road schemes may reduce journey times to certain schools and colleges.	
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	++	++	++	By protecting land, this option helps safeguard the future viability of planned roads schemes. When constructed, journey times and congestion would be reduced for a number of settlements and better connectivity could help attract tourism. It would also reduce journey times and enable better access to Warrenpoint and Kilkeel Harbours, which would increase their attractiveness as commercial / fisheries harbours. The prospect of reduced traffic congestion could improve vibrancy and vitality in Ballynahinch, Downpatrick and Newry.	++	++	++	By protecting land, this option helps safeguard the future viability of planned roads schemes. When constructed, journey times and congestion would be reduced for a number of settlements and better connectivity could help attract tourism. It would also reduce journey times and enable better access to Warrenpoint and Kilkeel Harbours, which would increase their attractiveness as commercial / fisheries ports. The prospect of reduced traffic congestion could improve vibrancy and vitality in Ballynahinch, Downpatrick, Newry and Rathfriland.	+	+	+	By protecting land, this option helps safeguard the future viability of planned roads schemes. When constructed, journey times and congestion would be reduced for a number of settlements and better connectivity could help attract tourism. It would also reduce journey times and enable better access to Warrenpoint Harbour, which would increase its attractiveness as a commercial port. However, in the case of the non-strategic roads schemes it risks sterilising areas, by tying up land for long periods that may ultimately never be used. This is considered to reduce the scale of the overall potential benefits of this option.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the delivery of this objective was identified.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the delivery of this objective was identified.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the delivery of this objective was identified.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	-	-	The protection of land has no direct effects on physical resources. Once constructed, strategic road schemes may contribute to loss of greenfield land and may fracture areas with potential for minerals extraction. It was noted that the route selection process for strategic road schemes would take into account efficient use of land. Road construction will require a considerable quantity of aggregate and other construction materials, however this is an indirect effect that is managed in the design and construction process and its influence on the objective is uncertain.	-	-	-	The protection of land has no direct effects on physical resources. It was noted that the route selection process for road schemes would take into account efficient use of land. Once constructed, road schemes may contribute to loss of greenfield land and may fracture areas with potential for minerals extraction. In this respect the negative effects of this option may be slightly increased. Road construction will require a considerable quantity of aggregate and other construction materials, however this is an indirect effect that is managed in the design and	-	-	-	The protection of land has no direct effects on physical resources. It was noted that the route selection process for road schemes would take into account efficient use of land. Once constructed, road schemes may contribute to loss of greenfield and high quality agricultural land and may fracture areas with potential for minerals extraction. In this respect the negative effects of this option may become significant over time. Road construction will require a considerable quantity of aggregate and other construction materials, however this is

								construction process and its influence on the objective is uncertain.				an indirect effect that is managed in the design and construction process and its influence on the objective is uncertain.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	?	?	?	The protection of land has no direct effects on encouraging active and sustainable travel. Once constructed, strategic road schemes may reduce journey times for buses and decrease congestion, making bus travel more attractive, but overall these schemes are likely to result in an increase in traffic on the roads.	?	?	?	The protection of land has no direct effects on encouraging active and sustainable travel. Once constructed, strategic road schemes may reduce journey times for buses and decrease congestion, making bus travel more attractive, but overall these schemes are likely to result in an increase in traffic on the roads.	?	?	?	The protection of land has no direct effects on encouraging active and sustainable travel. Once constructed, strategic road schemes may reduce journey times for buses and decrease congestion, making bus travel more attractive, but overall these schemes are likely to result in an increase in traffic on the roads.
9.... improve air quality.	-	-	-	Once constructed, strategic road schemes may reduce journey times for buses and decrease congestion, making bus travel more attractive, but overall these schemes are likely to result in an increase in traffic on the roads. This option will address some localised air quality issues (e.g. directing traffic away from Newry town centre which has an identified air quality issue) but will not result in the overall reduction of vehicle emissions.	-	-	-	Once constructed, strategic road schemes may reduce journey times for buses and decrease congestion, making bus travel more attractive, but overall these schemes are likely to result in an increase in traffic on the roads. This option will address some localised air quality issues (e.g. directing traffic away from Newry town centre which has an identified air quality issue) but will not result in the overall reduction of vehicle emissions.	-	-	-	Once constructed, strategic road schemes may reduce journey times for buses and decrease congestion, making bus travel more attractive, but overall these schemes are likely to result in an increase in traffic on the roads. This option will address some localised air quality issues (e.g. directing traffic away from Newry town centre which has an identified air quality issue) but will not result in the overall reduction of vehicle emissions.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	-	-	-	The protection of land has no direct effects on the climate change but the construction of these schemes is unlikely to contribute to a reduction in the need to travel by vehicle.	-	-	-	The protection of land has no direct effects on the climate change but the construction of these schemes is unlikely to contribute to a reduction in the need to travel by vehicle.	-	-	-	The protection of land has no direct effects on the climate change but the construction of these schemes is unlikely to contribute to a reduction in the need to travel by vehicle.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The protection of land has no direct effects on water resources. The route selection and design of road schemes would take into account water quality impacts and flood risk. Road construction entails considerable earthworks and temporary drainage, however this is an indirect effect that is	0	0	0	The protection of land has no direct effects on water resources. The route selection and design of road schemes would take into account water quality impacts and flood risk. Road construction entails considerable earthworks and temporary drainage, however this is an indirect effect that is	0	0	0	The protection of land has no direct effects on water resources. The route selection and design of road schemes would take into account water quality impacts and flood risk. Road construction entails considerable earthworks and temporary drainage, however this is an indirect effect that is

			managed in the design and construction process and its influence on the objective is uncertain.				managed in the design and construction process and its influence on the objective is uncertain.				managed in the design and construction process and its influence on the objective is uncertain.	
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	-	-	-	The protection of land has no direct effects on natural resources. The route selection and design of strategic road schemes would take into account natural resources and biodiversity and would seek to avoid or mitigate losses in important areas. However, once constructed, strategic road schemes will remove greenfield land and could fragment local biodiversity.	-	-	-	The protection of land has no direct effects on natural resources. The route selection and design of road schemes would take into account natural resources and biodiversity and would seek to avoid or mitigate losses in important areas. However, once constructed, road schemes will remove greenfield land and could fragment local biodiversity.	+	-	-	In the short term, this option could benefit this objective, by protecting land where the scheme's status is uncertain from other types of development. The route selection and design of road schemes would take into account natural resources and biodiversity and would seek to avoid or mitigate losses in important areas. However, once constructed, road schemes will remove greenfield land and could fragment local biodiversity. This option could eventually result in quite extensive greenfield losses.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	- -	- -	- -	The protection of land has no direct effects on landscape character. However, once constructed, these schemes may have a significant effect on landscape character. It is known that the proposed route of the Ballynahinch bypass incorporates a very large cutting. The topography of the district is such that the proposed routes of other schemes are also known to be prominent in the landscape.	- -	- -	- -	The protection of land has no direct effects on landscape character. However, once constructed, these schemes may have a significant effect on landscape character. It is known that the proposed route of the Ballynahinch bypass incorporates a very large cutting. The topography of the district is such that the proposed routes of other schemes are also known to be prominent in the landscape.	- -	- -	- -	The protection of land has no direct effects on landscape character. However, once constructed, these schemes may have a significant effect on landscape character. It is known that the proposed route of the Ballynahinch bypass incorporates a very large cutting. The topography of the district is such that the proposed routes of other schemes are also known to be prominent in the landscape.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	?	?	?	The protection of land has no direct effects on the historic environment and built heritage. While route selection would seek to avoid or mitigate impacts on historic assets, once constructed, the schemes are unlikely to improve built or cultural heritage. However these schemes should take traffic out of historic town centres and thus may indirectly improve 'sense of place' in	?	?	?	The protection of land has no direct effects on the historic environment and built heritage. While route selection would seek to avoid or mitigate impacts on historic assets, once constructed, the schemes are unlikely to improve built or cultural heritage. However these schemes should take traffic out of historic town centres and thus may indirectly improve 'sense of place' in	?	?	?	The protection of land has no direct effects on the historic environment and built heritage. While route selection would seek to avoid or mitigate impacts on historic assets, once constructed, the schemes are unlikely to improve built or cultural heritage. However these schemes should take traffic out of historic town centres and thus may indirectly improve 'sense of place' in

		these areas. It was also noted in the appraisal that road schemes have good potential for discovering previously unrecorded archaeology and may allow new archaeological features to be assessed, recorded and preserved.			these areas. It was also noted in the appraisal that road schemes have good potential for discovering previously unrecorded archaeology and may allow new archaeological features to be assessed, recorded and preserved.			these areas. It was also noted in the appraisal that road schemes have good potential for discovering previously unrecorded archaeology and may allow new archaeological features to be assessed, recorded and preserved.
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Option 1 received the same pattern of scoring as option 2. None of the three options bring any perceptible effects on the social sustainability objectives. Both Options 1 and 2 bring strong positive effects in terms of sustainable economic growth. The scores for the environmental sustainability objectives reflect that the use of land for road projects is not compatible with many environmental sustainability objectives, particularly landscape, however negative effects can be reduced through conscientious route selection and incorporation of mitigation. The comments reflect that the slightly greater land uptake that may be facilitated through Option 2 makes it slightly less favourable for environmental objectives than Option 1. Conversely, Option 2 may bring slight advantages over Option 1 in terms of economic effects in the longer term, by safeguarding the routes of the non-strategic road schemes. Option 3 is less sustainable than Options 1 and 2. It may result in land that may never be used becoming sterilised which would reduce the option's net benefit for the economic development objective. It may also conflict with minerals development and result in losses of larger areas of greenfield land in the long term which could create significant negative effects. As with Options 1 and 2, this option also has a generally negative relationship with the environmental objectives.</p>								
<p>The most sustainable option: Overall, Options 1 and 2 are both considered to be sustainable. The option that will be taken forward is Option 2 - Include non-strategic road schemes in the LDP which have been justified by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) through a Local Transport Strategy for which there is a reasonable prospect of delivery. Non-strategic schemes, previously identified, include the Rathfriland Road Link, Newry as well as the widening of Bridge Street in Newry.</p>					<p>The preferred option: Option 2 is the preferred option.</p>			
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified for the objectives to 'enable sustainable economic growth'. There were significant negative effects identified for the objective 'to maintain and enhance landscape character'.</p>								
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? Sensitive design, landscaping plans, screening/planting with native trees and shrubs, lighting plans and, where possible, maintaining natural slope angles will all help with integration into the landscape.</p>								
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Identification of sites to protect from development, planning conditions, ecological surveys, local policies on water pollution prevention, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), incorporation of measures which help promote active/sustainable travel (e.g. cycle lanes, park and ride/park and share), integration with public transport, policy to protect important buildings, policy to limit noise in proximity to sensitive receptors.</p>								

Key Issue 16: Provision of Park and Ride/Share Schemes

Options	Option 1 - Identify and protect existing and proposed park and ride sites across the District.			Option 2 - As per Option 1 and consider the potential for additional park and ride/share sites to be identified across the District.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	This option may indirectly reduce vehicle numbers on commuter routes and risk of accidents. It may reduce stress associated with commuting. It may encourage more people to walk and take public transport to their destination.	+	+	+	This option may indirectly reduce vehicle numbers on commuter routes and risk of accidents. It may reduce stress associated with commuting. It may encourage more people to walk and take public transport to their destination. In taking a more proactive approach, this option may make local park and ride/share schemes accessible to more people. It also provides the opportunity to plan future sites in locations that can be linked in with greenways and active travel routes.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Car sharing and access to public transport can enable more social interaction. It can also help people in rural communities access services and facilities more easily.	+	+	+	Car sharing and access to public transport can enable more social interaction. It can also help people in rural communities access services and facilities more easily. This option may enable more schemes and more people to benefit.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective. It was noted in the appraisal that it may make it easier for certain students to share transport to college/university.	0	0	0	This option was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective. It was noted in the appraisal that it may make it easier for certain students to share transport to college/university.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	This option enables access to employment areas. A good park and ride/share scheme that works can be a very cost effective and efficient means of accessing hubs and reducing congestion. There are several such schemes already operational that are proven to be successful.	+	+	+	This option enables access to employment areas. A good park and ride/ share scheme that works can be a very cost effective and efficient means of accessing hubs and reducing congestion. There are several such schemes already operational that are proven to be successful. This option may increase the benefit, by enabling local park and ride/share schemes to be accessible to more people.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective, but it may enable the repurposing of derelict or contaminated land.	0	0	0	This option was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective, but it may enable the repurposing of derelict or contaminated land.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	This option may result in the localised loss of some greenfield land where future extensions to existing park and ride/share	0	0	0	This option may result in the localised loss of some greenfield land. When taken in the context of the district as a whole, these

				sites may occur. When taken in the context of the district as a whole, these potential losses are not expected to influence the objective to a perceptible level.				potential losses, while slightly greater than Option 1, are not expected to influence the objective to a perceptible level.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	++	++	++	This option may help to reduce traffic congestion, in combination with other policies. Park and rides can encourage a modal shift towards the use of public transport, especially for commuting. Schemes would also improve access to and efficiency of public transport and would benefit those without access to a vehicle.	++	++	++	This option may help to reduce traffic congestion, in combination with other policies. Park and rides can encourage a modal shift towards the use of public transport, especially for commuting. Schemes would also improve access to and efficiency of public transport and would benefit those without access to a vehicle. This option may increase the benefit, by enabling local park and ride/share schemes to be accessible to more people.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option may help to reduce traffic congestion, in combination with other policies. This could particularly benefit Newry, which has an AQMA. It helps to promote and support behaviour that will improve air quality, by encouraging the use of other modes of transport to the car. This option is considered to have a negligible effect overall on this objective, given that large-scale behavioural change is required to see a modal shift from car use.	0	0	0	This option may help to reduce traffic congestion, in combination with other policies. This could particularly benefit Newry, which has an AQMA. It helps to promote and support behaviour that will improve air quality, by encouraging the use of other modes of transport to the car. This option is considered to have a negligible effect overall on this objective, given that large-scale behavioural change is required to see a modal shift from car use.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	This option was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective, but it may help promote public transport or walking/cycling, in combination with other policies.	0	0	0	This option was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective, but it may help promote public transport or walking/cycling, in combination with other policies.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	-	-	-	Increasing hardstanding through the creation of parking areas may result in increased runoff which could contribute to local flood risk. Measures to manage surface water may be necessary. Future approvals at existing sites may require SuDS/runoff management measures.	-	-	-	Increasing hardstanding through the creation of parking areas may result in increased runoff which could contribute to local flood risk. Mitigation measures to manage surface water may be necessary. SuDS should be incorporated into the design of future schemes.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	-	-	-	Future extensions to existing park and ride/park and share sites may result in small losses of biodiversity and natural land cover. Mitigation may be necessary to reduce the effects.	-	-	-	New park and ride/share sites and future extensions to existing park and ride sites may result in losses of biodiversity and natural land cover. Mitigation may be necessary to reduce the effects. It was noted in the appraisal that where possible, brownfield land would be used, e.g. strips of land left over following road construction schemes.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	-	-	-	Edge-of-town parking may adversely affect landscape character. Mitigation may be necessary to reduce the effects of future extensions to existing park and ride/ share sites.	-	-	-	Edge-of-town parking may adversely affect landscape character. A balance may be required between satisfying demand in areas

								of need (e.g. near arterial routes) while minimising visual impacts. Mitigation may be necessary to reduce the effects.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	This option was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective. It was noted in the appraisal that new sites should be able to be accommodated without adversely affecting this objective.
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Both options 1 and 2 received the same pattern of scoring across the 14 sustainability objectives. Identifying and protecting park and ride/share sites has minor positive effects on the social sustainability objectives of improving health and wellbeing and strengthening society but has no perceptible effect on the housing or education objectives. Park and ride/share sites have a minor positive effect on the economic sustainability objective of enabling sustainable economic growth. In terms of environmental sustainability objectives, these options both deliver strong positive effects on the objective of enabling active and sustainable transport. However, large areas of hardstanding was considered to have minor negative effects on the objectives relating to water resources, natural resources / biodiversity and landscape character. These effects could be reduced through the application of site selection criteria and the implementation of mitigation measures such as SuDS. The comments reflect that the slightly greater land uptake that may be facilitated through Option 2 makes it slightly less favourable for environmental objectives than Option 1. Conversely, Option 2 may bring slight advantages over option 1 in terms of social and economic effects by facilitating park and ride/share facilities to a greater number of settlements. Overall, both options are considered to be sustainable.</p>								
<p>The most sustainable option: Overall, both options are considered to be sustainable. The option that will be taken forward is Option 2 - As per Option 1 and consider the potential for additional park and ride/share sites to be identified across the District.</p>				<p>The preferred option: Option 2 is the preferred option.</p>				
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified for the objective ‘to encourage active and sustainable travel’.</p>								
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>								
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Partnership working, site design guide, site selection criteria, key site requirements, transport analysis, integration with public transport provision, integration with green/blue infrastructure, landscape analysis, landscaping plan including screening and planting, drainage and/or flood risk assessment.</p>								

Key Issue 17: Sustainable/Active Travel and Identification of Greenways

Options	Option 1 – Retain the existing policy approach toward sustainable transport and active travel. No specific policy on greenways, retain existing designation for protected railway lines in line with BNMAP & ADAP. Identify and protect new strategic greenways.			Option 2 – Introduce a new policy promoting active travel (walking, cycling, and integrating with public transport) in new development. New development proposals will need to demonstrate how they support and enhance linkages to greenways. This option would address both strategic and community greenways. The Local Development Plan will seek to identify and protect community greenways which will establish linear connections between areas of open space, connect communities with services and generally enhance the environment for pedestrians and cyclists.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Retaining the existing policy and identifying and protecting new strategic greenways could be positive for health and well-being as it has the potential to maintain good air quality, create access to open space and encourage active lifestyles which generally benefits health and wellbeing.	++	++	++	Option 2 has the potential to provide opportunities for and encourage healthy and active life styles, create open space with public access, maintain good air quality and improve ability to reach schools and workplaces by active travel making it significantly positive in terms of improving health and well-being.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Retaining the existing policy and identifying and protecting new strategic greenways could be positive for strengthening society, as it provides an opportunity for positive social interaction and increase accessibility to shared space.	++	++	++	Promoting active travel in new development and identifying and protecting community greenways has the potential to be significantly positive for strengthening society. Identifying and protecting community greenways could provide an opportunity for positive social contact and increase access to shared open space. Enhancing connectivity could improve access to facilities and services, reducing inequalities that affect some communities, for example rural communities.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	+	+	+	This option could be positive for sustainable housing in terms of encouraging new development that would be linked with identified greenways and could enhance future connectivity of communities creating more attractive places to live.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	It was noted that providing opportunities for access to the environment could be a learning resource for schools. Overall, the option was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective.

5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	This option could enhance the environment and encourage economic growth by making the area a more attractive place to live, work and invest.	+	+	+	This option could help make the district a more attractive place to live, work and invest. Enhancing the environment for cyclists and pedestrians could provide opportunities for sustainable tourism. Better connectivity could improve town centre vitality and vibrancy, making this option positive for economic growth.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Retaining the existing policy and identifying and protecting new strategic greenways could create/enhance walking or cycling routes.	++	++	++	This option could reduce traffic congestion, encourage active travel, improve access and retain and enhance walking and cycling routes making it significantly positive for this objective.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	This option has the potential to reduce the need to travel by vehicle. It enables and promotes walking/cycling which has the potential to reduce climate change. It could also protect greenways and natural attenuation features.	+	+	+	This option has the potential to reduce the need to travel by vehicle. It enables and promotes walking/cycling which has the potential to reduce climate change. It could also protect greenways and natural attenuation features.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Retaining existing designations and identifying new strategic greenways could help protect natural resources. It would enhance biodiversity by protecting green infrastructure and wildlife corridors.	+	+	+	This option has the potential to enhance biodiversity by protecting green infrastructure and wildlife corridors. It was noted that there was potential for landscape management plans. There may be some initial disturbance to wildlife, with increased human activity, however this would not be significant.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Retaining existing designations and identifying new strategic greenways could help maintain and enhance landscape character. This option continues to protect areas protected for their landscape and could enhance the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors.	+	+	+	This option has potential to support and enhance strategic and community greenways. This option continues to protect areas designated for landscape and could enhance the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors. This option could also help to sensitively integrate new developments to protect and enhance local distinctiveness.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the	+	+	+	This option has the potential to provide opportunities for cultural activities and support access to and interpretation of	+	+	+	This option has the potential to provide opportunities for cultural activities and support access to and interpretation of the

historic environment and cultural resources.		the historic environment making it positive in terms of the historic environment and cultural resources.		historic environment making it positive in terms of the historic environment and cultural resources.
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Option 2 scored significantly positive in terms of health and wellbeing, strengthening society and encouraging sustainable active travel based on its potential to encourage physical activity, increase connectivity of communities and services and increase accessibility to shared space as well as promoting positive social interaction. Whilst Option one scored positive for the same objectives as Option 2, overall Option 2 has the potential to deliver more.</p>				
<p>The most sustainable option: Option 2 – Introduce a new policy promoting active travel (walking, cycling, and integrating with public transport) in new development. New development proposals will need to demonstrate how they support and enhance linkages to greenways. This option would address both strategic and community greenways. The Local Development Plan will seek to identify and protect community greenways which will establish linear connections between areas of open space, connect communities with services and generally enhance the environment for pedestrians and cyclists.</p>			<p>The preferred option: Option 2 is the preferred option.</p>	
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified for the objectives ‘to improve health and wellbeing’, ‘to strengthen society’ and to encourage active and sustainable travel’.</p>				
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>				
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: No measures were identified.</p>				

Key Issue 18: Telecommunications

Option	The Council's preferred option is to adopt current policy contained within PPS10. This option would adopt the current policy based approach as set out in Planning Policy Statement 10 (PPS10) Telecommunications and the SPPS subject policy for telecommunications. This option provides the same level of development opportunity as currently provided and is in keeping with the SPPS. No additional designations such as areas of constraint on telecommunications are proposed.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Access to high quality telecommunications can help to facilitate social contact and reduce isolation. This may bring indirect mental health benefits. It can improve means of contacting emergency services in rural areas. It also enables greater opportunities for 'telehealth' - the remote exchange of data between a patient at home and their clinician(s) to assist in diagnosis and monitoring (most often used to support patients with long term conditions).
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	The policy can help to enable positive social interaction and improve access to online facilities and services.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	The policy can support education by improving access to online training and distance learning. It was also noted in the appraisal that home access to high speed internet is increasingly important in supporting primary and secondary level education.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	++	++	++	The policy can support business and tourism, which depend on reliable telecoms. It would be of particular benefit to those in current 'not-spots' and may enable new businesses to be established in these areas, which would otherwise have not been viable. It helps make the district a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	++	++	++	The district has been identified in the most recent OFCOM 'Connecting Nations' report as having among the poorest rates of mobile data connectivity for NI LGDs. The policy can help make improvements to the level of coverage provided by telecommunications infrastructure.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	The policy was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective. Telecommunications masts have a small footprint and would not influence physical resources.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	By improving telecommunications coverage the policy could allow more people the opportunity to work from home or reduce their need to travel. It may benefit those without access to a vehicle.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The policy was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective, though it was noted that it may influence a small reduction in the need to travel.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The policy was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective.

12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	The policy was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective. Telecommunications masts have a small footprint and are unlikely to influence biodiversity and natural resources.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Uncontrolled increased numbers of telecommunications masts could create visual impacts which influence landscape character. The policy aims to enable the provision of telecoms infrastructure in areas of need, but includes the requirement to ensure that the visual and environmental impact of telecommunications and other utility development is kept to a minimum. Where masts are needed in particularly sensitive locations, mitigation may also be used.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	The policy was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective. It was noted in the appraisal that elsewhere in the UK telecoms providers have partnered with the owners of tall historic buildings to accommodate broadband and mobile infrastructure. This helps to fund the upkeep of the building, while improving connectivity for the surrounding community.
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Only one option was brought forward for this issue. The option scores positively for the social sustainability objectives of improving health and wellbeing and strengthening society but has no perceptible effect on the housing objective. In terms of economic sustainability, this option has minor positive effects on enabling access to high quality education and significant positive effects on sustainable economic growth and material assets. The comments and scores reflect that telecommunications infrastructure generally has a small footprint and does not require significant quantities of land take, reducing their influence on the environmental sustainability objectives. The application of criteria such as site-sharing and consideration of landscape character, along with policy directing towards mitigation such as sympathetic design and colour in sensitive areas means that negative effects to landscape and built and cultural heritage objectives are unlikely.</p> <p>Overall the option would contribute to the objective of sustainable development.</p>				
The most sustainable option: This is the only option.			The preferred option: This is the only option.	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified for the objectives 'to enable sustainable economic growth' and 'to manage material assets sustainably'.				
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.				
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Partnership working, key site requirements, landscape analysis, policy to protect sensitive landscape features, buffer distances from dwellings, requirements for mast/site sharing, consideration of colour and treatment of masts and cabinets in sensitive landscape areas, policy to remove equipment where it is no longer required.				

Key Issue 19: Renewable Energy

Options	Option 1 - adopt current policy contained within PPS18. This option would adopt the current policy based approach as set out in Planning Policy Statement 18 (PPS18) 'Renewable Energy' and the SPPS subject policy for renewable energy projects. This option provides the same level of development opportunity as currently provided and is in keeping with the SPPS. Following the outcome of the SPPS review into 'Renewable Energy' the Council would consider the need for any revision to its renewable energy policies.			Option 2 – as per Option 1 maintain the principle of the current policy but in addition create 'Areas of Constraint'				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	The policy was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective. Perceived issues in respect of noise or flicker are avoided through policy.	0	0	0	The policy was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective. Perceived issues in respect of noise or flicker are avoided through policy.
2.... strengthen society.	0	0	0	The policy was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective. It was noted in the appraisal that for larger wind schemes developer contributions could be requested, to support local communities or community projects.	0	0	0	The policy was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective. It was noted in the appraisal that for larger wind schemes developer contributions could be requested, to support local communities or community projects.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	The policy was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective. It was noted in the appraisal that larger windfarms in particular can be contributors to the regional economy, for example through renewable energy exports.	0	0	0	The policy was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective. Establishing 'Areas of Constraint' may reduce the opportunity for economic benefits.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	++	++	++	This option supports the creation of diversity in the regional energy supply and provides a greater opportunity for achieving this.	+	+	+	This option supports the creation of diversity in the regional energy supply but may restrict the availability of opportunities for achieving this.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	The policy was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective. Generally speaking, energy installations such as turbines or solar panels do not result in significant losses of greenfield land, although they may restrict the way the land is used (e.g. fields containing solar farms are suitable for grazing sheep, but not growing an arable crop). It was noted in the	0	0	0	The policy was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective. Generally speaking, energy installations such as turbines or solar panels do not result in significant losses of greenfield land, although they may restrict the way the land is used (e.g. fields containing solar farms are suitable for grazing sheep, but not growing an arable crop). It was noted in the

				appraisal that the Mourne region has been identified as an area of higher geothermal potential.				appraisal that the Mourne region has been identified as an area of higher geothermal potential.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option will help support a reduction in regional dependence on fossil fuels. It was noted in the appraisal that anaerobic digesters can have a negative effect on air quality. Overall, the option is unlikely to have a perceptible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option will help support a reduction in regional dependence on fossil fuels, although the opportunities for establishing renewables may be limited with this option. It was noted in the appraisal that anaerobic digesters can have a negative effect on air quality. Overall, the option is unlikely to have a perceptible effect on this objective.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	This option supports the development of diverse low carbon energy supplies and may indirectly help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	+	+	+	This option supports the development of diverse low carbon energy supplies and may indirectly help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The opportunities for establishing some form of renewables may be limited with this option.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The construction phase of renewable energy projects, particularly wind farms, can present a risk to water quality. Negative effects can be avoided through mitigation. Large-scale hydroelectric schemes are unlikely, but micro/mini hydro schemes may be possible. Negative effects on river flow and morphology can also be avoided through appropriate design and mitigation.	0	0	0	The construction phase of renewable energy projects, particularly wind farms, can present a risk to water quality. Negative effects can be avoided through mitigation. Large-scale hydroelectric schemes are unlikely, but micro/mini hydro schemes may be possible. Negative effects on river flow and morphology from hydro schemes can also be avoided through appropriate design and mitigation.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Policy directs wind farms to locate turbines away from hedges and protects the most important habitats from all types of development. Loss of biodiversity and effects on natural resources from this option are likely to be negligible.	+	+	+	This option protects the most scenic areas from development which may also indirectly protect biodiversity. This option provides more certainty on the spatial area that will be protected from this type of development.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	-	-	-	The existing policy adopts a cautious approach which aims to protect the landscape from inappropriate development and ensure that renewable projects are located in places where the impacts are acceptable. It is, however, a subjective policy and there remains a risk that development may cause a deterioration in landscape character. Strict application of criteria or mitigation may help to avoid these risks.	0	0	0	This option protects the most scenic areas from development. It provides more certainty that sensitive landscapes will be maintained, but would not enhance landscape character.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	The existing policy examines applications in the context of the historic environment and seeks to avoid unsuitable development while protecting the most sensitive heritage. It does not bring any enhancement benefits.	0	0	0	This option may increase the protection of heritage assets as landscape designations often take into consideration cultural heritage settings. An updated Landscape Character Assessment may also assist in the achievement of this objective.

<p>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Option 1 was considered to have no perceptible effect on any of the social sustainability objectives. The policy allows scope for developers to apply for renewable energy projects throughout the district, thus having a significant positive effect on material assets objective. The option also supports the climate change objective through its potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase renewables use. Negative effects on water resources, natural resources/biodiversity and built and cultural heritage are unlikely due to the criteria-based policy and other policies which restrict development on sites designated for their nature conservation or other environmental significance. It was noted in the appraisal that some minor negative effects could occur on landscape character from larger turbine developments.</p> <p>Option 2 also has no perceptible effect on social sustainability objectives. The application of Areas of Constraint (AoC) for certain types of renewables would reduce the scale of the option's positive effect on sustainable economic growth as the AoCs would restrict this type of development across a very considerable proportion of the district and may mean that localised opportunities for small-scale development that may have been able to be absorbed within the landscape are prevented. This option has a spatially protective element which brings certainty to the protection of sites designated for the nature conservation/biodiversity significance and therefore increases to a minor positive effect on this objective. Overall it is considered that although Option 2 brings greater certainty to the protection of landscape and natural resources in the district, its restrictiveness would discourage investment in the district and may mean that opportunities are lost. Option 1 can provide protection to the environmental objectives while enabling appropriate types and scales of renewables development in the district and consequently it is considered to be the more sustainable option overall.</p>	
<p>The most sustainable option: Option 1 - adopt current policy contained within PPS18. This option would adopt the current policy based approach as set out in Planning Policy Statement 18 (PPS18) 'Renewable Energy' and the SPPS subject policy for renewable energy projects. This option provides the same level of development opportunity as currently provided and is in keeping with the SPPS. Following the outcome of the SPPS review into 'Renewable Energy' the Council would consider the need for any revision to its renewable energy policies.</p>	<p>The preferred option: Option 1 is the preferred option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified for the objective to 'manage material assets sustainably'.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Site selection criteria, landscape analysis, policy to protect sensitive landscape features, policy to protect designated and undesignated biodiversity, policy to protect heritage assets, local policy guidelines for water pollution prevention, developer contributions and planning conditions.</p>	

Key Issue 20: Conservation Areas & Areas of Townscape Character

Options	Option 1 - Status Quo - Identify and carry forward existing Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape Character in their current form.			Option 2 – Review existing Conservation Area and Area of Townscape Character designations to consider whether they should be extended, reduced, removed or re-graded.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and wellbeing.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Retaining and carrying forward the existing designations in line with current policy has the potential to retain, create and enhance shared space, support and encourage civic pride and promote positive social interaction.	+	+	+	Retaining and reviewing existing designations has the potential to retain, create and enhance shared space, support and encourage civic pride while promoting positive social interaction. This option includes the opportunity to extend and re-grade designations making it slightly more positive, while reducing or removing designations would ensure designations are fit-for-purpose.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on the objective. However, it was noted that designations may promote high quality of housing, however cost may stifle development.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on the objective. However, it was noted that designations may promote high quality of housing, however cost may stifle development.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	This option could help make the district a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest in, which in turn could maximise the economic benefits of sustainable tourism.	+	+	+	Retaining and reviewing existing designations could help make the district a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest in which in turn could maximise the economic benefits of sustainable tourism. Consolidating some designations could provide economic opportunities which are constrained by the existing designation.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	It was noted that preserving historic buildings could support the use of local building materials.	0	0	0	It was noted that preserving historic buildings could support the use of local building materials.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.

10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	This option has the potential to protect and contribute to areas designated for landscape. It could conserve 'sense of place' and local distinctiveness.	+	+	+	This option has the potential to protect and contribute to areas designated for their landscape character. It could conserve 'sense of place' and local distinctiveness. This approach provides opportunity to re-grade some designations which could be slightly more positive for enhancing the landscape character of the district.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	++	++	++	Retaining and carrying forward the existing designations in line with current policy has the potential to protect and conserve built and cultural heritage, while also allowing 'sense of place' and local distinctiveness to be conserved. It could support access to and interpretation of the historic environment and provide opportunities for cultural activities.	++	++	++	Retaining and reviewing existing designations has the potential to protect and conserve built and cultural heritage, allow 'sense of place' and local distinctiveness to be conserved. It could support access to and interpretation of the historic environment and provide opportunities for cultural activities. Retaining and reviewing the boundaries could create the opportunity to reinforce or consolidate existing designations and re-grade some designations.
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Both options scored the same across all the objectives however Option 2 was noted to be slightly more positive in some of the objectives. It was noted that option 2 had the potential to improve designations as it provided the opportunity to review and amend boundaries, making it slightly more positive in terms of landscape. Option 2 was also noted to be slightly more positive in terms of economic growth where it could support sustainable tourism and vitality and vibrancy of town centres as well as potentially supporting locations for economic growth.</p> <p>Option 2 provided greater potential to reinforce or consolidate existing designations and re-grade designations. This option was most sustainable in terms of protecting and conserving the historic environment. In general, this option has the potential to protect and contribute to areas designated for townscape character, make the district a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest and maximise economic benefits of sustainable tourism. It could also create and enhance shared space and encourage/support civic pride.</p>								
<p>The most sustainable option: Option 2 – Review existing Conservation Area and Area of Townscape Character designations to consider whether they should be extended, reduced, removed or re-graded.</p>					<p>The preferred option: Option 2 is the preferred option.</p>			
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified for the objective to 'protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources'.</p>								

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Building design guides, landscape character assessments – local detailed analysis and other planning policies.

Key Issue 21: Non- Designated Heritage Assets

Options	Option 1 – Carry forward existing policy and consider the scope to strengthen existing policy to afford protection to non-designated heritage assets			Option 2 – Develop a criteria based approach for identifying non-designated heritage assets within the district that will be used to create a Local Heritage List.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and wellbeing.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
2.... strengthen society.	0	0	0	It was noted that this option could be slightly positive in terms of creating social interest in heritage assets. Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect.	0	0	0	It was noted that this option could be slightly positive in terms of creating social interest in heritage assets and creating opportunity for community engagement. Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	This option could help re-use vacant dwelling and reduce the number of unfit homes.	+	+	+	This option could help fill vacant dwelling and reduce the number of unfit homes. Identifying additional assets and creating a local heritage list may also increase value of assets which could be positive for asset owners.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	There is no link between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	There is no link between this option and this objective.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	It was noted that this option could support the refurbishment and reuse of buildings as tourism assets and help to create more attractive places to live, work, visit and invest in. Creating more attractive spaces within settlements could also lead to increased vitality and vibrancy for shops and businesses.	?	?	?	There could be potentially positive outcomes with this option in terms of the refurbishment and reuse of buildings as tourism assets. However it was also felt that there was a lack of certainty around the retention of assets that may be identified. It was also noted that there is limited knowledge around the number and location of potential existing assets, adding to lack of certainty around outcomes.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.

7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	It was noted that the reuse of buildings has indirect impacts, for example the creation of access roads.	0	0	0	It was noted that the reuse of buildings has indirect impacts, for example the creation of access roads.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	It was noted that there could be a slight increase in car use associated with dispersed settlements/dwellings, where rural properties were retained and reused. However, this was considered to have a negligible effect overall.	0	0	0	It was noted that there could be a slight increase in car use associated with dispersed settlements/dwellings, where rural properties were retained and reused. However, this was considered to have a negligible effect overall.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	It was noted that there could be a slight increase in car use associated with dispersed settlements/dwellings where rural properties were retained and reused. However, this was considered to have a negligible effect overall.	0	0	0	It was noted that there could be a slight increase in car use associated with dispersed settlements/dwellings where rural properties were retained and reused. However, this was considered to have a negligible effect overall.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	It was noted that there could be a slight increase in car use associated with dispersed settlements/dwellings where rural properties were retained and reused. However, this was considered to have a negligible effect overall.	0	0	0	It was noted that there could be a slight increase in car use associated with dispersed settlements/dwellings where rural properties were retained and reused. However, this was considered to have a negligible effect overall.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	It was noted that there could be a slight increase in the requirement for septic tanks associated with dispersed settlements/dwellings, where rural properties were retained and reused. There could also be a need for connections to water infrastructure required which could lead to disturbance. However, this was considered to have a negligible effect overall.	0	0	0	It was noted that there could be a slight increase in the requirement for septic tanks associated with dispersed settlements/dwellings, where rural properties were retained and reused. There could also be a need for connections to water infrastructure required which could lead to disturbance. However, this was considered to have a negligible effect overall.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	The current option allows for the adaptation of existing assets, this could lead to disturbance of wildlife and protected species during construction and with the creation and use of access roads, etc. However, this was considered to have a negligible effect overall.	0	0	0	The current option allows for the adaptation of existing assets, this could lead to disturbance of wildlife and protected species during construction and with the creation and use of access roads, etc. However, this was considered to have a negligible effect overall.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Protecting heritage assets could be positive for landscape character. This option could contribute to the protection of rural settings and local distinctiveness.	+	+	+	Providing additional protection for non-designated heritage assets could be positive for landscape character. This option could allow 'sense of place' to be conserved and protect rural settings and local distinctiveness.

<p>14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.</p>	<p>++ ++ ++</p>	<p>Carrying forward the existing policy and considering protection for non-designated assets could protect and conserve the historic and cultural heritage and allow 'sense of place' to be conserved. This option could be significantly positive for the objective.</p>	<p>+ + +</p>	<p>This option could protect and conserve historic and cultural heritage and allow 'sense of place' to be conserved. Through the creation of a local non-designated heritage list, this option could contribute to an increased local appreciation for historic assets. However, there is also a concern that in some cases it could create an expectation that further legal protection may follow. This could create risks to the retention of the asset. Taking this full range of possible outcomes into consideration, this option is therefore considered to have a slight positive effect on this objective.</p>
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Option 1 and 2 scored neutral across the majority of the objectives except for historic environment, landscape character, economic growth and sustainable housing. Option 1 scored significantly positive for historic environment including its ability to conserve cultural heritage and 'sense of place'. Option 2 also had positive effects for this objective, but the score was considered to be minor positive reflecting the positive effects but also the potential risks with this approach. Both options scored minor positive for landscape character and sustainable housing. Option 1 was more favorable in terms of economic growth based on its potential to create tourism opportunities and improve vitality and vibrancy in. Option 2 scored uncertain for economic growth due to uncertainty around the retention of identified assets and lack of knowledge of existing assets making potential outcomes uncertain. Overall Option 1 scored slightly more positive than Option 2.</p> <p>Option 1 is considered to be the most sustainable option in terms of its potential to conserve 'sense of place' and contribute to the protection of rural settings and local distinctiveness. Overall this option was generally positive for landscape character, economic growth and housing. This option could reduce the number of unfit homes and support the refurbishment and reuse of buildings as tourism assets helping to create more attractive places to live, work, visit and invest.</p>				
<p>The most sustainable option: Option 1 – Carry forward existing policy and consider the scope to strengthen existing policy to afford protection to non-designated heritage assets</p>			<p>The preferred option: Option 1 is the preferred option.</p>	
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified for the objective to 'protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources'.</p>				
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>				
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects Partnership working and public engagement.</p>				

Key Issue 22: Protection of Sensitive Upland Landscapes

Options	Option 1 – No Special Countryside Areas designated. This option would remove the existing SCA designations and would afford no additional protection to these exceptionally scenic and sensitive upland areas. All development proposals would be assessed on their individual merits under existing and any carried forward policies.			Option 2 – Maintain the status quo. This would carry across existing designations as contained in the BNMAP. This would retain the imbalance of designations across the High Mourne and Slieve Croob with only those areas covered by the extant BNMAP being afforded protection.			Option 3 – Review and extend Special Countryside Areas. This option enables a review of the existing designations to ensure they are appropriate and to make any necessary changes including extending, reducing or removing the designation. It will also seek to balance the protection afforded to our sensitive upland landscapes by extending the existing SCAs (High Mourne and Slieve Croob) as designated under BNMAP to those corresponding upland landscapes within the former Down district which are not currently afforded any additional protection.					
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and wellbeing.	0	0	0	Overall this option is neutral in terms of the objective.	0	0	0	Overall this option is neutral in terms of the objective.	0	0	0	Overall this option is neutral in terms of the objective.
2.... strengthen society.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Assessing proposals on individual merits could be positive for housing. This option does not reduce the potential to meet locally identified housing need.	0	0	0	Overall this option is neutral in terms of the objective. However, it is noted that the existing designation does not enable the provision of housing in exceptional circumstances.	?	?	?	Outcomes for sustainable housing are uncertain. Reviewing the boundaries may enable development on the fringes however, extending the SCA could restrict development in areas not currently included in designations.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	-	-	-	Lack of designation may impact the Council's potential to maximise tourism opportunities and make the area a more attractive place to visit. It also has potential for negative impacts, if development detracts from the landscape asset.	-	-	-	This option offers some designation, although it lacks potential to fully maximise benefits of tourism and make the place a more attractive place to visit.	+	+	+	Reviewing and extending existing boundaries could provide added protection for tourism assets, ensuring boundaries are fit-for-purpose and protect the most exceptional landscapes.

6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	?	?	?	Outcomes for physical resources are uncertain. Whilst this option may lack potential to protect/minimise loss of greenfield land, it was noted that this option does not hinder minerals development, making potential outcomes unclear.	?	?	?	This option offers some degree of protection for areas protected by designation. However, it may lack potential to protect/minimise loss of greenfield land in areas that are not designated. Partial protection could create potential for variable outcomes.	+	+	+	Reviewing and extending boundaries has the potential to minimise loss of greenfield land and protect earth science features. However, it was noted that extending boundaries could constrain mineral development.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	It was noted that this option could protect attenuation features, however impact in terms of climate change would be negligible.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	It was noted that this option could provide added protection in terms of water resources, however, the impact would be negligible.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	-	-	-	Not providing special protection for scenic uplands and sensitive landscapes is unlikely to protect or enhance local biodiversity.	-	-	-	Partial protection for scenic uplands and sensitive landscapes lacks potential to fully protect or enhance local biodiversity.	+	+	+	Reviewing existing boundaries allows for consideration of biodiversity and provides opportunity to assess how potential boundaries might protect and enhance local biodiversity.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	-	-	-	Assessing proposals on individual merits and not providing special protection could lead to increased visual intrusion.	-	-	-	This option offers partial protection, but could lack potential to protect areas that are not designated against visual intrusion.	++	++	++	This option continues to protect areas designated for landscape, protects against visual intrusion. It could also protect the setting of prominent features and settlements.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	-	-	-	Assessing proposals on individual merits and not providing special protection could lead to loss of 'sense of place' and reduce local distinctiveness.	-	-	-	Carrying forward the existing designation offers some protection. However, areas not designated could be negatively impacted. This option lacks	+	+	+	Extending Special Countryside Areas (SCAs) could be positive for the historic environment. This option could allow 'sense of place' to be conserved in rural

			potential to fully conserve 'sense of place' and local distinctiveness in areas that are not designated.		settings and protect local distinctiveness. This option could support access to and interpretation of the historic environment and potentially provide opportunities for cultural activities.
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Option 3 scored significantly positive for landscape given its potential to protect landscapes from visual intrusion, and protect prominent features and local distinctiveness. In terms of physical resources Option 3 scored positive for its potential to minimise loss of greenfield land and protect areas designated for their exceptional landscape. It was also positive in terms of protecting biodiversity, sustainable economic growth and built and cultural heritage. In comparison, Options 1 and 2 scored negative on a number of the same objectives that scored positive for option 3 with Option 1 being significantly negative for landscape character.</p> <p>Option 3 was most positive in terms of its potential to protect areas designated for their landscape character. The review and extend approach provides opportunity to allow 'sense of place' to be conserved in rural settings and protect local distinctiveness. It could also minimise loss of greenfield land and provide added protection for tourism assets. This option provides opportunity to address any imbalance in existing policy and afford greater overall protection to sensitive upland landscapes.</p>					
<p>The most sustainable option: Option 3 – Review and extend Special Countryside Areas. This option enables a review of the existing designations to ensure they are appropriate and to make any necessary changes including extending, reducing or removing the designation. It will also seek to balance the protection afforded to our sensitive upland landscapes by extending the existing SCAs (High Mournes and Slieve Croob) as designated under BNMAP to those corresponding upland landscapes within the former Down district which are not currently afforded any additional protection.</p>			<p>The preferred option: Option 3 is the preferred option.</p>		
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified for the objective 'to maintain and enhance landscape character'.</p>					
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>					
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Development guidelines, landscape character assessments, historic guides, design guides, AONB management plans, native planting schemes and biodiversity measures – ecological buffer zones.</p>					

Key Issue 23: Coastal Erosion and Land Instability

Options	Option 1 - Status Quo. No areas of erosion and land instability identified. Development assessed on a case by case basis in line with the SPPS and carried forward Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (PSRNI) policies.				Option 2 - Targeted and preventative approach. Presumption against development within areas of potential erosion and land instability. Elsewhere development assessed on a case by case basis in line with the SPPS and carried forward PSRNI policies. The LDP would identify those areas to be most at risk. This would be subject to detailed data of areas of erosion and instability being available.				Option 3 - Targeted and measured approach. Identify areas of existing and potential coastal erosion and land instability. Within these areas adopt a high level criteria based policy on coastal erosion and instability. This could include the following: 1) Development proposals should avoid areas vulnerable to coastal erosion and land instability. Exceptions would be permitted where there is a demonstrated need for a coastal location; 2) Development proposals accompanied by a coastal change vulnerability assessment An assessment the impact of development on any existing coastal defence infrastructure; and 3) Proposals for new or replacement coastal defences could be permitted where it can be demonstrated that they work with natural processes and there will be no significant adverse impact on the coast or associated habitats and the development will not result in increased coastal erosion or flooding elsewhere on the coastline.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and wellbeing.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
2.... strengthen society.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	It was noted that this option might impact ability to build housing in rural coastal communities, however, it is unlikely to have significant impact on the provision of housing overall.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.

4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	It was noted that not identifying land instability and erosion could lead to road collapse which could locally impact upon journey times to school, although this would not impact access to education in general.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	?	?	?	Outcomes of assessing development on a case-by-case basis are unclear. This option does not identify areas of coastal erosion or land instability making it uncertain in terms of potential impacts on economic development.	?	?	?	This option favours a presumption against development in areas of coastal erosion or land instability which could have mixed outcomes. Whilst this seeks to prevent development in unsustainable locations with potential for coastal erosion or land instability, it may stifle future potential in terms of making best use of location and maximising sustainable tourism opportunities.	+	+	+	This option provides flexibility where it can be demonstrated that a proposal can satisfy the criteria. This option allows for a more informed decision making process, which could be potentially positive for economic growth.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	It was noted that this option lacks consideration of natural processes.	+	+	+	This option adopts a preventative approach which supports the protection of vulnerable assets from development.	+	+	+	This option adopts high level criteria which could provide a wider scope for protection of assets. Assessing coastal vulnerability and impacts of development could provide opportunity to consider natural processes and supports the protection of vulnerable assets against development.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The approach taken by this option lacks potential to consider adaptation for climate change, although it is noted that climate change is addressed in other policy.	+	+	+	The option offers a preventative approach which could protect natural assets that act as attenuation features.	+	+	+	This option adopts high level criteria which could provide a wider scope for protection of assets against climate change. Assessing coastal vulnerability and impacts of development could

									provide the opportunity to consider adaptation for climate change and protect attenuation features.			
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	-	-	-	Assessing on a case by case basis could negatively impact water resource. This approach may lack the ability to appropriately consider the consequences of development which could lead to an increased risk of flooding, create the need for flood defence and reduce the capacity.	+	+	+	The option offers a preventative approach which could avoid the need for hard flood defence and protect or enhance flood plains.	+	+	+	Assessing coastal vulnerability and impacts of development could provide opportunity to minimise risks of flooding. This option also recognises the need for coastal defences to work with natural processes which could protect floodplains.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	-	-	-	Assessing on a case-by-case basis could negatively impact on species. The piecemeal approach may lack the potential to appropriately consider local biodiversity and is unlikely to protect designated sites and their buffers. Hard sea defences have the potential to impact on the quantity and quality of coastal habitats due to coastal squeeze.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective. This option would result in fewer hard sea defences being constructed.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective. This option should ensure that sea defences where introduced did not have a detrimental impact on coastal habitats.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	It was noted that assessing on a case by case basis could lead to risk of exposure from development, although it was recognised that other policy is in place to protect landscape.	+	+	+	This option favours a preventative approach in identified areas and assessment based approach in other areas. This option could avoid major impacts on coastal views and may help to appropriately consider impacts on neighbouring landscape designations including AONBs.	0	0	0	It was noted that the potential for coastal defences associated with this option could have a negative impact on landscape, although it is likely to be negligible.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	-	-	-	Assessing proposals on a case by case basis and not identifying areas that could be subject to land instability and erosion could be potentially negative for the historic environment. This option could lead to missed opportunities to assess and record archaeological features. It could also reduce access to,	+	+	+	This option has the potential to be positive in terms of the objective. This option could provide protection to existing assets and preserve setting and 'sense of place'. It was noted that some aspects of this policy are dependent on the availability of data.	+	+	+	This option could be positive in terms of the historic environment. This option could allow 'sense of place' and local distinctiveness to be conserved. This approach could be extended to protect historical assets at risk.

			and understanding of the historic environment.				
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Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Both Options 2 and 3 scored positive on a number of the same objectives except for economic growth and landscape character. In terms of economic growth Option 3 scored positively for this objective on the basis that there was more scope to protect environmental assets whilst offering flexibility in terms of economic development where there is room for development in exceptional circumstances but at the same time could provide bespoke protection. Option 2 scored uncertain in terms of economic growth where identifying areas of high risk may hinder tourism potential whilst assessing development on a case-by-case bases may stifle protection of existing assets. With regards to landscape character, Option 2 scored positively on the basis that it provided increased protection given there is a presumption against development whilst Option 3 scored neutral. Option 3 provided the most comprehensive approach in terms of assessing vulnerability and minimising risk. This option has wider scope for the protection of vulnerable assets where it could identify areas of coastal erosion and land instability and permit coastal defences where it can be demonstrated that they work with natural processes. Option 3 has greater potential to consider and address potential risks.

<p>The most sustainable option: Option 3 - Targeted and measured approach. Identify areas of existing and potential coastal erosion and land instability. Within these areas adopt a high level criteria based policy on coastal erosion and instability. This could include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Development proposals should avoid areas vulnerable to coastal erosion and land instability. Exceptions would be permitted where there is a demonstrated need for a coastal location; 2) Development proposals accompanied by a coastal change vulnerability assessment An assessment the impact of development on any existing coastal defence infrastructure; and 3) Proposals for new or replacement coastal defences could be permitted where it can be demonstrated that they work with natural processes and there will be no significant adverse impact on the coast or associated habitats and the development will not result in increased coastal erosion or flooding elsewhere on the coastline. 	<p>The preferred option: Option 3 is the preferred option.</p>
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What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects were identified for the preferred option.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects. No measures were identified.

Key Issue 24: Flood Risk Management

Options	Option 1 – Precautionary approach towards development in flood prone areas in line with the SPPS and carried forward PPS15 policies. This option maintains the status quo and therefore it does not extend beyond the current encouragement of the use of SuDS in new development as set out in regional policy.			Option 2 – Precautionary approach toward development in flood prone areas as with Option 1. In addition, the Council would seek to address the issue of surface water flooding with SuDS being required on zoned sites through the use of key site requirements or alternatively incorporated into a new policy covering SuDS for all new development.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and wellbeing.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
2.... strengthen society.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	This option could be positive in terms of climate change. The existing policy approach protects floodplains at risk of flooding and encourages the greater use of SuDS, in line with climate change objectives.	+	+	+	Option 2 could be positive in terms of climate change. This option could incorporate measures to adapt to climate change and reduces the risk of damage to property from flooding.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Carrying forward the existing policy approach could have benefits for water resources. This option could minimise the risks of flooding, avoid the need for flood defence and protect and enhance floodplains.	++	++	++	The introduction of SuDS could have significant benefits for water quality. This option has the potential to improve ground and surface water quality in line with water quality objectives and maintain water flow protecting ecological quality.

12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Carrying forward the existing policy approach could have benefits for natural resources and biodiversity. This option could protect Green/Blue Infrastructure and support ecosystems.	+	+	+	This option could have benefits for natural resources and biodiversity. This option could provide opportunity to enhance biodiversity through the incorporation of soft SuDS.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective, although it was noted that soft SuDS have the potential to enhance the landscape by incorporating natural features into developments.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on the objective, although it was noted that soft SuDS have the potential to enhance the landscape by incorporating natural features into developments.
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives: Both options scored positively in terms of climate change, water resources and biodiversity with Option 2 scoring significantly positive for water resources for its potential to minimise flood risk and improve water quality. Both options scored neutral across a number of objectives, however, it was noted that Option 2 was slightly more positive for its potential to integrate SuDS into open space and protect against soil erosion and damage to historic buildings as a result of flooding.</p> <p>Option 2 protects floodplains against development and also seeks to address surface water flooding through the incorporation of SuDS. This option has the ability to improve ground and surface water quality in line with water quality objectives and also provides an opportunity to enhance biodiversity. This option was most sustainable in terms its ability adapt to climate change and reduces the risk of damage to property from flooding.</p>								
<p>The most sustainable option: Option 2 – Precautionary approach toward development in flood prone areas as with Option 1. In addition, the Council would seek to address the issue of surface water flooding with SuDS being required on zoned sites through the use of key site requirements or alternatively incorporated into a new policy covering SuDS for all new development.</p>				<p>The preferred option: Option 2 is the preferred option.</p>				
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified for the objective to ‘protect, manage and use water resources sustainably’.</p>								
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>								
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Local water pollution prevention guidelines and Key Site Requirements.</p>								

Notes

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