

Good afternoon,
Please find Invest NI's comments attached
Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Property Executive

Invest Northern Ireland, Bedford Square, Bedford Street. Belfast. BT2 7ES.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
www.investni.com :: www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk :: www.investni.com/property

Text Relay Number: 18001 028 9069 8091

If you are calling using a textphone from outside the UK please call: +44 151 494 1260 028 9069 8091

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Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Local Development Plan

Draft Plan Strategy: Consultation Response from Invest NI

September 2025

1. Invest NI welcomes the opportunity to consider the soundness of the Newry Mourne and Down Local Development Plan Draft Plan Strategy 2035 (the draft Strategy). Our comments should be read in conjunction with those made in relation to the Council's Preferred Options Paper (POP).
2. It is noted within the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) that Councils in preparing their Local Development Plans (LDP) must take account of the RDS 2035, the Sustainable Development Strategy for Northern Ireland, the SPPS and any other policies or advice in guidance issued by the Department
3. In considering our comments we have taken account of the strategic direction set out within the Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS), the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) as well as the Council's Community Plan.
4. As the regional business development agency for Northern Ireland Invest NI's role is to grow the local economy. For this reason our specific focus in reviewing the aforementioned documents has been on those elements of each that relate to economic development or, in our view, could have a particular resonance with economic growth.
5. As noted in our response to the POP Invest NI can only speak on behalf of the spatial needs of those businesses meeting its intervention criteria, these will primarily be those which can drive productivity and make the greatest contribution to growing the economy. These include both indigenous and foreign owned businesses.
6. We note, with regard to Strategic Policy SP3, that new development may be subject to developer contributions. We would argue that in certain cases, particularly when projects are being undertaken in a context of market failure, that the development itself should be considered as meeting the goals of the policy and not be subject to an additional financial requirement.
7. Invest NI considers the supply of suitable sites to be a key element of Northern Ireland's investment proposition. Without a sufficient provision of available (suitable) land upon which businesses can readily develop they may have to consider other locations outside of the Province for their investment plans. We would furthermore highlight the importance of providing a choice and variety of sites across the Plan area to respond to the changing nature and requirements of business and industry.
8. We note the LDP objectives and consider them to be in conformity with the RDS.
9. We note Strategic Policies EDS1 & EDS2 and consider them to be in line with the RDS
10. We note that Strategic Policies TRS1 and Operational Policies TRA1-TRA11 promote sustainable and ensure safe and efficient access, movement and parking. We note that Operational Policy OS8 makes provision for green networks and would suggest

that the safe and efficient movement noted above is paramount when new design is being undertaken.

11. We consider that the operational Economic Policies ED1 - ED8 are in general conformity with the RDS and SPPS
12. Policy TRA1 requires development to facilitate pedestrian/cycle movement within and between land uses. We strongly submit that the design of such routes is carried out with great care to minimise or remove the creation of rat-runs that can Adversely affect the safe access, movement and parking espoused by the policies at para 10 of this document.
13. In terms of the draft Strategy's economic elements Invest NI considers the proposals to be in general conformity with the Council's Community, the RDS and/or the SPPS.

>>>>>end of submission>>>>>