

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

Plean Forbartha Áitiúil an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin Tuairisc maidir le dul chun cinn ar Mheasúnacht Tionchair Comhionannais Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan 2030 Equality Impact Assessment Progress Report



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

Equality Impact Assessment Progress Report

This Equality Impact Assessment Progress Report 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 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 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.

Introduction

This Equality Impact Screening Progress Report has been prepared alongside the Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan 2030 Preferred Options Paper published on 1st June 2018.

The Council has a Statutory duty under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 as a public authority, in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between the nine equality categories of persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status, sexual orientation; men and women generally; persons with a disability and persons without; and persons with dependants and persons without.

In addition to this, public authorities are required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or race.

The Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006 introduced new duties requiring all public authorities in carrying out their function relating to Northern Ireland to have due regard to the need to:

- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and
- Encourage participation of disabled people in public life.

Background

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is responsible for the preparation of the Local Development Plan (LDP) for the district under Part 2 of The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

To date the Council has published a Plan Timetable and Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which sets out how the Council intends to facilitate and promote public participation throughout the LDP process.

Following on from this there are three main documents to be published in the course of preparing the LDP:

1. The Preferred Options Paper (POP)
2. The Plan Strategy (PS)
3. The Local Policies Plan (LPP)

The POP represents the Council's formal commencement of work on the LDP. It is also the first public consultation document in the LDP process. The POP has been prepared in accordance with the legislative requirements of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

The purpose of the POP is to set out the vision, strategy and objectives for the district up to 2030 and to identify key planning issues of strategic significance that are likely to influence the shape of future development within the district.

The POP does not cover every issue, policy and proposal that will be included in the LDP, but seeks to address the main planning issues that have emerged or been identified through the work undertaken in developing the evidence base for the LDP, from consultation with statutory consultees, council officials, elected members and through the Community Planning process.

In support of the POP the Council undertook to establish an evidence base in the form of 16 topic based preparatory papers which helped to identify key issues specific to the district. These papers are available to view on the Council's website.¹ This includes Paper 1 'Population and Growth' which included an initial assessment of those Section 75 groups likely to be impacted upon by the key planning policy areas within the LDP. (see Appendix 1).

In preparation of the POP, the Council sought to engage with groups who have traditionally been under-represented, in line with the requirements of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. In doing so the Council consulted various groups and organisations across the district and invited them to identify any particular issues or needs that they considered that the LDP should address, including whether there are any types of planning policy which are likely to have a significant impact on the group or organisation, or area of interest that they represented. Comments and views were welcomed on any potential LDP matters they considered relevant. Engagement correspondence was sent out to over 570 individuals, groups and organisations across the district.

The POP identifies and explores a series of options to address a number of identified key issues and in each case defines the Council's preferred option and justification. However it should be noted that no final decisions have been made at this stage of the LDP process.

As set out in our SCI the intention of the POP is to stimulate a wide-ranging, yet focussed, debate on the key issues and encourage feedback from a wide variety of interests. The aim is for all interested parties to become involved in a more meaningful way at the earliest stage of the LDP preparation process. Any representations or views received in response to the POP will be considered whilst formulating the draft Plan Strategy.

The publication of the POP allows, the public, communities and stakeholders to get involved with the development of the LDP from the outset and provides an opportunity to put forward views and have an influence on how the future of the district is shaped.

¹ www.newrymournedown.org

Equality Screening Assessment

As part of the formulation of the Council's LDP we will carry out an Equality Screening Assessment at each of the three stages in the LDP preparation process to establish if an Equality Impact Assessment is required.

As previously noted, the POP is the first stage in this process and the options presented in it are not defined policies, but rather they are suggested policy approaches to take forward to the next stage in the production of the LDP - the Plan Strategy.

The purpose of this Screening Report is to consider the potential equality and good relations impact of the POP at a strategic level. As referenced above, the Council undertook consultation with over 570 individuals, groups and organisations who represent the interests of Section 75 groups. The issues identified in this screening will act as a guide for subsequent assessment, report and consultations.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Policy Equality Screening Form

Policy Information

Name of the policy	Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan 2030: Preferred Options Paper
Is this an existing, revised or new policy?	The Preferred Options Paper (POP) is a new feature of the Local Development Plan process specifically brought into effect by Part 3 of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and subsequent transfer of powers to Local Authorities in April 2015.
What is it trying to achieve (aims/outcomes)	<p>The purpose of the POP is to set out the vision, strategy and objectives for the district up to 2030 and to identify key planning issues of strategic significance that are likely to influence the shape of future development in the district.</p> <p>The POP seeks to stimulate wide-ranging, yet focused debate on the identified key planning issues that have emerged or been identified through the work undertaken in developing the evidence base for the LDP.</p> <p>It aims to ensure that all interested parties become involved in a more meaningful way at the earliest stage of the LDP preparation process.</p> <p>The POP is the first public consultation document to be issued in the LDP process. It focuses on strategic planning issues and any consultation responses received will be considered and feed into the next stage in the LDP preparation- the Plan Strategy which will establish the strategic direction of the LDP for the future development of the district.</p> <p>The key issues identified for the POP fall under the following broad strategic themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial Growth Strategy; • Social • Economic • Environmental
Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy? If so, explain how.	The POP sets out the key planning issues in the district and identifies a range of options, where appropriate, to address them and highlights the Council's Preferred Option for each issue. It seeks to ensure all interested parties become involved in the LDP process.

	The vision of the LDP is that Newry, Mourne and Down is a place with strong, safe and vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people's needs. Therefore, it is expected that all Section 75 categories have potential to benefit as a result of the Plan.
Who initiated or wrote the policy?	Development Plan Team, Planning Department, Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Directorate Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Who owns and who implements the policy?	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Directorate, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Implementation factors

	Yes	No
Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?		✓ At this stage the POP sets out policy approaches rather than defining policies
If yes, are they Financial		
If yes, are they Legislative		
If yes, and they are Other please specify:		

Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?

	Yes	No
Staff	✓	
Service users	✓	
Other public sector organisations	✓ (see also 'Other' below)	
Voluntary/community/trade unions	✓	
Other, please specify:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of public living, working in, or visiting, the district • Elected Members (MPs and MLAs) LDP Consultation Bodies* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Ireland Government 	

	<p>Departments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjoining Councils/Planning Authorities with common boundaries • Water and Sewerage undertakers (eg NI Water) • Northern Ireland Housing Executive • Civil Aviation Authority • Telecommunication Suppliers (any person to whom the electronic communication code applies by virtue of a direction under section 106(3) of the Communication Act 2003)) • Electricity Suppliers (any person to whom a license has been granted under Article 10(1) of the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992) • Gas Suppliers (any person to whom a license has been granted under Article 8 of the Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1992) <p>*there may be additional consultations required at specific times throughout the LDP process.</p> <p>Other stakeholders include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered Housing Associations • Translink • System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) 	
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Other policies with a bearing on this policy

<p>What are they</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021(Northern Ireland Executive [NIE]) • Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2035 (Department for Infrastructure [(DfI)]) • The Sustainable Development Strategy (NIE) • Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future- A New Approach to Regional Transportation 2011(DfI) • Strategic Planning Policy Statement 2015 (DfI) • Planning Policy Statements (DfI) • A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (DfI) • Supplementary Planning Guidance (DfI) • Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015(DfI) • Ards and Down Area Plan 2015(DfI) • Newry, Mourne and Down District Council: Corporate Plan 2015-2019 (Newry, Mourne and Down District Council [NMDDC]) • Newry, Mourne and Down Community Plan: Living Well Together 2017 (NMDDC) • Newry, Mourne and Down Tourism Strategy 2017-2021(NMDDC) • Newry, Mourne and Down Economic Regeneration and Investment Strategy 2015-2020 (NMDDC) • Other Council strategy documents ie Play Strategy, Sports Facility Strategy, and Masterplans for Newry City Centre, Downpatrick town Centre, Ballynahinch Town Centre and the South East Coast (NMDCC) • Project Ireland 2040- National Planning Framework 2018 (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government; Republic of Ireland) • Relevant strategy documents of neighbouring local authorities (relevant Council)
<p>Who owns them</p>	<p>As referenced in brackets above</p>

Available evidence

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for relevant Section 75 categories.

Section 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
<p>Religious belief</p>	<p>In 2011, the population within Newry, Mourne and Down were predominantly of a Catholic background (65.99%). This is above the Northern Ireland average of 40.76%. 20.24% of the population were from a Protestant or other Christian background. This is below the NI average of 41.56%.</p> <p>The proportion of people with other religions was 0.44%, again below the NI average of 0.82%. While 5.96% of the population had no religion which was below the NI average of 10.11%.</p>

<p>Political opinion</p>	<p>Elected political party representation is an approximate barometer of political opinion of people in the Council area.</p> <p>There are 41 elected members in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. The breakdown by political party is as follows:</p> <p>Sinn Féin-14 seats SDLP- 14 seats Independents- 4 seats Democratic Unionist- 4 seats Ulster Unionist- 3 seats Alliance- 2 seats</p> <p>In the 2011 Census 28.53% of the usual resident population indicated that they had a British national identity, 44.31% indicated an Irish national identity and 30.39% a Northern Irish national identity.</p>
<p>Racial group</p>	<p>The 2011 Census figures indicate that 98.96% of the population in Newry, Mourne and Down are white, 0.3% are Asian, 0.34 % mixed/other, 0.18 % Chinese, 0.13 % Black and 0.11 % Irish Traveller.</p> <p>According to the 2011 Census, 1.79 % (32,414) of the usually resident population of Northern Ireland belongs to minority ethnic groups. The minority ethnic language profile within the area serves as a possible indicator of the BME community profile.</p> <p>The composition of language groups in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area is noted by NISRA (2011) as follows:</p> <p>Minority Ethnic Language Profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD Area Main Language of residents (3+ years) in NMD LGD English- 96.97% Polish- 1.30 % Lithuanian- 0.51% Irish- 0.22 % Portuguese- 0.05% Slovak- 0.08% Chinese- 0.07% Tagalog/Filipino- 0.03% Latvian- 0.13 % Russian- 0.07 % Malayalam- 0.05% Hungarian- 0.05 % Other- 0.46%</p>
<p>Age</p>	<p>The 2011 Census recorded that 63.85 % of the population of Newry, Mourne and Down were of working age (16-65years), 13.37 % were aged 65+ years and 22.79 % of the population were 0-15 years.</p> <p>The district has a growing and aging population. By the end of the plan period in 2030, it is forecast that 20.3% of the projected population (194,994) will be aged 65+ years.</p>

Marital status	<p>Since 2001 there has been an increase in the percentage of divorced people, a decrease in the percentage of people married and an increase in the proportion of single people in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>In Newry, Mourne and Down the trend is similar but the proportion of married people is above the regional average and the number of single people (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership) is below the regional average.</p> <p>The 2011 Census showed that 49.27% of the district's population is married; 36.03% is single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership); 4.73 % is divorced; 6.35 % are widowed and 0.08 % are in a civil partnership.</p>
Sexual orientation	<p>There is limited information available for this category. The Continuous Household Survey undertaken in 2015/2016 by NISRA found that 97% of all Northern Ireland adult respondents identified themselves as heterosexual/ straight; with the remaining adults identifying as either gay/ lesbian, bisexual, 'don't know' or not providing an answer.</p>
Men and women generally	<p>The 2011 Census indicated that 49.60 % of the population in NMDDC was male and 50.40 % was female.</p>
Disability	<p>The 2011 Census indicated that 19.85% of the district's population have a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities, with 10.80 % of people suffering mobility or dexterity difficulty, 4.52 % suffering with deafness, 1.67% suffering with blindness or partial sight loss, 1.74% suffering with communication difficulty, 2.45% with a learning, intellectual, social or behavioural problem, 5.36% suffering with an emotional, psychological, or mental health issue, 9.19% suffering with long-term pain and discomfort, 8.11% suffering with shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, 1.78% suffering with frequent periods of confusion or memory loss, 5.91% suffering with a chronic illness, 5.10% suffering with an 'other condition'.</p> <p>In May 2016 statistics show that 20,640 people (11.6% of the population) within the district were claiming Disability Living Allowance which is 0.4% above the NI average and that 4,730 were claiming attendance allowance.</p>
Dependants	<p>Persons with dependants may be people who have personal responsibility for the care of a child (or children), a person with a disability and/or a dependant older person.</p> <p>The proportion of households with dependent children in the district has declined from 50% in 1981 to 37.5% in 2011.</p> <p>In 2011 there were 5,466 lone parent households with dependent children in the district which equates to almost 9% of the total number of households in the district (61,998) and is the fourth highest in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>In 2011, 11.79% of the population provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others with 3.25% providing in excess of 50+</p>

	hours. There were 7,540 Carers Allowance claims made in 2016, an increase of 4.6% from 2015. Of these 63.5% were female.
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Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories

Section 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	No needs, experiences and priorities have been identified or are anticipated at this stage.
Political opinion	No needs, experiences and priorities have been identified or are anticipated at this stage.
Racial group	<p>People within different racial groups may experience difficulty accessing and understanding information. In particular this may apply to visitors from ethnic minority groups, whose first language is not English.</p> <p>As outlined in our Equality Scheme, Council is aware that some groups will not have the same access to information as others. As per Chapter 6, Section 6.3 of the Scheme the Council aims <i>'To ensure equality of opportunity in accessing information, we provide information in alternative formats on request, where reasonably practicable. Where the exact request cannot be met we will ensure a reasonable alternative is provided'</i>.</p> <p>Key Issue 6: Social Housing Need seeks to ensure the provision of adequate housing land to meet all housing needs over the Plan period. This includes meeting any need for Traveller Accommodation identified by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Housing Needs Assessment.</p>
Age	<p>Key Issue 6: Social Housing Need seeks to ensure the provision of adequate housing land to meet all housing needs over the Plan period. This includes meeting any need for 'Supported Housing' that may be identified by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to enable people who need an additional level of housing related support to help them lead an independent life.</p> <p>In 2011 70.5% of the district's population aged 65+ years suffered from a long-term health condition. This can often impact on their day-to-day activities and housing requirements.</p> <p>Key Issue 8: Future Proofing and Housing for All seeks to safeguard the provision of lifetime homes and wheelchair accessible homes within the district to ensure there is suitable accommodation available for those living with a health problem or disability.</p>
Marital status	No needs, experiences and priorities have been identified or are anticipated at this stage.

Sexual orientation	No needs, experiences and priorities have been identified or are anticipated at this stage.
Men and women generally	No needs, experiences and priorities have been identified or are anticipated at this stage.
Disability	<p>People with a disability may experience difficulty in accessing information. In particular this may include people with sensory, learning, communication and mobility disabilities who may require printed information in other formats.</p> <p>As per the Council's Equality Scheme, Chapter 6, Section 6.3 the Council will aim; <i>'To ensure equality of opportunity in accessing information, we provide information in alternative formats on request, where reasonably practicable. Where the exact request cannot be met we will ensure a reasonable alternative is provided'</i>.</p> <p>Key Issue 6: Social Housing Need seeks to ensure the provision of adequate housing land to meet all housing needs over the Plan period. This includes meeting any need for 'Supported Housing' that may be identified by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to enable people who need an additional level of housing related support to help them lead an independent life.</p> <p>Key Issue 8: Future Proofing and Housing for All seeks to safeguard the provision of lifetime homes and wheelchair accessible homes within the district to ensure there is suitable accommodation available for those living with a health problem or disability.</p>
Dependants	No needs, experiences and priorities have been identified or are anticipated at this stage.

Screening questions

1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? **Minor/Major/None**

Theme: Key Issue (policy area)	Preferred Option (details of policy impact)	Level of Impact on Section 75 Categories? (major/minor/none)
Spatial Growth Strategy		
1.Settlement Hierarchy	<p>To re-examine the existing settlement hierarchy in order to consider if any settlement should be reclassified while also considering the potential for identifying a number of new small settlements.</p> <p>This is considered the Council's preferred option as it enables a full review of all settlements across the four settlement tiers. It also considers the potential for identifying a number of new small settlements and thus offers the greatest scope to underpin the Council's growth strategy.</p>	<p><u>Religious Belief</u> It is not anticipated that the preferred option, will have any significant negative differential impact within this Section 75 group.</p> <p>The policy approach taken in the LDP in addressing this key issue will seek to provide benefits for all sections of society and future generations, irrespective of Section 75 group identity.</p> <p>In the absence of policy details at this stage, it is not possible to discern any differential impacts within or between Section 75 groups.</p> <p>Minor - positive</p> <p><u>Political Opinion</u> as above</p> <p><u>Racial Group</u> as above</p> <p><u>Age</u> as above</p> <p><u>Marital Status</u> as above</p> <p><u>Sexual Orientation</u> as above</p>

		<p><u>Men and Women generally</u> as above</p> <p><u>Disability Dependants</u> as above</p>
2. Quantity of Housing Land	<p>Retain the current level of zoned housing land.</p> <p>A full review of all housing land, including the potential for delivery will be undertaken. A phased approach to the release of housing land would be introduced with surplus zoned land held in reserve to meet long-term housing need.</p> <p>This option is seen as a balanced approach that will ensure an orderly release of housing land without the need to de-zone land and the subsequent market uncertainty that this would bring. This option would also enable lands held in reserve to be brought forward should any subsequent review of the Housing Growth Indicators for the district result in an uplift to the HGI allocation.</p>	AS ABOVE
3. Distribution of Housing Land	<p>Balanced approach based on current population distribution and on the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 60% target for all new housing to be allocated in brownfield sites of settlements greater than 5,000.</p> <p>This option is considered to represent a balanced and sustainable approach. It strikes a balance between the need to promote the development of our city and towns in line with the RDS whilst recognising the need to support our rural communities. Whilst not fully meeting the RDS target of 60% development in hubs and towns over 5,000 population it makes significant progress towards this target. It also affords the opportunity to retain the majority of rural planning policy in its current form and so continues to</p>	AS ABOVE

	deliver sustainable development in the countryside.	
4. Quantity of Employment Land	<p>Uplift the overall amount of land zoned for employment use by 20%.</p> <p>This is the Council's preferred option as it will ensure that there is an adequate level of employment land for businesses of all sizes across the district. The proposed percentage uplift seeks to realign the level of the Invest NI land with the proportion of the district's business base with sales over £250,000 or more. Subject to further assessment of business needs it is proposed to make provision for additional employment lands to address reduced choice as a consequence of Invest NI land holdings.</p>	AS ABOVE
5. Distribution of Employment Land	<p>Retain broad balance of remaining employment land provision across the district (currently 132 ha (former Newry and Mourne District) and 42 ha (former Down District)).</p> <p>This is the Council's preferred option as it will maximise opportunities for employment generation across the whole district, seek to deliver proportionate growth and ensure that employment land is brought forward in a timely manner.</p>	AS ABOVE
Social		
6. Social Housing Need	<p>Set out a Strategic Policy requiring all housing sites, over a certain threshold, to provide a proportion of social housing; and 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 as currently operating under BNMAP</p> <p>This option is considered to be the preferred option as this affords the Council the maximum flexibility to address social housing need across the district.</p>	AS ABOVE

<p>7. Housing in the Countryside</p>	<p>Adopt the existing policy approach as set out in Planning Policy Statement 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside and the SPPS for single dwellings in the countryside but in addition provide clarification and minor changes to current policies to address a number of shortfalls.</p> <p>This option would enable the Council to provide greater clarity to its rural planning policy and allow for some minor changes to align with the district's rural housing needs. Overall there would be no significant change to the level of residential development in the countryside and this option would support the Council's growth strategy for the district.</p>	<p>AS ABOVE</p>
<p>8. Future Proofing and Housing for All</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>This option would safeguard the provision of lifetime homes and wheelchair accessible homes within the district. This would ensure that the needs of the community are addressed by providing homes that are flexible and provide a better living environment for everyone.</p>	<p>AS ABOVE</p>
<p>9. Integrated Renewable Energy and Passive Solar Design</p>	<p>The integration of renewable energy and/or passive solar design should be a requirement in certain new development eg public sector and on private developments over a certain threshold.</p> <p>This option would see the LDP act as a driver in seeking to ensure the district benefits from the numerous economic, environmental and social benefits resulting from renewable energy technologies and passive solar design techniques being</p>	<p>AS ABOVE</p>

	incorporated into a greater number and type of new developments in the district.	
10. Open Space Provision	<p>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>This is the Council's preferred option as it offers the opportunity to identify and evaluate the current provision of open space across the district in an equitable way in addition to identifying any future need.</p>	AS ABOVE
Economic		
11. Economic Development in the Countryside	<p>Consider scope under the SPPS to allow a more flexible approach for provision of small workshop style development.</p> <p>This is the Council's preferred option as this will provide further support to start-up businesses across the district and will help to expand the district's business base.</p>	AS ABOVE
12. Alternative Uses on Land Zoned for Economic Development	<p>Degree of Flexibility - Allow a limited number of alternative compatible uses/businesses 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, breaking of motor vehicles and the storage and distribution of minerals.</p> <p>This option would ensure an adequate supply of land for economic development across the district whilst a degree of flexibility would allow appropriate uses within zoned lands.</p>	AS ABOVE
13. Tourism Development	Retain existing policy led approach as set out within Planning Policy Statement 16: Tourism with minor amendments, and in addition bring forward Tourist Opportunity Zones.	AS ABOVE

	<p>This option would facilitate appropriate tourism related development close to key tourism assets within the district, facilitating growth in line with the Council's Corporate Plan and Tourism Strategy.</p>	
14. Minerals Development	<p>Adopt a policy led approach in relation to Minerals Development, but also identify Mineral Safeguarding Zones.</p> <p>This option would afford protection to the district's landscapes through existing minerals policies and associated mitigation measures while also ensuring a supply of raw materials from within the district for present and future need.</p>	AS ABOVE
15. Proposed Transportation Schemes	<p>Include non-strategic transportation schemes in the LDP which have been justified by the Department for Infrastructure through a Local Transport Strategy for which there is a reasonable prospect of delivery.</p> <p>This is the Council's preferred option as it would ensure that only proposed road schemes with a realistic possibility of delivery would be taken forward in the LDP. Only schemes which can be reasonably justified by DfI would be given protection, allowing land involved in those schemes which cannot be justified to be released.</p>	AS ABOVE
16. Park and Ride/Share Schemes	<p>Identify and protect existing and proposed park and ride/share sites across the district and consider the potential for additional park and ride/share sites to be identified across the district.</p> <p>This is the Council's preferred option as it would allow for further investigation into the identification of additional park and ride/share sites. A full analysis of further potential sites would identify where there is a need and would provide a sustainable travel option in</p>	AS ABOVE

	accordance with SPPS and RDS.	
17. Sustainable/ Active Travel and Identification of Greenways	<p>Retain the existing policy approach toward sustainable transport and active travel, and in addition identify and protect community greenways.</p> <p>This option is considered to best adhere to regional policy in that it actively promotes and encourages new development to link with greenways, community greenways and open spaces. This option will identify and protect linear connections between communities and open space in accordance with the SPPS and other regional policy.</p>	AS ABOVE
18. Renewable Energy	<p>Adopt the current policy based approach set out in Planning Policy Statement 18: Renewable Energy (PPS18) and the SPPS subject policy for renewable energy projects.</p> <p>This option would adopt the current policy based approach as set out in PPS18 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. This option ensures the continued protection of the environment through the carrying forward of policies within PPS18 whilst avoiding a blanket restriction on renewable energy projects by not introducing any Areas of Constraint. 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>	AS ABOVE
19. Telecommunications	<p>Adopt current policy as contained within Planning Policy Statement 10: Telecommunications and the SPPS. Statement.</p> <p>The adoption of current policy in its present form is the Council's preferred option. Given the current gaps in existing mobile signal coverage, the need to support the</p>	AS ABOVE

	<p>delivery of broadband in our rural areas together with the level of protection already afforded to the environment through PPS10 Policy TEL1, the Council's preferred approach is to adopt policies which are in line with existing planning policy. No additional designations such as Areas of Constraint on telecommunications are proposed.</p>	
Environmental		
20. Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape Character	<p>Review the existing Conservation Area and Area of Townscape Character designations to consider whether they should be extended, reduced, removed or re-graded.</p> <p>This is the Council's preferred option as it will allow for a review of all CA and ATC designations within the district to ensure they are appropriate. This will identify if there is a need to remove or re-grade existing designations or amend existing boundaries to ensure the integrity of these designations is not lost while also ensuring that the overall character is maintained or enhanced where appropriate.</p>	AS ABOVE
21. Non-Designated Heritage Assets	<p>Carry forward existing policy and consider scope to strengthen existing policy to afford further protection to non-designated heritage assets.</p> <p>This option is considered to offer the most comprehensive approach which would continue to inform a proactive strategy for the conservation, protection and enhancement of the local historic environment. The option also allows for a review of existing policy to assess whether any amendments can be made to current policy to give further protection to the non-designated assets.</p>	AS ABOVE
22. Sensitive Upland Landscapes	<p>Review and extend Special Countryside Areas.</p> <p>This is the Council's preferred option</p>	AS ABOVE

	<p>as it will allow for a uniform approach across the entire district, ensuring that the most exceptional and vulnerable landscapes are afforded appropriate protection. It also provides the opportunity to review the existing designations to ensure their integrity is protected.</p>	
23. Coastal Erosion and Land Instability	<p>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 land instability.</p> <p>This is the Council's preferred option as it allows the specific details and impacts of any proposed development to be assessed ensuring there will be no negative impact on coastal erosion or land instability.</p>	AS ABOVE
24. Flood Risk Management	<p>Precautionary approach towards development in flood prone areas in line with the SPPS and carried forward Planning Policy Statement 15: Planning and Flood Risk policies. In addition the Council would seek to address the issue of surface water flooding with Sustainable Drainage Systems (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>This is the Council's preferred option as it represents the most comprehensive approach to surface water flooding and sustainable drainage on sites. The option also allows for SuDS to be required either on all new developments or on identified zoned sites through the imposition of key site requirements. This option represents an opportunity to adapt to climate change and enhance flood prevention measures within the district.</p>	AS ABOVE

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories?

Section 75 category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious belief	<p>When published, the POP will engage more people in the planning process. This is expected to better promote equality of opportunity for all Section 75 groups.</p> <p>No specific opportunities have been identified at this stage. However, any Section 75 issues raised during the consultation period of the POP will be fully considered.</p>	
Political opinion	As above	
Racial group		
Age		
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		
Men and women generally		
Disability		
Dependants		

3. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? **Minor/Major/None**

Good relations category	Details of Policy Impact	Level of impact Major/minor/none
Religious belief	The POP sets out policy approaches rather than defining policies at this stage in the LDP process. It seeks the public's response on the Council's preferred options for each identified key issue during the defined period of public consultation. Any representations or views received will be considered whilst formulating the draft Plan Strategy.	This is difficult to assess at this early stage in the LDP process as no policies have been developed as yet.
Political opinion	As above.	
Racial group	As above.	

4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Good relations category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious belief		<p>No specific opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group have been identified at this stage.</p> <p>Any Section 75 issues raised during the consultation period of the POP will be fully considered.</p>
Political opinion		As above.
Racial group		As above.

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities? (For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

No differential impacts have been identified at this stage.

The vision of the LDP is that Newry, Mourne and Down is a place with strong, safe and vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people's needs. The outworking of the Plan is likely to promote equality of opportunity for all, including people with multiple identities.

Screening Decision

In light of your answers to the previous questions, do you feel that the policy should (please underline one):

1. Not be subject to an EQIA (with no mitigating measures required)
2. Not be subject to an EQIA (with mitigating measures /alternative policies)
3. Not be subject to an EQIA at this time
4. Be subject to an EQIA

If 1. or 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons why:

The POP is the first stage in the LDP process and the options presented in it are not defined policies, but rather they are suggested policy approaches to take forward to the next stage in the production of the Plan- the Plan Strategy.

In the absence of policy detail or specific spatial proposals at this early stage, there is no evidence that the preferred options concerning the suggested policy approaches will cause a differential adverse impact within, or between, the Section 75 groups.

This will be subject to continuous review as the LDP process progresses and will take account of any relevant public consultation responses.

If 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), in what ways can identified adverse impacts attaching to the policy be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced?

In light of these revisions, is there a need to re-screen the revised/alternative policy? Yes / No. If No, please explain why

If 3. or 4. (i.e. to conduct an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons:

Timetabling and prioritising EQIA

If 3. or 4, is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities?
YES / NO

If YES, please provide details:

Please answer the following questions to determine priority for timetabling the EQIA. On a scale of 1-3, with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for EQIA.

Priority criterion	Rating (1-3)
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	
Social need	
Effect on people's daily lives	
Relevance to a public authority's functions	

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for EQIA. This list of priorities will assist you in timetabling the EQIA. Details of your EQIA timetable should be included in the quarterly Section 75 report.

Proposed date for commencing EQIA: _____

Monitoring

Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impacts arising from the policy which may lead you to conduct an EQIA, as well as help with future planning and policy development.

Please detail proposed monitoring arrangements below:

The POP is the first public consultation document in the LDP process. It seeks responses from the public on a total of 24 identified key planning issues in the district. As part of the POP preparation the Council undertook consultation/ engagement with over 570 individuals, groups and organisations who represent the interests of Section 75 groups across the district in order to identify any particular issues or needs that the LDP should address, including whether there were any types of planning policy which were likely to have a significant impact on the group(s) represented. These individuals, groups and organisations will be consulted on the POP and any comments will be fully considered in the preparation of the next stage of the LDP- the Plan Strategy.

The Plan Strategy will establish the strategic direction of the LDP for the future development of the district. It will include a range of strategic policies to facilitate and manage development together with a spatial strategy and will provide the necessary framework for the preparation of the final LDP document- the Local Policies Plan. The Local Policies Plan will contain detailed and site specific land use policies and proposals regarding the future development of the district.

Both documents will be subject to public consultation and independent examination. An Equality Impact Screening Assessment will also be completed for both the Draft Plan Strategy and Draft Local Policies Plan to establish if an Equality Impact Assessment is required and to ensure the Council meets its statutory obligations in respect of Section 75 legislation.

Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Colin Moffet	Head of Corporate Policy	1 May 2018
Andrew Hay	Principal Planning Officer	1 May 2018
Approved by:		
Marie Ward	Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism	1 May 2018

Appendix 1 - Table 1: A preliminary identification of local planning policy likely to have an impact on community relations & social equality

POLICY TYPE	Religious Belief	Political Opinion	Racial group	Age	Marital status	Sexual Orientation	Gender	Disability	Dependency	Comments – nature of policies and likely impact of policies on the S – 75 Groups
Settlement	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Designation and status of settlements and identification of development opportunities and limits may impact on groups of religious belief / political opinion due to the spatial distribution of such groups
Housing	√	√	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	Quantum and distribution of zoned housing lands could have a differential impact on religious / political groups. The amount whether it is urban / rural, accessible, social / private will also have differential impacts on the ethnic groups, elderly persons/ house-forming people, persons with disabilities and those with dependents.
Business and Industry	√	√	√	√	X	X	√	X	X	Quantum and distribution of employment land could result in differing access to employment for certain groups i.e. religion, race, gender and age
Open Space & Recreation	√	√	X	√	X	X	X	√	√	Quantum and distribution of open space and recreation facilities could result in differing levels of access for identified groups i.e. Religion / political. Also Disability, Gender, Dependency and Age.
Retailing and town centres	√	√	X	X	X	X	√	√	X	The hierarchy of commercial/town centres, development opportunities and control policies could result in differing levels of accessibility to retailing and leisure related services for identified groups. Town centres tend to be relatively neutral areas.
Community Uses	√	√	X	X	X	X	√	√	√	Spatial and physical accessibility to Community uses can have particularly on religious groupings / political opinion , age and disability.
Transportation	√	√	X	√	X	X	√	√	X	Differing levels of accessibility to all services depending on location/quality of infrastructure for identified groups.
Environment	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Location of protected areas for conservation, archaeology or landscape could have differential impacts, positive or negative, for different groupings.
Minerals	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	The location of areas protected for / constrained from minerals proposals could have differential impacts, for different religion / political groups.
Countryside	√	√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	The location of policy areas and resultant protection / restrictions on development, could have differential impacts, positive or negative, for different groupings - religion / political. Also persons of house-forming age.
Services and Utilities	√	√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	Differing levels of accessibility to public services and utilities depending on location of facilities provided - religion / political.
Tourism	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Location of areas protected for and constraining tourism proposals could have differential impacts on different religious / political groups.
Design	X	X	x	√	X	X	x	√	√	Design both in terms of appearance and physical access affects everyone but has a particular impact on people with mobility difficulties such as the disabled, elderly and people with young children.
Totals	12	12	2	7	0	0	5	6	4	

Note: All policies affect everyone in the community in some way. Potential impacts have been identified where they are particularly pertinent to the special needs of a particular group

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

0300 013 2233 (Council)
0300 200 7830 (Planning)
council@nmandd.org
www.newrymournedown.org

Oifig an Iúir
Newry Office
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry BT35 8DJ

Oifig Dhún Pádraig
Downpatrick Office
Downshire Civic Centre
Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road
Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

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