



April 25th, 2018

Notice Of Meeting

You are invited to attend the Special Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on **Tuesday, 1st May 2018** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick.**

Agenda

1.0 Apologies & Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest.

3.0 Finalised Draft of Local Development Plan: Preferred Options Paper. (Cover report attached).

The appendix to the report can be found on Minute Pad by clicking on:-

MENU - DOCUMENTS - SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING - COMPLETE POP APPENDIX

 [LDP POP Report - Special Council Meeting 1.5.18.pdf](#)

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Report to:	Special Council Meeting
Subject:	Local Development Plan: Preferred Options Paper (Finalised Draft)
Date:	1 May 2018
Reporting Officer:	Anthony McKay, Chief Planning Officer
Contact Officer:	Andrew Hay, Principal Planning Officer

Decisions Required

Members are asked to note the report and agree the recommendation to approve the finalised draft of the Local Development Plan: Preferred Options Paper; and for officers to finalise and prepare the document for publication and formal launch in June.

1.0 Purpose & Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the finalised Local Development Plan: Preferred Options Paper (POP) for approval.
- 1.2 Following the programme of LDP Member Workshops in October and December 2017, and a series of meetings with statutory consultees, the Development Plan Team has been actively progressing work on the preparation of the draft POP.
- 1.3 Members will recall that a programme for delivery of the POP was agreed at the LDP Steering Group meeting on 14 February 2018. The programme required that the draft POP be presented to a Members Workshop for consideration prior to being finalised, thereafter the finalised draft POP would be considered by the LDP Steering Group, before being presented to a Special Council meeting for Council approval.
- 1.4 The POP represents a major milestone in the preparation of the Council's first Local Development Plan (LDP) for the District. The POP is the first major piece of work in the plan preparation process. Publication of the POP represents the Council's formal commencement of work on the Local Development Plan (LDP). It will also be the first public consultation document in the LDP process.

2.0 Key Issues

- 2.1 The purpose of the POP is to set out a vision, strategy and objectives for the District up to 2030 and to identify the key planning issues of strategic significance that are likely to influence the shape of future development within the District.
- 2.2 The POP does not cover every issue, policy or proposal that will be included in the LDP, but seeks to address the main planning issues that have been identified and informed through the work of the Development Plan Team in developing the evidence base, and in consultation with statutory consultees, Council officers, and Members. The POP sets out the most significant planning issues currently affecting our District, as well as those likely to become relevant in the future. The POP identifies and explores a series of options for addressing these key issues and in each case sets out the Council's preferred option.
- 2.3 The key issues, alternative options and preferred options as set out in the document are those considered at the Member Workshops last year. The workshops were constructive in

- giving a clear mandate and direction in the preferred approach to be taken by the Council in addressing the identified key issues. In preparation of the POP, they have been subject to further review and development, and assessment as part of the Sustainability Appraisal process.
- 2.4 The draft POP was presented to and considered by Members at the POP Workshop held at the Burrendale Hotel, Newcastle on 27 March 2018. The all-day Workshop was well attended by Members with representation from all party groups, and from each of the District's 7 DEAs. The Workshop was also attended by all of the Council's Senior Management Team (SMT).
- 2.5 The first four chapters of the POP provide an Introduction, District Profile, Regional and Local Policy Context, and Plan Vision and Objectives. Following which there are four main chapters, each addressing the identified themes of Spatial Growth Strategy, Social, Economic, and Environmental. Across the four themes 24 Key Issues are identified and considered, alternative options for addressing them are set out and discussed, and the Council's Preferred Option presented.
- 2.6 The POP is subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) [SA]. Members will recall that the Council has engaged with the Shared Environmental Service (SES) to undertake the SA through the LDP process. There has been on-going engagement between the Development Plan Team and SES in carrying out the SA function. The options contained in the POP have been assessed by SES; the appraisal process informed the justification of the Council's preferred option.
- 2.7 The draft POP was well received by Members and SMT. The Workshop endorsed the draft POP and agreed for it to be finalised for Council approval. In response to constructive feedback and issues raised through the discussion sessions, it was agreed to reconsider and review some of the narrative and make some minor amendments and changes to the document as required. Since the Workshop the Development Plan Team has been undertaking on-going work to refine and finalise the document. The finalised draft POP was considered by the LDP Steering Group on 13 April 2018. No further amendments to the POP were required by the LDP Steering Group and it was agreed that the document be presented to the Council for approval.
- 2.8 Council approval of the finalised draft POP will allow officers to finalise and prepare the document for publication. The published POP will then be formally launched in June and subject to a 12 week public consultation period. Prior to the launch date the Council will hold a press briefing meeting. A SA Interim Report, consisting of a SA Scoping Report and assessment of alternatives, will be published with the POP.
- 2.9 At this stage in the LDP process, the publication of the POP for public consultation provides the first opportunity for the public and stakeholders to put forward views and influence the LDP. The intention of the POP is to stimulate debate and encourage feedback from a variety of interests. Any representations received through the public consultation exercise will be considered for the next stage of the LDP process, the formulation of the draft Plan Strategy.

3.0	<u>Recommendations</u>
3.1	The Council is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approve the finalised draft of the Local Development Plan: Preferred Options Paper • agree for officers to finalise the document for publication and formal launch in June
4.0	<u>Resource Implications</u>
4.1	The costs associated with the preparation and publication of the POP have been budgeted for.
5.0	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u>
5.1	All Equality and Good Relations implications have been considered. The LDP is being prepared in accordance with the Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. In line with the Council's Equality Scheme, an Equality Screening exercise at the POP stage will assess if the LDP is likely to have impact on Section 75 groups. An Equality Impact Assessment report will be published alongside the POP.
6.0	<u>Appendices</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Development Plan: Preferred Options Paper (Finalised Draft) – circulated under separate cover