Plean Forbartha Áitiúla 2035 Dréacht-Straitéis an Phlean Local Development Plan 2035 Draft Plan Strategy

Tuairisc Scóipe an Bhreithmheasa Inbhuanaitheachta Meitheamh 2025 Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report June 2025



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

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

Consultation Arrangements

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is consulting on the Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan 2035, draft Plan Strategy. The consultation period will be carried out over a twelveweek period, commencing on Friday 27 June 2025 and closing at 5pm on Monday 22 September 2025. Please note that representations received after the closing date will not be considered.

Availability of the draft Plan Strategy

A copy of the draft Plan Strategy and all supporting documentation, including the Sustainability Appraisal Report, is available on the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council website: <u>www.newrymournedown.org</u>

The draft Plan Strategy and supporting documents are also available to view in hard copy during office hours, 9am–5pm at the following Council offices:

- Newry Office, Monaghan Row, Newry BT35 8DJ
- Downpatrick Office, Downshire Civic Centre, Ardglass Road, Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

Aim of the Public Consultation

The public consultation on the draft Plan Strategy aims to:

- Encourage full public participation in the Local Development Plan process and to stimulate ongoing interest and involvement in the Plan process
- Promote a sense of ownership of the Local Development Plan
- Facilitate the Independent Examination of the draft Plan Strategy to ensure its soundness
- Provide a robust foundation for work on the Local Policies Plan, the next stage in the Plan process.

How the Council will process your comments

Following the twelve-week consultation period, there will be a further eight-week period to facilitate counter representations.

All representations and counter-representations will be analysed by our Local Development Plan Team, and a Public Consultation Report will be prepared and presented to elected members. This may result in amendments in the draft Plan Strategy, before its formal submission to the Department for Infrastructure, in advance of Independent Examination.

It should be noted that your responses are public documents that will be made available for public inspection and Independent Examination. All responses will therefore be held on a database in accordance with the provisions of the UK GDPR.

Online

Use our online response form at Local Development Plan (www.newrymournedown.org/local-development-plan)

Email

Email us or download the above response form at <u>Local Development Plan (newrymournedown.org)</u> and email it to us at <u>ldp@nmandd.org</u>

Post

Write to us or send in a response form available at Local Development Plan (www.newrymournedown.org/local-development-plan) and post it to the following address:

Local Development Plan Team, Planning Office, Downshire Civic Centre, Ardglass Road, Downpatrick BT30 6GQ.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAP	Area(s) of Archaeological Potential
ACMD	Area(s) of Constraint on Minerals Development
AEP	Annual Equivalent Probability
AFBI	Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute
AoHSV	Area of High Scenic Value
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
APSFR	Area of Potentially Significant Flood Risk
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
ARK	Access Research Knowledge
ASAI	Area(s) of Significant Archaeological Interest
ASQ	Area of High Scenic Quality
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest
ATC	Area(s) of Townscape Character
AVC	Area(s) of Village Character
AWB	Artificial Waterbody
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
BGI	Blue and Green Infrastructure
BMI	Body Mass Index
BNMAP	Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan
BRES	Business Register and Employment Survey
CANN	Collaborative Action for the Natura Network
CCC	Committee on Climate Change
CCRA	Climate Change Risk Assessment
CPA	Coastal Policy Area
CTCC	Community Treatment and Care Centre
DAERA	The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DARD	(former) Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DCCAE	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
DE	The Department of Education
DEA	District Electoral Area
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
DETI	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
DLA	Disability Living Allowance
DOE	(former) Department of the Environment
DRD	(former) Department for Regional Development
DWI	Drinking Water Inspectorate
EA	Education Authority
EAPP	Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes
EC	European Commission
ESCR	Earth Science Conservation Site
EU	European Union
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan
GAA	Gaelic Athletic Association
GEP	Good Ecological Potential
GES	Good Environmental Status
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GHQ12	12 Item General Health Questionnaire
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GP	General Practitioner
GSNI	Geological Survey of Northern Ireland

HARNI	Heritage at Risk Northern Ireland
HCS	Housing Condition Survey
HED	Historic Environment Division
HGI	Housing Growth Indicator
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
HMWB	Heavily Modified Waterbody
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
HSCT	Health and Social Care Trust
HSNI	Health Survey Northern Ireland
IDBR	Inter Departmental Business Register
IE	Ireland
IGGP	International Geoscience and Geoparks
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
KSI	Key Sustainability Issue
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LDP	Local Development Plan
LGD	Local Government District
LLPA	Local Landscape Policy Area
LPP	Local Policies Plan
LTS	Local Transport Study
MCAA	Marine and Coastal Access Act
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MDM	Multiple Deprivation Measure
MHT	Mourne Heritage Trust
MHWST	Mean High Water Spring Tide
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPS	Marine Policy Statement
NA	Not Applicable/Not Available
NB	Neagh - Bann
NCALO	Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (NI) Order
NE	North Eastern
NED	Natural Environment Division
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NI	Northern Ireland
NICCAP	Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
NIMDM	Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures
NINIS	Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
NIW	Northern Ireland Water
NMD	Newry, Mourne and Down
NMDDC	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
NW	North Western
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PFG	Programme for Government
PFRA	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for NI
PIP	Personal Independence Payment
POM	Programme of Measures

POP	Preferred Options Paper
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
PS	Plan Strategy
PWS	Private Water Supply
RBD	River Basin District
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RDS	Regional Development Strategy
RLCA	Regional Landscape Character Area
ROMP	Review of Old Mineral Permissions
RQIA	Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SDR	Standardised Death Rate
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SLNCI	Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
SOA	Super Output Area
SONI	System Operator for Northern Ireland
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPPS	Strategic Planning Policy Statement
STN	Strategic Transportation Network
TAPSFR	Transitional Area of Potentially Significant Flood Risk
UK	United Kingdom
UKCP18	UK Climate Projections 2018
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WANE	Wildlife and Natural Environment Act
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WMU	Water Management Unit
WTW	Water Treatment Works
	World War II
WWTW	Waste Water Treatment Works

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this Scoping Report

The scoping report is the second formal output of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process for the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Local Development Plan (LDP). It updates and builds on the Scoping Report prepared alongside the Preferred Options Paper (POP), published in May 2018. It presents information about the SA methodology and the topics being assessed under the SA, which incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The Scoping Report will be updated throughout the Plan preparation and will be included with all SA Reports published as part of the consultation process for the LDP.

1.2 The Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Local Development Plan

The current LDP timetable was published in September 2023. It sets out indicative timeframes for the key stages in the production of the LDP. Section 3 of this report describes the approach we are taking to plan preparation in more detail and provides an overview of Newry, Mourne and Down. The District Council shares a boundary with neighbouring Councils - Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Ards and North Down Borough Council. It also shares a boundary with counties Louth and Monaghan in Ireland.

1.3 Sustainable Development

The Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy - 'Everyone's Involved¹', stated that sustainability policy 'is driven by intergenerational equity; to secure a quality of life for present and future generations that is positive and rewarding.'

Achieving sustainable development is a requirement set out in Provision 25 of The Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006. This requires all Departments and Councils in Northern Ireland, in exercising their functions, to act in the way they consider best calculated to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. In doing this they must have regard to any strategy or guidance relating to sustainable development published by Northern Ireland departments.

Within planning legislation, Section 5 of The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (as amended) requires those who exercise any function in relation to Local Development Plans to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development.

SA is the approach used to promote sustainable development within LDPs by evaluating the social, environmental and economic effects of all aspects of the LDP throughout its preparation.

The Sustainable Development Strategy identifies 32 strategic objectives in the following Priority Areas:

- Building a dynamic, innovative economy that delivers the prosperity required to tackle disadvantage and lift communities out of poverty.
- Strengthening society so that it is more tolerant, inclusive and stable and permits positive progress in quality of life for everyone.
- Driving sustainable, long-term investment in key infrastructure to support economic and social development.
- Striking an appropriate balance between the responsible use and protection of natural resources in support of a better quality of life and a better quality environment.
- Ensuring reliable, affordable and sustainable energy provision and reducing our carbon footprint.

 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ NI Executive (2010) Everyone's Involved - Sustainable Development Strategy

• Ensuring the existence of a policy environment which supports the overall advancement of sustainable development in and beyond Government.

1.4 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 originally introduced by the European Directive 2001/42/EC 'On the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment' ('the SEA Directive'). In Northern Ireland, the SEA Directive's requirements are currently 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 programmes. Appendix 1 records how these regulations are being complied with.

1.5 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 LDPs 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'¹. SA therefore refers to an integrated approach which fully incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment and fulfils the requirements for both SA and SEA.

1.6 Stages in Sustainability Appraisal

The key stages of Sustainability Appraisal are summarised below with their location. Those areas shaded in grey will be reported on at a later stage.

Stage	Description	Location				
Stage A (1) Sustainability Appraisal	Identify other relevant policies, plans, programmes and Sustainability Objectives.	Appendix 4 of this report.				
Scoping Report	Collect baseline information	Sections 4 & 5 of this report.				
	Consult the Consultation Body on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.	Prior to publishing the POP, NMDDC consulted Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) SEA Team 10/11/17; their response was received 18/12/17. DAERA was formally consulted on the SA Scoping Report and Interim SA Report published alongside the POP on				

Table 1.6.1: Stages of Sustainability Appraisal

¹DOE (2015) Development Plan Practice Note 04: <u>Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment</u>

Stage	Description	Location				
		29/05/2018; their response was received 21/08/2018.				
		DAERA was re-consulted on 01/03/2022 on the SA Scoping for the draft Plan Strategy stage; their response was received 04/04/2022.				
		Where applicable, recommendations have been incorporated into the SA (refer to Appendix 6 of this report).				
	Identify environmental issues and challenges	Section 5 of this report.				
	Develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework	Section 6 of this report.				
	Produce draft Scoping Report and share with stakeholders	Section 2.3 of this report.				
Stage A (2) Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report	Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report, assessment of reasonable alternatives against agreed Sustainability Appraisal framework and undertaking public consultation along with the Preferred Options Paper (POP).	Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report, published with POP in May 2018.				
Stage B	Assessment of alternatives and any likely significant effects on the draft plan against Sustainability Appraisal framework, taking into account the evidence base and where necessary, proposing mitigation measured for alleviating any adverse effects.	Section 3 and Appendix 4 of the SA Report. Strategic Alternatives were also assessed in the SA Interim Report published with the POP in June 2018.				
Stage C	Sustainability Appraisal Report to document the appraisal process and findings.	The Sustainability Appraisal Report, which will be published with the dPS.				
Stage D	Consultation with the public, environmental authorities and any EU member state affected on the Sustainability Appraisal Report and draft plan.	The SA Report will be forwarded to the Consultation body under Reg. 12(2) and transboundary consultation carried out under Reg.13, if applicable.				
		The SA Report will be published along with the draft Plan Strategy for public consultation.				
Stage E	Sustainability Appraisal Statement to show how the Sustainability Appraisal and opinions/consultations have been taken into account, the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted and the proposed measures to monitor the plan.	Not at this stage - a SA Adoption Statement will be prepared following Independent Examination once the Plan Strategy is ready to be adopted.				

Stage	Description	Location
Stage F	Monitoring: Establishing arrangements to monitor the significant effects of the implementation of the plan, to identify unforeseen adverse effects and undertake appropriate remedial action.	Not at this stage - a preliminary framework for potential monitoring is included in Section 5 of the SA Report.

1.7 Other Assessments

1.7.1 Habitats Regulations Assessment

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) 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 polices in the LDP. This assessment is also carried out for Ramsar sites (wetlands of International importance, identified under the provisions of the Ramsar Convention). A draft HRA of the Draft Plan Strategy will be published alongside the Draft Plan Strategy consultation documents. HRA will also be carried out for the draft Local Policies Plan. The HRAs will be finalised when each Plan is adopted.

1.7.2 Rural Proofing

The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, which came in to force on 1 June 2017, applies to NI Government Departments and Councils. It 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 has provided advice on carrying it out in 'Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing'¹ and 'A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 for Public Authorities'². Rural proofing is the process 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 Council has reported on rural proofing in their Rural Needs Impact Assessment, which has been published alongside the draft PS.

This 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, are also included under other topics, for example: Health, Education and Material Assets. Key Sustainability Issues for Newry, Mourne and Down 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.

1.8 Scoping Report Structure

Section 2 of this report details the proposed approach to SA while Section 3 provides an overview of plan preparation. Section 4 gives an overview of the baseline information and each topic is reported on in Section 5 with the context, relevant baseline information, trends, key issues and the implications for the LDP. Section 6 presents the Sustainability Framework and outlines the next steps in the SA.

¹ DAERA (2015) Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing

² DAERA (2017) A guide to the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 - May 2017

2. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL: THE APPROACH

2.1 Introduction

This section describes the overall approach taken to SA throughout the LDP process. Sections 4 to 6 are the application of this approach for the Scoping Report for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's LDP.

2.2 Principles

The Sustainability Appraisal process is carried out under the following principles:

Role

SA is a tool to aid plan-making, which identifies potential effects of options, how they may be mitigated and with a view to informing on the most appropriate option. It does not, however, give a 'right' answer and is not the decision-making mechanism.

Integrated

SA is an essential part of the plan-making process, which is integral to and carried out through the whole of plan preparation and subsequent monitoring. It helps to test the effects of options and inform the selection of proposals. It will provide evidence of the decision-making process and any changes brought about to ensure sustainability of the LDP.

Shared Information

Where appropriate, data collected for other purposes such as LDP Preparatory Papers or Community Planning is utilised for evidence or for future monitoring.

Relevant

The SA focuses on context and data that is relevant to the plan. It will not detail issues that cannot be addressed within the remit of the LDP.

Connected

The LDP may be influenced by, or have an impact on, neighbouring areas. The SA considers strategies and plans beyond Newry, Mourne and Down, where there is potential for significant positive or negative effects. Neighbouring Councils were invited to comment on the POP SA Scoping Report and SA Interim Report when these were published in May 2018 and will be invited to comment on the dPS SA Reports. It is also acknowledged that Newry, Mourne and Down has direct and indirect connectivity to the marine area through its coastal location, watercourses and river systems.

Proportionate

The SA aims to avoid duplication. Therefore, for example, international strategies are not included where they have been given effect in a national or regional strategy. Where more detailed information is available in another document, the essentials are included here and a link or cross reference provided to that document.

Up-to-date

The SA Reports will continue to be updated during plan preparation to ensure that current policies, plans and programmes are reflected and recent data are used.

Future proof

Potential future changes within and beyond the life of the plan are considered to anticipate needs and to try to maintain opportunities for long-term sustainable development.

2.3 Involving Others

Informal and formal consultation with stakeholders and the public is an essential part of SA, to ensure that the topics and issues have been fully considered. The first formal consultation required on this Scoping Report was with the Statutory Consultation Body. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency

(NIEA) acts as the lead for the Consultation Body and was consulted on the outline of this Scoping Report in November 2017, on the version published with the POP in May 2018 and again during the preparation of the draft PS in March 2022. The NIEA's comments have been incorporated, where appropriate, in this report and will further inform future updates to the Scoping Report and Appraisal Reports.

Where possible, experts with general and local knowledge of all topics have been consulted to inform the LDP Preparatory Studies Papers and the baseline information included in Section 5 of this report. Statutory consultees were invited to comment on the SA Reports published at POP stage in May 2018. A register of consultation responses is being maintained and has been provided in Appendix 6 of this report.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council adjoins Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Ards and North Down Borough Council. It also shares a boundary with counties Louth and Monaghan in Ireland. These Councils, along with DAERA Marine Division, will be invited to comment on the draft PS and Sustainability Appraisal Reports.

The public was formally consulted on the POP-stage SA Scoping Report and SA Interim Report during consultation on the POP in May 2018. There will also be public consultation on the SA Reports which accompany the draft PS and draft LPP. Representations at public consultation that are relevant to the SA will be reviewed. Where necessary, the SA Reports will be revised in response to representations and to any changes to the Plan Strategy or LPP.

2.4 The Evidence Base

The evidence base is arranged according to a number of topics. For each topic a consistent approach to reporting is followed. The approach is described in more detail in Section 4 and the evidence base is presented in Section 5.

The evidence base was prepared using all available information sources. Every effort has been made to ensure that the document refers to the most recent information available, however it is an evolving document which is reviewed and updated at each stage of appraisal.

2.5 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

The purpose of the SA 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 SA Framework consists of Sustainability Objectives with prompts which are used to assess plan proposals against the baseline. All stages of plan-making will be assessed using the Framework which may be updated as further information becomes available. The SA Report to accompany the Plan Strategy includes draft proposed indicators for monitoring any significant effects of delivery of the LDP in relation to the Sustainability Objectives.

2.6 Significant Effects

The SA will assess 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.

2.7 Assessment Method

The key stages are SA of:

- options and reasonable alternatives for the POP;
- options and reasonable alternatives for the PS; and
- the Local Policies Plan.

The proposed method for the appraisal of each part of the LDP is described in section 2.8 below:

2.8 Appraisal of reasonable alternatives for the draft Plan Strategy

In the draft PS, policy options are presented at a strategic and operational level. In some cases, more than one policy option has been assessed, however only reasonable alternatives were considered. The SA Report accompanying the dPS evaluates the policy options using the appraisal matrix shown in Table 2.8.1. The matrix includes:

- The plan topic and delivery options to be assessed
- A score indicating the nature of the effect for each option in the short, medium and long term with an explanation of why the score was given.
- A summary comparing the options and recommending the preferred approach together with any
 mitigation recommended to address significant negative effects and other measures, where
 appropriate, to enhance positive effects or reduce minor negative effects.

ISSUE												
OPTIONS		Option 1:			Option 2:				Option 3:			:
Sustainability Objective	ST	мт	LT	Explanation	sт	МΤ	LT	Explanation	sт	мт	LT	Explanation
1. Sustainability Objective												
2. Sustainability Objective												
3. Sustainability Objective, etc.												

Table 2.8.1: Outline Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

- 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.

	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: 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			

Table 2.8.2: Scores and definitions for Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

Kan	+ +	+	0	-		?
Key:	Significant positive	Minor positive	No overall effect	Minor	Significant	Uncertain
	positive	positive	enect	negative	negative	

2.9 Plan Strategy

The proposals in the draft PS will be reviewed and the Scoping Report and SA updated to reflect any changes from the previous stage. A SA Scoping Report and a separate SA Report will be provided in support of the consultation on the draft PS.

2.10 Local Policies Plan

In advance of preparation of the LPP, criteria will be developed to help guide the appraisal of sites. The proposals in the LPP will be appraised using the SA Framework and a SA Report will be published as part of the consultation on these papers.

2.11 Cumulative Effects

Consideration will be 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. A section on cumulative effects has been included in the SA Report to accompany the draft PS.

3. NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

3.1 Context – Requirement to Prepare a Local Development Plan

Part 2 of The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 provides for the preparation of a Local Development Plan (LDP) by a Council for its district, which will (when adopted) replace current development plans. The Local Development Plan will comprise two development plan documents.

- The Plan Strategy (PS); and
- The Local Policies Plan (LPP).

The LDP should fulfil the following functions:

- provide a 15-year plan framework to support the economic and social needs of a Council's district in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing for the delivery of sustainable development;
- facilitate sustainable growth by co-ordinating public and private investment to encourage development where it can be of most benefit to the well-being of the community;
- allocate sufficient land to meet society's needs;
- provide an opportunity for all stakeholders, including the public, to have a say about where and how development within their local area should take place;
- provide a plan-led framework for rational and consistent decision-making by the public, private and community sectors and those affected by development proposals; and
- deliver the spatial aspects of a Council's current Community Plan.

3.2 Preparation

The purpose of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council 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) (DRD, 2012) 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 land is zoned appropriately 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)¹ and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs)², the UK Marine Policy Statement (UK MPS) and, when adopted, the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland. The new LDP will replace the current statutory development plans that apply to the District Council.

3.3 Overview of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Newry, Mourne and Down district is located to the southeast 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.

¹ Department of Environment: Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) 2015

² Planning Policy Statements and Other Policy Publications <u>www.planningni.gov.uk</u>

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), covering more than 55% of the district. These areas have a distinctive character and have been designated in recognition of the quality of their landscape, heritage and wildlife.

The 2021 Census recorded that the total population of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council increased by 6.1% from 171,533 to 182,074 between 2011 and 2021. The total population has further increased and is estimated to be 189,000 in mid-2028¹. This trend is expected to continue through the plan period with a projected increase to 193,746 by 2035². This represents a 6.6% increase within the plan period.

The demographic of the district's population is also changing with the number of residents aged 65 and over expected to increase from 29,124 in 2020^3 to 42,988 in 2035^4 (an increase of approximately 47.6%). This proportion of our population is therefore expected to increase from 16.03% in 2020 to 22.2% in 2035. In addition, the number of residents aged 0-15 is expected to decrease during the plan period with this proportion of our population expected to decrease from 22.55% in 2020^5 to 19.3% in 2035⁶

NISRA's 2021 Census identified that of the district's population, 15% reside in Newry City and 40% live in the six towns. The 2021 census states that 69% of households were owner-occupied and 18% were private rented whilst 11% were social rented⁷. Additionally, 10.72% of households were comprised of a single person aged 65+⁸ and 17.55% of households did not have access to a car or van⁹. 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.

¹ NISRA Population Projections 2021-based

² NISRA Population Projections 2021-based

³ NISRA Population Projections 2020-based

⁴ NISRA Population Projections 2021-based

⁵ NISRA Population Projections 2020-based

⁶ NISRA Population Projections 2018-based

⁷ NI Census 2021 ⁸ NINIS NMD Area Profile 2017

⁹ NISRA Car or Van Availability: KS405NI (administrative geographies).





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

4. OVERVIEW OF THE BASELINE EVIDENCE

4.1 Presentation of Baseline Evidence

The baseline evidence is presented in Chapter 5 for fourteen topics which span the social, economic and environmental themes. Objectives 1 to 3 are primarily social topics, 4 to 6 relate to economy and the remaining topics are primarily environmental, although they also contribute to the social and economic themes. Many topics overlap. Table 4.1.1 presents an outline scope for each topic to clarify where the information is presented in this report.

Table 4.1.1: Scope of Sustainability Topics

	Торіс	Includes
1.	Health and Well-being	Health profile, physical activity, access to health care, access to open space and recreation, quiet areas and noise.
2.	Community	Community identity, shared space, social inclusion, crime prevention and community safety and good relations.
3.	Housing	Housing, urban capacity and settlements.
4.	Education and Skills	Primary through to third level and apprenticeships.
5.	Economy and Employment	Employment, economic growth, investment, tourism, industry and commerce, town centres and retailing.
6.	Material Assets	Infrastructure relating to energy / heat generation and distribution, telecommunications, waste management and pipelines; derelict and contaminated land; manufactured goods and renewable energy.
7.	Physical Resources	Earth science, minerals, land and soil (including land use) and geothermal resources.
8.	Transport and Accessibility	Public, private transport, traffic and efficient movement. Walking and cycling.
9.	Air	Air quality and short term changes (aspects relating to climate are covered in Climate Change).
10.	Climate Change	Northern Ireland in global context of climate change; greenhouse gas emissions; current weather conditions, implications of climate change, mitigation and adaptation.
11.	Water	Water quality and resources (including coastal and marine), water levels (flood risk).
12.	Natural Resources	Biodiversity, fauna, flora, designated sites, green and blue infrastructure, ecosystem services. Includes intertidal and coastal zones as well as marine environment.
13.	Landscape	Landscape and countryside/rural area. Seascape.
14.	Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage	Historic environment, archaeology (including marine), built heritage, defence heritage, industrial, townscape and cultural heritage assets.

Each topic is presented using the same structure, using the general headings listed below:

- Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies
- Baseline Information
- Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan
- Key Sustainability Issues

4.2 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The Sustainability Appraisal must include a review of other policies, plans, programmes and strategies that have an influence on the content of the LDP. The aims of this review are:

- to identify all external social, economic and environmental objectives which have a bearing on the Sustainability Appraisal of the LDP;
- to reflect sustainability objectives contained in regional policies and strategies;
- to identify any other sustainability issues that might influence the preparation of the plan;
- to highlight whether other policies, plans or programmes might give rise to cumulative effects when combined with the LDP.

Consideration of this context also helps ensure that the LDP will deliver obligations for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council which are within the scope of the LDP. Appendix 4 presents the strategies, policies, programmes and plans that have been considered, with their key objectives and implications for the LDP. This will be updated throughout plan preparation.

4.3 Strategic Context

The following regional strategies are overarching and form a backdrop to the LDP. Each is introduced here and key relevant aspects are described in more detail under each topic in Section 5.

4.3.1 Regional Development Strategy

The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) provides a strategic and long term perspective on the future development of Northern Ireland up to 2035 to deliver the spatial aspects of the Programme for Government. It contains regional guidance to provide policy direction in relation to the economy, society and environment. It complements the Sustainable Development Strategy and sets the context for policy and development decisions in order to achieve sustainable development throughout the region.

The RDS sets out a strategic, long-term vision on the future development of NI up to 2035. It provides an overarching strategic planning framework and influences the future distribution of development throughout NI. The RDS contains strategic regional guidance which provides policy direction in relation to economic, social and environmental matters aimed at achieving sustainable development and social cohesion.

The RDS recognises the important role of Newry and Downpatrick as the two main hubs and Warrenpoint and Newcastle as local hubs in generating prosperity. It recognises that Newry is strategically located on the Belfast-Dublin corridor, and has the potential to develop as a region within the wider eastern seaboard corridor. The RDS acknowledges the 'Memorandum of Understanding' (MOU) that exists between the Council and Louth County Council, which commits the region to increased cross border co-operation. The MOU underpins the pivotal role of the greater Newry region. It establishes a strategic alliance between the two bodies and seeks to support and promote the economic development and competitiveness of the region. This relationship will see both authorities work collaboratively together and share key services.

To ensure all areas benefit from economic growth, it also reflects the Programme for Government approach of balanced sub-regional growth and recognises the importance of key settlements as centres for growth and prosperity. The RDS also recognises that the district has a significant rural

demographic and that in order to sustain rural communities, new development and employment opportunities which respect social and environmental circumstances are required.

The RDS has a statutory basis, is material to decisions on individual planning applications and appeals, and Councils must take account of the RDS when drawing up their LDPs.

4.3.2 Strategic Planning Policy Statement

The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) provides an overarching statement of the general regional planning principles underlying the reformed plan led system. It provides a planning policy framework which must be taken into account in the preparation of LDPs and the provisions are also material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.

The SPPS outlines a number of core principles underpinning the reformed planning system in Northern Ireland. These are:

- improving health and well-being;
- creating and enhancing shared space;
- supporting the economy;
- supporting good design and positive place-making;
- preserving and improving the built and natural environment.

The latter part of the SPPS contains 72 regional strategic objectives across 16 subject areas, in addition to the introduction of new policy for retailing.

The Republic of Ireland also has its own National Planning Framework (NPF, Project Ireland 2040, 2018), and an Eastern & Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES, 2019). The NPF and RSES establishes a policy framework that supports joined-up approaches and the mechanisms to deliver co-ordinated growth in the border region.

4.3.3 Sustainable Development Strategy

The Sustainable Development Strategy identifies 32 strategic objectives in the following Priority Areas:

- Building a dynamic, innovative economy that delivers the prosperity required to tackle disadvantage and lift communities out of poverty.
- Strengthening society so that it is more tolerant, inclusive and stable and permits positive progress in quality of life for everyone.
- Driving sustainable, long-term investment in key infrastructure to support economic and social development.
- Striking an appropriate balance between the responsible use and protection of natural resources in support of a better quality of life and a better quality environment.
- Ensuring reliable, affordable and sustainable energy provision and reducing our carbon footprint.
- Ensuring the existence of a policy environment which supports the overall advancement of sustainable development in and beyond Government.

The strategic objectives that are key are highlighted under the relevant topic.

4.3.4 Programme for Government

The Programme for Government (PfG) is the highest-level strategic document of the Northern Ireland Executive. It sets out the priorities that the Executive will pursue during its Assembly mandate and the most significant actions it will take to address them.

The priorities highlighted in the Program for Government are cross-cutting and touch on every aspect of government. They include priorities for health, education and young people, housing, economic

success and safe communities. The outcomes are intended to meet statutory obligations and to make real improvements to the quality of life of citizens.

4.3.5 UK Marine Policy Statement and Marine Plan for Northern Ireland

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).

Carlingford Lough is shared with the Republic of Ireland, which has its own National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF, Project Ireland 2040, 2021). The NMPF directs decision makers, users and stakeholders towards strategic, plan-led, and efficient use of our marine resources.

4.3.6 Community Planning

Community Planning is a process whereby Councils, statutory bodies and the community work together to develop and implement a shared vision for promoting the well-being of their area and pave the way for the most efficient use of scarce resources. It involves everyone working together to make life better for local people and deliver real improvements. It means planning ahead to improve the big issues that matter to people like health, education, employment, safety and the environment.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Community Plan, entitled '*Living Well Together*' aims to become the overarching strategic plan for integrated planning and delivery of services for the area of Newry, Mourne and Down.

The Council has led on the community planning process to provide the framework for collaborative working to deliver positive change for our communities.

The vision for Living Well Together 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.

The aims of our community plan are to:

- Highlight the challenges facing Newry, Mourne and Down, both now and in the coming decade
- Prioritise what really matters to communities within Newry, Mourne and Down
- Empower communities to respond to these challenges
- Clearly communicate the Partnership's framework for action

- Improve the wellbeing of people in Newry, Mourne and Down
- Continually improve our delivery on the service action plan using data development and key partnerships
- Strive for inspirational outcomes underpinned by strategic indicators.

4.3.7 Corporate Plan

Our Corporate Plan 2021-23 presents the council's mission: *"To support and advocate for a welcoming district which is progressive, healthy and sustainable, providing better economic, environmental and social outcomes for all".*

It has three core values which are fundamental to everything that we do:

Accountable: We will be accountable for how we plan for and use resources sustainably

Collaborative: We will work in partnership with others

Transparent: We will be transparent in how we make decisions

To achieve the Council's mission and realise its vision, eight strategic objectives have been developed to align with the themes of the Community Plan and to be delivered in collaboration and partnership with a range of stakeholders:

- Invest in and support new and growing businesses, job creation and employment skills.
- Continue to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the district and reduce health inequalities.
- Enhance, protect and promote our environment.
- Support sustainable forms of tourism which value our environment and cultural heritage.
- Enable and support people to engage in inclusive and diverse activities in their communities.
- Promote the revitalisation of our city, towns, villages and rural communities.
- Provide accessible, high-quality and integrated services through continuous improvement.
- Advocate with others for the benefit of all people of the district.

4.3.8 Masterplans and Regeneration

Town Centre Masterplans are non-statutory documents which focus on regeneration and public realm improvements. They set out a vision for a particular town centre and identify key proposals for realising that vision over a set period of time. Recent examples of masterplans for the district are:

- Ballynahinch Town Centre Masterplan
- Downpatrick Town Centre Masterplan
- Newry City Centre Masterplan
- South East Coast Masterplan (includes Kilkeel, Newry and Warrenpoint)

Non-statutory Village Plans have also been prepared for various settlements throughout the district to encourage village renewal and development.

4.4 Baseline Information

A desk-based review has been undertaken to identify baseline conditions in Newry, Mourne and Down. Each sustainability topic is presented in Chapter 5 with a review of relevant current information available. Where it has not been possible to provide Council-specific information, information for Northern Ireland has been used and where there are critical data gaps these are identified.

Information sources include data collected for our LDP preparatory papers and for the preparation and monitoring of the Community Plan found at: <u>http://www.newrymournedown.org/living-well-together.</u>

The Community Plan was developed with engagement through four thematic working groups, each with a number of priority areas:

 Health and well-being Early Years Family support Physical Activity Supporting healthier living Mental and emotional well-being Emergency response Sustainable schools 	 Economic Development, Regeneration and Tourism Employability and Training Tourism Business Support Planning and Assets Public Sector Employment
 Environment and Spatial Development Access to quality housing Production and usage of energy from sustainable resources Reducing the impact of waste Reducing the level and impact of traffic and congestion Increasing access to and speed of broadband Protecting, enhancing and benefitting from environmental assets Increasing and enhancing access to natural and built heritage Reducing the impact of, and mitigating against flooding 	 Safety and Good Relations Anti-social behaviour Youth engagement Seasonal Intervention Grants Drugs and alcohol Gender based crime Hate crime Road safety Burglary and fear of crime Rural crime Improving community confidence in police

The baseline topics for the Sustainability Appraisal have a wider scope than the LDP evidence gathering requirements. Data sources in 'Local Development Plans: DAERA Environmental Evidence and Information'¹ have been referred to as well as the 'Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report'².

In addition to the LDP and Community Plan evidence, we have used evidence presented on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) website. NISRA is the principal source of official statistics and social research on Northern Ireland. Much data at Council or sub-Council level was sourced from the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) website. NINIS is part of NISRA and aims to make small area information held within Central Government and Non-Departmental Public Bodies available to as wide an audience as possible. The NINIS website contains datasets on a range of socio-economic themes at small-area statistical geographies.

4.5 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

This section highlights trends in the baseline information and describes how the baseline might evolve without the LDP. This also helps identify key issues for each topic and identifies potential sustainability problems or opportunities that could be addressed through the LDP.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council was included within two previous Area Plans prior to April 2015:

- Down Area Plan 2015
- Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015

¹DAERA (2017) Local Development Plans: DAERA Environmental Evidence and Information

² DAERA (2017) Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2017

These Plans have been prepared across a broad timescale and do not reflect the new Council, nor our Community Plan, *'Living Well Together*.

4.6 Key Sustainability Issues

Drawing on the policies, plans, programmes and strategies review, the baseline information and the likely evolution of the baseline without the LDP, Key Sustainability Issues are set out for each topic. These reflect the local area and are mainly ones that are relevant to and may be influenced by the LDP. These Key Sustainability Issues will also identify the potential for cumulative effects which should be considered in preparation of the LDP. Key Sustainability Issues will be reviewed, and where necessary updated, at key stages of plan preparation.

4.7 Proposed Sustainability Objectives

The key sustainability issues inform the sustainability objectives. These are presented in Chapter 6 with a short rationale and description of what each objective seeks to achieve. There are several overlaps between objectives which support each other.

5. THE EVIDENCE BASE

5.1 Health and Well-being

5.1.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

This topic considers the health profile for the district, needs for and access to health care, physical activity and the effects of noise. It overlaps with most other topics, for example where they shape the environment in which we live, interactions with others and opportunities for employment and education. It also overlaps with the natural heritage topic which considers open space.

The common thread of relevant policies is that actions should improve the outcomes for everyone's mental and physical health and well-being. Policy measures seek to prolong healthy life and reduce preventable deaths. Contributors to this include improving health in pregnancy and improving mental health, which can have long term effects on healthy life. They also acknowledge that the health conditions of those who are most deprived are significantly worse. Consequently, programmes have been developed such as 'Delivering Social Change', an Executive programme that seeks to reduce inequalities. Northern Ireland health-related strategies are supportive of international strategies and the Sustainable Development Strategy.

Part of supporting good health is encouraging physical activity. There are several strategies and initiatives for this purpose including 'Sport Matters', 'A Fitter Future for All', the 'Outdoor Recreation Action Plan', and 'Exercise, Explore, Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways'. These include creating the environment and specific facilities to encourage increased physical activity, including active transport.

The 'Transforming your Care: Strategic Implementation Plan' and the 'Southern Health and Social Care Trust Population Plan' inform infrastructure requirements for health care. '*Making Life Better*' is a ten-year strategic framework for public health launched in 2014. It provides direction for policies and actions to improve the health and well-being of the people of Northern Ireland and reduce inequalities in health. Outcome 12 of this framework 'Making the Most of the Physical Environment' is highly relevant to the LDP. Actions can be grouped into the following general themes:

- To improve and maintain the environment in terms of air quality, water quality, waste management and environmental noise;
- To enhance the capacity of our physical infrastructure to protect, support and provide access to healthy and active living and well-being through, for example, creating environments that promote social interaction and mental well-being, are safe for all ages and incentivise physical activity.

The SPPS reflects this, in particular through six regional strategic objectives that require provision of and accessibility for all to open space with high standards of design.

The Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 implement the European Noise Directive in NI. The aim of these Regulations is to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, of exposure to environmental noise. The Regulations apply to noise from major road, railway, airport and industrial sources. These existing sources are not subject to planning control, but may be considered in the context of proposed development which could be affected by environmental noise. A range of legislation is in place to establish permitted noise levels and manage noise emissions from domestic, industrial and commercial sources. The 2014 Noise Policy Statement for Northern Ireland provides clarity on current noise policies and practices.

Our Corporate Plan 2021-23¹ seeks to "promote and facilitate healthier and more active lifestyles" and to "provide modern, affordable and accessible facilities and services which offer a better quality of life for all – especially those people and places which need more support than others".

¹ Newry Mourne and Down District Council (2021) Phlean Corparáideach 2021-2023 Corporate Plan 2021-2023

While these are short-term two-year objectives, the LDP can create the conditions to support these actions in the future.

One of the five outcomes of Living Well Together, our Community Plan to 2030, is 'All people in Newry, Mourne and Down enjoy good health and wellbeing'. Progress towards achieving this is to be measured by indicators relating to levels of life expectancy, work life balance, preventable death and health status. The Indicators and Measures section of Living Well Together explains why the chosen indicators matter and data for each indicator is provided.

5.1.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is available on the Community Plan 'Developing Your Plan¹' page, where a Community Plan Baseline Evidence Report is available together with individual reports for each indicator. The Community Plan's first two year Review of Progress 2017-19 (RoP 2019) and Statement of Progress 2019-2021 (SoP 2021) have also been referred to. Data has also been sourced from the Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Papers 1: 'Population & Growth' (2014 – 2015) and 1st Revision 2015; Paper 10: 'Open Space, Recreation and Leisure' (2017) and Paper 14: 'Education, Health and Community Services' (2017).

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is the principal source of official statistics and social research on Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Inequalities Monitoring System (HSCIMS) enables the examination of health inequalities within sub-regions of Northern Ireland and includes a comparison between the average and the most deprived areas in each geographical area. This topic overlaps with the Community, Housing, Transport and Accessibility, Air Quality, Natural Resources, Physical Resources and Historic Environment topics.

The Health Inequalities Sub-Regional Report, Department of Health, 2017² provides a detailed analysis of health indicators for our District compared with Northern Ireland over the period 2004 – 2015. The range of the data and reporting periods varies according to the type of data however in all cases five sequential datasets are provided allowing trends to be viewed. Many datasets are broken down to DEA level which helps highlight where there are poorer health outcomes. In addition a comparison has been carried out of the data for the district as a whole and those SOAs which are in the 20% most deprived in Northern Ireland. The report includes many graphs and maps to illustrate the findings. This report summarises those findings highlighting distinctive trends in our district, comparisons with Northern Ireland and evidence of the adverse effects of deprivation on health.

Overview

The Community Plan³ reports that a relatively high percentage of people are in very good health (50.32%). 70.1% of people have no long-term health problems, the second highest of all the Councils in Northern Ireland. There are two major hospitals, Daisy Hill in Newry City and the Downe in Downpatrick. Of 40 health indicators analysed at regional level by the Information Analysis Directorate, the district has health outcomes better than the NI average for 8 indicators, similar to the average for 25 indicators and worse than the NI average for 7 indicators.

Population profile

The future population profile is relevant as it informs health care needs. At June 2018 the estimated population was 180,012, of which 40,701 (22.6%) are children up to 15, (*NI 20.9%*) and 27,805 (15.4%) are 65 and older (*NI 16.4%*). The 'Working Age' (16-64) population is similar to that for NI at 61.9% (*NI 62.7%*).

At the time of writing, the most recent population projections published by NISRA are based on population data from 2018⁴, revised projections were expected to be published in April 2022 but

¹ <u>http://www.newrymournedown.org/developing-your-plan</u>

² <u>https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/hscims-sri-newmoudownlgd-2017.pdf</u>

³ http://www.newrymournedown.org/media/uploads/community_plan_livingwelltogether_apr_17.pdf

⁴ NISRA <u>20184-based Population Projections for Areas within Northern Ireland</u> (Date published: 30 April 2020)

were not available as at May 2022. These show that by the end of the plan period 2030 the population of the district is projected to have increased from its 2018 level by 6% or 11,010. By the end of the projection period in 2043 it will have increased by 10% on the 2018 level. Figure 5.1.1 shows that, as with NI as a whole, the council has an ageing population. This growth of the older age groups will increase the requirement for late and end-of-life care.





On Census Day 2011, there were 22,048 people aged 65+ years living in Newry, Mourne and Down, 46.7% stated they had very good or good health, 39.8% had fair health and the remaining 13.5% had bad or very bad health.

Life expectancy

The life expectancy at birth has increased through the decade and is better than that for NI overall. 2017-19 figures¹ show males are expected to live 79.2 years (*NI 78.8*) and females 83.3 years (*NI 82.6*). In the district's most deprived areas, life expectancy is 1.8 years less than average for males and 0.8 years less for females².

Causes of Death

The three main causes of deaths in the district are cancers, circulatory diseases and respiratory disease which combined accounted for 63% of all deaths in 2019³. NI as a whole registered 17,614 total deaths in 2020, an 11.8 per cent increase on the previous year. Covid-19 was added to the list of possible causes of death in 2020. While LGD figures are not available, at the NI scale Covid-19 accounted for 9% cent of all deaths that year. For deaths registered to cancer, the most common cancer site was the bronchus or lung⁴.

Figure 5.1.2 presents the values for Standardised Death Rate (SDR) due to Preventable and Amenable Causes by DEA. Standardised Death Rate (SDR) due to Preventable Causes is used as one of the indicators of health inequality. The SDR is calculated by standardising the average death rate over a

Source: NISRA mid-2018 population projections: Single year of age, 5 year age bands and gender

¹ NISRA [online] Life Expectancy at Birth and at age 65 (administrative geographies) 2008-2010 to 2017-2019 (Published June 2021) ² Department of Health (2022) Health Inequalities Annual Report 2022

³ Cause of Death Northern Ireland- Additional Statistics: NISRA

⁴ NISRA: Registrar General Annual Report 2020 Cause of Death (Date published: 21 October 2021)

five year period, the most recently published being 2015-19. 'Preventable Causes' are causes of death considered to be preventable by broad public health interventions. Figure 5.1.2 shows that the SDR for preventable deaths 2015-19 has fallen from the figure that it was 2005-2009 in all DEAs except Crotlieve. Overall, Newry, Mourne and Down has a standardised preventable death rate below that for Northern Ireland, however it is considerably higher in the Newry DEA.





The SDR due to Amenable Causes (causes of death considered to be amenable to medical intervention) for 2015-19 was lower in the district (133) than the NI average (139), but the gap between the most deprived DEA (184) and the average for the Council area was 38% and has also increased over 10 years from 24% in 2005-09¹. While the rates of preventable, amenable and avoidable deaths are better than or similar to the NI average for most DEAs they are significantly worse for Newry DEA.

The Health Inequalities Sub-Regional Report also publishes 'Potential Years of Life Lost'. This is a summary measure of premature mortality which provides an explicit way of weighting deaths occurring at younger ages due to preventable or amenable causes. Figure 5.1.3 presents this variable for the DEAs in Newry, Mourne and Down District spatially.

In Newry, Mourne and Down for 2012-2014 this was 8.3 years lost per 100 persons which was 2% lower than the NI average (8.5 years) and the rate has been improving over the past 10 years. However the figure for the most deprived DEA in Newry, Mourne and Down (Newry DEA) was 10.6 years, a difference of 41%. This inequality gap is shown in the report to have fluctuated over the past 10 years but the overall trend is that it is increasing.

Source: Standardised Death Rate - Preventable (administrative geographies) NINIS

¹ NISRA Standardised Death Rate - Amenable (administrative geographies) 2004-08 to 2015-19

Figure 5.1.3: SDR due to Preventable and Amenable Causes and Potential Years of Life Lost for Newry, Mourne and Down District Electoral Areas



DEA better than, similar to or worse than the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council average.

Source: Health Inequalities Sub-regional report 2017: Information Analysis Directorate

Admission Rates

Between 2009 and 2016 the overall Standardised Admission Rate for all hospital admissions in decreased by 1.9% from 25,003 to 3, 377. The rate in 2016 was the third highest of all LGDs and above the average rate for Northern Ireland.

Physical Health

A person is described as having a limiting long term health problem if they have a health problem or disability that limits their daily activities and which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months. This includes problems that are due to old age. Results from the 2011 Census show that in Newry Mourne and Down, 81.4% of people stated their general health was either good or very good (79.5% NI). However, 11.6% of people had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities a lot, and 8.3% of people had long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities a little.

Considering the 65+ age group, we can see that 33.9 % report having their day-to-day activities limited a lot due to long term health problems or disability. However, 42.1% of over 65's in the district reported that their activities were not limited due to ill-health or disability.

Figure 5.1.4 presents the percentage of the population in the district and in Northern Ireland who are reported to live with long-term health conditions. Most conditions were reported as being less frequent in Newry Mourne and Down District with the exceptions being a learning, intellectual, social or behavioural difficulty, and a communication difficulty.

The areas with most people with a limiting long-term illness are within the towns i.e. Ballybot, St. Patricks 2 & Drumgullion 1(Newry City), Donard 1 (Newcastle), Cathedral 2 (Downpatrick) and Ballynahinch East (Ballynahinch). Naturally, where there are higher levels of long-term limiting illness, there are lower levels of people who described their health as being good or very good and vice versa. There are also areas with higher proportions of people providing unpaid care including Dunmore & Castlewellan 1 (Down) and Kilkeel South 1 & Annalong 2 (Newry & Mourne).

In 2011/12, 6% of children in Northern Ireland were disabled compared to 14% of adults of working age and 44% of adults over State Pension age¹. Disability is further discussed under inequalities in this section and in the Community topic.

¹ DSD Family Resources Survey, 2011-12

Figure 5.1.4: % of population with Long-term conditions in Newry Mourne and Down and Northern Ireland



Source: Type of Long-Term Condition: KS302NI (administrative geographies)

Providing Care

At the 2011 census, 11.37% of residents (NI 11.81%) stated that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others in association with a long term physical or mental health problem, or old age.

In 2011/2012, 6% of the population were informal carers and that figure included 7% of working age adults, 9% of State Pension age adults and 1% of children. 62% of reported carers are women. The time spent caring varies from 42% of adult carers providing care for less than 20 hours per week, to 22% caring for 50 hours or more per week.¹

Carers allowance claimants is a measure of the number of people within our district that are dependent on carers. The Community Plan's RoP 2019 identified that the total claimants for carers allowance had a negative change(increased) from 6,850 in 2014 to 7,640 in 2018, the SoP 2021 identifies no change, with 7,630 claimants in 2020.

Physical Activity

Physical activity at the Northern Ireland level has increased from a very low level in 2011 of 34% to 53% in 2013 and 56% in 2019/20². Figure 5.1.5 shows the proportion of the population that participated in sport in 2013/14 at Council level and compares the results to an average figure for Northern Ireland. The proportion of the population participating in sport and physical activity for Newry, Mourne and Down District (48%) was lower than the average for Northern Ireland (53%) in 2013/14 and was the equal second lowest participation rate of all eleven Councils.

¹ DSD Family Resources Survey, 2011-12

 $^{^{\}rm 2}$ NISRA/DfC Statistics on participation in sport: findings from the 2019/20 Continuous Household Survey.



Figure 5.1.5: Participation in Sport and Physical Activity, 2013/14

Source: DfC Continuous Household Survey (2013/14)

More detailed information for 2013/14 shows that, for NI, 28% of people take very little exercise, women are less physically active, less than a fifth of adults do the recommended level of muscle strengthening exercise and only 14% of older people do the recommended amount of balance and coordination exercise. The Health Survey NI 2016/17 found that across NI the level of activity generally correlates with levels of deprivation, with 44% of the most deprived respondents meeting the recommendations¹ compared to 63% for the least deprived quartile. Little difference in activity levels was noted between urban and rural dwellers.

There are many sports grounds, parks and open spaces, a wide variety of environmental designations from local to international importance, footpaths and cycle routes, and other recreational assets in the Council area including many of its tourism assets. These are referred to in the Economy and Employment, Transport and Accessibility and Natural Resources sections of this report.

Looking at more recent data, at a wider scale the Health Survey 2016 recorded higher levels of physical activity, in terms of meeting recommendations², for the Southern HSCT 56.4% and South Eastern HSCT 60.2% than in NI overall (55.1%). Research by the Department for Arts, Culture and Leisure in 2015 for Northern Ireland found that a higher proportion of males (63%) than females (47%) had taken part in at least one sport in the previous year. 50% of adults in NI had participated in walking for recreation in the previous year, 22% in swimming or diving, 16% in keep-fit, aerobics, dance or yoga, 15% in jogging and 15% in cycling for recreation. The proportion of adults who participated in sport or walked for recreation had increased, year on year, over the previous four years.

There are a range of parks and children's play facilities across the district. The area is presently well served by a wide range of formal private recreational clubs including soccer, rugby, cricket, Gaelic games and golf.

The widespread provision of school playing fields throughout the area also offers potential for community use. The Council is also actively involved in community partnerships for the development

¹ 150 minutes per week of moderate activity, 75 minutes per week of vigorous activity, or an equivalent combination of the two.

² 150 minutes per week of moderate activity, 75 minutes per week of vigorous activity, or an equivalent combination of the two.

and operation of recreational sites. The type and distribution of facilities is detailed in Preparatory Study 10: Open Space, Recreation & Leisure 2017¹. This shows, compared to the Fields in Trust guidelines, that there is under-provision of sports pitches if grass pitches in schools are excluded but sufficient provision if these are included.

Outdoor space in terms of children's play provision is focused in the urban areas with the City of Newry, all the towns and all but two of the villages (Attical and Mayobridge) benefiting from a fixed children's play area(s). In addition some smaller settlements also have a fixed children's play area. The Council's play strategy identified a gap in provision in Mayobridge, Ballymartin, Kilmore, Kilclief, Megennis Villas (Newry) and Bannamaghery Villas (Saintfield). Figure 5.1.6 provides information on the geographical distribution of play parks throughout the district that are provided and maintained by the Council. It demonstrates that most of the district's settlements have some form of play park within or near to them.

The Ulster Way route through the area is 200km. There are three national cycle network routes that run through the district. The Regional Route (No. 20) runs along the shore of Strangford Lough from Comber to Downpatrick. The National Route 99 runs along the southern shores of Strangford Lough to Newcastle while the National Route 9 follows the Newry Canal Towpath from Portadown to Newry and then veers off towards Bessbrook and Camlough finishing close to Slieve Gullion Courtyard Complex. CycleNI has identified over twenty additional cycle routes up to 60km in the district. The district is also a popular Mountain Bike destination with two of NI's three National Mountain Bike Trails in Rostrevor and Castlewellan, a regional cycle trail in Castle Ward and a local facility in Tollymore. Green-blue infrastructure is further discussed in Section 5.12, 'Natural Resources'.





Source: NMD Council Sports Facility Strategy

The Council has produced a Sports Facility Strategy 2016. This reflects the wider Strategic Sports Facility Strategy for Northern Ireland (2016), which focuses on the need for future provision that are of cultural significance, as well as those that provide for high performance training and competition. The Strategy states that the majority of Newry, Mourne and Down communities are within the catchment area of an accessible community sports facility. It is proposed to provide a Sports Hub in

¹ <u>http://www.newrymournedown.org/local-development-plan-preparatory-papers</u>

each of the District Electoral Areas (DEAs) over time, however, in the meantime, the Strategy has identified a number of priorities which include the following;

- Development of new and improved playing pitches to a 'Good' Standard.
- Consideration of additional water space provision in Newcastle
- Consideration of the provision of a Tennis Bubble to provide all year round tennis facilities at Newry and Newcastle Tennis Clubs.
- Consider a shared partnership with a school to provide a 400m 6 lane athletics facility in the Downpatrick /Newcastle area.

The strategy also suggests that that there is a need to put in place formal community use agreements to allow the community use of school facilities. The implementation of such agreements would ensure the required supply of sports hall facilities across Newry, Mourne and Down meets demand now and in the future.

Disability Sport

According to Disability Sport NI, people with a disability are less than half as likely to participate in sport as non-disabled people¹.

On Tuesday 10 April 2018, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council launched the district's first Disability Sports Hub. The Disability Sports Hub has a wide variety of disability sports equipment including accessible bikes, sports wheelchairs, Boccia sets and other specialist equipment which is to be shared throughout the district as required.

Children and Physical Activity

ARK (Access Research Knowledge - a joint initiative between Queens University and the University of Ulster) carries out an annual survey of P7-aged children and 16 year olds in NI. Commencing in 2015, ARK has been commissioned by Sport NI to include questions on sport and physical activity in the surveys, to provide a baseline and allow policy progress to be measured^{2,3}.

The surveys found that around half (49%) of P7 children and four out of ten 42% 16 year olds reported that they walked or cycled to and from school. However only a third (32%) of P7 children and less than one in ten (8%) 16-year olds met the United Kingdom (UK) guideline target of a minimum 60 minutes of physical activity per day. Large proportions of children are therefore are not engaging regularly in physical activity. One in ten children felt they could not play freely with their friends in their community and children reported being able to play more freely with friends in school (84%), compared with being able to play with friends when in their communities or homes (77%). Children reported feeling safer when playing in school (89%), compared with feeling safe when playing in their communities or homes (73%). This reflects the findings of several UK studies⁴ which found, among other things, that a fifth of children did not play outside at all on an average day and less than one in ten children regularly played in wild spaces compared to half of children a generation ago.

- ² Schubotz, D., Lloyd, K. & McKnight, M. (2016) 'A Question of Sport Perspectives of Children and Young People' ARK Research Update 107.
- ³ McQuade, L., Kehoe, S. & Emerson, L. (2015) <u>'Are children getting the opportunities to realise their right to play?'</u> ARK Research Update 98

¹ Continuous Household Survey 2014/15: Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

⁴ The Guardian, 25th March 2016 (Three-quarters of UK children spend less time outdoors than prison inmates – survey' (accessed 28.11.17)



Figure 5.1.7: 5-18 year olds participating in physical activity by deprivation quintile (NI)

Source: Information Analysis Directorate's Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitude Survey 2016 (Health Modules) p20.

The Information Analysis Directorate's Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitude Survey 2016 (Health Modules) found that 8% of children and young people aged 5-18 do not achieve 60 minutes of moderate physical activity even one day a week. As shown in Figure 5.1.7 the survey also found that that although the number of children achieving 7 days of physical exercise is similar between the most deprived and least deprived quintiles, there are a quarter fewer from the most deprived areas achieving 4 days or more (43%) compared with the least deprived (57%). Boys (17%) are twice as likely as girls (8%) to achieve 60 minutes every day.

Infant and Child Health

Infant mortality rates within the district since 2011 are slightly better than the NI average at 4.3 per 1,000 (NI: 4.6)¹. The rate of infant mortality in NI is higher than in the rest of the UK and in 2014 and 2015 was one of the highest rates in Europe. The State of Child Health Report 2017² highlights that in the UK, socio-economic status is strongly associated with infant mortality, with increasing risk associated with higher levels of maternal deprivation. There is a higher incidence of poor ante-natal health among expectant mothers in deprived areas. Conditions related to preterm birth are the most common causes of death in infancy. Deprivation is also linked with higher rates of avoidable deaths in infants.

The death rate in NI for older children aged 10-19 is also higher in NI at 26.2 per 100,000 population than in England and Wales (16.7 per 100,000). Suicide, injuries /violence and road traffic deaths are among the mains causes of death in teenagers with the risk of dying for young men is notably higher than for young women. Deprivation and mental health problems were noted to increase the risk of death throughout adolescence.

Obesity

In the HSNI 2019/2020, in the adult population across NI, 38% had a BMI classed as overweight and 27% as obese (including morbidly obese). As a ten year trend from 2010/11, the proportion falling within the overweight category has remained stable however the proportion in the obese categories is increasing. Males and those in older age groups were more likely to be obese.

The HSNI 2019/20 also reported that across NI, 20% of children (2 years to 15 years) were classed as overweight and 6% as obese when measured by International Obesity Task Force cut-off points increasing to 16% and 18% respectively when measured by UK standards of 91st and 98th centiles³.

 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ NISRA Infant Mortality Rate (administrative geographies) 2006-2010 to 2015-2019

² Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (2017) State of Child Health

³ Department of Health: Health survey Northern Ireland: first results 2020/21 <u>Trend Tables</u>
The trends have remained stable over the previous decade back to 2010/11. NISRA data show that, although the district has a below average proportion of Primary 1 and Year 8 children with a BMI falling under the 'overweight or obese' range, over one fifth (21%) of P1 children and one quarter of Y8 children (26.5%) fell under this category¹ over the 2017-19 reporting period. Around 5% of pupils are in the 'obese' BMI range. The Community Plan's RoP 2019 and SoP 2021 indicate a 'no change' trend.

Mental Health

The Health Survey NI 2019/20 reported that across NI almost one in five respondents (19%) scored highly on the GHQ12² (General Health Questionnaire) suggesting they may have a possible mental health problem. This metric is included as a PfG indicator and the proportion has remained relatively stable since 2010/1.

There is limited data on mental health at council level. The standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety has shown an increasing trend in Northern Ireland and in Newry Mourne and Down since 2010. It is consistently slightly better in our council at 210 per 100,000 (*NI: 219*) in 2019, having risen from 180 in 2010³. There is significant variation across the district, ranging from 185 for Crotlieve DEA to 230 and 233 for Downpatrick and Newry DEAs respectively, in 2019.

The Community Plan's RoP 2019 and SoP 2021 have recorded a positive change (decrease) in the Standardised Admission rate for self harm. The 2015/16-2019/20 rate for the district was 112, a decrease from 219 in 2010/11-2012/13. Again, there is considerable variation between DEAs, from 81 in Crotleive DEA to 231 in Newry DEA⁴.

The Community Plan's RoP 2019 recorded a negative change (increase) in the suicide rate, which rose from 13.6 (2009-13) to 16.1 (2013-17). A positive change (15.8 in 2014-18) was then found in the SoP 2011. Since 2010, the rate for males has consistently been 3 - 4 times that for females. Figure 5.1.8 presents the suicide rate for Northern Ireland compared to that for Newry, Mourne and Down District and for the most deprived DEAs in the district. Although the overall rate remains similar to the Northern Ireland rate, it is markedly higher in the most deprived DEAs.





Source: Health Inequalities Sub-regional report 2017: Information Analysis Directorate

¹ NISRA Childhood BMI (administrative geographies) 2010-2012 to 2017-2019

² The General Health Questionnaire (GHQ) 12 is a screening device for identifying minor psychiatric disorders in the general population and within community or non-psychiatric clinical settings.

³ NISRA Standardised Mood & Anxiety Prescription Rate (administrative geographies) 2010-2019

⁴ NISRA Standardised Admission Rate for Self Harm Admissions (administrative geographies) 2006-2010 to 2014-2018

Well-being

The Office of National Statistics reports annually on estimates of life satisfaction, whether you feel the things you do in life are worthwhile, happiness and anxiety at the UK, country, regional and local authority level.

In the period 2012/13-2014/15 the ONS report that people in Newry Mourne and Down rate their life satisfaction at 7.8 out of 10, and 'the things they do in life are worthwhile' 8 out of 10.

In the period 2012/13-2014/15 the ONS reported that people in Newry Mourne and Down gave a scoring for how happy they felt yesterday of 7.6 out of 10. Finally, for the same period, the rating for how anxious people felt [on the previous day] was 2.7 out of 10 for Newry, Mourne and Down.

Noise

Newry, Mourne and Down district has among the lowest rate of noise complaints of all LGDs, with 2.5 per 1,000 (*NI average 6.29*) for 2017¹. The majority of noise complaints in 2017 were in relation to domestic noise, however transport and industrial noise also formed an important proportion of complaints. Commercial and leisure noise attracted the fewest complaints.

The Environmental Noise Directive requires Member States to 'preserve environmental noise quality where it is good' through the identification and protection of designated Quiet Areas within agglomerations, however no settlements reach the threshold of 100,000.

DAERA has developed its own approach to the identification and designation of Quiet Areas set out in policy guidance on the identification, designation and management of quiet areas (September 2016). Noise maps have been produced based on 2011 data for the following sources and are available at www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/noise

- major roads roads with more than 3 million vehicle passages annually
- major railways railways with more than 30,000 train passages annually
- major airports airports with more than 50,000 movements annually
- agglomerations urban areas with more than 100,000 inhabitants, taking into account the above sources and additionally, other roads, railways, aircraft movements and industrial premises

In accordance with legislation, noise modelling and mapping has been carried out over two stages for major roads (roads with more than 3 million vehicle passages annually), major railways (railways with more than 30,000 train passages annually), major airports (airports with more than 50,000 movements annually) and agglomerations (urban areas with more than 100,000 inhabitants), taking into account the above sources and additionally, other roads, railways, aircraft movements and industrial premises. There are no agglomerations, airports or railways that meet the thresholds for noise mapping within the district, however noise modelling has been carried out within the Council area for the A1. The noise mapping in Figure 5.1.9 shows that the major roads can be significant sources of environmental noise and has allowed areas where people or properties may be exposed to adverse levels of noise to be identified. DAERA can designate quiet areas, however none have been designated in our district and there are no candidate Noise Management Areas or Quiet Areas.

¹ NISRA Noise Complaints (administrative geographies) 2003-2017



Figure 5.1.9: Round 2 Noise mapping for roads carrying more than 3 million vehicles annually

 L_{day} is the L_{Aeq} over the period 0700 – 1900, local L_{ngt} is the L_{Aeq} over the period 2300 – 0700, local time (for strategic noise mapping this is an annual average).

Source: Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs - Air and Environmental Quality Unit via OpenData NI

Health Care Facilities and Ambulance Response Times

The Department of Health (DoH) has overall responsibility for health policy and funding of major capital works. It is the responsibility of the Health and Social Care Board to assess the health and social care needs of the population and to secure the care to meet those needs in keeping with available resources. Provision of community health and social care in the district is the responsibility of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT) which covers the Newry and Mourne area and the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT) which covers the Down area.

Daisy Hill in Newry is the only acute Hospital in the district. Daisy Hill provides a 24 hour Emergency Department, a Maternity Department, Special Care Baby Unit, Inpatient beds in Medicine, Stroke, Rehabilitation, Surgery, Gynaecology, ENT and Paediatrics. Further facilities include a Coronary Care Unit, Day Procedure Unit and adult Haemodialysis Unit. Daisy Hill provides diagnostic services for example radiology and cardiology and therapeutic services such as Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Podiatry, Dietetics and Orthoptics. A range of Mental Health Services and a GP out-of-hours service are also provided on site. Daisy Hill Hospital has been subject to an on-going programme of modernisation and development to include a new area-wide Paediatric Centre of Excellence Work began which was due to be completed in 2017.

Downe Hospital serves as a local hospital in Downpatrick with a type 2 Emergency Department operating from 8am – 8pm (Mon-Fri) and a Minor Injuries Unit operating at weekends. The GP Out-of-Hours Service operates on site and there is also a midwifery led Maternity Unit. The Downe provides some regional services as well as a range of out-patient and diagnostics.

As part of the 'Transforming your Care' initiative the SHSCT announced plans to develop a Community Treatment and Care Centre (CTCC) in Newry. The proposals create a new Health and Leisure hub by co locating the new CTCC and Newry Leisure Centre on one site. The building would incorporate GP Practices, Podiatry, Physiotherapy, Hydrotherapy, Imaging, Speech and Language, Dentistry, Orthoptics, Audiology, Mental Health, Children's Services and will act as an administrative centre for Trust Healthcare. The proximity of the proposal to Daisy Hill Hospital facilitates the shared use of existing health services whilst establishing a core of health services in a recognised location in the city.

In 2014/15 there were 49 GP Surgeries in the district with 181,808 people registered with a GP Practice, 31.5% of those people were aged 50+ years. There are 27 Dental Surgeries registered with the two Health Trusts in the district as well as a number of private dental practices.

There are a number of facilities available for care for the elderly and other vulnerable groups such as those with learning difficulties. The majority of these facilities are privately run. While they are independent of the health trusts they are registered with, and inspected by, the RQIA. These comprise 21 Day Care Facilities, 26 Nursing Homes, 19 Residential Care Homes and 33 Domiciliary Care Providers in the district.

The Local Development Plan can aid a joined-up approach ensure there is the necessary flexibility to meet health care need as and when it arises. Future proposals for health services can be reflected in the LDP with necessary land being protected for that use by designating land use zonings.

NISRA provides ambulance and fire response times annually from 2010. The median ambulance response time in the district of 26:27 in 2020 was notably higher than the NI average (18:12) and has increased year-on-year from 11:21 in 2015 (*NI: 09:59*).

There are additional provisions for emergency response which are not accounted for in these figures. These are Rapid Response Vehicles and paramedics and Community First Responders who may be the first person to arrive on the scene in rural areas and are trained to provide life-saving treatment while waiting on an ambulance or rapid response vehicle. An Air Ambulance service has been in operation in NI since July 2017 and this can reach anywhere in NI in approximately twenty-five to thirty minutes. The rapid response is vital in an emergency and Air Ambulance NI has a mission to provide outstanding critical care where and when it is needed most¹.

Fire response times have generally decreased for NI and for the district to 8 minutes 52 seconds for our district which is 2 minutes 26 seconds slower than the NI average.

Inequalities

Health inequalities are the differences in health that occur within a population which is a direct result of their social circumstance. There are many social causes to health inequalities that may include where someone is born, lives or works.

The Community plan notes that in relative terms Newry, Mourne and Down has few areas that can be described as highly deprived in the Northern Ireland context and the Council area overall compares well in terms of health indicators. However it is recognised that these small number of areas will be disproportionately represented in premature deaths generally, suicides, admissions to hospitals for drugs, alcohol or self-harm. Those who live in the most deprived 20% of areas in Northern Ireland (including 11 areas in Newry, Mourne and Down) are twice as likely to die under the age of 75, three times as likely to die of lung cancer or suicide, four times as likely to be admitted to hospital for self-harm or die of alcohol or drug related conditions as those who live in the least deprived 20% of areas. The community plan also refers to the rural nature of our District which can also mean that vulnerable people aren't as connected to or able to access the support services they need to ensure good wellbeing.

New statistics measuring the geographical distribution of deprivation or disadvantage were published by NISRA in November 2017. The updated Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM2017) replace the NIMDM 2010, however the older NIMDM2010 has been used for the Health Inequalities Report discussed below. Those Super Output Areas² (SOAs) which are in the 20% most deprived areas (ranked 1-178) in terms of health and disability are shown to the right side of Figure 5.1.10. The Health Deprivation and Disability Domain identifies proportions of the population whose quality of life is impaired by poor health or disability. It can be seen that the highest ranked (most deprived) SOAs are clustered within the settlements of Newry, Downpatrick and Newcastle although some outlying rural areas are also identified.

¹ Air Ambulance Northern Ireland [online] 'About AANI' (found at <u>www.airambulanceni.org [accessed 22/06/2020])</u>

² Super Output Areas are statistical geography boundaries created by NISRA to allow the reporting of small area statistics.



Figure 5.1.10: Health Deprivation and Disability Domain Rank 2017 from NIMDM20017.

Source: NINIS Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, Health Deprivation and Disability Domain.

The Health Inequalities Annual Report compares trends in indicators of health across deprivation levels within the five Health and Social Care Trust areas and the eleven LGD areas.

The 2022 report¹ found that over the past five years inequality gaps in Newry, Mourne and Down have narrowed (improved) for sixteen of the indicators, remained unchanged or were fluctuating for 23 the indicators and have widened for 11 of the indicators. The five health indicators with the widest inequality gap are shown on the graphic in Figure 5.1.11. The indicators with the largest deprivation equality gaps, the most notable narrowed deprivation inequality gaps and the most notable widened deprivation inequality gaps are all presented in Figure 5.1.12. The most notable outcomes that are worse than the NI average are respiratory admissions and circulatory admissions. Health outcomes that were better than the NI average include Covid-19 mortality and drug-related admissions and mortality.

Figure 5.1.11: Widest Deprivation	Inequality Gaps for Newry,	, Mourne and Down District (2022)
	mequality cape for field y	

Newry, Mourne	SDR Drug Related	SDR Alcohol	Teenage Birth	SAR Alcohol	SAR Self-Harm
& Down LGD	(86%)	Specific (73%)	Rate (U20) (71%)	Related (59%)	(55%)
	ALC: NO DECISION	N N 1847	N 100 020	2 Č	

Figure 5.1.12: Newry, Mourne and Down District health outcomes against NI Average (2022)

	Better Than	Similar To	Worse Than
Newry, Mourne & Down	14	23	15

Source: Health Inequalities Annual Report 2022, p38, 39.

Safety

The total number of road traffic collisions with police-recorded injuries in Newry Mourne and Down in 2017 was 924, which represented 10% of the NI total for that year (up from 871 in 2016). One eighth

¹ Department of Health (2022) <u>Health Inequalities Annual Report 2022</u>

(12.7%) of these road traffic collisions resulted in driver or passenger(s) being killed or seriously injured.

Radon

Radon is a natural radioactive gas that occurs at low levels outside but which can become concentrated in enclosed places, such as houses, workplaces and other buildings. Long-term exposure to radon increases the risk of lung cancer, particularly in smokers. After smoking, radon exposure is the second greatest cause of lung cancer. It is estimated to cause 30 deaths per year in NI.

An indicative atlas of Radon levels in homes throughout Northern Ireland has been published by Public Health England with the Geological Survey. An extract from this atlas is shown below in Figure 5.1.12. The darker colours on the radon map indicate a greater probability of high radon levels in a building. The government has recommended that householders take action to reduce their radon levels where they exceed the 'action level' of 200 Becquerels per cubic metre.

Figure 5.1.12: Extract from 'Radon in Northern Ireland: Indicative Atlas' showing Newry and Mourne area



Source: Public Health England / British Geological Society 'Radon in Northern Ireland: Indicative Atlas' 2015

The atlas shows that there is a 10% or greater probability of exceeding the recommended action level for Radon in the Ring of Gullion, Mournes and Lecale areas. The map helps to inform where measurement of Radon levels may be required at dwellings, and if necessary, where action may be required to protect homes.

5.1.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new LDP in place, the Regional Development Strategy (RDS), the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and relevant planning policy statements (PPSs), would still be applied. However, adverse baseline trends relevant to health and well-being, such as below average levels of physical activity and outdoor leisure time for residents within the Council area may continue. Opportunities to improve the large discrepancies in health and well-being between the most deprived communities and the average in the Council area could be missed. The opportunity to plan strategically for an environment that encourages active travel and physical activity and to improve the environment and accessibility to services in the most deprived areas could also be missed.

Some of the measures of health disease may be exacerbated if there is no change or a deterioration in environmental conditions. While there are other environmental controls in place, the lack of a plan would mean that there is less opportunity to site development to reduce negative interactions between uses.

The LDP could support national and regional strategies, through planning and designing development to ensure high standards of homes which support people through all stages of life, enabling access to healthcare facilities and helping enhance living and working environments in areas of greatest deprivation. It can promote accessible spaces for all ages and active travel to incentivise physical activity and encourage social interaction as well as protecting and enhancing the environment to minimise adverse effects on health and to support healthy living.

5.1.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Health and Well-being

- Population trends indicate an increasing and ageing population in the district, with a greater proportion of over 65s and over 85s in the total population by 2030.
- There is a need to meet the future needs for care and support for older people at home or in communal homes, and to improve access to health services, other facilities and services.
- Although activity rates in the district are higher than the NI average, there is a need to promote and incentivise regular participation in physical activity through provision of and ensuring good accessibility to sports facilities, open space, green infrastructure and walking and cycling routes.
- There will be an increasing need to create accessible means for older people to engage in physical activity to prolong their healthy lives.
- Newry, Mourne and Down has a very accessible natural environment with forest parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and other open spaces with many walking and cycling trails.
- Less than half of children in NI walk or cycle to school and there is a particular need for children to have accessible play in places where they feel safe.
- Although levels of childhood obesity in the district are lower than the NI average, obesity levels in NI and the UK are high by global standards, reflecting poor diet and a relatively sedentary lifestyle.
- While mental health indicators on average show similar levels to NI, there is evidence of poorer mental health in the most deprived parts of the council.
- Noise and environmental quality are not identified as being significant adverse effects at present, however they can impact on health and therefore environmental quality should be improved, or sustained where it is good, to minimise adverse health impacts.
- Road safety for all users should be a key consideration of planning and design.
- The location of and access to emergency services can affect response times. Rural areas require accessibility to general practice and non-emergency healthcare services.
- Although many indicators of health are better than average in the district, there are inequalities in health and well-being. Many indicators are significantly worse in the most deprived areas.
- Development should be located to avoid potential use conflicts and planned/designed to connect with public open space, walking and cycling routes and other recreational facilities where possible.
- Good spatial planning can reduce health inequalities by providing a high standard of design and place making, open space, capacity for any additional services required and accessibility.
- Significant parts of the district have an increased probability of the incidence of Radon at actionable levels.

5.2 Community

5.2.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Community considers demographics, community identity, shared space, prosperity and social inclusion, crime prevention and community safety, good relations and the rural population.

An understanding of changes in the makeup of the population informs future needs for the plan area for housing, employment, infrastructure, facilities and amenities. Models of the future population take account of other policies, net migration and, for example, health initiatives, which are likely to have an influence on births, deaths. A consistent requirement of policies related to the various demographic groups is the need to incorporate equality of treatment and opportunity.

Delivering Social Change, an NI Executive Programme, seeks to reduce inequalities, often through targeted approaches, and the draft Programme for Government 2021 includes an outcome that 'We have an equal and inclusive society where everyone is valued and treated with respect' which includes measures to promote inclusion, reduce poverty, and promote and provide access to public services.

The Regional Strategic Objectives of the SPPS include 'sustain a vibrant rural community by supporting rural economic development of an appropriate nature and scale'. The draft Marine Plan also includes the objective to 'promote the development of vibrant, accessible and sustainable coastal communities'. Regional policy seeks to enable people to live and work in rural communities with reasonable provision of facilities while retaining the intrinsic character and value of our countryside and small communities. This echoes the Rural White Paper Action Plan which also refers to improved infrastructure, transport and key services; strong community infrastructure which can avail of economic, social and cultural opportunities; and better linkages between rural and urban areas.

There is growing recognition of the need for provision to take account of the varying needs of different age groups. The World Health Organisation promotes "an Age-friendly world is a place that enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities. It is a place that treats everyone with respect, regardless of their age. It is a place that makes it easy to stay connected to those around you and those you love. It is a place that helps people stay healthy and active even at the oldest ages. It is a place that helps those who can no longer look after themselves to live with dignity and enjoyment." This is reflected in the objectives of the Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Strategy 2017-2027 and the Active Ageing Strategy 2016-2021.

Together: Building a United Community is another Executive programme and has a vision for "a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance". It includes a commitment to create a 10-year Programme to reduce, and remove by 2023, all interface barriers including an Interface Barrier Support Package.

Our Council has developed a Good Relations programme¹, which aims to encourage and support activity that promotes good relations between people from different backgrounds to help improve people's quality of life. In seeking to do so, the Council's Engagement Section works with a range of local community, voluntary and statutory organisations and other sectors to deliver the Good Relations Programme.

The 'Community Safety Action Plan' includes the action for Councils 'to support a sense of pride and ownership within neighbourhoods, deter anti-social behaviour and to address growing amenity problems associated with dilapidated or unsightly buildings and neglected sites'.

¹ Newry, Mourne and Down District Council [online] Good Relations Programme (found at <u>http://www.newrymournedown.org/good-relations-programme (accessed May 2022)</u>

Our Corporate Plan 2021-23¹ includes strategic objectives to "enable and support people to engage in inclusive and diverse activities in their communities" to "promote the revitalisation of our city, towns, villages and rural communities" and to "provide accessible, high-quality and integrated services through continuous improvement". While these are short-term two-year objectives, the LDP can create the conditions to support these actions in the future.

One of the five outcomes of Living Well Together, our Community Plan to 2030, is 'All people in Newry, Mourne and Down live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities'. Progress towards achieving this is to be measured by indicators relating to levels of social connections, social capital, civic participation and personal safety and crime rate. The Indicators and Measures section of Living Well Together explains why the chosen indicators matter and data for each indicator is provided.

Actions to address the indicators will be delivered through District Wide Delivery Plans taken forward by our four Thematic Groups one of which is Safety and Good Relations. While each of the Thematic Groups will take lead responsibility for a number of indicators, as outlined above, it is likely that all of the thematic groups will in some way, impact on Social Capital. Cross-cutting elements of tackling inequalities, and early intervention and prevention will permeate through each of the Delivery Plans.

A Police and Community Safety Partnership has been established in Newry, Mourne and Down. The purpose of this group is to help make communities safer and to ensure that the voices of local people are heard on policing and community safety issues.

5.2.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is available on the Community Plan 'Developing Your Plan²' page, where a Community Plan Baseline Evidence Report is available together with individual reports for each indicator. Data has also been sourced from the Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Papers 1: 'Population & Growth' (2014 – 2015) and 1st Revision 2015 and Paper 14: 'Education, Health and Community Services' (2017). The Community Plan's first two year Review of Progress 2017-19 (RoP 2019) and Statement of Progress 2019-2021 (SoP 2021) have also been referred to.

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is the principal source of official statistics and social research on Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Inequalities Monitoring System enables the examination of health inequalities within sub-regions of Northern Ireland and includes a comparison between the average and the most deprived areas in each geographical area. This topic overlaps with the Health and Wellbeing, Housing, Transport and Accessibility, Natural Resources and Historic Environment topics.

Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) data in general and its Area Profile for our district have been important data sources. The baseline data also refers to the 2011 Equality Awareness Survey of over 1,000 people which measured attitudes towards specific equality groups and perceptions and experiences of unfair treatment.

Population

Population trends are largely influenced by other factors such as birth and death rate, which in turn reflect many other factors such as health. Migration is subject to external influences such as national policy and the regional economy, however it can also be directly influenced by the physical, economic and social environment. Planning can have an influence on this by creating the conditions for investment and place-shaping to make the area more attractive to live in.

The increasing population and changing demography of the district's population has been described in section 5.1.2. The number of residents aged 65 and over expected to increase from 40,018 in 2018 to 50,604 in 2030 and 58,675 by 2043. In addition the number of residents aged 0-15 is expected to

¹Newry Mourne and Down District Council (2021) Phlean Corparáideach 2021-2023 Corporate Plan 2021-2023

² <u>http://www.newrymournedown.org/developing-your-plan</u>

decrease during the plan period¹. These demographic 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 5.2.1 shows how the age structure has changed between 2010 and 2020 with significant increases in the 45-64 (+45%), 65-74 (+55%) and 75+ (+59%) bands. The population in the 16-24 age band decreased over this period by 6%.



Figure 5.2.1: Population by age, 2010 and 2020

Source: NISRA Mid-Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland, 2020

Figure 5.2.2 considers the distribution of the under 16 and over 65 age groups. The population under 16 is greatest in the areas with larger towns and lower in Lecale, Mournes and Gullion. By comparison the population of over 65s, while higher in the towns, is also higher in Mourne and Lecale.

Figure 5.2.2: Spatial Representations of the population under 16 and over 65 from the 2015 Estimates of the 2011 Census.



Source: 2011 Census

¹ NISRA Mid-2018 Population Projections: Single year of age, 5 year age bands and gender (Administrative Areas) 2018-2043

² Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) NMD Area Profile 2017

³ NISRA Car or Van Availability: KS405NI (administrative geographies).

Religious belief

LDP Preparatory Study Paper 1 (as revised) describes the district profile in relation to religion. The overall Newry, Mourne and Down population has a strong majority Catholic background in comparison to NI. The majority of SOAs are fairly evenly mixed though quite a few can be identified as being either predominantly (more than 70%) Catholic or Protestant/Other Christian. The designation of settlements and provision of development opportunities needs to be carefully considered against the needs and spatial distribution of people of different religion or political opinion to prevent prejudice of any religious or political group and thus meet the requirements of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act. Therefore the Plan should where possible, aim to provide land for services, housing and employment accessible to all.

Political opinion

LDP Preparatory Study Paper 1 (as revised) describes the district profile in relation to political opinion based on voting pattern. There a number of caveats and there is variation across the district however first preference votes for Nationalist parties were about two thirds of all votes in 2011 and 2014, for Unionist parties a quarter and other parties/independents under 10%¹.

Country of Birth and Ethnic Group

LDP Preparatory Study Paper 1 (as revised) describes the district profile in relation to race and ethnicity. In 2001, 9% of Northern Ireland's population were born outside the region. The percentage born outside NI was similar for Down (8.68%) with Newry & Mourne higher at 10%. By 2011, this proportion had increased to 11.16% for N. Ireland compared to 11.94% of the Newry, Mourne and Down population.

The majority of non-indigenous people were born either in the Republic of Ireland, the UK or in Europe. The remainder comprises people born in countries outside Europe. Newry, Mourne and Down, as a district that borders the Republic of Ireland, has a notable percentage of people who were born in the Republic of Ireland (3.19% in NMD compared to 2.09% in Northern Ireland).

Racial ethnicity remains predominantly 'white', with almost 99% of the district described in this category on census day in 2011. Other ethnic groups including Chinese, Indian and Mixed comprise very small numbers. Newry, Mourne and Down has significantly more people within the Irish Traveller ethnic group (0.11%) than the NI average (0.07%).

The 2011 Equality Awareness Survey found that in NI, although attitudes towards the different ethnic groups were generally positive, negative attitudes existed towards Travellers (30%) and Eastern European migrant workers (21%).

Age

The changing age structure of the population is illustrated in Figure 5.2.1. Different age groups have particular needs, for example safe access to age appropriate play and recreational facilities for children and young people and greater need for accessibility to health facilities for older people. However many of the needs overlap for example for access to public transportation, open space, leisure and cultural facilities. A 2016 Age NI Survey for NI found that the main concerns for older people are

- Access to Health and Social Care 69.3%
- Transport 50.6%
- Keeping Warm in winter/Energy prices 49.3%
- Fear of Crime 48.2%

¹ <u>http://www.newrymournedown.org/media/uploads/ldp_paper_1b_(1st_revision)-_pop_and_growth-data_update.docx</u> page 22

Marital status

Between 2001 and 2011¹, there has been an increase in the proportion of single people in NI. In the Newry & Mourne and Down Council areas, the trend is similar, albeit with a slightly higher proportion of married people and lower proportion of divorced people. Increases in 'single' may be deceptive – increasing numbers of couples may choose not to marry, e.g. the Registrar General's report of 2020 notes that 48% of births in 2020 occurred outside of marriage, compared to only 18% three decades ago.

Single people may have different housing requirements and may have less purchasing power or different social needs to those who are married. Young single people may be a key consideration in the economy of town centres, as they can provide a significant part of the market for the evening economy, for example in pubs, clubs and restaurants. However, single people may also experience social exclusion, particularly the elderly, disabled and single parents.

Sexual orientation

Data on sexual orientation are not available at local government level and there are no direct measures. Therefore, while it can be assumed that the population includes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, there is no indicator of the proportion of the population represented by these groups. The 2011 Equality Awareness Survey did illustrate negative attitudes towards transgender persons (22%) and although negative attitudes towards lesbian, gay or bisexual persons decreased from 21% in 2008 to 15% in 2011, the change was to neutral rather than positive views.

Gender

On Census Day 27th March 2011, 49.6% of the usually resident population were male and 50.4% were female.

Persons with a disability and persons without

In 2017 Personal Independence Payment (PIP) began replacing Disability Living Allowance (DLA) as a benefit to support for persons under state pension age that require extra help because of an illness, disability or mental health condition expected to last 12 months or longer. Figure 5.2.3 shows the number of claimants in receipt of DLA and PIP in Newry Mourne and Down and demonstrates a gradually increasing trend, as is the case for NI. Age-band data for PIP claimants are not available, however Figure 5.2.4 shows the age bands for DLA claimants 2014-17.



Figure 5.2.3 DLA and PIP Claimants in Newry Mourne and Down 2014-2020

Source: NISRA: Disability Living Allowance Recipients 2011-2020 and Personal Independence Payment Recipients (administrative geographies) 2018-2020

¹ http://www.newrymournedown.org/media/uploads/ldp paper 1b (1st revision)- pop and growth-data update.docx page 14



Figure 5.2.4 Disability Allowance Recipients Newry Mourne and Down 2014-2017

Source: NINIS: Disability Allowance Recipients (administrative geographies)

In 2012/13, 7% of children in Northern Ireland were disabled compared to 17% of adults of working age and 46% of adults over state pension age¹. Disability is further discussed in the Health and Wellbeing topic.

People with dependents and people without

A 'dependent child' is defined as 0-15 or aged 16-18 who is a full- time student and living in a family with his or her parent(s) or grandparent(s) (Census 2011). Overall, the proportion of households (including lone parent households) with dependent children has declined since 1981, although the percentage in Newry, Mourne & Down remains considerably higher than the NI average. Other than Clonallan 2 (Warrenpoint) and Cathedral 1 (Downpatrick), the areas with higher proportions of dependent children are within the rural area, such as Burren and Kilbroney 2 & Mayobridge 2 (Newry & Mourne), Castlewellan 2 & Killough 2 (Down).

The fall in the percentage of households with dependent children is another reason why the average household size has declined. However, a significant proportion of Newry, Mourne & Down SOAs have a large household size which remains well above the Northern Ireland average.



Figure 5.2.5: Households with Dependent Children: Census 1981- 2011

Deprivation

The proportion of individuals in Newry, Mourne and Down living in relative poverty (living in a household with an equivalised income below 60% of the UK median income) has decreased from 24%

Source: Table KS105NI Northern Ireland Census 2011 Key Statistics Summary Report Published Sept 2014

¹ DSD Family Resources Survey, September 2014

to 21% over the decade since the 2009-11 reporting period, as shown in Figure 5.2.6. However, it remains higher than the NI average.



Figure 5.2.6 Relative Poverty

Source: NINIS Poverty Grouped Years (administrative geographies) - (2009-11, 2013-15, 2017-19)

Another measure is found in the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2010. Summary Measures have been produced for the new LGDs. Local Government Districts (2014) are ordered from most deprived to least deprived on each indicator of deprivation and then assigned a rank. The most deprived Local Government District (2014) is ranked 1 and the least deprived Local Government District (2014) has a rank of 11.

The NIMDM 2017 shows that of the 84 SOAs making up the Council area, there are 18 that have a multiple deprivation measures (MDM) rank within the 20% most deprived SOAs in NI. 27 are in the 20% most deprived areas in terms of income and 15 in terms of Crime and Disorder.

The Multiple Deprivation Measure (MDM) combines the seven deprivation domains to rank areas based on multiple types of deprivation. These are presented spatially in Figure 5.2.10 and the darker blue represents the SOA's with the greatest levels of multiple deprivation. It highlights high rankings for multiple deprivation are evident in Newry and Downpatrick and in the smaller settlements such as Ballynahinch and Newcastle. Some rural areas also ranked highly for this measure particularly in the west of the district.



Figure 5.2.10: Multiple Deprivation 2017 in Newry, Mourne and Down

Source: NIMDM 2017 – interactive maps

Rural

The NISRA Urban-Rural Classification 2015¹ identified 14.1% of the district as urban, 13.5% as being mixed rural/urban and 72.4% as being rural. Across NI more people (68.7%) are urban dwellers and 31.3% are rural dwellers.

There has been population growth between 2001-2011 at the village level of the district from 17.60% to 20.16% as a proportion of the district population and also a decline of the district's two main settlements (Newry & Downpatrick) as a proportion of the district's population from 25.02% to 22.02%.

Figure 5.2.11 presents the most deprived rural SOAs within Northern Ireland in 2017. Those in NMD are marked in yellow and this demonstrates a high level of deprivation in rural communities.

£ 2 EDUCATION, SKILLS AND INCOME EMPLOYMENT HEALTH AND DISABILITY TRAINING Bessbrook 1 74 Castlederg 113 Castlederg 61 <mark>128</mark> 139 stlewellan 1 orkhill 2 103 Portaferry 2 Silver Bridge Portaferry 2 147 Ballylough and Bushmills Crossmagle 109 Crossmaglen Ardglass 1 150 Sion Mills 175 **13** 14 126 Fintona <mark>161</mark> 176 190 Millisle 1 207 Sion Mills Enagh 1 130 131 Bessbrool Sion Mills 22 Keady 178 Ardboe 208 Portavogie 1 31 Newtownbutler 150 Newtowns 181 Fintona 218 Ballywalter 1 151 Dungiven 229 230 Lisnaskea Newtownstewart 36 37 Silver Bridge 2 Belleek and Boa 204 164 Lisnaskea Irvinestowr Ä 0 MDM Ħ MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION ACCESS TO SERVICES LIVING ENVIRONMENT CRIME AND DISORDER Rank Ranl Ranl 179 200 Lisnaskea Kircubbin 2 57 Plumbridge 16 Glenarm 72 90 Creggan Glenderg Silver Bridge 1 Belcoo and Garrison <mark>35</mark> 51 52 Glenarm Island Magee 208 Irvinestown 3 Ballymacbrennan 2 <mark>4</mark> 5 257 Enagh 1 94 Rosslea 100 Forkhill 2 53 57 60 62 Drumbo 1 259 Ardglass 1 Newtownha 6 Dunnamore 266 Sion Mills Keady Trillick Killinchy 1 277 112 Newtownbutle 278 114 Rosslea 8 Sixmilecross Fintona Dundooan 1 Keady Owenkillew 75 Aldergrove 1 279 Whitehead 125 132 10 280 Lissan Ballykelly

Figure 5.2.11: Most deprived rural SOAs within Northern Ireland 2017

Source: NINIS Deprivation Statistics for Super Output Area

Crime

The Newry, Mourne and Down Policing District covers the district. Communities living in Newry City, Mourne & Down District now have four Local Policing Teams (LPTs), based in Newry, Newtownhamilton, Downpatrick and Crossmaglen Police Stations, providing 24 hour cover to continue keeping local people safe right across the district. These officers are supported by three Neighbourhood Policing Teams, based in Ardmore, Kilkeel and Newcastle Police Stations, which are mobile and can be deployed to areas to deal with critical issues.

For the Community Plan Outcome 5, Indicator 4 reports on the level of personal safety and crime breaking the data down to the level of wards. The 2021 SoP records that the total number of crimes has fallen by 4% from 8792 in 2015 to 8450 in 2020. This is considered a stable trend with little/no change. Most residents feel safe in their local area during the day (94%) and after dark (87%)².

Shared Space and Community Facilities

There are 12 leisure /community centres within the district:

- Newry Sports Centre
- Newry Leisure Centre

- Bridge Centre, Killyleagh
- Castlewellan Centre

¹ NISRA Urban-Rural Classification 2015

² Community Plan Statement of Progress 2019-2021

- Kilkeel Leisure Centre
- St. Colman's Sports Complex, Newry
- Ballynahinch Centre
- Ballymore Sports & Wellbeing Centre Downpatrick
- Dan Rice Memorial Hall, Drumaness
- Down Leisure Centre, Downpatrick
- Market House, Ballynahinch
- Newcastle Centre

Other community centres are community owned and are located in the local towns, villages and throughout the rural area, many of which are also subsidised by the Council. Significant community activity also takes places in Orange Halls, GAA Clubs and church halls.

5.2.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

The existing development plans were not prepared in the context of the new council area and do not reflect our more up to date understanding of economic growth and social development in our area. Therefore, in the absence of a new plan, there is a risk that policies and provision for development will not reflect the needs of our Council area or support delivery of our Community Plan. A new plan brings an opportunity to develop a plan led system and to reflect the most recent strategies.

5.2.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Community

- Some areas, particularly villages, have seen substantial growth in recent years, there is a need to ensure that facilities meet the needs of the population.
- Levels of deprivation vary widely throughout the council area and there is a marked division between lower income areas to the west and more prosperous areas to the east.
- Rural communities have relatively good access to urban areas, however some of their populations may not have good proximity to services.
- Some parts of the district have populations which predominantly reflect one religion or political opinion.
- There is a need to provide appropriate shared space and apply place making to make areas inclusive for all backgrounds, abilities and income levels.
- There will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability.
- The community is not ethnically diverse, although it is slightly more so than NI as a whole. The district has a higher than average proportion of Irish Travellers.
- Local representatives and groups can help to identify the needs and experience of different parts
 of our society which can be recognised through Community Planning. The LDP can help to deliver
 measures identified through Community Planning.

5.3 Housing

5.3.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Good quality sustainable housing is a fundamental need of society and can make a significant positive contribution to community cohesion and the character of our built environment. It is the role of the LDP to proactively facilitate land for the delivery of homes to meet the variety of future housing needs, together with the opportunities for people living there to make healthy lifestyle choices and benefit from community services and facilities.

Our regional policy recognises the importance of housing in relation to sustainable development. It acknowledges the potential links between good quality, sustainable housing that enables access to jobs, facilities, services and infrastructure, and the benefits this can bring to wider society. Policy encourages housing near to public transport links and in residential areas with adequate facilities already in place. Consideration of local character and the environment, as well as attractive design, are also viewed as key elements for sustainable development.

Good quality housing is essential to safety and well-being. Availability of appropriate housing and access to community and social services influence the independence and quality of life of older people. Good quality housing developments promote well-being and health improvement through development design, which encourages walking and cycling, and use of open space for recreation. Fuel poverty can be tackled through housing design that aims for a low-carbon future, which also helps local air quality and our contributions to climate change mitigation.

Regional policy recognizes that housing growth needs to be managed to achieve sustainable patterns of residential development. This can be achieved by promoting housing within existing hubs and clusters and by using vacant and underutilized land including brownfield sites. Regional policy encourages 60% of new housing to be in the hubs and clusters and to use brownfield sites. The needs of rural dwellers, those on low incomes, the vulnerable, the elderly, the disabled and the homeless should also be considered in housing policy.

Our Corporate Plan 2021-2023 recognises that among the most important priorities for improving the local area for our residents is more affordable, good quality housing. The LDP can enable the provision of sustainable housing that can accommodate the needs of current and future Council populations and help to ensure healthy lifestyle choices.

Our Community Plan focuses on five key outcomes or quality of life conditions it wants to achieve for the community of Newry, Mourne and Down. These include the outcome that all people in Newry, Mourne and Down live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities. Integral to these issues will be good quality housing that is sustainably located and at a reasonable price.

5.3.2 Baseline Information

Relevant information is presented in the Council's LDP Preparatory Studies Discussion Papers on Housing, Population and Growth, and the Countryside Development Pressure Analysis. This topic also overlaps with the Health and Well-being and Community sections of this report.

Housing Growth Indicators

The RDS provides an estimate of total regional housing need 2008-2025. It set out estimated Housing Growth Indicators (HGIs) in the legacy council districts as a guide for those preparing local development plans. The RDS' HGI for new dwellings required 2008 to 2025 was 9,600 dwellings for Down and 11,200 for Newry & Mourne, giving a total HGI for the district of 20,800. When these figures are projected on to 2030, this would place the HGI estimate at 26,918 new dwellings by 2030, or an average of approx. 1,170 new dwellings per year.

However, since the Preparatory Studies Paper, Dfl has published a number of revisions to its projections for new dwelling requirements. The Dfl and NISRA's 2016-based HGIs¹ placed the estimate of total housing need in Newry Mourne and Down 2016-2030 at 10,000 new dwellings, or an average of around 667 new dwellings per year. The 2016-based HGIs has also provided an approximate figure of new dwelling completions in the district for the period 2015-16 to 2018-19, with 646 completions per year over this period.

Housing Supply and Distribution

The Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 promoted Newtownards and Downpatrick as main towns within Northern Ireland and to strengthen their role as the major administrative, trade, employment and residential centres within the plan area.

The Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan (BNMAP) 2015 objectives include promoting Banbridge and Newry as main hubs within Northern Ireland and to promote Warrenpoint as a local hub.

NISRA reports that housing stock has increased by around 15% since 2008, when there were 62,799 properties in the district. This is above the NI average of 12%. At April 2021, NISRA estimated that there were 72,067 dwellings in the district. Of these, the majority (48%) are detached (34,447). 24% of dwellings are semi-detached (17,261), 21% terraced (15,155) and 7% apartments (4,844)².

The LDP Preparatory Studies Housing Paper states that in terms of housing provision, the dominance and strategic importance of the main settlements of Newry and Downpatrick was recognised. In addition to land zoned for housing, the urban areas defined within the development limits of the main and local towns contained significant areas of unzoned or white land. In both Plans, the housing objectives (see below) were to identify sufficient land for new housing in the main and local towns to provide a choice of housing sites in convenient locations to support a range of dwelling types to meet different housing needs, and to protect the character of existing residential areas. A small amount of land was also zoned in villages and smaller settlements in order to provide options and allow flexibility.

The LDP Preparatory Studies Housing Paper notes that in 2001, only 16% of households in Down District were located in Downpatrick, compared to 35% of households in Newry & Mourne District The proportion of households in 'other urban settlements' i.e. local towns and villages also differs between the two former districts with these settlements in Newry & Mourne making up almost 32% of households compared to almost 50% in Down. The number of households in the Rural Remainder (small settlements & the countryside) are similar, with 33% in Newry & Mourne and 34% in Down

Newry City has as a more dominant role within its district compared to Downpatrick and the network of small towns and villages in both Districts play an important role in serving a large scattered rural population.

Pressure analysis

From the 2011 Census the district has a population density of 1.06 number of usual residents /ha and Northern Ireland has a population density of 1.34 number of usual residents/ha³.

Based on census in 2011 and 2015 mid-year estimates, approximately 16% of the household population of the district were living within the existing development limit of Newry City. 24% of the district's population resided within the seven existing towns as designated in the two existing Development Plans.

From these figures it is estimated that 20% of the population live within the 28 villages as designated within the existing Local Development Plans (LDPs) while 5% of the population live within the

¹ NISRA and Dfl (2019) 2016 based Housing Growth Indicators (HGIs) (published: 25 September 2019)

² DfC (2021): Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2020-2021 (found at https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-housing-statistics-2020-21)

³ Census 2011 Population Density CT0217NA

remaining 52 small settlements. This leaves approximately 35% of the population estimated to live within the open countryside.

Since March 2006 there has been a general downwards trend in the volume of applications made for single rural dwellings within the district.

Social Housing and Affordability

NISRA/LPS statistics on new dwelling starts Q2 2015- Q1 2022 show that on average, for the years 2016-2021, 8% of new dwelling starts were for social housing. The proportion ranges from 5% of new dwelling starts in 2020 and 2021 to 11% in 2019.



Figure 5.3.1: New dwelling starts, Newry Mourne and Down 2016-2021

Source: NISRA / LPS Northern Ireland New Dwelling Statistics Quarter 1 (January to March) 2022

The majority of the Social Housing Delivery Programme has consisted of new builds. There is continued demand for social rented housing within the district as indicated by the NIHE's Newry Mourne and Down Housing Investment Plan 2019-2023 (2021 update) shown in Figure 5.3.2, which also shows a trend of rising demand in rural areas. Single, older persons and small family households comprise 87% of the housing stress waiting list in the district¹.





According to the Northern Ireland House Price Index² the standardised house price in Newry Mourne and Down peaked at £240,247 in 2007, then fell to a low of £99,325 in 2013. Since 2013 it has shown a steadily increasing trend to £176,796 in Q1 2022. The overall standardised house prices in Newry,

¹ NIHE Newry Mourne and Down Housing Investment Plan Annual Update 2021

² Department of Finance (NISRA & LPS) House Price Index - Quarter 1 2022 Standardised Residential Property Prices by LGD

Mourne and Down are consistently above the average NI standardised price for rural areas in NI, but below the average standardised price for NI urban areas.

Annual Build Rates

The LDP Paper on Housing noted that it is estimated that between 1st January 1999 and 31st March 2008, 10,633 dwellings were built in Newry & Mourne District with an estimated 2,605 dwellings built in the open countryside. In Down District, some 8911 dwellings were built with an estimated 1014 dwellings built in the countryside. The period up to the end of March 2008 reflects the period of high building activity and annual build rates before the current economic recession.

Between 2016 and 2021, the average annual dwelling completions in Newry Mourne and Down has ranged from a low of 554 in 2020 to a high of 720 in 2021, with an average of 623 per year completed across the six complete years with data available¹. Quarterly completions are shown below in Figure 5.3.3.



Figure 5.3.3: Average Dwelling Completions Per Quarter 2015-2022.

Household Type & Forward Planning

Household projections are based on population projections. The most recently published, 2016-based household projections show that, in Newry Mourne and Down, the overall number of households is expected to increase by 7% between 2022 and 2030. However, the projections also predict that while the number of 1 and 2 person households will experience the greatest rise, larger households will remain static or, in the case of 5+ households, these are currently projected to decline, as shown in Figure 5.3.4.

The average household size is projected to reduce from 2.70 persons in 2022 to 2.63 persons in 2030 and 2.58 in 2040.

Source: NISRA / LPS Northern Ireland New Dwelling Statistics Quarter 1 (January to March) 2022

¹ Source: NISRA / LPS Northern Ireland New Dwelling Statistics Quarter 1 (January to March) 2022



Figure 5.3.4: 2016-based Household Projections by composition 2020, 2030, 2040

Source: NISRA 2016-based Household Projections for Newry, Mourne & Down LGD2014, 2016-2041





Source: NISRA Northern Ireland Household Projections (2016-based) Statistical Bulletin

It is projected that by 2041 the number of households within Newry Mourne and Down will have increased by 18.3%, making the district the fourth highest in Northern Ireland in terms of household growth¹. This is slight decline on the rate of growth in the previous 2014-based projections, which predicted an increase of 23.9% to 2037.

Fuel Poverty

A fuel poor household is one needing to spend in excess of 10 % of its household income on all fuel use to achieve a satisfactory standard of warmth. It assesses the ability to meet all domestic energy costs including space and water heating, cooking, lights and appliances.

¹ NISRA: Northern Ireland Household Projections 2012-2037

The NIHE House Condition Survey (HCS) 2016 estimated that 22.0% of households in Northern Ireland were in fuel poverty, a significant decrease from that reported in 2011 (42%). The estimated rate of fuel poverty in Newry Mourne and Down was 25.9%¹. More recent NIHE data on fuel poverty are not currently available, however ONS reported in April 2022 that the Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs is at its highest level since 1991, with the largest contributions to the annual inflation rate coming from housing and household services (2.76 percentage points, principally from electricity, gas and other fuels).

There are several schemes available to help households with their fuel requirements. The Affordable Warmth Scheme is for fuel poor households in the private sector and the boiler replacement scheme is for households with old boilers (15 years plus) and that earn below £40 000 per annum. Improving the domestic energy efficiency of the home, or considering it during design, is a key factor in reducing fuel poverty².

Unfitness and vacancy

The House Condition Survey (HCS) is carried out by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive across all housing tenures and house types. In 2016, across Northern Ireland, 16,380 dwellings were established as unfit (2.1%). Of these 30% were vacant.

In the 2016 NIHE House Condition Survey (HCS), it was reported that, in 2016, 2.1% of housing stock in Northern Ireland was deemed unfit (16 380). It was found that vacancy led to unfitness and was an issue particularly in rural areas³. In 2011, of all the unfit dwellings, the majority were uninhabited. The majority of building stock considered 'unfit' or 'defective' are dwellings constructed pre-1919. Many unfit dwellings remain capable of being brought back to fitness stock through retrofit and reuse.

The living environment domain identifies the prevalence of shortcomings in the quality of housing, access to suitable housing and the outdoor physical environment. This is presented in figure 5.3.3. It shows that there are pockets of high deprivation for living environment throughout the district.



Figure 5.3.3: MDM 2017 Map of Living Environment Deprivation (small areas)

Source: NINIS NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017- Living Environment Domain Rank

¹ NIHE House Condition Survey 2016 Table 6.5 Northern Ireland House Condition Survey 2016 : District Council Area - Fuel Poverty (10% definition)

² DfC [online] 'Fuel Poverty' (found at <u>https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/housing/fuel-poverty</u> (accessed 31/05/2022)

³ NIHE House Condition Survey 2016 Table 5.2 Dwelling Tenure - Unfitness, Table 5.3 Dwelling Age - Unfitness

5.3.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Previous Local Development Plans were not prepared in the context of the new Council area and do not reflect our more up to date understanding of social development in our area. Therefore, in the absence of a new plan, there is a risk that policies and provision for development will not reflect the needs of our Council area or support delivery of our Community Plan. A new plan brings an opportunity to develop a plan led system and to reflect the most recent strategies. In the absence of a new plan, there may be less opportunity to consider current zonings for housing in the context of current conditions and to design housing that accommodates existing and predicted demography.

5.3.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Housing

- Population trends suggest that there will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability and the elderly. People may be more likely to stay in a home long-term if it meets their changing needs, and the facilities and amenities that they wish to use are as accessible as possible through their lives.
- Future housing needs will therefore include a mix of house tenures and types, including smaller house types.
- Social housing need remains at a very high level across Newry, Mourne and Down.
- A large portion of the social housing waiting list comprises single and small family households and the predominance of single and smaller households will mean a significant requirement for one and two bedroom dwellings.
- There is a need for lifetime homes that are accessible and adaptable, to help support healthy lifestyles.
- Along with income and the cost of energy, the domestic energy efficiency of the home is a key factor contributing to fuel poverty. There is a need for low carbon and energy efficient housing to help reduce the problems of fuel poverty.
- The local housing market is slowly recovering following the economic crash in 2007 and affordability in the council area has much improved. However, affordability remains an issue for first time buyers who continue to have difficulties in securing mortgages.
- Housing provision should enable social cohesion in families and communities and promote vibrancy of settlements.
- Rural housing continues to contribute to overall housing supply. The challenge for the Plan is to allocate an appropriate level of housing for the rural area and a planning policy to manage it.

5.4 Education and Skills

5.4.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Education and skills takes account of learning from primary to third level education and vocational training. Good educational and skills outcomes support people to succeed economically, have better life chances and opportunities for better health.

Low educational attainment and low skills levels significantly constrain life chances and increase the risk of poverty and poor health. Significant inequality in educational attainment exists within Northern Ireland. Access to high quality education and skills training can be increased through cooperation between statutory agencies and other institutions. Overarching policies recognise that the education and skills levels of the population must improve in order meet the needs of communities and businesses. This will allow businesses to make use of opportunities for regional and global trade, and help create conditions for increased high quality employment.

Education is one of the most significant investments in developing the individual, society and the economy and the overall vision of the Department of is to see "every young person achieving to his or her full potential at each stage of his or her development".

In recent years there have been a number of influential publications which set out to all those involved in the education sector a challenge to consider new approaches. This includes sharing facilities which would promote a more cohesive and tolerant society and assist a better use of the resources available to education.

In 2009 the Department of Education introduced the Sustainable Schools Policy followed by an area planning process in 2011 which is designed to address the long-term primary school needs from 2012-2025. The overall output of these is the assessment of schools against a set of criteria for sustainable enrolment levels, delivery of quality education and financial sustainability.

The Providing Pathways - Strategic Area Plan for Schools 2017-2020 identifies the challenges for the education system throughout each Local Government District area. Area planning aims to establish a network of viable schools that are of the right type, the right size, located in the right place, and have a focus on raising standards. Therefore, the aim of area planning is to ensure that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum in sustainable, fit-for-purpose schools.

The Department of Education (DE) has overall responsibility for education policy and the Education Authority (EA) oversees the delivery of education, youth and library services. EA, in partnership with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, Controlled Schools' Support Council, Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, Governing Bodies Association, Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education, Catholic Schools' Trustee Service and the Further Education sector publishes an annual action plan to identify area planning solutions within each Council.

The draft Programme for Government and the draft Industrial Strategy - Economy 2030, recognise that appropriately skilled people are integral to productivity growth, competitiveness and our future economic prosperity. The Council's Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy 2020-2025 identifies that NI as a whole is facing key challenges regarding the supply of suitably skilled labour to meet the future demands and needs of industry. It also predicts that the world of work, employment and skills needs will change in the future, driven by digitalisation. The Belfast Region City Deal, of which NMD is a partner council, includes Employability and Skills among its pillars of investment.

Our Corporate Plan 2021-2023 recognises that among the most important priorities for improving the local area for our residents is improving skills, employability and job prospects. Within a land use planning context, LDPs should allocate sufficient land to meet the anticipated educational needs of the community, and should recognise town centres as important hubs for a range of uses which include education. Within a rural context, policy requires that people who live in the countryside also have opportunities to access high quality education.

Our Community Plan aspires to ensure that everyone in the district 'gets a good start in life and fulfils their lifelong potential'. The level of educational attainment and skills base within the district will be a measure of how successful the Council is in achieving this aspiration.

5.4.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the paper Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies – Preparatory Studies: Paper 14: Education, Health and Community Facilities.

Figure 5.4.1 presents the spatial distribution of schools in the council district. Primary schools appear to be distributed throughout much of the district, in both urban and more rural locations. The figure also shows a clustering of secondary and grammar schools in Newry and Downpatrick, and a number of secondary schools in some of the smaller local settlements. Special school provision is only in Newry and Downpatrick.





Source: Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action, School Locations/Types

Pre-school Education

In 2015/16 the district's 10 nursery schools offered a total of 390 places with 6 of these places being unfilled. For the same period another 832 places were provided through 21 nursery units attached to primary schools with no unfilled places. Additionally, a total of 1088 pupils were enrolled at 52 voluntary/private/preschool education centres.

Primary School Education

There are a total of 101 primary schools in the district, consisting of 19 Controlled, 74 Maintained (including 2 Irish Medium Schools) and 5 Integrated Primary Schools¹. Some schools have a high proportion of unfilled places; enrolment trends are one of six criteria underpinning sustainable schools policy. Addressing school provision where sustainability is an issue and ensuring that school places are located as required are among the key issues raised in the annual area action plans².

Post Primary Education

There are 26 post primary schools in the district. This consists of 6 Controlled schools, 7 Voluntary schools, 11 Maintained schools and 2 Grant Maintained Integrated schools.

In 2017, there were 17,134 approved post primary places within the district, with 2,402 of these places being unfilled. Of the unfilled spaces 26% were within the controlled sector, 63% within the maintained sector and 11% within the integrated sector³.

There is potential for school closures, amalgamations, increased partnership and a new build within the district in the future. Future provision of post primary education remains under review by the Education Authority.

Further Education

Southern Regional College has six campuses located across Ards and North Down, Lisburn and Castlereagh and Newry, Mourne and Down. There are two campuses in the district located at Newry and Kilkeel. Southern Regional College is a Community College and works with 100 community partners and 25 post primary schools to ensure that everyone has access to the best education⁴. The College plans to expand its existing Newry East Campus through the acquisition of the old Newry Sports Centre. This paves the way for the creation of a new Student Innovation Centre for those students studying both further and higher education courses. This project will also see the rationalisation of the College's Newry estate with extension to provision of accommodation at the campus.

Special Education

There is special school provision within the district at Ardmore House and Knockevin. Ardmore house special school provides education for key stage 3 pupils with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Knockevin has two sites located at Downpatrick and Dundrum and caters for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties.

Educational Attainment

The figure below shows the primary school Key Stage 2 attainment results for 2012. This is the main primary school attainment measure. It shows that Newry Mourne and Down District Council was above the Northern Ireland figure for both Communication in English, and in using Maths.

Figure 5.4.2: Percentage of primary school children reaching level 4 in Key Stage 2 Assessment at Primary School in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Northern Ireland in 2012.



Source: NISRA Key Stage 2 Assessment Results (administrative geographies) 2012

¹ Education Authority (2020) Primary School Annual Area Profile-2020

² Education Authority (2019) Providing Pathways Annual Action Plan 2019-21

³ Education Authority (2017) Providing Pathways - Strategic Area Plan 2017-2020

⁴ Southern Regional College (online) 'Contact Us / Find a Campus' (found at https://www.src.ac.uk/contact (acessed 06/06/2022))

When we consider post-primary attainment, Figure 5.4.3 demonstrates that between 2012 and 2019, schools in the district showed an increase in the percentage of students attaining five or more GCSEs at grade A*-C (including Maths and English) over the period all of which are above the Northern Ireland average. The level of educational attainment and of numeracy and literacy is an indicator of the Community Plan, and the Community Plan's SoP 2021 records both indicators as having experienced a positive change.





Source: NISRA School Leavers (administrative geographies) 2008-2019

Attainment at A level is shown in Figure 5.4.4. A-level attainment between 2012 and 2019 was generally above the Northern Ireland average, though fell below the average in 2016 and 2019.



Figure 5.4.4: Percentage of school-leavers who achieved at least 2 A Levels between 2012 and 2019 in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Northern Ireland.

Source: NISRA School Leavers (administrative geographies) 2008-2019

Attainment variation

Our Council area has demonstrated a good level of achievement overall in post-primary qualifications. However if we consider the data for GCSE attainment by individual DEA, it can be seen that there is variation across the district. In 2019, approximately 73% of school leavers in Newry and Downpatrick DEAs had achieved five GCSEs (or equivalent) including Maths and English, but for Crotlieve DEA the proportion was 86%. The Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy notes that 14 SOAs are in the top ranked (most deprived) 25% in the Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain. Several are located in Newry, though high-rank deprivation SOAs are also located in Downpatrick, Ballynahinch, Kilkeel, Newcastle and Killyleagh. It also recognises that in 2018 17.9% of the district's working age population had no qualifications, higher than the NI average of 14.7%.

Higher & Further Education Enrolments

Figure 5.4.5 shows a generally stable trend in the proportion of school leavers entering higher or further education between 2012 and 2018. On average, around a third of school leavers in the district enter higher education and just under half (45%) enrol in higher education, which is comparable with the NI average. In 2019 a notably higher proportion of leavers enrolled in higher education, with a comparable decrease seen in the further education enrolments that year. Overall numbers in education/further education is an indicator of the Community Plan, and the SoP 2021 records this indicator as having experienced a negative change between 2015/16 and 2019/20.





Source: NISRA School Leavers (administrative geographies) 2008-2019

Skills Enrolments

Training for Success is a skills programme which focuses on the extra learning which participants may need to gain the skills and the confidence to find employment. It is designed for young people aged 16 - 17, with extended age eligibility for young people with a disability up to age 22 and up to age 24 for those from an in-care background. The apprenticeships NI figure is compiled within the Labour Market Statistics. In Northern Ireland the program offers training across a wide range of apprenticeships to people aged 16 and over. Apprentices are placed in a Northern Ireland-based company and also receive 'off-the-job' training, usually on a day-release basis with a training provider, to work towards achieving vocational qualifications and Essential Skills qualifications. Figure 5.4.7 below shows that there is a good and relatively consistent level of take up of Training for Success and Apprenticeships within the district. The Council's Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy identifies that potential areas of interest and [skills] need in the district may include engineering, tourism/hospitality, financial services and software development, as well as emerging digital technology areas.

Figure 5.4.7: Participants in Training for Success and Apprenticeships NI in Newry Mourne and Down between 2014 and 2018.



Source: NISRA Participants on Apprenticeships NI (administrative geographies) 2012-18, Participants on Training for Success (administrative geographies) 2012-18

'Skills in growth areas/growth sectors' and 'Level of skills development across population' are indicators for the Community Plan, and the SoP 2021 records these indicators as having experienced a positive change between 2015/16 and 2018/19.

5.4.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a plan there is risk that existing policies are not responsive to changes within the education sector. There is potential surplus land / sites within the district due to closures and amalgamations over the plan period. Lack of a plan could mean there is less potential to consider /future use of sites and similarly there is no opportunity to plan for new builds. Lack of planning may affect the Community Plan's potential to deliver desired outcomes in relation to education.

5.4.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Education and Skills

- In some parts of our council area, a decline in pupil numbers will have implications for the sustainability of existing schools.
- Sharing facilities has been recognised as a way to promote a more cohesive and tolerant society and make better use of the resources available to education.
- Although the council area has a high level of educational achievement at all levels, this is not consistent between DEAs.
- To respond to changing opportunities in the context of COVID-19 and Brexit, there is a need to upskill / reskill people in employment and people that are unemployed, underemployed or economically inactive.
- Apprenticeships and higher-level apprenticeship should be promoted and supported as alternative pathways for employment.
- Digital literacy, connectivity and access to broadband are important for developing/enhancing skills and reducing inequalities.

5.5 Economy and Employment

5.5.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Creating the conditions to achieve and maintain stable economic growth are key aims of all relevant strategies locally, regionally and within a European context. Economic growth is driven by a healthy business sector, which itself relies on a base of high quality education, and delivery of relevant skills to the workforce.

The common thread of relevant economic policies is to achieve sustainable growth of the economy. In particular, policy recognises the priority in Northern Ireland (NI) to raise competitiveness through increased export, and to identify opportunities in new, emerging and developed markets. The need to support the development of a more innovation-based economy is also identified and this links to a high potential for research and development. Tourism, Investment and Economic Strategies are identified as an aspect of delivering for delivering on the PfG 2021 outcome 'People want to Live, Work and Visit Here'.

Within current planning policy, it is recognised that planning authorities should take a positive approach to sustainable economic development and enable job creation, giving priority to large-scale proposals with job creation potential, through zoning land and promoting developments in settlement hubs. Policy also refers to the importance of creating the right conditions for investment through supporting urban and rural renaissance, ensuring that settlements remain vital. In terms of regional policy, there is a recognition that accessible land should be made available to promote job creation and to promote sustainable economic growth at key locations.

The draft Marine Plan includes key activity policies supporting aquaculture, commercial fishing, port, harbours and shipping and tourism and recreation, which may overlap with the LDP. It recognises that the coastal area is a key element of Northern Ireland's appeal as a tourism destination and an integral part of the visitor experience and is promoted through activity tourism, golf tourism, world-renowned attractions and coastal routes.

The Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy 2020–2025 recognises that the district's strategic location provides an opportunity for business development, local and international investment, promotion of cross-border initiatives, as well as establishing the District as a premier tourism destination. In a post-Covid economy, it seeks to focus on sectors that were severely affected and to progress regeneration initiatives that deliver investment to help re-boot the economy.

Newry, Mourne and Down district is included in the Belfast Region City Deal, which will deliver regional investment totalling £850 Million. Part of this funding will be allocated to deliver a suite of projects in the district, including the construction of the Newry Southern Relief Road, the regeneration of Newry City, the Mournes Gateway project, improvements in rural broadband infrastructure, digital capability and skills initiatives.

Our Corporate Plan 2021-23¹ includes the strategic objectives to "invest in and support new and growing businesses, job creation and employment skills" and to "support sustainable forms of tourism which value our environment and cultural heritage". While these are short-term two-year objectives, the LDP can create the conditions to support these actions in the future.

The 2030 Community Plan 'Living Well Together' notes that the district has been showing signs of economic recovery after a particularly turbulent period during one of the worst recessions on record in NI. It also recognises that 'the district is an area rich with tourism assets, natural beauty, cultural heritage and opportunities for outdoor recreation that when properly utilised, will contribute to substantial economic growth in our District.'

¹Newry Mourne and Down District Council (2021) Phlean Corparáideach 2021-2023 Corporate Plan 2021-2023

5.5.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in a number of Local Development Plan Preparatory Papers, including 'Employment and Economic Development' (Paper 3), 'Town Centres and Opportunity Sites' (Paper 4), 'Tourism' (Paper 7) and 'The Coast' (Paper 8). Data has also been sourced from Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) and the Department for Economy. This topic overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Natural Resources, Physical Resources and Historic Environment topics.

Overview

As the third largest Council area within NI, Newry, Mourne and Down comprises approximately 11% of NI's total land area. It has more than 100 miles of coastline and provides services to over 178,000 residents, (10% of the Northern Ireland population). In addition to Newry City, the principal towns within the district are Ballynahinch, Crossmaglen, Downpatrick, Kilkeel, Newcastle and Warrenpoint.

Visitor gateways and hubs are associated with Downpatrick, Newcastle, Newry, Warrenpoint/ Rostrevor, and the Crossmaglen area. The district lies in close proximity to the island of Ireland's two major urban centres – Belfast and Dublin – and is well served by the arterial A1/M1 corridor. The area is highly attractive to the domestic market and is one of the country's top holiday destinations for N.I. residents.

Economic Activity and Employment

The Enabling Success Strategy¹ aims to achieve an interim target of an employment rate of more than 70% by 2020 in Northern Ireland through the reduction in the proportion of the working age population (16-64) classified as economically inactive.



Figure 5.5.1: Working - Age Economic Activity and Employment Rate 2010-2019 NMD and NI

¹Department for Employment and Learning and Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment; Enabling Success- Supporting the Transition from economic inactivity to employment: A Strategy to tackle economic inactivity in Northern Ireland. April 2015

From 2010 to 2019, the working age employment rates (Figure 5.5.1) for Newry, Mourne and Down ranged from a low of 66% in 2015 to a high of 75.3% in 2019. These statistics are generally comparable with the NI average and were on a rising trend up to 2019, though there is substantial fluctuation.

The economic activity rate includes those in employment and those seeking work. Over the ten year period 2010-2019 the working age economic activity rate in Newry, Mourne and Down ranged from a low of 68.5% in 2015 to a high of 77.6% in 2019 (Figure 5.5.1). The LDP Preparatory Paper 'Employment and Economic Development' states that the level of economic activity in Newry Mourne and Down recorded by the Census has increased over the 30 year period between 1981 and 2011. Current non-census figures suggest that this trend appears to be continuing. The most recently published data for 2019 show the economic activity rates in the district around 2% above the NI average.

Just under 30% of the district's population aged 16-64 were economically inactive in 2015 (i.e. not looking for work or not available for work; this will include all those who are looking after family/home, long term sick or disabled, students and retired). In February 2022, the economic inactivity rate for all of NI was 27.3%. This figure is persistently higher than the UK average, which in 2022 is 21.2%¹.

Employment and Income Deprivation

NISRA publishes spatially linked statistics on deprivation as part of the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure, the most recent of which was published in 2017 (NIMDM2017). In total, seven deprivation indicators make up the overall NIMDM, including the 'Employment Deprivation Domain' and the 'Income Deprivation Domain'. Each Super Output Area (SOA) and Small Area (SA)² has been ranked against all the other SOAs and SAs in NI, to determine their relative position on the scale in terms of each indicator. It should be noted that the NIMDM 2017 is a relative measure of deprivation, meaning that it is possible to say that one area is more or less deprived than another, but it is not possible to say by how much.

'Employment Deprivation' rankings are calculated on the basis of the proportion of working age population in the SOA or SA who are in receipt of at least one employment related benefit, and individuals who are not in receipt of the selected benefits, nor have received income from employment³. Figure 5.5.2 shows the pattern of employment deprivation in the SAs across Newry, Mourne and Down from the NIMDM2017. The darkest blue colours (ranks 1-454) show the most deprived SAs in NI in terms of the employment deprivation indicator and the lightest colours are the least deprived areas of NI.

The figure shows that Newry, Mourne and Down has generally average levels of employment deprivation across the district, but there pockets of high employment deprivation centred on the city and towns and also around the border and coastal areas. Two SAs within Newry, one in Newcastle and two in Downpatrick are within the top 100 (out of 4,537) most deprived areas of NI in terms of employment. No SA in Newry, Mourne and Down has made it into the 100 least deprived areas for employment (i.e. a rank higher than 4,437), N00002685 in Derryboye is the highest ranked at 4,375.

'Income Deprivation' rankings are calculated on the basis of the proportion of the population living in households whose equivalised income is below 60% of the NI median. Figure 5.5.3 shows the income deprivation pattern across Newry, Mourne and Down.

¹NISRA [online] Labour Market Report – February 2022 (found at https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/labour-market-report-february-2022)

² Super Output Areas (SOA) and Small Areas (SA) are statistical geography boundaries created by NISRA to allow the reporting of small area statistics. There are 890 SOAs in NI and 4537 SAs.

³NISRA (2017) <u>Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures 2017 Description of Indicators</u>



Figure 5.5.2: NIMDM 2017 Employment Deprivation Domain Rank for SAs in Newry, Mourne & Down.

Source: NIMDM2017 Small Area interactive maps on NINIS





Source: NIMDM2017 Small Area interactive maps on NINIS

Figure 5.5.3 shows that income deprivation in Newry Mourne and Down is relatively high in comparison with other LGDs, with many of the SAs shown as having the darkest blue colours. It can be seen that the west of the district and border area has greater income deprivation than the north of the district. There are 11 SAs in Newry, Mourne and Down within the top 100 (out of 4,537) most income deprived SAs of NI. No SA in Newry, Mourne and Down has made it into the 100 least deprived areas for employment (i.e. a rank higher than 4,437), N00002666 in Ballynahinch is the highest ranked at 4,427.

Employment Sectors

The LDP Preparatory Paper 3, 'Employment and Economic Development' notes that employment in Newry Mourne and Down is distributed across the primary (agriculture, forestry and the extraction of natural resources), secondary (manufacturing and processing of natural resources) and tertiary (service provision) employment sectors broadly in line with NI as a whole, although the former Newry and Mourne district has a slightly higher proportion of jobs within the secondary sector.

The NISRA Census of Employment 2015, showed that Newry, Mourne and Down had a higher proportion of its population than the NI average employed in the Manufacturing, Education, Construction and Wholesale and Retail Trade/Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles sectors. It has considerably fewer than average employed in 'Public Administration and Defence/Compulsory Social Security', 'Administrative and Support Service Activities' and 'Information and Communication' sectors. The most recently published sectoral breakdowns, in Figure 5.5.4, show that in 2020 there was a greater than average proportion employed within the services sector and fewer in construction and manufacturing.



Figure 5.5.4: Percentage of Employee Jobs by Industry Sector vs NI overall (2020)

Preparatory Paper 3 also notes that the recent growth in Northern Ireland in office type industries, such as information technology and financial services, points to a need for a more flexible approach when determining the types of economic development that are acceptable in particular locations and that land zoned for economic development should be seen as supporting a whole range of uses - apart from retailing – and not just the traditional manufacturing sector.

The Preparatory Paper has estimated that between 9,000 and 11,800 new jobs will need to be created over the period 2015-2030. The majority (approximately 80%) of these are expected to be provided within the service sector.

The Census of Employment does not record the number of self-employed or those that earn their living from agriculture. In 2018 there were estimated to be 15,000 self-employed persons in the district¹, representing 20% of those in employment (NI 14%). The Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) recorded 7,615 businesses in Newry Mourne and Down in 2015, 11% of all businesses in NI². Of these, 29% were in the Agriculture sector (NI 25%). 91% of the businesses on the IDBR are

Source: NI Business Register and Employment Survey, September 2020

¹<u>Invest NI Newry Mourne and Down Council Briefing September 2020</u> (accessed 10/05/2022)

² The IDBR excludes smaller businesses and the self-employed who fall below the VAT registered/PAYE thresholds.

micro-businesses, with <9 employees, 8% are small businesses (10-49 employees), 1% are medium businesses and 0.1% are large businesses (>250 employees).

Earnings from Employment

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings¹ by Local Government Districts is published by the Department for the Economy (DfE). The survey gave a median gross annual salary of £22,589 in 2021 for those persons living in Newry, Mourne and Down (up from £20,209 in 2015), which is below the median gross annual salary of £24,000 for all of NI. The median gross annual salary in 2021 for those working in the district was £21,000, slightly lower than for those living in the district. This discrepancy in earnings between those living and working in the district is due to a tendency for some workers to commute out of the district for higher earning employment.

Business Start-ups and Success

The Office for National Statistics publishes an annual bulletin of Business Demography² which presents the number of active enterprises and charts the births of new enterprises, and deaths of enterprises. The number of enterprises active in Newry, Mourne and Down in 2020 was 7,700, a figure which has steadily risen from 6,125 in 2015³. In the district, the five-year survival rate for businesses established in 2015 was 44.6 % (*NI 43.8%*). Businesses in the former Down district (50.0%) performed significantly better than those in the former Newry and Mourne district (37.0%). In 2020, 1,025 new business start-ups were recorded, the highest number for all Council areas outside Belfast and a significant increase on the five previous years which averaged around 750. Enterprise deaths were 815 in 2020, having averaged 522 over the previous five years.

In general, business start-up rates for Northern Ireland are relatively low in comparison to other parts of the UK. The Corporate Plan has a strategic objective to invest in and support new and growing businesses, job creation and employment skills.

Innovation

It is widely recognised that improving the ability of the economy in NI to be innovative is a key factor in improving economic growth and employment. The most recent innovation figures are published in the UK Innovation Survey 2021⁴. These show that in 2014-16, fewer NI businesses were innovation active than in 2018-20. 38% of enterprises in NI were estimated to be innovation active in the three year period 2018-20 (down from 45% in 2012-14). This is lower than the equivalent UK figure of 45%, which has also decreased from 53% in 2012-14. NI remains among the least innovation active regions of the UK. Across the UK, large enterprises with 250 or more employees are currently reported as being more likely to engage in some sort of innovation activity, with 58% innovation active, as opposed to 44% of Small-Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Internal R&D and investment in computer software were the main factors driving innovation in the UK as a whole for the most recent survey period 2018-2020.

Competiveness

No data are available at Council level on levels of competitiveness. Total external sales by companies in NI to markets outside of NI were estimated to be worth £21.2 billion in 2020 (down from £21.9bn in 2017)⁵. External sales account for around a third of all sales by companies in NI in 2020 (£67.1 billion). Business have reported that the Covid-19 pandemic was the significant factor in these falling sales.

¹Department for the Economy <u>Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by NI geographies, by place of work and place of residence, 2015 & 2021 (accessed 12/05/2022)</u>

² Office for National Statistics 'Business demography, UK: 2020 (published 18 November 2021

³ Pre 2015 ONS figures are published under the two former local government district areas of Newry & Mourne and Down.

⁴ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy UK innovation survey 2021: report (published 12/05/2022)

⁵ NISRA Northern Ireland Broad Economy Sales and Exports Statistics (BESES): Goods and Services Results 2020 – published 15 Dec 2021

The 2020 figures relate to goods and services combined, but in 2018 these figures comprised 70% for goods and 30% for services (an increase of 14.7% over 2017). The previously highest recorded peak was in 2016 (£23.8 billion) but 2017 and 2018 figure have shown a downwards trend in external sales.

Retailing

The Council has a hierarchy with Primary Retail Cores at Newry, Downpatrick, Ballynahinch and Newcastle. Smaller centres are identified at Crossmaglen, Kilkeel, Newtownhamilton and Warrenpoint. Chapter 6 of the 'Town Centres and Opportunity Sites' Preparatory Paper summarises the results of surveys carried out on the city and town centres in 2014. The town centres display a strong presence of independent retailers and service providers which helps provide an attractive alternative to national operators and contributes to the local distinctiveness of each centre.

The paper notes that the proportion of 'other' town centre uses is notably higher in NI than the UK average. The 'other' category includes transport services, employment and commercial activities, religious buildings, wholesale trade, civic and unclassified buildings. Having a range of other uses within town centres should be considered a positive attribute, which confirms town centres are performing as a hub for a range of activities thereby contributing to overall vitality and viability.

The district's main settlement, Newry, has a diverse selection of national and international multiples, independent and more traditional traders spread throughout the city. In addition to its retail centre (Hill Street), it has two shopping centres and one retail park.

The district shares a border with Counties Louth and Monaghan in Ireland. Newry's position on the M1-A1 Belfast-Dublin corridor means that it is well placed for cross-border trade. Intertrade Ireland publishes data from carpark surveys at NI border town shopping centres as an indicator of cross-border shopping activity¹ (Figure 5.5.5). These surveys show that the highest percentage of Irish registered cars 2008-2018 (67%) was seen at the end of 2008 and that increased cross-border shopping activity usually occurs around the Christmas period. Currently available information for 2021-22 shows a lower incidence of 29-30%, with only 9% in Q1 of 2021². These figures have been influenced by the changing course of the Covid-19 pandemic and related restrictions.

Intertrade Ireland also notes that cross-border shopping trips are driven largely by economic factors, such as price differentials and exchange rate fluctuations. Distance from the border also matters with households from the border counties being much more frequent cross-border shoppers than those living further afield. The uncertainty surrounding 'Brexit' and related fluctuations in exchange rates may add to the challenges experienced in towns along the border area.

¹ Intertrade Ireland All-Island Trade Statistics - 'Cross Border Shopping' (accessed 30/04/18)

² Intertrade Ireland [online] ITI Retail Monitor Q1 2022 Infographic (found at <u>https://intertradeireland.com/insights/trade-statistics</u> 12/05/22)


Figure 5.5.5: Percentage of Irish-registered cars in NI border-located shopping centre car parks



There is only one notable out-of-centre retail park (Damolly Retail Park) in the district. The 'Town Centres and Opportunity Sites' Preparatory Paper notes that out-of-centre retailing (which may include out-of-centre retail parks outside the district) is one of the main weakness/threats to town centres in Newry, Mourne and Down.

The 'Town Centres and Opportunity Sites' Preparatory Paper reports that vacancy rates in 2013 were around the median level for NI in Downpatrick and Newry and Newcastle had among the lowest vacancy rates. With the changing and dynamic scale and nature of retailing, a comprehensive up-to-date Retail Capacity Study will be required for the LDP.

Ports and Harbours

Ports and harbours are important economic generators and are essential to the operation of a range of different marine and coastal industries.

Warrenpoint Harbour is NI's third largest port after Belfast and Larne, in terms of overall traffic and the second largest in terms of freight. As shown in Figure 5.5.6, the tonnage of goods imported and exported through the Port has steadily risen since 2009. In 2020, 1,625 thousand tonnes of goods were imported and 1,571 thousand tonnes exported¹.



Figure 5.5.6: Tonnage of Goods through Warrenpoint Harbour

Source: NISRA Ports Traffic Publication 2020

The harbour has 750 metres of quay with two deep water berths and modern Ro-Ro (Roll on - Roll off) berthing facilities. The harbour incorporates a 53 acre plot which includes covered storage facilities

¹ NISRA Ports Traffic Publication 2020 Table 1 – tonnage of goods through the principal ports in NI (published 09 September 2021)

and a 100 tonne mobile crane. It employs more than 200 people and is able to accommodate fully laden feeder container vessels, other cargo ships of up to 10,000 tonnes, and cruise ships. Seatruck, the port's largest customer, operates a twice daily service to Heysham in England and the port also has links with Cardiff and Bristol. The port has experienced strong growth in recent years and investment continues, with a new £2.5million hub for the export of cement being opened in 2017 and Ireland's only CO_2 Plant storing recovered CO_2 in 2020. Warrenpoint has relatively limited land holdings and storage areas in comparison with other commercial ports and consequently one of the challenges faced by the port is to keep goods moving in order to prevent congestion at the quays and storage¹. The RDS has identified Warrenpoint (along with Newry) as the 'South Eastern City Gateway' – a strategically important transport interchange. The draft Marine Plan includes among its key activity policies a presumption in favour of port and harbour proposals and that public authorities must not authorise proposals that would interfere with navigational safety. However, new or increased development in harbours must be considered against potential impacts on other marine activities and the marine area.

Northern Ireland's sea fishing sector, in terms of catching, employs around 850 people in NI². Newry, Mourne and Down encompasses the two most important fishing ports in NI, Kilkeel and Ardglass, which together landed 7,800 tonnes of fish and shellfish in 2016, with a value of £17.16 million³. Kilkeel is also home to a number of fish and seafood processing facilities and other industries which link in with the fishery harbour. The fishing industry in Kilkeel believes that harbour improvements would allow a major expansion of this industry, and could turn Kilkeel into a major north European marine hub with the potential to support more than 2,000 jobs and a local 'marine skills academy'.

Commercial fish are also landed at Warrenpoint (worth £1.2m in 2016) and smaller landings principally in respect of pot fishing (i.e. lobster, crab and some shrimp) occur at Annalong, Greencastle, Killough, Killyleagh, Newry and Strangford. There are five shellfish cultivation areas in Newry, Mourne and Down, which are discussed further in 5.11.2.

Two local passenger and vehicle ferry services also operate from Newry, Mourne and Down. The Portaferry –Strangford ferry service crosses Strangford Lough at its narrowest point on a half hourly basis all year round and is operated by Transport NI. The service reduces the 47 mile journey (which typically takes up to an hour and a half) between these villages to around 8 minutes. The ferry is used by around 550,000 passengers (with 180,000 vehicles) annually⁴ and is an important transport link in the local economy, carrying commuters and schoolchildren in addition to tourists.

The Greencastle – Greenore scenic ferry commenced operation in July 2017 and connects the south eastern Mournes region with the Cooley Peninsula. The hourly service is operated by Frazer Ferries and runs year-round. This ferry service aims to establish itself as a year-round commuter service, but also has a strong ambition to establish itself as a tourism asset, as a scenic transport link between the Mournes, the Ring of Gullion and the Cooley Peninsula and 'Ireland's Ancient East' in Ireland.

Tourism

Investment in tourism brings new facilities to our city, towns, villages and surrounding landscapes and makes a vital contribution to the district in terms of the revenues it generates, the employment opportunities it provides, and the potential it creates for economic growth. It also provides the opportunity to get maximum benefit from our wealth of environmental and heritage assets; our waterways, landscapes and historic environment. There are also health benefits to be gained by a

¹ Warrenpoint Port 'About the Port' <u>https://warrenpointport.com</u> accessed 12/05/2022.

² Northern Ireland Assembly Research and Information Service Briefing Paper: 'Northern Ireland's fisheries sectors – background and possible 'Brexit' considerations' published 8th September 2016.

³ UK Government UK Sea fisheries annual statistics report: 2016 Supplementary Table 2012 to 2016 UK fleet landings and foreign fleet landings into the UK by port

⁴ The Irish News, 10th March 2016 "Strangford ferry costs an average of £1.5m a year to run" (accessed 02 May 2016)

more active resident population who are motivated to be out and about exploring more of Newry, Mourne and Down's tourism assets.



Figure 5.5.7: Estimated overnight Trips, Nights and Expenditure 2011 - 2019 for NMD

The Covid-19 pandemic has had significant effect on the sources of tourism statistics in NI. Up to 2019 Newry, Mourne and Down was among the most visited of NI's LGDs as an overnight tourism destination. The district had the third highest quantity of available tourist accommodation of all the NI LGDs, with 4,332 bed spaces in 2016, but is some distance behind Causeway Coast and Glens (11,129) and Belfast (11,596).

Excluding day visits, tourism to the district in 2019 was worth almost £84 m from overnight expenditure, up 75% from 2015 and around 8% of the NI total of £1.04bn. Tourism-related employment supported 5,897 full and part time jobs in the district in 2019, around 11% of all employment¹.

Figure 5.5.8 shows that more than half of overnight stays in Newry, Mourne and Down for 2017-2019 were for holiday/leisure/pleasure. This proportion is the second highest of all the LGDs behind Causeway Coast and Glens. Only 4% of overnight visits were for business; a lower proportion than for any other local government district (NI 8%).

Source: NISRA, Local Government District tourism statistics publications 2019 (additional tables) (published 19 November 2020)

¹ NISRA, Local Government District tourism statistics publications 2019 (additional tables) (published 19 November 2020)



Figure 5.5.8: Overnight Visits - Place of Visitor Origin and Principal Reason for Visit (2019)

Source NISRA Local government district tourism statistics infographics 2019

In 2016 Slieve Gullion Forest Park, Castle Ward House & Demesne, Kilbroney Park and Newry Cathedral were the most popular visitor attractions in Newry, Mourne and Down. Slieve Gullion Forest Park was the fourth most visited park in NI, with an estimated 388,000 visitors.

Activity Tourism was identified by the NI Tourism Strategy as a key target market. It is estimated to be worth £90-100million per annum in revenue for NI tourist businesses. The district is well-placed to develop these aspects, with 11 golf courses, excellent angling waters and harbours with access to sea angling, hiking, walking and mountain biking trails and 100 miles of coastline with beaches and watersports facilities.

The Council's Tourism Strategy 2017-2021 has identified a number of initiatives it wishes to develop to enhance the district's ability to stand out in a crowded market. It notes that the accommodation base has inherent weaknesses relating to the type, quantity, quality and location of accommodation. It also states a number of access challenges, including the condition and carrying capacity of rural roads, parking, public transport and signage. The Strategy acknowledges the need for a joined up approach to address challenges and create a focus on promoting the district as a destination experience.

The marine area, its coastal waters, sea loughs and scenic shorelines are important components of the overall tourism and recreation sector. However, tourism and recreation also has the potential to generate adverse impacts on the marine area in terms of pressure from increased visitor numbers on heritage assets; the removal of species and plants, spreading of invasive species, the physical and visual disturbance of wildlife; pollution to water and litter, particularly in sensitive areas.

5.5.3 Likely Evolution of baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without a new LDP in place, the opportunity to make plans for growth in line with recent evidence and to develop a plan-led system may be missed. The absence of a LDP to address local needs could disadvantage those on lower incomes in terms of enabling access to places of work. Opportunities to develop the south eastern gateway of Newry and Warrenpoint may be missed. The Council would be unable to facilitate sustainable tourism growth to adequately reflect the needs and assets unique to Newry, Mourne and Down.

5.5.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Economy and Employment

- Identifying and zoning appropriate land for development is a vital part of creating the right conditions to create and sustain economic activity that meets local employment needs whilst considering opportunities for regeneration.
- Areas of high employment deprivation are located in the city and towns and border and coastal areas. The west of the district and border area has greater income deprivation than the north of the district.
- In selecting land for development, it is important to provide sites with quality environments that are readily accessible to the key transport corridors and by active travel and/or public transport.
- The district has seen a decrease in primary sector and manufacturing jobs in recent decades. National and regional trends indicate an ongoing shift towards tertiary sector jobs. The Council and relevant statutory bodies should work with local providers of education and training to identify and address any local skills shortfalls and develop tailored learning to ensure its population has the skills and training to meet future demand.
- Recent growth in Northern Ireland in office type industries, such as information technology and financial services, points to a need for a more flexible approach when determining the types of economic development that are acceptable in particular locations.
- Within the district there is a vibrant rural entrepreneurial spirit within the villages and open countryside. It is important that the Plan provides policy that can facilitate sustainable rural businesses.
- Kilkeel, Warrenpoint and Ardglass harbours are important contributors to the local economy. The RDS has identified Warrenpoint (along with Newry) as the 'South Eastern City Gateway' – a strategically important transport interchange. Connectivity is a key aspect in the support, growth and development of the harbours.
- There is a need to support and enhance the diversity, vibrancy and vitality of town centres and the wider area, particularly in respect of effects initiated by the Covid-19 pandemic. This approach is needed to also attract investment and higher skilled people to the district.
- Tourism in Newry, Mourne and Down is a potentially important contributor to growth of the regional economy. The needs of tourists and the tourism industry should be balanced with protecting the assets of the destination.
- Newry, Mourne and Down has a number of natural assets which are particularly suited to activity tourism (golf, angling, hiking/walking, cycling/mountain biking, beaches and other water-based activity). It also has a strong built and cultural heritage foundation for cultural tourism.

5.6 Material Assets

5.6.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Material assets are referred to in the EAPP Regulations, but the term is not defined. For the purposes of this report, the material assets sustainability topic covers a range of policy areas, including telecommunications, electrical infrastructure and energy distribution, renewable energy, derelict and contaminated land, and waste management.

Overarching regional and strategic planning policy strives for the sustainable development of land to help ensure the integration of material assets. Growth of infrastructure should be enabled in an efficient and effective manner whilst environmental impacts are minimised. While proposals in the marine environment are managed under a separate consenting regime, there may be land-sea interactions and it is important for both terrestrial and marine planning to work together. Strategic planning policy on renewable and low carbon energy and on oil and gas development has been undergoing review, which commenced in 2021.

The National Renewable Energy Action Plan for the UK 2010, the Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-15 and beyond, and the NI Waste Management Strategy are all relevant to material assets. Current policy encourages the multifunctional use of land; increases in renewables to the energy mix and reductions in waste / increases in recycling rates. The Energy Strategy for Northern Ireland, published in December 2021, sets out a framework for achieving 100% reduction in energy-related emissions by 2050. It seeks to 'grow the green economy' by investing in green innovation and low carbon technologies and replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy. An Offshore Renewable Energy Strategic Action Plan 2012-2020¹ identified the most suitable locations for appropriate renewable energy projects in NI. A site for offshore wind was identified just off the district's east coast and a tidal site at the mouth of Strangford Lough.² Further information is in the baseline section. Decarbonising energy and reducing wastefulness/ growing a circular economy are also principles within DAERA's draft Green Growth and draft Environment Strategies, both of which were consulted on in late 2021.

Investing in telecommunications, particularly in rural areas and considering the infrastructure required for renewable energy projects and strengthening of the grid for future energy demands is encouraged at the regional level. New gas infrastructure is also supported as the move to gas helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet UK climate change commitments. Climate change concerns encourage the use of renewables and a move toward a more sustainable energy mix that reduces emissions and improves air quality.

Sustainable waste management is also acknowledged as an opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by focusing on the waste management hierarchy, the proximity principle and the circular economy. Impacts should be considered of all types of installation on the environment and a strategic approach to the sustainable development of land could include multiple uses. For example, derelict land could be used to treat waste, which could in turn produce energy for local distribution.

'Living Well Together', the Council's Community Plan identifies the level of broadband connectivity as a key indicator to ensuring that 'All the people in Newry Mourne and Down District get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential'. Another outcome of the Community Plan is to ensure 'all people in Newry Mourne and Down benefit from a clean and sustainable environment'. A key indicator of achieving this outcome will be the level of sustainable energy use within the district.

Our Corporate Plan 2021-23³ aims to see "an increase in infrastructure investment that enables the future economic growth of the district" and an "ongoing reduction in municipal waste sent to landfill". While these are short-term two-year objectives, the LDP can create the conditions to support these

¹ Department for the Economy: Offshore Renewable Electricity

² Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Paper 8: The Coast February 2017

³ Newry Mourne and Down District Council (2021) Phlean Corparáideach 2021-2023 Corporate Plan 2021-2023

actions in the future. Sustainable management of material assets will be central to achieving these outcomes.

5.6.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in a number of LDP Preparatory Study Papers including Public Utilities, Landscape and Minerals. This topic also overlaps with the Physical Resources and Climate Change topics of this report.

Telecommunications

In 2021, geographic mobile coverage in Northern Ireland for 4G services ranged from 87-92%, depending on the operator. Coverage from all four operators is available across 79% of Northern Ireland.

At district level, 67% of landmass in Newry Mourne and Down has 4G coverage from all 4 operators; and 94% from at least one operator. By 2025, this is predicted to rise to 80% and 98% respectively under the Shared Rural Network project¹.

Broadband

Level of broadband connectivity is an indicator for the Community Plan. This measure has shown positive change since 2015. Northern Ireland has recently seen the completion of a superfast broadband roll out scheme which increased the number of premises which receive higher broadband speeds. Ofcom² reports that in Newry Mourne and Down full fibre coverage now extends to some 71% of residential premises, up from just 35% in 2020. 88% of premises have access to superfast (>=30Mbit/s) broadband, up 5% from the previous year. 2.1% of premises in NI remain unable to get 'decent' broadband speeds of 2Mbit/s from a fixed line (district-level data not available).

Energy Supply & Distribution/Electrical Infrastructure

The System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) is the independent operator managing the largescale electrical transmission infrastructure across the country. It operates 1,500km of transmission power lines and 45,000km of distribution power lines. SONI displays live data on to the current energy sources for NI, including connected sources of renewables at <u>https://www.soni.ltd.uk/how-the-gridworks/system-information/</u>. All users are connected to the distribution network for their electricity³.

¹ Ofcom (2022) Connected Nations 2021: Northern Ireland report

² Ofcom (2022) Connected Nations 2021: Northern Ireland report

³ Northern Ireland Electricity: Briefing on Grid Capacity in Northern Ireland in the context of enabling Economic Growth April 2015

Figure 5.6.1 NI Transmission Network



Source: SONI [online] (found at https://www.soni.ltd.uk/media/documents/SONI-Transmission-Map.pdf (accessed 19/05/2022))

Northern Ireland has historically been primarily dependant on fossil fuels for energy supply, however in recent years renewables have made an approximately equal contribution to electricity generation. There are three major gas and coal/oil power generating sites located at Ballylumford, Coolkeeragh and Kilroot. The region is also connected to the Scottish grid via the Moyle interconnector and to the Republic of Ireland via North South tie-lines.¹ A tie-line is an interconnection line between areas.



Figure 5.6.2 Electricity Generated by fuel type NI 2004-2019

Source: DAERA Northern Ireland Carbon Intensity Indicators 2021

The future security of supply in Northern Ireland is dependent on its capacity to generate, transmit and distribute energy efficiently. SONI has identified that "the transition to low-carbon and renewable energy will have widespread consequences. There will be major changes in how electricity is

¹ DETI: Energy in Northern Ireland 2016

generated, and in how it is bought, sold, and used. The electricity system will carry more power than ever before and most of that power will be from renewable sources"¹.

Northern Ireland is part of the Single Electricity Market which is currently served by the North South tie-lines located between Tandragee and Louth, Strabane and Letterkenny, and Enniskillen and Corraclassy. A new North South Interconnector between Tyrone and Cavan received final planning approval in 2021, after a series of appeals. This should increase the capacity and efficiency of the electric network and improve security of supply².

Renewables

The Strategic Energy Framework for Northern Ireland set a target to achieve 40% of electrical consumption from renewable sources by 2020. There has been a significant increase in electricity generated from renewable sources since 2001/02 and the Executive's 2020 target was achieved.

For the 12 month period January 2021 to December 2021, 41.3% of total electricity consumption in Northern Ireland was generated from renewable sources located in NI - slightly down from 49.2% the previous year and 45% 2019. This reduction was a consequence of lower wind speeds (Figure 5.6.4). Over this period, wind made up 82.1% of all renewables generation, with biogas contributing to 6.8%, biomass 5.1%, solar 3.9% and landfill gas 1.6%³.





Rolling 12 month Average % of Total Electricity Consumption Generated from Indigenous Renewable Sources

Source: DfE (2022) Issue 22 - Electricity Consumption and Renewable Generation in Northern Ireland January 2021 to December 2021

There are currently no onshore wind farms with planning approval in Newry, Mourne and Down, however one is currently under consideration. The number of single turbine applications approved in the district between 2002 and 2015 was 321. Since 2015 the annual number of applications for renewable energy has been notably reduced, with 20 applications received and 9 approved between 2017-2020⁴. It should be noted that these figures do not reflect the number of single turbines or other proposals in operation⁵. This reduction may be partly due to a reduction in government funding

¹ SONI [online] Strategy 2020 - 25 'Leading the Transition' (found at <u>https://www.soni.ltd.uk/about/strategy-2025/</u> (accessed 19/05/2022)) ² DETI: Energy in Northern Ireland 2016

³ DFE (2022) Electricity Consumption and Renewable Generation in Northern Ireland: Year Ending December 2021

⁴ NISRA Planning Applications and Decisions Granted (administrative geographies) 2002-2020

⁵ Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies, Paper 9: Public Utilities

available, as well as a lack of capacity on the power grid to allow for new connections. A diversity of renewables is important to help ensure security of supply¹.





Source: SONI (2022) Technical Report on Shaping our Electricity Future p11.

In its 'Shaping our Electricity Future Roadmap', SONI has the identified the existing and planned generation infrastructure within NI and it can be seen in Figure 5.6.4 that the 2030 projected distribution does not predict many larger-scale proposals in the district.

Wind, wave and tidal resource zones in the marine area, have been identified in the Offshore Renewable Energy Strategic Action Plan 2012-2020)² with a site at the mouth of Strangford Lough among the most suitable locations for tidal renewable energy projects in NI. The delivery of 0.35 -0.7GW of Offshore wind is considered within SONI's 'Shaping our Electricity Future Roadmap', however the feasibility of connecting offshore wind at scale by 2030 is uncertain. The report concludes that a demonstration 100MW pilot scheme is likely the most achievable scenario. The draft Marine Plan includes a presumption in favour of energy proposals that improve the security and diversity of energy supply [subject to no unacceptable adverse impacts] among its key activity policies. The delivery of offshore renewables may necessitate coordination between different authorities.

Energy supply within the district is not a current issue however, the future potential growth of renewables, is partially dependent upon the capacity of the grid to support new connections. Lecale, Slieve Croob and Newtonhamiliton have been identified as being at saturation point in terms of the capacity to facilitate small scale renewable connections. Further investment in the existing infrastructure is required to improve capacity within the district and ensure the grid is fit for purpose³. The development of a 'Flexible, Resilient and Integrated Energy System' is an objective of the 'Path to Net Zero' as well as the Environment and Green Growth Strategies.

Northern Ireland Electricity's business plan 'Investing for the Future 2017-2024' states that planned investment will be taking place to improve network assets across the region which could see improvements in the district. This could create potential for new overhead power lines and power installations within the district.

The Renewable Integration Development Plan, Network 25 and Generation Cluster Infrastructure projects will see improvements within the region to enable the connection of renewables generation however at present there are no planned projects within the district that would enable commercial scale renewables connection.

¹ DAERA (2019) Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Annual Report 2019 Issue 11 'Environmental Installations'

² Department for the Economy: Offshore Renewable Electricity

³ Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies, Paper 9: Public Utilities

There is potential within the district for hydroelectricity, tidal, heat, biomass and biogas. Whilst potential for these types of renewable development is likely to be limited or small scale it is noted that the potential for tidal power may be much greater than previously assumed.

The SeaGen generator, the first large scale commercial tidal stream generator of its kind in the world was installed in Strangford Lough in 2008, however it was decommissioned in 2019. The district has also received applications for small-scale hydroelectric schemes in Newry and South Armagh¹.

Waste management





Source: DAERA

Newry Mourne and Down forms part of the ARC21 Waste Management Group which comprises of 6 of Northern Irelands councils and is responsible for the preparing, monitoring and reviewing the groups Waste Management Plan. Arc21 account for 59% of the region's population making it the largest Waste Management Group.

The Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy supports sustainable development, the waste management hierarchy and resource efficiency. At its core is to reduce waste; and then reuse, recycle or recover, before any consideration of landfilling. The proportion of municipal waste collected and prepared for reuse, recycling and composting in 2015 and 2020 is shown in Figure 5.6.6 and has increased from 38.9% in 2015 to 51.9% in 2020, which was above the NI average.

¹ Ibid

Figure 5.6.6: Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Prepared for Re-use, Recycled and Composted (%)



Household Waste Prepared for Reuse, Recycled and Composted (%)

2015 Source: NISRA Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Recycling (administrative geographies)

In comparison with other LGDs, Newry Mourne and Down has had, since 2015¹, the highest proportion of Local Authority Collected waste used for energy recovery (44.1% in 2020/21) and, along with Mid Ulster District, the lowest proportion landfilled (approx. 6%).

The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 introduces a requirement for the Department to ensure that at least 70% of waste is recycled by 2030. The draft Green Growth Strategy sets out that "we must utilise better what we think of as waste through a strong circular economy, an economy where we move from 'make, use, dispose' to one where we keep resources in use for as long as possible, where waste is eliminated, resources are circulated and nature regenerated".

The district has two main landfill sites located at Aughnagon and Drumnakelly, however these ceased to be used for the purpose of household waste in 2015 and 2016. There are 10 recycling centres located across the district with permission granted for a modern facility at Killough Road Downpatrick. Permission has also been granted for a waste transfer station at Drumnakelly².

Derelict/Contaminated Land

The Historical Landuse Database held by the NIEA provides a record of approximately 14,000 sites that have had previous industrial land use(s). This database was originally based on historic maps and records dating from 1834-1960 but it has been updated with NIEA datasets including Industrial Heritage, Waste Management Licenses, and Pollution Incidents.

There are 1,337 historical land use records for Newry, Mourne and Down. The figure below shows the pattern of historical land use within the district. It shows the routes of former railways and the legacy of former mineral workings, and textile and dye works in the district.

¹ DAERA [online] Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Waste Statistics (found at <u>https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-local-authority-collected-municipal-waste-management-statistics (accessed 19/05/2022))</u>

² Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies, Paper 9: Public Utilities



Source: DAERA [online] Historical Landuse (found at https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/historical-landuse (accessed 19/05/2022))

5.6.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a plan, opportunities may be missed to ensure development makes best use of existing utility infrastructure and development or could be constrained where infrastructure is deficient. Lack of up to date land information may also inhibit potential to address poor network coverage in relation to telecommunication infrastructure. Potential to support renewable energy projects and associated infrastructure whilst protecting sensitive landscapes could be an issue without adequate planning. Without the LDP there could be missed opportunities to spatially consider the sustainable location of material assets. The same could be said for integration of appropriate waste management facilities, based on the proximity principle.

5.6.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Material Assets

- Improving infrastructure across rural areas for the needs of rural communities, rural services and rural businesses is a strategic priority.
- It is important to support renewable energy development whilst also safeguarding areas that are considered to be of particular scenic value and minimising potential impacts on neighbouring properties and the environment.
- There are no windfarms onshore or offshore, within the district, but single turbines are evident.
- Renewable energy applications have noticeably dropped since 2015. There is currently an absence of financial incentives for renewable projects; this may be influencing rates of development.
- New private forms of renewable energy development are likely to increase in use in the Newry, Mourne and Down area over the plan period.
- Grid reinforcement is required to facilitate the growth of renewable energy generation.

- The district's location provides opportunities to create physical links to the electricity network in the Republic of Ireland.
- The impact of existing or proposed waste management facilities should be considered when zoning land for development and ensuring incompatibility of adjacent land uses is avoided.
- Growing a circular economy and implementing the waste hierarchy that advocates prevention, and reuse of waste before recycling are key elements within DAERA's draft Green Growth and draft Environment Strategies.
- The Council should take account of the potential effects of new telecommunications development, and any necessary enabling works, on visual amenity and environmentally sensitive features and locations.

5.7 Physical Resources

5.7.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The physical resources sustainability theme covers minerals, earth science sites, geothermal energy, land and soil. Physical resources provide us with the building blocks we need for everyday life, but are mostly finite in their supply.

The sustainable management of physical resources is a common theme of regional, strategic and subject planning policy. The need to safeguard sufficient land to provide physical resources into the future is evident. Land is recognised as multifunctional, in that it can act as a connective wildlife corridor; provide amenity value, building resources, adaptation for climate change; remove water and soil pollution; support biodiversity and create landscape character. Adequate amounts of land are required to deliver all of these functions. Some physical resources such as soil can become so contaminated from pollution that they no longer adequately function.

The overarching aims of current government policy and programmes are sustainable development and sustainable land management, as these will underpin sustainable economic growth and a sustainable energy supply. Current policy strives to ensure that physical resources are safeguarded for the future and that sufficient local supplies are available. The Department for Economy recognises that the concept of sustainability is different within the industry because reserves are finite, but the industry can still play a part in the circular economy and the principles of the waste management hierarchy. The Draft Green Growth Strategy considers that "[NI must move from] an economy where we move from 'make, use, dispose' to one where we keep resources in use for as long as possible, where waste is eliminated, resources are circulated and nature regenerated". By keeping technical and natural materials in circulation for longer at their highest value, we retain their embodied carbon and consequently reduce GHG emissions. Northern Ireland also has a Geodiversity Charter that aims to inform decision makers of the importance of geodiversity to the economy and the environment.

The SPPS aims to minimise the impacts from the minerals industry on local communities and the environment. This is expected through sustainable minerals development that carefully considers impacts on the local area and includes the safe restoration of sites with an appropriate reuse. In Northern Ireland, older mineral workings from the 1970s and 1980s had little emphasis placed on managing their environmental impacts or restoration. Recent changes to planning legislation through the Planning Act (NI) 2011, enables Councils to review old mineral permissions sites (ROMP sites). However, a further Order is needed before Councils can begin this review.

Our Corporate Plan 2021-23¹ includes the primary objective to "enhance, protect and promote our environment" within which there is the key action to "Develop a Circular Economy Plan for the district to make best use of our waste and resources". A sustainable approach to the management of physical resources will help to achieve these priorities and the overall vision of the Council.

The Council's Community Plan, 'Living Well Together' recognises that beyond the large number of protected sites in the district, the land in the wider Countryside is managed for agriculture, some of which will be under agri-environment scheme agreements. These are designed to encourage the adoption of environmentally friendly management practices, which can have great benefits for our biodiversity.

5.7.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the LDP Preparatory Studies Papers on Minerals Developments (Paper 11) and Countryside Development Pressure Analysis (Paper 12). This topic also overlaps with the Housing, Material Assets, Climate Change, Natural Resources and Landscape sections of this scoping report.

¹Newry Mourne and Down District Council (2021) Phlean Corparáideach 2021-2023 Corporate Plan 2021-2023

Minerals

The Department for the Economy's (DfE) LDP consultation response on Minerals¹ indicates that in 2011, 21 quarries in Newry, Mourne and Down submitted annual mineral returns, plus another six quarries were known to the Department. DfE quarry data on Spatial NI, dated 2016, indicates 29 quarries operating throughout the district. Preparatory Paper 11 notes that small-scale unlicensed sand extraction has been a problem in coastal areas, such as Tyrella.

The Annual Minerals Statements² published by the DfE show that Newry, Mourne and Down is a fairly important contributor to the overall supply of sandstone in NI and also contributes to the regional production of basalt and igneous rock, sand and gravel and 'other' minerals such as chalk, dolomite, fireclay and granite. In 2020

	2016 NMD quantity produced (tonnes)	2016 Total NI quantity produced (tonnes)	2016 NMD % of NI total (tonnes)	2019 NMD quantity produced (tonnes)	2019 Total NI quantity produced (tonnes)	2019 NMD % of NI total (tonnes)	2020 NMD quantity produced (tonnes)	2020 Total NI quantity produced (tonnes)	2020 NMD % of NI total (tonnes)
Basalt and Igneous Rock (excluding Granite)	105,368	4,215,787	2.5	NA	3,162,418	NA	718,920*	3,108,850	23.1*
Sandstone	911,211	5,042,618	18.1	596,912	4,514,920	13.2	619,789	4,345,525	14.3
Limestone	NA	2,146,172	NA	NA	2,663,688	NA	NA	2,861,395	NA
Sand and Gravel	11,415	2,353,892	0.5	10,086	2,290,495	0.4	46,072	2,500,923	1.8
Other	5,486	1,264,407	0.4	NA	752,311	NA	781,924* *	781,924	100**

*combined reporting figure with Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon and Lisburn & Castlereagh

** combined reporting figure with Mid & East Antrim, Belfast, and Derry City & Strabane

Source: DfE Annual Minerals Statement 2016, 2019, 2020

The DfE's LDP consultation response on Minerals also indicates that the high value, high specification sandstone produced in the district has potential for export to the wider European market.

The Ards & Down Area Plan 2015 identified 'Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development' (ACMD), however the Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 did not identify any ACMDs. The land covered under these licences is shown in the LDP preparatory studies paper on Mineral Developments. Of the 1,681km² encompassed by Newry, Mourne and Down, 790km² (47%) of the district is currently covered by an ACMD designation. The designation of ACMDs may restrict the future opportunities to pursue minerals development. In February 2017 there were 18 mineral prospecting licences and mining licenses within Newry, Mourne and Down, with 16 of these for prospecting. At June 2022 there is one prospecting license active in the district.

Census 2011 data showed that the minerals industry employed 184 people from the district, which represents around 0.25% of all employment at that time. A 2019 report on the Economic Impact of the Geoscience Industry on the NI Economy³ estimates that, regionally, the full economic impact of the geoscience industry to the wider NI economy is calculated to be 83,700 jobs, £3.7 billion in Gross Value Added (GVA) and £1.8 billion in wages. These are all significant figures, equivalent to around 10% of the NI economy being directly or indirectly impacted by the geoscience sector. Geoscience covers a wide range of economic services and activities, from geotourism and education/research to extraction of minerals (which supports other businesses such as construction, manufacturing and the production of materials/goods), care of groundwater and the development of energy resources.

¹Newry, Mourne and Down District Council - Minerals Development - DfE Response (Date published: 23 October 2017) (found at <u>https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/newry-mourne-and-down-district-council-minerals-development-dfe-response)</u> ² Department for the Economy Annual Minerals Statements (Date published: 21 February 2018) <u>https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/annual-minerals-statements</u>

³ University of Ulster (2019) Economic Impact of the Geoscience Industry on the Northern Ireland

There were 47 ROMP sites identified in Newry, Mourne and Down by the Department of the Environment in their 2014 Review of Old Mineral Applications, equating to 10% of the total number of ROMP sites in NI (470) (see Figure 5.7.1). The majority of these (24) were for the extraction of sand and gravel, alongside 22 sites for hard rock and one for clay. The sand and gravel sites are concentrated around Kilkeel, while the hard rock sites are distributed across the district. In the future, it may be feasible to restore some of these sites for recreational/educational use and/or as green/blue infrastructure.

The Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI) maintains a database of former mine workings, shafts and adits and has an associated webviewer¹. An extract is also shown in Appendix 8 of the LDP Preparatory Studies Paper 12. This shows that in the 1800s, copper, lead and iron were prospected and mined for at several locations across the district. Land within the vicinity of former mine workings may be at risk of instability and subsidence, which should be taken in to consideration when planning new development. Two areas from Armagh and Newtownhamilton south to the border are licensed for minerals exploration², and while exploration for all minerals is within the terms of the licence, it is understood that the targets are base and precious metals including silver and gold. To date no economic deposit has been identified.

There are no energy minerals (coal and lignite) in the district, nor any known potential for hydrocarbons (oil and gas).

Earth Science

There are 17 Earth Science Conservation Review sites (ESCRs) across Newry, Mourne and Down, Figure 5.7.1. These are recognised for various geological features and are located in disused quarries, streams, road cuttings and coastal areas. These are mostly located along the coastline, but there are also several sites located in the Mourne Mountains and the surroundings of Newry.



Figure 5.7.1: ROMP sites, Earth Science Conservation Review Sites and geological ASSIs

¹ GSNI [online] Geoindex (found at <u>http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/GSNI_Geoindex/home.html</u> (accessed 31/05/2022)) ² DfE [online] Minerals Licensing 'Mineral Prospecting Applications' (found at <u>https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/articles/minerals-licensing</u> (accessed 31/05/2022)) As discussed further in section 5.11, there are 62 Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) in Newry, Mourne and Down, of which 26 have earth science selection features. These sites are protected for their geological value, but they can also provide habitat for local wildlife and help to maintain local biodiversity. For example, Carlingford Lough is an important site for breeding and wintering birds is but is also recognised for its Carboniferous stratigraphy and Pleistocene deposits. Murlough Bay is recognised for its coastal processes and record of sea level history, while also being an important site for plants and invertebrate assemblages, including the marsh fritillary butterfly. There is a direct link between the geology and the geomorphology of an area and its physical character and natural heritage. There is overlap between some of the ESCRs and ASSIs. There are 190 Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs) in the district, some of which are likely to have a geological importance.

NI's Geodiversity Charter¹ highlights the role geodiversity plays in NI's economy, through providing vital natural resources including minerals, aggregates, and water, along with the soil formation necessary for agriculture. Geodiversity also plays an important role in NI's tourism industry. The Charter also draws attention to the implications that climate change may have on our geodiversity and soils such as *"changes in landscape character, flooding, river channel readjustments, coastal landform changes and an increased demand for geological hazard mitigation such as coastal protection"*.

The Council's Tourism Strategy 2017-2021 identified the application for designation of the Mourne AONB and the Ring of Gullion AONB as a United Nation's Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Global Geopark as a 'Catalyst Project' – a designation which has the potential to be 'game changing' in terms of growing the tourism economy.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are established under the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP) of UNESCO and are areas of international geological significance that are holistically managed for sustainable tourism, education and conservation. As stated in the IGGP 'Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks', they must respect local and national laws relating to the protection of geological heritage (such as ASSIs and SACs). The UNESCO Global Geopark designation should not place a restriction on economic development.

Geothermal Energy

Naturally occurring heat is stored in ground layers ranging from core depths to shallow layers. It can be used as a source of heating for buildings and possible electricity. This naturally occurring ground heat is called 'geothermal energy'. Geothermal energy is low carbon, renewable (without fluctuation) and is viable with existing technology. It could become a sustainable part of the future energy mix, if investment and the necessary infrastructure were provided. The DfE has advised that the underlying geology of Newry, Mourne and Down is such that most of the Council area would be suitable for the deployment of closed loop ground source heat pump systems to provide heating for domestic and non-domestic buildings. The glacial outwash sands and gravels of the Mourne Plain near Kilkeel may be suitable for the deployment of open loop systems that abstract the heat energy directly from the shallow groundwater aquifer using dual abstraction and injection boreholes. The potential for a possible deep geothermal energy resource within the Mournes has also been identified².

Consideration of the installation and integration of geothermal heating systems is recommended at an early design stage alongside other infrastructure. With further development of the technology, geothermal energy could help to meet the 'net zero' targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The UK National Renewable Energy Action Plan refers to ground heat and the Strategic Energy Framework discusses shallow geothermal energy.

¹ GSNI 2021: Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter 2021-24

²Ture, M.D., Reay, D.M., Muller, M.R., Yeomans, C.M. and Ayres, L.A., 2016 'Geothermal potential of granitic rocks of the Mourne Mountains' in M.E. Young (ed.), Unearthed: impacts of the Tellus surveys of the north of Ireland; Newry, Mourne and Down LDP Preparatory Paper 11: Mineral Developments February 2017

The DfE's LDP consultation response on Minerals has noted that there may also be potential for pumped energy storage within Newry, Mourne and Down. The idea was first suggested in the 1970s and the strategic importance of energy storage in helping to meet fluctuating energy demand from variable renewable energy sources has been recognised in recent years.

Land

The Co-ordination of Information on the Environment (Corine) project, initiated by the European Commission in 1985, provides a comprehensive picture on land use in the UK and Ireland. Corine uses high-definition satellite images and detailed local maps to match land use against 44 different land use codes. These can be used to monitor changes in land use over time (reference years are 1990, 2000, 2006 and 2012).

Figure 5.7.2 shows a simplified version of the Corine land use classifications for Newry, Mourne and Down. The detailed land use categories can be arranged into the four general categories of 'Built on', 'Green urban', 'Farmland' and 'Natural'. Newry, Mourne and Down currently has around 77% of its land cover classified as farmland and a further 19% as natural land cover, both of which are broadly average for NI. Only 3% of the Council area is classed as 'built on' and around 1% is 'green urban'.

The Northern Ireland Countryside Survey 2007 found that the main changes in land cover over time were the loss of semi natural habitats to agricultural grassland and rural buildings. The trend for natural land conversion to improved grassland and curtilage was observed in the 1998 survey. Building was mostly on neutral or improved grassland, indicating pressure on agricultural land but semi natural habitat losses were also recorded. The loss of semi natural habitat in lowland areas, where this habitat is already scarce, is a biodiversity issue. In the district, development pressure on land is evident from types of development such as single rural dwellings in the countryside.

Figure 5.7.2 Land Cover Map of Newry, Mourne and Down, derived from Corine (2012)



Produced by the University of Leicester, The Centre for Landscape and Climate Research and Specto Natura and supported by Defra and the European Environment Agency under Grant Agreement 3541/B2012/RO-GIO/EEA.55055 with funding by the European Union.

Rural Housing

Preparatory Studies Paper 12 notes that (at the 2011 census) 16% of the population live within the existing development limits of Newry city, 24% live in the seven existing towns, 20% in the villages and 5% in small settlements. This means that 35% of the household population in Newry, Mourne and Down is currently in the open countryside. Between 2002 and 2016, more than 14,000 single houses in the countryside were granted planning permission in the district. The paper remarks that the introduction of PPS21 in 2010 notably reduced the rate of rural housing approvals.

Renewable Energy

As discussed in 5.6.2, in comparison with other LGDs, Newry, Mourne and Down does not experience as much pressure on land use from wind and other renewables. It is not possible to obtain data on how many of the approved single turbines have actually been constructed and are operational in the district but, as has been discussed in section 5.6, obtaining a connection to the grid is a major constraint to the development of renewables above the domestic scale.

Soil

Soil quality is not currently protected under any specific legislation in NI, but it is a fundamental physical resource. It acts as a store for - and source of - gases like oxygen, nitrogen and carbon dioxide. It also filters water and provides a base for biodiversity and raw materials. A properly functioning soil should be less vulnerable to erosion, reduce flooding, filter pollution and store essential nutrients that can support plants and animals. Development can affect soil quality through pollution and erosion. Figure 5.7.3 shows the UK Soil Observatory World Reference Base Soil Map for covering Newry, Mourne and Down. The dominant soil types in the council area are:

- Cambisols (sand colour on figure 5.7.3) relatively young soils, with little or no profile development.
- Leptosols (grey colour on figure 5.7.3) Shallow soil over bedrock, calcareous material or a deeper soil that is gravelly or stony.
- Podzols (green colour on figure 5.7.3) soils set by Fe/Al chemistry, common in coniferous forests.
- Stagnosols (pale blue colour on figure 5.7.3) Soils with stagnating water.



Figure 5.7.3: Soils Map of Newry, Mourne and Down

Source: AFBI NI / UKSO [online] Soils Map Viewer (found at https://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/ukso/home.html (accessed 31/05/2022))

5.7.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there could be less opportunity to spatially plan and sustainably manage existing and future physical resources so that reserves are safeguarded, and environmental damage avoided. It may become more difficult to respond to and manage development pressures on the district's physical resources and to avoid inappropriate development, pollution and erosion.

5.7.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Physical Resources

- Minerals should be protected from inappropriate development and a proactive approach taken to safeguard the future of mineral development in the district.
- There may be scope for mineral development within Areas of Constraint providing key sites are avoided and development would not unduly compromise the integrity of the area.
- Sand extraction has previously occurred in some coastal areas, such as around Tyrella. Such activities have been small scale, but may not be sustainable as a source of sand in the future.
- The district has a number of adits, shafts and working mines that should be given appropriate consideration when planning the location of future development, particularly where these are located in proximity to settlements.
- Where mineral deposits exist across administrative boundaries, consideration should be given to neighbouring authorities' proposed approach to mineral development.
- The mineral prospecting licences presently issued within the Council area indicate potential for valuable minerals, or extraction of precious metals, however, these resources currently remain untouched.
- Tellus surveys have identified the Mournes as an area with a potential deep geothermal energy resource.
- Soil quality across the district should be protected using effective conservation measures due to a lack of specific legislation protecting soils at a regional or local level.

5.8 Transport and Accessibility

5.8.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Overarching regional planning policy for transport, aims to deliver a balanced approach to transport infrastructure. Integral to this is an underlying drive to improve transport connectivity, accessibility, efficiency and social inclusivity. Regional policy also aims to reduce our carbon footprint and mitigate and adapt to climate change whilst improving air quality. Some measures to achieve this are directly linked to transport and include reducing emissions from transport, improving energy efficiency and enabling Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) to be revoked.

Encouraging people to use public transport and to consider active travel options like walking and cycling is key to achieving regional policy outcomes. This is reflected in the policy objectives for transport in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement, along with objectives for adequate parking facilities and road safety. The LDP will be fundamental to promoting and enabling sustainable transport but a behavioural shift within society is also required, both at home and in the workplace.

The draft Programme for Government¹ includes a number of outcomes in its framework which may be influenced by the LDP, including *"we live and work sustainably – protecting the environment"*. Key Priority areas include *"Promotion of and access to safe, active and sustainable transport to encourage people to make environmentally responsible choices about transport."* Planning for the Future of Transport – Time for Change (2021) outlines how the Dfl's priorities for the future of transport here can be supported by the improved planning, management and development of the transport networks over the next 10 to 15 years and this links with the PfG. Two of its three actions are relevant to the LDP *"Proactive planning and design – taking direct steps towards desired outcomes"* and *"Integrated land use and transport planning – securing short, medium and longer term changes if we start now"*. 'Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future' was published in 2011 to support the RDS. This strategy seeks to provide the infrastructure and services that will ensure that travel and transport are as sustainable as possible.

In 2021, Dfl published a Local Transport Study (LTS) to help inform NMD in the LDP process, ahead of Dfl's preparation of a new series of Local Transport Plans. The LTS sets out an objective evidencebased assessment of current and future transport issues in the context of the Councils' growth ambitions.

Our Corporate Plan 2021-23² recognises that the district is in close proximity to two major airports, a deep-water port, and transport routes, which link us throughout Ireland and to Great Britain. It includes the strategic objectives "to invest in and support new and growing businesses..." and to "support sustainable forms of tourism..." Sustainably approaching our transport system and how people can best access services and facilities, tourist attractions and the natural environment, will be key to achieving the strategic objectives.

In our Community Plan, Living Well Together, connectivity is recognised as important: 'Underpinning development and wellbeing, connectivity is key to supporting access to services and employment for our communities, diversification and expansion of the business sector, access by tourists etc. Internal connectivity is a problem, in terms of roads, transport and communications (broadband and mobile) infrastructure.' The indicators proposed to measure delivery of the plan include level of infrastructure, travel times and congestion levels.

5.8.2 Baseline Information

Relevant baseline information is presented in the LDP Discussion Paper 5 on Transportation and the Community Plan evidence papers. Data has also been sourced from NISRA and the Department for

¹ The Executive Office (2021) Programme for Government Draft Outcomes Framework Consultation Document 25 January 2021

²<u>Newry Mourne and Down District Council (2021) Phlean Corparáideach 2021-2023 Corporate Plan 2021-2023</u>

Infrastructure. This topic also overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Air Quality, Climate Change, Natural Resources and Landscape sections of this report.

Transport Emissions

DAERA's NI Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2019 reports that, after agriculture, transport is the second highest sector contributor to GHG emissions, accounting for 20% of total GHG emissions in 2019. The emissions are a by-product from the burning of fossil fuels and the transport sector has not demonstrated any declining trend. GHG emissions are linked to a warming climate and the transport sector has a responsibility to reduce emissions. This can be achieved through the planning of transport routes that enable shorter journeys and the integration of public transport and active travel options.

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is also generated from road traffic. It can exacerbate symptoms of heart and lung conditions and can adversely affect plant life and biodiversity in sensitive habitats. Annual mean NO₂ levels have shown a gradual reducing trend from 2011 to 2019. Emissions dipped in 2020 to $24.3\mu g/m^3$ coinciding with restrictions implemented in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, but in 2021 rose again to 26.3 $\mu g/m^{3.1}$.

Road transport and fossil fuel combustion produce the majority of airborne particulate matter found in the air in urban locations. Fine particles can be carried deep into the lungs where they can cause inflammation and a worsening of symptoms in people with heart and lung diseases. In addition, they may carry surface-absorbed carcinogenic compounds into the lungs².

A number of main road routes in the district experience congestion. Information is presented in the Community Plan evidence papers and summarised below:

- The Dublin Road in Newry has experienced a significant increase in traffic since 2010 although there has been a slight decrease between 2013 and 2014.
- The Rostrevor Road, Warrenpoint has seen a significant increase in traffic between 2010-2014.
- On the north of the border section of the Newry to Dundalk Road there was a considerable decrease in traffic flow between 2010-2011 and the flow fluctuated year on year since but with an increase between 2013-2014.
- The Belfast Road from Downpatrick at Quoile experienced a significant decrease in traffic flow between 2010-2011, followed by a considerable increase over 2012-2013. The level of traffic flow on this road decreased again between 2013-14.
- The traffic flow on the Belfast Road, Ballynahinch peaked in 2010 and has since shown a steady decline until 2013 where the traffic has again increased.
- The Dundrum to Clough Road has overall shown continuous increase since 2012.
- The Newcastle to Annalong Road at Bloody Bridge showed decrease from 2010-2012 but has been increasing steadily since.

The Green Growth approach seeks to reduce carbon emissions from transport. Decarbonisation of our transport system by switching to zero or low carbon fuels may reduce emissions, but will not alleviate congestion. 'Planning for the Future of Transport' (2021) indicates that active travel needs to become a pillar of change within towns and cities in an effort to cut emissions.

Transport Routes

The A1 linking Newry with Belfast and Dublin is identified in the RDS as a Key Transport Corridor within the Strategic Transportation Network (STN). The RDS also identifies the A7 Downpatrick to Belfast and the A28 Newry to Armagh as Link Corridors. Trunk roads identified in the RDS include the A2 Newry to Warrenpoint, the A27 Newry to Portadown and the A2 and A24 travelling north from Newcastle to Belfast via Ballynahinch. It is noted in LDP Paper 5 that the STN, whilst serving a number of the district's main settlements, is better for journeys into and out of the district than for journeys

¹ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2022

² DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2022

between the main settlements in the district. Several roads within the district have been identified by the Dfl as 'Protected Routes' where the preservation of the free and safe movement of traffic is a priority.

The A1 and A2 (at the Newry to Warrenpoint Road) form the only sections of dual carriageway in the district and there are no motorways. The remaining routes within the Council area are single carriage A roads, B roads, or minor roads both classified and unclassified.

A proposed improvement to the STN within the district is the Ballynahinch Bypass. A number of other potential future schemes have been identified by DfI Roads, including the Narrow Water Bridge project, Downpatrick Eastern Bypass, Rathfriland Link Road Newry and the proposed Irish Street to St Patrick's Avenue link in Downpatrick.

Car Use

According to the continuous household survey¹, 86% of households in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council had access to one or more vehicles in 2016/17. In 2019/20 this proportion had risen to 91%, well above the NI average of 83%. There remains a significant number of households without access to any vehicle and which are therefore reliant on public transport, active travel and lift shares. The LTS reports that in the NMDDC area 49% of journeys to work of less than 2km are made by single occupancy cars (*NI average 44%*).

Public Transport Options

The LTS 2021 provides a summary of the baseline for public transport. Newry has a train station providing frequent services to Belfast and cross the Irish border. The Ulsterbus network is also important in providing accessibility to and from the key settlements of Newry, Downpatrick, Warrenpoint and Newcastle to Belfast. The Ulsterbus network also provides fairly regular services to and from the key hubs to smaller towns and villages in the NMDDC area. Goldline 'limited-stop' bus services currently provide accessibility from Newry, Downpatrick and Newcastle to Belfast or other transport gateways such as port, airports and border crossings.

The Census in 2011 identified that in our district, 106,630 people were of primary school ages and over, in full time education, or aged 16 to 74 in employment and currently working. The census indicated that within this group. 13.7 % travelled to work or place of education using bus or rail. If we exclude those under 16 or in education, this figure dropped to 3.14%.

When the total travelling to work or full time study is considered, we find that in total 20% of this population travel 20 kilometres or over to place of work or study. It is also worth noting that in this set of figures the level of home working was 12%, and overall the level of lift share, (car and van pooling and travelling as a passenger), was 16%.

The LTS 2021 concludes that improved 'limited-stop' bus services to key hubs, maintained and improved town centre bus services, rail services and connections are measures to be investigated.

Distance travelled to work or place of study

Figure 5.8.1 presents the distance travelled to place of work or study. Over half of workers and students travel at least 10 km, and in total the percentage with over 5km to travel to work/study is 64%. There is a relatively high rate of people who work at or from home at 12%. In total 24% of people work or study within 5km of home.

¹ Continuous Household Survey 2016/17

Figure 5.8.1: Distance Travelled to place or work or study (2011), Newry Mourne and Down



Source: NI Census 2011 Key Statistics Summary Report

Figure 5.8.2 shows that 7.3 % of the population travelled to work using active travel at the 2011 Census. This presents an opportunity for the future. The majority of workers rely on the private car or van, taxi or motorbike. There are a significant percentage of workers that car share or car pool (16%) as well as work from home (11.9%) and this helps to reduce the number of vehicles on the road.

Figure 5.8.2: Modes of travel to work for Newry, Mourne and Down (Census 2011)



Source: NI Census 2011 Key Statistics Summary Report

Figure: 5.8.3: Method of travel to work by distance travelled: All usual residents aged 16 to 74 (excluding students) in employment and currently working



Source: NI Census 2011

If we look at Census 2011 data in a little more depth, as shown in Figure 5.8.3 we can identify:

- At short distances, the highest proportion of journeys are made using active travel, although motor vehicle use is very high.
- Car use is the most frequently used mode of transport in all the graphs at all distances and from 5km up, 74% plus of commuting journeys use the car.
- 77% of those travelling between 10 and 30 km for work use the car.
- Travel using the train remains at a very low frequency across all of the distances, and only becomes measurable in the set of data that covers 10 to 30 km travelled. Bus use does not get to over 5% and its use increases with distance.
- The use of shared transport arrangements ranges from 13-21 % of journeys, and peaks in the 2-5 km distance.

The Creating Places¹ guide indicates that no residents should have to walk more than 400 metres from their home, and the majority of residents should walk no more than 200 metres from their home to a bus stop. Evidence presented for the Community Plan baseline demonstrates that Downpatrick and Newry District Electoral Areas (DEAs) have the shortest distance to their nearest bus stop on average. Although all of the DEAs have an average distance of over 200 metres to their nearest bus stop. Due to their rural and remote location, Crotlieve and Slieve Gullion are the DEAs with the longest distance to travel to their nearest bus stop on average from their home at 507 m and 543 m respectively. When we consider this information at ward level, we find that residents of Newtownhamilton have an average 966m, and those in Crossmaglen have 774m to walk to the nearest bus stop.

¹ <u>https://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/supplementary_guidance/guides/creating-places.pdf</u>



Figure 5.8.4: Average distance to nearest bus stop by District Electoral Area (DEA)

Source: Community Plan: Level of Connectivity outcome 1, indicator 3.

Park and Ride/Share facilities

Car parking provision is important to help enable car sharing and access to public transport for general travel and to key tourist destinations. Parking is managed across statutory agencies and the private sector. Planning for parking needs to take account of public transport services and routes, as well as walking and cycling networks.

Facilities exist at the Newry train station for parking before travelling on using the train. Park and ride provision is provided at a limited number of sites within the district. These are at 3 locations - Newcastle/Clough Road Roundabout (which has a connecting bus service to Belfast); Sheepbridge on the A1; and Cloghogue, Newry.

The LTS 2021 concludes that integration of passenger transport services including innovative transport models such as 'ride-share' are measures to be investigated. It also concludes that Town Centre Parking Strategies will be required in Newry, Downpatrick, Warrenpoint and Newcastle.

Electric Charge Points

In 2015 there were 22 car parking spaces with electric vehicle charge points in the district, listed in the LDP Transportation Paper 5. In 2022 there are 31 charging points¹, including two public 'rapid charging' units. Ten of these charging devices are found within council-controlled car parks². The majority are located in the main towns but also in Strangford, Crossgar, Castlewellan, Ballynahinch, Kilkeel and Warrenpoint. In the future, with the switch from combustion engines to hybrids and 100% electric vehicles, there is likely to be a need for additional electric charging points.

Ferry Services and Ports

Warrenpoint Harbour, located on Carlingford Lough, is the second busiest cargo port in Northern Ireland and the fifth busiest on the island of Ireland. It operates daily roll-on roll-off services to Heysham in Lancashire and Container Services to Cardiff and Bristol. Warrenpoint Harbour received

¹ EVA NI [online] EV Charging Point League Tables for Northern Ireland Councils (found at https://evani.uk/ev-charging-point-league-tablesfor-northern-ireland-councils/ (accessed 31/05/2022))

² Newry Mourne and Down District Council [online] 'Car Parking' (found at <u>https://www.newrymournedown.org/car-parking</u> (accessed 31/05/2022)

its first visit from a cruise ship in 2014. It is envisaged that the port will see further growth for cruise and recreational purposes through its marina facility.

Two local passenger and vehicle ferry services also operate from Newry, Mourne and Down. The Portaferry to Strangford service is operated by Transport NI and crosses Strangford Lough at its narrowest point on a half hourly basis all year round. The service reduces the 47-mile journey between these villages, (which typically takes up to an hour and a half), to around 8 minutes. Annually the ferry is used by around 550,000 passengers with 180,000 vehicles¹. It is an important transport link in the local economy, carrying commuters, schoolchildren as well as tourists.

The Greencastle to Greenore service commenced operation in July 2017 and connects the south eastern Mournes region with the Cooley Peninsula. The hourly service is operated by Frazer Ferries and runs all year. It aims to establish itself as a year-round commuter service but also has a strong ambition to establish itself as a tourism asset, as a scenic transport link between the Mournes, the Ring of Gullion and the Cooley Peninsula and 'Ireland's Ancient East' in Ireland.

Active Travel - Accessibility and Connectivity

Active travel routes are a way to connect communities to facilities and services, as well as to areas of open and green space. The SPPS recognises the impact this aspect of planning can have on people's travel choices, local biodiversity, and health and well-being. The concept of active travel should enable people to easily access places without using a vehicle. As described in previous sections, active travel forms a very small proportion of journeys. The LDP could help to encourage active travel by developing and connecting walkways and cycling routes. This could help to improve connectivity across the district as well as local air quality and people's health and well-being.

Urban walkways and cycle lanes can enable people to be self-reliant for their travel needs and may include paths, lanes and rights of way. Some examples are referred to in the LDP Transportation Paper 5.

The LTS notes that of the radial roads within the main settlements, 1.5km of roads in Newry, 3.5km of roads in Downpatrick, and 1.6km of roads in Newcastle do not have footways. Footways are, however, present on all radial roads in Warrenpoint.

The Department for Transport's Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy research found that "offroad or traffic free cycle routes have an important role in changing attitudes of non-cyclists... strongly preferred routes include those with substantial physical separation along roads (e.g. with hedge or kerb separation), and on very quiet streets with little or no motor traffic. The LTS reports that Newry has 9.3km of cycle network infrastructure, of which 3.2km is traffic-free. Newcastle has 0.5km. There is no formal cycle network in Downpatrick or Warrenpoint.

Walk NI identifies 21 established long and medium-length walking routes in the district. The majority of these walking routes are shown in Figure 5.8.5. Routes are located throughout the wider countryside and are mostly recreational however, some routes are also near urban areas and green/blue infrastructure like forests, rivers and canals. The Ulster Way can be walked through the district from Strangford Lough in the east, along the coast at Lecale, behind the mountains of Mourne and on towards Newry via the canal network and then northward to Portadown. The majority of the route located in the district is a 'quality' route meaning it is mostly off road and waymarked with views of the district's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

¹ The Irish News, 10th March 2016 "Strangford ferry costs an average of £1.5m a year to run" (accessed 02 May 2016)



Figure 5.8.5: Cycling Routes and Long or Medium Length Walking Routes in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Source: Sustrans, WalkNI and DAERA

National and regional cycling routes (99 and 9) are also present within the district providing access to the wider countryside and some of the main towns. These routes follow the western flank of Strangford Lough, to the north of Downpatrick and then south towards Newcastle. The north and west of Newry is also accessed. There could be potential to improve route connectivity across the district. More information on the cycling routes can be found from the Sustrans website¹.

When planning for active travel, it is recommended to consider the existing walking and cycling routes to help to spatially enhance and develop the active travel network across the district.

The LTS 2021 concludes that provision of improved walking facilities in towns, provision of a network of attractive and connected radial cycling routes in towns, greenways between settlements and traffic management schemes in urban areas to re-balance modal hierarchy are measures to be investigated.

Greenways

The Department for Infrastructure published Exercise – Explore – Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways in 2016². It identifies 1000km of greenway routes made up from potential primary and secondary networks, with much of the disused railway network used to connect people and places. There are ten disused railway routes through the district that could be considered, including routes that go through Downpatrick, Newcastle and Newry. A third tier of community greenways is also

¹ https://www.sustrans.org.uk/northern-ireland/our-work-northern-ireland

² Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Local Development Plan Economic Preparatory paper

feasible that could help further connect local communities to facilities and services; to local green and open spaces; and with neighbouring communities.

The district has an existing greenway route from Newry to Portadown/Craigavon that follows the canal towpath for 32km. The Carlingford Lough Greenway is in a phased development and will link Newry City to Omeath and then to Carlingford. Future phases could also link the district to the Great Eastern Greenway. The district Council is also investigating four further greenways and a coastal path route. The greenways are located from Downpatrick to Comber; Downpatrick to Newcastle; Downpatrick to Ardglass and Newry to Bessbrook; totalling 78km of local greenways. The Downpatrick to Comber route is in conjunction with Ards and North Down Borough Council. Partnership working is also evident in the Mourne and Strangford Lough Coastal Path proposal from Portavogie to Greencastle. It would follow the coastline and pass through three fishing villages of Kilkeel, Ardglass and Portavogie¹.





Source: Department for Infrastructure (Dfl) 2016: Exercise – Explore – Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways

5.8.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, emissions from the transport sector are likely to continue to increase, as it would become more difficult to integrate efficient public transport routes and facilities to enable people to reduce their reliance on the private car. Without current spatial information, there would be an increased risk of missing key opportunities to integrate active travel routes. Development of land, based on older information, is unlikely to be able to consider the most sustainable development of land in terms of journey times, route linkages and accessibility, as well as provision of alternative modes of sustainable and active travel options.

¹ Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Local Development Plan Economic Preparatory Paper

5.8.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Transport and Accessibility

- A number of main road routes in the district experience congestion.
- The A1 linking Newry with Belfast and Dublin is the only road in the council area identified as a key transport corridor within the Strategic Transportation Network for Northern Ireland. There are no motorways within the council area.
- 90% of householders own or have access to a car or van. Road travel is the dominant mode of transportation, even for journeys to work of less than 2km.
- The availability of public transport and active travel options is particularly important for access to key services and facilities for less able people, the elderly and communities in areas of deprivation.
- Over one fifth of residents travel 20 km or more to their place of work.
- A significant proportion of the district's population live outside the main hubs. This creates challenges for connectivity. Many rural areas have limited access to bus services.
- Four Park & Ride sites are available in the district at Newry Rail Station, Newcastle/Clough, Sheepbridge (Newry) and Cloghogue (Newry). There is also a Park & Share facility at Castlewellan.
- There is expected to be an increase in electric vehicles and demand for electric charging points across the Council.
- Very low level reported use of public transport, particularly rail. Bus services are essential for children who travel to school.
- Warrenpoint Harbour located on Carlingford Lough is the 2nd busiest general cargo port in Northern Ireland and the fifth on the island of Ireland.
- It is important for the Council to consider local transport links to include sustainable and active travel – public transport routes, walking and cycling routes, and greenways. This could also improve access provision to key tourist attractions.
- It is important to plan a transport system with routes and travel options that will help to reduce GHG emissions by reducing journey times and integrating public and active transport options.
- A spatial approach to the provision of public transport and active travel options could help to ensure adequate provision in the most deprived areas where the households are less likely to have access to own private vehicles.
- Measures such as park and ride/share facilities, accessible greenways and active travel networks, are needed to help people shift their reliance away from single occupant car journeys and on to other modes of travel like public transport, walking and cycling.
- There is potential to link local level active travel routes to local and regional recreational routes, including the Ulster Way, and to develop strategic level networks for both walking and cycling. An integrated active travel network across the Borough could support health and well-being as well as reducing GHG emissions.

5.9 Air Quality

5.9.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Air quality is an important indicator of local, regional and international environmental conditions as it helps to indicate levels and sources of air pollutants and air pollution trends. Air pollution is both an urban and a rural issue that can affect human health, but when levels of certain substances such as nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulphur dioxide (SO₂) or ammonia (NH₃) are exceeded, the effects on plants and biodiversity can also be adverse.

The UK is an original signatory of the 1979 UNECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution which addresses air pollution issues over an area beyond that of the European Union¹.

Together DAERA and the District Council manage air quality² in compliance with domestic legislation the Pollution Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) Regulations (NI) 2013, the Air Quality Standards Regulations (NI) 2010, the Air Quality Regulations (NI) 2003, the Environment Order 2002, the Clean Air (NI) Order 1981, and other regulations governing smoke and other pollutants³. The NI Air Quality Regulations stem from European Directives⁴ and the 2000 Air Quality Strategy and its 2003 Addendum. District Councils must monitor and review local air quality against seven air pollutants as per the 2007 UK Air Quality Strategy. The strategy refers to the important role of Councils in 'tackling localised air quality problems, leading to an overall improvement of air quality across the UK.' Likewise, 'planning' and Local Development Frameworks/Plans, and their importance in delivering air quality improvements was also highlighted as they can facilitate better access to public transport, park and ride schemes and active travel - all reducing car use and emissions.

The UK Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007 provided a vision with objectives to reduce pollutants to improve air quality into the long-term⁵. Air pollution was estimated to reduce life expectancy of every individual in the UK by an average of 7-8 months but plans to improve air quality were not only linked to health benefits but also quality of life and better environmental protection. Pollutants encompassed by the strategy include particulate matter (PM_x), oxides of nitrogen, ozone, SO₂, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, benzene; 1, 3-butadiene, carbon monoxide, lead and NH₃. The original strategy did not refer to potential impacts on ecosystems - a subject reviewed at the 2007 stage. Ammonia, although referred to in the strategy, was not deemed as appropriate to have objectives and targets set for its emissions, 'without consideration of wider environmental issues and regulatory frameworks' because of the complexities involved with its diffuse sources and pollution swapping. The 2007 Strategy continues to provide the strategic framework for air quality in NI to help meet objectives that will protect human health and ecosystems.

The UK published an updated Clean Air Strategy in 2019^6 providing a broader focus on air pollutant sources and types of emissions. It supports the Industrial Strategy, Clean Growth Strategy, and the 25 Year Environment Plan⁷. The updated strategy sets out objectives for all government departments and society to improve air quality which will in turn help protect human health and the environment, secure clean growth/innovation; reduce emissions from transport, home, farming and industry, and monitor progress. The Strategy continues to meet commitments, but has set new targets for pollutants most associated with poor human health and environmental harm: $PM_{2.5}$, and deposition of reactive forms of nitrogen⁸. NO₂ levels along transport routes are stated as 'The most immediate

 $^{\rm 2}$ DAERA website/Northern Ireland Air/Air quality monitoring, policy and legislation - accessed May 2022

³ DAERA website/Northern Ireland Air/Air Quality in Northern Ireland/Legislation - accessed May 2022

⁸ Defra: Clean Air Strategy 2019

¹ Defra: UK Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007

⁴ Legislation.gov.uk website/The Air Quality Standards Regulations (NI) 2010: Directive <u>2008/50/EC</u> of the European Parliament and of the Council on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe and Directive <u>2004/107/EC</u> relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air – accessed May 2022

⁵ DAERA website/ Air quality monitoring, policy and legislation/UK Air Quality Strategy/Volume 1 - accessed May 2022

⁶ Air Quality Hub website/The Clean Air Strategy – accessed May 2022

⁷ Gov.uk website/Clean Air Strategy 2019 – accessed May 2022

and urgent air quality challenge faced by local authorities', with the UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations and the Clean Air Zone framework the main guidance on tackling this air pollution issue.

Sections 9.4 and 9.5 of the Clean Air Strategy inform us that the main sources of air pollution in NI are from road traffic (NO_x), residential burning of solid fuels (PM_x), and ammonia (NH₃) from agricultural activities like manure handling/storage/spreading. It is also evident that the amount of NH₃ and PM_{2.5} produced by NI is increasing and emissions make up a significant proportion of the UK total. A future Air Quality Strategy for NI is in preparation¹. The draft discussion document for this Strategy highlights that in addition to impacts on health and mortality, air pollution has economic impacts and environmental effects. A DAERA led group is developing an Action Plan on Ammonia, which will reduce emissions and the associated negative effects on the natural environment as well as highlight the human health risks from NH₃.²

DAERA's draft Environment Strategy $(2021)^3$ has six strategic outcomes and the first is to achieve 'Excellent air, water, land and neighbourhood quality'. It refers to air quality as one of the 'key elements of our environment'. NH₃ emissions from the agricultural sector and the impact associated nitrogen deposition is having on designated sites is highlighted as the main issue under the air quality aspect of this strategic environmental outcome. The 'future vision' for air quality includes achieving cleaner air in NI, less pollutants from home heating, better informed public on poor air quality and, 'Ammonia emissions reduced to a point where critical loads of nitrogen deposition and critical levels of ammonia are not being exceeded at any designated sites.' The integration of the NI Ammonia Strategy will be key to implementing measures to achieve this. Further information is in the baseline section.

The Regional Development Strategy 2035⁴ offers guidance under RG9 to 'Reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate mitigation and adaptation to climate change whilst improving air quality'. NI's reliance on oil for home heating, and the role of transport in our economy and everyday lives are highlighted as the main contributing factors to air pollution with implications for both human health and the natural environment. The RDS recommends reducing energy consumption, using more sustainable sources of energy, recycling waste and energy recovery. 'Climate change and air pollutants share common sources and because of this, policies to manage both environmental issues are recommended'. This is also recommended in the UK Air Quality Strategy 2007. The RDS also emphasises the role of Councils in monitoring and reviewing local air quality under the Air Quality Strategy.

Air quality does not have a specific planning policy, but under the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) it can be considered a material consideration in the planning process⁵. Air quality is referred to in the SPPS under 'Improving health and well-being'. Annex A provides guidance to Councils when considering the location of development that may cause air pollution and when considering the end use of land that could be affected by existing or future sources of air pollution.

The draft Marine Plan also includes among its core policies the requirement for public authorities to consider the potential impact of proposals on air quality.

In the draft Programme for Government (dPfG) 2016-2021, there were 14 outcomes that include 'We live and work sustainably – protecting the environment'; and 'We enjoy long healthy, active lives'⁶. Indicators to help determine progress in achieving these outcomes include to 'improve air quality ', which is measured by NO₂ concentrations. The NI Environmental Statistics Report 2022 continues to

¹ DAERA website/A Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland – Public Discussion Document – accessed May 2022

² Defra: Clean Air Strategy 2019

⁵ Department for Environment (DoE) (2015): Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) - Planning for Sustainable Development - Annex A

³ Northern Ireland Executive: Draft Environment Strategy 2021

⁴ Department for Regional Development (DRD): Regional Development Strategy RDS 2035 - Building a Better Future

⁶ Northern Ireland Executive: Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021

report a declining trend in NO₂ roadside emissions. Maintaining/improving air quality is a fundamental aspect of sustainable development because it is important for the quality of our environment, the health of our society and the sustainability of our economy. It is likely to stay on the next dPfG agenda as 'good health' and 'climate change' are both listed in the most important things for people in NI¹.

Our Corporate Plan 2021-23² includes the strategic objective to "*enhance, protect and promote our environment*". The LDP can support and encourage actions and behaviours that can lead to reduced air emissions with potential to help improve local air quality.

The Community Plan 'Living Well Together'³ provides a framework up to 2030 so that everyone can help, 'make life better for local people'. The Plan aims to achieve goals on the 'big issues that matter to people like health' and has five strategic outcomes to help do this. Maintaining good air quality will be fundamental in achieving two of these; that all people can enjoy good health and well-being, and all people can benefit from a clean and sustainable environment. The District Council is one of the best performing in the country with over half of all citizens in very good health but the LDP provides an opportunity to spatially manage land use and its potential impact on air quality in a positive way.

5.9.2 Baseline Information

Relevant information is in the Local Development Plan Preparatory Study Papers on Transportation, and the Countryside – Development Pressure Analysis. This topic overlaps with the Health and Wellbeing, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport and Accessibility, Climate Change, Natural Resources, and Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage sections of this report.

Local Air Quality Management

Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) provides the framework for management of air pollution in NI by Councils under the Environment Order (NI) 2002. Air pollutants in the UK Air Quality Strategy are monitored and reviewed as part of LAQM and where objectives/targets are unlikely to be met, Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) are declared⁴. Air quality objectives are set at a regional level and include limits for air pollutants. These are primarily based on ensuring protection of human health. Other measures include smoke control areas - further information below.

In NI there are 21 air quality monitoring stations⁵ where pollutants that can adversely affect human health are monitored and measured against UK Air Quality Strategy objectives⁶. Each is equipped with continuous monitoring equipment for one or more pollutants and public warnings are issued when levels approach or reach 'high' levels. Two of these stations are in the district - one in Newry monitoring NO_x and PM₁₀, and one in Downpatrick monitoring NO_x. Traffic is the main source of these emissions at these locations.

There are currently two active AQMAs in the District Council area - Newry (Urban Centre) for NO₂ dated from 2009; and Newry, Canal Street for particulate matter (PM_{10}) dated from 2013. NO₂ is primarily released from the combustion of fossil fuels including from road transport. It can exacerbate heart and lung issues and cause adverse effects on plants and sensitive habitats⁷. Nitrogen oxides (NO_x) such as NO₂ can readily mix with other chemicals to form acid rain, or other pollutants like ground level ozone. PM₁₀ is also released from road transport, and exposure is associated with respiratory and cardiovascular illness, mortality and other ill health effects⁸.

³ Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Community Plan to 2030 'Living well Together'

¹ Northern Ireland Executive website/Consultation on the Programme for Government draft Outcomes Framework 2021- accessed May 2022

² Newry Mourne and Down District Council (2021) Phlean Corparáideach 2021-2023 Corporate Plan 2021-2023

 $^{^{\}rm 4}$ DAERA website/Air quality in NI/Local Air Quality Management/Air Quality Management Areas

⁵ DAERA: Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report May 2022

⁶ DAERA website/Northern Ireland Air/ Air quality in Northern Ireland - accessed May 2022

 $^{^{\}rm 7}$ DAERA: Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report May 2022

⁸ Defra (2007): UK Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (Volume 1)

New approaches to reduce the number of road users and traffic congestion at the AQMAs in the District may be required due to the length of time they have been established. The LDP could bring forward measures to facilitate and improve access to more sustainable modes of travel and active travel but also policies to target traffic congestion.

The NI Environmental Statistics Report May 2022 reported a decrease in NO₂ levels from 35.1 μ g/m³ in 2011 to 24.0 μ g/m³ in 2021 and levels have shown a 'gradual reducing trend from 2011 to 2019.' However, in 2021 the average annual mean concentration of NO₂ increased from the previous year by 2.0 μ g/m³ to 26.3 μ g/m³ but restrictions linked to the Covid-response had caused a dip in the 2020 recordings. The annual mean concentration of PM₁₀ across urban areas was 14 μ g/m³ and the mean for the Lough Navar rural background monitoring site was 7 μ g/m³. There is a significant difference in urban areas because of traffic and congestion, however levels are reported as gradually declining since 2010.

Smoke Control Areas

The district has declared smoke control areas in Newry City and Downpatrick¹. Smoke Control Areas have been established to help improve local air quality by reducing air pollutants like smoke, sulphur dioxide (SO_2) and PM_{10} from the burning of fossil fuels. The objective is to ensure only authorised fuels are used within these areas with positive benefits for health and wellbeing for the people living in or adjacent to them.

Human Health

There is an important link between air quality and human health and as referred to earlier, life expectancy in the UK is shortened by an average of 7-8 months because of poor air quality. Public Health England² estimated that in NI 553 deaths per year could be attributed to particulate matter. In the report on local mortality due to particulate air pollution, it stated that, 'current levels of particulate air pollution have a considerable impact on public health.' Particulate matter can cause respiratory and cardiovascular issues with carcinogenic risks. It is composed of fine particles from natural and man-made sources but in urban areas it is mostly from fossil fuel combustion and road transport³.

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) records respiratory and circulatory death rates for men and women under the age of 75 in the NI Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS). All recent figures for the district remain well below the NI average figures⁴.

Transport

As reported in the Transport and Accessibility section, 5.8.2, the district has several important transport routes through it, including a key transport corridor (A1), two link corridors (A7, A28), and two trunk roads (A2 & A24)⁵. The AQMAs within Newry City are associated with pollutants emitted from transport sources. Strategic road proposals include the Newry Southern Relief Road and the Ballynahinch bypass. It is anticipated that the completion of the Newry Southern Relief Road would not only improve journeys for strategic traffic but also reduce congestion and thus pollution levels within Newry City.

The 2011 Census reported car ownership in the Council as relatively high with 40% of households owning one vehicle, 30% owning two, and 12% owning three or more⁶. Nearly 60% of employed people travel to their place of work by car/van and just over 5% are a passenger. Nearly 11% are part of a car/van pool - shared driving. Just under 12% work from home - a figure likely to increase post Covid. A small proportion of the employment force use public transport or active travel with 2.65%

¹ DAERA website/Air quality in NI/Local Air Quality Management/Smoke Control Areas - accessed May 2022

² Public Health England (2014): Estimating Local Mortality Burdens Associated with Particulate Air Pollution

³ DAERA: Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report May 2022

⁴ NISRA/NINIS/Health & Social Care/Standardised Death Rates – accessed May 2022

⁵ Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Economic paper 2017

⁶ NINIS website/ Census 2011 data

using a bus and less than 0.5% using a train. People choosing to walk to work accounts for 6.74% of the workforce and opting to cycle accounts for just over 0.5%. More information is in the Transport section of this report. There is significant reliance on the car/van for travel to work purposes.

Agriculture

Ammonia (NH₃) is a gas that is emitted into the air through agricultural practices such as the housing of livestock, the storage and spreading of animal manures and slurries, anaerobic digestion, and the use of chemical fertiliser¹. Higher emissions are associated with dairy, pig and poultry farming and ammonia has been identified in the UK Clean Air Strategy as one of the main sources of air pollution in NI². Air pollution related to NH₃, and the associated nitrogen deposition, is known to have a damaging impact on sensitive habitats and species, and ecosystem resilience³, but also human health through the generation of secondary particulate matter.

In NI, agriculture is the dominant source of NH₃ emissions with 89% of NH₃ emissions in NI from livestock, 7% from fertilisers, and 4% from other organic materials to land in 2020^4 . Emissions from livestock in NI have increased by 8.1% since 2001 through increased numbers of dairy, pigs and poultry, whilst the rest of the UK has seen a decrease of 3.2%. In contrast, NH₃ emissions from fertilisers have reduced with a 33% decline since 2001. Overall NH₃ emissions in NI have increased by 7.7% between 2001 and 2020^5 .

NH₃ is not included in the 2007 UK Air Quality Strategy with objectives/targets but it is discussed because of its potential to damage ecosystems through nitrogen deposition and acidification. The majority of NI's designated sites for nature conservation are exceeding their critical levels, the concentration at which environmental damage occurs⁶. It can also lead to secondary PM_x and the associated ill-health effects. The Clean Air Strategy 2019 identifies NH₃ emissions from agriculture as one of the top three air pollution sources in NI, which also reflects the importance of the sector in NI. A Clean Air Strategy for NI is in development and a DAERA-led group is developing an Action Plan on Ammonia. This will lead to reductions in NH₃ emissions using on-farm mitigation and highlight the impact of emissions on human health but also 'reduce the impact of ammonia via nitrogen deposition on nature and habitats, and in particular, designated sites'⁷. More information is in the Natural Resources (5.12.2) section of this report.

Energy

In NI, there has been a rise in the use of natural gas for residential heating and a move away from oil and coal for domestic heating purposes. However, in the district, a significant proportion of the population remain dependent on oil for central heating with 72% of households using oil, 3% using solid fuel and only 2.6% using gas^{8.}

As discussed previously in section 5.6.2 generation from renewables has also increased most years since 2001 with 41.3% of total electricity consumption generated from renewable sources located in NI in 2021. Diversification in our energy use means that carbon emissions and other pollutants from fossil fuel combustion are reducing. More information is in the Material Assets and Climate Change sections of this report.

5.9.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a LDP, there may be the risk of decreasing air quality through inappropriately located development and missed opportunities to retain and integrate green infrastructure. There

¹ DAERA: NI Environmental Statistics Annual Report Issue 11 2019

² BBC News: Clean Air Strategy: Traffic Pollution 'significant problem' in NI. January 2019

³ Air Pollution Information System UK

⁴ DAERA: Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report May 2022

⁵ DAERA: Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report May 2022

⁶ Defra: UK Air Information Resource – Report: Trends Report 2019: Trends in critical load and critical level exceedances in the UK

⁷ Defra: Clean Air Strategy 2019

⁸ NISRA/NINIS/Census 2011/Housing Accommodation
would likely be fewer opportunities to spatially influence development that could help to maintain or improve local air quality by increasing access to more sustainable modes of travel including active travel. Likewise, there may be a greater risk of losing land like open space to certain types of development where it could otherwise help to maintain local air quality. There would be less opportunity to deliver sustainable infrastructure and land use that will reduce public exposure to air pollutants.

5.9.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Air Quality

- Air pollution is estimated to reduce life expectancy by an average of 7-8 months. Air pollutants are from three main sources road transport, home heating and agricultural practices. Pollutants are linked to respiratory and cardiovascular issues as well as other ill-health effects.
- There are two long-established Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) that date from 2009 and 2013. Both are linked to road transport emissions – NO₂ and PM₁₀. A new focus on promoting and supporting active travel measures and access to public transport could help reduce the number of road users and traffic congestion, and work toward removing these long-established AQMAs.
- Some parts of the district are smoke control areas, where authorised fuels must be used. This will help reduce health risks to people living in and near to those areas.
- To help reduce reliance on private vehicles, increased access to public transport and active travel is needed. Improved connectivity could help encourage people to opt out of using the car.
- It is important to consider future air quality when spatially planning the location of new developments or transport routes in urban and rural areas, alongside existing or proposed land uses, particularly where air quality may already be an issue, or likely to impact on residential areas.
- Ammonia is emitted from agricultural practices. It has been identified as one of the main air pollutants in NI because of the significant contribution that the agricultural sector makes to our economy. Measures to help reduce ammonia emissions from the agricultural sector could help improve air quality in certain rural areas.
- Facilitating renewables in appropriate locations could help reduce air pollutants (and greenhouse gas emissions) from fossil fuel combustion, as well as help to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
- Partnership working with other agencies and Councils will be needed to help ensure sustainable land use with compatible adjacent land uses that protect local air quality and enable reduced travel to facilities and services.

5.10 Climate Change

5.10.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The typical weather conditions of an area are based on natural variabilities that create the climate. These variabilities can cause extreme weather events but also normal or expected conditions. It is only when there is a shift in the usual weather patterns and climate, that the term 'climate change' should be applied.

Factors that affect our climate include how near to the sea and how far from the equator we are, local topography, wind direction and ocean currents. During the last few decades, it has become more and more accepted that human activity has also affected usual weather patterns and climate, on a global level.

Since the late 18^{th} century and the Industrial Revolution, greenhouse gases (GHG) - carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O), methane (CH₄) and fluorinated gases - have been entering the atmosphere at an accelerated rate from man's activities. These additional gases are mostly emitted by fossil fuel combustion but are also influenced by deforestation and agricultural practices. They add to background levels and increase the natural warming of the planet - the 'greenhouse effect.'

Climate scientists have estimated that human activities have caused approximately 1.0° C of global warming above pre-industrial levels. If change continues at the current rate, warming is likely to reach 1.5° C between 2030 and 2052¹. Global sea levels have increased by 15-20 centimetres since 1900 through thermal expansion and ice loss from glaciers and land². Projected global mean sea level rise for 1.5° C of global warming has an indicative range of 0.26 - 0.77m, relative to $1986-2005^{3}$.

The main forum for international action on climate change is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), created in 1992. Its overall aim is to 'achieve... stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.'⁴

UNFCCC negotiations led to the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. The Kyoto Protocol set a target for 37 industrialised countries to reduce their emissions by an average 5% below 1990 levels, for the period 2008 to 2012. As part of this group, the UK committed to a 12.5% reduction in GHG emissions. These targets were successfully met. A second Kyoto commitment period was agreed from 2013 to 2020. The EU and 28 other countries agreed to reduce GHG emissions by a minimum 18% below 1990 levels⁵.

Continuing UNFCCC negotiations led to the Paris Agreement in December 2015. The Paris Agreement is 'a legally binding international treaty on climate change'⁶ and the first truly global effort to reduce emissions. As of May 2022, 193 out of 197 parties to the convention had ratified the Paris Agreement, including the UK and Ireland⁷. The main aim of the Paris Agreement is to hold the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and 'to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°C.'⁸

¹ IPPC (2018) Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5 °C - Summary for Policymakers

 $^{^{\}rm 2}$ Committee on Climate Change (2017) UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Synthesis Report

 $^{^{\}rm 3}$ IPPC (2018) Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5 $^{\circ}{\rm C}$ - Summary for Policymakers

⁴ Committee on Climate Change 'Global Action on Climate Change' (found at <u>https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/the-legal-</u> <u>landscape/global-action-on-climate-change/</u> accessed 03/04/2020)

 $^{^{\}rm 5}$ UNFCCC: Process and meetings: The Kyoto Protocol What is the Kyoto Protocol? accessed May 2022

⁶ UNFCCC: Process and meetings: The Paris Agreement. Accessed May 2022.

⁷ UN Paris Agreement - Status of Ratification (found at <u>https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/status-of-ratification</u>, accessed May 2022)

⁸ UNFCCC: Process and meetings: The Paris Agreement. Accessed May 2022.

The UNFCCC commits all signatory nations to formulate, implement, publish and update measures to prepare for the impacts of climate change, known as 'adaptation'. The 2010 'Cancun Adaptation Framework' includes the agreement that adaptation must be given the same priority as mitigation. The Kyoto Protocol provides an Adaptation Fund for adaptation projects in developing countries party to the Protocol¹.

The UK was the first country to have a legally binding commitment to reduce GHG emissions with the UK Climate Change Act 2008, which legislated for the 80% reduction of six targeted GHGs identified in the Kyoto Protocol based on 1990 levels by 2050. This led to the formation of the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), and the CCC's Adaptation Sub-Committee. These advise the UK and devolved administrations on carbon budgets and preparing for climate change. On 1st May 2019, the UK Parliament declared an Environment and Climate Change Emergency and in the following month, the Climate Change Act was amended. The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 now commits the UK government to reducing GHG emissions by at least 100% of 1990 levels by 2050 - 'net zero'. This will ensure the UK carbon account is below 1990 baseline levels. The overall aim of the legislation remains the same in that the UK is to be a low-carbon economy and one that is responsible for its emissions, targets to reduce them, and adaptation measures to help combat risks from climate change.

The Climate Change (Northern Ireland) Act passed into law in June 2022. This Act now includes a target for net zero carbon emissions (100% reduction on baseline) by 2050, which aligns NI with the UK target. The legislation aims to deliver a 'climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2045.' It will also commit NI to ensuring that 80% of its electricity consumption is from renewable sources by 2030.²

The NI Executive's overarching (draft) Green Growth Strategy promises to 'lead by example by cutting emissions'³. All NI policies and strategies will be expected to align with the Green Growth Strategy, which 'will be central to all key decisions made by the government.' up to 2050. It will provide Climate Action Plans to reduce sector specific GHGs and as NI moves toward a 'low emissions society,' the opportunities for associated jobs and training will be optimised. A Green Growth test will be applied to all new plans and laws to test, 'how they will help to combat climate change, improve our environment and create green jobs.' Reducing GHG emissions to zero is part of the strategy but so too is the creation of green jobs linked to a cleaner environment, more sustainable land use and greater biodiversity. The Strategy's vision for 2050 makes the link between climate action and positive benefits for the economy, society and the environment. It states, 'As a result of all our efforts, we have a more resilient environment with a healthy ecosystem and a strong sustainable economy.

In NI's first Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP) 2014-2019, the focus was on flooding, water, natural capital, agriculture and forestry. Flooding was identified as '*potentially one of the most significant and urgent risks*' in NI⁴ and local Councils were identified as being '*particularly well placed to raise awareness and provide leadership through their responsibilities*' on climate change.

In NI's second Adaptation Programme (NICCAP2) 2019-2024⁵, 'planning' is referred to as 'essential to managing the resilience of our society and natural environment to an uncertain future, as well as for the known current and projected impacts of a changing climate. 'NICCAP2 sets out our preparation for climate change impacts that are already occurring and puts in place plans for future impacts. The aim is 'to build a resilient Northern Ireland in which timely and well-informed decisions are taken to address the socio-economic and environmental impacts of climate change'. Resilience will be built

¹ UNFCCC: Process and meetings: The Kyoto Protocol What is the Kyoto Protocol? accessed May 2022

² Renewable NI website accessed May 2022

³ Northern Ireland Executive 2021: Draft Green Growth Strategy for Northern Ireland

⁴ DoE (2014) Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2014-2019

 $^{^{\}rm 5}$ DAERA (2019) Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024

upon under five Key Priority Areas - natural capital, infrastructure, people and built environment, disruption to business/supply chains, and food security/global food production.

Each priority area has outcome objectives and for each of those a delivery plan to help achieve that objective. The objectives for each priority area are listed below:

- NC1: 'we have species, habitats and water bodies that are resilient to the impacts of climate change.'
- NC2: 'we have coastal communities, habitats, landforms and infrastructure that are resilient to the impacts of climate change.'
- NC3: 'we have soils and land types that are resilient to the impacts of climate change.'
- IS1: 'we have transport and network services that are resilient to the impacts of flooding and extreme weather'
- P1: 'we have people, homes, buildings and communities resilient to the impacts of flooding & extremes of weather.'
- B1: 'we have businesses that can adapt to the impacts of climate change & extreme weather.'
- I1: 'we have a food system that is resilient to impacts of climate change'.

The key message from NICCAP2 is about ensuring resilience in everything we do. In conjunction with Climate NI, NICCAP2 has also addressed how local government can help deliver the objectives of NICCAP2 and raise awareness on the need for climate change risk assessments

The NI Executive's draft Programme for Government (dPfG) 2016-2021 included the outcome 'to live and work sustainably - protecting the environment'. There were nine indicators to help achieve progress on this outcome. These included 'increasing innovation in our economy', 'increasing use of public transport and active travel', 'increasing environmental sustainability (<u>by measuring GHGs</u>)', 'increasing household waste recycling', and 'improving air quality'¹.

A public consultation was held in 2021 for the next PfG and although it is yet to be published, climate change will remain a key feature. It was listed as one of the top ten most important issues for people in NI. The draft outcomes for the next PfG continue to include 'we live and work sustainably - protecting the environment', and 'our economy is globally competitive, regionally balanced and carbon- neutral.' The consultation introduces achievement of both outcomes through sustainable development, low carbon emissions/zero carbon alternatives, and a green growth approach².

NI's Regional Development Strategy 2035, refers to 'climate change' as a key economic and environmental driver. Measures to tackle climate change through both mitigation and adaptation are evident within RG5 - 'Deliver a sustainable and secure energy supply'; RG8 - 'Manage housing growth to achieve sustainable patterns of residential development'; RG9 - 'Reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate mitigation and adaptation to climate change whilst improving air quality'; RG11 - 'Conserve, protect and, where possible, enhance our built heritage and our natural environment'; and RG12 - 'Promote a more sustainable approach to the provision of water and sewerage services and flood risk management.'

NI's Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) 2015, aims to further sustainable development and views 'mitigating and adapting to climate change' as 'a central challenge'³. The SPPS promotes the planning system to help reduce GHG emissions through sustainable patterns of development that avoid areas vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The SPPS also fulfilled a requirement of NICCAP by providing a means to build resilience into the natural and built environment, whilst addressing flood risk. The importance of the natural environment in providing resilience to events

¹ Northern Ireland Executive: Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021

 $^{^{\}rm 2}$ NI Executive 2021: Programme for Government draft Outcomes Framework Consultation Document.

³ DoE 2015: Strategic Planning Policy Statement for NI: Planning for Sustainable Development

such as flooding and higher urban temperatures linked to climate change is also referred to under 'Ecosystem Services'.

Planning Policy Statement 18 'Renewable Energy' (PPS18) also sets out policy for renewables in NI. It encourages their integration to improve our security of energy supply, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, and lower our carbon emissions¹.

The draft Marine Plan for NI directs Public Authorities, where appropriate, to consider the potential impact of proposals on GHG emissions and the proposal's ability to adapt to a changing climate. Public Authorities must also consider any potential impact from proposals on coastal processes.

The 'Forests for our Future' programme, announced in March 2020, aims to plant 18 million trees / 9,000 hectares of new woodland in NI over a 10-year period. The programme seeks to contribute towards the UK 'Net Zero by 2050' target by offsetting CO₂ emissions and to contribute to sustainable economic growth through timber production, forest-based recreation and tourism². The first stage of the programme is to identify public land, owned by local authorities or government departments, with the greatest potential for woodland creation.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) declared a 'climate emergency' in October 2019³, which will lead to the development of the Council's first Local Climate Adaptation Plan. Several Council-led projects already underway are likely to be used in the Adaptation Plan including a draft Active Travel Masterplan, a Sustainable Food Places programme, a Single Use Plastics strategy and the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). Council is Lead Partner in the Collaborative Action for the Natura Network (CANN project) – protecting peatlands and other habitats important for natural carbon storage and biodiversity. Island Park in Newcastle being developed as a climate change park showcasing mitigation and adaptation measures.

Our Corporate Plan 2021-23⁴ identifies that managing waste, reducing climate change, investing in renewable energy, etc. is among the most important priorities for improving the local area for our residents. The Plan includes the strategic objective to "enhance, protect and promote our environment" and seeks to contribute to "tackling climate breakdown and reducing harmful impacts on the environment while enabling residents and visitors to enjoy our rich natural and built heritage". Tackling a subject as complex as climate change is not easy but by ensuring sustainable development there is an opportunity to help reduce GHG emissions and integrate adaptation strategies.

The Community Plan 'Living Well together' aims to help manage future risks and opportunities that communities within the Council will face up to 2030. There are 7 aims and 8 guiding principles and although 'climate change' is not referred to, the challenges and priorities facing communities are, as too is improving people's well-being. Preventing climate change and supporting approaches to help people and businesses adapt to climate change will be fundamental to sustainable development and achieving the outcomes of both the Community and the Corporate Plan.

5.10.2 Baseline Information

Relevant information is presented in the LDP Preparatory Study Paper on The Coast. Relevant information can be found across multiple sources including NISRA, the NI Environmental Statistics Report and the NI Greenhouse Gas Inventory. This topic also overlaps with the Health & Well-being, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport & Accessibility, Air Quality, Water, Natural Resources, and the Historic Environment sections of this report.

¹ Department of Environment August (2009) Planning Policy Statement 18: Renewable Energy

² DAERA (2020) 'Poots' Planting Pledge' published 02 March 2020 (Found at - <u>https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/news/poots-planting-pledge</u> accessed 27/03/2020)

 $^{^{\}rm 3}$ Newry Mourne and Down District Council website 'Climate Change' accessed May 2022

⁴Newry Mourne and Down District Council (2021) Phlean Corparáideach 2021-2023 Corporate Plan 2021-2023

International context

In 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change (IPCC) published a Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5° C¹. This Special Report indicates that there is a high degree of confidence that human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0° C of global warming above pre-industrial levels, with a likely range of 0.8° C to 1.2° C.

The IPCC Special Report adds that estimated anthropogenic global warming is currently increasing at 0.2°C (likely between 0.1°C and 0.3°C) per decade due to past and ongoing emissions. Global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate.

A key message from the Special Report is that climate-related risks for natural and human systems are higher for global warming of 1.5°C than at present, but lower than at 2°C. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C is projected to lower the impacts on terrestrial, freshwater and coastal ecosystems and to retain more of their services to humans. While climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5°C, they will increase further with 2°C and adaptation may become more challenging.

Sustainable development supports, and often enables, the fundamental societal and systems transitions and transformations that can help limit global warming to 1.5°C. Such changes facilitate the pursuit of climate-resilient development pathways that achieve ambitious mitigation and adaptation in conjunction with poverty eradication and efforts to reduce inequalities.

UK Context

The most recent land and marine UK Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP18²) were published in November 2018. The UKCP18 reports that the average temperature over the most recent decade (2009-2018) has been on average 0.3 °C warmer than the 1981-2010 average and 0.9 °C warmer than the 1961-1990 average. All the top ten warmest years for the UK, in the series from 1884, have occurred since 2002. UKCP18 also reports that most recent decade (2009-2018) has been on average 1% wetter than 1981-2010 and 5% wetter than 1961-1990 for the UK overall. Mean sea level around the UK has risen by about 17 cm since the start of the 20th century (when corrected for land movement).

The UKCP18 predict greater chance of hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters with more extreme water and rising sea levels. It also projects increases in extreme weather events with higher intensity rainfall events, storm events and increased flood risk³.

As required under the Climate Change Act 2008, the UK's third Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) 2022⁴ has been published. The Act requires the UK to produce a report every five years on the risks and opportunities from climate change with the first and second CCRAs published in 2012 and 2017. CCRA 2022 continues to prioritise the following eight risk areas for action over the next two years:

- risks to the viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards
- risks to soil health from increased flooding and drought
- risks to natural carbon stores and sequestration from multiple hazards
- risks to crops, livestock and commercial trees from multiple climate hazards
- risks to supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate-related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks
- risks to people and the economy from climate-related failure of the power system

¹ IPCC

² Met Office UK Climate Projections 2018 (found at <u>https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/approach/collaboration/ukcp/index</u>)

³ UKCP18 Factsheet: Sea level rise and storm surge (found at <u>https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/approach/collaboration/ukcp/marine-</u>projections accessed 02/04/2020)

⁴ HM Government 2022: UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022

- risks to human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings
- multiple risks to the UK from climate change impacts overseas

Northern Ireland context

The NI Environmental Statistics Report 2021 reported no change on total greenhouse gas emissions – 19.8MtCO₂e in 2014 and 19.4MtCO₂e in 2018. Although there was a 2.1% decrease, it is not considered a 'change' for Programme for Government (PfG) recording purposes. In 2018, NI produced 4% of the UK's total GHG emissions with agriculture the largest contributing sector (27%), followed by transport (23%) and then energy supply (15%). However, energy supply was also the sector with the largest decrease in emissions, followed by waste management. These decreases in GHG emissions are due to more energy efficient measures, the transition from coal to natural gas, as well as methane capture and oxidation systems in landfill management. GHG emissions in NI have decreased from 1990 baseline levels by 20% (24.3MtCO₂e to 19.4MtCO₂e). Slightly differing figures are also available from NI's GHG Inventory which is referred to below.

In the NI Environmental Statistics Reports, the ten-year moving average annual minimum temperature has been increasing since the end of the 19th century and at the end of the 20th century had risen to its highest levels since records began. Climate NI has reported 2022 as so far, the fifth warmest year since records began in the 1850s. NICCAP2 also stated that in recent years NI has experienced incidents of extreme and notable weather events. NICCAP2 adds that it is not possible to say conclusively if these events, such as severe and sustained rainfall, are the direct result of human induced climate change. The increased incidence and intensity of such events, however, is consistent with what we would expect to see with a changing climate.

The UKCP18's high emission scenario for NI indicates that, by 2070, winters could be up to 3.9° warmer and summers could be up to 4.9° hotter, 2070 winters could be 25 per cent wetter and summers 38 per cent drier. By 2100, mean sea levels at Belfast could be up to 94cm higher relative to the 1981-2000 average¹.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory

In 2019, NI accounted for 4.7% of the UK's GHG emissions, a proportion which has steadily risen from 3.5% in 2008 when NI began publishing an annual bulletin on the GHG Inventory².

The NI GHG Inventory for 1990-2019 was published in 2021 and shows a decrease in total GHG emissions from 26.1MtCO₂e in 1990, to 21.4MtCO₂e in 2019, an overall decrease of 18% in total GHG emissions from the base year 1990. (For PfG recording purposes, this is not considered a decrease.) The agricultural sector remains the biggest emitter of total GHG emissions at 26% (5.6MtCO₂e), followed by transport at 20% (4.2MtCO₂e) and then residential at 14% (2.9MtCO₂e). This is a change in the sectoral order of the largest GHG contributors with residential surpassing the energy supply sector. It was also reported as the sector with the largest increase in emissions from the previous year at 2.6%. Likewise, the agricultural sector was also reported as increasing its emissions from the previous year by 1%, with land-use change the only other increasing sector at 0.3%.

 CO_2 continues to account for the largest proportion of total GHG emissions in NI at 68%, with the transport, residential and energy supply sectors the biggest contributors. Methane (CH₄) is the second most emitted GHG at 22% with agriculture accounting for most emissions but waste management and land-use change also contributing. Nitrous oxide (N₂O) is the third most emitted GHG at 8%, primarily from the agricultural sector with land-use change and waste management again contributing.

¹ UKCP18 Factsheet: Sea level rise and storm surge (found at <u>https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/approach/collaboration/ukcp/marine-projections</u> accessed 02/04/2020)

² DAERA [online] Northern Ireland greenhouse gas inventory (found at <u>https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-greenhouse-gas-inventory</u> [accessed 21.02.2022])

Similar trends are reported in the 2019 inventory at the UK level, but key differences are evident in the total GHG emissions by sector. At the UK level, transport is the biggest GHG emitter, followed by the energy supply sector, business, residential, and then agriculture. This indicates the prominence and economic importance of agriculture in NI, where since 2002 agriculture has been the top GHG emitter and explains how NI accounts for a much larger share of the UK's CH_4 and N_2O emissions ¹.



Figure 5.10.1: Greenhouse Gas Emissions (by Sector) in NI 1990-2019

Source: DAERA [online] Northern Ireland greenhouse gas inventory 1990 - 2019 Interactive Dashboard²

As shown in Figure 5.10.1, most sectors have shown a long-term decreasing trend in emissions since the base year, with some of the largest decreases seen in the industrial process, waste management and energy supply sectors. The transport, land-use change, and agriculture sectors continue to emit more GHGs than their 1990 levels. The transport sector did emit less GHG in 2019 than 2018 (-3.1%) but agriculture and land-use change emissions increased by 1% and 0.3% respectively, with the largest increase evident from the residential sector at 2.6%.

The NI Executive's target in the PfG 2011-15 to reduce GHG emissions on 1990 levels by at least 35% by 2025 is in place. The draft PfG 2016-21's outcome 'to live and work sustainably - protecting the environment' uses GHG emissions as an indicator of progress toward meeting this outcome. It uses NI's 2014 figure for MtCO₂e and, based on the 2019 GHG inventory results, NI is still failing to meet that measure and outcome. The 2019 GHG inventory reports a 2.1% decrease of total GHG emissions on the 2014 PfG base year but this is considered as 'no change.'

Agriculture

Livestock and nitrogen fertiliser are the two principal sources of these GHG emissions in agriculture. Farming is an important part of NI's economy and in the district the agricultural industry supports more than a quarter of its workforce $(27\%)^3$, with nearly 16% of all farms in NI located within the Council area⁴. There is a responsibility to develop effective measures that will help reduce GHG emissions like N₂O and CH₄, even if they are difficult to estimate.

According to NINIS, in 2018 there were 3,880 farms in the district, farming an area of 122,407ha⁵. DAERA's 'Efficient Farming Cuts Greenhouse Gases - Implementation Plan 2016-2020' (*Efficient Farming*) identifies several measures that can reduce GHG emissions in the agricultural sector. These include 'better nutrient management', 'better livestock management', 'improving land and carbon management' and 'increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy'. A key objective of the

¹ Defra 2012: <u>A Climate Change Risk Assessment for Northern Ireland</u>

² DAERA [online] Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory Interactive Dashboard [found at: <u>https://datavis.nisra.gov.uk/daera/northern-ireland-greenhouse-gas-emissions.html</u> (accessed 21.02.2022)]

³Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Community Plan Living Well Together 2030

⁴ NINIS: Agriculture & Environment -Farm Census 2018 (administrative geographies)

⁵ NINIS Farm Census (administrative geographies) 1999-2018

NICCAP2 is that "we have a food system that is resilient to impacts of climate change". While some elements of 'Efficient Farming' such as increased fuel efficiency in machinery and improved nutrient management practices are largely outside the influence of planning, the LDP may be able to support the delivery of some of the proposed measures in the 'Efficient Farming' programme and NICCAP2. These include facilitating on-farm renewables, storage facilities for crops, slurry/manure and dirty water that meet modern standards, and housing for dairy, pigs and poultry that is highly efficient in respect of its lighting, heating, cooling and ventilation.

The UK CCRA 2017 also identifies current and future risk to agriculture from drought and flooding and identifies that strategic planning for increased water scarcity in vulnerable locations is needed, including re-evaluation of land use options and, if necessary, investment in storage infrastructure to maximise use of surplus winter rainfall.

Transport

The transport sector was reported in the GHG Inventory 1990-2019 as accounting for 20% of all GHG emissions in Northern Ireland. Emissions decreased from 2018 by 3.1% but the sector continues to show increasing emissions with a 21.5% increase from 1990 levels.

This reflects the reliance people have in NI for motorised vehicles and reflects the rural nature of the country. Transport is a significant contributor of CO₂ and, along with reducing NO₂ emissions that can affect health, is why current UK government policy *'The Road to Zero Strategy'* seeks to end the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2040. The policy's eventual aim is that almost every car and van is 'zero-emission' by 2050. The transition to zero emission vehicles does not just require the vehicles to be available and affordable. An infrastructure network needs to be in place that is easy for current and prospective drivers to locate and use, and is affordable, efficient and reliable. The *Road to Zero* acknowledges that accommodating this transition will require many changes to the electricity system. It therefore includes the objective of *"ensuring local planning policies incorporate facilities for charging electric vehicles (EVs)"*.

Although the new emissions standards for heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) have achieved significant air quality improvements, CO₂ emissions from HGVs have remained relatively constant in recent years. Zero emission options are yet to be developed and made available commercially for all types of HGVs. Transportation of goods and freight can also be achieved more efficiently through a reduction in traffic congestion or the consideration of alternative modes such as rail.

New development needs to be encouraged to consider the infrastructure needed for these future changes in the transport system. Likewise, the LDP could be used to help reduce GHG emissions from transport, by encouraging and enabling the provision of accessible walking and cycling routes for commuting and leisure, as well as supporting the provision of adequate public transport options. An outcome objective of NICCAP2 is that "we have transport and network services that are resilient to the impacts of flooding & extreme weather". Spatial planning of land uses that facilitate the provision of the most effective local and regional level travel routes should help to encourage reduced car dependency and increased active travel. Consideration can also be given to vulnerability to climate change when zoning areas. More information is in the Transport and Accessibility, and Air Quality sections of this report.

Energy Supply

The energy sector (energy generation and heat production) has been one of the main contributors in NI to reductions in total GHG emissions. The GHG Inventory 2019 reported a 47.5% reduction on 1990 levels from 5.3MtCO₂e to 2.8MtCO₂e for energy supply. The reduction is due to the switch from coal and oil to natural gas, improved energy efficiency and the uptake in renewables.

There are currently two gas-fired power stations in NI - Ballylumford and Coolkeeragh. A third power station at Kilroot is currently also transitioning from coal to gas. Gas is less carbon intensive and more energy efficient than coal and oil, and is therefore a preferred option in terms of GHG emissions and

efficiency. As policy directs the energy market toward reduced GHG emissions and a low carbon future, changes in sources and production will have to occur. These include diversity of renewables, battery storage and carbon capture projects, and a grid that can enable multiple renewable connections including for prosumers i.e. small-scale producers. More information is in the Material Assets section of this report.

Renewable Energy

Renewable energy is not reliant upon fossil fuel combustion. Renewable technologies can help reduce GHG emissions because they use natural energy and have a low or zero carbon footprint. The NI Executive has voted for new climate change legislation and made a commitment to meet 80% of its electricity needs from renewables by 2030. As shown in Figure 5.6.3, since 2018 between 42% and 49% of NI's electricity was generated from indigenous renewables. The highest monthly proportion on record, 76.5% was generated in February 2022¹. The renewable electricity industry group Renewable NI believes that the 80% target can be delivered using current and proven technology in NI "but the planning system must become better resourced to avoid acting as a disincentive to renewable investors"².

Another important aspect of successfully delivering renewables is a fit-for-purpose grid. Northern Ireland Electricity has identified areas within the district where there is limited potential for generation export³ without investment. The Council area has a mix of renewables – wind, hydro, solar and biomass and 'seeks to support the further development of renewables' but without significant negative effects on the environment – particularly in sensitive coastal locations; on society; or on the economy⁴. Other renewable sources can include air/water/ground heat and biogas⁵.

As discussed in the Material Assets section, 5.6, the district's coastal location could provide potential for offshore, wave and tidal technologies, which could help to increase the diversity of renewables available. Although the SeaGen tidal turbine operated in Strangford Lough from 2008-2016⁶ and an offshore windfarm application was being surveyed for⁷, neither have led to an operational site, but both ventures highlight the potential of the district for marine based renewable energy projects/ technologies.

Renewable energy development proposals in the marine environment are managed under a separate consenting regime within the framework of the UK Marine Policy Statement and the NI Marine Plan, once the latter is adopted. The SPPS encourages consenting authorities for both terrestrial and marine environments to work together. More information is in the Material Assets and Physical Resources sections of this report.

Residential

The 2019 GHG Inventory reported the residential sector as accounting for 14% of total GHG emissions in NI at 2.9MtCO₂e. Although the sector has reduced its emissions from 1990 levels by 21.4%, it was reported as the sector with the largest increase in emissions from the previous year (2018) at 2.6%. The residential sector is now one of the top three emitters in NI.

NI remains dependent on fossil fuels for home heating. In recent years, there has been a transition away from coal and oil for heating purposes to gas⁸. In the 2011 Census, 71% of households in the

¹ NISRA 2021: Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report May 2021

² Renewable NI website, May 2022

³ Northern Ireland Electricity [online] Network Capacity map (found at <u>https://www.nienetworks.co.uk/connections/capacity-map</u> (accessed 21.02.2022))

⁴ Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Paper 8: The Coast February 2017 ⁵ Newry, Mourne and Down's Local Development Plan preparatory Economic Paper

⁶ https://www.atlantisresourcesltd.com/2015/04/29/acquisition-of-marine-current-turbines-limited-from-siemens/

⁷ https://www.4coffshore.com/windfarms/first-flight-wind-united-kingdom-uk88.html; Newry, Mourne and Down's Local Development Plan preparatory Economic Paper

⁸ DAERA (2019) Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Annual Report 2019 Issue 11 ' Sulphur Dioxide'

district used oil heating and only 3% used gas. Emissions can be linked to not just source of fuel heating but also energy efficiency and location to key services.

Business

The 2019 GHG Inventory reported the business sector as accounting for 11% of total GHG emissions in NI at $2.3MtCO_2e$. The sector has reduced its emissions from 1990 levels by 24.6% and decreased its emissions from the previous year (2018) by 5.9% but it remains a significant contributor to total GHG emissions in NI.

Emissions from businesses can be again linked to source of fuel heating, energy efficiency and location to key services. It is worth noting that geothermal energy is a sustainable, low carbon energy resource suitable for homes and businesses and a GSNI consultation has shown opportunity for it in NI. This is further discussed in the '*Physical Resources*' section.

As already referred to, NICCAP2 includes the outcome objectives P1 and B1: "we have people, homes, buildings and communities that are resilient to the impacts of flooding and extremes of weather" and that "we have businesses that can adapt to impacts of climate change and extreme weather". The LDP could be used to help facilitate and encourage low carbon lifestyles and to help reduce GHG emissions from the residential and business sectors, as well as better equipping businesses and communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Measures to do this could include energy efficient / green building design, access to renewables, native planting schemes, integration of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and connection to walking and cycling routes.

Land Use Change

The 2019 GHG Inventory reported the land use change as accounting for 12% of total GHG emissions in NI at 2.5MtCO₂e. The sector has increased its emissions from 1990 levels by 9.1% and had a slight increase in emissions from the previous year (2018) by 0.3%. It is gradually becoming more significant as a contributing sector to total GHG emissions with every new reporting period.

Waste Management

The 2019 GHG Inventory reported the waste management sector as accounting for 3% of total GHG emissions in NI at 0.7 MtCO₂e. As shown in Figure 5.10.1 the sector has shown a significant decrease in emissions from 1990 levels of 59.8% and shown a slight decrease from the previous year (2018) of 2.1%.

Methane is a powerful GHG and as shown in the GHG Inventory, it is the dominant gas emitted from the waste management sector due to landfilling practices. Contributing to the sector's emission reductions has been the closure of landfills which includes two from the District Council, as well as the introduction of methane capture. The reduction of overall waste through an increase in reusing, recycling and composting has also contributed to the decreasing trend in emissions. The most recent 2020 data from NINIS shows for the District Council an above NI average rate of 51.93% for reuse/recycling/composting of household waste. The LDP can enable the provision of sites for the management and processing of waste in sustainable locations. More information on waste is in the Material Assets section of this paper.

Flooding

Climate change is expected to increase the frequency, severity and extent of flooding and extreme weather events, with increases in annual damage to residential properties and other buildings such as culturally valued buildings¹. Flooding, which is discussed in more detail in section 5.11, '*Water Resources*' has been identified as '*potentially one of the most significant and urgent risks*' to NI². Several settlements within the district are identified as having a moderate degree of flood risk and Newry is an 'Area of Potentially Significant Flood Risk'.

¹ DAERA (2019) Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024

² DoE (2014) Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2014-2019

It is becoming increasingly accepted that having fully functional wetland and coastal ecosystems will help to absorb excess water from flooding events and storm surges¹. Development in areas with an identified flood risk not only places the development at risk, but may increase flood risk on adjacent sites and downstream, as well as increasing pressure on natural floodplains. This places risk on both the natural and built environment.

One of the draft PfG outcomes is to 'connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure' and this could be supported by avoiding development in or near to flood risk areas.

NICCAP2 includes the outcome objective that "we have people, homes, buildings and communities that are resilient to the impacts of flooding and extreme of weather". In addition to avoiding development in areas of flood risk, the introduction of SuDS within the built environment can also protect areas further downstream from flooding, as runoff is managed at source and slowed down through attenuation and storage. 'Soft' SuDS can deliver added benefits for this objective, where they can help improve water quality, biodiversity and create landscape features. 'Soft' SuDS components can also contribute to a reduction and/or sequestration of carbon². SuDS are more adaptable to changing environments and weather conditions when compared to regular underground drains³.

Coastal Flooding and Erosion

A quarter of NI's coastline is in the District Council area and totals just over 100 miles⁴. Coasts are dynamic environments that change due to natural forces as well as man-made pressures, and climate change is expected to exacerbate the impacts of climate change - coastal flooding and erosion. The UKCP18 indicates that sea level rise will continue to occur in the UK regardless of future GHG scenarios and that an increase in both the frequency and magnitude of extreme storm events around our coastlines are expected. These forces can also add to coastal land instability.



Figure 5.10.2 DAERA Marine Map Viewer: NI Coastal Erosion High Level Risk Appraisal

Source:DAERA [online] Marine Mapviewer (found at https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/marine/marine-mapviewer)

¹ SEPA (2016) Natural Flood Management Handbook

² SusDrain 'Carbon reduction and sequestration' (found at <u>https://www.susdrain.org/delivering-suds/using-suds/benefits-of-suds/Carbon-</u>reduction-and-sequestration accessed 03/04/2020)

³ Ashley, RM, Walker, AL, D'Arcy, B et al. (5 more authors) (2015) UK sustainable drainage systems: past, present and future. Proceedings of ICE - Civil Engineering, 168 (3). pp. 125-130

⁴ Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Paper8: The Coast February 2017

NICCAP2 advises that "sea level rise affects NI's coasts by increasing flood risks and vulnerability to storm surges. It can negatively impact our coastal economy, communities, buildings and essential infrastructure, all of which are intimately linked to the health, safety and wellbeing of people". Coastal settlements are likely to have more issues to consider.

In NI, there is a lack of baseline coastal and marine data and no legislation in place to specifically address the issue of coastal erosion or assign responsibility for it. As a consequence, the nature and scale of the issues arising from coastal erosion in NI are currently not definitively known; coastal protection policy is reactive, focusing on coastal protection rather than coastal erosion risk management. An initial step towards establishing a coordinated strategy to consider and address coastal erosion in NI was the publication of a Baseline Study and Gap Analysis by DAERA and Dfl in 2018¹. The study outlines the risk posed to the coastline from climate change with a fifth of the total coastline reported as eroding and all the District Council's coastline at either a high or moderate risk of erosion - see Figure 5.10.2. The 'south down coast' and the 'sea loughs' are applicable to the District Council area with high erosion risk areas identified for natural, physical and heritage assets. Further study is required to determine specific risk areas.

NICCAP2 includes the outcome objective that "we have coastal communities, habitats, landforms and infrastructure that are resilient to impacts of climate change". Inappropriate coastal development and activities can affect the coastal habitat and its physical integrity. This can happen when the natural movement of the shore or dunes is removed or impeded. A new approach to coastal development is to work with nature rather than against it and respond to coastal change with soft or natural approaches rather than hard engineered solutions. One solution to help coordinate action in these areas could be to create Coastal Change Management Areas. In Great Britain, Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) are widely applied; these are a non-statutory tool which can be used to help manage the risks of coastal erosion and coastal flooding in the specific plan area.

Biodiversity

In addition to the pressures on coastal habitats posed by rising sea levels discussed above, the NI Evidence Report² has highlighted that climate change presents both potential risk and opportunities to landscapes / landscape character and our soils and land types. Climate change is expected to impact on local biodiversity, as changing climatic factors will cause habitats to alter and species to move. In certain locations, these changes may enable non-native species to thrive so planning to enable the movement of native species to stay within their preferred climate is considered likely. Local biodiversity will require blue/green infrastructure and buffer zones around existing environmental designations to help aid any future movement because of climate change.

As previously detailed, several outcome objectives of NICCAP2 are focused on building resilience into our natural capital and states, "adaptation is vital in ensuring resilient soils and that land types are preserved, while in turn contributing to building the resilience of our ecosystems and communities that depend upon them". It identifies that there are risks to species and habitats due to inability to respond to climatic conditions. NICCAP2 has identified the Forest Expansion Scheme among its actions to achieve outcome objective NC3 "we have soils and land types that are resilient to the impacts of climate change." This scheme encourages the creation of new forest blocks of at least 5 hectares and, in addition to providing increased carbon capture, will deliver secondary benefits such as improved biodiversity and enhanced ability of individual species to endure climate change.

5.10.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there could be fewer opportunities to apply land use planning to help reduce GHG emissions by integrating sustainable development patterns. It could become increasingly difficult to locate renewable energy projects in the most sustainable locations in relation to both

¹ DAERA & Dfl [Amey Consulting with HR Wallingford] (2018) Baseline Study and Gap Analysis of Coastal Erosion Risk Management NI

² Committee on Climate Change (2021) 'Evidence for the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) Summary for Northern Ireland.

infrastructure and users. There may be fewer opportunities to integrate measures such as SuDS, native planting schemes, blue/green infrastructure with active travel, and public transport options. Likewise, the area could be less attractive to investors who wish to promote their sustainability credentials.

5.10.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Climate Change

- CO₂ accounts for the largest proportion of total GHG emissions in NI (68% in 2019). The LDP should support a low-carbon future in anticipation of new energy and climate change policies, as well as evolving and emerging energy technologies, including planning for EV charge points.
- Agriculture is an important part of the local economy and as a significant contributor to GHG emissions, opportunities to reduce emissions within the scope of the LDP need to be considered.
- The agricultural sector remains the biggest emitter of total GHG emissions at 26% (5.6MtCO₂e), followed by transport at 20% (4.2MtCO₂e) and then residential at 14% (2.9MtCO₂e). This is a change in the sectoral order of the largest GHG contributors with residential surpassing the energy supply sector.
- Transport is a significant contributor to GHG emissions. There is a need to encourage and increase
 options for active and sustainable travel across the Borough, to help reduce reliance on the car
 and reduce GHG emissions from the transport sector.
- The LDP should support and facilitate the delivery of appropriate renewable energy developments, that will help to increase the future diversity of renewable energy supplies across the district and to support commitments made under the Climate Change NI Act.
- The district has high potential for marine renewables and the LDP should take account of marine planning policy, which sits alongside and interacts with terrestrial planning policy.
- The LDP should promote and support the reuse and retrofit of existing buildings as a sustainable approach in the context of carbon cost and facilitate and encourage the integration of measures to enable adaptation to the effects of climate change into new development, such as green building design, native planting schemes, and integration of green and blue infrastructure, and runoff management, including SuDS, where appropriate.
- The waste management hierarchy and the proximity principle should continue to guide location of waste management facilities and practices based on the principles of sustainable development.
- Any potential development in areas of flood risk needs to be carefully considered against the likely impact of flooding but also the likely impact of the development on adjacent areas, including the marine area.
- The absence of a of consistent and comprehensive coastal erosion baseline data in Northern Ireland means that it is difficult to identify areas that are at risk. Opportunities for managing coastal erosion risk using soft approaches and management plans that work with nature could be explored.
- Once suitable evidence is available, Coastal Change Management Areas could be identified (by the relevant authority) and policy established in those areas to inform on the likely sustainability of any proposed development and to help manage coastal change over time.
- It is important to protect ecosystems which provide habitat for local biodiversity and which provide natural resilience against the effects of climate change. Provisioning of buffer zones around nature conservation sites could help enable future movement of species in a changing climate.
- The District Council will be able to provide suitable land for a new woodland planting programme 'Forests for our Future' over a 10-year period.

5.11 Water

5.11.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

This topic encompasses water as a resource for ecological services, water supply and treatment. It also considers the management of water storage and flow, flood risk and measures to avoid or manage flood risk.

Regional legislation, plans and strategies seek to protect the quality and supply of water to maintain natural resources and protect human health. The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 require waterbodies to be protected from deterioration and, where necessary and practicable, to be restored to 'good' status. The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 include criteria for the assessment of 'good' chemical status and for identifying and reversing upward trends in pollution of groundwater. Nutrient Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 and Pollution Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) Regulations (NI) 2013 also require the implementation of standards for the control and prevention of pollution of water by nitrates from agricultural sources and phosphorus and other pollutants from agricultural, industrial and waste water sources.

The Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 aim to reduce the pollution of freshwater, estuarine and coastal waters by domestic sewage and industrial wastewater (collectively known as urban waste water). These Regulations set minimum standards for the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water. Minimum standards for the provision of sewerage systems and treatment of sewage are set according to the population served by sewage treatment works, and the sensitivity of receiving waters. The Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 require flood risk to be assessed and mapped and management plans to be developed for the most significant flood risk areas.

In addition to the above Regulations, which were originally developed to transpose European Directives regionally, regulations are also present to control the use of water through either abstraction or impoundment and to protect water supplies. There are also a number of pieces of drainage legislation to control water levels and flows.

Three primary River Basin Districts (RBD) have been identified in Northern Ireland: the North Eastern (NE), the Neagh – Bann (NB) and the North Western (NW) RBDs. The draft 3rd cycle River Basin Management Plan for NI was published in April 2021 but as of May 2022 has not yet been adopted. River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the WFD Regulations, taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile, as well as wetlands which are directly associated with ground or surface water.

NI also maintains a register of protected areas. The register consists of an inventory of protected area sites representing the protected area categories outlined below:

- Areas designated for the protection of habitats or species
- Groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystem sites
- Bathing Waters
- Shellfish waters;
- Groundwater and Surface water Drinking Water Protected Areas;
- Urban wastewater Sensitive Areas; and
- Nutrients Action Programme (Total Territory Approach).

The WFD Regulations include coastal waters, and the UK Marine Strategy also seeks to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES)¹ of marine waters. It includes key objectives that are relevant to LDP in respect of contaminants (including contaminants in seafood); marine litter and underwater noise. The draft Marine Plan includes among its core policies the requirement for public authorities to consider any potential impact from proposals on natural heritage, marine litter and marine noise. It also has a key activity policy supporting aquaculture. As Newry Mourne and Down is connected to the inshore marine area² via its coastline and watercourses, protection of water quality on land and in coastal areas will also benefit the marine area. Marine policies are also considered under the 'Natural Environment' topic (Section 5.12) in this Scoping Report.

Every six years, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in partnership with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) produces a River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for each River Basin District within NI. The third RBMP cycle extends from 2021 – 2027. The WFD Regulations require action to meet good ecological and chemical status and prevent deterioration of our water bodies. Each RBMP therefore sets out the current state of our water environment and the measures to be put in place to achieve further improvements to the water environment over their six year period.

It is essential that RBMPs are integrated with a wide range of strategies and initiatives impacting on the water environment in Northern Ireland. This exploits commonality across regional, national and international requirements, ensuring efficient and cost effective delivery. 'Sustainable Water: A Long-Term Water Strategy' has been developed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in partnership with Northern Ireland Water (NIW), DAERA and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). The Strategy aims to encourage a sustainable and integrated approach to managing the different water needs within a catchment, while promoting regional development without compromising the environment or increasing flood risk.

DAERA is working with the agricultural sector to promote good practice in nutrient management and safer, more effective slurry spreading. The Nitrates Action Programme has been a key element in providing safeguards for the water environment since 2007 and farmers' cooperation has been a key factor in the success of this scheme. This is the main tool for reducing diffuse pollution through the Nitrates Action Programme and Nutrient Management Plans. This has delivered significant improvements in water quality in the last 10-15 years, however increasing nitrate concentrations were reported in 30.8 % of RBMP monitoring sites across NI in 2018³.

The Quality of Bathing Water Regulations (Northern Ireland) implements quality standards for a number of parameters in identified bathing waters, to safeguard public health and protect the environment. The most important of these are the standards relating to the coliform and streptococcal groups of bacteria, which, in general, can be taken as an indication of the amount of sewage or other faecal contaminants present. In addition to monitoring the bathing waters, DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division monitors rivers which run into the sea at beaches. Pollution problems at beaches often arise from within river catchments.

A Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) is a requirement of the Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009. The FRMP has been developed to align with the six year cycle of the RBMP. The FRMP highlights the flood hazards and risks in 12 Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk (APSFR) identified within NI and sets out a framework in which measures to manage flood risk

 $^{^{1}}$ GES is defined in the MSFD as: "The environmental status of marine waters where these provide ecologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas which are clean, healthy and productive" (Article 3).

² DAERA (2018) Draft Marine Plan for NI - "The Northern Ireland marine area is made up of an inshore and an offshore region. The marine area comprises all marine waters including sea bed, subsoil, sea loughs and tidal rivers, so far as the tide flows at Mean High Water Spring Tide".

³ DAERA (2021) Draft River Basin Management Plan for Northern Ireland 2021-2027

will be delivered or planned for at a local level. In addition to the APSFRs, there are a further nine 'Transitional Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk' (TAPSFR) in NI.

DAERA's draft Environment Strategy (2021) seeks to achieve the outcome of 'excellent air, water, land and neighbourhood quality'. Key actions of this strategy include investment in sewage infrastructure, with outcomes including a reduction in levels of nitrates and phosphorus in NI waterbodies.

The fundamental policy message arising from the SPPS is that the most effective means of managing flood risk is to avoid the risk, by locating new buildings and infrastructure outside flood risk areas. The LDP should ensure that land identified as being at risk of flooding is not zoned for development. Such development would be at an unacceptable risk of flooding, may cause flooding elsewhere and may impair the natural function of the floodplain in storing flood water. The Council should adopt a precautionary approach to the identification of land through the LDP process and the determination of development proposals, in those areas susceptible to flooding where there is a lack of precise information on present day flood risk or climate change flood risk.

The Regional Development Strategy 2035 includes protective measures for water such as:

- Adopt grey water recycling
- Minimise development in areas at risk from flooding from rivers, the sea and surface water runoff
- Promote a more sustainable approach to the provision of water and sewerage services and flood risk management.
- Integrate water and land-use planning.
- Manage future water demand.
- Encourage sustainable surface water management.

The Strategy for Promoting the Use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) also encourages the incorporation of measures to ameliorate the impacts of development on water quality and flow.

Our Corporate Plan 2021-23¹ includes the strategic objective to "enhance, protect and promote our environment" and seeks to contribute to "...reducing harmful impacts on the environment, while enabling residents and visitors to enjoy our rich natural and built heritage".

Our Community Plan recognises that 'while social and economic development are key to supporting the wellbeing of our communities, we must also ensure our unique natural environment and built heritage is enhanced and sustainably managed'. The level of rich, diverse, natural environment is among the indicators for success of the Community Plan, with water quality being one of the measures. The Plan states that 'the natural environment ... provides us with essential goods and services (ecosystem services) that we couldn't live without, such as the oxygen we breathe, water we drink and the food that we eat. A healthy, rich environment leads to healthy communities'.

5.11.2 Baseline information

River Basin Management Plans

The RBMP requires action to meet 'good' (or better) ecological and chemical status and prevent deterioration of our water bodies. 'Good' status is assessed using a broad range of parameters for water quality (such as nutrients and oxygen levels); aquatic biology (including plants, aquatic insects and fish) and physical environment (such as river flows and habitat). Classification of water bodies assists in planning what measures might be required for improvements. The RBMP also recognises that some water bodies have been changed to such a degree that they can longer be restored to their original condition without compromising their current use. These are called heavily modified (HMWBs) or artificial water bodies (AWBs). HMWBs and AWBs are classified according to their ecological potential rather than status, with the objective to achieve 'good ecological potential' (GEP).

¹Newry Mourne and Down District Council (2021) Phlean Corparáideach 2021-2023 Corporate Plan 2021-2023

The principal river systems in Newry, Mourne and Down are:

- The Ballynahinch, Quoile, Blackstaff, Moneycarragh, Shimna and Kilkeel Rivers and also an area of the Upper River Lagan in the NE RBD; and
- Parts of the Upper Bann and Cusher Rivers, the Newry River and Newry Canal, the Clanrye, Bessbrook, Forkhill and Fane Rivers, all in the NB RBD.

The water quality status figures published at the conclusion of the first cycle of RBMP in 2015 showed that 37% of Northern Ireland's water bodies met 'good' status. The draft 3rd cycle RBMP 2021-2027 indicates that overall, 38% of NI's water bodies are currently at 'good or better' status. While some water bodies did improved in status during the 2nd cycle, this was offset by other water bodies that deteriorated. In general, rivers and lakes have shown deteriorations, whilst coastal and transitional water bodies remain unchanged.

Figure 5.11.1 shows the overall ecological status classification of the river and lake waterbodies within Newry, Mourne and Down in 2018. Some watercourses in the Council area have not been assigned a catchment status, as the watercourse catchments are below the size threshold (10km²) for characterisation. These areas are shown as white/transparent.



Figure 5.11.1: Water Framework Directive overall classification, 2018

Source: DAERA Spatial NI (accessed 12/05/2022)

In total there are 63 river and lake waterbodies (including artificial and heavily modified waterbodies) in or immediately adjacent to Newry, Mourne and Down.

The Kilkeel River is one of eight river catchments in NI identified as being at risk of acidification from forestry activities. Relevant best practice for forestry is therefore necessary in this catchment, in accordance with published guidance on 'Managing Forests in Acid Sensitive Water Catchments¹'.

Table 5.11.1:	Summary of 2018 c	overall classification	n of river and lake water bodies	
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River Water Bodies

Lake Water Bodies

-					
57	Total Number of RWB				
0	High Eco. Status				
6	Good Eco. Status				
40	Moderate Eco. Status				
8	Poor Eco. Status				
1	Bad Eco. Status				
2	No data / unclassified				

Lake water boules				
2	Total Number of LWB			
0	High Eco. Status			
0	Good Eco. Status			
2	Moderate Eco. Status			
0	Poor Eco. Status			
0	Bad Eco. Status			

Heavil	/ Modified	Water	Bodies*
I ICavily	y iviounieu	vvalei	Doules

11	Total Number of HMWB			
2	Good Eco. Potential			
8	Moderate Eco. Potential			
1	Poor Eco. Potential			
0 Bad Eco. Potential				
*includes river and lake waterbodies				

Source: DAERA Spatial NI (accessed 12/05/2022)

Newry, Mourne and Down had poorer river water quality in 2015 than the overall Northern Ireland average (Figure 5.11.2). 'Good' status was 14%, compared to 31.22% for all river water bodies in Northern Ireland. No rivers in Newry, Mourne and Down achieved 'high' status. 68% of river waterbodies in Newry, Mourne and Down were classified as 'moderate', 13% as 'poor' and 2% as 'bad' status. 86% of the river waterbodies in the district were therefore failing to meet the required standard at the beginning of the 2nd cycle. In 2018 this was 90% (6 out of 57 river waterbodies achieved 'good' or 'high' status)



Figure 5.11.2: Water Framework Directive overall classification (% River Waterbodies), 2015

Source: DAERA WMU Digital Datasets and Northern Ireland Reported Water Body Status & Objective Figures 2015 (Published 07/11/2017)

There are eleven heavily modified river and lake waterbodies in Newry, Mourne and Down (four lakes and seven rivers). There are also two transitional (estuarine) heavily modified waterbodies. Only two of the heavily modified water bodies have achieved 'good' status and one, Cam Lough, was classified as 'poor' status in 2015 and 2018.

Newry, Mourne and Down also adjoins six coastal waterbodies and two transitional water bodies. These are listed below in Table 5.11.2:

¹Forestry Commission (2014) Practice Guide - Managing forests in acid sensitive water catchments

Waterbody Name	Status (2015)	Status (2018)
Ards Peninsula	Good	Good
Dundrum Bay Inner (contains one designated Shellfish Area)	Moderate	Moderate
Dundrum Bay Outer (contains one designated Shellfish Area)	Good	Good
Strangford Lough South (contains two designated Shellfish Areas)	Moderate	Moderate
Carlingford Lough (contains one designated Shellfish Area)	Moderate	Moderate
Mourne Coast	Moderate	Good
Quoile Pondage (transitional water body - heavily modified)	Moderate	Moderate
Quolle Polluage (transitional water body - neavily mounted)	Potential	Potential
Newry Estuary (transitional water body – heavily modified)	Moderate	Moderate
Newly Estuary (transitional water body – neavily modified)	Potential	Potential

Table 5.11.2: Summary of 2015 & 2018 overall classification of coastal and transitional water bodies

Source: DAERA [online] Catchment Map viewer (found at https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/daera-map-viewers (accessed 12/05/2022))

Only three of the six coastal waterbodies, Ards Peninsula, Mourne Coast and Dundrum Bay Outer have achieved 'good' status. Dundrum Bay Inner, Strangford Lough South and Carlingford Lough achieved 'moderate' status. Good water quality is especially important for the production of high quality shellfish (see Economically Significant Aquatic Species section, below).

As part of the River Basin Planning process, a Programme of Measures (POMs)¹ has been established for each RBD to detail the improvements required to meet 'Good' status, the actions required and the delivery mechanisms. The POMs aims to address the key pressures by concentrating efforts on those pressures that pose the greatest threat to the water environment.

The RBMP indicates that significant sources of pressure preventing water bodies in the district from achieving 'good' status are diffuse pressures from agricultural sources and point source pressures from urban wastewater and development. Other pressures may include reductions in water quantity and flow, the physical condition of the water environment (in respect of man made changes to the natural habitat of rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters), the presence and spread of invasive alien species and any other factors that affect fish populations and habitat.

Nutrient enrichment has been identified in both RBDs as a principal reason for failure in lake, transitional and coastal waterbodies as it is linked to failures in diatoms, macrophytes and soluble reactive phosphorus, which have occurred in many waterbodies either individually or in combination.

At the Northern Ireland level there has been a gradual trend towards fewer and less severe pollution incidents and improved compliance for private and trade discharge consents since 2001.

Three European funded (Interreg VA) projects are currently active which have the objective of improving water quality and include catchments and waters within Newry, Mourne and Down:

- 'System for bathing Water quality Modelling (SWIM)'. The SWIM project will enable short-term pollution to be predicted, through the development of a bathing water quality prediction model. This will help to protect public health, significantly improve communication to members of the public, and in doing so will contribute to promoting tourism.
- CatchmentCARE (Catchment Actions for Resilient Eco-systems), aims to establish three water quality improvement projects in the Finn, Blackwater and Arney Catchments and install 51 boreholes across the region. The actions selected will address water quality issues related to hydromorphology, point and diffuse sources of pollution, farm nutrient management practices, characterisation and monitoring of groundwater quality, lag times in response to the implementation of measures and an economic analysis of the cost of achieving the objectives of the Water Framework Directive in the three catchments.

¹ DAERA List of second cycle supporting documents for 2nd cycle River Basin Management Plans 2015. Date published: 03 August 2017. https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/list-second-cycle-supporting-documents-2nd-cycle-river-basin-management-plans-2015

The Collaborative Action for the Natura Network (CANN) incorporates a wide range of partners, including Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, and encompasses 25 separate sites across NI, RoI and Scotland. The project will help improve the condition of protected habitats and priority species found within Northern Ireland, the border region and western Scotland. It aims to realise the many ecosystem services provided by these areas, including carbon storage, alleviating flooding and visual and cultural landscapes.

Groundwater

There are six groundwater bodies intersecting Newry, Mourne and Down (Figure 5.11.3). Of these, almost all were classified as overall 'good' status in 2020, with many having improved status from 2015, largely due to changes in monitoring. Only Tandragee is classified as having 'poor' status. The 3rd cycle draft RBMP has identified the presence of 'asulam', a herbicide which is monitored for drinking water protected areas, as a parameter causing failure in the chemical status of the Tandragee groundwater body.

The main pressures on groundwater bodies are nutrients, either in the form of soluble reactive dissolved inorganic nitrogen or nitrate, with agricultural activities and sewage related problems identified as a source in the RBMP. Nutrients (or other contaminants) soak into the soil and are washed into the unsaturated zone of the aquifer until they reach the water table. Contaminants travel with the natural groundwater flow or altered groundwater flow (due to a groundwater abstraction at a pumped borehole) until they reach a receptor.



Figure 5.11.3: Groundwater Status, 2020

Source: DAERA WMU Catchment Mapviewer (Accessed 12/05/2022

Many properties, especially in rural areas, possess a Private Water Supply (PWS) such as a well or borehole. There are approximately 16 PWS registered with the Drinking Water Inspectorate¹ in the district, but there are likely to be many more unregistered supplies. Consideration needs given to households using PWS as their primary drinking water source and measures to improve and maintain groundwater bodies.

Drinking Water Protected Areas

There are six drinking water protected areas for surface water catchments used for the abstraction of drinking water and supplying Water Treatment Works (WTW) in Newry, Mourne and Down:

- NE RBD Drumaroad, Fofanny, Lough Island Reavy WTW Catchments
- NB RBD Carron Hill, Fofanny, Lough Island Reavy WTW Catchments

¹ Opendata NI [online] Drinking Water Inspectorate Register of Private Water Supplies in Northern Ireland (24/04/2020)

All groundwater bodies in Newry, Mourne and Down are also on the Register of Protected Areas.

Economically Significant Aquatic Species – Shellfish

Waters supporting shellfish receive additional protection and are monitored for specific pollutants and priority hazardous substances. There are five Shellfish Water Protected Areas in Newry, Mourne and Down, shown below in Figure 5.11.4. Of the 20 aquaculture sites licensed in Newry, Mourne and Down for the cultivation of mussels and oysters, 19 are located inside the Protected Areas with the majority (15) located in Carlingford Lough.





Source: DAERA Northern Ireland Marine Mapviewer https://appsd.daera-ni.gov.uk/marinemapviewer/

Monitoring programmes are in place to assess the status of Shellfish Water Protected Areas. A suite of determinants are assessed to determine ecological status and the overall objective under the regulations. Compliance with guideline standards are determined by measuring *E. coli* and other prescribed contaminants in shellfish flesh. It can be seen from the table below that Skate Rock is the only production area to consistently met guidelines and is awarded 'A' class (the highest rated) microbiological status. Shellfish from Dundrum Bay and Killough Harbour have not been able to achieve the guideline standard in any of the past seven years.

SHELLFISH WATER		2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Carlingford Lough								
Dundrum Bay								
Killough								
Marlfield								
Skate Rock								
	Met Guideline	Met Guideline						
	Did not Meet Guideline							
	Not Designated or Not in Production							

Source: NI Environmental Statistics Report 2021

Pollution Reduction Programmes¹ were published in 2015 for Carlingford Lough, Inner Dundrum Bay, Killough Harbour and Strangford Lough. *E.coli* from wastewater has been a particular issue for shellfish production at Dundrum Inner Bay. An upgrade of Dundrum WwTW commenced in 2019 which it is hoped will help enable Inner Dundrum Bay to meet water quality objectives. It is a core policy of the draft Marine Plan that public authorities must consider the ability of a proposal to coexist with other marine activities, including aquaculture.

The Killough Harbour Pollution Reduction Programme (2015) states that no improvements or upgrades have been identified for Coney Island or Killough WwTWs in NI Water's PC15 funding programme which runs to 2021, however monitoring of all combined sewage overflows within 2km of Shellfish Water Protected Areas was to be introduced by NI Water during the PC15 period.

Higher annual rainfall with more intense episodes, which may occur more frequently in the future due to the effects of climate change (see section 5.10), may increase pollutant conveyance from both urban and rural areas. This may increase loading of pollutants to the sea and increase the risk of the failure of microbiological standards in both shellfish and bathing waters.

Economically Significant Aquatic Species – Freshwater Fish

Newry, Mourne and Down has approximately 817km of rivers on the protected areas register for freshwater fish. These include the Upper Bann, Annalong, Ballynahinch, Burren, Newry, Quoile and Shimna Rivers. There are also six lakes in Newry, Mourne and Down on the protected areas register (Cam Lough, Clea Lakes, Island Reavy Reservoir Lough, Ross Lough, Silent Valley and Spelga Dam). Only 6 out of the 19 (32%) river waterbodies in the NE RBD that are monitored for fish population or habitat achieved 'good' or 'high' status for this element over the first WFD planning cycle. In the NB RBD the figure was 13 out of 37 (35%). Failures in fish ecology can indicate a wide range of pressures, such as from physical modifications and abstraction and flow regulation.

Nutrient Sensitive Areas

A total territory approach has been adopted in Northern Ireland for Nitrates. There are seven Urban Waste Water Treatment sensitive areas in Newry, Mourne and Down:

- NE RBD Inner Dundrum Bay; Dundrum Bay catchment; Newcastle Bathing Water; Newcastle Bathing Water Catchment; Quoile Catchment and Quoile Pondage; and
- NB RBD Newry River Catchment.

There has been a trend toward significant reductions in mean nitrate concentrations in groundwater. Long-term trends show that average nitrate concentrations in rivers in Northern Ireland are predominantly decreasing or stable over the 20-year period, 1992-2012, which may be attributed to the measures implemented through the Nitrates Action Programme so that levels are well within the required standards.

Bathing Waters

Newry, Mourne and Down currently has six beaches designated under The Quality of Bathing Water Regulations (Northern Ireland). Designated bathing waters are monitored through the bathing season and a bathing water profile is published annually to allow the public to make an informed choice before bathing. DAERA is currently preparing for a full review of Bathing Waters in 2022/23 including a public consultation which will not only look at the identification of new Bathing Waters but will also consider extending the length of the bathing season. The review will recognise the marked increase in popularity of all year open water swimming in recent times.

Threats to bathing water quality for bathing waters are broadly divided into three categories waste water (sewage) treatment works discharges, waste water systems in urban areas and rural source pollution, including agriculture. Other threats include dogs, horses, litter and fly tipping. The annual bathing water results since 2015 are summarised below in Table 5.11.2.

¹ DAERA Pollution Reduction Programmes 2015 <u>https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/pollution-reduction-programmes-2015</u>

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Tyrella	Excellent	Summ-	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Murlough	Excellent	aries not published	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Newcastle	Good		Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Good
Cranfield	Excellent		Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Kilclief	Excellent		Excellent	Excellent			
Ballyhornan	Good		Excellent	Excellent			

Table 5.11.3: Bathing Water Quality Overall Classifications 2015 – 2021

Source: DAERA Bathing Water Profiles 2021 and 'Better Beaches Report 2020'

Flood Risk

The implementation of the Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations has resulted in strategic flood risk assessment and mapping being carried out for all of NI and the publication of detailed Flood Hazard and Risk Maps¹ for the areas determined to be at potential significant flood risk. These maps are continuously updated and are accessible from the Dfl website.



Figure 5.11.5: Significant Flood Risk Areas and Areas for Further Study with River & Coastal Flood Plain

Source Department for Infrastructure (Rivers) - Flood Maps (NI) (accessed 16/05/2022)

One settlement in Newry, Mourne and Down, Newry, has been identified as a APSFR (Figure 5.11.5). Newcastle, Downpatrick and Warrenpoint were previously identified in the first FRMP cycle, but are now classed as TAPSFR. Fluvial flood risk is further discussed in the Council's 'Public Utilities' Preparatory Studies Paper 9 and Coastal flood risk in Preparatory Studies Paper 8, 'The Coast'.

Other settlements in the district may be subject to localised areas of flood risk, but are not classed as 'significant' in the context of NI.

The Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations and FRMP aim to manage flood risk through:

- Prevention: avoiding construction of houses and industries in flood-prone areas; by adapting future developments to the risk of flooding; and by promoting appropriate land-use, agricultural and forestry practices.
- **Protection**: taking measures, both structural and non-structural, to reduce the likelihood and impact of floods.

¹ Flood Maps (NI) is accessible through the Dfl Mapping Portal <u>http://dfi-ni.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html</u>

 Preparedness: informing the public about flood risk and what to do in the event of a flood. The Bryansford Avenue / Shimna Road area of Newcastle and the Bridge Street / Cleary Crescent area of Newry have been identified by Dfl Rivers as being suitable for inclusion in a programme of community engagement to deliver flood warning and informing initiatives to help increase Community Resilience against flooding.

The multi-layered strategic Flood Hazard and Risk Maps provide information on flood defences, historical flood events and predicted extreme flood events for river and coastal flooding as well as the potential for surface water flooding. Additional information is available in Flood Maps NI showing the areas within the 1 per cent AEP¹ floodplain, taking account of the impacts of climate change.

Settlements within Newry, Mourne and Down that currently have coastal and/or flood defences include Annsborough, Downpatrick, Dundrum, Greencastle, Kilkeel, Killough, Newcastle, Newry and Rostrevor.

The 2nd Cycle FRMP indicates that the latest Climate Change projections from the UK Met Office, UKCP18, forecast a rise in sea level, increased winter precipitation and an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events, which will further increase flood risk in NI. In particular, UKCP18 predicts higher increases in Sea Level Rise than previous UKCP09 information because potential polar ice sheet melting is now taken into account. NI sea levels are predicted to rise by between 33 - 94 cm by the year 2100; Precipitation rates for winter are predicted to increase by the order of 20% to 40% in the same period.

The way that land is managed can also have an adverse effect on the likelihood of flooding. Increasing development and paving-over gardens and driveways (known as 'urban creep') and any increase in land drainage or reclamation could change the ability of land to absorb rainfall. This will exacerbate local surface water flooding issues and cumulatively increase fluvial flood risk further downstream.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

Increasingly, reliance on traditional drainage systems is proving inadequate to address the issue of storm drainage. Alone, such systems may not cope with the demands made by new development, in addition to the more intense and increasingly unpredictable rainfall arising from climate change. The SPPS (para. 6.118) advocates SuDS as the preferred drainage solution for new development, noting that such systems "have been shown to be more effective than traditional piped drainage in reducing surface water flooding as well as providing other environmental, economic and social benefits".

While planning policy encourages SuDS, it does not currently make it a requirement for new development. To date 'soft', or above-ground SuDS have rarely been used in NI², although SuDS principles are included in the design of new road schemes. In 2016, Dfl changed the legislation regarding connection to the public sewer network, to provide a new power for NI Water to refuse a surface water connection if alternative means of dealing with surface water have not been considered. This has seen a substantial increase in the use of 'below-ground' SuDS to attenuate stormwater flows in new residential and business developments³. In January 2019 the Welsh Government made the inclusion of SuDS mandatory in new development. It has published information indicating that the capital costs of SuDS solutions on new developments are lower than the capital costs of comparable traditional piped drainage solutions. It also states that evidence shows that operational and maintenance costs also tend to be lower for SuDS⁴.

¹AEP Annual Exceedance Probability – the 1% AEP floodplain outline for rivers has a 1per cent or greater chance of flooding in any given year (also referred to as a 100 year flood event).

² NI Assembly Research and Information Service Paper 31st May 2016 (found at

http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/globalassets/documents/raise/publications/2016-2021/2016/infrastructure/3816.pdf) ³ DAERA (2019) Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024

⁴ Welsh Government Written Statement - Implementing sustainable drainage systems on new developments (found at <u>https://gov.wales/written-statement-implementing-sustainable-drainage-systems-new-developments</u>) Last updated 16 November 2017, accessed 24/03/2020

The NIEA has indicated in its LDP consultation responses to Councils that in the design of SuDS, surface water should be dealt with as close as possible to where it falls as rain (source control). The use of two or more SuDS components can be used for the optimal solution to:

- Manage rainfall to mimic natural drainage by:
 - reducing runoff rates;
 - reducing additional runoff volumes and frequencies; and
 - encouraging natural groundwater recharge.
- Minimise impacts on quantity and quality of runoff by:
 - reducing pollution and protecting the quality of receiving waters;
 - preventing direct discharge of spillage; and
 - reducing the volume of surface waste runoff to sewers.
- Maximise amenity and biodiversity opportunity by:
 - contributing to the amenity and aesthetic value of the development; and
 - providing habitat for wildlife and biodiversity

Examples of localised source control measures include green roofs, permeable paving and soakaways, while larger passive treatment areas such as ponds and wetlands can be incorporated into wider green-blue infrastructure (see Section 5.8).

Water Supply

Information on water supply, quantity and quality is not reported at Council level and must be extracted from regional data sets or trends described at a Northern Ireland level. Some of this has been presented in the 'Public Utilities' Preparatory Studies Paper.

The provision of water supply in Northern Ireland is the responsibility of NI Water. In 2021, there were ten water supply zones wholly or partially within Newry, Mourne and Down:

Zone Code	Zone Name	Zone Code	Zone Name
ZN1101	Clay Lake Keady	ZS0901	Castor Bay Newry West
ZS0501	Drumaroad Lisburn	ZS0902	Fofanny Dromore
ZS0601	Drumaroad Ballynahinch	ZS0904	Fofanny Mourne
ZS0602	Drumaroad Downpatrick	ZS1001	Carran Hill Crossmaglen
ZS0810	Castor Bay Tandragee	ZS1002	Carran Hill Camly

Source: NI Water Drinking Water Quality Annual Report (2021)

Four Water Treatment Works (WTW) are located within Newry, Mourne and Down; Carran Hill, Camlough Derry Beg, Drumaroad and Fofanny. Water for the Castor Bay treatment works is abstracted from Lough Neagh.

Significant investment in water treatment works, service reservoirs and mains distribution has resulted in improvements in compliance with the drinking water standards across Northern Ireland, from 99.22% in 2004 to 99.88% in 2021¹.

NI Water and its partners / stakeholders the RSPB and the NIEA have developed a SCaMP (Sustainable Catchment Management Planning) NI strategy to improve the quality and reliability of the water received at NI Water's raw water abstraction points. In addition to improving water quality, SCaMP also focuses on protecting and enhancing the natural environment. One of the SCaMP projects currently under way is in the Eastern Mournes, where NI Water, the Mourne Heritage Trust, the NI Environment Agency and the NI Fire & Rescue Service are working together to develop expertise and

¹ NI Water [online] (found at <u>https://www.niwater.com/drinking-water/</u>)

knowledge to manage wildfire risk and form a collaborative response to wildfires. Wildfire events have a detrimental effect on water quality and result in high chemical costs in water treatment. The project aims to protect the drinking water supply, protect the heathland and preserve the Mourne landscape for generations to come.

This catchment management approach, adopted previously by water companies in England, has proven to be more sustainable and more cost effective than dealing with water quality issues at the treatment works.

Reservoirs

There are 25 impoundments and reservoirs in Newry, Mourne and Down, of which many are "controlled reservoirs" (i.e. an impoundment >=10,000 cubic metres). Most of these reservoirs are in, or close to, rural settlements. Flood mapping of controlled reservoirs for emergency planning has been carried out by Dfl (Rivers)¹ and is shown in Figure 5.11.6.



Figure 5.11.6: Water Impoundments in Newry, Mourne and Down

Wastewater Treatment

The provision of wastewater treatment works (WwTWs) in the Plan Area is also the responsibility of NI Water. NIW provides the Council regularly updated information on the current capacity of WwTWs serving the district as well as an estimate of future capacity based on applying a settlement growth factor of 10%, 20% and 30%. It also provides information on network issues. As at April 2021, 16 out of the 88 WwTWs serving the district have insufficient capacity at present and two are 'at or reaching capacity'. NI Water's sewerage network capacity mapping tool and sewer network modelling activities have identified capacity issues in parts of the Cranfield, Newry, Kilkeel, Maghera (Down), Dundrum, Downpatrick ,Ballynahinch, Saintfield and Annsborough wastewater networks.

NI Water recently published 'Our Strategy 2021-2046' which recognises the climate emergency as one of six strategic risks for the next 25 years. Most of the urban areas in Northern Ireland are served by combined sewers that carry both sewerage and surface water which is inefficient and results in pollution and floods. NI Water plans to gradually transform the sewerage network by taking every economically viable opportunity to disconnect surface areas from existing combined sewers, for example when laying a new storm sewer to service a new development. In many locations this will help free up capacity in combined sewers for new connections without having to lay new or combined sewers.

Source: Dfl Rivers Header Reservoir Flood Mapping for Emergency Planning Web viewer (accessed 16/05/2022)

¹ Reservoir Flood Mapping for Emergency Planning on Dfl Mapping Portal <u>http://dfi-ni.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html</u>

NI Water's PC21 Business Plan has identified a number of 'Economic Constrained Areas' where development is restricted due to severely compromised sewerage infrastructure, shown in Figure 5.11.6. Figure 5.11.7 also shows settlements in green which NI Water expects to address these issues during the investment period up to 2027. However, it warns that it may take several price control periods (each of which lasts six years) to fully rectify development constraints¹.

Figure 5.11.7: NI Water PC21 Economic Constrained Areas

Status
 Economic Constrained Area
 Serious Development Restriction
 PC21 investment



The Council will continue to work closely with NI Water in its LDP production as the capacity of waste water treatment works may have an influence on the distribution of proposed development in towns and villages.

The SWELL project (Shared Waters Enhancement and Loughs Legacy) is conducting research on water quality in Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle. This research, which is being carried out by AFBI, in collaboration with water companies in NI and Ireland, will inform investment in appropriate waste water treatment strategies that will contribute to the improved water quality of these important shared loughs.

5.11.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan there will be less certainty about the need for supply or treatment of water therefore infrastructure may not be developed in the most efficient manner. There is a risk that cumulative effects from development will counteract the goals of plans such as River Basin Management Plans to achieve good ecological status. While planning policies address issues such as flood risk, the opportunity to take a more strategic approach would be missed. There is a risk that taking decisions in the absence of an up to date plan could result in development that does not make the most sustainable use of infrastructure or which subsequently requires further measures to address knock on effects.

The plan will enable space for surface water management to be identified when zoning land. LDP policy could require, either generally or for specific zonings, that schemes are put in place at design stage so as to minimise surface water runoff.

¹ NI Water (2021) PC21 Business Plan 'Economic Constraints'

5.11.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Water

- River water quality in the district is significantly lower than the NI average. There is a need to improve the water quality of the majority of the river and lake waterbodies to achieve 'good' ecological status (or better).
- Development may lead to contaminated runoff which may increase pollution of waterbodies and the marine area.
- Other wastes may also cause surface or groundwater pollution at the point where they are used or disposed of, e.g. wastes from livestock production, food processing or primary treatment such as sewage or anaerobic digesters.
- Marine water quality at Strangford Lough and Carlingford Lough is not meeting 'good' standard.
- There is a need to reduce pollutants and contaminants entering Shellfish Water Protected Areas across the district. Other than at Skate Rock, shellfish produced in the Shellfish Protected Areas are not meeting the guidelines for microbiological and other contaminants.
- Bathing water quality is 'good' or 'excellent' at all of the Council's bathing beaches. Water quality in designated bathing waters should be sustained or improved.
- Developments without access to mains sewers can incorporate sewage treatment on site.
 However, it is important that there is capacity for safe disposal of treated discharges and for maintenance of the treatment system to ensure that it remains effective in the long term.
- Plan proposals should be compatible with Dfl's Flood Risk Management Plan. Dfl identifies Newry
 as an Area of Potentially Significant Flood Risk. Other settlements may have localised areas with a
 moderate risk of flooding. Dfl also identifies areas that are at risk from an uncontrolled release of
 water from dam failure.
- Development may lead to changes in the rate of surface water runoff, or the capacity of a receiving watercourse may be altered which in turn has the potential to increase flood risk.
- It is predicted that the risk and extent of flooding, particularly coastal flooding, will be increased by climate change. Development should be planned to avoid areas at significant risk from flooding, now or in the future, or where development may increase the flood risk elsewhere. Constructed flood alleviation and defence measures are expensive and should be avoided.
- There are benefits in retaining and restoring natural flood plains and watercourses as a form of flood alleviation this can support River Basin Management Plan objectives.
- Sustainable drainage (SuDS) measures could be incorporated and maintained in new development and redevelopment or regeneration schemes. 'Above ground' SuDS measures for source control can deliver wider ecosystem service benefits.
- Development in general requires a water supply, therefore can increase demands for sources, treatment and distribution infrastructure. This can be offset by measures to make more efficient use of water.
- NI Water has identified wastewater treatment works and wastewater network capacity constraints in the district. These may influence the potential for development in some settlements, or parts of settlements.

5.12 Natural Resources

5.12.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The natural resources topic provides information on biodiversity, fauna, flora, blue / green infrastructure, access and ecosystem services.

There are several international measures which direct nature conservation legislation. The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the 1971 Ramsar Convention) 'provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.'¹ Signatories committed to the Convention agree to use wetlands wisely, to designate and manage suitable wetlands, and to cooperate on transboundary wetlands and their species.

The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention), includes the objectives 'to ensure conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats, to increase co-operation between contracting parties, and to regulate the exploitation of migratory species. '² It is applicable to the natural heritage of the European continent and some African countries. The UK became a signatory to the Convention in 1982. It has been transposed into NI legislation via the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 and the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (NI) Order 1985. Through these laws, Councils have the power to establish Local Nature Reserves and Wildlife Refuges to protect and enhance local biodiversity.

The District Council also has a statutory duty to 'further the conservation of biodiversity', when exercising its functions under The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011 ('WANE Act'). The WANE Act strengthened The Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 by enforcing a biodiversity duty on public bodies and adding species to Schedule 1, as well as providing specific protection for a new list of Schedule A1 bird species and generally improving enforcement powers. The A1 list includes species that are found in the District Council area including red kite.

The 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development also known as the 'Earth Summit' aimed to provide 'a new blueprint for international action on environmental and development issues'³. The Summit concluded that sustainable development could be achievable by all countries, but a new approach would be needed to ensure balance between economic, social and environmental concerns. One of the Summit's successful outcomes was The Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio 1992), which requires contracting parties to create and enforce national strategies and action plans to conserve, protect and enhance biological diversity⁴. The UK is a signatory and locally transposed legislation helps deliver on its commitments.

The UK's new national network of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), which replaced the European Union's network of sites 'Natura 2000' at the end of December 2020, seeks to conserve internationally important habitats for breeding, migrating and over wintering birds and to promote the maintenance of biodiversity. The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations NI 1995 (as amended) transferred the European Commission's Habitats and Birds Directives into NI's domestic legislation. The Habitats Directive 1992 'aims to promote the maintenance of biodiversity¹⁵ and along with the Birds Directive 2009 (as amended) is an integral part of nature conservation policy in Europe. Both Directives were transposed into NI's legislation so even with the UK leaving the EU in 2021, designated European sites remain within the District Council's network of nature conservation sites. The Conservation Regulations also give effect to other site and species protection measures.

¹ Wetlands.org website: Wetlands/Ramsar Convention accessed May 2022

² JNCC website: Our Work/Bern Convention accessed May 2022

³ United Nations website: Conferences/Environment and sustainable development/Rio 1992 accessed May 2022

⁴ Convention on Biological Diversity website accessed May 2022

⁵ European Commission website: Environment/Nature & Biodiversity/EU Nature Law accessed May 2022

The Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009 and the Marine Act (NI) 2013 require planning authorities to consider the UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS) and the NI Marine Plan when preparing their LDPs. Both Acts also require NI to produce its own Marine Plan. A draft Marine Plan for NI was consulted on in April 2018. The Marine Plan (when adopted) will be used by Public Authorities in taking decisions which affect or might affect the marine area, including authorisation or enforcement decisions and decisions that relate to the exercise of any function capable of affecting the marine area.

The draft Marine Plan includes among its core policies the requirement for public authorities to comply with the legal requirements for designated areas, and to consider any potential impact from proposals on other habitats, species or features of importance and protected species. It also provides policy on the consideration of cumulative impacts, invasive alien species, man-made noise on the marine area and impacts on coastal processes. It will align with and contribute to the policy objectives for key marine activities as set out in the UK MPS and will support and complement existing plans and policies.

At a regional level, a spatial approach for the protection of natural resource is provided through four policies in the Regional Development Strategy 2035¹. RG9 aims to, 'Reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate mitigation and adaptation to climate change whilst improving air quality.' This is seen as a priority for NI not just because of the human health implications but because of the predicted effects on species and habitats. RG11 aims to 'Conserve, protect and, where possible, enhance our built heritage and our natural environment.' with inland waterways, the coast, ecological networks and biodiversity all incorporated to the guidance. The RDS guidance can deliver benefits not just for the natural environment but for people's health and well-being, as well as the economy.

The draft Programme for Government (PfG) 2016-2021 recognised that we all benefit from the goods and services that our natural environment provides - food, renewable energy, water purification, flood mitigation as well as places for recreation, education and inspiration. One of its 14 strategic outcomes envisioned that as a society, 'We *live and work sustainably - protecting the environment*'². The link between protecting and enhancing natural capital, to ensure there is a 'healthy and resilient economy' was made clear. The next PfG will continue to focus on environmental protection for land, sea and air because it remains one of the main issues people in NI are concerned about³.

Regional strategies and policy highlight the diversity of NI's natural environment. They provide protection of designated sites, priority species and habitats and other natural features as assets and directly link these to economic, social and environmental benefits. Planning Policy Statement 2: Natural Heritage sets out policy for protection of the natural environment from internationally important sites to local nature conservation sites, as well as areas with priority habitats and species. NI's Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) 2015 also applies, with the importance of NI's natural heritage for a sustainable economy, and 'to the overall health and well-being of our society' recognised⁴.

The natural heritage section of the SPPS provides strategic planning policy guidance for International designations (Ramsar sites, SACs, SPAs) and protected species, as well as national designations which includes Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs), nature reserves and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). The SPPS also guides on local designations and natural heritage features in non-designated areas because of the potential of all the natural environment in delivering ecosystem services which are 'an integral part of sustainable development.'

The Biodiversity Strategy for NI to 2020, 'Valuing Nature' highlights the benefits of conserving diversity and acknowledges that biodiversity offsets due to compensate losses incurred during

¹ Department for Regional Development: Regional Development Strategy RDS 2035 Building a Better Future

² Northern Ireland Executive: Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021

³ DAERA website/Consultation on the Programme for Government draft Outcomes Framework 2021 accessed May 2022

⁴ DoENI 2015: Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) - Planning for Sustainable Development

development can rarely replicate the complexity of natural systems. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 encourages Councils "to identify and protect existing areas that are already good for pollinators". Newry Mourne and Down District Council's Local Biodiversity Action Plan seeks to deliver on the objectives of these regional strategies at district-level.

One mechanism to help achieve future protection of our natural resources is the LDP. The Plan can help to protect the natural heritage resource of the District Council and promote ecological networks by integrating blue/green infrastructure - creating or enhancing parks, planting native trees/shrubs and incorporating waterways to help connect open and green space across urban and rural areas. These measures can deliver regional policy by helping to protect the natural environment and ecosystem services, as well as adapting to the effects of climate change.

A draft NI Peatland Strategy 2021-2040 was recently consulted on¹. It details the policy drivers for the strategy, the benefits of healthy peatlands – ecosystem services, and the factors adversely affecting them with objectives and actions to restore and conserve peatlands as fully functioning natural assets. The strategy is an example of landscape-scale conservation that enables nature-based solutions to deliver biodiversity conservation as well as climate resilience².

In 2021, the Executive also brought forward a draft Green Growth Strategy – Balancing our climate, environment and economy³. All new policies and strategies will be expected to align with the strategy, to help NI move toward a low-carbon and greener future. The strategy aims to deliver this by reducing GHG emissions to zero by 2050 and by stimulating green recovery jobs, with sectoral Climate Action Plans, and Green Growth tests for all new plans and laws. The Strategy's vision for 2050 states, 'As a result of all our efforts, we have a more resilient environment with a healthy ecosystem and a strong sustainable economy. More people are employed in green jobs and all generations benefit from improved wellbeing.'

'DAERA's Plan to 2050 - Sustainability for the Future' was also approved in 2021⁴. It has a vision where long-term planning for our natural wealth supports rural communities by stimulating and supporting the food, farming, fishing and forestry industries. The plan has four strategic priorities, which encompass economic growth, the natural environment, rural communities and exemplar organisation. The plan is clear in that 'A healthy and resilient natural world underpins economic prosperity '.

Our Corporate Plan 2021-23⁵ recognises that "*improving our parks and green spaces and protecting our natural and built environment*" is among the most important priorities for residents in the district. It includes the strategic objective to "*enhance, protect and promote our environment*" and seeks to contribute to "*...reducing harmful impacts on the environment, while enabling residents and visitors to enjoy our rich natural and built heritage*". Careful consideration of the natural environment in the LDP will be important to achieving all these aims.

In Newry Mourne and Down's Community Plan, 'Living Well Together', part of its vision is to ensure that 'everyone has a good quality of life'. It aims to, 'improve the well-being of people in Newry, Mourne and Down'. It highlights how the natural environment is an asset that must be, 'enhanced and sustainably managed'. Careful consideration of the district's natural heritage will be fundamental to achieving the outcomes of the Community Plan and the Corporate Plan.

5.12.2 Baseline Information

Relevant information is presented in the LDP Preparatory Studies Discussion Papers particularly the papers on Environmental Assets, the Countryside - Landscape Character Assessment and

¹ DAERA website/NI Peatland Strategy accessed May 2022

² IUCN Peatland Programme website/NI Peatland Strategy Consultation accessed May 2022

³ DAERA website/A Green Growth Strategy for NI accessed May 2022

⁴ DAERA website/ Sustainability for the Future accessed May 2022

⁵ Newry Mourne and Down District Council (2021) Phlean Corparáideach 2021-2023 Corporate Plan 2021-2023

Development Pressure Analysis and The Coast. This topic overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport and Accessibility, Air Quality, Climate Change, Water, Landscape, and Historic Environment sections of this report.

Nature Conservation

The District Council encompasses an extensive area totalling 11% of land in NI and 100 miles of NI's coastline¹. The habitats present are varied and include wetlands, woodlands, peatlands, coastal and marine. This natural diversity is protected using various international, national, regional and local level nature conservation designations. These designations help to protect the most important areas in the District Council area for nature conservation and amenity value.

The NI Environmental Statistics Report (May 2022), states that NI has a total of 20 Ramsar sites, 16 SPAs, 58 SACs, 394 ASSIs and 5 MCZs. 'These sites capture the most important, and, in some cases, threatened species and habitats on land, including rivers and lakes, at the coast, and in areas of our surrounding seas.'

Of the above sites, four Ramsar sites, three SPAs and eleven SACs are within the district. The district also includes 62 ASSIs, which are nationally important areas that represent the best of our wildlife and geological sites. Five areas are recognised as Important Bird Areas (IBAs) on the basis of the bird numbers and species complements they hold. IBAs are a non-statutory designation, however they serve to highlight the importance of these areas.

The district's designated areas also include three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which are either wholly or partially within the district. These AONBs cover an extensive area of land as well as the entire coastline of the district and are further discussed in 5.13.

The importance of the marine environment is also evident through the marine designations in the adjacent inshore area. These include two Inshore Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) (at Carlingford Lough and Strangford Lough), a marine SAC (North Channel SAC) and a proposed Marine SPA which will extend the area of the SPA at Carlingford Lough.

One SAC (Aughnadarragh Lough) and several of the marine designations adjoin or overlap other Council or national jurisdictions. The District Council must consider its location in relation to the coastal and marine designations; for example, noise/vibration generated on land can also affect the marine area.

Parts of Carlingford Lough's southern shore in County Louth is designated as SAC or SPA whilst other SACs in the County are hydrologically connected to Carlingford Lough. The Habitats Regulations Assessment which will be published at the draft Plan Strategy stage will consider potential impacts from the LDP on all European sites and Ramsar sites, and the new network of SACs/SPAs within NI's jurisdiction. All NI located designated sites are shown in Figure 5.12.1.

¹ Newry, Mourne & Down Community Plan to 2030 'Living Well Together'





Source: DAERA Digital Downloads - Natural Heritage Datasets; DAERA | OpenData

At over 100 miles, the coastline is of particular importance to the District Council as a significant natural heritage asset that supports species and habitats, whilst also providing amenity value, as well as a recreational and educational resource for citizens and visitors. The coast can contribute as a natural asset for climate change adaptation and help manage the impacts of coastal flooding and erosion, which is a feature of much of the district's coastline¹. The effects of flooding and erosion can lead to health and safety concerns as well as financial issues, for the District Council to manage. There is potentially more of an issue in the Mournes area, where development pressure for the likes of single rural dwellings exists alongside confirmed or probable land erosion/ stability issues². More information on coastal erosion is in the Climate Change section of this report.

In the NI Environmental Statistics Report published May 2022, 55% of marine and terrestrial site features were reported as in favourable condition but 36% were in an unfavourable condition with 3% unfavourable-recovering and just under 1% destroyed. These figures can be further split with 38% of habitats and 56% of species features in a favourable condition but 95% of earth science features as favourable. This highlights 'the increasing pressures on the natural environment'. The report also provides a breakdown for habitat type, which indicates that woodlands (9%), heathlands (14%) and bogs (25%) have the least amount of favourable coverage. Likewise, species are classified with non-vascular plants (19%), vascular plants (41%) and fish (50%) with the least proportions in favourable condition. In NI the total area of terrestrial protected sites under favourable management is now 34,835 hectares, and for the marine area is 21,168 hectares.

Ammonia (NH₃) is an air pollutant which can have adverse effects on ecosystems and human health. It is known to affect sensitive habitats like peatlands and can cause significant loss of species. DAERA has a draft Ammonia Strategy in development which will propose a strategic approach to addressing ammonia, including an ambitious and verifiable ammonia reduction programme for implementation on farms and a programme of restoration and management of our most valuable habitats to alleviate the symptoms of ammonia and nitrogen exceedance³. Information on the NH₃ baseline is provided in the agriculture subheading of the Air Quality section (5.9.2).

Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs) are identified by NIEA as supporting habitats, species or earth science features. As well as making a contribution to the local natural heritage, they contribute to National and European biodiversity. There are 187 such sites identified the district's extant Area Plans. SLNCIs may include Wildlife Refuges, Local Nature Reserves and NGO nature reserves. The district has seven Nature Reserves, which help to conserve local natural heritage. Most are in coastal areas near Carlingford Lough, Dundrum Bay and Strangford Lough. People and wildlife

¹ Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Plan Preparatory Studies Paper 12 (Part 2): Countryside – Development Pressure Analysis April 2017

² Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Environmental paper

³ DAERA website/ Ammonia emissions in NI accessed May 2022

also benefit from additional sites managed by the National Trust. Larger National Trust sites are in the north-eastern Mournes and around the shores of Strangford Lough. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) also manages two reserves – one at Strangford Lough and one in Carlingford Lough. Ancient woodland is a unique habitat with a rich biodiversity formed over hundreds of years which covers only 2.5% of land in the UK¹. Ancient woodland habitat is evident particularly round Newcastle, Rostrevor, Castlewellan and Downpatrick.





Native woodland is also present in similar locations and although the tracts are relatively small and dispersed, they still maintain local biodiversity. Forest Parks are popular with people for recreation, but they are also a productive resource. Forest Parks in the district include Tollymore, Castlewellan and Slieve Gullion. The Delamont Country Park is also located within the Council area and provides a recreational facility for people. Together these sites help to maintain and enhance the natural heritage of the district. Several sites overlap or are adjacent to one another, but many are isolated units that remain ecologically disconnected. Further information on connecting sites using natural infrastructure follows in this section. DAERA's 2019 Advice Note 'Guidance on Identifying Natural Heritage Features and Ecological Networks for LDPs' refers to the large areas of non-designated land that is also important for biodiversity, ecosystems and earth science interests. It provides sources of local level data as a starting point in identifying features and networks and promotes the drive for more sites to be ecologically connected as a network and coherently managed. Local level sites for the District Council are shown in the Figure below.

Source: DAERA, Forest Service NI, Woodland Trust NI, National Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

¹ Woodland Trust website/Ancient woodland accessed May 2022

Biodiversity

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)¹, helps to deliver NI's Biodiversity Strategy 2020 by ensuring local action for priority species and habitats. It aims to 'conserve and enhance the rich biodiversity' of the area, 'educate and raise awareness of the importance' of biodiversity, and 'encourage local ownership' of biodiversity amongst the District Council's citizens. The LBAP also promotes the 'biodiversity duty' placed on public bodies through the WANE Act 2011 which requires the District Council to conserve biodiversity whilst exercising its functions. The duty basically aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and LBAPs are one method to help achieve this aim.

The LBAP has identified six broad habitat types and twelve species for priority action. The priority habitats include coastal/marine, grassland/arable field margins, peatlands, urban habitats/gardens, wetlands, and woodlands/hedgerows. Many of the Local Wildlife Sites have priority habitat such as fens, peatlands, woodlands, heathlands, grasslands, and lakes. Twelve priority species identified in the LBAP include bats, breeding waders, bumblebees, fish species, juniper, marine mammals, marsh fritillary, otter, red kite, red squirrel and yellowhammer. Threats to local biodiversity are listed as habitat loss/fragmentation, non-native invasive species, pollution, and climate change; and for each LBAP habitat and species, key threats, and local actions are listed. All the local actions involve working with partners, highlighting the co-operation required across agencies, NGOs, community groups and with volunteers.

Blue/green Infrastructure

Blue/green infrastructure (BGI) is defined by the European Commissions as a 'strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to provide a wide range of ecosystem service'.² JNCC published a BGI Manual 2019 to help guide the integration of BGI into planning and design with optimal gains for biodiversity and resilience. DAERA has also issued guidance for Councils to provide clarity on the concept of BGI³. BGI can connect natural features and habitats together across landscapes, which will help to maintain and strengthen natural infrastructure by creating wildlife corridors, integrating natural floodplains; and protecting natural coastal defences, carbon and water stores.

In NI's SPPS, BGI is referred to as 'green and blue infrastructure' (GBI), but the concept is the same. The SPPS promotes GBI and use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) as ways to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change such as flooding and urban heat islands. It also advises the provision and protection of GBI by planning authorities as a positive for people's health and wellbeing as it can help create meeting points for social interaction and enable walking, cycling or running activities. GBI can deliver multiple environmental and societal benefits and because of this, the SPPS advises that it 'should be designed and managed as a multifunctional resource'. The SPPS encourages LDPs to integrate GBI where this will improve provision of, and access to open space and habitats near settlements. Access to quality, open space and its importance to society is recognised in the SPPS and its many benefits are promoted particularly when it is integrated to design concepts using GBI. Even when public access isn't feasible, the SPPS is clear that open space and GBI provision in LDPs is just as important for air quality, biodiversity, visual amenity, sense of place and natural resilience to climate change. Open space could be a former railway line or 'perform a strategic function, such as landscape wedges in urban areas.' With the LDPs there is an opportunity to provide effective areas of open space that also provide the benefits that can come with GBI and public access. More information on active travel is in the Transport and Accessibility section of this report.

Newry Canal and canoe trails

The waterways in the District Council area can be considered GBI, including the Newry Canal. The canal was opened in 1742, to bring coal from Tyrone via Lough Neagh down to Carlingford Lough and

¹ BiodiversityNI website: Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2018-2022 accessed May 2022

² Joint Nature Conservation Committee website: Blue Green Infrastructure accessed May 2022

³ DAERA (2017) : Green Infrastructure Guidance/Green Infrastructure and Planning/ GI for biodiversity and people - accessed May 2022
the Irish Sea. Waterways Ireland leads on a long-distance greenway project – the Ulster Canal Greenway¹ and there could be future opportunities to reopen other defunct canals and enhance GBI.

Canoe NI is part of Outdoor Recreation NI and promotes NI's canoe trails. They help to ensure that canoe trails can exist and access to them is feasible. Within the District Council area, there are three main canoe trails with numerous access points – the Newry Canal, the full length of the District Council's coastline, and Strangford Lough. There is also a trail on the southern coast of the Ards Peninsula which connects to the Strangford Lough trail but is in a neighbouring Council area. All of the trails are shown in Figure 5.12.3.



Figure 5.12.3: Canal Network and Canoe Trails in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Source: CanoeNI

The recreational use of the trails shows the multifunctional benefits having access to GBI brings but there is potential for conflict with objectives to protect aquatic and coastal/marine habitats and species. Consideration must be given to effects, such as disturbance, arising from increases in human activity in or near to designated sites in these waterways.

Ecosystem Services

In recent years, the natural environment has become increasingly recognised for the range of beneficial services that it provides to economic performance, health and well-being and people's quality of life. The provision of these benefits is 'ecosystem services' and the SPPS recommends the appropriate integration of them into the LDP process, highlighting the importance of ecosystem services in spatial planning. Ecosystem services can be grouped into four main categories – 'provisioning', 'regulating', 'cultural' and 'supporting'. 'Provisioning' refers to providing food and materials; 'regulating' refers to physical processes such as pollination and climate; 'cultural' refers to meeting people's recreational, spiritual or aesthetic needs; and 'supporting' refers to processes such

¹ Waterways Ireland website accessed May 2022

as the water cycle and soil formation. Ecosystem services projects focus on more sustainable approaches to managing land which deliver positive benefits for stakeholders and likely reduced costs.

The draft NI Peatland Strategy detailed at the beginning of this topic, aims to conserve intact peatlands, and restore degraded peatlands to deliver ecological and climate resilience through natural capital. The strategy could provide an opportunity to create new ecosystem services projects using peatlands in the District Council area and as shown in Figures 1-3 of the draft consultation document there is extensive coverage of peatlands in the District Council. Figures 5.12.1&2 also show these peatlands as SLNCIs and/or Local Wildlife Sites, and SACs/ASSIs¹. There could be potential to improve the condition of non-designated peatlands, so they could become designated sites. Under strategic objective 1 of the strategy - 'to conserve peatlands and prevent degradation ', there is a priority action to do this: 'Identify and declare new peatland ASSIs'.

The Mourne Heritage Trust (MHT) manages land in the District Council that is mostly located in the uplands and the Eastern Mournes. The MHT's approach to land management is at the landscape scale. They align actions to suit measures under Sustainable Catchment Action Management Plans (SCAMP) that are used by Northern Ireland Water (NIW). MHT operate under three main areas of work: a wildfowl management strategy, a heathland regeneration programme, and an erosion management plan. They work in partnership with NIW and private landowners over a substantial area of land, but site-specific habitat management occurs in nine sites. Their work helps to conserve biodiversity and the natural capacity of the land to store water and carbon, whilst also helping to improve water quality.

As previously referred to, there are Forest Parks within the District Council area. These could be viewed as ecosystem services projects because they provide sources of timber, places for recreation and leisure, habitat for wildlife including some priority species, and store carbon and water albeit on a temporary timeframe.

The RSPB manages a landscape-scale conservation project, the 'Lough Neagh Basin Futurescape' and includes wetlands and waterways connected to the source of the River Bann which is in the District Council area². RSPB works with many organisations to conserve and restore the land for people and wildlife in its delivery of wetland habitat, food, water, flood defence, carbon storage, recreation and cultural heritage.

There are no site-specific projects, but the RSPB also work with 70+ farmers on a project called 'Farming together with Nature' that aims to support seed eating birds to help maintain and enhance local biodiversity. Seed eating birds are particularly prominent in the District Council area because of agricultural practices in NI. Through targeted habitat management advice, numbers of yellowhammer, a LBAP species, were shown to increase by 79%³.

5.12.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without a Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there could be a risk of inappropriate development with negative impacts on the natural heritage resource including loss of priority habitat. It could become increasingly difficult to manage pollution risk, particularly in areas under development pressure. It could also become increasingly difficult to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, particularly in coastal areas. Without up-to-date information, spatially managing development to avoid impacts on local biodiversity and providing effective GBI could become less feasible. With a new LDP in place, up to date information on natural resources would be available and protection and enhancement of it as a key asset more feasible. There could also be opportunities to highlight delivery of ecosystem services.

¹ DAERA: NI Peatland Strategy 2021-2040 Consultation Document 2021

² RSPB.org.uk website: our-work/nature conservation/landscape-scale-conservation/sites/lough-neagh-basin accessed May 2022

³ RSPB website/Our work/nature conservation/projects/farming with nature accessed May 2022

5.12.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Natural Resources

- There are a significant number of sites designated for their nature conservation importance within and adjacent to the District Council¹, reflecting the importance of the natural heritage resource as a key asset.
- The District Council has an extensive, diverse coastline, which is protected under numerous designations to conserve its coastal and marine habitats, species and features. It is a key natural heritage asset that not only maintains and protects biodiversity but also attracts visitors thus enabling economic spin-offs whilst providing health and well-being benefits.
- The coast should be considered in the context of climate change in that it acts as a natural defence likely to contend with future increased pressure from more frequent storm events, higher sea levels and coastal flooding because of climate change. In this respect, it should be protected from inappropriate development.
- Marine planning and its associated obligations need to be appropriately considered within the LDP particularly as previous plans and frameworks may not have referred to coastal or marine matters. A holistic approach to the management of the coastline could balance competing pressures.
- The District Council has a LBAP that has identified priorities for biodiversity conservation as well as 6 priority habitat types and 12 priority species for action. There are many opportunities for collaboration and cooperation across partners on delivering local actions with the majority of some LBAP species located in the District Council area.
- The WANE Act 2011 places a statutory duty on the District Council to further the conservation of biodiversity when exercising its functions.
- There are a significant number of local level sites of nature conservation interest, including SLNCIs, nature reserves, ancient woodland sites and local wildlife sites but not all of these are connected or near to other sites. The LDP could bring forward opportunities to integrate GBI and create an ecological network of wildlife corridors.
- Local development pressure is evident in some parts of the District Council, which could affect areas important for nature conservation including wetlands and coastal habitats.
- The LDP could help identify areas providing ecosystem services and opportunities to help maintain and support these including use of GBI to buffer areas or provide public access. Peatland sites could be particularly important for the District Council because of their coverage and with the new draft NI Peatland Strategy 2021-2040.
- There is a need for the Council to take account of measures that can deliver GBI because their integration will ultimately support the Council in its delivery of nature conservation and biodiversity protection. This will also help the Council to fulfil its statutory duty under the WANE Act 2011 to further the conservation of biodiversity when exercising its functions.

¹ 4 Ramsars, 3 Special Protection Areas, 11 Special Areas of Conservation, 62 Areas of Special Scientific Interest, 3 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, 2 Inshore Marine Conservation Zones, 2 proposed Marine SPAs

5.13 Landscape

5.13.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Landscape with views of the coast or seas, and coasts and the adjacent marine environment may also be described as 'seascape'. The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035 quotes 'stunning landscapes' and 'outstanding coastline' as contributing to one of NI's greatest assets – the environment. The RDS encourages protection of the natural environment, under regional guidance (RG11) - 'Conserve, protect and, where possible, enhance our built heritage assets and our natural environment'. There are several landscape (including seascape) related points under the RDS' natural environment regional guidance including 'Protect, enhance and manage the coast', 'Recognise and promote the conservation of local identity and distinctive landscape character', 'Conserve, protect and where possible enhance areas recognised for their landscape quality', and 'Protect designated areas of countryside from inappropriate development (either directly or indirectly) and continue to assess areas for designation.' The important connection between landscape character and an area's uniqueness is highlighted in that 'We can only make informed and responsible decisions on the management and planning of sustainable future landscapes if we pay proper regard to their existing character.' The Mournes, the Strangford Lough and Coast, and the Ring of Guilion are all within the district and are identified in the RDS as 'Strategic Natural Resources'.

The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) recognises the importance of the countryside as one of the region's 'greatest assets, with its highly valued landscapes.' It aims to avoid inappropriate development and provide a high standard of landscape protection that also reflects regional and local differences. Protection of landscape as a consideration is evident within several subject policies including development in the countryside, minerals, open space, sport and outdoor recreation, renewable energy, telecommunications and other utilities. The SPPS promotes sustainable development as deliverable by planning authorities who must recognise 'all three pillars of sustainable development in formulating policies and plans'. The SPPS goes on to include 'landscape and seascape character' under the environmental pillar to be considered and highlights throughout the multiple benefits from delivering good landscape design – biodiversity gain, amenity value, placemaking, flood resilience, preservation of historic/cultural assets, inclusion of active travel routes, and so on.

This is in keeping with the aims of the European Landscape Convention, also known as the 'Florence Convention', which encourages countries to consider protection of everyday landscapes. It aims to protect, manage and plan landscapes, including every day or degraded settings and to help reconnect people with place¹. Although landscape designations already exist, the new Plan can also facilitate new policy areas such as Special Countryside Areas (SCAs) and Areas of High Scenic Value (AoHSV) to further conserve exceptional landscapes and unique amenity value².

'Much of what is valued in a landscape is a blend of natural features and social and cultural history,' which together can create a unique sense of place to people through art, literature, music and a sense of belonging³. Landscape is increasingly being realised in economic terms. The SPPS refers to the coast as 'of great economic importance to NI.' where the natural character and landscape must be protected from inappropriate development and appropriate development facilitated. The quality of the region's environment is stated as playing a 'critical role in supporting the local economy', which is in part due to its 'distinctive and beautiful landscape.'

Existing landscape designations already help to do this; with the most valuable landscapes in NI designated via the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (NI) Order 1985 as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) for their 'high landscape quality, wildlife importance, and rich cultural and

¹ Landscape Institute [online] The European Landscape Convention (ELC) (found at <u>https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/policy/13732-2</u> [accessed 20/04/2020])

² Department of the Environment (2015): Strategic Planning Policy Statement for NI-Planning for Sustainable Development September 2015 ³ DAERA website/Landscapes: Land and Landscapes: Legislation accessed June 2022

architectural heritage¹. There are three AONBs located wholly or partially within the district, covering more than half of its total area. Each has its own Action Plan: The Mourne Mountains Landscape Conservation Action Plan, the Strangford Lough and Lecale AONB Action Plan 2013 – 2018, and the Ring of Gullion AONB Action Plan 2017 - 2022. All plans aim to deliver positive outcomes for citizens and visitors.

The NI Executive had a public consultation in 2021 for the next Programme for Government and it included a list of the most important issues affecting people in NI. These included 'good health' and 'living in a nice place'. Under the PfG draft Outcomes Framework Consultation there continued to be the aims, 'We live and work sustainably - protecting the environment', and 'People want to live, work and visit here.' Key priority areas to achieve these aims include the natural environment, the green economy, and planning (for sustainable and positive places) and all are likely to encompass measures for landscape protection. Fundamental to the attractiveness of NI will be the preservation of its landscape and environment.

The draft Marine Plan includes among its core policies the requirement for public authorities to consider the potential impact from proposals on seascape, taking account of the existing character and quality of an area, how highly it is valued, and its capacity to accommodate change. The Marine Plan will provide spatial guidance and detailed policy for the coast and marine area and help to conserve the landscape setting of features².

The District Council's Tourism Strategy 2017-2021 focused on 'destination experiences' with the AONBs within the district referred to for these unique experiences.

'Living Well Together' The Newry Mourne and Down Community Plan identifies several outcomes for the district including the outcome to ensure that 'all people of Newry Mourne and Down will benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment'. The plan recognises the value of the districts rich and varied landscape as an important biodiversity resource and key component in people's quality of life and potential in attracting visitors to the district.

Our Corporate Plan 2021-23³ recognises that the council has three AONBs, which cover approximately 55.7% of the district. It also recognises that the districts' unique assets are a key aspect of tourism and are linked to the strategic objective to 'support sustainable forms of tourism which value our environment and cultural heritage'.

5.13.2 Baseline Information

Detailed baseline information on landscape has been provided in the Local Development Plan Preparatory Papers 12: Countryside – Landscape Character Assessment and Countryside – Development Pressure Analysis; and Paper 6: Environmental Assets. This topic also overlaps with the Health & Wellbeing, Economy and Employment, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Climate Change, Natural Resources and Historic Environment sections.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

The district has a distinct and beautiful landscape with a significant proportion subject to some form of landscape designation. The AONB designations facilitate policies to conserve or enhance the natural beauty of those areas, as well as the wildlife and historic or natural assets. As already detailed, these designations protect the highest quality landscapes but also biodiversity and historic/cultural heritage. The AONBs in the district are:

- The Mournes AONB
- Strangford Lough & Lecale AONB, and
- The Ring of Gullion AONB.

¹ Department of the Environment (2015): Strategic Planning Policy Statement for NI-Planning for Sustainable Development September 2015 ² Department for Regional Development: Regional Development Strategy RDS 2035 Building a Better Future

³Newry Mourne and Down District Council (2021) Phlean Corparáideach 2021-2023 Corporate Plan 2021-2023

The Mourne Mountains Landscape Conservation Action Plan sets the context for protecting and enhancing the Mournes AONB by addressing environmental management challenges and promoting best practice. It is central to achieving The Mourne Mountains Landscape Partnership's mission, 'To reconnect the people of the Mourne area with their mountain heritage and share this inheritance with the wider world'¹.

The Strangford Lough and Lecale Action Plan 2013 -2018 has three key aims and several associated objectives. The aims are to conserve and engage people with their built and natural heritage, to use this heritage to promote the health and well-being of local people and visitors, and to build prosperity and facilitate research and development through the environmentally sustainable use of the heritage.

The Ring of Gullion AONB Management Action Plan 2017-2022 also outlines several outcomes and aims to create a quality visitor experience, improve outdoor recreation opportunities, enhance the historic environment, and promote community involvement.



Figure 5.13.1 Newry, Mourne and Down District AONBs

Source: DAERA Digital Datasets (found at https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/download-digital-datasets (accessed 08/06/2022))

Notably a major restoration project has been announced for the historic Mourne Wall located in the Mourne AONB. The 22-mile dry stone wall was completed in 1922 and is a significant feature of the landscape².

There is one AoHSV which is shared with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council.

¹ National Lottery Heritage Fund Project: Mourne Mountains Landscape Partnership

² NI Water: Press release/ NI Water to Commence Major Restoration Project for the Mourne Wall, May 2017

Landscape Character Areas

There are 130 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) identified by the NI Landscape Character Assessment 2000¹. The assessments are based on local conditions including landform, land use, geology, cultural and ecological features, as well as the wildlife and natural resources of the area. Since the LCAs were identified, there has been substantial development in both urban and rural areas but also changes in the type of development.

There are 25 LCAs within the district. A number of these are shared with neighbouring Councils -Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon Borough Council; Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, and Ards & North Down Borough Council. Each LCA has its own report, which identifies pressures on landscape and guidelines for their sustainable management. All are noted to have varying levels of vulnerability to change.

Of the 25 LCAs identified, 13 fall within the high sensitivity wind energy rating which accounts for 66% of the total area of the district. The wind energy rating is determined by the landscapes sensitivity to wind turbines taking account of its scale, landform, enclosure, complexity of land cover and features².

Figure 5.13.2: Newry Mourne and Down Landscape Character areas and Regional Landscape Character Areas



Source: DAERA Digital Datasets (found at https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/download-digital-datasets (accessed 08/06/2022))

Regional Landscape Character Areas

The Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA) 2000 divided the country into 26 distinct areas known as RLCAs³. The assessments were based on people, place, nature, culture and perception. Five RLCAs were identified within the district⁴. These are below:

¹ DAERA website/Landscape Character of Northern Ireland accessed June 2022

² LDP Paper: Paper 12 (Part 2) Landscape Character Assessment

³ DAERA website/Landscape Character of Northern Ireland accessed June 2022

⁴ LDP Paper: Paper 12 (Part 2) Landscape Character Assessment

- Down Drumlins and Holywood Hills
- Newry Valley and Upper Bann
- Slieve Gullion and South Armagh Hills
- Mourne and Slieve Croob
- Strangford, Ards and Lecale

Each RLCA has its own distinct character and 'sense of place' that is intrinsically linked to the district's identity. All five RLCAs are shared with neighbouring Councils and range in character from rugged uplands to distinctive low drumlins, to intricate coastline.

Seascape Character Areas

The district contains an extensive coastline that spans 100 miles. It stretches from Strangford Lough in the north to Carlingford Lough in the south and represents a critical aspect of landscape character in the district. As shown in Figure 5.13.1, the entire coastal region is within either the Mournes AONB, or the Strangford and Lecale AONB. The coastline is also designated in several areas for its nature conservation value. Further information on these designations is in the Natural Resources section.



Figure 5.13.3: Newry Mourne and Down Seascape Character Areas

Source: DAERA Digital Datasets (found at https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/download-digital-datasets (accessed 08/06/2022))

There are 24 Seascape Character Areas in NI identified by the NI Regional Seascape Character Assessment¹. It describes the key features and characteristics of each area and its neighbouring terrestrial landscape setting and provides a strategic overview of seascapes as unique geographic areas of land, intertidal and marine areas with a recognisable sense of place and identity.

The district has six Seascape Character Areas along the coastline and one offshore², shown in Figure 5.13.3. These are:

Strangford Lough

¹ DAERA website/ Seascape Character Aras accessed June 2022

² Department of Environment (2014): Northern Ireland Regional Seascape Character Assessment Research & Development Series No 14/01

- Lecale Coast
- Dundrum Bay
- Mourne Coast
- Carlingford Lough
- Newry Estuary
- Irish Sea (South Down) offshore location

There is no legal definition for seascape in the UK, however the UK Marine Plan Strategy defines 'seascape' as landscapes with views of the coast or seas, and coasts and the adjacent marine environment that have cultural, historical and archaeological links with each other. The draft NI Marine Plan recognises that seascape is an extremely important element of people's enjoyment of the marine area and contributes to a sense of place, livelihoods and quality of life. It also recognises that seascape quality has a fundamental role in the tourism and creative industries. The seascapes and marine area have no doubt contributed to the promotion and growth of tourism in the district. The District Council's Tourism Strategy 2017-2022 focuses on the AONB areas which encompass the coastline.

There are varying levels of sensitivity to physical change along the length of the coastline and so it is important to consider landscape/seascape issues at a local level as well as at a strategic one. The effects of activities and developments in the marine area on the landscape, including seascape, will vary on a case-by-case basis according to the type of activity, its location, and its setting. Once adopted, the NI Marine Plan will require public authorities to consider the potential impact from proposals on seascape, taking account of the existing character and quality of an area, how highly it is valued, and its capacity to accommodate change.

The district's coastline was previously defined in the Coastal Policy Area (CPA) detailed in the draft Banbridge, Newry & Mourne Area Plan 2015. The CPA divided the coastline into 3 sections:

- Newry City to Rostrevor
- Rostrevor to Kilkeel, and
- Kilkeel to Plan boundary.

Ports and fishing harbours are evident along the coastline but so too are extensive undeveloped sections, with several nature conservation designations of international and national importance – 3 SPAs, 11 SACs, 4 Ramsar sites. The LDP preparatory paper on The Coast highlighted potential economic opportunities in the form of coastal walks and new infrastructure projects but some of the most common 'forces of change' applicable to the district's seascapes are rising sea levels (from climate change), potential offshore wind energy, coastal erosion, increased water based recreational activity, and port developments.¹ Any new proposals in the marine area will need to be carefully considered in the context of the district's seascape areas.

Local Landscape Policy Areas

The LDP Preparatory Studies Paper 12 (1): Countryside – Landscape Character Assessment March 2017 refers to Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) across the district from legacy Area Plans. The paper states how LLPAs 'have identified landscape features and spaces in and around the periphery of settlements which are deemed visually important.' These areas provide or enhance a setting at the local level and are deemed 'worthy of protection from undesirable or damaging development.' All existing LLPAs should be reviewed as well as new sites surveyed for. There may be an opportunity to designate areas of local landscape quality or notable amenity value as new LLPAs but also an opportunity to undesignate if necessary.

Development Pressure

The district has experienced a general downward trend in the number of applications for single rural dwellings with the number of applications dropping significantly in the past 10 years. Since the

¹ Department of Environment (2014): Northern Ireland Regional Seascape Character Assessment Research & Development Series No 14/01

introduction of PPS21, applications for replacement dwellings and farm dwellings have become the most common type of application in the countryside¹.



Figure 5.13.4 Rural Pressure Analysis Overall map of the District

Source: LDP Paper 12, Countryside Development Pressure Analysis

Despite the general downward trend, there is some evidence that localised pressure may exist in some coastal sections (despite the added protection of being located within an AONB²) and further inland around Newry.

Between 2002 and 2015 there were 321 planning approvals for single turbines of varying sizes across the district. The district has seen a downward trend in the number of wind energy applications received since then, as discussed in 5.6.2. The concentration of turbines varies across the district with the highest concentration of approvals in the Quoile Valley and the Mourne Foothills³. Most of the district has a rating of high sensitivity to wind, but this does not appear to have affected approval ratings in these areas.

5.13.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there could be an increased risk of negative impacts on the district's intrinsic landscape character from the cumulative impacts of piecemeal development particularly in areas rated as more vulnerable/sensitive to change. Development pressure and inappropriate siting of structures may become increasingly difficult to manage without up-to-date spatial information at a local level. An opportunity to update landscape protection designations into the plan would be missed including the potential to consider coastal policy.

² Ibid

¹ LDP Paper: Paper 12 (Part 2) Countryside Development Pressure Analysis

³ LDP Preparatory Studies Paper 12 (1): Countryside – Landscape Character Assessment March 2017

5.13.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Landscape

- The Newry, Mourne & Down District Council area contains three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) which cover 55.7% of the total district. These landscapes are designated as some of the most important in NI. Some areas are shared with neighbouring Councils, so joint working is important to protect and manage them. Their management plans must be a consideration when considering planning proposals.
- The district has a variety of landscapes with 25 Landscape Character Areas, some of which are shared with neighbouring Council areas. There are five Regional Landscape Character Areas and seven Regional Seascape Character Areas. The district also shares a portion of one Area of High Scenic Value. All these assessments and their specific development pressures must be considerations when considering planning proposals.
- The coastline contributes a significant quantity of land to the district's total landscape character with all of it protected under AONB status and contributing to several landscape and seascape character areas. Large parts are also designated for their nature conservation value and therefore protection of the seascape resource must be given careful consideration when considering planning proposals.
- The LDP presents a new opportunity for additional local level landscape designations to help protect exceptional landscapes and unique amenity value as well as areas of local significance.
- The most common type of planning application in the countryside is replacement of farm dwellings and development pressure may exist in some areas where additional measures may be needed to help combat impacts on landscape quality.
- A significant proportion of the district (66%) is rated as highly sensitive to wind energy development which could be a constraint in some areas to this type of renewable energy.

5.14 Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

5.14.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe 1992 and the European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe 1985 (known respectively as the 'Valetta Convention' and the 'Granada Convention') place responsibility on member states to consider the conservation of archaeological resources and to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. The Xi'an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas (2005) aims to contribute through legislation, policies, planning processes and management to better protect and conserve the world's heritage structures, sites and areas in their settings. The Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (2005) places a requirement to enhance the value of cultural heritage through its identification, study, interpretation, protection, conservation and presentation. It also requires member states to promote cultural heritage protection as a central factor in the mutually supporting objectives of sustainable development, cultural diversity and contemporary creativity.

The SPPS provides policy relating to this objective in Chapter 6, paragraphs 6.1 - 6.30. The regional strategic objectives in the SPPS are to:

- Secure the protection, conservation, and, where possible, the enhancement of our built and archaeological heritage.
- Promote sustainable development and environmental stewardship with regard to our built and archaeological heritage.
- Encourage the link between conservation and economic prosperity.

Specific policy on the implementation of new LDPs is set out in paragraphs 6.28 and 6.29 of the SPPS. These link directly with the aims of the above-mentioned European Conventions.

The overarching policy of the SPPS recognises that townscape, built heritage, archaeology and cultural heritage form an important part of the character and appearance of our cities, towns, villages, small settlements and countryside. They are also part of our culture and can contribute to our quality of life. The historic environment and cultural heritage have the potential to benefit our community and our economy in terms of tourism and regeneration. They contribute to the sense of place in our towns, villages and smaller settlements and are part of what is unique about places in the Borough. The draft Marine Plan also includes among its core policies the requirement for public authorities to consider the potential impact of proposals on heritage assets and seascape.

Regional guidance recognises that quality natural assets, interesting architecture, and built heritage can contribute to a feeling of being somewhere unique, which contributes to the tourism offer. Reuse of both listed and locally important buildings can contribute to urban and rural renaissance, which can help vitality and footfall in settlement centres, supporting the local economy.

PPS 6: Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage, along with its addendum, sets out planning policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and built heritage features. Supplementary planning guidance in the form of booklets incorporating local policies, design guides and baseline audits are published for Conservation Areas.

Our Corporate Plan 2021-23¹ includes the strategic objectives to "enhance, protect and promote our environment" and to "support sustainable forms of tourism which value our environment and cultural heritage". The council aims to advocate for increased investment and development in tourism which promotes our unique assets and increases visitor satisfaction and spend, and to reduce harmful impacts on the environment while enabling residents and visitors to enjoy our rich natural and built heritage.

¹Newry Mourne and Down District Council (2021) Phlean Corparáideach 2021-2023 Corporate Plan 2021-2023

The 2030 Community Plan 'Living Well Together' recognises that the historic environment of Newry, Mourne and Down not only makes a wonderful landscape in which to live, but also creates a very distinctive sense of place that is attractive to those visiting. It also notes that the sustainable management and enhancement of built heritage and our unique natural environment helps to support the wellbeing of communities.

5.14.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the LDP Preparatory Studies Discussion Papers including 'Paper 6: 'Environmental Assets' and Paper 7: 'Tourism'. The Historic Environment Division (HED) of the Department for Communities (DfC) publishes its digital datasets of the historic environment online¹ and has also created a public access Historic Environment Map Viewer². Elements such as listed buildings and the Sites and Monuments Record are regularly updated with new information. This topic overlaps with the Economy and Employment, Natural Resources and Landscape topics.

Overview

The historic environment in Newry, Mourne and Down includes built heritage and artefacts from all periods of human settlement in Ireland from around 7,000BC to the 20th century. Some of the premier examples of monument types in Northern Ireland are located here; these include the prehistoric Ballynoe Stone Circle, the Neolithic King's Ring and Court Tomb in Clontygora, the late medieval Narrow Water Castle in Warrenpoint and the 14th Century Ringhaddy Church. Notable Early Christian monuments include perhaps the earliest dated inscribed stone in Ireland at Kilnasaggart and one of the most important early convents at nearby Killevy. The mysterious lengths of linear earthwork at the Dorsey have suggested links with the world-renowned complex of Bronze and Iron Age monuments focussed on Navan Fort. The district's historical and archaeological assets, strong cultural heritage and its connections with St Patrick creates strong potential to become a key tourism centre of regional significance. With this comes the need to protect and conserve it for our own and future generations to enjoy. Ancient landscape characteristics and connections such as those which extend across Carlingford and Strangford Lough may extend beyond the Council boundaries.

Current UK climate change policy (discussed in more detail in Section 5.10, *Climate Change*) seeks to achieve 'Net Zero' carbon emissions by 2050. For new buildings, the embodied emissions from construction can account for up to half of the carbon impacts associated with the building over its lifecycle³. Research published by Historic England⁴ indicates that the sympathetic upgrade and reuse of existing buildings in preference to demolition and new build, will avoid the loss of CO₂ emissions already embodied within the buildings and can dramatically improve a building's energy efficiency. It adds that "*by extending the life of our cherished historic assets, we can materially reduce the need for high carbon consuming activities and materials*". The CCRA 3 for NI summarises risks to cultural heritage from changes in precipitation, temperature increase, coastal processes and from unintended consequences of climate mitigation and adaptation activities in other sectors. It also highlights that Coastal heritage is particularly at risk from climate change but also opportunity for new heritage discoveries to be revealed by climate driven impacts⁵.

Listed Buildings

At the time of writing, there were a total of approximately 1,442 Listed Buildings¹ in the district, 17 of which have been assigned Grade A status. These include Castleward House, Downpatrick Cathedral,

¹ Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets (date last updated: 03 May 2022)

² DfC [online] Historic Environment Map Viewer(found at <u>https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/historic-environment-map-viewer</u> <u>16/05/2022</u>)

³ Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) (2017). Whole life carbon assessment for the built environment RICS professional statement, UK. [online] Available at: <u>https://www.rics.org/uk/upholdingprofessional-standards/sector-standards/buildingsurveying/whole-life-carbon-assessment-for-the-builtenvironment/</u> [Accessed: 29/03/19].

⁴ Historic England (2020) There's No Place Like Old Homes: Re-use and Recycle to Reduce Carbon

⁵ Climate NI (2001) Evidence for the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) Summary for Northern Ireland

Craigmore Viaduct, Killyleagh Castle and Narrow Water Castle. These are documented in the LDP Preparatory Paper 6: Environmental Assets. A further 1,200 (approx.) buildings are referenced on HED's digital dataset where their heritage value is of some interest, but not sufficiently so to merit statutory protection as a listed building/structure.

The district's largest listed building is the Mourne Wall (category B1). Commenced in 1904, the wall defines the boundary of the 90,000 acre catchment area for the Silent Valley Catchment. It is 22 miles long, crosses 15 peaks across the Mournes range and took 18 years to be completed. The wall has suffered significant degradation in certain parts, due to lightning strikes and more generally from its harsh environment. It is currently the subject of a restoration plan, the first phase of which commenced in May 2017. Local experienced stonemasons are carrying out repairs to the wall using traditional techniques, with advice and guidance from Mourne Heritage Trust (MHT). The restoration and improvement of the damaged areas of the wall helps preserve the cultural heritage of the wall's construction and the landscape of the site, while providing environmental protection and is an important tourism asset in this scenic area. The Mournes area incorporates a rich vernacular heritage, which HED considers is of particular value in terms of its relationship with the landscape, cultural value and local distinctiveness.

Buildings at Risk

The Ulster Architecture and Heritage Society in conjunction with the Department for Communities (DfC), has compiled an online list of Heritage at Risk in Northern Ireland (HARNI)¹. The HARNI register contains a selection of listed buildings, scheduled monuments and other historic structures, ranging from dwellings to large industrial complexes, which are may not have a sustainable future without intervention. It highlights the vulnerability of our historic built environment and will act as a catalyst for its restoration and reuse. In 2018 there were a total of 133 'buildings at risk' identified in the district, of which 125 were listed. Forty one 'buildings at risk' have been saved but 34 were assigned a 'critical' level of risk. Some examples of buildings at risk include: Greencastle Pier, parts of the Downe Hospital, Bessbrook Mill and the gatehouse of the New County Gaol at Downpatrick.

Sites and Monuments Record

Newry, Mourne and Down has a rich record of archaeological sites and historic monuments. The NI Sites and Monuments Record, is maintained by the HED and updated annually. Scheduled sites are archaeological and historic sites and monuments that are afforded protection under Article 3 of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995. At the time of writing there were 299¹ such Scheduled sites in the district (Figure 5.14.1) and two further sites, Clough Castle and Greencastle Castle proposed for scheduling. In May 2022 the Sites and Monuments Record listed a further 1,737² unscheduled Sites and Monuments located across the district. The Record includes assets such as battle sites, Cashels (stone forts), Crannogs (island forts) Megalithic Tombs, Earthworks, Ecclesiastical Sites, Tidal Mills and more modern features such as World War II pillboxes. More sites may potentially be discovered through archaeological work, during development operations or through agricultural activity. The district has 42 Monuments in State Care², which are listed below:

Annadorn Dolmen								
Audley's Castle								
Audleystown Cairn								
Ballykeel Dolmen								
Ballymacdermot Cairn								
Ballynoe Stone Circle								
Cailleach Bearas House								
Clough Castle								

Jordan's Castle Kilclief Castle Kilfeaghan Dolmen Killevy Churches Kilnasaggart Pillar Stone Legananny Dolmen Lisbanemore Cashel Lisdoo Cashel Quoile Castle Raholp Old Church Ringhaddy Castle Ringhaddy Church South Cairn, Clonlum St Maccartan's Chapel St. John's Church St. Nicholas' Church

¹ Department for Communities [online] Heritage at Risk Register for Northern Ireland (found at https://apps.communities-ni.gov.uk/harni/ (accessed 16/05/2022))

² Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets (date last updated: 03 May 2022)

Cowd or Choud Castle	Maghera Church	Strangford Castle
Dunnadroma, Dundrum Castle	Mound of Down	Struell Wells
Giant's Grave, Dunnaman Court Tomb	Moyry Castle	The Black Castle, Annaghmare Cairn
Goward Dolmen	Narrow Water Castle	The King's Ring, Clontygora Cairn
Greencastle Castle & Well	North Cairn, Clonlum	Walsh's Fort, Drumena Cashel
Inch abbey, Inniscourcy	North Cairn, Slieve Gullion	Woodgrange Rath and Tower House

Areas of Special Archaeological Interest

There are three Areas of Special Archaeological Interest (ASAI) in the district, at Downpatrick, Dundrum and The Dorsey (Figure 5.14.1).

The town of Downpatrick, affiliated with Ireland's best known saint, St Patrick, is a settlement where complex and extensive below ground archaeological remains as well as historic fabric incorporated into later structures, are known to exist¹.



Figure 5.14.1: Historic Environment: ASAI, AAP and Scheduled Zones

Source: Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets (date last updated: 03 May 2022)

Dundrum Castle is set high on a hill overlooking Dundrum Bay. Its place name, Dundroma, means "fort of the ridge", which suggests there may have been an early Christian fort in the area. Beginning with works by John de Courcy in around 1180, the castle was progressively strengthened and altered over a period of 450 years, ending in the 17th century. It forms part of a chain of castles running up the East coast, including at Carlingford, Greencastle and Carrickfergus.²

¹HED Consultation response to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, 18th December 2017.

² Department for Communities - <u>Dundrum Castle: Information For Teachers</u> (published 14 February 2018)

The Dorsey forms a large enclosure or double set of earthworks thought to be part of Ulster's defences in the Iron Age and possibly controlling access along an important route to Navan Fort, near Armagh. 'Dorsey' is derived from the Gaelic, Na Doirse, which means 'the Gateways'¹.

The settings of these features within the landscape forms an important part of their character and heritage value. Two new candidate ASAIs, at Greencastle and at Slieve Gullion, have been identified by HED and are currently under consideration for designation.

Area of Archaeological Potential

Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAP) are part of the National Monuments and Buildings Record and are identified through Local Development Plans. There are 30 settlements in the Council area with identified AAP². They are:

- Annalong
 - Ardglass
 - Attical
 - Ballynahinch
 - Ballyward
 - Belleek
 - Camlough
 - Castlewellan
 - Clough
 - Creggan

- Crossmaglen
 - Cullaville
 - Cullyhanna
 - Dechomet
 - Downpatrick
 - Forkhill
 - Greencastle
 - Hilltown
 - Jerrettspass
 - Kilclief

- Kilkeel
 - Killowen
 - Killyleagh
 - Mayobridge
 - Newcastle
 - Newry
 - Newtownhamilton
 - Rostrevor
 - Saintfield
 - Strangford

Source: Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets (date last updated: 03 May 2022)

There are various existing policies for Areas of Archaeological Potential and Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest within the Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 and the Banbridge/Newry & Mourne Area Plan 2015.

The Gazetteer of Nucleated Historic Settlements is the result of a program of work within the DfC to identify historic settlement centres and from these, in some cases, identify new AAP or modify existing AAP. The draft Gazetteer includes 88 entries within the district, of which 32 do not have an existing AAP associated. These include areas of Burren, Drumaness, Loughinisland and The Spa.

The new LDP will consider the designation of new ASAI and identification of AAPs through consultation with the DfC.

Marine Historic Environment

The nature of our coastline has resulted in several areas with high densities of documented marine losses (see Figure 5.14.2), in particular at the Newry River, Cranfield Point, Dundrum Bay, Ardglass and Kilkeel.

¹Experience Gullion - Archaeology in the Ring of Gullion <u>https://www.ringofgullion.org/archaeology/</u> (accessed 24/04/2018)

² DfC Historic Environment Digital Datasets 'Areas of Archaeological Potential' (updated: 25 March 2020)



Figure 5.14.2: Marine Historic Environment – Shipwrecks and Submerged Archaeology

Source: DAERA Northern Ireland Marine Map Viewer

Around 45 historic shipwrecks are known to be located within 2km of our coastline and in the tidal portions of the Newry River, however several hundred more documented shipwrecks remain unlocated. Historic shipwrecks may receive protected status the Protection of Wrecks Act (1973) while the wreckage of military aircraft and designated military vessels may be protected via the Protection of Military Remains Act (1986). Wrecks may also be designated as a Scheduled Historic Monument under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order (1995). As yet, none of the wrecks in the waters offshore from Newry, Mourne and Down have received protected status.

Submerged Landscape Sites include palaeoenvironmental peat artefacts dating from around eight to nine thousand years before present which were discovered at Killough and submerged tree stumps at Ballintogher, Strangford. Submerged archaeological finds dating from the Stone Age (8,000 years before present) have also been discovered at Dunsy Island on the western side of Strangford Lough. Intertidal or offshore development, such as undersea cables, offshore wind farms or tidal/wave energy arrays, has the potential to discover new evidence of the marine historic environment.

Industrial Heritage

The district also contains a wealth of remains from the industrial past, which are reminders of the economic as well as the social development of the area. Sites of industrial heritage can be found not only in the city and main towns, but also in rural locations. They include many remnants of the former flax and linen industries, corn mills, tanneries, windmills and gasworks. There are numerous bridges, tunnels and other engineering features remaining from the former Great Northern and Belfast and County Down Railways and also the localised narrow gauge hydro-electric tramway built in the late 19th century to transport passengers and freight between Newry and Bessbrook. The Newry Canal, which has bridges, locks, customs houses and other features associated with it, has been designated as a Scheduled Monument and is protected under Article 3 of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 from its entry point at Carlingford Lough to where it meets the river Bann south of Portadown. As discussed in section 5.8, parts of these former railway and canal routes are under consideration for the development of new greenways.

Defence Heritage

Newry, Mourne and Down contains many defence heritage assets, largely associated with World War II, many of which are focused around the coast and along the route of the Newry Canal and Portadown- Newry railway. Defence heritage assets include former airfields, pillboxes and observation posts. The remains of a cold war radar station are located at Killard Point. Trench systems used in training soldiers during World War I were rediscovered in 2016 in Ballykinler and these are being considered for restoration as a historical and educational resource. These trenches, along with a WWII pillbox at Newcastle, have also been granted protected status as Scheduled Monuments. Many of the assets on the defence asset database are in very poor condition or have already been destroyed. The majority of former airfields in the district are now derelict, some have been reused or altered (e.g. part of the former RAF Bishops Court is now a motor racing track), and others are in a state of decay or have been demolished.

Historic Parks and Gardens

Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes reflect planned and managed landscape enhancement carried out since the 17th Century. Newry, Mourne and Down has a total of 29 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes on the Register which are considered to be of exceptional importance within Northern Ireland. These include 481 hectares (ha) at Tollymore Park, 436 ha at Mourne Park, 422 ha at Castlewellan Castle and 416 ha at Finnebrogue House. A further six supplementary sites have also been identified as having a high level of interest and are included as an appendix to the main Register.

Register

- Ballyedmond
- Ballytrim
- Ballyward Lodge
- Castleward
- Castlewellan Castle
- Crossgar House (Tobar Mhuire)
- Delamont
- Derrymore House and the Wood House
- Dromantine House
- Drumbanagher*

Supplementary

- Ballee House
- Ballydugan House

- Finnebrogue House
- Green Park
- Killevy Castle
- Killyleagh Castle
- Monalto House
- Mount Panther
- Mourne Park
- Myra Castle
- Narrow Water Castle
- Rademon

- Ringdufferin
- **Rostrevor House**
- Rowallane
- Saintfield House
- Seaforde House
- The Lodge (Kilbroney)
- Tollymore Park
- Tyrella House
- Warrenpoint Park
- Forkhill House
- Hawthorn Hill

*Drumbanagher Estate is partly within Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council. Source: Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets (date last updated: 03 May 2022)

Several sites within the district have become established as filming locations for films and television series in recent years. The use of heritage assets in the district as filming locations can bring benefits, not only in terms of the local investment made by production companies during filming, but also through attracting tourism.

Conservation Areas

A Conservation Area is an area deemed to be of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve and enhance, as designated under Sectiom 104 of the Planning (NI) Act NI 2011. Newry, Mourne and Down has a total of ten Conservation Areas. They are:

- Ardglass
- Bessbrook
- Castlewellan
- Killough
- Killyleagh
 - Newry

- Rostrevor
- Saintfield
- Strangford

- - Ballymoyer
 - Church Hill

Downpatrick

The locations of these Conservation Areas are shown on Figure 6 of the LDP Preparatory Studies paper 6: 'Environmental Assets'.

Great importance is attached to the preservation of the existing character and appearance of such areas allied to the promotion of their economic well-being.

Areas of Townscape Character

Areas of Townscape and Village Character are designated by the Council through the local development plan with accompanying local policies for the control of development within these areas. There are currently 27 Areas of Townscape Character (ATC) within Newry, Mourne and Down. Their names and locations are given in section 4.9 and Figure 6 respectively of the LDP Preparatory Studies Paper 6: 'Environmental Assets'. There are currently no designated Areas of Village Character (AVC) in the district. As part of the LDP preparation process, all existing ATC designations will be reviewed and any additional ATCs or Areas of Village Character will be identified.

Local Landscape Policy Areas

The features or combination of features that contribute to the environmental quality, integrity or character of a Local Landscape Policy Area (LLPA) are specific to individual settlements and differ from place to place. Within Newry, Mourne and Down's extant area plans (Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 and the Banbridge/Newry & Mourne Area Plan 2015), there are 216 Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) within and adjoining the majority of the settlements. These are listed in section 4.10 and illustrated in Figure 7of the LDP Preparatory Studies Paper 6: 'Environmental Assets'. As part of the LDP preparation process, all existing LLPA designations will be reviewed and any additional LLPAs identified, in accordance with paragraphs 6.29 and 6.30 of the SPPS.

5.14.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without the LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, extant Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied. Stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. However, in the absence of a new plan, opportunities to consider the historical and cultural assets in in future growth plans and placeshaping may be missed.

There are a very large number of regionally or nationally significant heritage assets in Newry, Mourne and Down, dating from Prehistoric and Mesolithic periods through to World War II. Without a new LDP in place, opportunities to designate new areas of special archaeological interest and areas of archaeological potential, or to protect vernacular heritage in the LDP might also be missed. Opportunities might also be missed to take advantage of the potential that archaeological, architectural, industrial, defence, and vernacular historical heritage assets have as part of our tourism and visitor offer, leading to reduced economic benefit for local communities.

The protection, conservation and regeneration of historic places can contribute to well-being in society through providing people with enjoyment, inspiration, learning opportunities, mental and physical health benefits, and a sense of place and identity.

It has been recognised that there is evidence of incremental erosion of historic/architectural character and appearance within some of the designated conservation areas. In the absence of a LDP the 'setting' of historic assets or places, which may extend far beyond the boundary or curtilage of the site, may not be taken into consideration. A new LDP is an opportunity to consider the reasons for these issues and identify the positive role that planning can play.

5.14.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

• The Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage plays a role in maintaining and enhancing the sense of place in our settlements and rural locations which can be supported by building design recognising historic environment evidence in both urban and rural locations. Cross-boundary co-

operation is important to maintain historic integrity of ancient landscape characteristics and connections.

- The historical and archaeological interest connected to St Patrick is of regional significance for tourism.
- Heritage assets are at risk from neglect, decay, development pressures and vacancy. The innovative reuse of existing historic building stock should be promoted and supported as a sustainable approach.
- 'Buildings at Risk' should continue to be identified and efforts made by the relevant authority to maintain their regular use and/or support their restoration.
- The district's rich cultural and heritage assets can contribute to a high quality built environment that helps to create attractive places for living, investing in and visiting.
- The district contains centres, villages and towns which each have a unique sense of place, and character. Protecting this sense of place aspect has benefits for people and their pride in their community.
- Protecting built heritage assets and recognising their value extends beyond listing statutory
 designation and enforcement action. Consideration should be given to the setting of those
 features, along with the scale and context of surrounding buildings.
- The district has an immensely rich archaeological heritage. This could be further explored through identifying new Areas of Archaeological Potential. AAPs can help to manage new development sustainably.
- The setting and landscape of the ASAIs and any potential new ASAIs should be preserved. Many archaeological settings are associated with particular landscapes, such as hill tops, ridges and drumlins.
- Undesignated marine Heritage Assets such as Shipwrecks and Submerged Landscape Sites, whilst not statutorily protected, must be given appropriate evaluation and consideration.
- Regionally important historic buildings, such as Castle Ward, are set in a designed landscape, which contributes to its understanding as a building of special architectural and historic interest. The historic and natural environment are intrinsically linked and can add value to each other.
- The district has a rich industrial heritage through cereals milling, flax production and tanning, its 18th and 19th Century transport engineering and defence heritage associated with World Wars I &II.
- Further opportunities could be explored to link heritage assets with tourism and to encourage use / reuse of resources for community / education activities.
- Appreciating the value of built heritage should also apply to new buildings new development should be informed by an understanding and appreciation of the historic environment.
- There is ongoing loss of certain non-designated heritage assets such as historic farmsteads and buildings in the countryside, industrial and defence heritage, and historic shopfronts in some towns and settlements. Non-designated buildings which are of heritage or architectural importance in the context of overall landscape, townscape or heritage value should be recognised for their role in conserving these settings.
- Conservation Areas in Downpatrick, Newcastle, Newry, Rostrevor, Saintfield and Warrenpoint
 may be at risk of flooding both with and without the effects of climate change and there may be a
 need to consider adaptive measures in these areas.

- There may be opportunities to maintain or reflect historic routeways and townland boundaries to inform site allocations or plan designations.
- Traffic pollution, air quality and noise pollution may adversely affect the historic environment.

6. THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

Sustainability objectives have been identified through consideration of intentional, national, regional and local policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives; baseline information at regional and, where available, at local level and apparent trends.

The following Sustainability Objectives are informed by the topic review and key sustainability issues identified in Chapter 5. The rationale for selecting each is outlined. The prompts used to assess plan options against the Sustainability Objectives are presented in the Sustainability Appraisal Guide in Appendix 5.

6.1 The Sustainability Objectives

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 ageing population and 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 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 contributes to the avoidance of poverty and to healthier lifestyles. The provision of suitable accommodation for educational establishments in appropriate, accessible locations should play a part in making them 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 to 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 minimise adverse impacts. The concept of the 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, sustainable 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 singleoccupancy car use and increasing use of other forms of transport, especially at peak times. The location of housing and key services can facilitate better access to public transport. Opportunities for active travel make travel more affordable and may bring added health benefits, while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Measures to manage car demand, such as parking and re-allocation of roadspace, which encourage a shift from car to 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 decrease their effects on climate. Measures that help reduce energy consumption and enable renewable energy help mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, however, climate change adaptation planning and implementation is essential to managing the resilience of our society and natural environment to an uncertain future, as well as for the known current and projected impacts of a changing climate.

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 Environment (under the Water Framework Directive Regulations) and other legislation that relates 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, along with national 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 can mitigate the effects of climate change. This objective includes protecting and enhancing biodiversity including in coastal and marine areas, 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 seascapes 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 heritage.

The historic environment 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.

6.2 Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives

A comparison has been drawn between all of the sustainability objectives to identify any conflicts between them and is presented in Appendix 3. No sustainability objectives were considered to be incompatible with the rest of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. In some cases, however the effect is uncertain.

6.3 Next Steps

This scoping report provides the Sustainability Appraisal Framework that has been used to appraise the Preferred Options Paper and prepare the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report. The Scoping Report will be reviewed and updated where necessary at each subsequent step of plan preparation to reflect new context and baseline information where necessary.

6.4 Difficulties Encountered in Compiling the Scoping Report

With the establishment of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in 2015 and the new statutory Community Planning duty there has been a great deal of data collection for a variety of purposes including the Community Plan. It has not always been possible to align all of the evidence used for this scoping report with other evidence used in the preparation of the LDP, as timeframes and purpose for which the data were collected may differ.

The extended timescale of the LDP development, and therefore environmental assessments, have meant that baseline information for the Plan, SEA and HRA has had to be updated to take account of real world changes. Baseline updates for the draft Plan Strategy stage were collated in Spring 2022. As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the NISRA datasets compiled from its Household Surveys had a reduced sample size. As a result NISRA was unable to compile sub Northern Ireland geographies from April 2020 to the time the scoping report baseline was reviewed and updated in mid-2022. LGD-scale results of the 2021 Census had not been published. Where more recent statistical data are not available, there remains confidence that the pre-2020 data provide a satisfactory baseline for the evaluation of significant effects.

Predicting effects and trends always involves an element of uncertainty or a need for assumptions to be made. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by gaps in the baseline and understanding of future trends. Considering the success of a policy when reliant on behavioural change is also difficult to consider objectively. As an iterative process, the SA may have different sources of available information than the Plan team, and vice versa. A record of the assumptions made and uncertainties encountered during the Sustainability Appraisal process is included in the SA Report.

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 Scoping Report or the Sustainability Appraisal 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 Section 1 of the SA Report and Section 1 of this SA Scoping Report. The key plans, policies, programmes and strategies that have been considered in the SA are described at the introduction to each topic in Section 5 of this SA Scoping Report. A full list is included in Appendix 4 of this SA Scoping
2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	Report. Baseline information is presented in Section 5 of this SA Scoping Report, under topic sections. Each section highlights the likely evolution of the baseline without the LDP. The Key Sustainability Issues are summarised at the end of each topic in Section 5 of this SA Scoping Report.
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	The environmental characteristics of the District are presented in Section 5 of this SA Scoping Report, in baseline information and as Key Sustainability Issues.
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 and the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.	Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report identifies environmental problems. A draft Habitats Regulations Assessment for the draft Plan Strategy has been published for consultation alongside the draft Plan Strategy. A summary of the HRA is included in Section 1.2.5 of the SA Report.
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.	Section 5 of this SA Scoping Report outlines the main policy themes in the introduction to each topic. Appendix 4 of this SA Scoping Report outlines the relationship of the LDP with other plans, programmes and policies.

Requirement	Location		
 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; (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 	Likely significant effects are described in Sections 3 and 4 of the SA Report. They are reported in the context of the sustainability appraisal framework included in Appendix 5 of this SA Scoping Report. Interrelationships are discussed in Section 4 of the SA Report and Appendix 3 of this SA Scoping Report.		
heritage; (xii) landscape, and (xiii) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub paragraphs (i) to (xii). 7. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce	Measures are reported in Section 3 of the SA		
and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	Report and also in the matrices presented in Appendix 4 of the SA Report.		
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.	Section 2 of the SA Report considers this in general. Section 3 and Appendix 4 of the SA Report 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.	A preliminary framework for potential monitoring has been included in Section 5 of the SA Report.		
10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.	A non-technical summary is provided as a separate document to accompany the SA Report and the SA Scoping Report.		

APPENDIX 2: SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AND RELATIONSHIP TO SEA TOPICS

The objectives for sustainable development are to	SEA Directive Topic
1improve health and well-being.	Population
	Human Health
2 strengthen society.	Cultural Heritage including
	Architectural and Archaeological
	Heritage
	Population
3provide good quality, sustainable housing.	Population
	Human Health
4enable access to high quality education.	Population
5enable sustainable economic growth.	Population
	Human Health
6 manage material assets sustainably.	Material Assets
7protect physical resources and use sustainably.	Material Assets
	Soil
8encourage active and sustainable travel.	Human Health
	Population
	Climatic Factors
9improve air quality	Air
10reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	Climatic Factors
11protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	Water
12protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	Biodiversity
	Flora, Fauna
13maintain and enhance landscape character.	Landscape
14 protect, conserve and enhance the historic	Cultural Heritage including
environment and cultural heritage.	architectural and archaeological
	heritage
	Landscape

APPENDIX 3: COMPATIBILITY OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

	1		1						1					
Sustainability Objectives	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 heritage.
1 Improve health and well- being.														
2 Strengthen society.	✓													
3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	1	1												
4 Enable access to high quality education.	✓	✓	✓											
5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	1	1	✓	1										
6 Manage material assets sustainably.	1	0	0	0	✓									
7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	1	0	0	0	1	1								
8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	✓	✓	1	✓	✓	0	0							
9 Improve air quality.	✓	✓	✓	0	?	✓	>	✓						
10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	✓	✓	✓	0	?	✓	~	✓	✓					
11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	✓	0	✓	0	?	✓	✓	0	✓	✓				
12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	1	1	0	1	?	1	>	1	✓	✓	✓			
13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	1	1	0	0	1	?	✓	0	1	1	✓	1		
14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	?	~	?	0	~	0	✓	0	~	~	√	~	~	

Compatible 🖌 No relationship 0 Uncertain relationship ? Incompatible 🗴

APPENDIX 4: REVIEW OF POLICIES, PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES

Introduction

This is a list of Policies, Plans and Programmes and Strategies that have been considered in scoping the sustainability appraisal. It will be updated at each stage of plan preparation. Some additional documents, including local plans, may be referred to in the plan evidence papers or the body of the Scoping Report and these will be incorporated in this table.

A number of cross cutting publications are presented first. Following that the publications are listed according to the most relevant topic, however some may be apply to two or more topics. Year is the year of publication and scale indicates the spatial area it applies to. The lead is the department or organisation currently responsible for the publication and was not necessarily the one responsible for preparation of the publication.

For each publication a summary of the key objectives, requirements or advice is given with emphasis on what is most relevant to the LDP. A short comment is included on the implications of these for the LDP and/or how they will be addressed in plan preparation.

Acknowledgement is given to work carried out by Mid Ulster District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and the Strategic Planning Division of the Department for Infrastructure, which formed part of the source information for this review of plans, policies and programmes.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
00. Sustainable Development	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Inter- national	2015	United Nations	Seeks to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. It also aims to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities. Expressed through 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets.	Through the influence of the sustainability appraisal the LDP seeks to contribute to these goals where they are within the scope of development planning.
00. Sustainable Development	UK Marine Policy Statement	UK	2011	Four Nations (DAERA)	The MPS facilitates and supports the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives. These are to: • Promote sustainable economic development; • Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects; • Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and our heritage assets; and • Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues. Currently it is also the policy document to be used for decision making for any proposal which affects, or might affect, the NI marine area. It will be used in conjunction with the Marine Plan for NI, once the Marine Plan is published and adopted in its final form.	Any development arising from the LDP will need to be in conformity with the MPS and NI Marine Plan (once the latter is adopted) in order to protect the marine environment, inclusive of the historic environment and heritage assets. Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 state that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise". A public authority must have regard to the appropriate marine policy documents in taking any decision which relates to the exercise of any function capable of affecting the whole or any part of the UK marine area, but which is not an authorisation or enforcement decision.
00. Sustainable Development	Securing the Future - delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy	UK	2005	Four Nations (DAERA)	The Strategy takes account of developments since the 1999 Strategy, both domestically and internationally; the changed structure of government in the UK with devolution to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; greater emphasis on delivery at regional level and the new relationship between government and local authorities. The five guiding principles are: living within environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance and using sound science responsibly. Four agreed priorities are sustainable consumption and production, climate change, natural resource protection and sustainable communities.	The SPPS has a strong sustainable development theme, which aligns with the priorities of this Strategy, most notably in terms of climate change, renewable energy, sustainable consumption, waste management etc. In complying with the SPPS and carrying out sustainability appraisal the LDP will support this.
00. Sustainable Development	(draft) Marine Plan for Northern Ireland	NI	2018	DAERA	The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of the NI marine area. The Plan contains policies that reflect, clarify and signpost current legislation, policy measures and practices from the UK MPS and across NI and UK Government Departments and Agencies. Its policies will be used by public authorities in taking decisions which	The Marine Plan uses an ecosystem-based approach that will assist public authorities in managing the competing demands on the marine area in a more sustainable manner. Achieving sustainable development is at the core of the Marine Plan. Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 states that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					affect or might affect the marine area. The draft Marine Plan was published for consultation in May 2018.	documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise". Public authorities must explain any decision not made in line with the UK Marine Policy Statement or an adopted Marine Plan.
00. Sustainable Development	Regional Development Strategy 2035	NI	2012	Dfl	This document provides an overarching strategic planning framework influencing spatial development for the Region up to 2035, facilitating and guiding the public and private sectors. Taken into account are key drivers such as population growth and movement, demographic change, increasing number of households, transportation needs etc. It addresses economic, social and environmental issues aimed at achieving sustainable development and social cohesion. The eight aims of the RDS are to: Support strong, sustainable growth for the benefit of all parts of NI; Strengthen Belfast as the regional economic driver and Derry/Londonderry as the principal city of the North West; Support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential; Promote development which improves the health and well-being of communities; Improve connectivity to enhance the movement of people, goods, energy and information between places; Protect and enhance the environment for its own sake; Take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaption to climate change; and Strengthen links between north and south, east and west, with Europe and the rest of the world. The RDS contains a Spatial Framework and Strategic guidelines.	The LDP will support the RDS as part of the wider Government policy framework and should therefore be closely aligned with its objectives.
00. Sustainable Development	Focus on the Future - Sustainable Development Implementation Plan	NI	2011	NI Executive	While this implementation plan has expired some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. DHSSPS committed to liaise with DOE Planners on the benefits of Health Impact Assessments and their potential to assist in encouraging the development of Healthy Urban Environments. DOE proposed to make legislation to enable the designation of National Parks by 2012.	The health impact assessment approach is not a statutory requirement but will be considered if there is development on this during plan preparation. Health and well-being is considered through sustainability appraisal.
00. Sustainable Development	Everyone's Involved – Sustainable Development Strategy (May 2010)	NI	2010	DAERA	The Sustainable Development Strategy aims to put in place economic, social and environmental measures to ensure that we can continue to grow our economy, improve our society and communities and use our natural resources in an environmentally sustainable manner. The Strategy also intends to strengthen the framework to address global issues such as climate change and sets out the following six principles: living within environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy, just and equal society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; using sound science responsibly; and promoting opportunity and innovation.	Plan objectives should support the strategy. The Sustainability Appraisal will help shape proposals and policies in the LDP to be sustainable.
00. Sustai	Sustainable Kilkeel 2020 - Your Town, Your Future	Local	2011	Invest NI	Sustainable Kilkeel 2020 Vision is the result of a collaborative pooling of Invest NI Innovation Vouchers. Nine local companies came together and pooled their resources to enable a major	This is a non-statutory plan however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					scoping study to be developed, looking at how Kilkeel could develop, to maximise opportunities from the Renewable Energy Sector. The following companies took part: Kilkeel Development Association (lead partner) Rockall Seafoods, Kilhorne Bay Seafoods, Henning Bros, Copas Technologies, Ian Newell Boat Building & Repair, Anglo North Irish Fish Producers, Cunningham Butchers, and Kilmorey Arms Hotel. This was the largest research project being undertaken on the island of Ireland into Renewable Energy & Sustainability.	
Ϋ́	United Nations Convention	Inter-	1982	United	The Law of the Sea Convention defines the rights and	The Convention sets the framework for protecting underwater
000. Other / Cross- cutting	on the Law of the Sea (1982)	national		Nations	responsibilities of nations with respect to their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources. The Convention sets out basic principles for the protection of underwater cultural heritage. Amongst its main principles are an obligation to preserve underwater cultural heritage, with in situ preservation as first option, and a ban on its inappropriate commercial exploitation.	cultural heritage at sea. Signatories "have a duty to protect objects of an archaeological and historical nature found at sea and shall cooperate for this purpose". The LDP should have regard for this principle.
000. Other / Cross-cutting	Aarhus Convention - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 1998	Europe	1998	UNECE	The Aarhus Convention and its Protocol empower people with the rights to access easily information, participate effectively in decision-making in environmental matters and to seek justice if their rights were violated. They protect every person's right to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being. Ratified in UK in 2005. Established a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment. Local authorities should provide for: • The right of everyone to receive environmental information; • The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision making; • The right to challenge in a court of law public decisions that have been made without respecting the two rights above or environmental law in general.	The plan will achieve this through the consultation process, as outlined in the Statement of Community Involvement. Ensure that public are involved and consulted at all relevant stages of SA production. This should be reflected in the Statement of the Community Involvement
000. Other / Cross-cutting	Sustainability for the future DAERA' Plan to 2050	NI	2021	DAERA	This high-level strategy sets out DAERA's mission for the next 3 decades and beyond, to promote sustainable economic growth whilst restoring and enhancing our environment for the next generation. Supported by robust science as our evidence base, we will continue to ensure the competitive development of the agrifood, fishing and forestry sectors of the Northern Ireland economy, having regard for the need of the consumers, the welfare of animals and the conservation and enhancement of the environment. Enhancing our environment matters, as a healthy environment is interlinked with our health and wellbeing.	The LDP can help to support the delivery of the Strategy's Strategic Priorities through policies which facilitate sustainable agriculture and forestry development, protect and enhance the natural environment and support sustainable rural communities.
000. Other /	[Draft] Today we act. Tomorrow we thrive. Green Growth: Draft Green Growth	NI	2021	NI Executive	Launched for consultation in October 2021, this is an over-arching multi-decade Strategy which will set out the long-term vision and a solid framework for tackling the climate crisis by balancing climate	Sets out a framework for delivery with which all other NI government policies and strategies must align. New policies and programmes should align with the need to address climate change, develop green jobs and improve our environment.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
	Strategy for Northern Ireland - Consultation				action with the need for a clean, resilient environment and economy.	
80	[Draft] Environment Strategy - Consultation	NI	2021	DAERA	Adopted as the Environment Improvement Plan.	Adopted as the Environment Improvement Plan.
000. Other / Cross- cutting	Planning in the Coastal Area: A developer's guide to planning considerations and environmental responsibilities	NI	2017	DAERA	This guidance document aims to explain how some onshore development may impact on the marine area. It also describes the legislative and regulatory framework within which we manage our marine area. This document aims to outline how development along our coast can be managed in an integrated manner and how potential impacts of onshore development on the marine environment can be avoided or mitigated through early engagement and collaborative working.	This document has been produced to assist planning authorities, applicants and agents in their understanding of land and sea interactions. In addition, as planning legislation extends to the mean low water mark, there is an area of overlapping responsibilities in the intertidal area. The LDP should aim to align with legislation on the marine area to achieve an integrated approach to the management of the intertidal area along the coastline.
000. Other / Cross-cutting	Department for Infrastructure Strategic Plan for Greenways	NI	2016	Dfl	This is the base report for 'Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic plan for Greenways'. It presents a strategic approach and overview to the development of a shared greenway network which is planned at a regional level and allows people to link to places locally, regionally and nationally by active modes of travel.	Greenways can produce both environmental and social benefits, because they are easily accessible and can bring nature and people together. The development of traffic free infrastructure, particularly greenways, can also have a positive impact on social inclusion and encouraging new and harder to reach groups to take up cycling and walking. The LDP can help to support these objectives.
000. Other / Cross-cutting	DOE Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS): Planning for Sustainable Development	NI	2015	Dfl	Sets out the Department's regional strategic policies for securing the orderly and consistent development of land in Northern Ireland. Planning authorities should pursue social and economic priorities alongside the careful management of our built and natural environments in order to achieve sustainable development. The SPPS sets out five core planning principles: Improving health and well-being; Creating and enhancing shared space; Supporting sustainable economic growth; Supporting good design and positive place making; and Preserving and improving the built and natural environment.	The provisions of the SPPS must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans, and are also material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.
000. Other / Cross-cutting	NI Water Recreation and Access Policy	NI	2013	NI Water	NI Water is one of the largest land owners in Northern Ireland, having responsibility for approximately 8,600 hectares throughout the province. A significant proportion of this land has recreational appeal and is regularly accessed by members of the public. The Recreation and Access Policy sets out the way public access arrangements are communicated and controlled, and provides the public with clear guidance that governs recreational activities and access on NI Water-owned lands and waters. Appendix A lists facilities with public access, existing agreements and permitted activities.	This policy may identify sites with potential for recreation, contributing to health and well-being and/or economic growth.
000. Other /	Delivering Social Change Framework	NI	2012	EO	The DSC framework was established to deliver a sustained reduction in poverty and associated issues across all ages and to improve children and young people's health, well-being and life opportunities. A Delivering Social Change Fund was established to	Delivering Social Change prompts collaboration and co-ordination among Government Departments to improve the manner in which they interact in the lives of children and young people. It also includes programmes for dementia services. The programme has

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					support The Social Investment Fund; The Delivering Social Change Signature Programmes; Childcare. The six initial Signature Programmes included support for Family Support Hubs; Nurture Units, Social Enterprise Hubs. Three new Signature Programmes announced in 2014 include support for people with dementia and their families and carers; early intervention services for young families and expansion of shared education, supporting schools to share resources and people. The Social Investment Fund is under a separate entry in this register.	resulted in some new and proposed community facilities that should be considered in plan preparation. It includes the establishment of Family Support Hubs, Social Enterprise Hubs and Nurture Units. The Shared Education programme provides the opportunity for pupils from different community backgrounds to learn together and may require the development of new facilities. It may identify needs for new facilities to improve the lives of children and young people with disabilities.
000. Other / Cross- cutting	Our Passion, Our Place - Northern Ireland Environment Agency Strategic Priorities 2012 to 2022	NI	2012	DAERA	The plan outlines the strategic direction for NIEA. Four priority areas: healthy natural environment, people and places, sustainable economic growth and using resources well with a series of strategic goals. In respect of development planning NIEA will make sure planning decisions and business practices are guided by sound environmental principles and apply a risk based approach to its regulatory activities. Provide timely and authoritative input to strategic planning and development projects. Adopt an ecosystems approach in the advice it provides.	The majority of the sustainability appraisal objectives can be linked to the strategic aims of this document. NIEA advice and evidence will be used to inform plan preparation.
000. Other / Cross-cutting	Rural White Paper Action Plan	NI	2012	DAERA	This document sets out the vision for NI's rural areas and the actions which Departments will take in support of achieving that vision and to help ensure the future sustainability of rural areas. The vision includes vibrant and strong rural communities; improved infrastructure, transport and key services; strong community infrastructure which can avail of economic, social and cultural opportunities; and better linkages between rural and urban areas.	Policies are proposed in relation to sustainable development in the countryside, transport and land use. Planning policy will promote sustainable development, well-being and economic development which are aligned with the vision for rural areas. There does seem to be a focus on town centres and city centre vitality, which could take attention away from rural issues. The LDP objectives support this. It sets out to support vibrant rural communities, facilitate development of new, accessible, community facilities, and improve connectivity between/within settlements in terms of telecommunications and transport infrastructure in particular. The Plan will promote sustainable development, well-being and economic development which are aligned with the vision for rural areas.
000. Other / Cross-cutting	Building a Better Future: The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011-2021 (ISNI)	NI	2011	NI Executive	The Investment Strategy sets out the forward programme for investment in public infrastructure. It identifies priority areas for investment in sustainable 21st century infrastructure and is intended to assist government and private sector partners to plan ahead. The 'Procurement Pipeline' identifies 197 infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.	The 'Procurement Pipeline' available on the home page identifies infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.
000. Other / Cross-	[Draft] Supplementary Planning Guidance to PPS 18 'Renewable Energy' Anaerobic Digestion	NI	2010	Dfl	The SPG provides additional advice and guidance specific to Anaerobic Digestion (AD) to complement the background information already set out in the Best Practice Guidance to PPS 18. AD proposals raise a number of planning issues including visual and landscape impacts arising from industrial scale plant/buildings;	LDP policies in respect of development in the countryside, waste and landscape may influence the future development of these facilities.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					potential odour impacts, air emissions, noise impacts, and traffic impacts.	
000. Other / Cross-cutting	An Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006 – 2026	NI	2006	DAERA	Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) aims to establish sustainable levels of economic and social activity in coastal areas while protecting the coastal environment. ICZM seeks to reconcile the different policies that have an effect on the coast and to establish a framework that facilitates the integration of the interests and responsibilities of those involved in the development, management and use of the coast.	The ICZMS sets out main issues which may be relevant to the LDP: Marine Spatial Planning, Commercial fisheries, Climate change and coastal protection, Water quality, Tourism and recreation, Renewable energy, Ports and marine transportation, Extractive industries, Natural and Built heritage, Data, information and mapping. The LDP's proposals and policies may support the ICZMS.
000. Other / Cross-cutting	A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland	NI	1993	Dfl	In seeking to protect the environment and encourage sustainable development the PSRNI set out policies to meet the development needs of the rural area. The majority have been superseded by PPSs and SPPS, however Strategic Policies 2, 3, 4 and 18 still apply relating to Towns, Villages, Regeneration of Rural Settlements and Design in Towns and Villages.	The remaining provisions of 'A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland' will be cancelled when all eleven Councils have adopted a new Plan Strategy for the whole of their Council area. However, to ensure that there is continuity in planning policy for taking planning decisions whilst Councils bring forward operational policies tailored to local circumstances within new LDPs, transitional arrangements shall apply.
00	Environmental Strategy	NI	TBC	DAERA	ТВС	ТВС
000. Other / Cross- cutting	Framework for Co-operation Spatial Strategies of Northern Ireland & the Republic of Ireland	NI & Rol	2010	Dfl	This document examines the key planning challenges faced by both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland and discusses the potential for co-operation in spatial planning. It sets out a framework for cooperation at different levels within the public sector which should result in mutual benefits. These benefits can be at the local border area level and at the wider level. Four priority areas for cooperation are: Enhancing Competitiveness, Competitive Places (i.e. linked cross-border cities), Environmental Quality and Spatial Analysis.	At the local level it will be important that the guidance in the RDS and [Irish] NSS is incorporated into regional planning guidelines, development plans, community plans and regeneration schemes and that there is support for cross border projects and initiatives for both urban and rural areas. Integrated planning processes at the local level, where agencies and authorities in both jurisdictions work together on a cross border basis, are essential in enhancing the potential and quality of strategic places on the island, that straddle such cross-border locations.
000. Other / Cross-cutting	Project Ireland 2040 National Marine Planning Framework	Rol	2021	DECC (ROI)	The NMPF details how these marine activities will interact with each other in an ocean space that is under increasing spatial pressure, ensuring the sustainable use of our marine resources to 2040. The NMPF is intended as the marine equivalent to the National Planning Framework. This approach will enable the Government to: - set a clear direction for managing our seas - clarify objectives and priorities - direct decision makers, users and stakeholders towards strategic, plan-led, and efficient use of our marine resources.	As Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough are shared with the Republic of Ireland, and the North Channel and Irish Sea have boundaries with multiple authorities, it is important that terrestrial and marine planning authorities mutually recognise the importance of integration and co-ordination at national, regional and local levels. Many activities and uses that take place on land or in the sea can have impacts on both the land and the maritime area. The MSP Directive requires that these interactions are considered.
000. Other / Cross-cutting	Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework	Rol	2018	Government of Ireland	The National Planning Framework is a planning framework to guide development and investment over the coming years. It does not provide every detail for every part of the country; rather it empowers each region to lead in the planning and development of their communities, containing a set of national objectives and key principles from which more detailed and refined plans will follow. The plan changes how investment is made in public infrastructure	The Council shares a boundary with Ireland, therefore the LDP has the potential to impact on this framework. There are significant cross-border interactions focused on key settlement networks, specifically Letterkenny-Derry in the context of the North-West Growth Partnership and Drogheda-Dundalk-Newry in the context of the Dublin-Belfast economic corridor. The growth potential associated with these interrelated networks is also important for

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	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
000. Other / Cross-cutting					in Ireland, moving away from the approach of the past, which saw public investment spread too thinly and investment decisions that didn't align with a well-thought-out and defined strategy. Alongside the development of physical infrastructure, Project Ireland 2040 supports business and communities across all of Ireland in realising their potential.	regional development. Cross border dependencies between Donegal and Derry/Strabane include employment, education, healthcare and retail activity.
	Ireland's Marine Strategy Framework Directive Article 19 Report Initial Assessment, GES and Targets and Indicators	Rol	2013	DECLG, MI	The first step in the implementation of the MSFD in Ireland was an Initial Assessment of Ireland's marine waters and establishment of a comprehensive set of environmental targets and associated indicators for the marine waters so as to guide progress towards achieving Good Environmental Status. Each state is required to ensure they take appropriate action by 2020 to maintain or achieve Good Environmental Status.	Should an LDP have specific proposals for its coastline, including facilitating developments that utilise the marine environment, these could be either supportive or in conflict with the objectives of the Directive.
000. Other / Cross- cutting	Border Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022	Rol	2010	NWRA	The Guidelines are prescriptive in setting out a long term planning framework for the proper planning and development of the Region, and have been closely aligned with the National Spatial Strategy and National Development Plan in Ireland, and the Regional Development Strategy in Northern Ireland. The key aim of the Guidelines is to provide a good quality of life for the Region's population, through ensuring high quality residential, recreational and working environments, and improving water quality.	This applies to all the border counties in Ireland. There is potential for both synergies and conflicts between the LDP and this document. In order for cross-boundary issues to be effectively addressed, the Council should liaise with neighbouring authorities throughout the LDP process to address cross cutting issues and identify how these can be best taken forward as part of the Plan.
000. Other / Cross-cutting	Strangford Lough and Lecale Action Plan 2013 - 2018	Regional	2013	Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership	The landscape, built heritage and natural environment of Strangford and Lecale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty are fundamental to the well-being and vibrancy of local communities. They attract and interest visitors, and they generate wealth for local and wider economies. For these reasons, as well as for their intrinsic value, we must work together to protect and enhance our heritage, while fostering appropriate human activities and developments. AIM 1: To conserve and engage people with the built and natural heritage. AIM 2: To use heritage to promote the health and well-being of local people and visitors. AIM 3: To build prosperity and facilitate Research and Development through the environmentally sustainable use of the heritage.	This is a non-statutory plan, however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan and there are inter-relationships with the sustainability themes of health and well-being, natural resources and the historic environment and cultural heritage.
000. Other / Cross-cutting	Living Well Together' A Community Plan for Newry, Mourne and Down to 2030	Council	2017	Newry, Mourne and Down DC	The Community Plan sets out to create an environment that supports collaboration, where everyone can work together towards achieving the same goals. It is the aim of the Community Planning Partnership that the Community Plan becomes the overarching strategic plan for integrated planning and delivery of services for the area of Newry, Mourne and Down.	The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 and the Planning Act (NI) 2011 create a statutory link between the Community Plan and the next Local Development Plan. The LDP must therefore take account of and will be informed by the Community Plan.
000. Other /	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Community Plan: Environment and	Council	2017	Newry, Mourne and Down DC	Environment and Spatial Development one of four thematic delivery groups created to help achieve two of five key outcomes for the Community Plan. The first outcome is that everyone in the District Council will get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong	This strategic plan will complement the LDP and the two plans will work in tandem towards the same vision.
	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
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	Spatial Development Thematic Delivery Plan				potential. The second outcome is for everyone in the District Council to benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment. These Thematic Delivery Plans have been developed to help deliver the five key outcomes of the Community Plan: • All people in Newry Mourne and Down get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential • All people in Newry Mourne and Down enjoy good health and wellbeing • All People in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities • All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment • All people in Newry, Mourne and Down live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities. Altogether there are 21 indicators to help gauge the delivery of the Thematic Delivery Groups and the Community Plan.	
000. Other / Cross-cutting	People Place and Proseperity Investment Symposium Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Downpatrick Town Centre Regeneration Programme Neighbourhood Renewal Re-Rooting our past in the Future: Castlewellan Historic Demesne Master Plans Village Plans Belfast Region City Deal Strategic Alliance	Council	NA	Newry, Mourne and Down DC	Urban and Rural Regeneration Newry, Mourne and Down District Council lead on a number of urban and rural initiatives, namely; public realm schemes, town and city masterplans, village plans and purple flag initiatives.	(blank)
01. Health & Well-being	Health and Wellbeing 2026 - Delivering Together	NI	2017	DoH	This plan sets out a 10 year approach to transforming Health and Social Care. It builds on the strong foundations laid by 'Transforming Your Care' and other programmes of change and is the Executive's response to the 'Bengoa Report', a 2016 report prepared by an Expert Panel tasked with considering the best configuration of Health and Social Care Services in Northern Ireland.	The Plan includes proposals on reconfiguration and change, including the objective to bring forward proposals for the location and service specification for Elective Care Centres, and Assessment and Treatment Centres. The LDP can help to directly support the delivery of health and social care development where there is an identified need and can also indirectly support other objectives of the plan, such as facilitating the delivery of communications infrastructure for e-Health and Care. The consideration of policy on adaptability and accessibility in homes may help to facilitate the Plan's aims to deliver 'acute care at home' in the future.
01. Health	A Fitter Future For All - Outcomes framework 2015 - 2019	NI	2015	DoH	A 'Fitter Future for All' set a challenging target of reducing levels of obesity over its ten year life span – this is more demanding than previous targets which sought to halt the rise in levels of obesity. Following a review of the first years of the plan, an updated framework was published for 2015-2019.	Although expired, this framework can help to inform the LDP of target areas for reducing obesity levels in children and adults. The LDP can support objectives of creating a safe environment to encourage and promote increased physical activity.

Draft Plan Strategy

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
01. Healt	Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 - 2024.	NI	2014	Outdoor NI	This strategy aims to generate approximately £25 Million per annum to the local economy by 2024, as a direct result of mountain biking.	Informs on a potential source of outdoor recreational activity and tourism opportunity and so is relevant to the sustainability theme of economy and employment as well as health and well-being.
01, Health & Well-being	Noise Policy Statement for Northern Ireland	NI	2014	DAERA	Through the effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise the Noise Policy aims to: (1.) Avoid or mitigate significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life; (2.) Mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on heath and quality of life; and (3.) Where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life.	These LDP can help with applying the shared principles that underpin the Executive's Sustainable Development Strategy: Living within environmental limits - Ensuring a strong, healthy, just and equal society - Achieving a sustainable economy - Using sound science responsibly - Promoting opportunity and innovation - Promoting good governance.
01. Health & Well-being	Our Great Outdoors - The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan For Northern Ireland	NI	2014	Sport NI	It is necessary for the Government, businesses and voluntary organisations to work together to achieve greater accessibility to the outdoors in a sustainable and responsible manner in order to realise its full potential. The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan will be the key driver to make this happen. Activity and eco-tourism are growing in Northern Ireland and the Outdoor Recreation Action Plan recognises this and highlights the need for further development to continue to grow this important sector. New developments that get people outdoors and active, but those that also create opportunities for improved visitor services, short breaks, meals, and hospitality are important for growing this element of the economy.	LDP can support the delivery of aims, in particular: "There are increasing opportunities and improved access and infrastructure for sustained and increased participation for everyone in a broad range of outdoor recreation activities".
01. Health & Well-being	Connected Health Economy	NI	2013	DoH	Developing a connected health economy: the economy and jobs initiative included a number of measures to help support economic growth, including a commitment to establish a Task and Finish Group under the remit of the Connected Health and Prosperity Board, to exploit the economic opportunities from the health and social care (HSC) sector.	This may inform future economic investment in the health and social care sector.
01. Health & Well-being	Making Life Better: A Whole Strategic Framework for Public Health 2013-2023 Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (June 2014)	NI	2013	DoH	The strategic framework for public health designed to provide direction for policies and actions to improve the health and well- being of people in Northern Ireland and to reduce health inequalities. The framework is not just about actions and programmes at government level, but also provides direction for work at both regional and local levels with public agencies, including local government, local communities and others, working in partnership. Through strength of coordination and partnership, the framework will seek to create the conditions for individuals and communities to take control of their own lives, and move towards a vision for Northern Ireland where all people are enabled and supported in achieving their full health and well-being potential.	Many aspects are directly relevant to the LDP, for example promoting age-friendly environments and designating Quiet Areas.
01. Healt	A Fitter Future For All: Framework for Preventing and Addressing Overweight	NI	2012	DoH	Fitter Future for All is a framework to help reduce the harm related to overweight and obesity. This framework aims to: empower the population of Northern Ireland to make health choices, reduce the	The LDP can help to support and deliver the objectives of this framework by encouraging and enabling safe environments which promote increased physical activity.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
	and Obesity in Northern Ireland				risk of overweight and obesity related diseases and improve health and wellbeing, by creating an environment that supports and promotes a physically active lifestyle and a healthy diet. New outcomes to aid implementation of the framework over the 2015-19 period have been developed.	
01. Health & Well- being	Northern Ireland's Road Safety Strategy to 2020	NI	2011	Dfl	Sets out the vision and presents measures for improving road safety in Northern Ireland up to 2020, including targets for reductions in deaths and serious injuries to be achieved over that period. Key Challenges most relevant to LDP include: • continuing to reduce the numbers of road deaths and serious injuries; • focusing specifically on improving safety on rural roads; • improving our knowledge and understanding of, and broadening involvement in, solving road safety problems.	The LDP may have scope to contribute to addressing the identified challenges in its transport, infrastructure and rural development policies.
01, Health & Well-being	Transforming Your Care Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety	NI	2011	DoH	Twelve major principles for change including: providing the right care in the right place at the right time; population-based planning of services; ensuring sustainability of service provision; incentivising innovation at a local level. 99 separate proposals for change across the range of health and social care services. There is a Strategic Implementation Plan and Population Plan for each Health Care Trust.	Can inform where facilities may be required to improve access to and quality of health services.
Health &	Planning Policy Statement 8 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (DOE 2004)	NI	2004	Dfl	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection of open space, in association with residential development and the use of land for sport and outdoor recreation, and advises on the treatment of these issues in development plans.	Six policies are incorporated in SPPS. Incorporation of the policies will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
01. Health & Well- being	Active Living - Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland	NI	2022	DfC	Active Living, the new Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland, through its Vision and associated key Themes and Goals, seeks to create a vibrant, welcoming, enjoyable, inclusive and successful sector for everyone, contributing significantly to a healthier and more resilient society. It recognises the important role that sport and physical activity plays across our island whether it is taking place on playing fields, in a stadium, a gym, on water, or in the mountains.	The LDP can help to support and deliver the objectives of this framework by encouraging and enabling safe environments which promote increased physical activity.
01. Health & Well-being	South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust Population Plan	Regional	2013	SEHSCT	This sets out in detail the service transformation initiatives for delivery of the TYC proposals for this trust area. It includes the capital implications and requirements over the 3 year planning period. There will be continuing focus on reducing delayed discharge from hospital with investment in community infrastructure.	Although expired, this plan may inform unmet infrastructure requirements.
Health &	Southern Health and Social Care Trust Population Plan	Regional	2013	SHSCT	This sets out in detail the service transformation initiatives for delivery of the TYC proposals for this trust area. It includes the capital implications and requirements over the 3 year planning period. There will be continuing focus on reducing delayed	Although expired, this plan may inform unmet infrastructure requirements.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					discharge from hospital with investment in community infrastructure.	
01. Health & Well-being	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Community Plan: Health and Wellbeing Thematic Delivery Plan	Council	2017	Newry, Mourne and Down DC	Health and Well-being is one of four thematic delivery groups created to help achieve two of five key outcomes for the Community Plan. The first outcome is that everyone in the District Council will get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential. The second outcome is for everyone in the District Council to enjoy good health and wellbeing. These Thematic Delivery Plans have been developed to help deliver the five key outcomes of the Community Plan: •All people in Newry Mourne and Down get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential •All people in Newry Mourne and Down enjoy good health and wellbeing •All People in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities •All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment •All people in Newry, Mourne and Down live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities. Altogether there are 21 indicators to help gauge the delivery of the Thematic Delivery Groups and the Community Plan.	This strategic plan will complement the LDP and the two plans will work in tandem towards the same vision.
02. Strengthening Society	Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Strategy 2020-2030	NI	2021	NI Executive	The Strategy is a Plan for making life better for all children and young people in Northern Ireland and giving them the best start in life. This means providing good support and services for all children and young people, with extra help for children and young people who need more help or care in their lives. Outcomes include: — Children and young people are physically and mentally healthy, — Children and young people enjoy play and leisure, —Children and young people experience economic and environmental well-being; and —Children and young people live in safety and stability.	The LDP can complement many of the aims of this strategy. For example, policies may help with the Strategy's objective to provide all children, including those with a disability and those living in marginalised, vulnerable or disadvantaged situations, with safe, accessible, inclusive spaces for play.
02. Strengthening Society	Active Ageing Strategy 2016-2021	NI	2016	NI Executive	The Active Ageing Strategy highlights how much older people contribute to the quality of life in communities; it draws attention to the issues hindering some older people from living more actively; it stresses their rights, value and contribution and challenges all forms of ageism: the negative stereotyping of older people. The Strategy is designed to make a real difference to the quality of life of older people to enable as many people as possible to enjoy the benefits and rewards of life for as long as possible. A draft series of indicators has been proposed to monitor and evaluate progress. Once finalised, this set of indicators will be used to demonstrate progress under each outcome and will be the main method we will use to measure the effects of implementation of the Strategy.	This strategy has five strategic aims: 1. Independence 2. Participation 3. Care 4. Self-fulfilment 5. Dignity. Measures indicated within the strategy that are relevant to the LDP include the co-ordinated delivery of suitable warm housing, timely and reliable transport provision, user-friendly information and the active participation and citizenship of older people in decision- making on policies and the provision of services. Aims also include supporting older people to develop to the fullest of their potential by providing education, training, leisure and cultural opportunities.
02. Stren	The Child Poverty Strategy	NI	2016	EO	The four high-level outcomes are, that: Families experience economic well-being; Children in poverty learn and achieve; Children in poverty are healthy; and Children in poverty live in safe,	Promotion of employment opportunities, provision for housing, increasing accessibility and creating safer environments will contribute to the objectives of this strategy.

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					secure and stable environments. Indicators of success against these outcomes include those relating to employment levels in households with children, levels of obesity, hospital admissions for accidents at home or on the road and number of homeless families. Some of the most relevant actions to spatial planning are: Create jobs; Upskill the workforce and support young people and their family members into higher skilled, more secure and better paid employment; Reduce living costs; Ensure childcare is accessible and affordable; Promote health and well-being; Promote child, road, home and community safety.	
02. Strengtheni	Together: Building a United Community 2016/17 Update Report	NI	2016	EO	The Strategy outlines how we in Government, in communities and as individuals will work together to build a united community and facilitate change in the key priorities of: Our children and young people; Our shared community; Our safe community; and Our cultural expression.	By creating and shaping places spaces that are accessible and welcoming to all the plan will support this strategy. In some areas there will be specific requirements to address Interface Barriers.
02. Strength	Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing	NI	2015	DAERA	The objective is to ensure robust consideration and integration of rural issues at the outset of the policy making process. It should help to ensure fair and equitable treatment for rural areas through the development of policies which are proportionate to need.	The LDP can support the objective to provide for vital and vibrant rural communities whilst protecting the countryside in which they live, by accommodating sustainable growth within the countryside proportionate to the extent of existing rural communities.
02. Strengthening Society	Together: Building a United Community	NI	2013	EO	The strategy outlines how government, community and individuals will work together to build a united community and achieve change against the following key priorities: our children and young people; our shared community; our safe community; and our cultural expression. Its vision is 'a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance'. Includes a commitment to Create a 10-year Programme to reduce, and remove by 2023, all interface barriers including an Interface Barrier Support Package	By creating and shaping places spaces that are accessible and welcoming to all the plan will support this strategy. In some areas there will be specific requirements to address Interface Barriers.
02. Strengthening Society	Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework	NI	2013	DfC	This Policy Framework sets out the Department's policy objectives for urban regeneration and community development in Northern Ireland for at least the next decade. It will provide a clear strategic direction for the Department and inform its partners in central and local government and in the voluntary and community sector. The Framework sets out four Policy Objectives that will form the basis of any future policy or programme development in urban regeneration and community development: (1) To tackle area- based deprivation. (2) To strengthen the competitiveness of our towns and cities. (3) To improve linkages between areas of need and areas of opportunity. (4) To develop more cohesive and engaged communities. It also contains a set of four Supporting	This Policy Framework is wide-reaching in terms of the subjects it covers, for example Policy Objective 3 contains key actions relating to environmental improvement, protection and improvement of (historic) buildings and open spaces and developing an integrated transport network, whilst other Objective actions include development of commercial sites. LDP objectives may align with this framework, in particular strengthening the hubs, improving connectivity and facilitating community development. The LDP can indirectly support aims of the policy by, for example, accommodating development for disadvantaged groups, such as the elderly and disabled, with emphasis on 'sustainable growth', facilitating new community facilities and promoting 'shared

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					Actions: (1) We will maximise the potential of regeneration and community development by supporting an evidence- based policy environment. (2) We will maximise the resources available to regeneration and community development by supporting an innovative financial environment. (3) We will support the development of skilled and knowledgeable practitioners in regeneration and community development. (4) We will promote an effective and efficient voluntary and community sector	spaces'. Also relevant to the sustainability topic of sustainable economic growth.
02. Strengthening Society	Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities: A Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012- 2017	NI	2012	DoJ	Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities sets the direction for reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime in Northern Ireland over the next five years. It builds on the positive progress made in recent years in reducing crime and anti- social behaviour, both by continuing to focus on what works, as well as a stronger emphasis on the guiding principle that prevention is better than cure. This Strategy provides the overall direction for community safety in Northern Ireland, and will help guide the work of a range of stakeholders including the Executive, local government, the voluntary and community sector and local communities.	Although expired, the LDP should take account of this Strategy and its related Action Plan(s). The LDP may have scope to contribute to encouraging and facilitating community safety through place shaping. It can also support the strategy's aim to create spaces that are for the community as a whole and which the community feel safe using or passing through, through encouraging good design. It can help support objectives to accommodate cultural differences between Catholic and Protestant communities whilst promoting "shared spaces" to bring people together with equality and opportunity.
02. Strengthening Society	Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation	NI	2012	DAERA	This framework sets out the goals, objectives, priority action areas and outcomes for the Programme for Government commitment to bring forward a package of measures to help target the root causes of social isolation and help those in poverty in rural areas. In addition it aims to provide the necessary tools to identify the needs of vulnerable people/groups in rural areas, develop programmes/interventions to help alleviate poverty/social isolation and complement/add value to existing government strategies intended to tackle these issues.	Plan preparation includes consideration of the needs of those living in small settlements and the countryside to ensure that they have access to suitable and affordable housing as well as facilities. The Sustainability Appraisal incorporates Rural Proofing.
02. Strengthening Society	Social Investment Fund	NI	2011	EO	The Social Investment Fund (SIF) was set up to deliver social change. It aims to make life better for people living in targeted areas by reducing poverty, unemployment and physical deterioration. The fund will run until March 2020 and all funding has been committed to projects prioritised by local Steering Groups. Some funding will capital support to enhance or create community and employment facilities.	Will however inform existing and proposed facilities that should be considered in plan preparation.
02. Strengtheni	Planning Policy Statement 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside	NI	2010	Dfl	PPS 21 sets out planning policies for development in the countryside. For the purpose of this document the countryside is defined as land lying outside of settlement limits as identified in development plans. The provisions of this document apply to all areas of Northern Ireland's countryside.	A series of 16 policies which allow for development in the countryside in tightly defined circumstances. Many of these are carried forward through the SPPS. The LDP will have to comply with these and other regional policy in any variation of these policies. Also relevant to the topic of sustainable housing.
02. Stren	NIHE Good Relations Plan	NI	2007	NIHE	The Housing Executive commits to Respond quickly and effectively to the needs of people in danger as a result of community conflict; Work in partnership with others to address the complex housing	The LDP can help to promote and encourage mixed housing and shared spaces, to help bring people from different communities together.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					needs of a divided society; Respect the rights of people who choose to live where they wish; Facilitate and encourage mixed housing as far as this is practicable, desirable and safe.	
02. Strengthening Society	Lifetime Opportunities – Government's Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for Northern Ireland	NI	2006	EO	As part of the Northern Ireland Executive's commitment to tackling poverty and social exclusion this document outlined what would be done by the Northern Ireland departments and the Northern Ireland Office in working towards its overall objectives of: working towards the elimination of poverty and social exclusion in Northern Ireland by 2020; and halving child poverty by 2010 on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020. The strategy is structured into four key life stages – Early Years (0 – 4), Children and Young People (5 – 16), Working Age Adults and Older Citizens. Each of the life stages is expressed in terms of an overarching goal followed by a series of long-term targets that will work towards achieving the goal. This strategy overlaps with some more recent strategies but continues to be reported on.	Identifies the conditions for bringing people out of poverty, including fuel, employment, older people and those in the rural community and for promotion inclusion for all. The proposals and policies in the LDP should consider these needs and support delivery against them.
02. Strengtheni	NIHE - Race Relations Policy	NI	2006	NIHE	The five Race Relations Policy themes can be summarised as follows; Mainstreaming black and minority ethnic issues in policy development; Racial harassment and intimidation; Promoting black and minority ethnic social inclusion; Community participation and development; and Migrant worker issues.	The LDP can help to promote and encourage social inclusion.
02. Strengthening Society	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Community Plan: Safety and Good Relations Thematic Delivery Plan	Council	2017	Newry, Mourne and Down DC	Safety and Good Relations is one of four thematic delivery groups created to help achieve two of five key outcomes for the Community Plan. The first outcome is that everyone in the District Council will get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential. The second outcome is for everyone in the District Council to benefit from respectful, safe and vibrant communities. These Thematic Delivery Plans have been developed to help deliver the five key outcomes of the Community Plan: All people in Newry Mourne and Down get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential •All people in Newry Mourne and Down enjoy good health and wellbeing •All People in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities •All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment •All people in Newry, Mourne and Down live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities. Altogether there are 21 indicators to help gauge the delivery of the Thematic Delivery Groups and the Community Plan.	This strategic plan will complement the LDP and the two plans will work in tandem towards the same vision.
03. Housing	Housing Executive Community Involvement Strategy	NI	2018	NIHE	This strategy includes the aims to help deliver the Housing Executive's corporate objective of Building Stronger Communities. It has two specific aims: • Promote Community Involvement across all our communities. • Enabling our communities to challenge, influence and shape our housing service".	The LDP can support this strategy by providing an opportunity to cooperate in place shaping.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
03. Housing	Ending Homelessness Together' Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland 2017 - 2022	NI	2017	NIHE	Provides strategic direction for addressing homelessness in Northern Ireland through to March 2022. The Strategy aims to achieve the following five strategic objectives: (1) To prioritise the prevention of homelessness. (2) To secure sustainable accommodation and appropriate support for homeless households. (3) To further understand and address the complexities of chronic homelessness across Northern Ireland. (4) To ensure the right mechanisms are in place to oversee and deliver this strategy. (5) To measure and monitor existing and emerging need to inform the ongoing development of appropriate services.	In enabling housing need to be addressed, the LDP will contribute to delivery of the objectives of this strategy.
03. Housing	Delivering Sustainable Healthy Homes in Northern Ireland, NIHE, TPCA, Belfast Healthy Cities (March 2016)	NI	2016	NIHE	Guidance and good practice on how planning, health, housing and energy professionals can use new planning powers and responsibilities for community planning to support integrated local approaches to sustainable homes and communities, for energy and health and wellbeing.	This guidance should be taken into account in the preparation of the LDP.
03. Housing	Social Housing Development Programme, Unmet Social Housing Need Prospectus	NI	2016	NIHE	The prospectus provides information for housing associations and developers in respect of locations where there is unmet social housing need or shortages of development sites contained in the published SHDP. These are locations where the Housing Executive would consider suitable proposals/schemes.	This assessment informs potential requirements for social housing which can in turn inform the LDP.
03. Housing	Design and Access Statements - A guide for Northern Ireland	NI	2015	Dfl	Planning applications meeting certain criteria must be accompanied by a design and access statement. These include: An application which is a major development, or where any part of the development is in a designated area; and development consisting of – (i) the provision of one or more dwelling houses, or (ii) the provision of a building or buildings where the floor space created by the development is $100m^2$ or more.	Provides for early consideration of the need for and provision of open space, access and landscaping, and addressing external factors such as noise and traffic safety. Also relevant to the topics of health and well-being and transport and accessibility.
03. Housing	Housing Executive Environmental Policy	NI	2015	NIHE	Includes commitments to prevent pollution of air, land and water; support initiatives to develop sustainable local communities; and enhance and protect biodiversity cross all Housing Executive landholdings.	The LDP can help to support these commitments.
03. Housing	NIHE Social housing Development Programme (SHDP) - 2015/16 – 2017/18	NI	2015	NIHE	This strategy sets out how the government intends to fulfil the objectives over the next five years. The strategy also envisages housing playing a fourth role in driving regeneration within communities, particularly those suffering from blight and population decline.	The LDP will take account of ongoing annual reporting and the prospectus will inform social housing zonings within the plan area.
03. Housi	Northern Ireland Empty Homes Strategy and Action Plan 2013 – 2018	NI	2013	DfC	The Empty Homes Strategy is to ensure that the number of empty properties is kept to a minimum and to identify new opportunities to encourage owners to bring them back into use.	Although this strategy has expired and an updated version has not yet been published, the LDP can help to support the objectives of this strategy and its associated action plan.
03, Housing	Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 -2017	NI	2012	DfC	This Housing Strategy identifies four roles for government and five themes to help meet housing needs while supporting the most vulnerable. The themes are: (1) Ensuring access to decent, affordable, sustainable homes across all tenures; (2) Meeting	Although now expired, the Housing Strategy along with its Action Plan may inform on unmet housing requirements. These themes align with a number of aspects of the LDP and sustainability appraisal, namely sustainable development, economic

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					housing needs and supporting the most vulnerable; (3) Housing and Welfare Reform; (4) Driving regeneration & sustaining communities through housing; and (5) Getting the structures right. This strategy sets out how the government intends to fulfil the objectives over the next five years. The strategy also envisages housing playing a role in driving regeneration within communities, particularly those suffering from blight and population decline. 'Facing the Future' was supported by an Action Plan, prepared in 2012 and updated in 2015.	development, quality residential environments, etc. The strategy may complement a number of aspects of the proposed LDP, such as the provision of new homes which meets the needs of various groups, such as families, the elderly, and disabled. The strategy may put pressure on the environmental aspects of the LDP such as natural heritage, archaeology, flood risk, etc. A balance will need to be found through considered planning decisions. The LDP can help to support many of the actions identified in the action plan, such as: introducing developer contributions, developing work on energy efficiency, increasing the availability of smaller social housing units and other initiatives for encouraging town and city centre regeneration such as living over shops
03. Housing	Planning Policy Statement 7 (Addendum): Safeguarding the Character of Established Residential Areas	NI	2010	Dfl	This document is a second addendum to PPS 7 'Quality Residential Environments' and must be read in conjunction with the policies contained within this PPS and within the previous addendum – 'Residential Extensions and Alterations' (published in March 2008). The addendum provides additional planning policies on the protection of local character, environmental quality and residential amenity within established residential areas, villages and smaller settlements. It also sets out regional policy on the conversion of existing buildings to flats or apartments. In addition, the addendum contains policy to promote greater use of permeable paving within new residential developments to reduce the risk of flooding from surface water run-off.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
03. Housing	Planning Policy Statement 7 (Addendum): Residential Extensions and Alterations	NI	2008	Dfl	This document is a further Addendum to PPS 7 'Quality Residential Environments' and must be read in conjunction with the policies contained within that PPS. The Addendum provides an additional planning policy for the extension and/or alteration of a dwellinghouse or flat, including those in multiple occupancy. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development and the Quality Initiative. However, it should be noted that unlike the other policies of PPS 7, the policy contained in this Addendum will apply to all dwellinghouses or flats throughout the Region, including single dwellings in the countryside.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
03. Housing	Planning Policy Statement 12 Housing in Settlements	NI	2005	Dfl	PPS 12: Housing in Settlements Planning Policy Statement 12 'Housing in Settlements' has been prepared to assist in the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy to guide the future pattern on housing by managing future housing growth and distribution, support urban renaissance and achieve balanced communities. Development management policy for affordable housing is still contained within Planning Policy Statement 12 'Housing in Settlements' (PPS 12), published in July 2005. Under	The LDP will take into consideration the policy provisions of those documents retained under the transitional arrangements. PPS policies that have not been consolidated into the SPPS will cease to be a material consideration in assessing planning applications for LGDs once each Council adopts their new LDP Plan Strategy. It is therefore necessary that any existing PPS policies the Council wish to continue to apply once the Plan Strategy is in place will need to

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					transitional arrangements, until a Plan Strategy is adopted, PPS 12 is still a material consideration for deciding planning applications. PPS 12 contains a development management policy, Policy HS 2, which "will be applied where a need for social housing is established through a local housing needs assessment and the development plan for the area has not provided for it."	be replaced through the inclusion of relevant, locally tailored policies within the new Plan Strategy.
03. Housing	PPS 7: Quality Residential Environments	NI	2001	Dfl	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for achieving quality in new residential development and advises on the treatment of this issue in development plans with a requirement for a Concept Master Plan for large developments.	This requires that all residential development is of good quality and sustainable and does result in unacceptable damage to the local character, environmental quality or residential amenity of these areas. The process of sustainability appraisal will help ensure this.
03. Housing	Creating Places: Achieving Quality in Residential Developments incorporating guidance on layout and access	NI	2000	Dfl	Aims to promote: More sustainable patterns of living, working and travelling, more effective integration between land-use planning and transport, the creation of attractive places in which people are happy to live, work and take their leisure.	Extant Supplementary Planning Guidance may be relevant to drafting updated policy in the new LDP. The creation of attractive residential environments with a genuine sense of place is a prerequisite to achieving sustainability.
03. Housing	Northern Ireland Housing Market Areas	Council	2010	NIHE	This report commissioned by NIHE presents the findings of a study into the structure of housing market areas (HMA) across Northern Ireland. A housing market area is defined as a geographical area where most people both live and work and where most people moving home (without changing job) seek a house. HMA can overlap, and often do not marry well with local authority boundaries. Moreover, they are dynamic and HMA boundaries can change over time. 11 major HMAs were identified as operating across Northern Ireland: Belfast, Craigavon, Newry, Ballymena, Coleraine, Derry, Strabane, Omagh, Mid-Ulster, Dungannon and Enniskillen.	Movement patterns to work can help to inform housing need. Reports for each HMA were prepared in 2011-2013 and are available on the home page.
04. Education and Skills	Education Authority Interim Strategic Plan 2017-2027	NI	2018	Education Authority	The interim Strategic Plan 2017-2027 outlines what the EA will do over the next decade to achieve key goals, deliver consistently high-quality services to the community across Northern Ireland and produce positive outcomes for all children and young people. It will be supported by a three-year Corporate Plan and annual business plans which will enable EA to incorporate new priorities and respond to new challenges as they arise. The Strategic Plan has five main objectives (1) Meeting the learning needs of our children and young people (2) Providing excellent education support services (3) Developing all our people to carry out their jobs successfully (4) Managing our resources effectively and efficiently (5) Nurturing leadership across the EA to give clear direction in a dynamic and complex environment.	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies. The LDP should enable development /expansion of education facilities where required.
04. Educatio	Every school a good school - a policy for school improvement	NI	2009	DE	Mainly focused on delivery of quality education meeting needs of pupils. Recognises that school premises are a resource that could be better used by local communities and that providing for increased community use of school premises can be an effective	Creates the conditions for increased use of schools for community benefit which should be considered in planning for communities.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					way of building links between schools and their local communities. Legislation already provides for schools to make their premises available to outside groups and the Department wants to encourage more community use of school premises. Commits to identifying and disseminating good practice with a particular focus on community use of schools to help schools in building stronger links with their parents and local communities.	
04. Education and Skills	Schools for the Future: A Policy for Sustainable Schools	NI	2009	DE	The policy has as its vision an estate of educationally sustainable schools planned on an area basis, with focus on sharing and collaboration. It provides a framework for early consideration of emerging problems and possible remedial action to address questions of viability. The primary objective of the policy is to ensure that all children get a first class education in fit for purpose facilities, regardless of background or where they live. The policy sets out six criteria to be considered in assessing a school's educational viability, as follows: quality educational experience; stable enrolment trends; sound financial position; strong leadership and management; accessibility; strong links with the community.	The LDP should enable development/expansion of school facilities where required to meet the needs of the policy.
04. Equication and Skills	Development Control Advice Note 13: Crèches, Day Nurseries and Pre-School Play Groups	NI	1993	Dfl	The purpose of this Advice Note is to give general guidance to intending developers, their professional advisors and agents. It is designed to provide advice on the Planning criteria to be applied when an application for this form of development is being considered. It is not a specific statement of Departmental policy, but rather one of advice and guidance.	If this is the most up to date advice on this type of development, it should be considered in LDP preparation. However, there may be changes in the sector that also need to be taken into account.
U4. Education and Skills	Planning for Sustainable Provision: Strategic Area Plan 2022-27 Primary and Post- Primary Schools	NI	2022	Education Authority	 The Plan's mission is to: address school provision which is not educationally and/or financially sustainable; explore realistic, innovative, shared and collaborative solutions with a view to ensuring there is a viable and sustainable level of quality educational provision; aim to find solutions which deliver sustainable education provision in rural areas; address issues and challenges specific to local areas, by ensuring there are sufficient places which may result in increasing places in some areas while reducing places in others. Provide a network of viable and sustainable schools that are of the right type, the right size, located in the right place at the right time with a focus on raising standards. 	The LDP can assist in the delivery of some of the Plan's objectives, where new facilities are required.
U5. Econom	Economy 2030: an Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland [DRAFT]	NI	2017	DfE	This strategy sets out a plan to turn Northern Ireland into one of the world's most innovative and competitive small advanced economies. Our ambition to build a globally competitive economy will be based around the following five priority pillars for growth: •	The LDP can help support opportunities that are most likely to lead to strong and sustained economic growth

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					Accelerating Innovation and Research; • Enhancing Education, Skills and Employability; • Driving Inclusive, Sustainable Growth; • Succeeding in Global Markets; • Building the Best Economic Infrastructure.	
05. Economy & Employment	Going for Growth - A Strategic Action Plan in Support of the Northern Ireland Agri-food Industry	NI	2014	DAERA	In May 2012, DARD and DETI appointed the industry led Agri-Food Strategy Board to make recommendations in respect of the growth targets, strategic priorities and actions to be included in that Plan. The report, 'Going for Growth', includes more than 100 recommendations aimed at accelerating the growth of farming, fishing and food and drink processing in Northern Ireland to 2020 and beyond. In response the NI Executive has agreed an action plan, outlining actions to be progressed across relevant Departments and Agencies. The Plan seeks to deliver "a best in class environmentally sustainable model for production".	The Plan calls for relevant authorities to streamline planning and IPPC application procedures, to speed up decision-making and to ensure the speed of successful processing of Agri-Food applications is equal to, or better than those in Great Britain. It proposes that greater weight should be applied to Agri-Food applications, reflecting the industry's strategic importance. It also calls for the rapid delivery of solutions for converting poultry waste to energy, removing a key uncertainty in expansion. However, the facilitation of agricultural expansion will need to be balanced against environmental considerations and cannot override other legislative requirements.
02	Planning Policy Statement 16 Tourism	NI	2013	Dfl	Policies in relation to tourism and safeguarding tourism assets.	Retention of some or all of these policies will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
05. Economy & Employment	Economic Strategy Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity - Building a better Future	NI	2012	NI Executive	The overarching goal of this Strategy is to improve the economic competitiveness of the Northern Ireland economy. In order to achieve this, we are committed to strengthening our competitiveness through a focus on export led economic growth. This means we are prioritising the need to deepen and diversify our export base in order to increase employment and wealth across Northern Ireland. The key drivers of this will be innovation, R&D and the skills of our workforce.	The LDP can support this strategy by enabling economic growth and shaping an environment with sustainable infrastructure that attracts investment and supports innovation. This Strategy is also relevant to the sustainability theme of education and skills.
05. Economy & Employment	Northern Ireland Economic Strategy: Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity. Building a better Future	NI	2012	NI Executive	Sets out how the Executive plans to grow a prosperous local economy over the short, medium and longer term to 2030. The economic vision for 2030 is: 'An economy characterised by a sustainable and growing private sector, where a greater number of firms compete in global markets and there is growing employment and prosperity for all'. There is an emphasis on redressing a dependency on the public sector through the following: stimulate innovation, R&D and creativity so that we widen and deepen our export base; improve the skills and employability of the entire workforce so that people can progress up the skills ladder, thereby delivering higher productivity and increased social inclusion; compete effectively within the global economy and be internationally regarded as a good place to live and do business; encourage business growth and increase the potential of our local companies, including within the social and rural economies; and develop a modern and sustainable economic infrastructure that supports economic growth.	The LDP can support this strategy by enabling economic growth and shaping an environment with sustainable infrastructure that attracts investment and supports innovation.

		Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
05. Fcon	Planning Policy Statement 4 – Planning and Economic Development (DOE 2010)	NI	2010	Dfl	Policies for sustainable economic development and stipulates how these can be brought forward in development plans.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
05. Economy & Employment	Eastern & Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy	Rol	2019	Government of Ireland	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) is a strategic plan and investment framework to shape future growth and to better manage regional planning and economic development throughout the Region. It identifies regional assets, opportunities and pressures and provides appropriate policy responses in the form of Regional Policy Objectives.	The Council shares a boundary with Ireland, therefore the LDP has the potential to interact with this strategy. The border region can largely be viewed as having three interlinked areas of strategic importance in contributing to regional and all-island economic growth, namely the North West City Region, the Dublin-Belfast corridor in the east and the Central Border Region. The Framework will play a key role in guiding future growth and trans-boundary investment across the inter-jurisdictional Region, offering local, regional and national governments the opportunity to take a high- level, and long-term strategic approach to sustainable growth. The Dublin to Belfast Corridor is the largest economic agglomeration on the island of Ireland, with the cities and towns along the Corridor home to a population of around 2 million people. The Eastern Seaboard has seen the highest growth and highest internal migration of our population. The Corridor links the two largest cities and the large towns of Drogheda, Dundalk and Newry on the island by highcapacity road and national rail links and plays a critical role in supporting economic growth and competitiveness.
05. Economy & Fmblovmeht	The Destination Strangford Lough Tourism Management Plan 2013 – 2018	Regional	2013	Ards & North Down BC	Strangford Lough is one of the 9 designated destinations within Northern Ireland. Each destination determines its own priorities and projects, in line with the (draft) 2020 Tourism Strategy and Northern Ireland Tourist Board's Tourism Priorities for Growth. Thus Ards Borough Council and Down District Council, working with the tourism trade, can decide what the best offers to visitors are, maximising revenue and opportunity locally, while also contributing to the 2020 targets for NI.	This is a non-statutory plan and has since expired, however the aims of this Plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the Plan. In addition to encouraging and supporting tourism and economic development, the Tourism Management Plan also has inter-relationships with the themes of natural resources, water resources, landscape and historic environment and cultural heritage.
05. Economy & Employment	Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy 2020– 2025	Council	2020	Newry, Mourne and Down DC	 The strategy identifies the following actions to help deliver on the Council's corporate ambitions: An increase in infrastructure investment that enables the future economic growth of the district. Creating opportunities for local people and helping our communities to thrive by supporting economic development which is sustainable and helps them lead fulfilling lives. Supporting businesses adopt in their response to Brexit, and Covid-19 recovery. Invest in and support new and growing businesses, job creation and employment skills. Promote the revitalisation of our city, towns, villages and rural communities. 	The LDP can help to support the aims and objectives of the Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy by allocating land and supporting proposals for industrial/employment activity in suitable locations, and protecting employment land from alternative uses. It can also support the Strategy by facilitiating suitable proposals for economic development.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
05. Economy & 05. Economy & Employment	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Community Plan: Economic Development, Regeneration and Tourism Thematic Delivery Plan Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Tourism	Council	Year 2017 2017	Lead Org Newry, Mourne and Down DC Newry, Mourne and Down DC	Objectives/RequirementsEconomic Development, Regeneration and Tourism is one of four thematic delivery groups created to help achieve two of five key outcomes for the Community Plan. The first outcome is that everyone in the District Council will get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential. The second outcome is for everyone in the District Council to benefit from prosperous communities. These Thematic Delivery Plans have been developed to help deliver the five key outcomes of the Community Plan: •All people in Newry Mourne and Down get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential •All people in Newry Mourne and Down nejoy good health and wellbeing •All People in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities •All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment •All people in Newry, Mourne and Down live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities. Altogether there are 21 indicators to help gauge the delivery of the Thematic Delivery Groups and the Community Plan.The draft strategy aims to build upon the strengths and opportunities of the district and overcome the challenges by: (1) developing EPIC (Experiential, Personalised, Iconic and Immersive and Creative) moments, (2) Building a unified and entrepreneurial industry that is customer focused, (3) Ensuring the development of tourism is undertaken sustainably and contributes to the enhancement of social, cultural and environmental values.	Implications for LDP Although now past its end date, this strategic plan will complement the LDP and the two plans will work in tandem towards the same vision.
05. Economy & Fmplovment	Ballynahinch Town Centre Masterplan	Local	2014	Newry, Mourne and Down DC	The role of the Masterplan is to inform regeneration and development decisions relating to Ballynahinch Town Centre. It will therefore be a key reference to all those with an interest in the future of the town, including local and central government departments, private businesses including developers, the community and voluntary sectors and members of the public.	theme of community. This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies.
05. Economy & Employment	South East Coast Masterplan	Local	2013	DfC	The Masterplan will provide guidance on the future strategic development of the South East Coast as well as specific guidance on the location and form of development in the Town Centres of Newcastle Kilkeel and Warrenpoint over the next 20 years. In particular, it will help to direct public and private investment to those areas that will most benefit local people and, support local business and commerce and contribute to the long term viability and vitality of the Town Centres.	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
05. Economy & Employment	The Destination Mourne Mountains Tourism Management Plan 2013 – 2018	Local	2013	Newry, Mourne and Down DC	Mourne Mountains is one of the 9 designated destinations within Northern Ireland. Each destination determines its own priorities and projects, in line with the (draft) 2020 Tourism Strategy and Northern Ireland Tourist Board's Tourism Priorities for Growth. Thus Banbridge, Down and Newry and Mourne District Councils, working with the tourism trade, can decide what the best offers to visitors are, maximising revenue and opportunity locally, while also contributing to the 2020 targets for NI. The destination comprises the Mourne and Ring of Gullion AONBs, Slieve Croob, Newry City and surrounds.	This is a non-statutory plan and has since expired, however the aims of this Plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the Plan. In addition to encouraging and supporting tourism and economic development, the Tourism Management Plan also has inter-relationships with the themes of natural resources, water resources, landscape and historic environment and cultural heritage.
05. Economy & Employment	Bessbrook & Camlough Cluster Village Renewal and Development Plans	Local	2012	Newry, Mourne and Down DC	The Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme (NIRDP) 2007-2013 was launched to build capacity within local communities and provide support for community economic development in the most disadvantaged rural areas. One of the measures of the NIRDP was to target Village Renewal and Development with the aim of "creating long term visions for villages and surrounding areas and to support initiatives promoting cross-community development". Village Renewal and Development Plans were prepared in 2012 for 13 villages and clusters across the Newry and Mourne District Council Area. The objective of the plans are to enable and encourage residents of villages and surrounding areas to create a vision and an integrated action plan to ensure the full potential of their area is achieved and also to support integrated village initiatives.	These plans will be considered in preparing new LDP policies. In addition to encouraging and supporting community economic development in rural areas, these Plans have a relationship with the community/strengthening society theme.
05. Economv &	Camlough Lake Masterplan	Local	2011	Newry, Mourne and Down DC	Masterplan for the future development of Camlough Lake and its surrounding area as a visitor attraction so that its potential for tourism can be fully realised. The Lake has undergone rehabilitation works which were completed in 2017.	This is a non-statutory plan however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan. In addition to encouraging and supporting tourism and economic development, the Masterplan has inter-relationships with the theme of water resources.
05. Economy & Employment	Newry City Centre Masterplan	Local	2011	DfC	This Masterplan for Newry City Centre is about positively shaping that future. How can the city's retail and commercial activity be sustained and diversified, bringing benefit to all those who live and work there? Where should the buses, lorries and cars go and how can Newry's streets be better shared with people? How can the city's older buildings be brought back into meaningful use and what about the canal; can it be reawaken to play a role in the city again? This document sets out a vision that answers such questions, capitalises on Newry's clear potential and importantly, maps out how its transformation can be realised. It is founded on an in-depth understanding of the city and developed with the participation of its people.	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies.
. 05	Downpatrick Town Centre Masterplan	Local	2010	DfC	This document represents a shared vision for the future of Downpatrick. It will serve to guide development and investment	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					decisions by the public, private and voluntary sectors in a manner that maximises the regeneration benefits for the Town.	
06. Material Assets	National Renewable Energy Action Plan for the United Kingdom	UK	2010	BEIS	Aims to provide a framework which enables the land based and rural sectors to realise the potential opportunities in the development of renewable energy. Focus is on assisting meeting targets for renewable energy production at a regional, national and EU level in a balanced and sustainable way. Other key objectives of the development include energy security, emissions reductions and wider economic advantages.	Policies relating to renewable energy are proposed, helping to meet the objectives of this plan. Design and sustainable development policies should also encourage renewable energy as part of these developments. Planning decisions will have to balance need for renewables with environmental concerns and it may be that the need for renewable developments is outweighed by environmental protection.
06. Material Assets	The UK Renewable Energy Strategy	UK	2009	BEIS	This UK Roadmap shows where we are now; analysis of how deployment may evolve by 2020, together with separate estimates of the market's view of the potential; and the actions required to set us on the path to achieve the deployment levels anticipated in our analysis. While renewable deployment across all technologies will be important, the Roadmap focuses in particular on the technologies that have either the greatest potential to help the UK meet the 2020 target in a cost effective and sustainable way, or offer great potential for the decades that follow. These are Onshore wind, Offshore wind, Marine energy, Biomass electricity, Biomass heat, Ground source and air source heat pumps and Renewable transport.	The LDP should take into account evidence that informs future energy needs and renewable provision.
06. Material Assets	Transmission Development Plan Northern Ireland 2020- 2029	NI	2020	SONI	 Primary objectives are to: ensure the development and maintenance of an efficient, co- ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission which has the long-term ability to meet reasonable demands for the transmission of electricity; and contribute to security of supply through adequate transmission capacity and system reliability; and facilitate competition in the supply and generation of electricity. To ensure these objectives are met SONI must provide on-going and timely reinforcement of the Northern Ireland transmission network. 	Development required to support SONI's objectives may come under the LDP.
06. Material	Envisioning the Future: Considering Energy in Northern Ireland to 2050	NI	2015	DfE	A vision of what might happen by 2050: the outcomes are neither a prediction nor a plan and the study does not, therefore, propose a strategy. Instead, the vision is intended to guide thinking on what can be achieved in 2050 and what early decisions and activities may be needed to support development towards 2050.	This vision may provide information on anticipated future energy needs and provision and may help to inform policy.
06. Material Assets	Renewable Energy in the Land Based Sector A way forward. Interim Renewable Energy Action Plan 2013/14	NI	2013	DAERA	Follow up to the Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010. Strategic aim to Promote sustainable farming and forestry practices to deliver greater resource efficiency and reduced environmental impact, by supporting the sector to make a contribution to and benefit from renewable energy opportunities. Focus on enabling the land based and rural sectors to realise the potential opportunities in the	LDP preparation will have to balance need for renewables with environmental concerns and it may be that the need for renewable developments is outweighed by environmental protection.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					development of renewable energy through capacity building, research and promotion of opportunities.	
06. Material Assets	The Revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy "Delivering Resource Efficiency"	NI	2013	DAERA	The revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy sets the policy framework for the management of waste in Northern Ireland, and contains actions and targets to meet EU Directive requirements and the Department's Programme for Government commitments. It builds on and retains the core principles of the 2006 Strategy, and places a renewed emphasis on the Waste Hierarchy. The new Strategy moves the emphasis of waste management in Northern Ireland from resource management, with landfill diversion as the key driver, to resource efficiency i.e. using resources in the most effective way while minimising the impact of their use on the environment.	The SPPS supports this strategy, namely with development making sustainable use of available resources and having a sustainable approach to waste designed in. Waste management is one of the Subject Policies. The economic considerations of the SPPS will support 'green jobs' and ensure that the economy will benefit from planning decisions. Improved waste management will be good for the environment. The LDP is therefore likely to support this strategy, namely with development making sustainable use of available resources and having a sustainable approach to waste designed in. The economic considerations of the LDP will support employment and ensure that the economy will benefit from planning decisions. Improved waste management will be good for the environment.
06. Material	[Draft] Onshore Renewable Electricity Action Plan	NI	2013	DfE	The aim of the Action Plan is to maximise the amount of renewable electricity generated from onshore renewable sources in order to enhance diversity and security of supply, reduce carbon emissions, contribute to the 40% renewable electricity target by 2020 and beyond and develop business and employment opportunities for Northern Ireland companies.	Provision in the LDP to support delivery of this will need to align with the renewable energy subject policy of the SPPS, though it could conflict with the natural heritage and other environmental policies.
06. Material Assets	DETI (2012) Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012- 2015 and beyond	NI	2012	DfE	The Action Plan aims to assist with the implementation of the Strategic Energy Framework (2010-2020). DETI sets out numerous 'main actions for the future' regarding renewables and other aspects of sustainable energy. Of particular relevance are the commitments to: • Contribute to the growth of the NI sustainable energy sector (through Invest NI) to 8.9% of NI GVA by 2015: • Work with DOE, developers, planners and those responsible for environmental consents to ensure that the need for renewable energy to address the environmental impacts of climate change is recognised, that good quality applications are made and that clear, consistent and proportionate procedures are in place for the consenting of renewable installations; • Undertake "capacity studies" (including landscape capacity study, ecological study and bird migration study, with DOE and others) in order to determine with more accuracy how much development could be accommodated in different locations across Northern Ireland before significant cumulative effects start to emerge; and • Develop a continuous monitoring framework (with DOE and others) where the key potential cumulative effects identified from the assessment are reviewed on a regular basis in response to growth of the onshore wind industry. There are also a number of socio-economic commitments, such as supporting construction of	A number of socio-economic objectives are included in the Action Plan requiring the development of facilities and service infrastructure, as well as proposing funding for additional development such as renewables or farm diversification.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					electricity network, or furbishing schools with renewable technologies.	
06. Material Assets	Offshore Renewable Energy Strategic Action Plan 2012- 2020	NI	2012	DfE	The overall aim of the ORESAP is; to optimise the amount of renewable electricity sustainably generated from offshore wind and marine renewable resources in Northern Ireland's waters in order to enhance diversity and security of supply, reduce carbon emissions, contribute to the 40% renewable electricity target by 2020 and beyond and develop business and employment opportunities for NI companies. The associated development opportunity is for up to 900 MW of offshore wind and 300 MW from tidal resources in Northern Ireland waters by 2020.	In preparing the LDP the Council will need to align with the regional policy context set out in the SPPS - the need to develop new renewable energy sources may need to be balanced against environmental concerns.
06. Material Assets	DETI (2010) Energy: A Strategic Framework for Northern Ireland	NI	2010	DfE	Contains goals and targets, but does not include the detail of how targets could be achieved. It does aim to ensure future access to secure, competitively priced and sustainable energy supplies for all of NI. It also provides a direction for NI energy policy over the next ten years concentrating on key areas of electricity, natural gas and renewable energy sources. Under review in 2016.	Renewable and sustainable development policies will indirectly accord with this framework, by providing for renewable development. There may be a conflict between this framework and environmental policies (natural heritage, cultural heritage, flood risk etc.) when it comes to developing gas facilities and electrical networks.
06. Material Assets	Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Supplementary Planning Guidance Wind Energy Development in Northern Ireland's Landscapes.	NI	2010	Dfl	The SPG provides broad, strategic guidance in relation to the visual and landscape impacts of wind energy development. The guidance is based on the sensitivity of Northern Ireland's landscapes to wind energy development and contains an assessment of each of the 130 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) in Northern Ireland by referencing the characteristics and values associated with each LCA.	This PPS informs the relative capacity for wind energy in respect of landscape. It is therefore also relevant to the sustainability topic of landscape.
06. Material	Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009)	NI	2009	Dfl	Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 18 sets out the planning policy for development that generates energy from renewable resources. The PPS aims to facilitate the siting of renewable energy generating facilities in appropriate locations within the built and natural environments.	Incorporation of the policies in this Statement will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
06. Material Assets	Planning Policy Statement 10 Telecommunications	NI	2002	Dfl	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for telecommunications development. It embodies the Government's commitment to facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunications systems whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum. The PPS also addresses health issues associated with telecommunications development.	Incorporation of the policies in this Statement will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
06. Material Assets	Planning Policy Statement 11 Planning and Waste Management (DOE 2002)	NI	2002	Dfl	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the development of waste management facilities. It seeks to promote the highest environmental standards in development proposals for waste management facilities and includes guidance on the issues likely to be considered in the determination of planning applications. In addition, it explains the relationship between the planning system and authorities responsible for the regulation and management of waste.	Incorporation of the policies in this Statement will be considered in preparing LDP policies.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
06. Material Assets	Energy Strategy - Path to Net Zero Energy - Action Plan	NI	2022	DfE	Outlines a roadmap to 2030 aiming to deliver a 56% reduction in our energy-related emissions, on the pathway to deliver the 2050 vision of net zero carbon and affordable energy.	The Actions set out are generally about improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings, but also about improving the energy efficiency of new buildings and to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy. It also aims to create a flexible, resilient and integrated energy system. The Action Plan may lead to a renewable energy support scheme and will also initiate a review in permitted development legislation for low carbon heat installations; the LDP must ensure that its policies can be applied to existing, new and emerging low carbon technologies, such as hydrogen and biomethane which are potential energy sources identified in the Action Plan. It should align with regional and national policy, such as for proposals requiring consent from more than one authority (e.g. onshore connections for offshore developments).
06. Material Assets	Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015 - 2030	Rol	2015	DfE	The White Paper is a complete energy policy update, which sets out a framework to guide policy between now and 2030. Its objective is to guide a transition to a low carbon energy system, which provides secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy. It does not set out detailed proposals, which can be found in specific work programmes that are either in place or under development. It places great value on the relationship with Northern Ireland and will continue close cooperation on a range of energy matters including the regulation of the all-island single electricity market (SEM) (in which Northern Ireland and Ireland are equal partners) the development of the Integrated-Single Electricity Market (I-SEM), energy transmission and the proposed North-South transmission line.	This paper will influence the overall energy production requirement in Ireland. The establishment of an all-island single electricity market may necessitate cross-border distribution network infrastructure. This paper may also have an influence on the sustainability topic of climate change.
06. Material		Rol	2014	DCCAE	Ireland's third National Energy Efficiency Action Plan to 2020. The Department has reviewed, updated and replaced certain actions from the first Plan as appropriate to ensure it remains on track to meet national and EU targets. The plan sets a clear vision for each of the six areas covered by the Action Plan: Public Sector, Residential, Business, Transport, Energy Supply, and Cross Sectoral.	The Single Electricity Market for the island of Ireland means that delivery of renewable energy in Ireland will benefit Northern Ireland and vice versa.
06. Material 06. Assets Material	Strategy for Renewable	Rol	2012	DECLG	 This policy document sets out the measure through which Ireland will make the further progress necessary to become a recycling society, with a clear focus on resource efficiency and the virtual elimination of landfilling of municipal waste. The strategy outlines how it is planned that sustainable power, when developed, is maximised as it is returned to the State. Five strategic goals are set out in the document, these include increasing on and offshore wind, building a sustainable bioenergy sector, fostering R&D in renewables, growing sustainable transport and building out robust and efficient networks. 	There may be cross-border relationships for waste management, for example recycling facilities. There is little information on whether renewable energy generation and networks will focus on use within NI or whether cross-border outcomes will also be sought.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
06. Material Assets	[Draft] Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDP) for Ireland	Rol	2010	DCCAE	The OREDP identifies the opportunity for the sustainable development of Ireland's offshore renewable energy resources and sets out key principles, policy actions and enablers for delivery of Ireland's significant potential in this area. Three high level goals have been identified for the OREDP: • Ireland harnesses the market opportunities presented by offshore renewable energy to achieve economic development, growth and jobs; • Increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing offshore renewable energy; • Offshore renewable energy developments do not adversely impact our rich marine environment and its living and non-living resources.	This plan will not affect or be affected by the LDP directly. However, developments arising under the LDP could have an impact on the capacity available in Ireland. Developments in Ireland could also affect NI resources, particularly marine or coastal environments.
06. Material Assets	arc21 Waste Management Plan	Regional	2014	arc21	This Waste Management Plan has been prepared by the arc21 Region in fulfilment of its Councils' obligations under Article 23 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. Under Article 23, District Councils have a duty to prepare Waste Management Plans for the forward planning of waste management requirements for collecting, recovering, treating and disposing of controlled waste within the Region. The Plan provides a framework for waste management provision and a regional network of facilities for all controlled wastes within the arc21 Region. It establishes the overall need for waste management capacity and details the proposed arrangements to deal with the wastes produced in a sustainable manner.	There is a need to accommodate investment in waste management.
07. Physical Resources	UK Geodiversity Action Plan	UK	2011	Natural England	The UKGAP sets out a framework for geodiversity action across the UK. It encompasses six themes: (1) Furthering our understanding of geodiversity, (2) Influencing planning policy, legislation and development design, (3) Gathering and maintaining information on our geodiversity, (4) Conserving and managing our geodiversity, (5) Inspiring people to value and care for our geodiversity, (6) Sustaining resources for our geodiversity.	Geodiversity can play a role in planning for and mitigating the effects of climate change, coastal erosion and flooding. It can also help support Ecosystem Services such as soil formation, flood management, pollution control, mineral resources and the enjoyment of our environment. The LDP should recognise that geodiversity is cross-cutting across several themes including transport, housing, mineral extraction and waste. It should also recognise the sustainable socio-economic benefits that geodiversity brings for people and the cultural services it provides across a range of sectors and social agenda (for example, contributing to sense of place and a healthy lifestyle). Geodiversity information can help to support the delivery of wider environmental and landscape initiatives (including landscape characterisation and delivery of the European Landscape Convention).
07. Physical Resources	Delivering our Future, Valuing our Soils: A Sustainable Agricultural Land Management Strategy for Northern Ireland	NI	2016	independent Expert Working Group on Sustainable	Improving the health of Northern Ireland's agricultural soils is the central focus of this strategy. Healthier soils will deliver better yields of crops and grass which are higher in quality. This will provide the raw material necessary for the increased productivity and profitability envisaged by 'Going for Growth' and will also deliver environmental improvement simultaneously.	This strategy document is mainly targeted at agricultural practitioners adopting more sustainable land use practices. It contains some information on best practice for sustainable land management which may be translatable to the use of public lands, e.g. blue/green infrastructure and enhancement of biodiversity.

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				Land Management		
08. Transport &	Planning for the Future of Transport – Time for Change	NI	2021	Dfl	Concerns refocusing and reprioritising the aims of the Department for Infrastructure to meet the needs of new and emerging challenges facing our communities. Reprioritisation of our aims and actions is necessary to meet the needs of new and emerging challenges. Climate change is a key and obvious driver for change.	Plan aims to reduce the need to travel and then to change behaviour away from polluting and carbon intensive modes to cleaner and more healthy ways of getting around – the best is walking, wheeling and cycling. LDPs can align with and assist in delivering these objectives.
08. Transport & Accessibility	Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways	NI	2016	Dfl	Sets out the plans for a network of greenways, connecting towns and cities to the villages and countryside from east to west and north to south across all eleven Councils. Objectives include: improving health and wellbeing, increasing access to greenways, improving safety, improving social inclusion, economic development.	Greenways can produce both environmental and social benefits, because they are easily accessible and can bring nature and people together. The development of traffic free infrastructure, particularly greenways, can also have a positive impact on social inclusion and encouraging new and harder to reach groups to take up cycling and walking. The LDP can help to support these objectives. This strategic plan is also highly relevant to the sustainability themes of health and wellbeing, natural resources and landscape.
08. Transport & Accessibility	Translink Strategy 'Get on Board' 2016-2021	NI	2016	Translink	Translink's plan to transform public transport and support the growth and prosperity of Northern Ireland. 'Get on Board' has been developed in the context of the Regional Development Strategy 2035 and The New Approach to Regional Transportation. It aims to deliver a transformation in public transport, providing integrated services which connect people, enhance the economy and improve the environment, enabling a thriving Northern Ireland" Incorporates a number of key goals including: • Making services inclusive and accessible to all; • Working with all stakeholders to support social inclusion in local communities; • Support modal shift toward sustainable transport; and • Forging partnerships to deliver cost effective and integrated travel solutions to rural communities.	The LDP will support this strategy and will consider measures to make public transport services and sustainable transport more accessible and more integrated with other transport modes.
08. Transport & Accessibility	Network Utilisation Strategy, Translink NI Railways, (Published October 2015)	NI	2015	Translink	The Network Utilisation Strategy (NUS) seeks to find a balance between supply and demand. It sets out a long Term vision for rail in Northern Ireland for the next 30 years. It provides the evidence base to support targeted investment in infrastructure, rolling stock and services such that the network is fit for the purpose of supporting the growth of the Northern Ireland economy.	Indicates potential future investment in railway infrastructure.
08. Transport & Accessibility	Northern Ireland Changing Gear: A Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland	NI	2015	Dfl	The Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland is the first step in achieving the Minister's vision for cycling. It aims to set out progressively how we can transform Northern Ireland into a place where travelling by bicycle is a healthy, every day activity. It will be supported by a Bicycle Strategy Delivery Plan which will outline specific time bound actions to realise this vision. It takes a 3 pillar approach: • 'Build' [a comprehensive network for the bicycle], •	This strategy is closely linked with 'Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways'. The LDP can help to support the objectives of the strategy by supporting the establishment of new or improved cycle routes and cycling infrastructure.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					'Support' [People who choose to travel by bicycle] and • 'Promote' [The bicycle as a mode of transport for everyday journeys].	
08. Transport & Accessibility	Railway Investment Prioritisation Strategy May 2014	NI	2015	Dfl	The Strategy sets out the strategic direction for future railway investment over the next 20 years and the high level initiatives that need to be delivered to support the Strategy. Objectives include: maintain and improve passenger capacity, remove bottlenecks and assist development along TEN-T (Trans European) core network corridor; enhance or extend TEN-T comprehensive network. The Strategy will also look at new halts and opportunities to develop out-of-town rail-based park and ride at new halts.	The LDP can support aspects of the Strategy, such as the aim to build additional park and ride facilities and station upgrades/ refurbishment which include enhancing accessibility and safety features.
08. Transport & Accessibility	Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future - A New Approach to Regional Transportation.	NI	2011	Dfl	How the Department will develop regional transportation beyond 2015, when the current transport plans reach their conclusion. The new approach to regional transportation complements the Regional Development Strategy and aims to achieve the transportation vision: "to have a modern, sustainable, safe transportation system which benefits society, the economy and the environment and which actively contributes to social inclusion and everyone's quality of life." The new approach starts with the assumption that the decision to travel has been made. It seeks to provide the infrastructure and services that will ensure that travel and transport are as sustainable as possible.	The SPPS includes seven Subject Policies specific to transport and others that address the 'High Level Transport Aims' and 'Strategic Objectives of Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future', so in meeting the requirements of the SPPS the requirements of this strategy will also be met. Planning to enable people to live and work near the services and facilities they require and policies that allow more people to work from home will support this strategy and the LDP will also need to consider any requirement for new or improved transport infrastructure. The LDP will support this Plan. The need for new or improved infrastructure will need to be assessed against environmental policies, though following good design and sustainable development should achieve the best possible solutions to the need.
08. Transport & Accessibility	Sub-Regional Transport Plan (SRTP)	NI	2007	Dfl	While this implementation plan has expired, some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. The Sub-Regional Transport Plan deals with the transport needs of the whole of Northern Ireland with the exception of the Belfast Metropolitan Area and the rail and trunk road networks which are covered in earlier transport plans. The purpose of the SRTP is to study the needs of the designated areas in detail and to confirm a package of transport schemes, consistent with the general principles and indicative levels of spend in the RTS. This package of schemes and initiatives must aim to service the future transport demands taking account of financial allocation, planned developments and any changes in Government policy.	Although expired, the STRP may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.
08	Planning Policy Statement 13 Transportation and Land Use	NI	2005	Dfl	Assists in bringing forward the integration of transportation and land use as per the RDS.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
08. Transpor	Planning Policy Statement 3 – Access, Movement and Parking (2005) & PPS3 clarification (DOE 2006)	NI	2005	Dfl	Policies for vehicular and pedestrian access, transport assessments, the protection of transport routes and parking. Provides for a sustainable transport system which promotes road safety.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.

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08. Transport & Accessibility	Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan 2015	NI	2004	Dfl	While this implementation plan has expired, some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. The RSTN of Northern Ireland comprises the complete rail network, five Key Transport Corridors (KTCs), four Link Corridors, the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Corridors and the remainder of the trunk road network. The Plan consists of proposals for the maintenance, management and development of this transport network up to the end of 2015.	Although expired, the RTSN may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.
08. Transpor	Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) for Northern Ireland 2002-2012	NI	2002	Dfl	The Regional Transport Strategy for Northern Ireland 2002-2012 identifies strategic transportation investment priorities and considers potential funding sources and affordability of planned initiatives over the strategy period.	Although expired, and replaced by 'Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future', the RTS may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.
08. Transport & Accessibility	Sub Regional Transport Study - Local Transport Studies for Mid Ulster, Fermanagh and Omagh, Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon, Causeway Coast and Glens, Newry Mourne and Down.	Council	2021	Dfl	Sets out an objective evidence-based assessment in relation to current and future transport issues, in the context of Council growth ambitions and future illustrative transport measures required to facilitate growth ambitions during the LDP period to 2030 in each Council area. Presents the range of illustrative measures for active travel, public transport and roads for the period up to 2030, in addition to the linkages with the Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan (RSTNTP), which will look at how best to develop the key transport corridors and other main routes.	The LTS has been developed to inform the LDP. Illustrative measures are described in terms of strategic locations. Detail and specific schemes will be added at LDP LPP stage, when land use zonings are identified.
09. Air Quality	Defra, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and DOE (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	UK	2007	Four Nations (DAERA)	This updated strategy sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues; sets out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved; introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles and identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives. It includes the requirement, under the local air quality management, for every local authority to regularly review and assess air quality in their area which is a statutory requirement under the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002. If national objectives are not met, or at risk of not being met, the local authority concerned must declare an air quality management area and prepare an air quality action plan. This identifies measures that will be introduced in pursuit of the objectives and can have implications for planning.	Local Development Plans can affect air quality in a number of ways, including through what development is proposed and where, and the encouragement given to sustainable transport. Therefore in plan making, it is important to take into account air quality management areas and other areas where there could be specific requirements or limitations on new development because of air quality. Drawing on the review of air quality carried out for the local air quality management regime, the LDP needs to consider the potential cumulative impact of a number of smaller developments on air quality as well as the effect of more substantial developments; the impact of point sources of air pollution (pollution that originates from one place); and ways in which new development would be appropriate in locations where air quality is or likely to be a concern and not give rise to unacceptable risks from pollution.
09. Air Quality	[Draft] Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland - A Public Discussion Document	NI	2020	DAERA	This Discussion Document forms part of a two-stage approach to developing the first Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland has not had its own dedicated Clean Air Strategy before now. There is, however, increasing recognition that exis	The document sets out the challenges faced in NI via emissions from transport, household emissions, agriculture and industry. It aims to deliver on the PfG's Outcome 2: 'We live and work sustainably, protecting the environment'. New policies and programmes should align with the need to protect air quality, and improve it in areas where it is not at an acceptable level.

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10. Climate Change	Title Paris Agreement Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	Scale Inter- national	Year 2015	Lead Org United Nations	Objectives/RequirementsThe Paris agreement entered into force in November 2016. It set out to improve upon and replace the Kyoto Protocol, an earlier international treaty designed to curb the release of greenhouse gases. It provides an international framework to hold the increase in global temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre- industrial levels and to keep the more stringent target of below 1.5 degrees in sight. The agreement provides a broad framework for countries to work together, share information and build experience to increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience. It aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change. To reach these ambitious goals, appropriate financial flows, a new technology framework and an enhanced capacity building framework will be put in place, thus supporting action by developing countries and the most vulnerable countries, in line with their own national objectives. The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through "nationally determined contributions" (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. This includes requirements that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts.	Implications for LDP The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
10. Climate Change	The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	Inter- national	1994	United Nations	The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994 and has near- universal membership. The UNFCCC is a "Rio Convention", one of three adopted at the "Rio Earth Summit" in 1992. Its sister Rio Conventions are the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification. It now also incorporates the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Preventing "dangerous" human interference with the climate system is the ultimate aim of the UNFCCC.	The application of sustainable development principles, along with measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, will support the UNFCCC.
10. Climate Change	Industrial Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency Roadmaps	UK	2015	BEIS	Reports that set out potential pathways for the eight most heat- intensive industrial sectors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency. The cross-sectoral report suggests clustering as a long term strategy to deliver energy savings and more efficient use of waste and by-products.	Zoning and enabling infrastructure investments (in roads, ports, pipelines, etc.) would strengthen existing clusters and enable new ones to develop.
10. Climate Change	UK Climate Risk: Evidence for the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) Summary for Northern Ireland	NI	2021	CCC	The CCRA is a statutory requirement of the UK Climate Change Act 2008 and is published every 5 years. The objective of the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) summary for NI is to inform adaptation policy by assessing the current and future risks and opportunities posed by the impacts of climate for NI to the year 2100, based on the latest understanding of the impacts. The Independent Assessment used to help inform the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) assesses 61 risks and opportunities from climate change to Northern Ireland, including	The Strategic Planning Policy Statement states that planning systems should help adapt to climate change through avoiding development in sites vulnerable to climate impacts The LDP should take account of the up to date summaries of relevant risks identified as "more action required" in this CCRA and consideration is given to the long term sustainability of development. For new infrastructure, there are opportunities for mainstreaming climate change adaptation into planning and design, to avoid retrofitting later. The CCRA states that effective spatial planning remains the

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					to business, infrastructure, housing, the natural environment, our health and from the impacts of climate change internationally. Risks categorised as "More action needed" and "Further investigation" are more urgent than "Watching brief" and "Sustain current action". Of these 61 risks and opportunities, more action is needed now to address 31 of them, further investigation is needed for 19, sustaining current adaptation action is only deemed appropriate for five of the risks or opportunities and six have been classified as watching brief. Of the 61, six issues are deemed to be both a risk and opportunity, four of which are associated with the natural environment and each of these require more action or further investigation. There are also eight opportunities that could arise from climate change in Northern Ireland, with four of these also related to the natural environment.	only measure that can avoid flood risk caused by development. This is also relevant to coastal flooding and erosion.
10. Climate Change	Forests for our Future' programme	NI	2020	DAERA	The 'Forests for our Future' programme pledges to plant 18 million trees (9,000 hectares of new woodland) over 10 years - 10 trees per person in Northern Ireland. The aims are to: • improve the resilience of our forests and woodlands; • Increase their contribution to a sustainable, healthy environment; • Increase their contribution to NI's sustainable economic growth; • Enable more people to improve their health, wellbeing and life chances; and • Contribute to the UK Net Zero by 2050 target.	Existing publicly owned land, including local government land, has the greatest potential for woodland creation in the short term. The LDP can support the objectives of this programme. Also relevant to the sustainability themes of natural resources and economy and employment.
10. Climate Change	Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (2019–2024)	NI	2019	DAERA	NICCAP2 contains the response to the risks and opportunities relevant to Northern Ireland, as identified in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 and as required by the UK Climate Change Act 2008. NICCAP2 is a continuation of the process of adapting to a changing climate in NI that was commenced by the first NICCAP 2014-19. It incorporates lessons learnt and findings of an end-of-programme evaluation of NICCAP1. The Key Priority Areas are Natural Capital (including Terrestrial Coastal/Marine/Freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity), Infrastructure Services, People and Built Environment, Disruption to Business and Supply Chains, and Flood Security / Global Food Production. A series of seven outcome objectives and visions have been established covering these areas.	NICCAP 2 includes a commitment by local government stakeholders to delivering its outcome objectives by developing local council strategies and activities which will increase the resilience in the built and natural environment, and local communities. Chapter 14 of NICCAP 2 provides a summary of the contributions planned by civil society and local government. This includes the action that in bringing forward their Local Development Plans, Councils will take account of climate change adaptation considerations as indicated in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement. The programme also includes a series of steps which a local council could follow to increase their resilience to the impacts of climate area, including the consideration of vulnerability to past weather events and projected climate change. The LDP can take account of these recommendations.
10. Climate Change	Reducing Emissions in Northern Ireland	NI	2019	ССС	In this report, the Committee sets out how Northern Ireland can reduce its greenhouse gas emissions between now and 2030 in order to meet UK-wide climate change targets. Overall, Northern Ireland's fair contribution to the UK's fifth carbon budget requires emissions reductions of at least 35% against 1990 levels by 2030.	Delivering emissions can be achieved in a cost-effective way if effective policy is implemented. This will require action across the power, buildings and industry, transport, agriculture and land use, and waste sectors. Suggested policy measures to reduce GHG emissions include promotion of and support for low-cost intermittent renewables and low-carbon heating, tree planting,

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
						energy efficiency improvements in homes and transport behavioural change.
10. Climate Change	Discussion Paper – Proposals for Taking Forward NI Climate Change Legislation - DOE on 1 December 2015	NI	2015	DAERA	The aim of a NI Climate Change Bill, which is still in development, is to establish a long-term framework for future action on climate change to drive greater efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and so help ensure that Northern Ireland is better prepared to adapt to the impacts of unavoidable climate change. Proposals include: setting a long term target of 80% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050 (compared to 1990 baseline levels); setting interim targets that are consistent with achieving the 2050 targets; placing a duty to set limits in 5-year carbon budgets on the total amounts of GHG emissions that can be emitted in NI.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
10. Climate Change	Efficient Farming Cuts Greenhouse Gases Implementation Plan 2016- 2020	NI	2013	DAERA	The plan is focused on encouraging the implementation of a series of on-farm efficiency measures which can improve farm performance and reduce the carbon intensity of local food production. The plan signposts the support available to facilitate this.	Aspects of this implementation plan relevant to planning include the promotion of renewable energy, and certain aspects of farming practice including development for nutrient management (including anaerobic digestion) and energy efficiency.
10. Climate Change	Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action Plan (revised 2016/17 Mitigation Plan)	NI	2012	DAERA	This document sets out a Cross-Departmental Action Plan to tackle the established strategies together, including how Northern Ireland is and will continue to reduce its carbon footprint. Specifically how the Programme for Government target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by 2025 will be delivered. Status is not clear as not available on any departmental website. Plan has been updated with a Mitigation Action Plan in 2016/17.	Encouraging sustainable development, good standards of design, renewable energy and overall sustainability will contribute to this action plan. Although an increase in economic development could inhibit a reduction in greenhouse gases, the application of sustainability principles in development will lead to more efficient infrastructure. There is potential scope for the protection of (or increase of) carbon sinks in soil and trees.
10. Climate	draft Climate Action Plan and publish the third NI Climate Change Adaptation Programme.	NI	TBC	DAERA	ТВС	ТВС
Clima	Third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP3)	NI	ТВС	DAERA	TBC	TBC
10. Climate Change	National Adaptation Framework: Planning for a Climate Resilient Ireland	Rol	2018	DCCAE	Ireland's first statutory National Adaptation Framework set out a pathway to achieving a more resilient economy and society which is capable of dealing with the enormous challenges climate change is likely to present. The Climate Action Plan sets out actions across every sector of society which will ensure Ireland meets its 2030 climate commitments and is on the correct trajectory for net zero emissions by 2050.	There may be cross-border influences with the Framework's Sectoral Adaptation Plans, in particular for those associated with Agriculture, Forestry and Seafood, Biodiversity, Transport infrastructure, Electricity and Gas Networks, Communications Networks, Flood Risk Management and Water Quality and Water Services Infrastructure. These need to be taken into account to ensure that development in Northern Ireland does not conflict. Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in NI LDPs may help support this Framework.

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10. Climate Change	Local Authority Adaptation Strategy Development Guidelines Ireland	Rol	2016	EPA	The purpose of this guideline is to support local authorities in the development of a local climate change adaptation strategy. In its structure and content, the guideline draws heavily on the 2013 Guidelines on Developing Adaptation Strategies provided to European Union Member States by the European Commission (SWD(2013) 134 final), with the aim of fostering coherence between strategies developed at local and national scale.	This will result in due course to the development of Adaptation Strategies in local authorities in Ireland which will also need to be taken into account to ensure that development in Northern Ireland does not conflict. May inform any approach that the Council may wish to take form climate change adaptation.
10. Climate Change	Climate Action and Low- Carbon Development - National Policy Position Ireland	Rol	2014	Irish Parliament	The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050. Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.	Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI plans will also support this.
11. Water Resources	Northern Ireland Water PC 21 Business Plan	NI	2021	NI Water	NIW's Business Plan sets out the step change in investment required to address the most critical needs and enable Northern Ireland to thrive from its water and sewerage infrastructure. It identifies 'Economic Constrained Areas' and areas with 'Serious Development Restriction' where development constraints currently exist and identifies the settlements where it is expected that these issues will be addressed through infrastructure improvements during the PC21 period.	The LDP may need to accommodate the development of new or improved water and wastewater infrastructure. Capacity for new development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and wastewater treatment.
11. Water Resources	Our Draft Strategy 2021- 2046	NI	2021	NI Water	Provides a longer term view across the next quarter of a century (2021-2046) and updates NI Water's existing long term strategy (2015-2040). Strategic risks posing threats to resilience in maintaining services include climate change, rising customer expectations, changes to legislation and customer demographics.	The LDP can support the Strategy in helping to reduce pollutants entering our waterways and the millions spent on removing them through water treatment; to work with nature rather than against it to support sustainable economic growth; to be ready for more extreme weather conditions and to better design our homes to use less high quality drinking water.
11. Water Resources	Second Cycle Northern Ireland Flood Risk Management Plan 2021- 2027	NI	2021	Dfl	The Plan focuses on the 12 Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk (APSFR), and highlights the flood hazards and risks in these areas, with specific measures tailored to manage flood risk in particular locations. The Plan also sets out a series of Regional Measures, which apply across all of Northern Ireland, supporting the sustainable management of flood risk for both APSFR and the wider River Basin Districts.	One of the aims of the FRMP is to inform the development planning process to ensure, as far as possible and new zonings within Local Development Plans are located outside flood risk areas. Northern Ireland's planning policies, informed by PPS15 and the SPPS adopt a precautionary approach to development that aims to prevent future development that may be at risk of flooding or which may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. It also aims to ensure that any development which is located "by exception" in flood risk areas is appropriately built with flood resistance/resilience measures. In accordance with the Long Term Water Strategy, the FRMP promotes the use of SuDS, as the preferred means of surface water management, for all new developments, where feasible. Council should consider these aims when preparing their LDP.
Wate	[Draft] 3rd cycle River Basin Management Plan: For the North Western, Neagh Bann	NI	2021	DAERA	When adopted, the RBMP will replace the 3 separate plans from the 2nd cycle. The draft plan provides an update on the health of Northern Ireland's water environment (the status of water bodies),	Northern Ireland's water resources are managed and protected using a catchment-based approach which includes rivers, lakes and groundwater as well as coastal and transitional water bodies. Land

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
	and North Eastern River Basin Districts (2021 – 2027) - Consultation				but also sets out our targets (objectives) and actions (programme of measures) on how we want to improve our water environment in the next six years.	use influences water bodies and their status. The LDP will need to take account of the RBMP and not act contrary to achieving its objectives, where relevant.
11. Water Resources	Sustainable Water - A Long- Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015- 2040)	NI	2016	Dfl	The Strategy presents a framework for action which will facilitate implementation of a range of initiatives aimed at delivering the long term vision to have a sustainable water sector in Northern Ireland. The following high level aims have been developed by government to cover the key water needs within a catchment and they form the chapters of the Long-Term Water Strategy: (1) Provide high quality sustainable supplies of drinking water to households, industry and agriculture; (2) Manage flood risk and drainage in a sustainable manner; (3) Achieve the environmental requirements of the Water Framework Directive in a sustainable manner; (4) Provide sustainable reliable water and sewerage services that meet customers' needs. A strategy implementation action plan will now be prepared containing actions aimed at delivering the high level proposed measures in the Strategy.	The strategy will inform the provision of infrastructure for water supply and treatment and future approaches to flood risk management and environmental protection. These elements will all inform the spatial capacity for development. The LDP will need to consider potential future requirements for development of infrastructure, for example by accommodating investment in power, water and sewerage infrastructure in the interests of public health and to support measures relating to flood risk management and environmental protection.
11. Water Resources	Reservoirs Act (Northern Ireland) 2015	NI	2015	NI Executive	The Reservoirs Act aims to ensure that reservoirs are managed and operated to minimise any risk of flooding due to an uncontrolled release of water resulting from dam failure and therefore protecting people, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. The legislation will apply to reservoirs that are capable of holding 10,000 cubic metres or more of water above the natural level of the surrounding land. These reservoirs will be known as 'controlled reservoirs'.	Reservoirs falling under this Act may require to be identified in the LDP.
Mate	Planning Policy Statement 15 (Revised) – Planning and Flood Risk	NI	2014	Dfl	Planning policies to minimise and manage flood risk to people, property and the environment.	Incorporation of the policies in this Statement will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
11. Water Resources	NI Water: Water Resources Management Plan 2012	NI	2012	NI Water	The Water Resources Management Plan explains how NIW intends to meet the drinking water needs of the population of Northern Ireland over the period 2010 to 2035. The WRMP takes into account expected demands from forecast changes in population, housing and water usage and incorporates any predicted changes to our climate. The WRMP will be complemented by the company's Drought Plan (not published) that will set out the short-term operational steps that the company will take if a drought develops which increases the risk to security of supplies and whether capital investment is needed to mitigate such events. It provides a strategic plan for managing water resources by setting the framework at the Water Resource Zone level within which investment decisions should be taken. Investment at smaller spatial scales will still need to be justified through other more local studies, such as trunk main studies, detailed zonal studies and	The LDP may need to accommodate the development of new or improved water and wastewater infrastructure. Capacity for new development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					targeted leakage initiatives. Preparation of a Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan is currently under way.	
11. Water Resources	Flood Maps (NI)	NI	2011	Dfl	Flood Maps highlights the areas throughout Northern Ireland that are prone to flooding and its potential adverse impacts. The map is designed to: help Rivers Agency and others to plan and manage our work to reduce flood risk; encourage people living and working in areas prone to flooding to find out more and take appropriate action; inform anyone applying for planning permission if flooding is likely to be an important consideration.	Provides information on vulnerability to flooding throughout Northern Ireland which informs constraints on development,
11. Water Resources	Northern Ireland Message on Water	NI	2011	Dfl, DAERA	In 2011 the UKCIP (formerly UK Climate Impacts Programme) decided to create a number of messages which could be used to engage with policy makers across the UK. NI Water, NIEA and Rivers Agency worked together to help prepare a headline message for Northern Ireland focused on Water and climate impacts. This describes the potential impacts of climate change on flood risk and stormwater capacity and identifies the need for investment to provide capacity to store and transfer surface water. This includes measures to deal with surface water runoff such as sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). It also considers potential effects on water quality and supply which may require the construction of more impounding reservoirs and raw water transfer pipelines.	Highlights potential long term problems and relating to water supply and flow, including flooding investment needs to mitigate these.
11. Water Resources	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for NI	NI	2011	Dfl	A key objective of the PFRA was to identify areas of potentially significant flood risk for which detailed flood maps would be produced. On the basis of the PFRA, it was determined that detailed flood maps should be produced for 20 Significant Flood Risk Areas and 49 Areas for Further Study and this work was completed as required by the EU Directive in December 2013.	Identifies areas of potentially significant flood risk which informs constraints on development.
11. Water Resources	Flood Risk Management Plans	Rol	2018	OPW	The 29 Flood Risk Management Plans set out the proposed measures, both structural and non-structural, to manage the flood risk in each of the 300 AFAs (Areas for Further Assessment). Responsibility for implementing the full suite of measures, both structural and non-structural, contained in the 29 Flood Risk Management Plans rests with a range of State Bodies.Delivery of new relief measures proposed in the Plans will build on the significant investment in flood relief capital works that has already taken place since 1995 and will take place concurrently with delivery of flood relief schemes currently in design and construction.Non-structural measures can potentially benefit all properties at risk.	Provides information on the vulnerability of identified settlments to flooding. There are a number of river catchments where transboundary impacts may need to be considered.
Wate	Guidelines for Planning Authorities 20: The Planning	Rol	2009	OPW	These guidelines require the planning system at national, regional and local levels to: (1) Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, particularly floodplains, unless there are proven wider	There are a small number of river catchments where transboundary impacts may need to be considered.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
	System and Flood Risk Management				sustainability grounds that justify appropriate development and where the flood risk can be reduced or managed to an acceptable level without increasing flood risk elsewhere; (2) Adopt a sequential approach to flood risk management when assessing the location for new development based on avoidance, reduction and mitigation of flood risk; and (3) Incorporate flood risk assessment into the process of making decisions on planning applications and planning appeals.	
Mater	Water Action Plan 2024 A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland	Rol	2022	DHLGH	The Water Action Plan sets out a roadmap to restore Ireland's waterbodies to 'good' status or better, and protect against further deterioration in the period from 2023 to 2027, through an integrated catchment management approach.	In transboundary catchments, there is a need to implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.
11. Water Resources	Neagh Bann River Basin Management Plan 2015 - 2021	Regional	2015	DAERA	River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD), taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile. This plan aims to: Provide at least good status for all water bodies; Prevent deterioration in status; Promote sustainable development; Achieve specific standards for protected areas. The Neagh Bann river basin district (NB RBD) covers an area of around 5,740 km ² . It includes all of County Armagh, large parts of Counties Antrim, Londonderry, Down and Tyrone and a small area of County Fermanagh. The principal river system is the Bann, with its tributaries the Moyola, Ballinderry, Blackwater, Six Mile Water and Main. The Newry river system drains into Carlingford Lough. Lough Neagh, located in the centre of the district is the main lake, with other smaller ones include Lough Fea, Portmore, Ross and Beg. This district has a limited coastline to the north where the River Bann enters the Atlantic and to the south where the Newry system enters Carlingford Lough.	The objectives will be taken into account in LDP preparation so that development does not adversely affect its delivery. The siting and extent of development and measures to prevent pollution can help support delivery of the River Basin Management Plan objectives. Good water quality and aquatic habitats contribute to health and well-being and the economy.
11. Water Resources	North Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2015 - 2021	Regional	2015	DAERA	River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD), taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile. This plan aims to: Provide at least good status for all water bodies; Prevent deterioration in status; Promote sustainable development; Achieve specific standards for protected areas. The north eastern river basin district (NE RBD) covers an area of around 4,000 km ² , including 1,000km ² of marine waters. It takes in large parts of Counties Antrim and Down and a smaller portion of Londonderry. The principal river systems are the	The objectives of this plan will be taken into account in plan preparation so that development does not adversely affect its delivery. The siting and extent of development and measures to prevent pollution can help support delivery of the River Basin Management Plan objectives. Good water quality and aquatic habitats contribute to health and well-being and the economy.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					Lagan, Bush and Quoile as well as the smaller systems draining from the glens of Antrim, and the County Down Coastline. The NE RBD has an extensive coastline including Larne, Belfast and Strangford Loughs, with Lough Mourne, Clea Lakes and Silent Valley the main lakes.	
11. Water Resources	Pollution Reduction Programme - Carlingford Lough	Regional	2015	DAERA	Pollution Reduction Programmes were established under the Shellfish Waters in order to reduce pollution in designated shellfish waters. As the Shellfish Waters Directive has been repealed and subsumed into the Water Framework Directive, the Programme will be reviewed in 2018, in line with the midterm of the second River Basin Cycle under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). All Shellfish Water Protected Areas must be managed to ensure that they meet their objectives under the WFD and meet at least Class B status under the EU Hygiene Regulations, whilst making progress towards the WFD guideline standard.	The LDP should consider any designated shellfish waters and actions required for the pollution reduction programme.
11. Water Resources	Pollution Reduction Programme - Inner Dundrum Bay	Regional	2015	DAERA	Pollution Reduction Programmes were established under the Shellfish Waters in order to reduce pollution in designated shellfish waters. As the Shellfish Waters Directive has been repealed and subsumed into the Water Framework Directive, the Programme will be reviewed in 2018, in line with the midterm of the second River Basin Cycle under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). All Shellfish Water Protected Areas must be managed to ensure that they meet their objectives under the WFD and meet at least Class B status under the EU Hygiene Regulations, whilst making progress towards the WFD guideline standard.	The LDP should consider any designated shellfish waters and actions required for the pollution reduction programme.
11. Water Resources	Pollution Reduction Programme - Killough Harbour	Regional	2015	DAERA	Pollution Reduction Programmes were established under the Shellfish Waters in order to reduce pollution in designated shellfish waters. As the Shellfish Waters Directive has been repealed and subsumed into the Water Framework Directive, the Programme will be reviewed in 2018, in line with the midterm of the second River Basin Cycle under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). All Shellfish Water Protected Areas must be managed to ensure that they meet their objectives under the WFD and meet at least Class B status under the EU Hygiene Regulations, whilst making progress towards the WFD guideline standard.	The LDP should consider any designated shellfish waters and actions required for the pollution reduction programme.
11. Water Resources	Pollution Reduction Programme - Strangford Lough	Regional	2015	DAERA	Pollution Reduction Programmes were established under the Shellfish Waters in order to reduce pollution in designated shellfish waters. As the Shellfish Waters Directive has been repealed and subsumed into the Water Framework Directive, the Programme will be reviewed in 2018, in line with the midterm of the second River Basin Cycle under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). All Shellfish Water Protected Areas must be managed to ensure that they meet their objectives under the WFD and meet at least Class	The LDP should consider any designated shellfish waters and actions required for the pollution reduction programme.

Draft Plan Strategy

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					B status under the EU Hygiene Regulations, whilst making progress towards the WFD guideline standard.	
Wate	Eel management plan: North Eastern River Basin District	Regional	2010	DAERA	Measures to be carried out for the recovery of the stock of European eel including mitigation of hydropower and other barriers to passage.	May inform policies relating to hydropower and in-river works. Also relevant to the theme of sustainable use of natural resources.
12. Natural Resources	The Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2024	Inter- national	2016	Ramsar Convention	The Fourth Ramsar Strategic plan lays out a new vision under the Convention mission, with four overall goals and 19 specific targets which are designed to support the efforts of Parties, partners and other stakeholders in preventing, stopping and reversing the global decline of wetlands. The strategic goals are • Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss And Degradation; • Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network; • Wisely Using All Wetlands; and • Enhancing Implementation.	These objectives are reflected in NI strategies and plans.
12. Natural Resources	UN Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio 1992)	Inter- national	1992	United Nations	Led to Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD's) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its five strategic goals and 20 'Aichi Targets', published in October 2010; and the EU Biodiversity Strategy (EUBS), released in May 2011. Implemented in the UK via the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (revised 2018). 20 'Aichi Targets', the strategic goals of which are: Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building	The LDP can help to support the delivery of the strategic goals.
12. Natural Resources	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Commission Convention For The Conservation Of Salmon In The North Atlantic Ocean	Inter- national	1982	NASCO	Aims to promote the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean through international co-operation.	The LDP will take account of this. DAERA is the lead authority in NI to take this forward and reports annually to the commission as to status of populations and actions taken to maintain and enhance them. Increased fisheries resource will result in increased angling opportunities in the Council area with the economic and social benefits this will bring.
12. Natural Resources	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Commission Precautionary Approach Agreement	Inter- national	1982	NASCO	NASCO and its Contracting Parties agree to adopt and apply a Precautionary Approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of salmon in order to protect the resource and preserve the environments in which it lives. Accordingly, NASCO and its Contracting Parties should be more cautious when information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate. The absence of adequate scientific information should not be used as a reason for	The LDP will take account of this. Increased fisheries resource will result in increased angling opportunities in the Council area with the economic and social benefits this will bring.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures.	
12. Natural Resources	The Ramsar Convention. The convention of Wetland of International Importance (1971 and amendments)	Inter- national	1971	Ramsar Convention	Seeks to protect and conserve wetlands, particularly those established as a habitat for waterfowl. The Convention uses a broad definition of wetlands which includes all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, estuaries, tidal flats, and all human-made sites such as artificial coastal lagoons.	The LDP must reflect the Ramsar designations, and the need to protect and conserve them. Many Ramsar designated sites are also SACs or SPAs.
12. Natural Resources	The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention)	Inter- national	1979	Council of Europe	The Bern Convention was the first international treaty to protect both species and habitats and to bring countries together to decide how to act on nature conservation. It covers most of the natural heritage of the European continent and extends to some States of Africa. It aims to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, as well as to promote European co-operation in this field. The treaty also takes account of the impact that other policies may have on natural heritage and recognises the intrinsic value of wild flora and fauna, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations.	The LDP can help to support the delivery of the Convention's mission which includes ensuring that wild flora, fauna and habitats are maintained at, or restored to, a favourable conservation status.
12. Natural Resources	Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter 2021- 2024	NI	2021	DfE	Guidance document that sets out a clear ambition to recognise geodiversity as a vital and integral part of the economy, environment heritage and future sustainable development. Updates the first Charter published 2017. This is necessary to safeguard and manage geodiversity for both current and future generations.	May inform decision making and support policy at strategic level for the conservation management of geodiversity in terms of physical resources. It may also influence the themes of landscape, natural resources and water resources. The LDP can support the Charter's vision that "geodiversity is recognised as a vital part of our sustainable development, with benefits for the economy, for society and for the environment, and it should be managed appropriately and safeguarded for the benefit of current and future generations of Northern Ireland citizens" and its action that geodiversity should be integrated into policy.
12. Natural Resources	Valuing Nature - A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020	NI	2015	DAERA	A strategy for Northern Ireland to meet its international obligations and local targets to protect biodiversity and ensure that the environment can continue to support our people and economy. Contains 57 actions to impact positively on the loss of biodiversity up to 2020.	Actions include: Restoring ancient woodland and encouraging peatland and wetland habitat restoration with emphasis on an ecosystems approach. LDP proposals and policies should support delivery of actions, where appropriate.
12. Natural Resources	Strategy for Marine Protected Areas in the Northern Ireland Inshore Region	NI	2014	DAERA	Aims to help protect and improve ecosystems in the Northern Ireland inshore region (i.e. within 12 nautical miles) and fulfil international and national legal obligations through a network of Marine Protected Areas (SACs, SPAs, ASSIs, Ramsar sites and Marine Conservation Zones). The Department will develop, in consultation with stakeholders, recommendations for management actions and measures necessary to deliver the conservation objectives for MCZ features.	When carrying out their functions and when permitting others to carry out regulated activities in relation to MCZs, public authorities have a duty to ensure that such activities are undertaken in a way that furthers the conservation objectives of a site, or, where this is not possible, least hinders the achievement of these objectives. This will be taken into account in preparing LDP proposals.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
12. Natural Resources	An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Northern Ireland	NI	2013	DAERA	The aim of the Strategy is to minimise the risk posed, and reduce the negative impacts caused, by invasive alien species in Northern Ireland, increasing awareness and understanding of the risks and issues involved in tackling invasive alien species is a central overarching issue. This Strategy is accompanied by the Northern Ireland Invasive Alien Species Implementation Plan (Revised 2018). It includes the objective to maximise organisational effectiveness and collaboration on invasive alien species issues among Government Departments and Agencies, Local Government, non- governmental organisations, industry and individuals.	Invasive species may be a constraint for some sites. Consideration will need to be given to measures to minimise the risks caused by invasive species.
12. Națur	Conservation	NI	2013	Dfl	Policies for the conservation of natural heritage.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
12. Natural Resources	[Draft] NI Peatland Strategy 2022-2040 - [Consultation]	NI	2022	DAERA	The vision of this Strategy is to ensure that all semi-natural peatlands are protected, managed and where possible, prioritised for restoration, so that they can maintain their natural functions, biodiversity and ecosystem services. It has 6 objectives: 1) Conserve peatlands & prevent degradation 2) Restoration of degraded areas to functioning peatland ecosystems (designated & non-designated sites) 3) Supporting Sustainable Peatland Management 4) Knowledge Sharing & Research 5) Communication, Education & Access 6) Governance, Implementation & Funding	The LDP can help to support the Strategy's objective to conserve peatland and prevent degradation.
12. Natural Resources	Nature Recovery Plan	NI	TBC	DAERA	Northern Ireland's Nature Recovery Plan, a key component of the Environmental Improvement Plan for Northern Ireland 2024, aims to protect and restore nature by 2030. This plan includes goals to protect 30% of land and sea for nature, increase woodland cover to 9%, and improve water quality.	TBC
12. Natural Resources	All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025	NI & Rol	2021	National Biodiversity Data Centre	A five-year road map that aims to help bees, other pollinating insects and our wider biodiversity. Aims to bring all stakeholders including farmers, local authorities, schools, gardeners and businesses together to try to create an Ireland where pollinators can survive and thrive.	Councils can play a leading role in implementing the Plan by making their land more pollinator friendly. This Plan contains guidance on what actions Councils can take, of which the most important is "to identify and protect existing areas that are already good for pollinators".
12. Natural Resources	Strangford Lough Marine Protected Area Management Scheme (March 2017)	Regional	2017	Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership	The Strategy promotes a strong and diversified economy for rural areas through its Strategic Policy Guidelines, and it is strongly supportive of sustainable, environmentally sensitive tourism as an economic resource. It also recognises the importance of conserving high quality environments such as Strangford Lough. The forthcoming Area Plan will be required to accommodate and to regulate changes in urban and rural environments closely associated with Strangford Lough without adversely affecting the conservation status of the Lough.	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies.
12	Forest Service - Down Plan 2015	Regional	2015	DAERA	Forest Management plans set out the management objectives for the forests and woodlands Forest Service looks after. Plans are	Relevant plans may inform land use, landscape and recreational use of forests in the plan area.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					currently prepared for Down, Armagh, Sperrin, West Tyrone, East Fermanagh and East Tyrone.	
12. Natural Resources	Forest Service - Armagh Planning Review 2014	Regional	2014	DAERA	Forest Management plans set out the management objectives for the forests and woodlands Forest Service looks after. Plans are currently prepared for Down, Armagh, Sperrin, West Tyrone, East Fermanagh and East Tyrone.	Relevant plans may inform land use, landscape and recreational use of forests in the plan area alongside the commercial aspects of managed forestry. There are potential crossovers between the natural resources, landscape, economy and employment and health and well-being sustainability objectives.
13. Landscape	European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)	Europe	2000	Council of Europe	The European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues. It is covers all landscapes, including natural, managed, urban and peri-urban areas, and special, everyday and also degraded landscape. Articles 5 and 6 commit signatory states to a number of actions which include the need to recognise landscapes in law, to establish policies aimed at landscape planning, protection and management and the integration of landscape into other policy areas.	The LDP should support the aims of the convention, seeking to protect, manage and enhance the landscape.
13. Landscape	Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment	NI	2016	DAERA	The purpose of the Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA) is to provide an evidence base which can be used equally by planners, developers and the public. It describes forces for change through climate change, land use, agriculture, energy and invasive species and outlines the types of ecosystem services provided in each region. The assessment provides a strategic overview of the landscape and subdivides the countryside into 26 Regional Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) based upon information on people and place and the combinations of nature, culture and perception which make each part of Northern Ireland unique. This evidence base can be used to enable informed decisions to be made about the future protection, management and sustainable development of Northern Ireland's landscapes and can be complemented by more detailed local studies.	The RLCA is not policy, but it provides analysis of all of Northern Ireland Landscapes at a regional level which provides further evidence to inform the LDP. It helps to indicate the linkages between the landscape and other assets, such as the historic environment and natural resources. Landscape character assessments and review of these is regarded as being important to inform the understanding of "place" and positive place making.
13. Landscape	Northern Ireland Seascape Character Assessment	NI	2014	DAERA	Twenty-four different regional seascape character areas have been identified round the coast of Northern Ireland. The Seascape Character Assessment describes these areas, their key characteristics and the different influences that mould each as a unique part of the coastline.	This can inform planning of development in the coastal zone. The description and mapping of regional seascape character can provide evidence to assist in responding to the increasing demands being placed upon the related marine and terrestrial environments. This can also help to inform the planning, design and management of a range of projects taking place on and around the coastline.
13. Landscape	Northern Ireland's Landscape Charter	NI	2014	DAERA	Invites organisations and individuals to sign the charter and commit to delivering its vision by approaches including the following: adopt and promote best practice to ensure all development works with and enhances sense of place; ensure sense of place is central to all decision making about landscape and empower people locally to be involved.	This requires consideration of all landscapes to enhance them, respect sense of place and promote sympathetic design.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
13. Landscape	Building on Tradition: A sustainable Design Guide for the NI Countryside	NI	2012	Dfl	Building on Tradition: A Sustainable Design Guide for the Northern Ireland Countryside' provides assistance to all those involved with sustainable development in the Northern Ireland countryside to understand the requirements of PPS21. The guide promotes quality and sustainable building design in Northern Ireland's countryside.	This can be used to inform siting and design standards for development in the countryside to achieve better landscape integration.
13. Landscape	Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment	NI	2000	DAERA	The Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment subdivided the countryside into 130 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), each based upon local patterns of geology, landform, land use, cultural and ecological features. For each LCA, the key characteristics were described and an analysis of landscape condition and its sensitivity to change was made. While the original assessment was published in 2000 many landscape character areas have been updated more recently.	This is not policy but it provides a comprehensive analysis of all of Northern Ireland Landscapes, including their vulnerability and sensitivity to change. These aspects can help inform Councils on the state of the landscape, capacity for development and areas meriting protection. There are linkages with the sustainability topics of natural resources and historic environment and cultural heritage.
13. Landscape	A National Landscape Strategy for Ireland	Rol	2015	AHRRGA	The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing it while positively managing its change. It is a high level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape. There are six high level objectives with associated actions: the three most relevant to the LDP being: to recognise landscapes in law; to develop a National Landscape Character Assessment, to develop landscape policies. Following completion of the National Landscape Character Assessment, statutory guidelines on local Landscape Character Assessments will be prepared for Planning Authorities. These regional and local landscape character assessments will inform and guide landscape policy, action plans and local authority development plans.	The Council shares a boundary with Ireland, therefore the LDP has the potential to impact on this strategy. The Strategy and any relevant national and local Landscape Character Assessments will be taken into account as they become available.
13. Landscape	Draft Strangford And Lecale AONB Action Plan 2017 - 2022	Regional	2017	Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership	This Action Plan is part of a suite of documents relating to the Strangford and Lecale AONB including the Strangford and Lecale AONB Management Plan. It identifies which agencies will be responsible for / lead with carrying out actions (grouped under various outcome categories) and timescales for completion. Most of the Actions in this Plan are subject to external funding from a range of sources, and as such their implementation is uncertain.	This is a non-statutory plan, however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan and there are inter-relationships with the sustainability themes of health and well-being, natural resources and the historic environment and cultural heritage.
13. Landscape	Ring of Gullion AONB Management Plan 2017- 2022	Local	2017	Newry, Mourne and Down DC	This management plan outlines an agreed set of objectives and actions for the period 2011-2016 for the Ring of Gullion AONB. The action programme identifies what needs to be done and provides details of when it will be done and who will take responsibility for leading the action. In Northern Ireland, the legislation does not provide statutory status for management plans for AONBs. Instead they are implemented through voluntary agreement. The success of the management plan relies on all of those who live, work, plan	This is a non-statutory plan, however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan and there are inter-relationships with the sustainability themes of health and well-being, natural resources and the historic environment and cultural heritage.
	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
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					for, develop and manage the area taking its special character into account when making decisions that will affect its future.	
13. Landscape	The Ring of Gullion AONB Management Action Plan 2017-2022	Local	2017	Newry, Mourne and Down DC	This Action Plan is part of a suite of documents relating to the Ring of Gullion AONB including the Ring of Gullion Management Plan. It identifies which agencies will be responsible for / lead with carrying out actions (grouped under various outcome categories) and timescales for completion. The action plan also identifies funding requirements.	This is a non-statutory plan, however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan and there are inter-relationships with the sustainability themes of health and well-being, natural resources and the historic environment and cultural heritage.
14. Historic Environment & CH	Xi'an Declaration On The Conservation Of The Setting Of Heritage Structures, Sites And Areas	Inter- national	2005	ICOMOS	To contribute through legislation, policies, planning processes and management to better protect and conserve the world's heritage structures, sites and areas in their settings.	The LDP can assist with implementing the measures outlined in the agreement: • Acknowledging the contribution of setting to the significance of heritage monuments, sites and areas; • Understanding, documenting and interpreting the settings in diverse contexts; • Developing planning tools and practices to conserve and manage settings; • Monitoring and managing change affecting setting; • Working with local, interdisciplinary and international communities for co-operation and awareness in conserving and managing setting.
14. Historic Environment & CH	Rules annexed to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)	Inter- national	2001	UNESCO	The Annex to the 2001 Convention contains detailed practical guidelines entitled "Rules concerning activities directed at underwater cultural heritage. They are highly useful and widely recognised and applied by underwater archaeologists. The Rules contain regulations as to: how a project is to be designed; the competence and the qualifications required for persons undertaking interventions; planning the funding of excavation projects; documentation of archaeological excavations under water; and methodologies on conservation and site management.	The Local Plan will recognise the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for underwater archaeology.
14. Historic Environment & CH	UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)	Inter- national	2001	UNESCO	The Convention sets out basic principles for the protection of underwater cultural heritage. Amongst its main principles are an obligation to preserve underwater cultural heritage, with in situ preservation as first option, and a ban on its inappropriate commercial exploitation. While the UK has not ratified the Convention, it publicly supports the majority of its articles and has publicly recognised the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for archaeology	The LDP will recognise the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for underwater archaeology.
14. Historic Environment & CH	The Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)	Inter- national	1972	UNESCO	The most significant feature of the 1972 World Heritage Convention is that it links together in a single document the concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties. The Convention recognises the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two. The programme catalogues, names, and conserves sites of outstanding cultural or natural importance to the common culture and heritage of humanity. To be selected, a World Heritage Site must be an already classified landmark, unique	This convention is the mechanism for the identification and establishment of World Heritage Sites. There is currently one WHS in NI. The LDP may recognise sites which are of sufficient national or global importance to merit their inclusion on the Tentative List for World Heritage Sites. The LDP may help support the actions required for sites to receive nomination to the Tentative List by preserving or enhancing their cultural heritage or natural heritage value.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					in some respect as a geographically and historically identifiable place having special cultural or physical significance (such as an ancient ruin or historical structure, building, city, complex, desert, forest, island, lake, monument, mountain, or wilderness area). It may signify a remarkable accomplishment of humanity, and serve as evidence of our intellectual history on the planet.	
14. Historic Environment & CH	Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention, 2005)	Europe	2005	Council of Europe	The Faro Convention emphasises the important aspects of heritage as they relate to human rights and democracy. It promotes a wider understanding of heritage and its relationship to communities and society. The Convention encourages us to recognise that objects and places are not, in themselves, what is important about cultural heritage. They are important because of the meanings and uses that people attach to them and the values they represent.	Member States agree to emphasise the value and potential of cultural heritage wisely used as a resource for sustainable development and quality of life in a constantly evolving society. Examples of specific implications with regard to LDP include Article 5b "enhance the value of the cultural heritage through its identification, study, interpretation, protection, conservation and presentation"; Article 5e "Promote cultural heritage protection as a central factor in the mutually supporting objectives of sustainable development, cultural diversity and contemporary creativity"; Article 8d "Promote the objective of quality in contemporary additions to the environment without endangering its cultural values"; and Article 9a "Promote respect for the integrity of the cultural heritage by ensuring that decisions about change include an understanding of the cultural values involved".
14. Historic Environment & CH	European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992)	Europe	1992	Council of Europe	The new text (revision of the 1969 London Convention) makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. It is concerned in particular with arrangements to be made for co-operation among archaeologists and town and regional planners in order to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage is one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It advocates protection of the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be investigated archaeologically both on land and underwater and the creation of archaeological reserves and conservation of excavated sites for optimum conservation of archaeological heritage.	Consideration should be given to conservation of archaeological resources including potential archaeological reserves. Article 5 seeks the integrated conservation of archaeological heritage through its consideration in the preparation of Local Development Plans and the creation of planning policies designed to ensure well-balanced strategies for the protection, conservation and enhancement of sites of archaeological interest. It also highlights the need of devising plans to avoid adverse impact.
14. Historic Environment & CH	Architectural Heritage of	Europe	1985	Council of Europe	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.	Consideration should be given to conservation of architectural resources. Article 5 includes an undertaking to prohibit the removal, in whole or in part, of any protected monument, except where the material safeguarding of such monuments makes removal imperative. Article 10 states that the protection of architectural heritage as an essential town and country planning objective. Planning authorities should ensure that this requirement is taken into account at all stages, both in the drawing up of development plans and in the procedures for authorising work.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
14. Historic Environment	Archaeology 2030: A Strategic Approach for Northern Ireland	NI	2021	Archaeology 2030 Programme Board	This project has set out to achieve a ten year vision: Our archaeology is accessed and valued by as many people as possible, led by a sector which is healthy, resilient and connected.	Includes among its recommendations: Guidance relating to development management / planning applications and that current processes and conditions should be reviewed to ensure that delays, costs and uncertainties are minimised and that archaeologists, council planners and developers can work together to make sustainable places where people want to live and work.
14. Historic Environment & CH	Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Historic Environment	NI	2018	DfC	Offers advice on historic environment considerations during the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment process, including examples of the baseline evidence which should be considered through the different stages of screening, scoping, assessment, and reporting. It also provides guidance on the implementation of historic environment legislation, the relevant policy in the Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS) and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS).	The LDP and the SA of the LDP will take cognisance of this guidance.
14. Historic Environment & CH	Guidance on Setting and the Historic Environment	NI	2018	DfC	The guidance includes a definition of setting, identifies those key aspects of setting which can contribute to the significance of a heritage asset, and outlines a three-stage process for assessing the impacts of change upon setting. It is hoped that the content of this document will assist planning authorities and applicants, heritage consultants and other stakeholders achieve a consistent approach when considering setting and the historic environment in Northern Ireland.	The LDP and the SA of the LDP will take cognisance of this guidance.
14. Histo	Historic Buildings of Local Importance: A guide to their Identification and Protection	NI	2017	DfC	This good practice guide aims to assist Councils achieve a consistent approach when identifying and protecting Historic Buildings of Local Importance.	The LDP may be able to contribute to the protection of unlisted historic buildings of local importance, where appropriate, through policy provisions.
14. Historic Environme	Regeneration: The Value of our Built Heritage. Position Paper 2017	NI	2017	DfC	This paper sets out the potential value of effective architectural regeneration throughout our villages, towns and cities. It highlights Northern Ireland's unique architectural heritage as well as the social and economic value of older building stock, and the added qualities it can bring to our communities.	Paper recommends that heritage buildings are incorporated and made a priority in new Council community planning. The protection and promotion of Heritage should be integrated into community plans and new planning policy. Policy needs to be integrated and support building users.
14. Historic Environment & CH	Living Places - An Urban Stewardship and Design Guide for NI	ring Places - An Urban ewardship and Design uide for NINI2014DflAims to establish the key principles behind good pla inform those involved in the process of managing (s and making (design) urban places, with a view to rai across Northern Ireland. The focus of the guide is ur which is meant all of our cities, towns, villages and neighbourhoods. It recognises the wider economic, community benefits of achieving excellence in the s		Aims to establish the key principles behind good place making to inform those involved in the process of managing (stewardship) and making (design) urban places, with a view to raising standards across Northern Ireland. The focus of the guide is urban areas, by which is meant all of our cities, towns, villages and neighbourhoods. It recognises the wider economic, cultural and community benefits of achieving excellence in the stewardship and design of these important places, be they existing or newly	Principles inform spatial, design and policy measures that can be incorporated in the LDP to maximise contribution to strengthening society, protecting cultural heritage, promoting well-being, enhancing access and creating economic growth.	
14. Historic	Planning Policy Statement 23 – Enabling Development	NI	2014	Dfl	PPS23 sets out planning policy for assessing proposals for Enabling Development in support of the re-use, restoration or refurbishment of heritage assets such as historic buildings, scheduled monuments, industrial heritage and historic parks,	Incorporation of the policies in this Statement will be considered in preparing LDP policies.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					gardens and demesnes. It provides a policy to maintain and enhance the standard of a wide range of community facilities in Northern Ireland including cultural, educational, social, health, built heritage and leisure facilities and the restoration and creation of wildlife habitat.	
14. Historic Environment	Protocol for the Care of the Government Historic Estate Northern Ireland Guidance February 2012	NI	2012	DfC	A document set out by the Executive explaining how departments and agencies will put their commitment into practice for caring and protecting historic estates. Includes protecting heritage assets through regular condition surveys, maintenance and renovation using appropriately experienced practitioners and working to keep buildings in active use.	This document is recommended as good practice for Councils to adopt.
14. Historic Environment & CH	Study of the economic value of Northern Ireland's historic environment	value storicNI2012DfCThe purpose of this study is to help make the case for investment in the Northern Ireland historic environment. The four objectives of the study are to: (1.) Determine the current value of economic activity generated by Northern Ireland's historic environment and its distribution; (2.) Gauge the level of historic environment-relate employment in Northern Ireland, including indirect employment, the distribution of this employment, and its relative importance compared with other sectors; (3.) Conduct a credible analysis of the wider community benefits that Northern Ireland's historical environment provides to the economy using a series of case studies, and (4.) Make an assessment of the potential for the use of Northern Ireland's historic environment to aid sustainable growth of the economy and make recommendations as to how this could		in the Northern Ireland historic environment. The four objectives of the study are to: (1.) Determine the current value of economic activity generated by Northern Ireland's historic environment and its distribution; (2.) Gauge the level of historic environment-related employment in Northern Ireland, including indirect employment, the distribution of this employment, and its relative importance compared with other sectors; (3.) Conduct a credible analysis of the wider community benefits that Northern Ireland's historical environment provides to the economy using a series of case studies, and (4.) Make an assessment of the potential for the use of Northern Ireland's historic environment to aid sustainable growth	This document can help to inform the LDP and identify areas where links can be made between the Historic Environment and other themes, e.g. community, economic development, tourism, etc.	
14. Historic	Planning Policy Statement 6 – Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage (and Addendum ATC)	NI	1999	Dfl	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and features of the built heritage.	Incorporation of the policies in this Statement will be considered in preparing LDP policies. It should be noted that some of the policy text of PPS 6 has been superseded by policy in the SPPS, for example SPPS para. 6.11.
14. Historic Environment &	Strangford Lough and Lecale Heritage Management Strategy 2013 -2018	Regional	2013	Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership	The landscape, built heritage and natural environment of Strangford and Lecale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty are fundamental to the well-being and vibrancy of local communities. Our heritage attracts and interests visitors, and generates wealth. For these reasons, as well as for their intrinsic value, we must work together to protect and enhance our heritage, while fostering appropriate human activities and developments.	This is a non-statutory plan, which has not yet been updated since its expiry, however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan and there are inter-relationships with the sustainability themes of health and well-being, natural resources and the historic environment and cultural heritage.
14. <u>Historic</u>	Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategy 2022—2027	Council	2022	Newry, Mourne and Down DC	This strategy sets outs a blueprint to guide and inform how we will work together to enhance our arts, culture and heritage sectors following the impacts of the Covid pandemic, with the aim of supporting our economic growth and social outcomes.	(blank)
15. Area	Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027	Council	2021	Louth County Council	Plan provides a framework for the growth and development of the County during its lifetime with an underlying and cross cutting theme promoting the creation of sustainable, healthy communities	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies.

	Title	Scale	Year	Lead Org	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP	
					where people can access jobs, housing, and services, and enjoy a high quality of life.		
	Ards and North Down	Council	2019	Ards & North	Consultation paper designed to stimulate debate and encourage	The Council may have regard to other plans and topic-based	
15. Area Plan	Borough Council Local Development Plan Preferred Options Paper			Down BC	feedback on key issues of strategic significance which are likely to influence the direction of the Council's new Local Development Plan. In so doing, it will help to inform the first stage of the Local Development Plan, the Plan Strategy.	strategies e.g. transport, recreation and economic development, as considered relevant and which may also have cross-boundary implications for its neighbouring Councils. Council should therefore also ensure that its strategy is not in conflict with the Development Plan Documents (DPDs) of neighbouring Councils by assessing any likely cross boundary implications of policies and proposals contained in its DPD to help ensure its compatibility with that of the neighbouring Council and facilitate an integrated and coordinated approach to the implementation of higher-level regional planning aims and objectives.	
15. Area	Monaghan County Development Plan 2019- 2025	Council	2019	Monaghan Co Co	Sets out planning policy for County Monaghan.	May assist LDP in identifying cross-border opportunities and constraints.	
15. Area Plan	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough CouncilCouncil2018Armagh City, Banbridge & fe Craigavon BCCLocal Development Plan Preferred Options PaperPPP		Banbridge &	Consultation paper designed to stimulate debate and encourage feedback on key issues of strategic significance which are likely to influence the direction of the Council's new Local Development Plan. In so doing, it will help to inform the first stage of the Local Development Plan, the Plan Strategy.	strategies e.g. transport, recreation and economic development, as considered relevant and which may also have cross-boundary implications for its neighbouring Councils. Council should therefore also ensure that its strategy is not in conflict with the Development Plan Documents (DPDs) of neighbouring Councils by assessing any likely cross boundary implications of policies and proposals contained in its DPD to help ensure its compatibility with that of the neighbouring Council and facilitate an integrated and coordinated approach to the implementation of higher-level regional planning aims and objectives.		
15. Area	Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015			Contains planning policy context for the legacy area.	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies.		
15. Area Plan	Ards and Down Area Plan 2015	Local	2009	Newry, Mourne and Down DC	The Plan recognises the District has excellent growth potential which rests firmly on the beauty of the landscapes and variety of interests and heritage features to be enjoyed. One of the Plan's principal objectives was to encourage the development of the District's tourism potential however no specific plan policies with regards to tourism development were included. It refers to the signature projects of St Patrick/ Christian Heritage and The Mournes and identifies Strangford Lough as a growth opportunity.	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies.	

16. Legislation (00 Other / Cross-cutting)	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	UK	2009	UK Gov.	The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 provides the legal mechanism to help ensure clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas by putting in place a new system for improved management and protection of the marine and coastal environment.	Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 states that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise". All construction or deposition works below the Mean High Water Spring Tide (MHWST) mark are subject to licensing under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Developments in the inter-tidal area may require both planning permission and a marine licence.
016. Legislation (00 Other / Cross-cutting)	Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013	NI	2013	UK Gov.	The Marine Act sets out a new framework for Northern Ireland's seas based on: a system of marine planning that will balance conservation, energy and resource needs; improved management for marine nature conservation and the streamlining of marine licensing for some electricity projects. The Marine Act applies to the Northern Ireland inshore region comprising of the territorial sea out to twelve nautical miles. This area includes all the tidal rivers and sea loughs (including Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough).	Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 states that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise".
16, Legislation	Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011	NI	2011	NI Executive	Part 2 of the Act details the requirements of Local Development Plans and Section 5 of the Act requires those who exercise any function in relation to Local Development Plans to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development. Sections 8(6) and 9(7) of the Act requires an appraisal of sustainability to be carried out for the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, respectively.	The LDP will take account of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. This scoping report forms part of the Sustainability Appraisal process.
16. Legislation (00 Other / Cross- cutting)	The Environmental Liability (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (as amended)	nental Liability NI 2009 DAERA Implements the Environmental Liability Directive Ind Implements the Environmental Liability Directive Ireland and introduces financial liability on the figure for environmental damage which has see effects on reaching or maintaining favourable constrained of species and natural habitats protected under damage that significantly adversely affects the environmental values and/or ecological pot falling within the scope of the water framework contamination that creates a significant risk of his adversely affected as a result of direct or indirect on or under land of substances, preparations, on		Implements the Environmental Liability Directive in Northern Ireland and introduces financial liability on the 'polluter pays' principle for environmental damage which has significant adverse effects on reaching or maintaining favourable conservation status of species and natural habitats protected under EC legislation; damage that significantly adversely affects the ecological, chemical and/or quantitative status and/or ecological potential of waters falling within the scope of the water framework Directive; land contamination that creates a significant risk of human health being adversely affected as a result of direct or indirect introduction in, on or under land of substances, preparations, organisms and micro-organisms. Note: subject to amendments.	Development arising from the LDP will be subject to these regulations with the operator being responsible for liability, should damage within the terms of these regulations occur.	
16. Legislation	Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, Equality of opportunity	NI	1998	NI Executive	Section 75 promotes 'equality of opportunity' which means that everyone in society should be able to compete on equal terms. All government departments, agencies and Councils must also give the nine key groups consideration when creating a policy. These are people with different religious belief, people of political opinion, people of different racial groups, people of different ages,	The Council is required to ensure that their Local Development Plans are prepared in accordance with Section 75 statutory obligations. Consequently, a Council will have to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) to determine if there will be any potential impacts upon Section 75 groups as a result of the policies and proposals contained in their Local Development Plans.

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					people of different marital status, people of different sexual orientation, men and women generally, people with a disability and people without, people with dependants and people without.		
16. Legisl	Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006	NI	2006	NI Executive	Requires departments and district Councils to exercise their functions in the manner they consider best calculated to promote the achievement of sustainable development.	Implementing sustainability appraisal throughout plan preparation will help achieve this requirement.	
16. Legislation	The Planning (Hazardous Substances) (No.2) Regulations (NI) 2015	NI	2015	Dfl	The Regulations transpose Directive 2012/18/EU (The 'Seveso III Directive') on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances in respect of land-use planning in Northern Ireland.	The LDP must take account of the aims of the Directive in planning policies and decisions, including maintaining appropriate safety distances between major hazard sites (referred to as establishments") and other development and protecting areas of natural sensitivity.	
16. Legislation (01 Health & Well-being)	The Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006	ns (Northern 006 Noise Directive (END). The three main actions that requires of Member States are to: (1) determine t exposure of the population through noise mappin information on environmental noise and its effect public (3) establish Action Plans based on the map END requires that noise mapping and action plans completed every five years. The END also requires to 'preserve environmental noise quality where it the identification and protection of designated Qu		Transposes into NI legislation the requirements of the European Noise Directive (END). The three main actions that the END requires of Member States are to: (1) determine the noise exposure of the population through noise mapping (2) make information on environmental noise and its effects available to the public (3) establish Action Plans based on the mapping results. The END requires that noise mapping and action planning be completed every five years. The END also requires Member States to 'preserve environmental noise quality where it is good' through the identification and protection of designated Quiet Areas within agglomerations (urban areas with a minimum population density).	identified and designated. Zoning of residential areas should have regard for existing noise generators such as roads, rail, airports an industry. effects available to the e mapping results. The planning be quires Member States iere it is good' through ed Quiet Areas within m population density).		
16. Legislation (02 Strengthening	Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016	NI	2016	DAERA	The Act places a duty on public authorities, including district Councils, to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans and designing and delivering public services. It also requires public authorities to provide information to DAERA on how they have fulfilled this duty on an annual basis to be published in a monitoring report to be laid before the Assembly.	Rural needs have been fully considered in plan preparation, assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal and appropriate provisions are or will be included in the plan.	
16. Legislation (06 Material Assets)	The Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997	NI	1997	NI Executive	Implements the European Commission (EC) Framework on Waste in NI. The Order makes a number of provisions such as: transfer of responsibility for waste regulation from the district Councils to the Department of Environment (DOE), focused within the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) introduction of measures designed to increase control over the processing and handling of waste including Waste Management Licensing, Duty of Care, Registration of Carriers, Special Waste and Producer Responsibility introduction of measures relating to the identification of contaminated land, designation of special sites, duties of enforcing authorities to require remediation, determination of appropriate persons to bear responsibility for remediation, liability of contaminating substances which escape to other land and contaminated land registers.	The legislation is relevant to LDP through the potential requirements for redevelopment of sites which may have had previous industrial land use and for the identification and development (or redevelopment) of sites for the processing, handling and disposal of waste. The Contaminated Land regime which is set out in Part 3 of the Waste Management and Contaminated Land Order (Northern Ireland) 1997, has been enacted but is not yet in force.	

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16. Legislation (10 Climate Change)	Climate Change Act 2008	UK	2008	UK Gov.	The Climate Change Act 2008 covers all of the UK, with targets set at the UK level. The Act established a legislative framework to enable the reduction of UK GHG emissions by 34% from 1990 levels by 2020 and 80% by 2050. It also introduced legally binding five-year carbon budgets, which set a ceiling on the levels of GHGs the UK can emit on course to the longer-term target. Climate Change Risk Assessment is a statutory requirement of the Act. While there are no specific targets for NI in the UK Climate Change Act 2008; it is implicit that NI contributes to the UK effort of reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels. In 2019, the UK Government committed to a target amendment of Net Zero emissions by 2050 (amending the 80% target to a 100% reduction). To achieve Net Zero, the UK needs to achieve an average emissions reduction of around 15.5 MtCO ₂ e per year over the 30 years from 2020 onwards, similar to the 16 MtCO ₂ e achieved in 2019.	The achievement of these targets can be supported by the application of sustainable development principles. Supporting and encouraging development which incorporates measures for energy efficiency and which enables reduced consumption of fossil fuels and other resources, alongside other measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, will also assist in achieving targets. The LDP can also have a role in encouraging societal choices that lead to a lower demand for carbon-intensive activities.
16. Legislation (10 Climate Change)	Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022	NI	2022	NI Executive	Imposes a duty on all Northern Ireland departments to ensure that the net Northern Ireland emissions account for the year 2050 is at least 100% lower than the baseline. The Department must set targets for the years 2030 and 2040 that are in line with the target for the year 2050.	Northern Ireland departments are required to develop and publish sectoral plans setting out how sectors will contribute to achieving the targets in the Act. The Sectoral Plans included in the Act are: Sectoral plans for energy, Renewable electricity consumption, Sectoral plans for infrastructure, Sectoral plans for industrial processes, Sectoral plans for waste management, Sectoral plans for agriculture, Sectoral plans for fisheries, Sectoral plans for transport, Active travel. The LDP should aim to support (and not conflict with) objectives identified within the sectoral plans, once they are developed and published.
16. Legislation (10 Climate Change)	The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015	Rol	2015	Irish Parliament	Ireland's national policy in response to climate change is determined, in part, by legislation. In particular, Ireland's first-ever dedicated climate change law, the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, provides for the making of: five-yearly National Mitigation Plans to specify the policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and a National Adaptation Framework to specify the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change.	While the legislation is for Ireland measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI policy and strategies will also support the objectives of this legislation.
16. Legislation (11 Water Resources)	The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010	NI	2010	DAERA	The Regulations require the production of a "Marine Strategy" for all UK waters and that the approach is coordinated across all four UK Administrations. It also requires cooperation with other countries sharing our seas. The objective of the UK Marine Strategy reflects the UK's vision of having "clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas". The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010 require action to be taken to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) in our seas.	The Strategy applies an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities. In doing so, it seeks to keep the collective pressure of human activities within levels compatible with the achievement of GES. Achieving GES will maintain the capacity of marine ecosystems to respond to human-induced changes and enable the sustainable use of marine goods and services by present and future generations.

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16. Legislation (11 Water Resources)	Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016	NI	2016	NI Executive	The Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 confers a power on NI Water to require the construction of sustainable drainage systems as a condition of agreeing to adopt a drain or sewer. The Act also introduces new restrictions to the right to connect surface water sewers to the public sewer network. NI Water is able to take account of upstream sustainable drainage systems and is also able to refuse connection to the public sewer network if other suitable alternative means of dealing with surface water exist or could reasonably be provided. Suitable alternative means of dealing with surface water can include natural features or other arrangements known as soft sustainable drainage systems.	The overall aim of the Act is to make sustainable drainage the preferred option for dealing with surface water in all new developments, where possible. This aim should be reflected in all Local Development Plans.
16, Legislation (11 Water	Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 (as amended)	NI	1966	DAERA	Under the Fisheries Act, DAERA has powers for the supervision and protection of fisheries and for fostering the establishment and development of fisheries. In the the Foyle and Carlingford catchments, the authority is Loughs Agency under the Foyle Fisheries Act 1952 (NI). The Act encompasses shell-fish (edible aquatic molluscs and crustaceans) which may be subject to aquaculture.	The LDP should aim to support (and not conflict with) the requirements of the Fisheries Act, and any associated Policies and Plans that are derived from the Act.
16, Legislation	Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (as amended)	NI	2011	DAERA	The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the WANE Act) places a statutory duty on public bodies to conserve biodiversity. Following publication of a revised Biodiversity Strategy in July 2015, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has decided to publish this guidance document to assist public bodies in fulfilling their biodiversity duty.	(blank)
16 Legislati	The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002	NI	2002	UK Gov.	Covers several environmental issues, including pollution prevention control, assessment and management of air quality, and designation of areas of special scientific interest (ASSIs).	The LDP must reflect the ASSI designations, and the need to protect and conserve them. It should also have regard for the need to regulate activities which are capable of causing any environmental pollution.
16, Legislation (12 Natural	Conservation (Natural NI 1995 DAERA Sets out legal responsibilities for competer out an assessment under the Habitats Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) Sets out legal responsibilities for competent authority competent authority.			Competent Authorities must undertake Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRAs) to assess the impacts of any plan, project or activity that may affect a European Site prior to approvals or other authorisations being granted. This includes the LDP itself.		
16, Legislation (12 Natural	Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1995	NI	1985	UK Gov.	Makes provision with respect to nature conservation, enjoyment and conservation of the countryside, and amenity lands. Places particular emphasis on the establishment of a network of Areas of Special Scientific Interest and Nature Reserves. Nature Reserves including (National, Marine and Local Nature Reserves) are declared under this legislation, as well as ASSIs and some AONBs.	The LDP must reflect the existing designations, and the need to protect and conserve them.

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16 Legislati	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended)	NI	1985	DAERA	This Order prohibits the intentional killing, taking or injuring of certain wild birds and wild animals or the intentional destruction, uprooting or picking of certain wild plants.	The LDP must reflect the legal requirement that if a development site is known or is likely to support a protected plant and animal species, the developer is obliged under legislation not to harm those species.		
16. Legislation (14 Historic Environment & CH)	Protection of Military Remains Act 1986	UK 19		UK Gov.	Under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 all aircraft that have crashed whilst in military service are automatically protected. Maritime vessels (e.g. ships and boats) lost during military service are not automatically protected. The MoD can, however, designate wrecks lost within the last 200 years, whose position is known, as 'controlled sites', and can designate named vessels lost on or after 4th August 1914 (Britain's entry into World War I), whose location is unknown, as 'protected places'. It is not necessary to demonstrate the presence of human remains for wrecks to be designated as either 'controlled sites' or 'protected places'. It also covers vessels of a foreign state e.g., German U-Boats	This may apply to military shipwrecks and aircraft discovered in the nearshore area and the larger freshwater lakes of NI.		
16. Legislation (14 Historic	Protection of Wrecks Act 1973	UK	1973	DCMS/DfC	The Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 (c.33) is an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom which provides protection for designated shipwrecks. Section 1 of the act provides for wrecks to be designated because of historical, archaeological or artistic value. Section 2 provides for designation of dangerous sites. Wreck sites must have a known location in order to be designated.	Wrecks and wreckage assessed to be of historical, archaeological of artistic importance can be protected by way of site specific designation. It is an offence to carry out certain activities within a defined area surrounding a designated wreck, unless a licence for those activities has been obtained through DfC HED. The Local Development Plan should take into account any current or potential future designated historic shipwrecks.		
16. Legislation	Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995	NI	1995	DfC HED	Article 3 of this Order provides for the scheduling of monuments for protection. Monuments are selected for scheduling on the basis of published criteria, which are found in found in Annex B of Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS 6): Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage (1999).	There is a requirement for Scheduled Monument Consent for works within Scheduled Monument Areas. This would be a consideration in zoning ground including or immediate to Scheduled Areas.		

APPENDIX 5: SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL GUIDE FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL DRAFT PLAN STRATEGY

1. The objective for sustainable development is **to improve health and well-being**. Rationale

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 ageing population and 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 health care facilities for all.

Key Issues

- Population trends indicate an increasing and ageing population in the district, with a greater proportion of over 65s and over 85s in the total population by 2030.
- There is a need to meet the future needs for care and support for older people at home or in communal homes, and to improve access to health services, other facilities and services.
- Although activity rates in the district are higher than the NI average, there is a need to promote and incentivise regular participation in physical activity through provision of and ensuring good accessibility to sports facilities, open space, green infrastructure and walking and cycling routes.
- There will be an increasing need to create accessible means for older people to engage in physical activity to prolong their healthy lives.
- Newry, Mourne and Down has a very accessible natural environment with forest parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and other open spaces with many walking and cycling trails.
- Less than half of children in NI walk or cycle to school and there is a particular need for children to have accessible play in places where they feel safe.
- Although levels of childhood obesity in the district are lower than the NI average, obesity levels in NI and the UK are high by global standards, reflecting poor diet and a relatively sedentary lifestyle.
- While mental health indicators on average show similar levels to NI, there is evidence of poorer mental health in the most deprived parts of the council.
- Noise and environmental quality are not identified as being significant adverse effects at present, however they can impact on health and therefore environmental quality should be improved, or sustained where it is good, to minimise adverse health impacts.
- Road safety for all users should be a key consideration of planning and design.
- The location of and access to emergency services can affect response times. Rural areas require accessibility to general practice and non-emergency healthcare services.
- Although many indicators of health are better than average in the district, there are inequalities in health and well-being. Many indicators are significantly worse in the most deprived areas.
- Development should be located to avoid potential use conflicts and planned/designed to connect with public open space, walking and cycling routes and other recreational facilities where possible.
- Good spatial planning can reduce health inequalities by providing a high standard of design and place making, open space, capacity for any additional services required and accessibility.
- Significant parts of the district have an increased probability of the incidence of Radon at actionable levels.

Appraisal Prompts

	Positive Effects		Negative Effects
a)	Benefits health/wellbeing of residents/visitors)	Does not benefit wellbeing of residents/visitors
b)	Improve access to health care	m)	Reduce access to health care
c)	Reduce response times for the emergency	n)	Increase response times for the emergency
	services		services
d)	Provide opportunities for and encourage healthy lifestyles and physical activity for all	0)	Discourage healthy lifestyles and physical activity
	ages	p)	Reduce open space with public access
e)	Create open space with public access	q)	Decrease social contact and intergenerational
f)	Increase social contact and intergenerational		contact
	contact (including family cohesion and care)	r)	Shortage of suitable accommodation for those
g)	Provide suitable accommodation for those with		with long term health problems or disability
	long term health problems or disability	s)	Decrease in air quality
h)	Maintain good air quality	t)	Increase noise impacts that may affect health
i)	Avoid or reduce noise impacts that may affect	u)	Make it harder to reach schools and workplaces
	health		via active travel
j)	Improve ability to reach schools and workplaces	V)	Increase the risk of traffic accidents
	by active travel		
k)	Reduce the risk of traffic accidents		

2. The objective for sustainable development is to strengthen society.

Rationale

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.

- Some areas, particularly villages, have seen substantial growth in recent years, there is a need to ensure that facilities meet the needs of the population.
- Levels of deprivation vary widely throughout the council area and there is a marked division between lower income areas to the west and more prosperous areas to the east.
- Rural communities have relatively good access to urban areas, however some of their populations may not have good proximity to services.
- Some parts of the district have populations which predominantly reflect one religion or political opinion.
- There is a need to provide appropriate shared space and apply place making to make areas inclusive for all backgrounds, abilities and income levels.
- There will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability.
- The community is not ethnically diverse, although it is slightly more so than NI as a whole. The district has a higher than average proportion of Irish Travellers.
- Local representatives and groups can help to identify the needs and experience of different parts of our society which can be recognised through Community Planning. The LDP can help to deliver measures identified through Community Planning.

	Appraisal	Pro	mpts		
	Positive Effects	Negative Effects			
a) b) c) d) e)	Promote inclusion of all groups Retain, create, or enhance shared space Increase accessibility to shared space Promote positive social interaction Give rural communities appropriate access to	i) j) k) l) m)	Inhibit inclusion of all groups Shared space reduced or deteriorates Decrease accessibility to shared space Decrease positive social interaction Rural communities less access to facilities and		
f) g) h)	facilities and services Reduce the factors causing inequalities Meet identified needs that will reduce inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities Supports draft Marine Plan objective to promote development of vibrant, accessible and sustainable coastal communities.	n) o) p)	services Exacerbate the factors causing inequalities Maintains or increases inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities Conflicts with the objectives of the Marine Plan in respect of promoting vibrant, accessible and sustainable coastal communities.		

3. The objective for sustainable development is **to provide good quality, sustainable housing.**

Rationale

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.

- Population trends suggest that there will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability and the elderly. People may be more likely to stay in a home long-term if it meets their changing needs, and the facilities and amenities that they wish to use are as accessible as possible through their lives.
- Future housing needs will therefore include a mix of house tenures and types, including smaller house types.
- Social housing need remains at a very high level across-Newry, Mourne and Down.
- A large portion of the social housing waiting list comprises single and small family households and the predominance of single and smaller households will mean a significant requirement for one and two bedroom dwellings.
- There is a need for lifetime homes that are accessible and adaptable, to help support healthy lifestyles.
- Along with income and the cost of energy, the domestic energy efficiency of the home is a key factor contributing to fuel poverty. There is a need for low carbon and energy efficient housing to help reduce the problems of fuel poverty.
- The local housing market is slowly recovering following the economic crash in 2007 and affordability in the council area has much improved. However, affordability remains an issue for first time buyers who continue to have difficulties in securing mortgages.
- Housing provision should enable social cohesion in families and communities and promote vibrancy of settlements.
- Rural housing continues to contribute to overall housing supply. The challenge for the Plan is to allocate an appropriate level of housing for the rural area and a planning policy to manage it.

Appraisal Prompts			
Positive Effects	Negative Effects		
 a) Enable/encourage a variety of household types and size b) Enable/encourage affordable social housing c) Help to reduce homelessness d) Meet the needs of specific groups e.g. single people, couples, retired people, disabled e) Provide housing which meets locally identified needs f) Reduce the number of unfit homes g) Help to fill any vacant dwellings 	 a) Inhibits a variety of housing types b) Does not promote affordable social housing c) May increase homelessness d) Does not meet the needs of specific groups e.g. single people, couples, retired people, disabled e) Housing provision does not meet local needs f) Doesn't help to reduce number of unfit homes or use vacant dwellings 		

4. The objective for sustainable development is **to enable access to high quality** education.

Rationale

Good education improves opportunities for employment and contributes to the avoidance of poverty and to healthier lifestyles. The provision of suitable accommodation for educational establishments in appropriate, accessible locations should play a part in making them more sustainable and reducing inequalities in education.

- In some parts of our council area, a decline in pupil numbers will have implications for the sustainability of existing schools.
- Sharing facilities has been recognised as a way to promote a more cohesive and tolerant society and make better use of the resources available to education.
- Although the council area has a high level of educational achievement at all levels, this is not consistent between DEAs.
- To respond to changing opportunities in the context of COVID-19 and Brexit, there is a need to upskill / reskill people in employment and people that are unemployed, underemployed or economically inactive.
- Apprenticeships and higher-level apprenticeship should be promoted and supported as alternative pathways for employment.
- Digital literacy, connectivity and access to broadband are important for developing/enhancing skills and reducing inequalities.

Appraisal Prompts			
Positive Effects	Negative Effects		
 a) Improve education level and employability of the population b) Promote access to education c) Promote access to skills training d) Help rural communities access education and skills training 	 g) Does not help improve education level and employability of the population h) Decrease access to education and skills training i) Makes rural communities access education and skills training harder j) Under use of public facilities 		
 skills training e) Improve opportunities for multiple use of facilities f) Help educational establishments to provide modern sustainable accommodation 	 j) Under use of public facilities k) Inhibit provision of suitable educational facilities 		

5. The objective for sustainable development is to enable sustainable economic growth.

Rationale

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 to increase their income.

Key issues

- Identifying and zoning appropriate land for development is a vital part of creating the right conditions to create and sustain economic activity that meets local employment needs whilst considering opportunities for regeneration.
- Areas of high employment deprivation are located in the city and towns and border and coastal areas. The west of the district and border area has greater income deprivation than the north of the district.
- In selecting land for development, it is important to provide sites with quality environments that are readily accessible to the key transport corridors and by active travel and/or public transport.
- The district has seen a decrease in primary sector and manufacturing jobs in recent decades. National and regional trends indicate an ongoing shift towards tertiary sector jobs. The Council and relevant statutory bodies should work with local providers of education and training to identify and address any local skills shortfalls and develop tailored learning to ensure its population has the skills and training to meet future demand.
- Recent growth in Northern Ireland in office type industries, such as information technology and financial services, points to a need for a more flexible approach when determining the types of economic development that are acceptable in particular locations.
- Within the district there is a vibrant rural entrepreneurial spirit within the villages and open countryside. It is important that the Plan provides policy that can facilitate sustainable rural businesses.
- Kilkeel, Warrenpoint and Ardglass harbours are important contributors to the local economy. The RDS has identified Warrenpoint (along with Newry) as the 'South Eastern City Gateway' a strategically important transport interchange. Connectivity is a key aspect in the support, growth and development of the harbours.
- There is a need to support and enhance the diversity, vibrancy and vitality of town centres and the wider area, particularly in respect of effects initiated by the Covid-19 pandemic. This approach is needed to also attract investment and higher skilled people to the district.
- Tourism in Newry, Mourne and Down is a potentially important contributor to growth of the regional economy. The needs of tourists and the tourism industry should be balanced with protecting the assets of the destination.
- Newry, Mourne and Down has a number of natural assets which are particularly suited to activity tourism (golf, angling, hiking/walking, cycling/mountain biking, beaches and other water-based activity). It also has a strong built and cultural heritage foundation for cultural tourism.

	Appraisal Prompts			
Positive Effects		Negative Effects		
a)	Supports innovation and competitiveness	I) Does not promote innovation and		
	within the local economy	competitiveness within the local economy		
b)	Ensure sufficient land supply in appropriate	m) Does not support land in appropriate locations		
	locations for economic growth	for economic growth		

c)	Support creation of a range of job types that	n)	Does not support creation of a range of job
()		'')	
	are accessible, especially to areas of		types that are accessible, especially to areas of
	deprivation.		deprivation.
d)	Support enhancement of the skills base.	o)	Does not support enhancement of the skills
e)	Help make the Council area a more attractive		base.
	place to live, work, visit and invest	p)	Does not help make the Council area a more
f)	Make the best use of location		attractive place to live, work, visit and invest
g)	Ensure the vitality and vibrancy of city and town	q)	Does not make the best use of location along
	centres can be improved		major transport corridors.
h)	Increase the number of people coming to the	r)	Vitality and vibrancy of city and town centres
	Council area to work		may deteriorate.
i)	Maximise economic benefits of sustainable	s)	Does not increase the number of people
	tourism		coming to the Council area to work
j)	Effects are spread throughout the year	t)	Does not enable use of tourism assets.
k)	Promotes marine resource/supports marine	u)	Effects are seasonal /restricted to summer
	interests		months
		v)	Conflicts with marine resource/inhibits marine
			interests

6. The objective for sustainable development is to manage material assets sustainably.

Rationale

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 adverse impacts. The concept of the 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.

- Improving infrastructure across rural areas for the needs of rural communities, rural services and rural businesses is a strategic priority.
- It is important to support renewable energy development whilst also safeguarding areas that are considered to be of particular scenic value and minimising potential impacts on neighbouring properties and the environment.
- There are no windfarms onshore or offshore, within the district, but single turbines are evident.
- Renewable energy applications have noticeably dropped since 2015. There is currently an absence of financial incentives for renewable projects; this may be influencing rates of development.
- New private forms of renewable energy development are likely to increase in use in the Newry, Mourne and Down area over the plan period.
- Grid reinforcement is required to facilitate the growth of renewable energy generation.
- The district's location provides opportunities to create physical links to the electricity network in the Republic of Ireland.
- The impact of existing or proposed waste management facilities should be considered when zoning land for development and ensuring incompatibility of adjacent land uses is avoided.
- Growing a circular economy and implementing the waste hierarchy that advocates prevention, and reuse of waste before recycling are key elements within DAERA's draft Green Growth and draft Environment Strategies.
- The Council should take account of the potential effects of new telecommunications development, and any necessary enabling works, on visual amenity and environmentally sensitive features and locations.

	Appraisal Prompts			
Positive Effects		Negative Effects		
a)	Sufficient telecommunications can be provided or are feasible	j)	Existing telecommunications poor or unlikely to become available	
b) c)	Electrical infrastructure is fit for purpose Enables renewable energy	k)	Adequate electrical infrastructure unavailable or unfeasible	
d)	production/connections Supports development of renewables including	l) m)	Infrastructure not fit for purpose Halts development of renewables including	
e) f)	marine energy resources Increases reusing/recycling/composting rates Makes reusing/recycling/composting easier	n)	marine energy resources Unlikely to improve recycling rates or make recycling easier	
g) h)	Reduces waste production per household Uses/encourages the proximity principle for	o)	Does not adopt the proximity principle for location of material assets	
i)	location of material assets Reduces the amount of derelict/contaminated land	p)	Doesn't take advantage of derelict/contaminated land	

7. The objective for sustainable development is **to protect physical resources and use sustainably.**

Rationale

Land, minerals, geothermal energy and soil are resources which require protection from degradation and safeguarding for future use. Sustainable agriculture, sustainable tourism and sustainable use of minerals and geothermal energy can help to support the economy.

- Minerals should be protected from inappropriate development and a proactive approach taken to safeguard the future of mineral development in the district.
- There may be scope for mineral development within Areas of Constraint providing key sites are avoided and development would not unduly compromise the integrity of the area.
- Sand extraction has previously occurred in some coastal areas, such as around Tyrella. Such activities have been small scale, but may not be sustainable as a source of sand in the future.
- The district has a number of adits, shafts and working mines that should be given appropriate consideration when planning the location of future development, particularly where these are located in proximity to settlements.
- Where mineral deposits exist across administrative boundaries, consideration should be given to neighbouring authorities' proposed approach to mineral development.
- The mineral prospecting licences presently issued within the Council area indicate potential for valuable minerals, or extraction of precious metals, however, these resources currently remain untouched.
- Tellus surveys have identified the Mournes as an area with a potential deep geothermal energy resource.
- Soil quality across the district should be protected using effective conservation measures due to a lack of specific legislation protecting soils at a regional or local level.

	Appraisal Prompts			
Positive Effects		Negative Effects		
a)	Avoids/minimises loss of greenfield sites	j)	Increases loss of greenfield sites	
b)	Maintains or enhances soil quality/avoids soil erosion	k)	Does not maintain/enhance soil quality/soil erosion likely	
c)	Earth science features can be protected	I)	Earth science features unlikely to be protected	
d)	Enables the minerals industry to operate sustainably	m)	Reduces the ability for minerals industry to operate sustainably	
e)	Enables materials to be locally sourced	n)	Considers minerals only within the Council area	
f)	Considers minerals across Council boundaries	o)	Does not protect potential future use/benefit of	
g)	Enable future use/benefit of quarries		quarries	
h)	Enables potential future use of geothermal	p)	Inhibits the future use of geothermal energy	
	energy	q)	Sub-surface planning unlikely due to geology	
i)	Potential for sub-surface planning			

8. The objective for sustainable development is **to encourage active and sustainable travel.**

Rationale

There is a common goal to reduce traffic emissions and congestion, which means reducing singleoccupancy car use and increasing use of other forms of transport, especially at peak times. The location of housing and key services can facilitate better access to public transport. Opportunities for active travel make travel more affordable and may bring added health benefits, while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Measures to manage car demand, such as parking and re-allocation of roadspace, which encourage a shift from car to public transport, walking and cycling will contribute to this goal.

- A number of main road routes in the district experience congestion.
- The A1 linking Newry with Belfast and Dublin is the only road in the council area identified as a key transport corridor within the Strategic Transportation Network for Northern Ireland. There are no motorways within the council area.
- 90% of householders own or have access to a car or van. Road travel is the dominant mode of transportation, even for journeys to work of less than 2km.
- The availability of public transport and active travel options is particularly important for access to key services and facilities for less able people, the elderly and communities in areas of deprivation.
- Over one fifth of residents travel 20 km or more to their place of work.
- A significant proportion of the district's population live outside the main hubs. This creates challenges for connectivity. Many rural areas have limited access to bus services.
- Four Park & Ride sites are available in the district at Newry Rail Station, Newcastle/Clough, Sheepbridge (Newry) and Cloghogue (Newry). There is also a Park & Share facility at Castlewellan.
- There is expected to be an increase in electric vehicles and demand for electric charging points across the Council.
- Very low level reported use of public transport, particularly rail. Bus services are essential for children who travel to school.
- Warrenpoint Harbour located on Carlingford Lough is the 2nd busiest general cargo port in Northern Ireland and the fifth on the island of Ireland.
- It is important for the Council to consider local transport links to include sustainable and active travel

 public transport routes, walking and cycling routes, and greenways. This could also improve access
 provision to key tourist attractions.
- It is important to plan a transport system with routes and travel options that will help to reduce GHG emissions by reducing journey times and integrating public and active transport options.
- A spatial approach to the provision of public transport and active travel options could help to ensure adequate provision in the most deprived areas where the households are less likely to have access to own private vehicles.
- Measures such as park and ride/share facilities, accessible greenways and active travel networks, are needed to help people shift their reliance away from single occupant car journeys and on to other modes of travel like public transport, walking and cycling.
- There is potential to link local level active travel routes to local and regional recreational routes, including the Ulster Way, and to develop strategic level networks for both walking and cycling. An integrated active travel network across the Borough could support health and well-being as well as reducing GHG emissions.

	Appraisal Prompts			
Positive Effects		Negative Effects		
a)	Will help reduce traffic congestion	f)	Unlikely to reduce traffic congestion	
b)	Encourage modal shift to active travel and/or public transport	g)	Does not promote modal shift to active travel and/or public transport	
c)	Improve access to and efficiency of public transport	h)	Unlikely to improve access to and efficiency of public transport	
d) e)	Will benefit those without access to a vehicle Retain, create, or enhance walking or cycling	i)	Unlikely to benefit those without access to a vehicle	
	routes	j)	Does not retain, create, or enhance walking or cycling routes	

9. The objective for sustainable development is to improve air quality.

Rationale

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.

- Air pollution is estimated to reduce life expectancy by an average of 7-8 months. Air pollutants are from three main sources - road transport, home heating and agricultural practices. Pollutants are linked to respiratory and cardiovascular issues as well as other ill-health effects.
- There are two long-established Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) that date from 2009 and 2013. Both are linked to road transport emissions – NO2 and PM10. A new focus on promoting and supporting active travel measures and access to public transport could help reduce the number of road users and traffic congestion, and work toward removing these long-established AQMAs.
- Some parts of the district are smoke control areas, where authorised fuels must be used. This will help reduce health risks to people living in and near to those areas.
- To help reduce reliance on private vehicles, increased access to public transport and active travel is needed. Improved connectivity could help encourage people to opt out of using the car.
- It is important to consider future air quality when spatially planning the location of new developments or transport routes in urban and rural areas, alongside existing or proposed land uses, particularly where air quality may already be an issue, or likely to impact on residential areas.
- Ammonia is emitted from agricultural practices. It has been identified as one of the main air pollutants in NI because of the significant contribution that the agricultural sector makes to our economy. Measures to help reduce ammonia emissions from the agricultural sector could help improve air quality in certain rural areas.
- Facilitating renewables in appropriate locations could help reduce air pollutants (and greenhouse gas emissions) from fossil fuel combustion, as well as help to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
- Partnership working with other agencies and Councils will be needed to help ensure sustainable land use with compatible adjacent land uses that protect local air quality and enable reduced travel to facilities and services.

	Appraisal Prompts			
	Positive Effects		Negative Effects	
a)	Will help achieve AQMA objectives	a)	Unlikely to help meet AQMA objectives	
b)	Likely to improve air quality	b)	Unlikely to improve air quality	
c)	Able to reduce traffic congestion	c)	Unlikely to reduce traffic congestion	
d)	Will encourage other modes of transport to the	d)	Maintains/increases car use	
	car	e)	Inhibits/stops projects/behaviour that will	
e)	Promotes/supports/enables projects/behaviour		improve air quality	
	that will improve air quality	f)	Likely to increase air pollution	
f)	Able to avoid/reduce air pollution	g)	Likely to increase ammonia emissions (near to	
g)	Will avoid increase of ammonia emissions (near		sensitive receptors)	
	to sensitive receptors)			

10. The objective for sustainable development is **to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.**

Rationale

International commitments require greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced to decrease their effects on climate. Measures that help reduce energy consumption and enable renewable energy help mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, however, climate change adaptation planning and implementation is essential to managing the resilience of our society and natural environment to an uncertain future, as well as for the known current and projected impacts of a changing climate.

- CO₂ accounts for the largest proportion of total GHG emissions in NI (68% in 2019). The LDP should support a low-carbon future in anticipation of new energy and climate change policies, as well as evolving and emerging energy technologies, including planning for EV charge points.
- Agriculture is an important part of the local economy and as a significant contributor to GHG emissions, opportunities to reduce emissions within the scope of the LDP need to be considered.
- The agricultural sector remains the biggest emitter of total GHG emissions at 26% (5.6MtCO₂e), followed by transport at 20% (4.2MtCO₂e) and then residential at 14% (2.9MtCO₂e). This is a change in the sectoral order of the largest GHG contributors with residential surpassing the energy supply sector.
- Transport is a significant contributor to GHG emissions. There is a need to encourage and increase
 options for active and sustainable travel across the Borough, to help reduce reliance on the car and
 reduce GHG emissions from the transport sector.
- The LDP should support and facilitate the delivery of appropriate renewable energy developments, that will help to increase the future diversity of renewable energy supplies across the district and to support commitments made under the Climate Change NI Act.
- The district has high potential for marine renewables and the LDP should take account of marine planning policy, which sits alongside and interacts with terrestrial planning policy.
- The LDP should promote and support the reuse and retrofit of existing buildings as a sustainable approach in the context of carbon cost and facilitate and encourage the integration of measures to enable adaptation to the effects of climate change into new development, such as green building design, native planting schemes, and integration of green and blue infrastructure, and runoff management, including SuDS, where appropriate.
- The waste management hierarchy and the proximity principle should continue to guide location of waste management facilities and practices based on the principles of sustainable development.
- Any potential development in areas of flood risk needs to be carefully considered against the likely impact of flooding but also the likely impact of the development on adjacent areas, including the marine area.
- The absence of a of consistent and comprehensive coastal erosion baseline data in Northern Ireland means that it is difficult to identify areas that are at risk. Opportunities for managing coastal erosion risk using soft approaches and management plans that work with nature could be explored.
- Once suitable evidence is available, Coastal Change Management Areas could be identified (by the relevant authority) and policy established in those areas to inform on the likely sustainability of any proposed development and to help manage coastal change over time.
- It is important to protect ecosystems which provide habitat for local biodiversity and which provide natural resilience against the effects of climate change. Provisioning of buffer zones around nature conservation sites could help enable future movement of species in a changing climate.

The District Council will be able to provide suitable land for a new woodland planting programme - 'Forests for our Future' over a 10-year period.

<u> </u>	Appraisal Prompts				
		PIOM			
L	Positive Effects		Negative Effects		
a)	Will reduce greenhouse gas emissions	k)	Likely to increase greenhouse gas emissions		
b)	Likely to reduce energy consumption	I)	Unlikely to reduce energy consumption		
c)	Likely to reduce the need to travel by vehicle	m)	Unlikely to reduce vehicle use		
d)	Increases/supports/promotes/enables	n)	Restricts/inhibits/detracts from renewable		
1	renewable energy		energy		
e)	Enables/promotes public transport,	o)	Maintains reliance on vehicles and		
1	walking/cycling.		discourages public transport, walking/cycling.		
f)	Helps reduce consumption/waste production	p)	Encourages consumption and increases waste		
	and increases recycling		levels		
g)	Protects floodplains	q)	Removes/damages/reduces the extent or		
h)	Protects peatlands and other natural assets such		holding capacity of floodplains		
	as beaches and dunes that act as attenuation	r)	Removes/damages/reduces peatlands and		
	features.		other natural assets such as beaches and		
i)	Incorporates measures to adapt to climate		dunes that act as attenuation features.		
	change	s)	Does not consider adaptation for climate		
j)	Reduces the risk of damage to property from		change		
	storm events	t)	Does not reduce the risk of damage to		
			property from storm events		

11. The objective for sustainable development is **to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.**

Rationale

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 Environment (under the Water Framework Directive Regulations) and other legislation that relates to water and it takes account of the future impacts of climate change.

- River water quality in the district is significantly lower than the NI average. There is a need to improve the water quality of the majority of the river and lake waterbodies to achieve 'good' ecological status (or better).
- Development may lead to contaminated runoff which may increase pollution of waterbodies and the marine area.
- Other wastes may also cause surface or groundwater pollution at the point where they are used or disposed of, e.g. wastes from livestock production, food processing or primary treatment such as sewage or anaerobic digesters.
- Marine water quality at Strangford Lough and Carlingford Lough is not meeting 'good' standard.
- There is a need to reduce pollutants and contaminants entering Shellfish Water Protected Areas across the district. Other than at Skate Rock, shellfish produced in the Shellfish Protected Areas are not meeting the guidelines for microbiological and other contaminants.
- Bathing water quality is 'good' or 'excellent' at all of the Council's bathing beaches. Water quality in designated bathing waters should be sustained or improved.
- Developments without access to mains sewers can incorporate sewage treatment on site. However, it is important that there is capacity for safe disposal of treated discharges and for maintenance of the treatment system to ensure that it remains effective in the long term.
- Plan proposals should be compatible with Dfl's Flood Risk Management Plan. Dfl identifies Newry as an Area of Potentially Significant Flood Risk. Other settlements may have localised areas with a moderate risk of flooding. Dfl also identifies areas that are at risk from an uncontrolled release of water from dam failure.
- Development may lead to changes in the rate of surface water runoff, or the capacity of a receiving watercourse may be altered which in turn has the potential to increase flood risk.
- It is predicted that the risk and extent of flooding, particularly coastal flooding, will be increased by climate change. Development should be planned to avoid areas at significant risk from flooding, now or in the future, or where development may increase the flood risk elsewhere. Constructed flood alleviation and defence measures are expensive and should be avoided.
- There are benefits in retaining and restoring natural flood plains and watercourses as a form of flood alleviation this can support River Basin Management Plan objectives.
- Sustainable drainage (SuDS) measures could be incorporated and maintained in new development and redevelopment or regeneration schemes. 'Above ground' SuDS measures for source control can deliver wider ecosystem service benefits.
- Development in general requires a water supply, therefore can increase demands for sources, treatment and distribution infrastructure. This can be offset by measures to make more efficient use of water.

 NI Water has identified wastewater treatment works and wastewater network capacity constraints in the district. These may influence the potential for development in some settlements, or parts of settlements.

	Appraisal Prompts				
	Positive Effects	Negative Effects			
a) b) c) d) e) f) g)	Improve the quality of surface and ground water including transitional, coastal and marine waters to meet objectives Lead to more efficient use of water Minimise risks from flooding Avoid the need for flood defence Protect or enhance floodplains Maintain water flows and temperatures for good ecological quality Protect aquatic food resources	 n) Reduce quality of surface and groun including transitional, coastal and m waters) Fail to meet water quality objectives) Lead to waste of water c) Increase risks from flooding (now or) Risk creating a need for flood defendent (n) Reduce the extent or holding capaci floodplains n) Water flows/temperature not suitable ecological quality. o) Unsustainable impacts on aquatic for 	arine in future) ce ty of ole for good		
		resources			

12. The objective for sustainable development is **to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.**

Rationale

International obligations which are adopted in Northern Ireland legislation, along with national 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 can mitigate the effects of climate change. This objective includes protecting and enhancing biodiversity including in coastal and marine areas, as well as protection of green and blue infrastructure to enhance the services that natural resources provide.

- There are a significant number of sites designated for their nature conservation importance within and adjacent to the District Council, reflecting the importance of the natural heritage resource as a key asset.
- The District Council has an extensive, diverse coastline, which is protected under numerous designations to conserve its coastal and marine habitats, species and features. It is a key natural heritage asset that not only maintains and protects biodiversity but also attracts visitors thus enabling economic spin-offs whilst providing health and well-being benefits.
- The coast should be considered in the context of climate change in that it acts as a natural defence likely to contend with future increased pressure from more frequent storm events, higher sea levels and coastal flooding because of climate change. In this respect, it should be protected from inappropriate development.
- Marine planning and its associated obligations need to be appropriately considered within the LDP particularly as previous plans and frameworks may not have referred to coastal or marine matters. A holistic approach to the management of the coastline could balance competing pressures.
- The District Council has a LBAP that has identified priorities for biodiversity conservation as well as 6 priority habitat types and 12 priority species for action. There are many opportunities for collaboration and cooperation across partners on delivering local actions with the majority of some LBAP species located in the District Council area.
- The WANE Act 2011 places a statutory duty on the District Council to further the conservation of biodiversity when exercising its functions.
- There are a significant number of local level sites of nature conservation interest, including SLNCIs, nature reserves, ancient woodland sites and local wildlife sites but not all of these are connected or near to other sites. The LDP could bring forward opportunities to integrate GBI and create an ecological network of wildlife corridors.
- Local development pressure is evident in some parts of the District Council, which could affect areas important for nature conservation including wetlands and coastal habitats.
- The LDP could help identify areas providing ecosystem services and opportunities to help maintain and support these including use of GBI to buffer areas or provide public access. Peatland sites could be particularly important for the District Council because of their coverage and with the new draft NI Peatland Strategy 2021-2040.
- There is a need for the Council to take account of measures that can deliver GBI because their
 integration will ultimately support the Council in its delivery of nature conservation and biodiversity
 protection. This will also help the Council to fulfil its statutory duty under the WANE Act 2011 to
 further the conservation of biodiversity when exercising its functions.

Appraisal	Prompts
Positive Effects	Negative Effects

a)	Protects and/or enhances designated sites and	g)	Unlikely to protect or enhance designated sites
	their buffers		or their buffers
b)	Protects and/or enhances local biodiversity	h)	Unlikely to protect or enhance local
c)	Protects/enhances/incorporates green/blue		biodiversity
	infrastructure (G/BI)	i)	Removes/damages/excludes green/blue
d)	Supports/provides ecosystem services		infrastructure (G/BI)
e)	Provides positive environmental benefits	j)	Negatively impacts on ecosystem services
f)	Supports the preservation and enhancement	k)	May enable negative environmental effects
	marine ecosystems and marine protected areas	1)	May adversely affect marine ecosystems and
			marine protected areas

13. The objective for sustainable development is **to maintain and enhance landscape character.**

Rationale

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.

Key Issues

- The Newry, Mourne & Down District Council area contains three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) which cover 55.7% of the total district. These landscapes are designated as some of the most important in NI. Some areas are shared with neighbouring Councils, so joint working is important to protect and manage them. Their management plans must be a consideration when considering planning proposals.
- The district has a variety of landscapes with 25 Landscape Character Areas, some of which are shared with neighbouring Council areas. There are five Regional Landscape Character Areas and seven Regional Seascape Character Areas. The district also shares a portion of one Area of High Scenic Value. All these assessments and their specific development pressures must be considerations when considering planning proposals.
- The coastline contributes a significant quantity of land to the district's total landscape character with all of it protected under AONB status and contributing to several landscape and seascape character areas. Large parts are also designated for their nature conservation value and therefore protection of the seascape resource must be given careful consideration when considering planning proposals.
- The LDP presents a new opportunity for additional local level landscape designations to help protect exceptional landscapes and unique amenity value as well as areas of local significance.
- The most common type of planning application in the countryside is replacement of farm dwellings and development pressure may exist in some areas where additional measures may be needed to help combat impacts on landscape quality.

	Appraisa	Pro	mpts
	Positive Effects		Negative Effects
a)	Continue to protect areas designated for	g)	Negatively impact on areas designated for
	landscape		landscape
b)	Minimise any visual intrusion	h)	Increase any visual intrusion
c)	Protect and/or enhance the setting of	i)	Detract from the setting of prominent features,
	prominent features, settlements and transport		settlements and transport corridors
	corridors	j)	Negatively impact on coastal views and
d)	Avoid major impacts on coastal views and		seascapes
	seascapes	k)	New development not integrated to enhance
e)	Sensitively integrate new development to		local distinctiveness
	protect and enhance local distinctiveness	1)	Unable to consider relevant landscape related
f)	Able to appropriately consider any impacts on		management plans or landscape designations
	neighbouring landscape designations including		
	AONBs		

• A significant proportion of the district (66%) is rated as highly sensitive to wind energy development which could be a constraint in some areas to this type of renewable energy.

14. The objective for sustainable development is **to protect**, **conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage**.

Rationale

The historic environment 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 Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage plays a role in maintaining and enhancing the sense of place in our settlements and rural locations which can be supported by building design recognising historic environment evidence in both urban and rural locations. Cross-boundary co-operation is important to maintain historic integrity of ancient landscape characteristics and connections.
- The historical and archaeological interest connected to St Patrick is of regional significance for tourism.
- Heritage assets are at risk from neglect, decay, development pressures and vacancy. The innovative reuse of existing historic building stock should be promoted and supported as a sustainable approach.
- 'Buildings at Risk' should continue to be identified and efforts made by the relevant authority to maintain their regular use and/or support their restoration.
- The district's rich cultural and heritage assets can contribute to a high quality built environment that helps to create attractive places for living, investing in and visiting.
- The district contains centres, villages and towns which each have a unique sense of place, and character. Protecting this sense of place aspect has benefits for people and their pride in their community.
- Protecting built heritage assets and recognising their value extends beyond listing statutory
 designation and enforcement action. Consideration should be given to the setting of those features,
 along with the scale and context of surrounding buildings.
- The district has an immensely rich archaeological heritage. This could be further explored through identifying new Areas of Archaeological Potential. AAPs can help to manage new development sustainably.
- The setting and landscape of the ASAIs and any potential new ASAIs should be preserved. Many archaeological settings are associated with particular landscapes, such as hill tops, ridges and drumlins.
- Undesignated marine Heritage Assets such as Shipwrecks and Submerged Landscape Sites, whilst not statutorily protected, must be given appropriate evaluation and consideration.
- Regionally important historic buildings, such as Castle Ward, are set in a designed landscape, which contributes to its understanding as a building of special architectural and historic interest. The historic and natural environment are intrinsically linked and can add value to each other.
- The district has a rich industrial heritage through cereals milling, flax production and tanning, its 18th and 19th Century transport engineering and defence heritage associated with World Wars I & II.
- Further opportunities could be explored to link heritage assets with tourism and to encourage use / reuse of resources for community / education activities.
- Appreciating the value of built heritage should also apply to new buildings new development should be informed by an understanding and appreciation of the historic environment.
- There is ongoing loss of certain non-designated heritage assets such as historic farmsteads and buildings in the countryside, industrial and defence heritage, and historic shopfronts in some towns

and settlements. Non-designated buildings which are of heritage or architectural importance in the context of overall landscape, townscape or heritage value should be recognised for their role in conserving these settings.

- Conservation Areas in Downpatrick, Newcastle, Newry, Rostrevor, Saintfield and Warrenpoint may be at risk of flooding both with and without the effects of climate change and there may be a need to consider adaptive measures in these areas.
- There may be opportunities to maintain or reflect historic routeways and townland boundaries to inform site allocations or plan designations.
- Traffic pollution, air quality and noise pollution may adversely affect the historic environment.

	Appraisal	Pro	mpts
	Positive Effects		Negative Effects
a)	Protect and conserve built and cultural heritage (including marine heritage)	i)	Loss of built and cultural heritage (including marine heritage)
b)	Enhance built and cultural heritage	j)	Lose 'sense of place' in townscape and rural
c)	Allow 'sense of place' to be conserved in		settings and reduce local distinctiveness.
	townscape and rural settings and protect local distinctiveness	k)	Archaeological features not assessed, recorded and preserved
d)	Allow archaeological features to be assessed,	I)	Damage the setting of cultural heritage assets
	recorded and preserved	m)	Reduce access to, interpretation of and
e)	Conserve and enhance the setting of cultural		understanding of the historic environment
	heritage assets	n)	Impacts of development on complex and
f)	Support access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment		extensive archaeological sites adjacent to settlements not understood
g)	Enable assessment of impacts of development on complex and extensive archaeological sites adjacent to settlements	o)	Decrease opportunities for cultural activities
h)	Provide opportunities for cultural activities		

APPENDIX 6: CONSULTATION BODY COMMENTS ON THE SCOPING REPORT TEMPLATE

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
General Comments	DAERA: NIEA 18/12/2017	We are broadly content with the envisaged layout of the SEA report template. A number of baseline data sources and relevant strategies/reports are detailed in the Local Development Plans, DAERA Environmental Evidence and Information Guidance available at: https://www.daera- ni.gov.uk/publications/development-plan-evidence-guide- documents. There is likely to be some overlap between the information required for the SEA assessment and the information that is gathered for technical LDP papers such as Countryside Assessments. However, it should be noted that we have not reviewed technical reports as part of this scoping consultation and there may be additional significant environmental issues affected by new development that should be considered in the environmental report such as cumulative loss of habitat or changes to air quality, both urban and rural. The scope and level of detail of information in the SEA should be proportionate to the content and purpose of the plan. Whilst regional or district based trends and indicators may help to assess certain high level and strategic aspects of the plans more detailed and spatially specific information would be required to assess other elements of the plan in particular any aspects of the plan with a spatial dimension or influence. The Development Plan Practice Note for Sustainability Appraisal incorporating SEA was produced by the former Department of the Environment in 2015. This document is intended to guide users through the key requirements of a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and SEA and deals primarily with procedures as well as good practice. Some of its content may be useful when developing the SEA documents associated with the LDP such as Preferred Options papers. https://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/advice/practicenotes/dp_	Noted, data referred to in https://www.daera- ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/pu blications/daera/daera- environmental-evidence- guide-may-2017.pdf has been accessed and, where available, information at Council level has been sourced. The need to access more spatially specific information to inform spatial designations is noted and will be considered at Plan strategy.
Natural Resources	DAERA: NIEA 18/12/2017	practice_note_4_sa.pdfBiodiversity Flora and FaunaWe are broadly content with the envisaged layout of the SEA report template.We welcome the inclusion of Biodiversity, Green and Blue Infrastructure and Landscape within the scope of the Natural Resources SEA topic. We would expect that this will also include priority habitats and species. There are significant interactions between Biodiversity and the topics Health & Well-being, Physical Resources, Water, Air, Landscape and Climatic Factors.We acknowledge that most of the information required to inform the SEA will have been collected as part of the preparation of technical papers such as the Countryside Assessment.Baseline Evidence Information sources include: NIEA Natural Heritage Digital datasets which includes protected sites and priority habitats https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/download-digital-datasets Northern Ireland State of the Environment Report 2013 https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/state-environment- report-2013 Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2017	The interactions between this topic and other objectives has been noted and section 5.12.1 updated. Appendix 7 provides baseline information about European and Ramsar sites. The need to access more spatially specific information (e.g. priority species and non- designated priority habitat) to inform spatial designations is noted and will be considered at Plan Strategy

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland- environmentalstatistics-report-2017	
		National Ecosystems Assessment, Chapter 18 on Northern Ireland	
		http://uknea.unepwcmc.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=m%2BvhA V3c9uk%3D&ta	
		Priority species records can be obtained from the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR). These can be accessed by contacting CEDaR, National Museums NI, 153 Bangor Road, Cultra, Holywood, BT18 0EU. Website: http://www.nmni.com/cedar	
Natural Resources	DAERA: NIEA 18/12/2017	<u>Marine</u> We advise that marine planning sits alongside and interacts with terrestrial planning systems.	Noted
		When taking any decision which relates to any function capable of affecting (or which might affect) the marine area, which is not an authorisation or enforcement decision, 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. Appropriate marine policy documents include the UK Marine Policy Statement (UK MPS) and the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland (when adopted).	Details of the strategic context referred to have been included in Section 4.3.5 and Appendix 4 and/or Water or Natural Heritage topics where available.
		This means that in preparation of the Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan and all of its associated documents, including this Scoping Report, you (working on behalf of the Council as the public authority), must ensure that this Scoping Report has regard to the UK Marine Policy Statement (as the current marine policy document).	Reference to the NI Marine Plan will be updated once it is published.
		Careful attention must be paid to the UK MPS, as this document has the equivalent standing consistent with that of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS).	
		 Specific comments are outlined below: It is suggested that the objectives for sustainable development (page 1) include the marine aspect. 	Noted and will address at Plan Strategy
		 MCG - Marine Coordination Group is listed in the Glossary but this term is not evident within in the document. 	No longer in glossary.
		 Given the Council area shares a significant boundary with the marine area it is suggested that the marine area is reflected within the Connected principle under Section 3.2 and within Section 3.3. 	This has been addressed in the Connected principle, now section 2.2.
		 Given the Council has a legal responsibility to have regard to marine policy documents, it is advised that reference to the UK MPS is included within Section 4.2, 5.2 and 5.3 (and Appendix 4). The UK MPS sets out the framework for taking decisions that affect the marine area. As marine planning policy, it sits alongside and interacts with terrestrial planning policy. 	This has been addressed in sections 3.2, 4.3.5 and Appendix 4.
		 Marine issues should not be limited to 'environmental' related SA topic areas. Consequently, you are advised to have regard to the policies contained within the UK MPS for each of the SA topics listed in Table 5.1 to ensure the scope is appropriate. 	Noted.
		 It is suggested that baseline information evidence base on the marine area can be obtained from the SA Scoping Report for the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland, which is available on the DAERA website at: https://www.daera- ni.gov.uk/topics/marine/marine-planning 	Noted.

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		We welcome the document's recognition of 'maritime' heritage assets under 14. Historic Environment and Cultural Resources (p. 16). This definition should be inclusive of boat finds and shipwrecks, prehistoric archaeological remains and aircraft losses and further recognise the potential importance of non- designated sites as per the Marine Policy Statement (MPS) and emerging regional Marine Plan for Northern Ireland. Marine planning and its associated obligations need to be appropriately considered within the LDP not just for Natural Resources (see Key Sustainability Issues, p. 33) but also for cultural heritage resources. Information on the location of all archaeological/historic sites	Added.
		held in the Monuments and Building Record (MBR) of Northern Ireland can be obtained by contacting the MBR Team at mbr- enquiries@communtiies-ni.gov.uk. Information available from the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record can also be found online at: https://www.communities- ni.gov.uk/services/sites- and-monuments-record. The SEA should also recognise the potential impact upon sites and features that are otherwise unrecorded and not just designated and recorded sites and features. In other words there needs to be clear recognition of the potential importance of newly discovered sites and features that may arise as a result of activities.	
		The SEA should consider the potential effects of plan activities in relation to current understanding of submerged cultural heritage in the context of international and national protection measures, planning policy and best practice industry guidance. The SEA should recognise the potential for impact on marine archaeology arising from proposed activities in marine and intertidal areas and that site-specific surveys may be necessary before development decisions can be taken to prevent any loss to the marine archaeological resource.	Noted.
		Relevant policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and elements of the historic landscape in marine and intertidal areas include: PPS 6 Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage and Addendum; Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS); Marine Policy Statement (MPS) and the emerging Marine Plan for NI. The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) also supports the conservation and protection of cultural heritage, whilst recognising heritage as key tourism and recreational assets. The SEA should also recognise the Annex or 'Rules' of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001) as being 'best practice' policy for underwater archaeology (in line with the rest of the UK).	Noted.
		The SEA should include the heading of Bathing Water Directive under section 6.11.2 (page 24) to ensure this topic is addressed when the review of baseline information is carried out.	This is covered in section 5.11.2.
		The SEA should highlight that all construction or deposition works below the Mean High Water Spring Tide (MHWST) mark are subject to licensing under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Developments in the inter-tidal area may require both planning permission and a marine licence. Further information may be obtained from the Marine Licensing Team, DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division, 1st Floor, Klondyke Building, Gasworks Business Park, Cromac Avenue, Belfast BT7 2JA, Tel: 028 90569247.	Noted.
Air Quality	DAERA: NIEA 18/12/2017	We would suggest that air quality could also go against other SEA objectives apart from just 'Air', for example, objectives 1, 8 and 9 (p16, s5.1).	Overlaps between Objectives 1,8 & 9 noted in introductory text of each topic.

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
Noise	DAERA: NIEA 18/12/2017	We note that 'Noise' is one of the 'Health and Well-being' topics. Considerations should include: Noise maps for Northern Ireland that the Department has	Noise mapping data has been sourced and presented in the Health and Well-being section. There are no Quiet Areas in
		produced which can be found at https://www.daera- ni.gov.uk/articles/noise Relevant guidance and standards for noise as well as the Noise	the district.
		Policy statement: https://www.daera- ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doe/noise-policy- statement-ni.PDF	
		The presence and location of any Quiet Areas.	
Historic Environment	DAERA: NIEA 18/12/2017	Historic Environment We note and welcome the inclusion of Historic Environment issues as a heading in your scoping template document and in	Noted, the section on Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage has been expanded
		Strategic Objective 14.	to reflect this input.
		In general HED recommend the terms "historic environment" and "heritage asset(s)" be used as opposed to terms such as built/cultural heritage/built and archaeological heritage, throughout your plan strategy. These terms better encompass the full suite of heritage assets including structures, archaeology and landscapes and would provide some consistency through the documents.	Noted.
		The National Monuments and Buildings Record for Northern Ireland contains a great deal of information on the historic environment and Historic Environment Division (HED) encourage local authorities to utilize this resource in LDP preparation. We would highlight the following GIS spatial data evidence bases which are critical for use in your scoping exercise.	Information is summarised in 5.12.2. It is not considered proportionate to include very detailed information at this strategic stage of plan preparation. It will inform
		 Historic environment heritage assets, including Scheduled and State Care monuments - The attached link https://www.communities- ni.gov.uk/publications/historic- environment-digital-datasets makes available spatial evidence on a wide variety of heritage assets, including scheduled monuments, afforded statutory protection under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 and Listed Buildings, afforded protection under Article 80 of The Planning Act (NI) 2011. Further datasets are available on the Sites and Monuments Record, Industrial Heritage, Historic Parks Gardens and Demesnes, Battlesites, Defence Heritage, ASAIs and AAPs. Please ensure to recheck our datasets to download up to date versions as they are subject to change as new assets are designated or recognised. Note, the SEA should also recognise the potential impact on heritage assets that are otherwise unrecorded and not just designated and recorded sites and features, i.e. there needs to be clear recognition of the potential importance of newly discovered heritage assets that may arise. 	spatial considerations at a later stage. Information on marine and submerged archaeology has been sourced from DAERA.
		 Marine historic environment - GIS spatial datasets can be requested from Rory McNeary, rory.mcneary@daera-ni.gov.uk The Gazetteer of Nucleated Historic Settlements (information on request from HED - draft copy attached). This is the result of a programme of work undertaken by HED to identify historic settlement centres and from these in some cases, areas of archaeological potential, identifying new ones and potentially modifying others. While the zones are in draft it will nonetheless be a useful tool going forward in the LPP process. We will in due course supply some text in relation to each zone identified and the history of the settlement. HED can provide spatial data, on ASAI, 	

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		AAPs and Candidate ASAls upon request. An Excel spreadsheet outlining the AAPs in your area is attached.	
		 Historic Ordnance Survey Mapping. We also highlight the many other sites of heritage interest in your district, which are not yet listed in our records. These include historic boundaries such as townland and parish boundaries and some later historic cemeteries. 	
		The evidence used in populating your scoping report should cross reference to assessments and LDP documentation which your Council area has already prepared (e.g. countryside assessment). The report should identify key characteristics of the historic environment and also demonstrate consideration, understanding and awareness of international conventions, as well as local legislation and policies which provide protection for the historic environment in Northern Ireland. A document of particular worth in the preparation of your LDP would be the published "An Archaeological Survey of County Armagh" and "Strangford Lough -An archaeological survey of the maritime cultural landscape".	SA is a strategic-level assessment, information has been reported at a level proportionate to the assessment.
		HED highlight the importance of recognizing the relationship of the historic environment to other headings including health and wellbeing, education and economic growth (e.g. tourism, traditional skills training), and sustainable use of physical resources. In relation to the compatibility matrix in Appendix 3 of your report we comment that provision of good quality housing has an uncertain relationship and is not always compatible with the historic environment objectives - For example, new housing can sometimes lead to dereliction of historic stock, or large schemes might adversely impact on previously unrecorded archaeological remains. In relation to Appendix 2 we highlight that historic environment and landscape are intertwined as each have Influenced the evolution of the other.	Overlaps/relationships are identified where relevant. Appendix 3 is updated to reflect the comment that provision of good quality housing has an uncertain relationship and is not always compatible with the historic environment objectives.
		We further point out the very large number of strategic heritage assets in your area. Highlights include State Care Monuments including sites like Narrow Water Castle, Greencastle and Inch Abbey, the Craigmore Viaduct, the historic towns of Newry and Downpatrick, both are some of Ireland's most ancient and historic towns, and the many listed buildings, scheduled monuments and sites such as the Newry Canal. Several of the settlement patterns in your district have their origins in the medieval period and the town of Downpatrick, affiliated with Ireland's best known saint, merits specific consideration as a settlement where complex and extensive below ground archaeological remains as well as historic fabric incorporated into later structures, are known to exist. Co-operation cross boundary will be important to maintain historic integrity of ancient landscape characteristics and connections such as those which extend across Carlingford and Strangford Lough.	
		As well as the existing ASAI in your area HED have also consulted the Historic Monuments Council on the identification of new candidate ASAI at Greencastle and at Slieve Gullion. We stress the opportunity that the local development plan presents to realise the potential of the historic environment in your district, for economic, social and health and environmental benefits. HED maintain an independent role in relation to the drafting of LDPs and emphasise the importance of authorities being able to demonstrate how they have utilized the evidence on the historic environment in characterizing their landscape, and in	

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		considering zonings for development and forms of mitigation such as appropriate designation or key site requirements.	
Water Quality	DAERA: NIEA 18/12/2017	 NIEA note that the Water Framework Directive (WFD) has been identified within the draft SEA Scoping template. It is key that the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Local Development Plan takes the WFD and statutory River Basin Management Plans into consideration and the achievement of the objectives therein. As a public body, the council has a duty to have regard to - (a) the river basin management plan for that district; and (b) any supplementary plan published under regulation 16 in exercising their duties. River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD), taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile. Revised River Basin Management plans were published in December 2015. The plans relevant to your area will be: Neagh Bann River Basin management Plan Summary (December 2015) Updated information on the water quality classifications of surface waters and groundwaters in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Council area should be obtained from nieawaterinfo@daera-ni.gov.uk As part of the River Basin Planning process a Programme of Measures has been established to detail the improvements required to meet 'Good' status, the actions required and the delivery mechanisms. The programme of measures aims to address the key pressures strom achicultural sources and point source pressures from WVTWs and industrial discharges. Other pressures including forestry, sediment urban catchments, quarries & mines, waste & contaminated land and chemicals; water quantity and flow - taking too much water from rivers, lakes, and groundwater which causes problems for wildlife, reduces the amount of water available for people to use and affects the envir	Noted, information on water quality specific to the Council was obtained from NIEA and incorporated in the Water section. Flooding has been addressed under the water and climatic factors topics and was fully considered in appraisal. The RBMPs and FRMPs were reviewed and information incorporated into the scoping at a proportionate scale for this stage of the Plan process.

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		 - invasive alien species - the negative effects on the health of the water environment and native plants and animals from those species originating outside Northern Ireland and introduced to the Northern Ireland water environment; and 	
		 other pressures - factors that affect fish populations and habitat not captured above. 	
		The Programmes of Measures have been brigaded under topics and each of the documents are available from the DAERA web- site, under the following Programme of Measures topic headings: Agriculture; Sewage & Industry; Forestry; Sediment; Urban Catchment; Quarries & Mines including Oil & Gas exploration; Waste & Contaminated land; Chemicals; Abstraction & Flow Regulation; Morphology; Invasive Alien Species; and Fisheries.	
		The SA/SEA should be proportionate in assessing these measures against the likely impact of Local Development Plan documents. A full list of the measures has been included as an Annex to this letter, for ease of future reference.	
		Waste Water Treatment Provision	
		A technical paper for the LDP (or the SA/SEA) should identify all the waste water treatment works (WWTW's) and sewerage networks in your Council area and assess them against their current capacity, and environmental performance, and their predicated capacity during the lifetime of the Local Development Plan. This information should be aligned with Northern Ireland Waters infrastructure investment strategy set out in their price Control processes and the Long Term Water Strategy.	
		 Sustainable Water – A Long Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (to be published 2016) 	
		 PC15 (NIW's draft expenditure plan 2015-2021). 	
		This information should be used proportionately in the different stages of the LDP SA/SEA process.	
		At some stage in the process suitable mitigation measures may be required to ensure the zoning of land and the timing of the release of that land for development is aligned with the availability of suitable waste water treatment infrastructure to service the developments to ensure there is adequate protection for the water environment.	
		We would recommend the water topic should be split to form a topic on water quality and resources, and a separate topic on flood risk.	Water quantity (flood risk) will be retained within the Water chapter. It is considered that
		Sustainable Drainage Systems The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) states that the planning system should help to mitigate and adapt to climate change by, among other actions, working with natural environmental processes, for example through promoting the development of green infrastructure and also the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) to reduce flood risk and improve water quality.	the subheadings provide sufficient clarity.
		In managing development, particularly in areas susceptible to surface water flooding, planning authorities should encourage developers to use sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) as the preferred drainage solution. Such systems are widely used in other UK jurisdictions and have been shown to be more effective than traditional piped drainage in reducing surface water flooding as well as providing other environmental, economic and social benefits. Furthermore, using permeable materials for hard landscaped surfaces in new developments can reduce soil sealing.	

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) recommends that Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are incorporated, and where appropriate, into the drainage design of all new developments for the environmental management of rainfall / surface water drainage.	
		Temporary SuDS can also be used during the construction phase as pollution prevention measures for silt management and to prevent erosion. Where possible these should be retained or adapted as part of the final permanent site drainage solution.	
		Surface water should be dealt with as close as possible to where it falls as rain (source control) and the use of two or more SuDS components can be used for the optimal solution to:	
		 Manage rainfall to mimic natural drainage by: reducing runoff rates; reducing additional runoff volumes and frequencies; and encouraging natural groundwater recharge. 	
		 Minimise impacts on quantity and quality of runoff by: reducing pollution and protecting the quality of receiving waters; preventing direct discharge of spillage; and reducing the volume of surface waste runoff to sewers. 	
		 Maximise amenity and biodiversity opportunity by: contributing to the amenity and aesthetic value of the development; and providing habitat for wildlife and biodiversity. 	
		Please contact the SEA Team at seateam@daera-ni.gov.uk should you have any queries or require clarification.	

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
General	Marine Plan Team	 Given [the legal requirements of Section 8 under the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, Section 58 under the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) and the UK Marine Policy Statement] you are advised to document how you have had "regard" to the UK MPS in the preparation of the SA Scoping Report and the Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report that accompany the POP and future LDP. Any proposed land allocation, location of development, policy or proposal option being considered for inclusion within the LDP is capable of affecting the whole or any part of the Northern Ireland marine area. 	Marine designations are shown in the Natural Resources (NRs) section along with other land-based designations. Reference to the UK Marine Policy Statement, the MCAA and the NI Marine Act is in the intro section of the NRs topic.
	21/08/2018	You are advised to consider the aims, objectives and each economic, environmental and social policy contained within the UK MPS in preparing your SA reports. There must be clear (documented) evidence that the potential impact on the marine area and the relevant policies of the MPS have been considered for each topic area. It may be helpful for you to devise a checklist or a series of questions to ensure that compliance with your legal requirements, in relation to the marine policy documents, is	
		being met at all appropriate development stages. Marine policies are cross cutting therefore the marine aspect should be considered in most of the Topic areas and not limited to Topics 12, 13 and 14. For example, in Topic 5: Economy and employment, the economic and employment value and potential from the marine is especially obvious in relation to commercial fishing, recreation, commercial shipping and tourism, in this district. This consideration should ensure that the integration of marine and terrestrial planning is not restricted by an artificial boundary, as set out in Section 1.3 of the UK MPS. Adopting this approach will also help to ensure consistency between the terrestrial and marine planning systems.	Marine Plan cross overs have been added to 5.5
		The DAERA Marine Mapviewer may be useful in this context and marine related data is now publically available here https://appsd.daera-ni.gov.uk/marinemapviewer/	Marine Map Viewer used in Climate Change section for high level coastal erosion study.
		At Natural Resources 5.12., as above, marine policies are cross cutting therefore the marine aspect should not be limited to consideration under 'environment' related topics, such as this. Within this Natural Resources topic, consideration appears also to focus mainly on Nature Conservation.	Cross-over between topics is applicable to all the topics and is referred to at the beginning of each section. The NRs section includes a 'Nature Conservation' section which is applicable to all designated and non- designated sites.
		It may be best to consider using the term 'marine area' or just 'marine' instead of 'marine environment' and to consider impacts in terms of the users of the marine area and the uses and activities that take place within it. This approach encompasses the environmental considerations but also includes for example, the economic and social considerations associated with commercial shipping and related port activities, commercial fishing and related port activities, marine energy and related cables, pipelines or substations or sailing and related marinas, to name a few. This approach would also include consideration of the impact on the individuals and communities that use, enjoy or depend on the marine area.	'Marine area' used in Landscape section when discussing landscape character assessments which encompass the coast and seascape character areas.
	Climate Change Unit	Scoping Report comments:	Noted and corrected.
	Change Offic		Information updated 2022.

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	21/08/2018	There are terms within the report where 'adaption' is used and the correct term is 'adaptation' e.g. 'greenhouse gas emissions however adaption is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change' should read 'greenhouse gas emissions however adaptation is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change.' Page 106 – text amended as follows:	
		"The first UK National Adaptation Programme (UK NAP) was published in July 2013. Northern Ireland's <u>NAP</u> <u>Climate Change</u> <u>Adaptation Programme</u> (NICCAP) (was launched in 2014). The SPPS details mitigation and adaptation for climate change and was informed by the Northern Ireland <u>NAP</u> <u>Climate Change</u> <u>Adaptation Programme (NICCAP)</u> . The second Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP) (2019-2024) will provide local level evidence with targeted local adaptation information. Flooding has been identified as "potentially one of the most significant and urgent risks" to NI".	
		Page 106 references the draft PfG, this needs updated as it references 14 outcomes-this however is incorrect as there has been a reduction to 12 outcomes within the current draft PFG.	Noted and updated 2022.
		The section on Green House Gas emissions is fine, however, there was a new inventory published on 12.6.18 and some of the text, figures and graphics need to be updated. Link below to statistical bulletin: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-	
		greenhouse-gas-inventory-1990-2016-statistical-bulletin	
		Page 108 – text amended as follows:	Noted and information
		"The second CCRA Evidence Report (CCRA 2017) was due to be presented to Parliament in 2017. An interim report, The UK Synthesis Report 2017, helps to The Report details the priorities for the UK for the next five years with six key areas of climate change risk. The six key areas are:	updated 2022.
		 flooding and coastal change 	
		 impact of high temperatures in the built environment 	
		risks to natural capital	
		risks of future water shortages	
		• impacts on the global food system, and	
		• risks arising from new and emerging pests and diseases. The CCRA 2017 included a NI summary of the climate change risks and opportunities relevant to NI. It is expected that NI will publish in 2019 its second Climate Change Adaptation Programme in response to this most recent CCRA Evidence Report is expected to respond with its own follow up National Adaptation Report."	
	Historic Environment Division 21/08/2018	Within section 5.14.4 bullet point 10, in relation to AAP, HED highlight that the issue is not solely about exploring the past in the settlements through archaeology but about sustainably managing development in relation to Areas of Archaeological Potential.	KSI has been updated.
		It is disappointing that neither the preferred options paper, nor the scoping report has recognised the very vital contribution that the historic environment in your district has played in relation to the TV and film and consequently tourism industries.	Reference added to HPAG sub- section.
Air Quality	24/08/2022	Page 92 "Some measures to achieve this are directly linked to transport and include reducing emissions from transport, improving energy efficiency and protecting Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)" - The priority should be to improve air quality and meet air quality objectives in order to revoke AQMA's not 'protect' them.	Error noted and text reworded to accurately reflect air quality. NI ESR May 2022 referred to throughout section. Reference for Public Health
		Page 93 Since 2004, levels have more or less increased and the annual mean limit (40ug/m ³) set by the UK Air Quality Strategy	England source provided and

		has been exceeded The reference is to the 2016 statistics report, the latest report is 2018 please refer to this report for the latest statistics <u>https://www.daerani.gov.uk/publications/northernirelandenviro</u> <u>nmentalstatisticsreport2018</u> Page 103 Recent departmental figures for Northern Ireland indicate that 553 deaths can be attributed to PM ₁₀ , and 330 to NO ₂ . Please provide a citation for these figures?	inaccuracy corrected, relates to PM _{2.5} , not PM ₁₀ . PPP - UK Clean Air Strategy referred to and upcoming NI version and Ammonia Action Plan.
General	DAERA NED 04/04/2022	NED are broadly content with the overall approach to SEA and the issues that will be addressed. We note the review of the sustainability appraisal scoping report and proposed updates. NED are in agreement and welcome the completion of a Habitats Regulations Assessment in parallel to the SEA and dPS.	Natural Resources (NRs) section updated May 2022. Draft HRA will be published at draft Plan Strategy stage and is referred to where relevant in the NRs section.
Natural Resources	DAERA NED 04/04/2022	 NED welcome the proposed update to 'Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies' section 5.12.1 Natural Resources to include reference to: the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985, The Biodiversity Strategy NI to 2020 and the DAERA draft Green Growth Strategy and the revised Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies list to include; Sustainability for the future DAERA' Plan to 2050, The Draft NI peatland policy consultation and Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland –Public Discussion Document. 	Legislation and strategies added to PPP section of NRs topic but also added where relevant to baseline content i.e. local biodiversity and ecosystem services sections.
Natural Resources	DAERA NED 04/04/2022	Welcome the Review of DfC and DAERA's Environmental Evidence and Information Guidance on Natural and Historic Environment evidence bases to inform the Historical Environment Chapter. We suggest this should also be carried out for the Natural Resources chapter of the SA. The document can be accessed at the link below <u>https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/development-plan- evidence-guide-documents</u>	Noted. 'Green Infrastructure' and 'Natural Heritage Features and Ecological Networks' guidance added to 'Nature Conservation' and 'Blue/green infrastructure' sections in baseline content.
Natural Resources	04/04/2022	Useful information on Ammonia in NI can be found at https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/ammonia-emissions- northern-ireland. Draft Future Agricultural Policy Proposals Consultation https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-future- agricultural-policy-proposals-northern-ireland The Development Plan Practice Note for Sustainability Appraisal incorporating SEA was produced by the former Department of the Environment in 2015. This document is intended to guide users through the key requirements of a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and SEA and deals primarily with procedures as well as good practice. Some of its content may be useful when developing the SEA documents associated with the LDP. Development Plan Practice Notes <u>https://www.infrastructure-</u> ni.gov.uk/publications/development-plan-practice-notes A number of useful information sources that highlight the current state of the environment in Northern Ireland at a regional level are: Northern Ireland State of the Environment Reports: <u>https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/state-environment-</u> <u>report-2013</u> Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Reports: <u>https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-</u> <u>environmental-statistics-report</u> Other relevant web-links are; Designated Scientific Sites: <u>www.daera-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/protected-areas</u> Regional Landscape Character Map viewer: <u>https://www.daera-</u>	Ammonia reference made in Natural Resources topic under 'Nature Conservation' but as an air pollutant is discussed in the Air Quality section. Information sources have been reviewed at dPS stage. The NI Environmental Statistics Report is referred to in the Climate Change section and cross-over between topics is stated at the start of each section. All designated and non- designated site information has either been sourced from Spatial NI, DAERA's Marine Map Viewer, or requested direct from the data owners like Forest Service and environmental NGOs.

		ni.gov.uk/services/regional-landscape-character-areas-map-	
		viewer DAERA have a map browser for NI protected sites and known priority habitat: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/natural- environment-map-viewer Our natural environment datasets are available at the link below: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/download-digital-datasets	
HRA	NIEA NED 04/04/2022	Appropriate Assessments should refer to the status of habitats and species in the relevant reports available on the JNCC website as follows: UK Article 17 report for the Habitats Directive <u>https://incc.gov.uk/our-work/article-17-habitats- directive-report-2019/</u> and the UK Article 12 report for the Birds Directive <u>https://incc.gov.uk/our-work/european-</u> <u>reporting/#birds-directive-reporting</u>	A draft HRA will be published alongside the final SA report at the draft Plan Strategy stage. The HRA will consider potential impacts of the LDP on all potentially affected SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites that make up the new network of sites under UK jurisdiction as well as any sites located in the Rol that make up the Natura 2000 network.
Landscape	Protected Landscapes Team 04/04/2022	 We welcome the planned updates to be included within SA SEA Objective 13 maintain and enhance landscape character. The following links and publications may be of benefit to the council when undertaking the update: NI Landscape and Seascape Character Assessments –details can be found at the following link:-<u>https://www.daera- ni.gov.uk/topics/land-and-landscapes/landscapes</u> Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition 2013-best practice guidance published by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment; Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note: TGN 06/19 Visual Representation of development proposals: Sept 2019; An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England, Oct 2014. 	DAERA reference source used in original Scoping Report, so reference added where feasible and some additional information from source also used in updates. Maps updated. References all noted but none directly transferable into the baseline content of the Scoping Report. Sources likely to be more applicable in the LDP.
Climate Change	Climate Change 04/04/2022	UK Climate Projections have been updated in 2018 (UKCP18) and can be found <u>here</u> . Climate Change Committee have also published, in June 2021, the most recent Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk (including an NI Summary) and more detail can be found <u>here</u> . Consideration should be given to UKCP18 and the most recent Independent Assessment of Climate Risk.	Climate Change section updated May 2022. Reference to UKCP18 made. Reference to CCRA3 made. Reference to NICCAP2 made.
Climate Change	Climate Change 04/04/2022	Climate Change Mitigation Branch refers Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to the requirements laid out within the Climate Change Committee's Sixth Carbon Budget publication <u>https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/sixth-carbon-budget/</u>	Climate Change section updated May 2022. Reference to District Council's 'climate emergency' and Local Climate Adaptation Plan made.
Climate Change	Climate Change 04/04/2022	Climate Change Committee (CCC) recently published its UK Climate Risk Independent Assessment 2021, which identifies the risk and opportunities posed by climate change over the next five years. A summary for Northern Ireland can be found below: <u>https://www.ukclimaterisk.org/independent-assessment- ccra3/national-summaries/</u>	Climate Change section updated May 2022. Reference to CCRA3 made. Reference to NICCAP2 made.
Water	DWI 04/04/2022	The compliance against Drinking Water Standards is outdated. Update statistics to latest. In Section 5.11, we consider there to be a lack of consideration to private water supplies. These are all water supplies intended for human consumption not provided by a water undertaker appointed under Article 13 of the 2006 Order. These supplies can be from groundwater (borehole, spring or well) or surface	This information has been updated in 5.11.2 This information has been updated in 5.11.2

		water. Details of their quality are included within the aforementioned annual Drinking Water Quality in Northern Ireland reports. In Section 5.11.4, there is no specific reference to private water supply sources, potential treats to quality and quantity (sufficiency) of supply. The LDP should make reference to how developments within the plan will avoid adversely affecting private water supplies by identifying private water supply sources and mitigation steps taken to avoid adverse impacts on source supplies (in terms of both quality and quantity).	
Water	WMU 04/04/2022	Water Management Unit notes the review of the sustainability appraisal scoping report and proposed updates with regard to the water environment and is generally content with what is proposed. It should be noted that the finalised 3 rd Cycle River Basin Management Plans are due to be published later in 2022. With regard to the most up to date water quality, information the NI Water Framework Directive Statistics 2021 provides the most recent WFD assessment for all water bodies. This is available at <u>https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/water- framework-directive-statistics</u>	This information has been updated in 5.11.2. Adopted 3 rd cycle RBMP not published at the time of scoping update.
Historic Environment	HED 01/04/2022	In relation to 'Section 15. Historic Environment' of the updated Plans Policies and Programmes table, Archaeology 2030: A Strategic Approach for Northern Ireland, was published in 2021 with the vision of making archaeology more accessible and valued by everyone. Given the potential of development planning and management to contribute to these aims, it would be relevant to refer to this document in the table. <u>https://niheritagedelivers.org/publications/archaeology-2030-a- strategic-approach-for-northern-ireland</u> Considering the table of scoping suggested updates in relation to part 5.14, we welcome the inclusion of the joint DfC & DAERA	This Strategy has been Reviewed and added to Appendix 4. Guidance has been taken account of at a scale
		Environmental Evidence & Information Guide which provides a useful source of reference for evidence bases related to the historic environment together with the natural environment, facilitating consideration of the intrinsic relationship between both.	proportionate to the SA
		HED is also currently in the process of undertaking a Defence Heritage Survey across Northern Ireland. This work has revealed many new sites and also through survey work, better revealed the significance of known sites, such as the Bishops Court former airfield site and its component parts. Some of the individual structures have been identified as meriting designation through listing or scheduling in their own right, but it will be important that through the plan process, appropriate consideration is given to approaches which will safeguard the integrity of the site as a whole.	Relevant baseline will be reviewed at LPP stage.
		We highlight as well that the Register of Historic Parks Gardens and Demesnes has been undergoing review and an up to date version will shortly be published on our website. Finally, we would also refer to our previous response on the draft historic environment policies dated 21 April 2021 and comments provided in the POP response relating to the Sustainability Appraisal Interim report, 22 August 2018. In addition, we have provided some individual comments relating to the historic environment section 5.14.4 in relation to Key sustainability issues, in the annotated PDF accompanying this response.	March 2021 register is current version at the time of writing. Previous responses reviewed and PDF comments have been incorporated.

0330 137 4000 info@nmandd.org www.newrymournedown.org

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X.com/nmdcouncil

Oifig an lúir 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



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