



Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

Draft Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Plan Strategy 2035 – Louth County Council Submission

September 2025



Louth County Council (LCC) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the preparation of the Draft Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Plan Strategy 2035.

LCC firstly wishes to acknowledge the strong working relationship with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. Our joint partnership in strategic projects such as the ongoing Narrow Water Bridge development and the recently completed Newry-Omeath Greenway demonstrates effective, cross-border delivery of infrastructure and an integrated approach to land use. These projects are not only creating physical links, but opening up social, economic and community benefits. This is underpinned by our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which commits our counties to increased cross-border co-operation and seeks to support and promote the economic development and competitiveness of the region.

This unified approach can and is leading to improved transport planning, enhanced environmental management, and encouraging economic development initiatives. The strategic location of our settlements, Newry, Dundalk and Drogheda, along the Belfast-Dublin economic corridor provide significant opportunity for collaboration and growth. The Regional Development Strategy 2035 recognises this opportunity, and comments that both Newry and Dundalk have the potential to become a significant axis of development within the wider European context.

Having regard to the above, LCC wishes to make the following comments on the Draft Plan Strategy:

- No reference is made to the Narrow Water Bridge which will link the communities of Omeath and Warrenpoint and transform the region. Reference could be inserted on *page 34/35* under subheading 'Infrastructure'. Maps



contained within the document could also be altered to display the bridge crossing. The bridge is currently on schedule and due for completion in Q4 of 2027. Louth County Council is happy to provide any additional information regarding the project on request.

- LCC welcomes the policy provisions contained within the Plan which recognise the ecological importance of Carlingford Lough (SPA, RAMSAR, and Marine Conservation zone) and which provide the necessary safeguards and protections against harmful development upon its habitat and environment.
- *Page 38* recognises that Newry has the potential to cluster with Dundalk in the provision of services and functions, both of which are strategically located along the Belfast-Dublin Economic corridor. LCC support this point and look forward to strengthening our cross-border economic ties.
- *Page 45* references Project Ireland 2040 - National Planning Framework. This has recently been revised and the title is now the 'National Planning Framework-First Revision, April 2025'.
- Reference to the 'National Development Plan, which outlines key Shared Island initiatives between our two counties, could be included on *page 45*.
- LCC notes the Cross Boundary Working document dated June 2025 and considers that the Draft Plan Strategy does not conflict with the Louth County Development Plan 2021-27.

Louth County Council wishes you every success in the ongoing and future steps of the process and is happy to provide any additional materials that may benefit, on request.



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