



Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle
Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSrátha Báin
Derry Citty & Strábane
Districk Council

DERRY CITY & STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) 2032



SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL – SCOPING REPORT

(Incorporating Strategic Environmental
Assessment for the Preferred Options Paper)

May 2017

www.derrystrabane.com/ldp

This Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report has been prepared by Shared Environmental Service in conjunction with Derry City and Strabane District Council.

[How to comment](#)

If you wish to comment on this report please do so by 22 August by e-mail to:

LDP@DerryStrabane.com, preferably using the online questionnaire. Alternatively, you can write to the Planning LDP Team, 98 Strand Road, Derry BT48 7NN.

The Preferred Options Paper and associated documents including this report and full details of the consultation arrangements are available at www.derrystrabane.com/ldp

1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Derry City and Strabane District Council Local Development Plan

Derry City and Strabane District Council encompasses an area of 1,342 sq. km and is home to a population of approximately 149,500 people – 8.16% of the Northern Ireland population. The District is the 6th biggest council area in NI in terms of population. It uniquely combines a regional city with a large and widely dispersed rural area, some of which is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Derry is also recognised as the regional city of the North West of Northern Ireland and is also a university city – home to the Magee Campus of the University of Ulster. The District is strategically located on the Border with the Republic of Ireland and has a strong linkage with Donegal County Council. Both Councils are active in lobbying for positioning the wider North West region in national and international markets.

The Council, when considering how best to sustainably transform our District over the next 15 years, clearly recognises that our assets are our people and our place. In preparing the Local Development Plan (LDP), it is essential that we fully understand our population demographics and their planning related needs over the coming years. Population change has implications for the provision of housing, employment opportunities and public services including health, education and infrastructure. It is therefore important to know the components of population change and the characteristics of the population when planning for future growth.

Planning is also about meeting the needs of everyone – both the majorities and the minorities within the community. Our Local Development Plan can assist in building inclusive and cohesive communities, addressing everyone's needs by providing equality of opportunity, facilitating employment and wealth creation, providing accessible services, increasing transportation options and promoting shared space. Decisions must be made based on targeting deprivation and being aware of the consequences for Catholic and Protestant communities in particular. It is clear that Derry needs to significantly develop to fulfil its role as the principal city of the North West and as a regional and international gateway.

Similarly, Strabane needs considerable relevant development to fulfil its role as a main hub (Regional Development Strategy, 2035). While the clear focus needs to be on Derry City and Strabane Town, it is important that the needs of those people living in the countryside are also considered. For these populations to be sustained and vibrant communities to be maintained, they too will also require their share of sustainable housing, employment and service opportunities.

What is Sustainability Appraisal?

A Sustainability Appraisal is being carried out alongside preparation of the Derry City and Strabane District Council Local Development Plan. Local Planning Authorities use Sustainability Appraisal to assess plans against a set of sustainability objectives developed in consultation with stakeholders. This assessment helps the Council to identify the relative environmental, social and economic performance of possible strategic, policy and site options, and to evaluate which of these may be more sustainable. Sustainability Appraisal is a statutory process incorporating the requirements of the European Union Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

What is the purpose of this document?

The purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report is to:

- Identify other policies, plans, programmes and Sustainability Objectives of relevance to our LDP.
- Collect baseline information about the environmental, social and economic conditions in our Council area, and consider how these might change in the future.

- Identify sustainability issues and challenges which could affect or be addressed by our LDP.
- Develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework, consisting of sustainability objectives and appraisal prompts which will form the basis for assessment of our LDP.
- Invite comment on the scope and method of the Sustainability Appraisal.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives for Derry City and Strabane District Council

A total of fourteen social, economic and environmental topics were identified. For each topic sustainability objectives were identified by considering the wider strategic and policy context, and reviewing baseline information and any evidence of trends and issues.

The objectives for sustainable development for Derry City and Strabane District Council are to...

- 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

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GLOSSARY

AHRRGA	Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
CCC	Committee on Climate Change
COE	Council of Europe
DAERA	The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DCCAE	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
DCs	District Councils
DE	The Department of Education
DEA	District Electoral Area
DECLG	Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
DfC	The Department for Communities
DfE	The Department for the Economy
DfI	The Department for Infrastructure
DHPCLG	Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government
DoH	The Department of Health
DoJ	The Department of Justice
DCSDC/DCSD	Derry City and Strabane District Council
EA	Education Authority
EC	European Commission
EO	The Executive Office
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (Ireland)
Four Nations	Devolved Administrations and English Government (NI Lead Department indicated in brackets)
GHG	Greenhouse gas
HSCB	Health and Social Care Board
LDP	Local Development Plan
MCG	Marine Coordination Group
MI	Marine Institute
NA	Not Applicable
NASCO	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
NIW	Northern Ireland Water
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NWRA	Northern and Western Regional Assembly
OPW	Office of Public Works
Roi	Ireland
RDS	Regional Development Strategy
SA	Sustainability appraisal
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SOA	Super Output Area
SPPS	Strategic Planning Policy Statement
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
UK Gov.	UK Government
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
WHST	Western Health and Social Care Trust
WWTW	Waste Water Treatment Works

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Purpose of this Scoping Report

This scoping report is the first formal output of the Sustainability Appraisal process for the Derry City and Strabane District Council Local Development Plan. It presents information about the topics being assessed under the Sustainability Appraisal which incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment. It outlines the assessment methodology and approach for future Sustainability Appraisal reports. The Scoping Report will be updated throughout plan preparation and will be included with all Sustainability Appraisal Reports published as part of the consultation process for the Local Development Plan.

2.2 Derry City and Strabane District Council Local Development Plan

The [Local Development Plan Timetable](#) for plan preparation was published in July 2016. Chapter 4 describes the approach that is being taken to plan preparation in more detail and provides an overview of the Council area.

2.3 Sustainable Development

The Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy - 'Everyone's Involved', published in May 2010, 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.

Sustainability Appraisal is the approach used to promote sustainable development within Local Development Plans by evaluating the social, environmental and economic effects of all aspects of the Local Development Plan 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.
- Ensuring the existence of a policy environment which supports the overall advancement of sustainable development in and beyond Government.

2.4 Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment 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 introduced by the European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. In Northern Ireland the Directive's requirements are 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 development. Appendix 1 records how these regulations are being complied with.

2.5 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 local development plans 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 (DOE, 2015)¹. Sustainability Appraisal therefore refers to an integrated approach which fully incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment and fulfils the requirements for both Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

2.6 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.

Table 2.1: Stages of Sustainability Appraisal

Stage	Description	Location
Stage A (1) Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	Identify other relevant policies, plans, programmes and Sustainability Objectives.	Appendix 4
	Collect baseline information	Chapter 6
	Consult the Consultation Body on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.	Consulted NIEA 21/2/17, response received 23/3/17, recommendations incorporated where possible and will be further addressed in the updated Scoping Report for Plan Strategy.
	Identify environmental issues and challenges	Chapter 6

¹ [Department of the Environment \(2015\) Development Plan Practice Note 04: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment Amend footnote numbers to 2 and 3](#)

	Develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework	Chapter 7
	Produce draft Scoping Report and share with stakeholders	Refer to 3.3
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
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 measures for alleviating any adverse effects.	Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report published with POP
Stage C	Sustainability Appraisal Report to document the appraisal process and findings.	Not at this stage (Plan Strategy and LPP)
Stage D	Consultation with the public, environmental authorities and any EU member state affected on the Sustainability Appraisal Report and draft plan.	Not at this stage
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
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

2.7 Other Assessments

2.7.1 Habitats Regulations Assessment

Habitats Regulations Assessment 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, Special Protection Areas) as a result of plans and policies in the Local Development Plan; this is also carried out for Ramsar sites. Baseline information for Habitats Regulations Assessment is included in the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report. A draft Habitats Regulations Assessment will be published for consultation with the Draft Plan Strategy and Draft Local Policies Plan. A final Habitats Regulations Assessment will be published when each of these are adopted.

2.7.2 Rural Proofing

The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, for which the proposed commencement date, as it applies to Government Departments and Councils is 1 June 2017, 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 the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) provides advice on carrying it out in *Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing and A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 for Public Authorities*, May 2017. 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.

This Scoping Report directly considers rural populations and how the LDP could affect them in the evidence base for the community topic. Data on rural populations, where available, is also included under other topics, for example health, education and infrastructure. Key issues for the Borough 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.

As plan preparation progresses and more detail emerges about proposals, how they will be implemented and where they will be located, rural issues will be considered in more depth. A rural proofing checklist, reflecting the Rural Needs Impact Assessment Template May 2017, will be included in the Sustainability Appraisal for Plan Strategy

2.8 Scoping Report Structure

Chapter 3 details the proposed approach to Sustainability Appraisal while Chapter 4 provides an overview of plan preparation. Chapter 5 gives an overview of the baseline information and each topic is reported on in Chapter 6 with the context, relevant baseline information, trends, key issues and the implications for the Local Development Plan. Chapter 7 presents the Sustainability Framework and outlines the next steps in the Sustainability Appraisal.

3. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL: THE APPROACH

3.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the overall approach taken to Sustainability Appraisal throughout the Local Development Plan preparation process. Chapters 5 to 7 are the application of this approach for the Scoping Report for Derry City and Strabane District Council Local Development Plan.

3.2 Principles

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

Role

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

Integrated

Sustainability Appraisal 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 Local Development Plan.

Shared Information

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

Relevant

The Sustainability Appraisal 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 Local Development Plan.

Connected

The Local Development Plan may be influenced by or have an impact on neighbouring areas. This Sustainability Appraisal considers strategies and plans beyond the council area where there is potential for significant positive or negative effects. Neighbouring councils will be invited to comment on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report and Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Proportionate

The Sustainability Appraisal avoids 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 provided to that document.

Up-to-date

The Sustainability Appraisal, including the Scoping Report will be updated during plan preparation to ensure that it reflects current policies, plans and programmes and recent data.

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.

3.3 Involving Others

Informal and formal consultation with stakeholders and the public is an essential part of Sustainability Appraisal to ensure that the topics and issues have been fully considered. The first formal consultation required is with the Consultation Body on this Scoping Report. 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 February 2017. Its response has 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 technical papers and Chapter 6. Statutory consultees will be invited to comment on the Sustainability Appraisal Reports. A register of consultation responses is being maintained and will be provided in a future version of this report.

Derry City and Strabane District Council adjoins Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Mid Ulster District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Donegal County Council. These councils will be invited to comment on the Preferred Options Paper and Sustainability Appraisal Reports.

The public will be formally consulted on the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report, together with this Scoping Report, during consultation on the Preferred Options Paper. There will also be public consultation on the Draft Sustainability Appraisal Reports which will accompany the Draft Plan Strategy and Draft Local Policies Plan. Representations at public consultation that are relevant to the Sustainability Appraisal will be reviewed. Where necessary the Sustainability Appraisal Reports will be revised in response to representations and to any changes to the Preferred Options, Plan Strategy or Local Policies Plan.

3.4 The Evidence base

The evidence base is arranged according to a number of topics and for each topic a consistent approach to reporting is followed. The approach is described in more detail in Chapter 5 and the evidence base is presented in Chapter 6.

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 and will be reviewed and updated at each stage of appraisal.

3.5 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal 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 Sustainability Appraisal 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 this Framework. The Sustainability Reports to accompany the Plan Strategy will include proposed indicators for monitoring any significant effects of delivery of the Local Development Plan in relation to the Sustainability Objectives.

3.6 Significant Effects

The Sustainability Appraisal 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.

3.7 Assessment Method

The key stages are Sustainability Appraisal of:

- options and reasonable alternatives for the Preferred Options Paper
- the Plan Strategy
- the Local Policies Plan

The proposed method for the appraisal of each part of the Local Development Plan follows.

3.8 Appraisal of reasonable alternatives for the Preferred Options Paper

In the Preferred Options Paper, strategic proposals are presented with options for delivery. The options are reasonable alternatives where these can be identified. The Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report accompanying the POP evaluates these options using the appraisal matrix shown in Table 3.1. 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 negative effects and measures where appropriate to enhance positive effects.

Table 3.1: Outline Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

Issue												
Options	Option 1:				Option 2:				Option 3:			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1. Sustainability Objective												
2. Sustainability Objective												
3. Sustainability Objective etc.												
Summary and comparison of alternative against the sustainability objectives The preferred option What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects												

Table 3.2 Scores and definitions for Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

Score		Description
++	Significant Positive	Proposal would greatly help to achieve the objective
+	Minor Positive	Proposal would slightly help to achieve the objective
0	Neutral / no effect / negligible effect	Proposal would not affect the objective
-	Minor Negative	Proposal would slightly conflict with the objective
--	Significant Negative	Proposal would greatly conflict with the objective
?	Uncertain	The effect cannot be predicted because <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the approach has an uncertain relationship to the objective; or • the relationship is dependent on the way in which the option is implemented; • insufficient information is 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

3.9 Plan Strategy

The proposals in the draft Plan Strategy will be reviewed and the Scoping Report and Sustainability Appraisal updated to reflect any changes from the previous stage. This will be published as a Sustainability Report in support of the consultation on the draft Plan Strategy.

3.10 Local Policies Plan

In advance of preparation of the Local Policies Plan (LPP) criteria will be developed to help guide the appraisal of sites. The proposals in the Local Policies Plan will be appraised using the Sustainability Appraisal Framework and a Sustainability Appraisal Report will be published as part of the consultation on these papers.

3.11 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.

4. DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

4.1 Context - Requirement to Prepare a Local Development Plan

Part 2 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the 2011 Act) provides for the preparation of a local development plan 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.

4.2 What is the Local Development Plan?

The purpose of the Derry City and Strabane 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 and guide development decisions within the Council area 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 our Council area. It will ensure that lands are appropriately zoned and that our infrastructure is enhanced to develop the Council area 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 Regional Development Strategy, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs).

The new Local Development Plan for the Council will replace the [Derry Area Plan 2011](#) and the Strabane Area Plan 1986-2011. Due to its early 1980 preparation date, the Strabane Area Plan is not publicly available in a digitised format. Hard copies are available to purchase on request.

Following publication of the Preferred Options Paper, the Plan will be produced in two parts consisting firstly of a Plan Strategy followed by a Local Policies Plan. The Plan Strategy will set the aims, objectives, growth strategy and strategic policies applicable to the Plan Area. The Local Policies Plan will provide site specific policies and proposals, including settlement limits, land use zonings and environmental designations.

The LDP is informed by an iterative Sustainability Appraisal which will run parallel to the preparation of the Preferred Options Paper, Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan. An integral part of the Sustainability Appraisal is the **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** which will examine the

environmental effects of the LDP proposals. The Sustainability Appraisal process aims to ensure that the policies and proposals in the LDP are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.

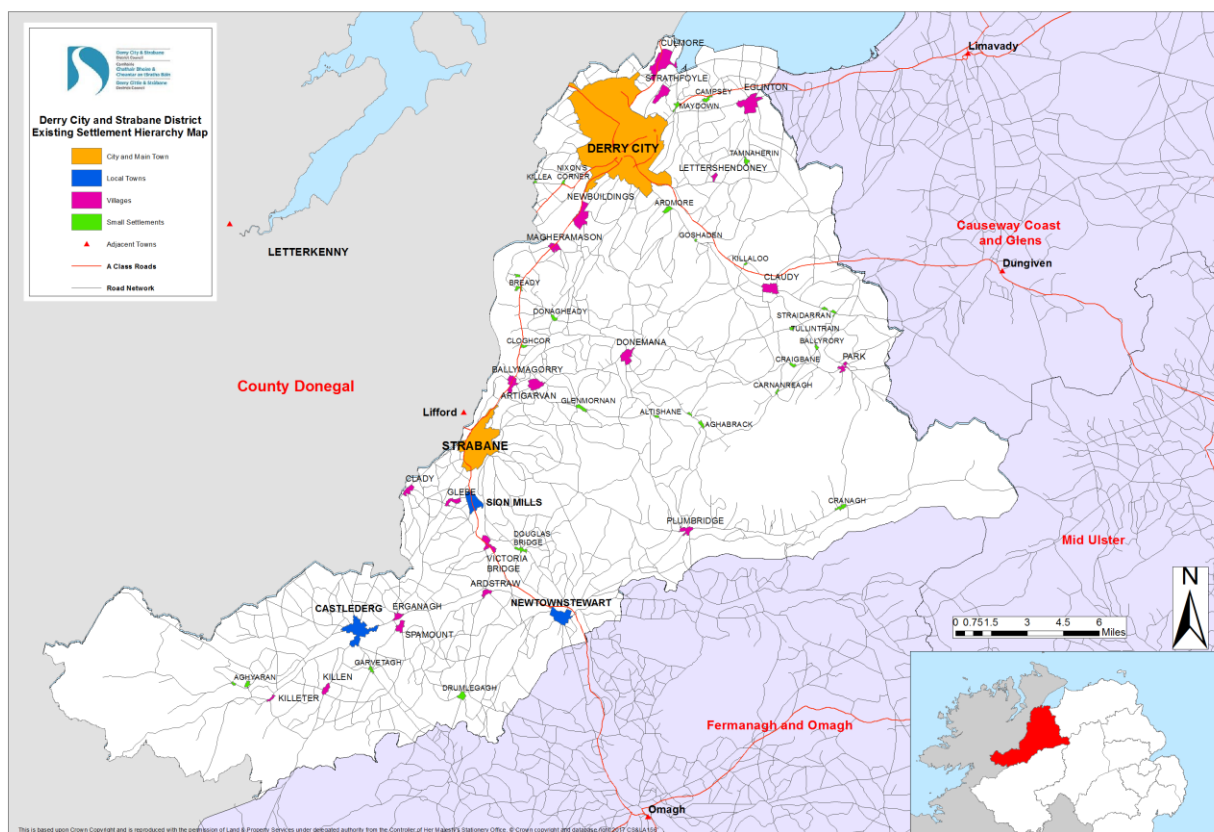
The preparation of the Scoping Report is the first stage in the undertaking of the SA / SEA. Although a formal Scoping Report is not mandatory, it is considered a useful way to set out the evidence base and framework of sustainability objectives against which the social, economic and environmental effects of implementing the draft plan can be appraised.

4.3 Spatial scope of the plan

The preparation of this District’s Strategic Growth Plan - our Community Plan (CP) and the Local Development Plan (LDP) is the beginning of a significant and ambitious long term, collaborative process which is aimed to improve all our lives and transform our City and District. It comes at a time in which we are determined to improve our regional competitiveness, our skills, address poverty, social exclusion and patterns of deprivation, sustainably enhance our environment and develop connected, vibrant, rural areas.

Our vision is a thriving, prosperous and sustainable City and District with equality of opportunity for all.

Figure 4.1 District Context



The Community Plan process has identified those things that matter most to us as a community and the key transformative projects that will deliver inclusive growth. The Local Government Act introduces a statutory link between the CP and the LDP, in that the preparation of the LDP must ‘take account of’ the CP. It is intended that the LDP will be the spatial reflection of the CP and that the two should work in tandem towards the same vision for the Council area and our communities and set the long term social, economic and environmental objectives for the District. These objectives are set out in Section 4 of the POP.

4.4 Challenges and Opportunities ahead

Our District faces particular challenges and opportunities ahead, including

- **Population** - Over the next 20 years the growth in the City and District's population is projected to rise slightly and then fall back to just below the current level of approximately 150,000.
- **Social challenges** - We experience huge inequalities with a troubling number of our local areas witnessing high levels of deprivation - unemployment, life-expectancy, health, rural isolation, poor access to services, economic inactivity, lack of educational qualifications and poverty. The Council area has a higher proportion of social housing but there is a long waiting list with 70% of those on it in housing stress. The social housing need from 2016-21 is projected at 2,552.
- **Economic challenges** - These social challenges are themselves a reflection of the relatively weak state of the local economy and poor rural connectivity. Our economic inactivity rate is higher than that of NI as a whole, which already has a much higher rate than the rest of the UK and Ireland. While the businesses birth and survival rate is on a par with the rest of NI, there has been little growth in employee numbers since 2009.
- **Brexit uncertainty** - The impending implications of Brexit vote adds considerable uncertainty to the economic outlook and could change the dynamic of cross border trade, commuting and associated population change. In the short term it is likely to have a dampening impact on private sector investment, although this is partially offset by positive impacts resulting from a more competitive currency.
- **Environmental Challenges** - Recycling rates are below the NI average. Per capita CO₂ emissions present a mixed picture – in 2012 they were lower than the NI average in Derry but higher in Strabane. Fuel poverty is higher than the NI average and uptake of public transport is lower than average.

4.5 How can our LDP contribute?

Population change has implications for the provision of housing, employment opportunities and public services including health, education and infrastructure. It is therefore important to know the components of population change and the characteristics of the population when planning for future growth. Planning is also about meeting the needs of everyone – both the majorities and the minorities within the community. Our Local Development Plan can assist in building inclusive and cohesive communities, addressing everyone's needs by providing equality of opportunity, facilitating employment and wealth creation, providing accessible services, increasing transportation options and promoting shared space. Decisions must be made based on targeting deprivation and being aware of the consequences for Catholic and Protestant communities in particular.

It is clear that Derry needs to significantly develop to fulfil its role as the principal city of the North West and as a regional and international gateway. Similarly, Strabane needs considerable relevant development to fulfil its role as a main hub (Regional Development Strategy, 2035). While the clear focus needs to be on Derry City and Strabane Town, it is important that the needs of those people living in the countryside are also considered. For these populations to be sustained and vibrant communities to be maintained they too will also require their share of sustainable housing, employment and service opportunities.

5. OVERVIEW OF THE BASELINE EVIDENCE

5.1 Presentation of Baseline Evidence

The baseline evidence is presented in Chapter 6 for fourteen topics which span the social, economic and environmental themes. Many topics overlap therefore Table 5.1 outlines the scope of each topic to clarify where information is presented.

Table 5.1: Scope of Sustainability Topics

Topic	Includes
1. Health and Wellbeing	Health profile, physical activity, access to health care, access to open space and recreation, quiet areas, noise
2. Community	Community identity, shared space, social inclusion, crime prevention and community safety, good relations
3. Housing	Housing, urban capacity, 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; renewable energy, cemeteries
7. Physical Resources	Earth science, minerals, land and soil (include land use), geothermal
8. Transport and Accessibility	Public, private transport, traffic, efficient movement
9. Air	Air quality and short term changes (aspects relating to climate are covered in climatic factors)
10. Climatic factors	Implications of climate change, reduction and adaptation
11. Water	Water quality and resources, levels (flood risk)
12. Natural Resources	Biodiversity, fauna, flora, green and blue infrastructure, ecosystems services. Includes intertidal and coastal zones as well as marine environment.
13. Landscape	Landscape, seascape and countryside/rural area
14. Historic Environment and Cultural Resources	Historic environment, archaeology, built heritage, townscape and cultural heritage assets

Each topic is presented using the same structure, and the headings are explained below:

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

5.2 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 Local Development Plan. 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 Local Development Plan;

- to reflect sustainability themes 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 Local Development Plan.

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

5.3 Strategic Context

The following regional strategies are overarching and form a backdrop to the Local Development Plan. Each is introduced here and key relevant aspects are described in more detail under each topic in Chapter 6.

5.3.1 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 recognises the important role of Belfast in generating regional prosperity and that Londonderry is the focus for economic growth in the North West. However, 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 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 Local Development Plans.

5.3.2 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 Local Development Plans 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, which are essentially a consolidation of the existing Planning Policy Statements, in addition to the introduction of new policy for retailing.

5.3.3 Sustainable Development Strategy

The Sustainable Development Strategy identifies 32 strategic objectives in the following Priority Areas. The strategic objectives that are key will be highlighted under the relevant topic.

- 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.

5.3.4 Draft Programme for Government

The Programme for Government (PfG) is the highest level strategic document of the Executive setting out the priorities that it will pursue in the current Assembly mandate, and the most significant actions it will take to address them. The draft PfG 2016-21 was consulted on in summer 2016. It will be subject to further public consultation before the final PfG is published in December 2016.

The draft PfG 2016-21 contains 14 Strategic Outcomes supported by 42 Indicators. The outcomes touch on every aspect of government, including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and confident and peaceful communities and are intended to meet statutory obligations and to make real improvements to the quality of life of citizens.

5.3.5 Ireland 2040 – Our Plan (draft)

The Republic of Ireland is currently preparing a National Planning Framework (Ireland 2040 – Our Plan) to replace the National Spatial Strategy 2002. The draft National Planning Framework provides an opportunity to establish a policy framework that supports joined-up approaches and the mechanisms to deliver co-ordinated growth in the border region. It recognises the existing cooperation between Donegal County and Derry City and Strabane District Councils. A key output is to enhance the performance of the North-West metropolitan area which is key to both the NI Executive's and the Irish Government's ambitions to realise the economic potential of the region.

5.3.6 Community Planning

The new duty of Community Planning came into operation on 1st April 2015 and requires councils to act as the lead for community planning in their areas, in partnership with the community and service providers. This will result in a long term vision for the social, environmental and economic well-being of our area and its citizens. The Community Plan also aims to promote community cohesion and improve the quality of life for all of our citizens. It will integrate service and function delivery and set out the future direction for development within the council area. The Local Development Plan will support delivery of the spatial aspects of the Community Plan.

Our draft Community Plan, The Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan for Derry City and Strabane District has just been published. It was developed through extensive engagement with stakeholders and the community and set out the shared outcomes for this area.

*Our vision is a thriving, prosperous and sustainable City and District
with equality of opportunity for all.*

The draft Community Plan places emphasis on the regional status of Derry and Strabane and the need to maximise its strengths for communication, transport, tourism, economic productivity, knowledge, education and innovation.

Key issues that are identified are the need to improve educational outcomes; the need to reverse population decline; the need to increase investment and income levels and the need to improve cooperation.

Cross cutting themes are: addressing inequality and promoting inclusive growth; sustainability; good relations and rural development.

Eight primary outcomes have been identified for the Community Plan.

1. We live in a shared, equal and safe community.
2. We live long, healthy and fulfilling lives.
3. Our children and young people have the best start in life.
4. We prosper through a strong, competitive, entrepreneurial and innovative economy.
5. We are better skilled and educated.
6. We live in the cultural destination of choice and offer world class visitor experiences.
7. We live sustainably – protecting the environment.
8. We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure

The draft Community Plan is to be supported by a Local Community Planning process to identify actions to meet local needs and improve well-being.

The draft Community Plan sustainability theme includes the goal of protecting our local ecosystems as the source of clean air, clean water and fertile topsoil.

Our Corporate Plan and Performance Improvement Plan 2016/17 is an interim plan until the community plan is finalised and sets out our current priorities. The future Corporate Plan will capture the council's contribution to the draft Community Plan therefore the emphasis in Chapter 6 when considering the local context is the draft Community Plan.

5.4 Baseline Information

A desk-based review has been undertaken to identify baseline conditions in Derry City and Strabane District Council. Each sustainability topic is presented in Chapter 6 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 LDP Evidence Papers and the draft Community Plan.

The baseline topics for Sustainability Appraisal have a wider scope than the Local Development Plan evidence gathering requirements. Data sources in [Local Development Plans: Environmental Evidence and Information DAERA 2017](#) have been referred to including the [Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report DAERA 2016](#).

In addition to the LDP and Community Plan evidence papers, we have used evidence presented on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency 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.

5.5 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

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

5.6 The Key Sustainability Issues

Drawing on the plans, policies and programmes review, the baseline information and the likely evolution of the baseline without the Local Development Plan, Key Sustainability Issues are set out for each topic. These reflect the local area and mainly ones that are relevant to and may be influenced by the Local Development Plan. These Key Sustainability Issues will also identify the potential for cumulative effects which should be considered in preparation of the Local Development Plan.

5.7 Proposed Sustainability Objectives

The key sustainability issues inform one or more sustainability objectives for each topic. These are presented in Chapter 7 with a short rationale and description of what each objective seeks to achieve. There are several overlaps between objectives which support each other.

6. THE EVIDENCE BASE

6.1 Health and Well-being

6.1.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

This topic considers the health profile for our council, 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.

The common thread of relevant policies is that actions should improve the outcomes for everyone's mental and physical health and well-being. Measures seek to prolong healthy life and reduce preventable deaths. Contributors to this are 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 and therefore there are programmes such as Delivering Social Change that seek to reduce inequalities. Northern Ireland strategies are supportive of international strategies and the Sustainable Development Strategy.

Part of supporting good health is encouraging physical activity and 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 an environment and specific facilities to encourage increased physical activity. There is a particular focus on groups that have lower rates of activity which is now women and girls, people with disabilities, older people and the most economically disadvantaged.

Transforming your Care: Strategic Implementation Plan and the Western Health and Social Care Trust Population Plans 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. The outcome 'Making the Most of the Physical Environment' is highly relevant to the LDP. Actions can be grouped by those to improve and maintain good environmental quality in terms of air and water quality and noise; those that 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 requiring safeguarding, provision of and accessibility for all to open space with high standards of design.

Our draft Community Plan outcomes which are most relevant to this topic relate to the Social Pillar - Health and Wellbeing and are:

- We have improved physical & mental health
- Health inequalities are reduced
- We are more physically active
- We age actively and more independently

Outcomes under the Environmental Pillar are also relevant, for example:

- We benefit from well designed and managed green space

6.1.2 Baseline Information

The Community Planning Resource Support Pack June 2015² and updates (May 2017) found at Derry and Strabane Statistics³ provide detailed information on the health and physical activity profile for our council. In addition data has been sourced from the following evidence paper which can be found at www.derrystrabane.com/ldp and is relevant to this topic: EVB12 – Open Space & Recreation, as well as further sources referenced separately such as the Health Survey Northern Ireland, a Department of Health survey that has run every year from April 2010 across Northern Ireland.

Overview

The area on average exhibits life expectancy levels on a par with NI however life expectancy in urban deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs) is significantly lower. Within Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) area all the health indicators were worse than the NI average with the exception of the standardised admission rate for circulatory disease. Health outcomes across all 26 indicators were worse in the more deprived areas compared to the Council as a whole.

Population profile

The future population profile is relevant as it informs health care needs (Table 6.1.1). Projections up to 2037 show an aging population which peaks at 150,525 and begins to decline as a proportion of the NI population in the mid-2020s. Based on 2014 population projections produced by NISRA, the population could increase from 149,416 in 2015 to around 151,000 by 2032 but fall to 149,000 by 2039.

The following figure illustrates the projected population which shows a much greater increase in older age groups. This will increase the requirement for late and end of life care and place additional demands on health and community services.

Table 6.1.1 Population Projections for DCSDC by Age Band

Age band	2026			2039		
	DCSDC	NI		DCSDC	NI	
0-15	32,150	21.2%	20.2%	28,870	19.4%	18.4%
16-24	16,670	11.0%	10.9%	16,540	11.1%	10.9%
25-44	36,860	24.3%	24.4%	33,860	22.7%	22.9%
45-64	38,480	25.4%	25.1%	34,220	23.0%	23.1%
65+	27,310	18.0%	19.4%	35,570	23.9%	24.7%
Total	151,460	100%	100%	149,060	100%	100%

Source: Northern Ireland Population Projections (2014 Based) (NISRA)

The birth rate in DCSDC has fluctuated by up to 4% since 2008 in common with the NI birth rate. While the teenage birth rate is slightly higher than that for NI it has fallen steadily over this period.

² http://www.derrystrabane.com/getmedia/d68e0229-39bd-4619-b9ba-b078090f3482/DCSDC_StatsDoc_FINALv2.pdf

³ <http://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/Derry-and-Strabane-Statistics/Home>

Table 6.1.2: Resident live births, birth rate and teenage birth rate, DCSDC and NI, 2008-2015

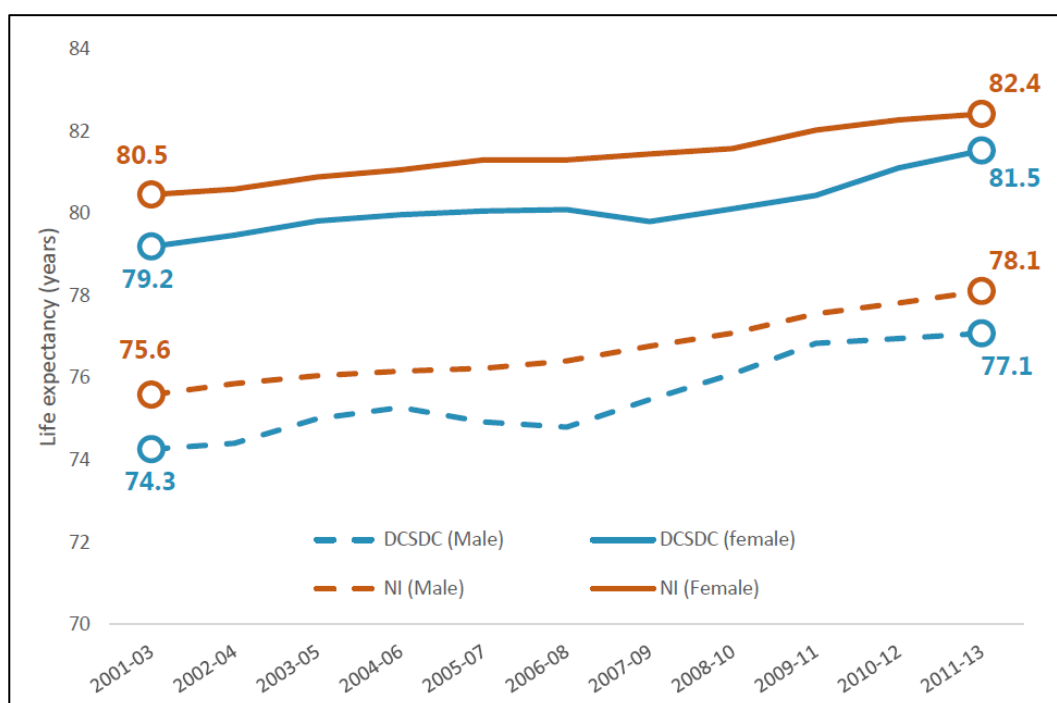
Age band	Births ¹	Birth rate ²		Teenage birth rate ³	
	DCSDC	DCSDC	NI	DCSDC	NI
2008	2,216	66.8	67.1	17.3	16.4
2009	2,252	68.3	65.3	16.9	15.5
2010	2,116	65.1	66.7	15.7	14.7
2011	2,225	69.4	67.0	15.3	13.7
2012	2,147	67.8	67.5	15.0	13.0
2013	2,054	65.8	65.4	11.5	11.3
2014	2,096	67.7	66.1	10.7	10.3
2015	2,061	67.6	66.0	10.4	9.5

Source: NISRA, Registrar General Report (2015)

Life expectancy

Life expectancy for males in Northern Ireland for 2011-2013 was 78.1 years, and for females 82.4 years. Life expectancy for males in DCSDC for 2011-2013 was 77.1 years, and for females 81.5 years. These have shown a steady increase of over two years from 2001 but remain about a year lower than the NI average.

Figure 6.1.1: Life expectancy at birth, DCSDC and NI, 2001-03 to 2011-13



Source: NISRA, Registrar General Report (2015)

The mortality rate has declined steadily in DCSDC from being 6% higher than the NI standardised mortality rate to being 2.3% above the NI rate which is not considered statistically significant.

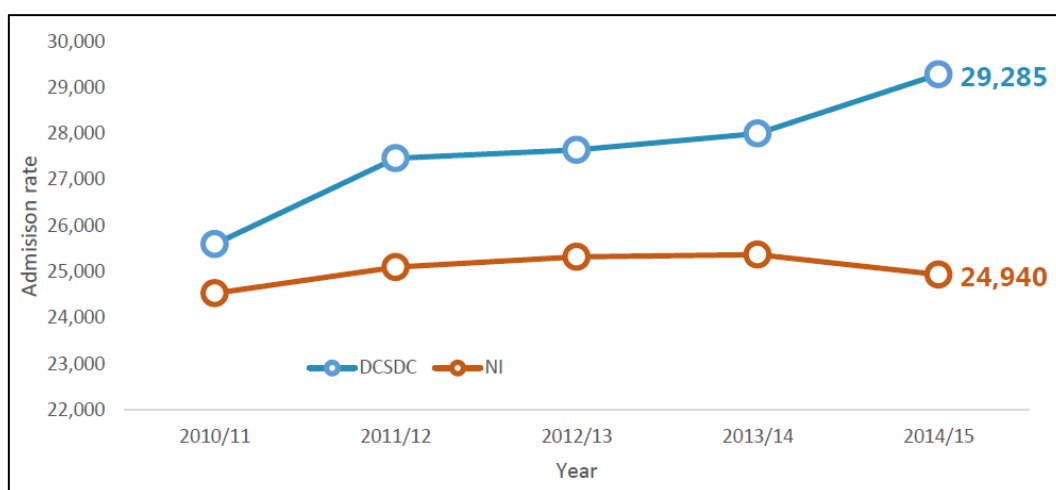
Healthy life expectancy for males in Northern Ireland for 2010-2012 was 58.6 years, and for females was 61.6 years. Disability-free life expectancy for males in Northern Ireland for 2010-2012 was 60.2

years, and for females was 60.8 years. Healthy and disability-free life expectancy is not currently available at Council level.

Admission Rates

The standardised admission rate to hospital for those in DCSDC has diverged from the NI rate in the period 2010/11 to 2014/15. By 2014/15, there were 29,285 admissions per 100,000 people compared with a lower rate of 24,940 for NI. Standardised admission rates, due to alcohol related causes have increased since 2008 both in the council area and in NI however they are significantly higher in DCSDC and were over 50% higher in 12/13 -14/15. Standardised admission rates, due to respiratory disease have increased since 2008 both in the council area and in NI however they are significantly higher in DCSDC and were over 10% higher in 12/13 -14/15. In contrast standardised admission rates, due to circulatory disease have decreased since 2008 both in the council area and in NI and were significantly lower than the NI rate in DCSDC in 12/13 -14/15.

Figure 6.1.2: Standardised admission rates (all admissions) per 100,000 population for DCSDC and NI



Source: Public Health Information and Research Branch, DoH

The admission rate for emergency admissions has been increasing since 2009/10 and stood at 11,961 (NI 9,394) admissions per 100,000 people in 2014/15 which is 27.3% higher than the NI rate.

Physical Health

In terms of health, on Census Day 2011 in DCSDC almost a quarter, 22.9% (NI 20.7%), of people had a long term health problem or disability that limited their day to day activities. The most common types of long-term condition were mobility or dexterity difficulty, long-term pain or discomfort, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing and an emotional, psychological or mental health condition.

Physical activity

Physical activity has not been specifically recorded at a council level however at the Northern Ireland level it has increased from a very low level in 2011 of 34% to 53% in 2013. More detailed information for 2013/14 shows that 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.

Figures on physical activity taken from the 2012/13 Health Survey produced by DHSSPSNI found for the WHSCT that 31% (NI 28%) do less than 30 minutes of exercise per week, whilst 6% (NI 5%) exercise between 30 and 59 minutes per week. 12% (NI 14%) exercise between 60 and 149 minutes

per week and 51% (NI 53%) meet the recommended physical activity levels of at least 150 minutes per week.

Data for time spent outdoors, suggested in 2014/15 that there was a much lower level of outdoor activity in DCSDC than for Northern Ireland as a whole with 30% (NI 11%) never spending leisure time outdoors. Combined figures for 2014/15 and 2015/16 (Table 6.1.3) however show the reverse. This data will be reviewed in the next update of this scoping report.

Table 6.1.3: Outdoor Leisure Time 2014/15 to 2015/16

	DCSDC	NI
Once a week or more	72%	65%
Less frequent than once a week	23%	23%
Never	5%	11%

Source: Continuous Household Survey via Central Survey Unit, NISRA

Children and physical activity

The following information is from A Question of Sport, Research Update 107, by Dirk Schubotz, Katrina Lloyd and Martina McKnight 2016⁴ and Are children getting the opportunities to realise their right to play?, Research Update 98, by Laura McQuade, Susan Kehoe and Lesley Emerson 2015⁵.

These found that almost one third of P7 children, and less than one in ten 16-year olds meet a target of 60 minutes of physical activity per day therefore there are large proportions of children who 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 studies⁶ which found, among other things, that a fifth of children did not play outside at all on an average day; less than one in 10 children regularly played in wild spaces compared to half of children a generation ago.

Diet

Health Survey Northern Ireland data suggest that over 2010 to 2016 there has been little change in the composition of the diet with for example 51% of respondents consuming biscuits and 28% consuming sweets and sugary fizzy drinks on most days of the week. The most recent data showed that 37% of respondents consume five or more portions of fruit and vegetables per day.

Obesity

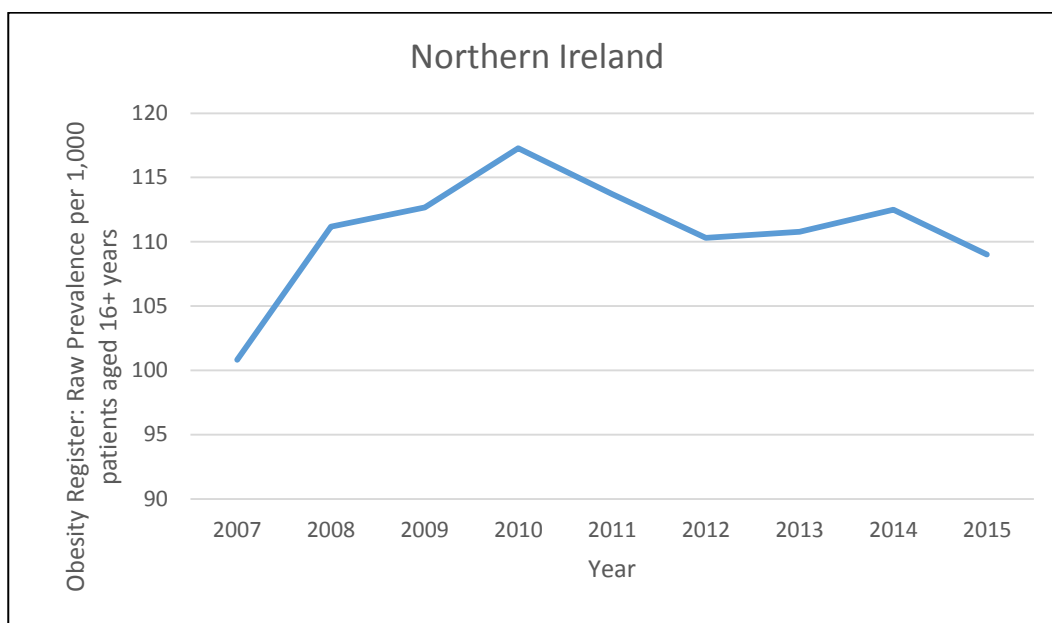
The Northern Ireland Health Survey reported that, overall, 60% of adults were either overweight (35%) or obese (25%). The percentage of adults classed as obese or overweight has increased from the level of 56% reported in 1997, although has remained at a similar level since 2005/06. Globally, around 39% of adults aged 18 and over were overweight in 2014, the equivalent for Europe was 58.6%.

⁴ <http://www.ark.ac.uk/publications/updates/update107.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.ark.ac.uk/publications/updates/update98.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/mar/25/three-quarters-of-uk-children-spend-less-time-outdoors-than-prison-inmates-survey>

Figure 6.1.3 Over 16 Obesity prevalence Northern Ireland



Source: NINIS Disease Prevalence (Quality Outcomes Framework) (administrative geographies)

The rate of childhood obesity is higher for DCSDC than for NI.

Table 6.1.4: Childhood obesity

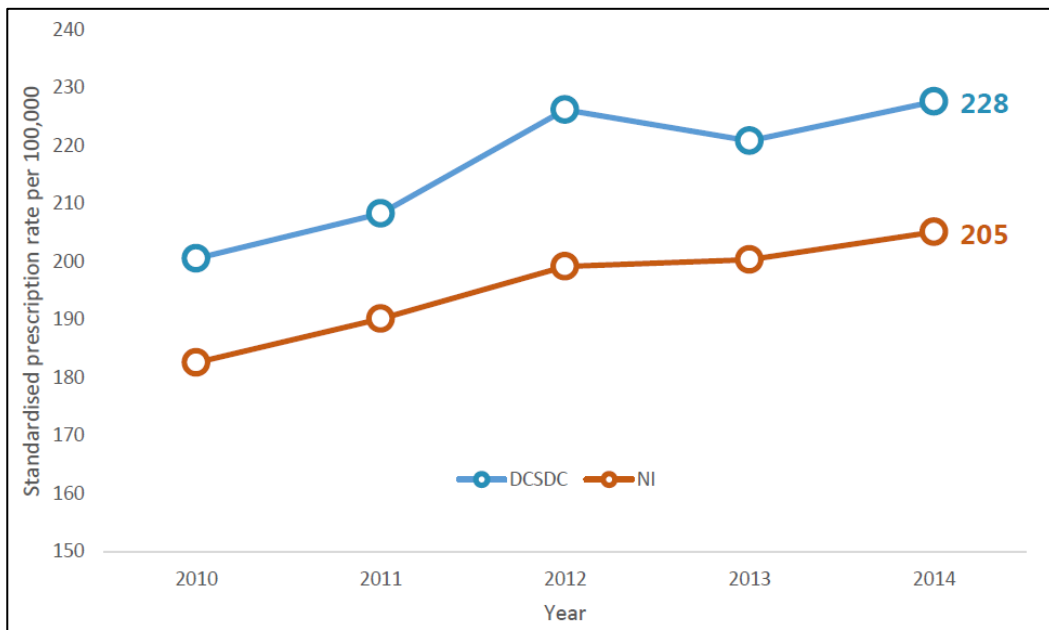
Year	P1		Y8	
	DCSDC	NI	DCSDC	NI
Obese	5.8%	5.1%	8.5%	7.3%
Overweight or Obese	23.5%	21.4%	30.9%	28.6%

Mental Health

In the Northern Ireland Health Survey around one-fifth (19%) of respondents showed signs of a possible mental health problem (GHQ score >4), consistent with previous rates back to 2005/06. Respondents in the most deprived areas (30%) were twice as likely to record a high GHQ12 score as those in the least deprived areas (15%). Almost nine in every ten adults (88%) indicated they were 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with life in general however the rate for 'very satisfied' was 32% for the most deprived areas compared with 47% for the least deprived areas.

There has been an increase in the standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety disorders for both DCSDC and NI between 2010 and 2014. By 2014, the standardised prescription rate stood at 228 per 100,000 people within DCSDC.

Figure 6.1.4: Standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety disorders, per 100,000 population, DCSDC and NI



Source: Public Health Information and Research Branch, DoH

The crude suicide rate for DCSDC decreased from the period beginning 2006 and stood at a rate of 17.3 per 100,000 during the period 2010-14. The crude suicide rate has remained relatively static for NI and stood at 15.9 per 100,000 population during the period 2010-14.

Noise

Trend data is not available as it was collected on the former council level. The total number of noise complaints in Northern Ireland has remained fairly constant over the previous 10 years, varying between 11,099 and 12,193. However a 10% reduction has been experienced in 2015/16 from the previous year and is the lowest number of complaints recorded since 2005. Analysis of the data reveals that domestic noise accounted for 79% of all complaints this year, followed by complaints relating to commerce and leisure (8%), noise in the street (7%) and industrial noise (2%); the proportion of noise complaints attributable to each category varies little year on year.

For DCSDC there were 453 complaints in 2015/16 the top three sources, accounting for 82% of complaints, were noise from animals (279), Music Televisions Parties (68) and Other Neighbour Noise (24). Noise from sources such as traffic is presented in noise maps published by DAERA and will be considered in more detail when preparing the LPP.

Providing care

In the 2011 census 11.3% of people in DCSSDC stated that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others. This unpaid care only relates to long-term physical or mental ill-health/disability or problems related to old age.

Health Care Facilities and Ambulance Response Times

The area is covered by the Western Health and Social Care Trust. Provision of major Health Care and Community Services in the District is centred on Derry. Acute Services in the District are provided by Altnagelvin Hospital. Expansion of Altnagelvin Hospital is underway. Mental Health care is carried out primarily at the Gransha Hospital (Waterside Hospital) in Derry.

The ambulance median response time in 2013 for DCSDC was significantly faster than the NI average. 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.

Table 6.1.5: Ambulance Median Response Times

	Median Response Time (Minutes/Seconds)				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Northern Ireland	6.03	6.29	5.5	6.51	6.48
Derry and Strabane	5.53	6.19	5.12	5.47	6.01

Source: NI Ambulance Service

Inequalities

Cancer rates, prescriptions for anti-depressants, admissions to A&E for residents from the more deprived areas in DCSDC are all multiples of the rates for NI and non-deprived areas in the District. The Community Planning Resource Support Pack June 2015 provides a comparison between the most deprived parts of DCSDC compared to the council as a whole which illustrates the health inequalities. One example is for the cancer incidence rate as shown in Table 6.1.6.

Table 6.1.6: Standardised Incidence Rate - Cancer (Incidence per 100,000 population)

	2002-08	2003-09	2004-10	2005-11	2006-12
Most Deprived	618	617	619	618	633
Derry & Strabane LGD	552	557	568	567	578
Northern Ireland	540	549	553	560	567
Gap: Most Deprived/LGD	12%	11%	9%	9%	10%
Gap: LGD/NI	7%	2%	3%	1%	2%

The Health Inequalities Regional Report 2016 compares trends in indicators of health across deprivation levels and between urban and rural populations. The data is as the Northern Ireland level and shows that for many indicators there is a large gap with significantly worse conditions for the most deprived. The largest inequality gaps were for teenage birth rate, admission rates for alcohol related causes, death due to drug misuse, alcohol related causes and smoking during pregnancy. The most notable widening of gaps was for teenage birth rate, smoking during pregnancy, death due to drug misuse and admissions for respiratory illness.

The Community Planning Resource Support Pack June 2015 provides a comparison between the most deprived parts of DCSDC compared to the council as a whole which illustrates the health inequalities. One example is for the cancer incidence rate as shown in table 6.1.7

Table 6.1.7: Standardised Incidence Rate - Cancer (Incidence per 100,000 population)

	2002-08	2003-09	2004-10	2005-11	2006-12
Most Deprived	618	617	619	618	633
Derry & Strabane LGD	552	557	568	567	578
Northern Ireland	540	549	553	560	567
Gap: Most Deprived/LGD	12%	11%	9%	9%	10%
Gap: LGD/NI	7%	2%	3%	1%	2%

When comparing the rural population against the Northern Ireland population the rural population generally had better results than those for the Northern Ireland population. The measures where the rural population fared worse were elective inpatient admissions where the rate has declined but for a lesser extent than for the Northern Ireland average. Rural populations have a slightly higher prevalence of being overweight or obese. The median ambulance response time has increase for rural populations over 2011-15 from under 12 minutes to over 15 minutes compared with under 6 to over 9 minutes for the Northern Ireland as a whole.

Health Survey Northern Ireland

Health Survey Northern Ireland is a Department of Health survey that has run every year from April 2010 across Northern Ireland. Only differences that are statistically significant are reported and, as results are based on responses from 4,144 individuals, it cannot be reported at LGD level. Some findings that can inform trends or provide a basis for future comparison are as follows. A decline in the general health rating was observed with increasing age, with respondents in the 75 years and over age group more than four times as likely to report ‘bad’ or ‘very bad’ health (13%).

Overall, three-quarters of adults (75%) felt there was something they could do to make their life healthier in one or more of the following ways.

Figure 6.1.5: How people feel they can make their life healthier



Source: Health Survey Northern Ireland

Around two-fifths of adults reported having a longstanding illness, with over two-thirds (69%) in the 75 years and over age group. Respondents in the most deprived areas were more likely to report a longstanding illness (49%) and of those 79% were likely to be limited by it, this being significantly higher than in the least deprived areas.

Around half of respondents (45%) reported having 3 -5 people close to them that could be counted on if they had serious personal problems, while almost all respondents (98%) reported having at least one. Over a third of respondents aged 16 to 24 years (37%) stated it would be easy or very easy to get practical help from neighbours if they needed it. This rate increased with age reaching 71% for those aged 75 years and over.

Recreation, Open Space and Greenways

Derry City and Strabane District Council operates eight leisure facilities across the District. Land to be used for open space, sport and outdoor recreation, whether or not there is public access to it, is important for its contribution to the quality of urban life by providing ‘green lungs’, visual breaks and wildlife habitats in built-up areas. A need has been identified for a City and District wide audit/assessment of our current open space and recreation provision in terms of role and function. The outcomes will be taken into account in future updates of this scoping report.

Plans were published in November 2016 for a network of greenways in Exercise – Explore – Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways⁷, November 2016, Department for Infrastructure, connecting towns and cities to the villages and countryside from east to west and north to south across all eleven

⁷ <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/infrastructure/exercise-explore-enjoy-a-strategic-plan-for-greenways-november-2016-final.pdf>

councils. It aims to bring back into use much of the disused railway network and give people ready access to a safe traffic-free environment for health, active travel and leisure. This Strategic Plan for Greenways identifies routes that should be explored to develop a Primary Greenway Network (Figure 6.1.6) from which a Secondary Greenway Network could progressively extend across the region. The evidence paper (AECOM, July 2016) in support of this strategic plan reports for DCSDC as follows, ‘To date over 80km of traffic free (i.e. separated by at least a kerb from motor vehicle traffic) routes have been developed in the city alone, 30km of which are greenway standard. There is potential to expand the greenway network to communities and amenities away from the city centre and river basin, some of which could form part of longer greenway projects. With the creation of the new Derry City and Strabane District Council in April 2015, a revised walking and cycling masterplan for the new Council area has been agreed. The masterplan highlights not only possible new purpose built greenway routes but improvements to the local network that would increase active travel and cognisance of these has been taken in developing the overall strategic plan.’

Figure 6.1.6: Map of Primary and Secondary Greenway Routes



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

Further information about the local network of cycling and walking routes is provided in 6.8.

6.1.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without the Local Development Plan (LDP) in place, the Regional Development Strategy (RDS), the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS), Area Plans and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. The Areas Plans however were prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. They were not therefore informed by the needs of our society today.

Some of the measures of health such as asthma 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.

6.1.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Health and Well-being

- The population profile is younger than that for Northern Ireland however trends indicate an aging population and by 2039 over 65s are expected to represent almost a quarter (23.9%) of the population.
- Overall, the health of the area is improving.
- However more than one in five people have long term health problems or disability that limit their day-to-day activities.
- Life expectancy is increasing but is about a year lower compared with the NI average.
- Hospital admission rates have dropped for circulatory disease but increased due to respiratory disease and alcohol related causes.
- While death rates from circulatory, respiratory and external causes have decreased they are higher for DCSDC than those for Northern Ireland.
- There are indicators that there is a greater prevalence of mental illness in DCSDC and that there is an increasing trend.
- Increase in the proportion of older people in the population will increase the requirement for care. 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.
- Levels of obesity in Northern Ireland and the UK are high by global standards reflecting poor diet and a relatively sedentary lifestyle.
- The rate of overweight or obese children in DCSDC is higher than the NI average.
- Levels of physical activity are lower than the NI average and much lower than recommended levels.
- There is a need to promote physical activity through provision of and ensuring good accessibility to sports facilities, open space, green infrastructure and walking and cycling routes.
- There is a gap in information about the provision for children's play.
- In particular there is a need for children to have accessible play in places where they feel safe.
- Also there will be a need to enable older people to engage in physical activity to prolong their healthy lives.
- Development should be sited and designed to connect with greenways where possible.
- More than one in ten people (11%) of people provide unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others and there is a steady increase in the number of people receiving carers' allowance (5%).
- DCSDC shows a higher rate of adaptation of accommodation to meet disability or mobility needs for those 65+ however this will continue to be a need.
- 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.
- There is a need to protect and enhance biodiversity to promote positive health benefits.
- Ambulance response times are typically better than those for Northern Ireland however can be long for rural areas; the location of and access to emergency services can impact on response times.
- There is a very strong correlation between health and income, employment and education.

- DCSDC shows a higher rate of health deprivation and disability compared with Northern Ireland and there is an inequality in health with most measures of health being significantly worse in the most deprived areas.
- 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.

6.2 Community

6.2.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

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 includes an outcome that ‘We have a more equal society’ which includes measures to reduce poverty, health and educational inequality and also relates to employment.

The Regional Strategic Objective of the SPSS ‘sustain a vibrant rural community by supporting rural economic development of an appropriate nature and scale’ is representative of regional rural policy. It 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.

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.

The draft Community Plan outcomes which are relevant to this topic relate to the Social Pillar - Community Development and are:

- We are more actively engaged and can influence decisions which affect us
- We have safer communities
- We have access to quality facilities and services
- Our Community and Voluntary sector is more resilient and sustainable

The following Social Pillar - Children and Young People outcomes are also relevant

- Our children and young people are safer, healthier, more respected and included
- Our children and young people are better able to fully realise their potential and become active, responsible citizens

6.2.2 Baseline information

The Community Planning Resource Support Pack June 2015 and updates (May 2017) found at Derry and Strabane Statistics provide detailed information on the community profile for our council. In addition the following evidence papers which can be found at www.derrystrabane.com/ldp are relevant to this topic: EVB3 - Population & Growth Strategy; EVB16 – Community Infrastructure.

Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service data in general and its Area Profile for DCSDC at December 2016 have been important data sources. The baseline data also refers to the 2011 Equality Awareness Survey which measured attitudes towards specific equality groups and perceptions and experiences of unfair treatment. The survey of over 1000 people followed a similar

structure and content to that of the Commission’s previous Equality Awareness Surveys (2008 and 2005).

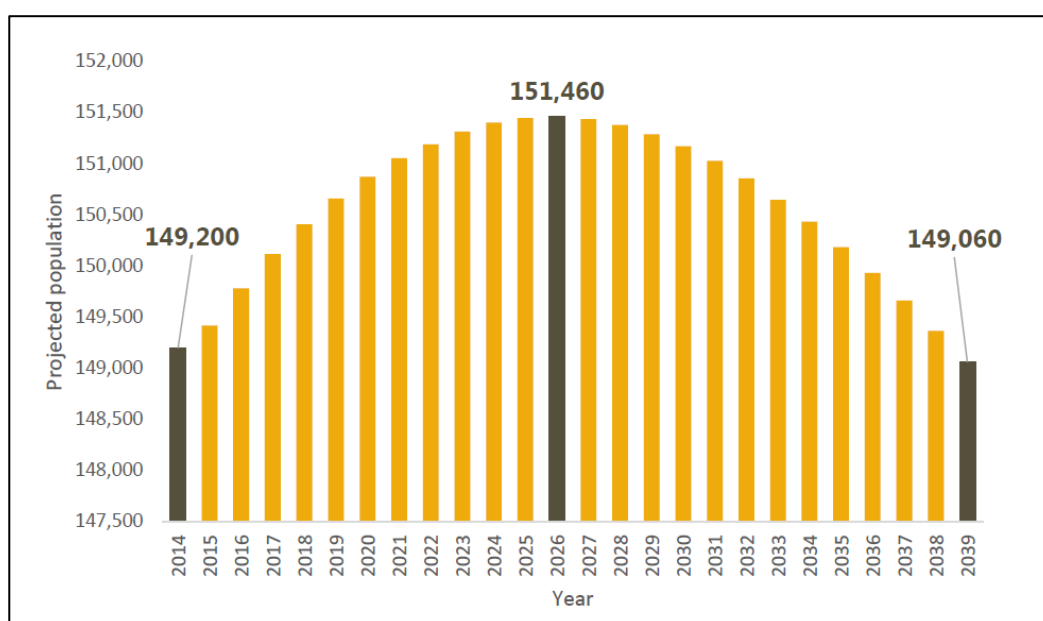
Population

DCSDC has a population of 149,500 and a land area of approximately 1,245 square kilometres therefore the average population density is 120 per hectare which is low by comparison to the rest of NI although there is wide variation and some very sparsely populated rural areas. It is estimated that 71% of the population live in urban areas whereas 29% reside in the rural area. However, based on the 49 settlements in the District, 85% of the population live within designated settlements with the remaining 15% of the population living in the rural area. Outside the larger population centres such as Derry and Strabane, the dispersed pattern creates challenges for service provision especially in the more rural and remote areas of the District.

Based on 2014 population projections produced by NISRA, the population could increase from 149,416 in 2015 to around 151,000 by 2032. The population profile is younger than that for Northern Ireland, however, trends indicate ageing population and by 2039, over 65s are expected to represent almost a quarter of the population (Table 6.1.1). An ageing population will place additional demands on health and community services while fluctuations in the under 16s could have implications for service provision such as schools.

The rate of population growth for DCSDC has been lower than that for Northern Ireland as a whole.

Figure 6.2.1: Projected DCSDC Population 2014 – 2039



Source NISRA Population Projections (2014 based)

By 2026 the DCSDC population is projected to increase slightly to 151,460 before dropping back to 149,060 by 2039.

Racial group, Religion and Identity

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Derry City and Strabane Local Government District (2014), considering the resident population:

- 1.39% were from an ethnic minority population and the remaining 98.61% were white (including Irish Traveller);
- 72.16% belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion and 25.40% belong to or were brought up in a 'Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)' religion; and

- 26.20% indicated that they had a British national identity, 50.75% had an Irish national identity and 26.54% had a Northern Irish national identity (Respondents could indicate more than one national identity.)

Sexual orientation

Data on sexual orientation is not available at council level and there are no direct measures therefore while it can be assumed that the population includes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons 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.

Persons with a disability and persons without

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Derry and Strabane, 22.95% of people had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities; and 11.27% of people stated that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others.

In 2014 there were a total of 21,000 recipients of Disability Living Allowance in the Derry City and Strabane District Council Area. 6,640 of these recipients were aged 65+ and this equates to 32.6% (NI 31.2%) of the total number of recipients in this area.

Deprivation

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 results show that 6 of the 30 most deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs) in Northern Ireland are located in our District. The council area has the highest percentage of population who are income deprived (38%), the highest percentage of working age population who are employment-deprived (19%).

Within the new DCSDC area, using Super Output area data, 21% of the population live in areas defined as deprived (lowest 10%) and a total of 45.6% of the council population live in areas which rank in the 20% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland showing a very disproportionate level of deprivation and associated disadvantage. Deprivation is particularly prevalent in Derry City, Strabane town and certain parts of its surrounding countryside.

While deprivation measures are appropriate for urban deprivation estimation they are less reliable for rural areas. Using Output Area rather than Super Output area data it is estimated there are an additional forty Output Areas (almost half within rural areas) that contain deep pockets of multiple deprivation. Deprivation is reported on in detail at the SOA level in the Community Planning Support Pack

Crime and Safety

The number of police recorded crime offences in NI has shown an overall upward trend between 2008/09 and 2015/16 but has lowered slightly in 2016/17. The number of incidents for anti-social behaviour has generally been declining since 2008/09. In DCSDC the largest motivation to result in a hate crime is sectarianism, with 124 incidents in 2016/17 although there has been a general fall since 2010/11 when the figure stood at 201. All groups may find their environment less inclusive due to hate crime including unreported incidents.

Table 6.2.1: Number of incidents by type of motivation, 2008/09 to 2016/17

Year	Motivation				
	Sectarian	Racist	Homo-phobic	Faith / Religion	Disability
2008/09	80	25	12	1	4
2009/10	197	56	20	1	2
2010/11	201	44	30	0	3
2011/12	191	54	13	0	5
2012/13	142	66	47	2	8
2013/14	177	72	39	3	15
2014/15	152	83	36	2	3
2015/16	143	64	46	1	14
2016/17	124	59	32	1	9

Source: PSNI

The Police Service operates four stations within the Plan area, three in Derry area and one in Strabane, whilst the Fire Service operates five stations throughout the District.

Place-making

Derry City and Strabane District Council operates eight leisure facilities across the District, as well as a range of other community facilities such as community centres and libraries. Derry already has a distinct urban identity as exhibited in the areas such the grid pattern layouts of the Walled City and Clarendon Street area. In the modern era, the Riverside Strategy Framework within the Derry Area Plan 2011, which included the concept of the Peace Bridge, has transformed the heart of the city. These demonstrate good place-making and reflect the river setting and hillsides and public spaces which give its unique setting and provide space for interaction. This model, which integrates place and people, can be scaled to communities across the council area.

6.2.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without our LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. The Areas Plans were however prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. They were not therefore informed by the needs of our society today.

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.

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 it more attractive to live.

6.2.4 Summary of Key Sustainability Issues

- The evidence relating to the population, community and safety indicates the following issues to be considered in preparing the LDP.

- The rate of population growth has been lower than for NI and is expected to decline by 2039 to a level similar to today.
- There is a need to promote social inclusion through shared, welcoming and accessible places.
- There is a need to provide appropriate shared space and apply place making to make areas inclusive for all backgrounds and income levels.
- There are a greater number of more deprived areas and neighbourhoods in DCSDC than in other councils, particularly in Derry and Strabane urban areas and in the rural hinterland surrounding Strabane.
- There is evidence that there is a high level of deprivation, particularly in terms of proximity to services, in some rural areas.
- The highest concentrations of deprivation with respect to proximity to services in DCSDC occurs in Banagher, Claudy 2, Clare, Donemana, Glenderg, Plumbridge and Slievekirk.
- While the main religions of 'Catholic' or 'Protestant' are balanced overall in many areas the population is represented by more than 70% of one of these.
- Design should seek to remove barriers that restrict life choices for disabled people.
- The community is not ethnically diverse, however the needs of minority groups must be taken into account.
- The proportion of households with dependent children is higher than the NI average although it has started to decline and will continue to do so.

6.3 Housing

6.3.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Housing encompasses the overall provision of and make up of housing and its location. Good quality sustainable housing is a fundamental need of society and can make a significant positive contribution to the character of our built environment. It is the role of the LDP to proactively facilitate the delivery of homes to meet the full range of future housing needs.

Overarching policy recognises that a stable and sustainable housing market will provide high quality homes, and support economic growth and prosperity. Good quality, sustainable housing supports wider society including the most disadvantaged who can be supported through the access to high quality social housing.

Good quality housing is essential to safety and well-being. Availability of appropriate housing and access to community and social services influences the independence and quality of life of older people. New homes should be capable of being lifetime homes and be built to wheelchair accessible standards. Good quality housing developments promote well-being and health improvement through design to encourage 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 and adaptation.

Regional policy recognizes that housing growth needs to be managed to achieve sustainable patterns of residential development. This will be achieved through promoting more sustainable housing development within existing urban areas, and ensuring that there is an adequate and available supply of quality housing for all. 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.

The draft Community Plan outcome which is most relevant to this topic relates to the Environmental Pillar - Physical and Environmental Regeneration and is:

- Our Local Development Plan contributes to the development of sustainable communities and to meeting housing need

The following outcome in the Social Pillar - Health and Wellbeing is also relevant:

- We age actively and more independently

The draft Community Plan identifies the need for provision of student, private, social and mixed housing over the life of the LDP and estimates that there will be £0.275bn investment in housing by 2030. The vision for the North West Region includes plans to significantly expand the resident populations of Derry, Letterkenny, Strabane and wider North West cross-border growth Region. 'Brexit' may also change the housing demand within the region.

6.3.2 Baseline Information

The Community Planning Resource Support Pack June 2015 and updates (May 2017) found at Derry and Strabane Statistics provide detailed information on the community profile for our council. In addition the following evidence papers which can be found at www.derrystrabane.com/ldp are relevant to this topic: EVB3 – Population & Growth Strategy, EVB4 – Settlements, EVB5 – Housing.

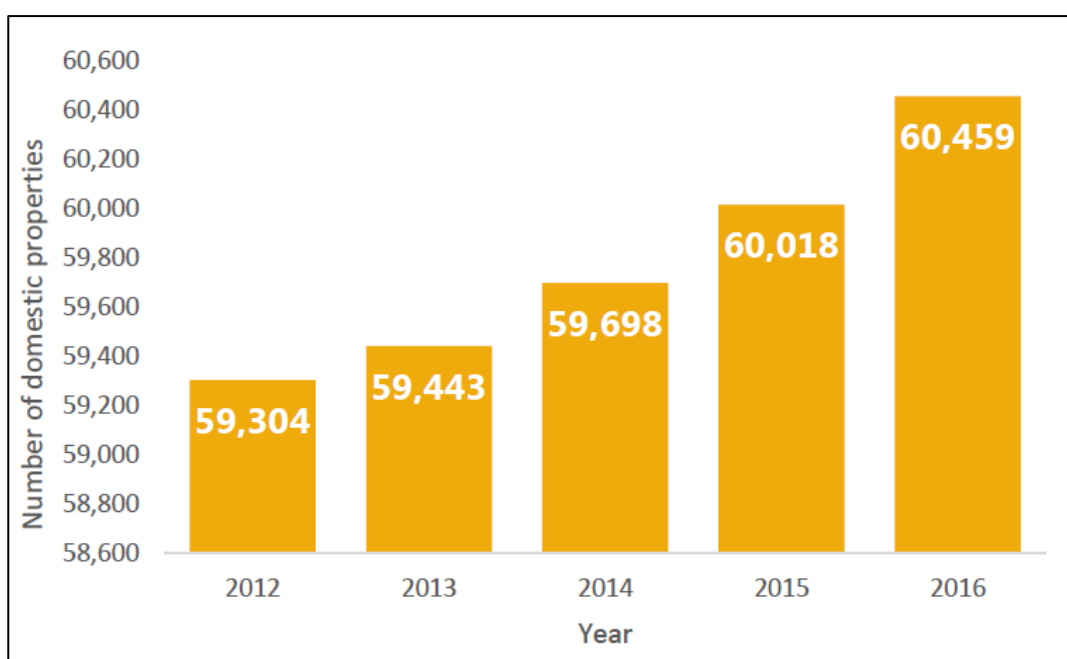
Households

In order to support and provide for a planned growth of 155,000 to 160,000 people, it is estimated that there will be a need for between 7,000 and 12,000 new homes. Household projections for 2008-2023, which take account of population growth, a reduced size of household and the changing age structure of the population, could lead to an increase of 11.7% in the number of households between 2015 and 2030. The average household size in Northern Ireland has been projected to

steadily decrease to 2.36 people per household in 2023. In Derry and Strabane District, the average size of households is predicted to remain above the NI average (2.49 for Derry, 2.57 for Strabane).

Between 1999 and 2013, approximately 79% of all the houses built across the former Derry District were developed in Derry City where 595 hectares of land has been zoned for housing in the Derry Area Plan 2011, with an estimated 391 hectares remaining undeveloped. Within the villages, the greatest growth was in Culmore and Eglinton with disproportionate growth across some of the smaller settlements. In the former Strabane District Council area, approximately 49% of all the houses built across the settlements were developed in Strabane Town followed by Castlederg, Sion Mills and Newtownstewart. Within the villages, there have been notable build rates in Artigarvan and Erganagh, as well as significant growth in a number of the hamlets such as Bready, Glenmornan and Donagheady.

Figure 6.3.1: Number of domestic properties (housing stock) in DCSDC over the last 5 years



Source: NISRA, Land and Property Services

Over the period 2012 - 2016 the proportion of houses by property type has been consistent with 35% terraced, 30% detached, 25% semi-detached and 10% apartments. In 2016, the housing stock in DCSDC was 60,459. This is an increase of 1.9% from 2012 (59,304).

The number of residential planning applications received in the year 2015/16 was 406 for the DCSDC area which was identical to the applications for the year 2014/15. A decision was made on 376 of the 406 received planning applications in 2015/16 and of these 98% were approved.

Table 6.3.1: Number of domestic properties (housing stock) by property type in DCSDC over the last 5 years

Property type	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Apartment	6,004	6,031	6,079	6,115	6,210
Detached	17,639	17,696	17,747	17,798	17,874
Semi-detached	14,849	14,889	15,028	15,177	15,323
Terraced	20,813	20,828	20,843	20,927	21,063
Total	59,305	59,444	59,697	60,017	60,470

Source: NISRA, Land and Property Services

In terms of tenure, 60% of dwellings were owner-occupied which is below the NI average. The percentage of social housing in the Council District is 21%, which is significantly above the NI average of 15%.

According to the [NIHE Housing Strategy for Local Development Plans 2016](#), the social housing requirement from 2015 to 2020 is 1,976. However, the most recent NIHE figures (Table 6.3.2) show the 'need' figures to have increased, despite the approval and ongoing construction of a considerable number of social dwelling units recently.

Table 6.3.2: Social Housing Need for Derry City and Strabane District by Settlement Type 2017

Settlement Type	Social Housing Need (Units) 5 years (2016-21)
City (Derry)	2,341
Main Town (Strabane)	92
Other Settlements	119
Derry City & Strabane District Total	2,552

Source: NIHE Annual Housing Need Assessment – Derry and Strabane District, February 2017

Therefore, though the proportion of social housing stock in the District is considerably higher than for the rest of Northern Ireland, there is a current and ongoing need to ensure suitable small-unit housing, for individuals, families, as well as for the ageing population and those with disability in particular.

Fuel Poverty

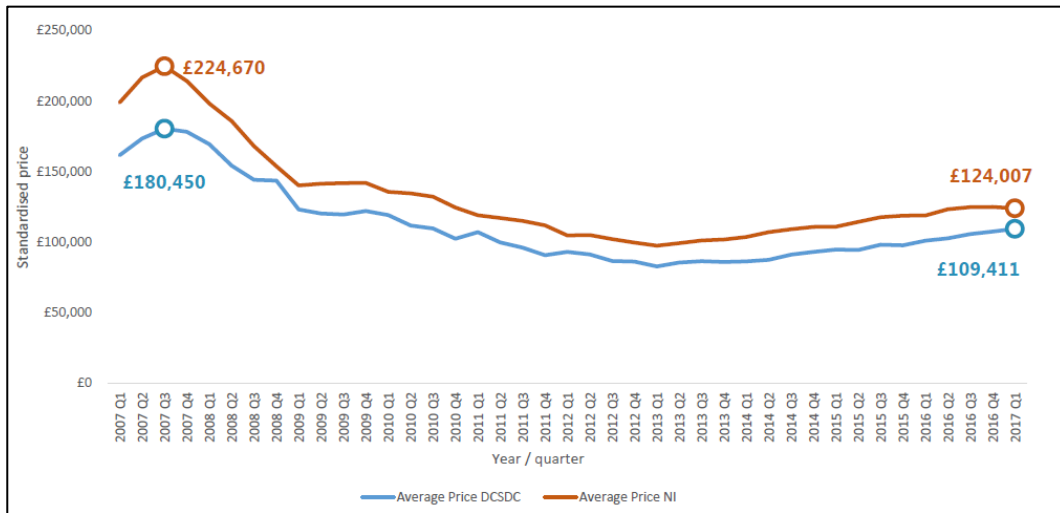
A fuel poor household is one needing to spend in excess of 10% of its household income on all fuel use to achieve a satisfactory standard of warmth. It assesses the ability to meet all domestic energy costs including space and water heating, cooking, lights and appliances.

The [NIHE House Condition Survey \(HCS\) 2011](#) provided a comprehensive picture of the dwelling stock and its condition in 2011 for Northern Ireland and each of the 26 legacy councils. This survey estimated that 42.0% of households in Northern Ireland were in fuel poverty. The level of fuel poverty for the former Derry district was 47 – 51% and for the Strabane district 52 - 56%. At the Northern Ireland level, for households where the Household Reference Person was aged 60-74 years, 52% of households were in fuel poverty rising to 66% where the Household Reference Person was aged 75+ years.

Affordable Housing

Housing Market Review and Perspectives 2014 – 2016 shows that Derry and Strabane has the lowest standardised price of all councils which is significantly lower than the NI average. After the boom and subsequent fall in property prices, the standardised residential property price for DCSDC fell to £82,705 in quarter 1 of 2013. It has been gradually rising since then and stood at £109,411 in quarter 1 of 2017. It is however showing a higher rate of increase in comparison to other councils.

Figure 6.3.2: Standardised house price, DCSDC and NI, 2007 Q1 to 2017 Q1



Source, NISRA, Land and Property Services

Unfit Dwellings and Decent Homes

The 2011 Housing Condition Survey shows a small increase in housing unfitness across Northern Ireland associated with an increase in the rate of vacancy, particularly in isolated rural areas. In 2011 the respective levels of unfit homes were 4% for both Derry and Strabane former council areas (NI 4.6%).

‘Decent homes’ considers a range of factors beyond unfitness including meeting modern standards. In 2011, 5-8% houses in Derry district and 9-11% of houses in Strabane district failed to meet this standard. While the council area performed better than the NI average (11.4%) the condition of housing remains important as a consideration in planning policy and provision for housing.

Living Environment Deprivation - Housing Access and Housing Quality

The Northern Ireland Deprivation Measure 2010: Living Environment Domain identifies areas experiencing deprivation in terms of the quality of housing, access to suitable housing and the outdoor physical environment. It comprises four indicators: the number of houses failing the Decent Homes Standard; number of houses failing the Housing Health and Safety Rating System; Number of Homelessness acceptances; and Outdoor Physical Environment which is a function of housing age, type and settlement band.

6.3.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without our LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. The Areas Plans were however prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. They were not therefore informed by the needs of our society today.

Under such a scenario there would be less opportunity to consider current zonings for housing and adapt to meet the areas of greatest need. There would also be less opportunity to design housing policy to accommodate the changing demography of the Council area and the identified social housing need for more single elderly and small adult households.

All the existing plans were not prepared in the context of the new council areas and do not reflect the economic growth and social development for 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.

Applying sustainability appraisal will enable a more strategic and balanced plan for the future. Considerations for future housing include the availability of or capacity to provide necessary infrastructure, energy efficiency, a good quality environment, accessibility to employment and services, and to forms of transport that reduce reliance on private cars and address social considerations such as the vitality of towns and provision of care.

6.3.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Housing

- There is a projected need for 2,500 additional households between 2012 and 2022, rising to 4,000 between 2012 and 2037.
- Although the average household size is above the average for Northern Ireland, and will continue to be so for some time, it is expected to drop in 2037. At the same time there is an increasing growth of single people, and households with one adult. A decline in household size will increase the number of homes required per capita and influence the type of dwellings required
- There will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability.
- A greater proportion of older people will increase the need for suitable housing that is accessible for those who may not drive and enables support to be provided. People may be more likely to stay in a home long term if it meets their changing needs and facilities and amenities that they wish to use are as accessible as possible through their lives
- Around half of households in DCSDC area are considered to be in fuel poverty.
- The proportion of social housing stock in DCSDC area is considerably higher than the Northern Ireland figure.
- The total social housing need for DCSDC for 2015-2030 has been assessed at 5, 930 units. A large proportion of the social housing waiting list comprises single households and small families.
- In Derry District, Banagher and Claudy are ranked within the 8% most deprived SOAs for NI. Across the 'Living Environment' deprivation domain, which includes an assessment of housing quality and housing access, there are a particularly significant cluster of deprived SOAs within Derry city. Ten of these are ranked within the top 14% for NI.
- There is an increase in the number of people presenting themselves as homeless in the district.
- All new housing should aim to provide life time homes that are accessible and adaptable to all and meet modern standards.
- New housing should be low carbon and avoid the problems of fuel poverty.
- Affordable housing is required for a variety of housing types and sizes.
- All new housing should help to support healthy lifestyles.
- Housing provision should enable social cohesion in families and communities and promote vibrancy of settlements.
- The impact of Brexit may lead to people choosing to relocate.

6.4 Education and Skills

6.4.1 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.

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 to will help create conditions for increased high quality employment.

Furthermore, 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.

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.

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.

The draft Community Plan outcomes which are most relevant to this topic relate to the Economic Pillar - Education and Skills and are:

- We are better skilled and educated
- Our young people have improved attainment levels
- As a North West Learning Region we have increased training and learning opportunities
- We have a better skilled and educated workforce

A significant student-expansion of Ulster University Magee, and North West Regional College, as part of a ‘Knowledge Zone’ (with new campus buildings, student accommodation, student servicing, city vibrancy and cosmopolitanism, as well as research/medical/hi-tech sector spin-off businesses) is planned.

6.4.2 Baseline Information

The Community Planning Resource Support Pack June 2015 and updates (May 2017) found at Derry and Strabane Statistics provide detailed information on the education profile for our council. In addition the following evidence paper which can be found at www.derrystrabane.com/ldp is relevant to this topic: EVB3 - Population & Growth Strategy. Other sources are the Education Authority Primary and Post Primary Schools Annual Area Profile 2016.

Education Facilities

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. Within the context of Derry and Strabane, the Western Regional Office of the EA, and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education, are the key players.

The District currently has 14 post-primary schools of which six are Catholic Maintained, four are Voluntary, three are Controlled Schools, and one Grant Maintained Integrated. The District also has eight Nursery Schools, 70 Primary Schools (15,836 pupils) of which 22 are Controlled Primary Schools, 43 Catholic Maintained Primary Schools, one Controlled Integrated Primary School, one Grant Maintained Integrated and three Other Maintained. There are two Specials Needs schools within the District. Fluctuations in the under 16s population could have implications for service provision such as schools. At 28.7%, the District has the highest percentage of school children entitled to free school meals, compared to the 2013/14 NI average of 17.8%.

Enrolments

The number of pupils attending nursery schools within DCSDC in 2016/17 was 508. Some young children now attend nursery schools managed by primary schools or private nurseries therefore trends cannot be described. The overall number of pupils enrolled in primary schools in DCSDC has increased gradually from a total of 15,322 in 2012/13 to 16,111 in 2016/17 and numbers at special schools increased from 346 in 2012/13 to 1416 in 2016/17. In contrast there was a steady decrease in the number of pupils attending post-primary schools, within DCSDC, in the five year period 2012/13 to 2016/17.

Table 6.4.1: Number of pupils attending educational establishments in DCSDC from 2012/13 to 2016/17

School type	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Nursery schools	555	503	507	509	508
Primary schools	15,322	15,514	15,587	15,836	16,111
Post-primary schools	12,989	12,739	12,512	12,164	11,948
Special schools	346	365	377	389	416
TOTAL	29,212	29,121	28,983	28,898	28,983

Source: NI School Census, Department of Education NI

Educational Attainment

The percentage of school leavers who achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A*-C (or equivalent) was higher for DCSDC compared with NI in 2012/13 and 2014/15 but lower in 2013/14. However the percentage of school leavers, achieving at least 5 GCSE's grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths, was lower for DCSDC compared with NI for all years. The percentage of school leavers, achieving 2+ A Levels, was higher for DCSDC compared to NI in 2012/13 and 2014/15 and similar in 2013/14.

Table 6.4.2: School leavers' examination achievements 2012/13 to 2014/15

Region	School leavers' achievements	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
DCSDC	Achieved 2+ A levels (or equivalent)	58.1%	55.5%	58.9%
	Achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A*-C (or equivalent)	80.8%	76.4%	82.0%
	Achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths	61.3%	58.7%	63.2%
NI	Achieved 2+ A levels (or equivalent)	55.1%	55.7%	57.7%
	Achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A*-C (or equivalent)	78.5%	78.6%	81.1%
	Achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths	62.2%	63.5%	66.0%

Source: NI School Leavers Survey, Department of Education NI

Attainment Variation

If however we consider the data for 5 GCSE's grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths for individual DEA's in 2014/2015 we see a variation and Derg, Foyleside, Sperrin, The Moor and Waterside fall below the NI average (66%) for that year. The Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 found that 17 out of 75 DCSDC SOAs lie within the 20% most deprived SOAs when ranked by the Education and Skills Domain.

Table 6.4.3: School leavers: Achieved 5 GCSE's A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths % in 2014-2015 for DEAs in Derry City and Strabane District Council.

District Electoral Area	Achieved 5 GCSE's A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths % in 2014/2015.
Ballyarnett	68
Derg	58.5
Faughan	70
Foyleside	65.1
Sperrin	62.9
The Moor	56.2
Waterside	61.2

Source: NINIS

Further Education

Further Education is provided at the North West Regional College, its main campus buildings are located in Derry, Limavady and Strabane with over 26,465 students every year. The Ulster University currently maintains four sites in Northern Ireland, one of which is located in Magee College in Derry; there are currently plans to significantly expand the university over the Plan period, by approximately 5,000 students.

Skills Level of Working age population

The percentage of residents aged 16-64 with no qualifications was higher in DCSDC (27.6%) compared with a rate of 21.3% in NI.

Table 6.4.4: Highest qualifications of all usual residents aged 16-64 Qualification level

Qualification	DCSDC	NI
None	27.6%	21.3%
Level 1	13.3%	13.2%
Level 2	16.5%	17.0%
Apprenticeship	3.4%	4.1%
Level 3	13.8%	14.4%
Level 4	21.9%	25.8%
Other	3.3%	4.1%

Source: Census of Population, 2011

6.4.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline within the Local Development Plan

Without our LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. The Areas Plans were however prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. They were not therefore informed by the needs of our society today.

A baseline trend relevant to Education and Skills that may continue under such a scenario include less opportunity to look at settlement pattern and school sustainability.

6.4.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Education and Skills

- Ensuring access to high quality education is one of the most significant investments in developing the individual, society and the economy.
- In some areas of the district a decline in pupil numbers will have implications for the sustainability of existing schools. Although approximately one fifth of the Derry and Strabane population is currently under 16, the proportion of children under 16 is due to fall between 2008 and 2023. This could mean implications for provision of crèches, nurseries and schools, and a rationalisation of second level education.
- There was a steady decrease in the number of pupils attending post-primary schools, within DCSDC, in the five year period 2012/13 to 2016/17. This trend will continue over the next 4 years, most evident in the Strabane area.
- Sharing facilities has been recognised as a way of promoting a more cohesive and tolerant society and assist a better use of the resources available to education. There is potential for schools sharing facilities with community centres so that pitches can be used for after school open spaces. In future school grounds could become integrated into community shared space.
- The area has seen an improvement in educational attainment over the last number of years, however, the DEAs vary in attainment.
- In the population as a whole, low educational attainment amongst those in work is higher than the Northern Ireland average.

6.5 Economy and Employment

6.5.1 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.

In particular, policy recognises the priority in Northern Ireland to raise competitiveness through increased export, and 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.

Within 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 Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035 promotes strong, sustainable growth for the benefit of all parts of NI, strengthens Belfast as the regional economic driver and Derry as the principal city of the North West, with Strabane as the main hub.

Tourism is a significant economic driver for Northern Ireland. It generates wealth, jobs, exports, civic pride and innovation. The Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 sets out growth targets to increase our visitor numbers to 4.5 million, the employment supported by tourism to 50,000 jobs, and the revenue generated by tourism to £1 billion for the Northern Ireland economy.

Local plans which will direct economic development as well as providing infrastructure of community benefit include.

- Integrated Economic Development Strategy;
- The One Plan (Derry City);
- Strabane Masterplan (Strabane Town);
- Foyle Valley Gateway Masterplan (draft published 2012);
- Strategic Riverside Masterplan (draft published 2011);
- Ebrington Development Framework (approved Spring 2016);
- Fort George Development Framework (approved December 2015);

Proposals for growth in the North West region which contribute to its economic prospects include

- continued development of the City of Derry Airport and Foyle Port at Lisahally, with their related business locations;
- research/medical/hi-tech sector spin-off businesses related to University of Ulster Magee;
- significant growth in technology industries especially at key regeneration sites at Ebrington and Fort George;
- significant modern retail investment in the city centre;
- urban regeneration and significant place-making / remodelling of city centre and the riverside;
- a continued expansion of city-based, heritage tourism, festivals and events.

The draft Community Plan outcomes which are most relevant to this topic relate to the Economic Pillar - Entrepreneurship, Enterprise and Regional Competitiveness and are:

- Meaningful and rewarding employment is available to everyone
- Our economy is better connected and more prosperous
- We are more entrepreneurial, creative and business ready and have grown our economic base
- We are more specialised and innovative and have competitive advantage

The Economic Pillar - Tourism, Arts and Culture is also relevant

- We are the cultural destination of choice and offer world-class visitor experiences
- The following Economic Pillar - Education and Skills also applies
- We have a better skilled and educated workforce

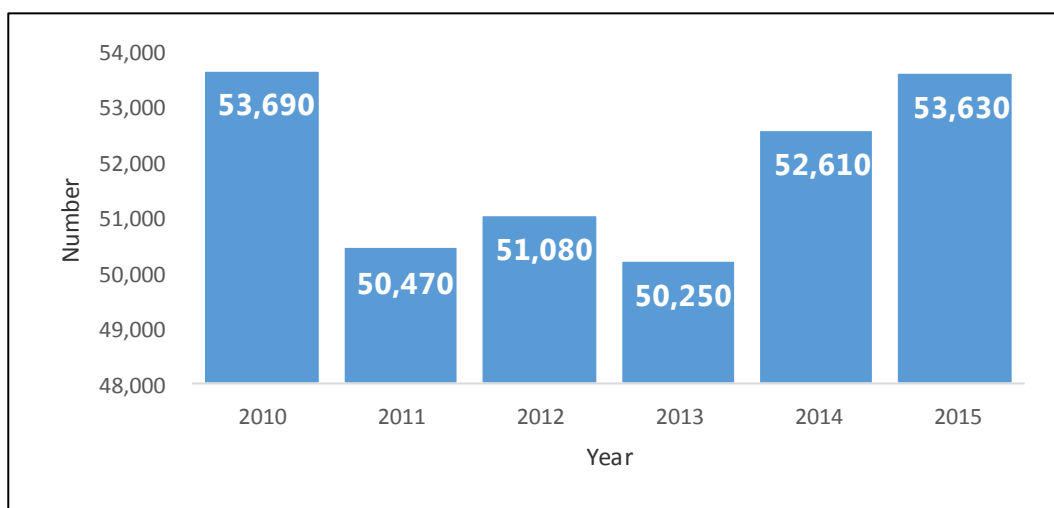
6.5.2 Baseline Information

The Community Planning Resource Support Pack June 2015 and updates (May 2017) found at Derry and Strabane Statistics provide detailed information on the economic profile for our council. In addition the following evidence papers which can be found at www.derrystrabane.com/ldp are relevant to this topic: EVB6 – Economic Development, EVB7 – City and Town Centres, EVB8 – Retailing, EVB13 – Tourism.

Economic Activity and Employment

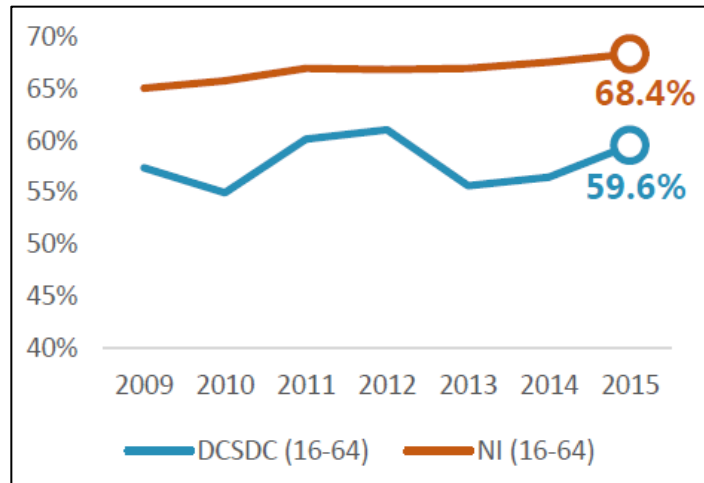
In 2015, there were 53,630 employee jobs in DCSDC with a sustained increase since 2013. Of these, 24,130 were jobs carried out by males and 29,500 were jobs held by females. The economic profile of the District is characterised by a low economic activity rate of 57.1% (in 2014) and an employment rate of 48.8% compared to the NI average of 60.2% and 56.4%. The 2015 unemployment rate of 6,720 claimants (7%) was significantly above the Northern Ireland figure of 3.7%. Latest figures show a significant improvement, but still well above the NI rates (Feb. 2017: 5,092 claimants (5.3%) v NI at 2.8%).

Figure 6.5.1: Number of DCSDC employee jobs, 2011 - 2015



Source: NISRA, Census of Employment, Business Registration Employment Survey

Figure 6.5.2: DCSDC and NI 16-64 employment rate



Source: NISRA, Labour Force Survey

Both the 16+ and 16-64 employment rates for DCSDC have been consistently below the NI average but both have shown a general upward trend since 2009. The 16-64 rate of inactivity in 2015 was 32.9% (32,000 people) within DCSDC compared with an NI average of 27.1%.

When compared to NI, a higher proportion of DCSDC employee jobs are concentrated in those sectors related to the high public sector. This is due to the presence of a major hospital, university campus and Regional Technical College in the Council District. As a result, nearly a third of employee jobs (32.9%) are in the 'Human Health and Social Work' industry (21.6%) and the 'Education' industry (11.3%). In NI, just over a quarter (26.9%) of employee jobs are in the same industries.

Table 6.5.1: Number of Employee Jobs by Industry Sector - 2011, 2013 and 2015

Industry	2011	2013	2015
Agriculture, Forestry And Fishing	*	60	50
Mining and Quarrying	*	*	70
Manufacturing	4,540	4,620	5,090
Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning	30	*	100
Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management	410	410	420
Construction	2,200	1,900	2,240
Wholesale / Retail Trade ¹	9,620	9,290	9,280
Transportation and Storage	1,290	1,240	1,380
Accommodation and Food Service	2,940	3,080	3,410
Information and Communication	*	1,720	1,870
Financial and Insurance	1,240	1,200	1,150
Real Estate	730	480	500
Professional, Scientific and Technical	1,120	1,180	1,240
Administrative and Support Service	3,040	3,640	3,260
Public Administration and Defence	3,900	3,910	3,790
Education	*	5,640	6,040
Human Health and Social Work	9,800	9,890	11,600
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	1,020	1,080	1,260
Other Service	800	830	880
Total	50,470	50,250	53,630

Source: NISRA, Census of Employment, Business Registration Employment Survey

In 2016, the gross weekly median pay for those working in DCSDC was £351 compared with a figure of £361.90 for those who live in the council area. Both of these were lower than the overall NI average (£393). Those working in DCSDC tend to earn more than those who live in DCSDC. This is as a result of a greater tendency of workers to commute into the council area for higher earning employment.

Table 6.5.2: Gross Median Weekly Pay, DCSDC and NI, 2013 - 2016

Year	Working in DCSDC (£)	Resident in DCSDC (£)	NI (£)
2013	350.5	307.0	365.5
2014	346.2	323.0	363.1
2015	356.1	329.9	381.9
2016	351.0	361.9	393.0

Source: NISRA, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

Annual surveys that record the number of employee jobs do not record the number of self-employed. In 2015 there were estimated to be 7000 self-employed in the District representing 12.6% (NI 12.3%) of those employed.

Across NI, the agricultural labour force has stabilized in the last number of years from an historic long-term downward trend in its size. It is believed that this stabilisation in numbers is not necessarily due to an increase demand for farm labour but more to difficulties in farm family members securing off-farm employment and to changes in Common Agricultural Policy support arrangements that link subsidies to some level of active farming.

Table 6.5.3: DCSDC farm labour force, 2011 - 2015 Farm labour force

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Farmers and partners					
Full-time	1,241	1,216	1,245	1,249	1,276
Part-time	799	784	760	793	817
Spouses	367	393	396	385	401
Other workers					
Full-time	253	248	254	255	240
Part-time	276	297	330	327	284
Casual / Seasonal	365	377	331	330	323
Total	3,301	3,315	3,316	3,339	3,341

Source: NISRA, Census of Employment, Business Registration Employment Survey

There are high levels of deprivation across the District with 19 of the most deprived SOAs in NI and high long-term unemployed (2014, 39% v 33% for NI or 30.5% for the UK).

Employment Land

Over the LDP period, most economic development land requirement will be for the expansion and re-location of existing businesses, in addition to well-located, quality sites that are attractive to the above-mentioned growth sectors and also that meet the employment needs of the local population.

As part of the preparation of the LDP, an estimate is needed of the required amount and location of land, to ensure that an ample supply of suitable land is available to meet future economic development needs up to 2032. A good indication of land requirement is gained by assessing the uptake of currently zoned land across the District. For example, in and around Derry city, uptake has been particularly slow with approximately 153 hectares (73%) remaining undeveloped, especially in

the traditional large-scale Industry-zoned lands on the periphery. In Strabane Town, 4 hectares (25%) of land remains undeveloped while across Castlederg, Newtownstewart and Sion Mills, approximately 5 hectares (63%) remains undeveloped, leaving an availability of around 160 hectares of zoned land across the District. There is also a further remaining capacity of approx. 240 hectares identified on un-zoned industrial lands. Therefore, as only 70 hectares or 31% of the currently zoned land in the District has been developed, it appears that there is ample quantum of economic development land for the LDP period, but existing lands may need to be reviewed to ensure that it is adequate in terms of quality and location.

Employment deprivation

The claimant count is a measure of unemployment that utilises administrative data derived from Jobs and Benefits Offices systems, which record the number of people claiming unemployment-related benefits. Within the DCSDC area, at April, almost half (49%) of claimants had been claiming for a year or more. This compared to a rate of 33% for NI as a whole. Both DCSDC (24%) and NI (23%) had similar rates of young people on the claimant count. However, DCSDC (29%) has a higher proportion of young people claiming for a year or more compared to NI (20%).

The 2010 NIMDM can be used to look at deprivation in terms of specific socio-economic conditions and it was estimated that 55,900 people in DCSDC suffered from deprivation in terms of their income. This level of employment related deprivation was second highest amount of people within the 11 NI council areas (Belfast was first, mainly due to the larger population) and it translated to 38% of the population, a rate that was the highest of all 11 councils. 16,500 people were estimated to experience deprivation as a result of a lack of employment opportunities. Again, and in terms of the number of people, DCSDC ranked second in NI (Belfast was first) but as a percentage of its population DCSDC was ranked highest in the employment deprivation scale.

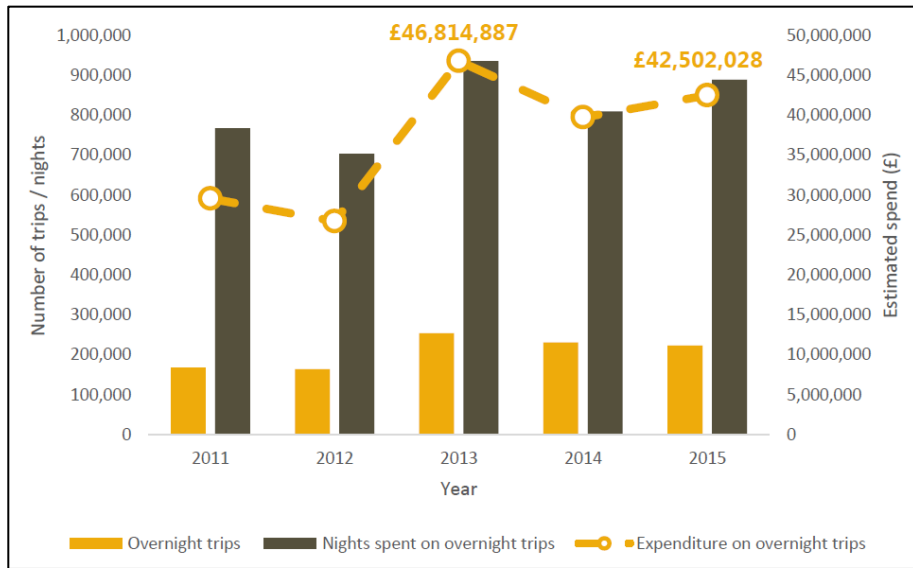
Key Sectors

Considering both employed and self-employed the largest industry group in DCSDC and NI is Agriculture, forestry and fishing, accounting for over one quarter (24.9% and 25.2% respectively) of all VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses. For agriculture, in 2015, there were a total of 1,735 farm business in DCSDC. 1,422 (82.0%) of farms were operating in Less Favoured Areas (LFA) compared to 69.1% of all farms in NI. DCSDC had a higher proportion of large farms with 7.6% (131) of all farms falling into this category compared with 6.5% in NI. Outside of Agriculture, the largest industry group in DCSDC is Construction (14.7%) and then Retail (9.5%).

Tourism

Investment in tourism brings new facilities to our city, town 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 more active resident population who are motivated to be out and about exploring more of the District's tourism assets. Tourism in the District has been strong in recent years, spearheaded by the city breaks, historic heritage, festivals and culture events. The challenge is to sustain and grow this city-based success, develop sustainable rural tourism especially through assets such as the Sperrin AONB and Foyle / Faughan valleys, and also to capitalise on the wider North West cross-border location, from the Wild Atlantic Way, Donegal and on to the Giant's Causeway / North Coast.

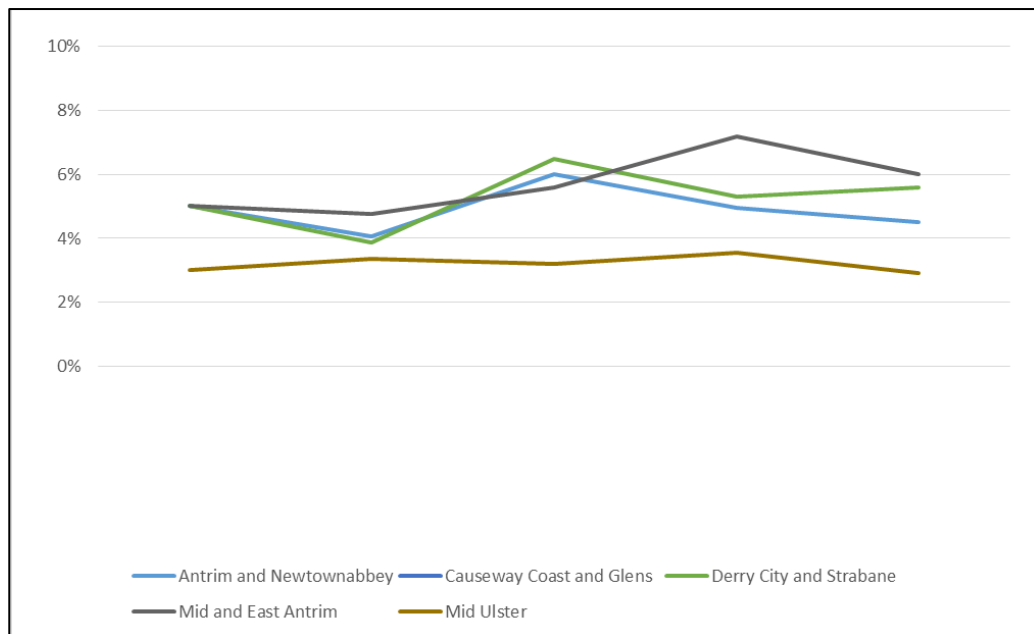
Figure 6.5.3: Estimated overnight Trips, Nights and Expenditure, DCSDC, 2011 - 2015



Source: NISRA, Tourism statistics

2013 was an obvious peak in tourism statistics in recent years due to the success of the UK City of Culture. Figures post 2013 have shown increases from 2012 in overnight trips to DCSDC, the number nights spent on these trips as well as the total expenditure spent on these overnight trips. In 2015, there were an estimated 223,172 overnight trips, incorporating a total of 889,416 nights. This led to an estimated expenditure of £42,502,028.

Figure 6.5.4: Estimated spend during overnight trips in DCSDC 2011-2015, as a percentage of Northern Ireland spend with comparison to selected councils.



Figures derived from the Northern Ireland Passenger Survey (NIPS) conducted by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)

Innovation

It is widely recognised that improving the ability of the economy in Northern Ireland to be innovative is a key factor in improving economic growth and employment. The most recent innovation figures are presented in the UK Innovation Survey (UKIS) 2013 Northern Ireland Results. The results of the 2013 UKIS and revised results from the 2011 UKIS show that 40% of Northern Ireland enterprises

were innovation active in 2010-12. The equivalent UK figure was 45% in 2010-12. At 40%, Northern Ireland was the least innovation active country in the UK whilst a comparison with the rest of Great Britain showed Northern Ireland had moved from second least innovation active in the 2011 UKIS to the least innovative in the 2013 UKIS. Large enterprises with 250 or more employees were more likely to engage in some sort of innovation activity, with 48% innovation active, as opposed to 40% of SMEs. This pattern held at the UK level (50% among large enterprises compared to 45% among SMEs). Improving the quality of goods or services was the main factor driving innovation in Northern Ireland and the UK as a whole.

Competitiveness

There is no data currently at council level on level of competitiveness. Total external sales by companies in Northern Ireland were estimated to be worth £22.5 billion in 2014, representing an increase of 2.1% (£458 million) over the year. This figure exceeds the previously recorded peak in 2013 (£22.0 billion), and external sales are therefore at their highest over the time series presented. This represents just over a third (34.1%) of all sales by companies in Northern Ireland in 2014 (£65.8 billion).

Retailing

Modern retailing in the District faces many challenges, such as the rise of internet shopping and the uncertainty over 'Brexit', especially exchange rates in this cross-border area. New and focussed, relevant planning policy and greater innovation and flexibility may be required from the Planning system. A number of retail studies have been carried out over the past decade, for Derry and for Strabane, however, with the changing and dynamic scale and nature of retailing, LDP will need to commission a comprehensive up-to-date Retail Capacity Study. The purpose of such a study is to undertake an assessment of the potential need (or capacity) for additional retail floor space over the period to 2032 within the Derry City and Strabane District, including its comprehensive cross-border catchment.

Strabane performs an important role as a main service centre for North Tyrone and East Donegal providing a range of retail services to its residents and rural hinterland. Within the context of Tyrone, it is the second largest town after Omagh. On the other side of the River Foyle (across Lifford Bridge) is the smaller town of Lifford, so cross-border retailing is a very significant aspect. Strabane is roughly equidistant from Omagh, Letterkenny and Derry. Historically, Strabane developed as both an industrial centre and strong market town.

6.5.3 Likely Evolution of baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without our LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. The Areas Plans were however prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. They were not therefore informed by the needs of our society today.

The New LDP provides an opportunity to make plans for growth in line with all the available evidence.

6.5.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Economy and Employment

- Identifying and zoning appropriate land is a vital part of creating the conditions to sustain economic development that meets employment needs and supports economic growth.
- Derry needs to significantly develop to fulfil its role as the principal city of the North West and as a regional and international gateway.
- Strabane needs considerable relevant development to fulfil its role as a main hub.

- While the clear focus needs to be on Derry City and Strabane town, it is important that the employment needs of those people living in the extensive rural hinterland are also considered.
- Forecasts for the manufacturing sector suggest a continued decline in manufacturing employment levels both in Northern Ireland and the UK. However manufacturing is changing towards innovation based products with niche markets and knowledge based products.
- The four key growth sectors identified in the Derry and Strabane Draft Integrated Economic Development Strategy are: Advanced Manufacturing/Engineering, Digital/Creative Industries, Life and Health Sciences and Tourism and Culture.
- A cornerstone of the private sector in the DCSDC area is micro-businesses, those employing less than nine staff. In 2016, there were 4,830 VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in the district. 88.4% of them employed less than ten people, and 45.7% of them had turnover of less than £100,000 a year.
- While the business birth rate and survival rate, as represented by VAT registration is on a par with the rest of the NI, it does not appear to be impacting upon the net employment levels with little growth in employee numbers since 2009. There is potential to encourage new business to develop, innovate and grow.
- There is a need for quality employment to lower the need for benefits and to facilitate a culture of independence and entrepreneurship and move away from public sector reliance. The public sector accounts for almost a third of employment in the DCSDC area. This covers Health, Social Work and Education Sectors.
- New employment locations should be accessible by active travel and/or public transport. Homeworking can assist employment for those with other responsibilities such as caring, or those involved with agriculture.
- The unemployment rate for DCSDC area is higher than for Northern Ireland although it has been falling since October 2013, is still almost double the NI rate at 5.3% in February 2017.
- Unemployment is a particular issue for young people, with almost a third of those in the claimant count aged 18-24 having been claiming for more than one year, compared to less than a quarter in Northern Ireland.
- Of those on the claimant count the majority have low to middle skills and around a third had previously worked in a sales capacity.
- Employment related deprivation in 2010 was second highest for the 11 NI council areas in terms of the number of people and highest in terms of percentage of the population at 38%. 16,500 people were estimated to experience deprivation as a result of a lack of employment opportunities.
- Within retail, the market is in recovery and is evolving. There has been a number of challenges in recent years. The growth of internet shopping has contributed to shop closures and is likely to grow in the coming years. Within the district a number of large shops have closed including Austin's in Derry and Linton and Robinson in Strabane. These losses affect the vitality and viability of these centres, as economic and cultural shared space.
- There continues to be a demand from developers for out of town sites for retail and a new trend for retail in industrial estates. Both of these can become further factors to reduce vitality in Derry City and Strabane Town and must be carefully considered.
- A resident population will assist in developing an evening economy alongside additional office workers and students.
- There are a wealth of natural, landscape, heritage and cultural tourism assets within the DCSDC area with significant future potential. 2013 brought a rise in visitor numbers and spend, with the UK City of Culture. In 2015, there were an estimated 223,172 overnight trips – estimated expenditure of £42,502,028.

- Need to ensure that the DCSDC area is attractive to investors, and higher skilled people – by supporting the vitality and vibrancy of the City Centre, towns and villages and facilitating a high quality local environment through appropriate land use, design and layout.
- The impact of 'Brexit' needs to be carefully considered in light of the impacts on exchange rates, cross-border trade and implications for the labour market within tourism, retailing, construction and other sectors. Also it may bring changes in regulatory regimes and funding opportunities.

6.6 Material Assets

6.6.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The material assets sustainability theme covers a range of policy areas, including telecommunications, electrical infrastructure, renewable energy, derelict/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. A Land Strategy for Northern Ireland, the Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-15 and beyond, the Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP) 2010 and the North West Regional Waste Management Group's Waste Management Plan are all relevant to material assets. The overriding aim of these plans is sustainable development. The multifunctional use of land is encouraged; significant increases in renewables to the energy mix recommended; and reductions in waste with increased recycling rates targeted.

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 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 should focus on the waste management hierarchy and the proximity principle. 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.

The draft Community Plan outcomes which are most relevant to this topic relate to the Environmental Pillar - Infrastructure: Energy, Waste, Transport and Water and are:

- We have a secure and affordable energy supply
- We have moved towards a Zero Waste circular economy

Provision for material assets will be an integral part of meeting this outcome.

6.6.2 Baseline Information

The following evidence papers which can be found at www.derrystrabane.com/ldp are relevant to this topic: EVB14 - Renewable Energy, EVB15 – Public Utilities, B18 – Waste Management

Telecommunications/ Electrical Infrastructure

Overall telecommunications is of a good standard. Recent projects such as Super Connected Derry and Project Kelvin have helped to improve local and international telecommunications links. There are some rural areas where there is no Broadband access and where mobile phone coverage is poor.

The Transmission System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) manages the large-scale electrical infrastructure in Northern Ireland. SONI provides a live link to the current energy mix for the country and connected sources of power generation including renewables which can be viewed at www.soni.ltd.uk. EirGrid manages the Republic's transmission system and their energy demand can be viewed from the SONI website.

Energy

One of the three power stations in Northern Ireland, Coolkeeragh, is located on the shores of Lough Foyle. Coolkeeragh is now a gas-powered plant but it originally used oil. New associated infrastructure means people and businesses can benefit from natural gas but there will probably be areas in the Council where access to gas will not be feasible.

Renewable Energy

The Department set a target of achieving 40% of electricity consumption from renewables by 2020. This is in support of commitments made under climate change legislation. Greenhouse gas emissions are also targeted to decrease by 35% on 1990 baseline levels by 2025 so government is trying to move away from fossil fuel dependency⁸.

There are 17 wind farms built in the Council area and another nine approvals. Wind energy has dominated the renewables market in the area with Strabane legacy Council accounting for 24% of Northern Ireland’s renewable generation⁹. Over half of all renewable energy applications are single turbines but there have been a number of biomass, solar and hydro schemes across the Council. There has also been previous interest around Northern Ireland in offshore windfarms and research into the suitability of the coast for renewables such as tidal power.

A diversity of renewables is needed for a sustainable energy mix and fit for purpose electrical grid to enable future large scale and local level grid connections to ensure energy is supplied as efficiently as possible.

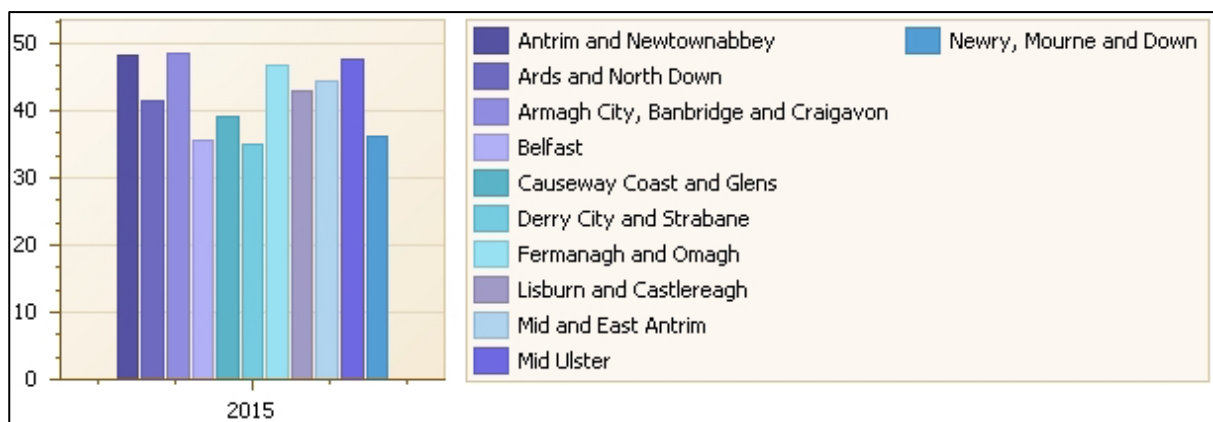
In Northern Ireland, financial incentives to support the uptake of renewables have ceased.

Waste Management

The Council is part of the North West Regional Waste Management Group, which follows the principles of the waste management hierarchy – to reduce, reuse, recycle, or recover waste.

There are no active landfill sites within the Council but recycling is available by house collection, at recycling centres and community centres. Up to 25% of waste is compostable and over half the homes in the Council have food waste collected.

Figure 6.6.1: Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste prepared for Reuse, Recycled and Composted

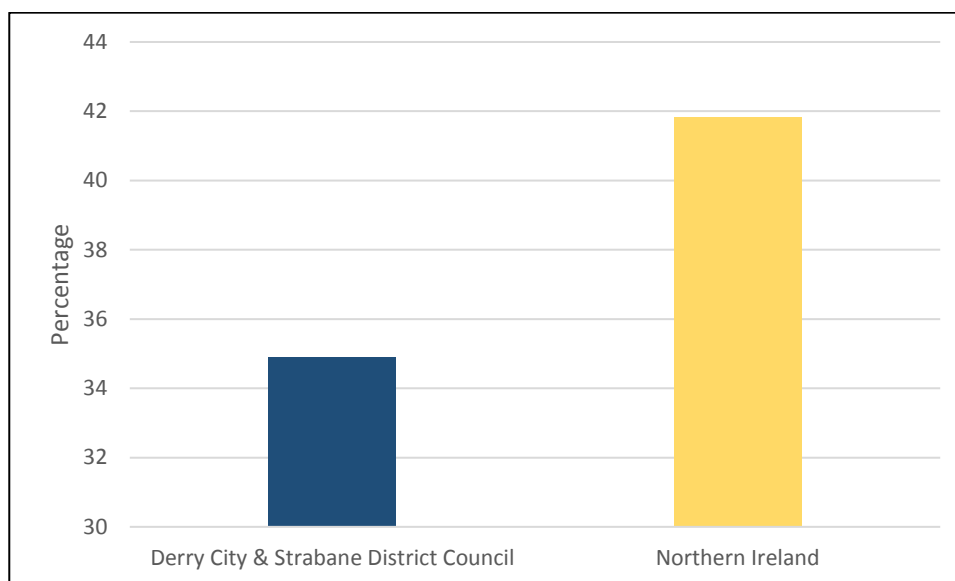


Source: NINIS

⁸ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016

⁹ Dated 2014 and taken from a Renewable Energy Council paper dated 2016

Figure 6.6.2: Derry City & Strabane District Council Average Recycling Rate of Municipal Waste



Source: NINIS

Recycling rates in Northern Ireland have been levelling but the Council has a lower rate of recycling (includes reuse and composting) than the Northern Irish average. This is in spite of improved facilities. A new site is required at the Waterside and both food caddy provision and green waste collections are to be increased across the area¹⁰.

6.6.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new LDP, it is assumed that the RDS, the SPPS, Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would continue to inform decisions. The areas plans however were prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. In the absence of a LDP it may become more difficult to sustainably manage adequate provision and integration of material assets.

6.6.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Material Assets

- Less congestion on international telecommunications links and an improved local telecommunications network should help attract global companies and better support small to medium sized enterprises because of projects Kelvin, Super Connected Derry, and Broadband Improvement.
- Some rural areas have no access to broadband and poor mobile phone service provision.
- Some areas may never benefit from gas infrastructure due to feasibility issues.
- There is a potential gas source from the Culmore landfill site.
- A fit-for-purpose electrical infrastructure is required to enable an increasing number of renewable connections, including large-scale projects but also an increasing amount of domestic scale projects and prosumers.
- Wind technology has dominated renewables but a diversity of technologies will be needed for a sustainable energy mix i.e. solar, tidal, biomass, hydroelectric, anaerobic.
- There may be opportunities to develop community based renewable projects such as wind/solar farms or large single turbines, that could reduce the local impacts from several single applications and make more efficient use of land.

¹⁰<http://strabanechronicle.com/2016/08/derry-and-strabane-bottom-of-rubbish-heap-for-recycling/>

- In Northern Ireland, financial incentives to support the uptake of renewables has ceased.
- There is no active landfill capacity within the Council.
- Recycling rates are below the Northern Irish average and new measures are needed to increase rates.
- Up to 25% of waste is compostable but food caddy provision across the Council is limited.
- There is a need to ensure the location of fit-for-purpose recycling facilities based on the proximity principle.
- The existing location of material assets should be a consideration when planning new developments to help ensure sustainable land management.

6.7 Physical Resources

6.7.1 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 and are mostly finite in their supply. Our protection of physical resources can be a clear indicator of how sustainable our society is.

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 overall outcome of the draft Community Plan Environmental Pillar 'We live sustainably, protecting the environment' applies to this topic.

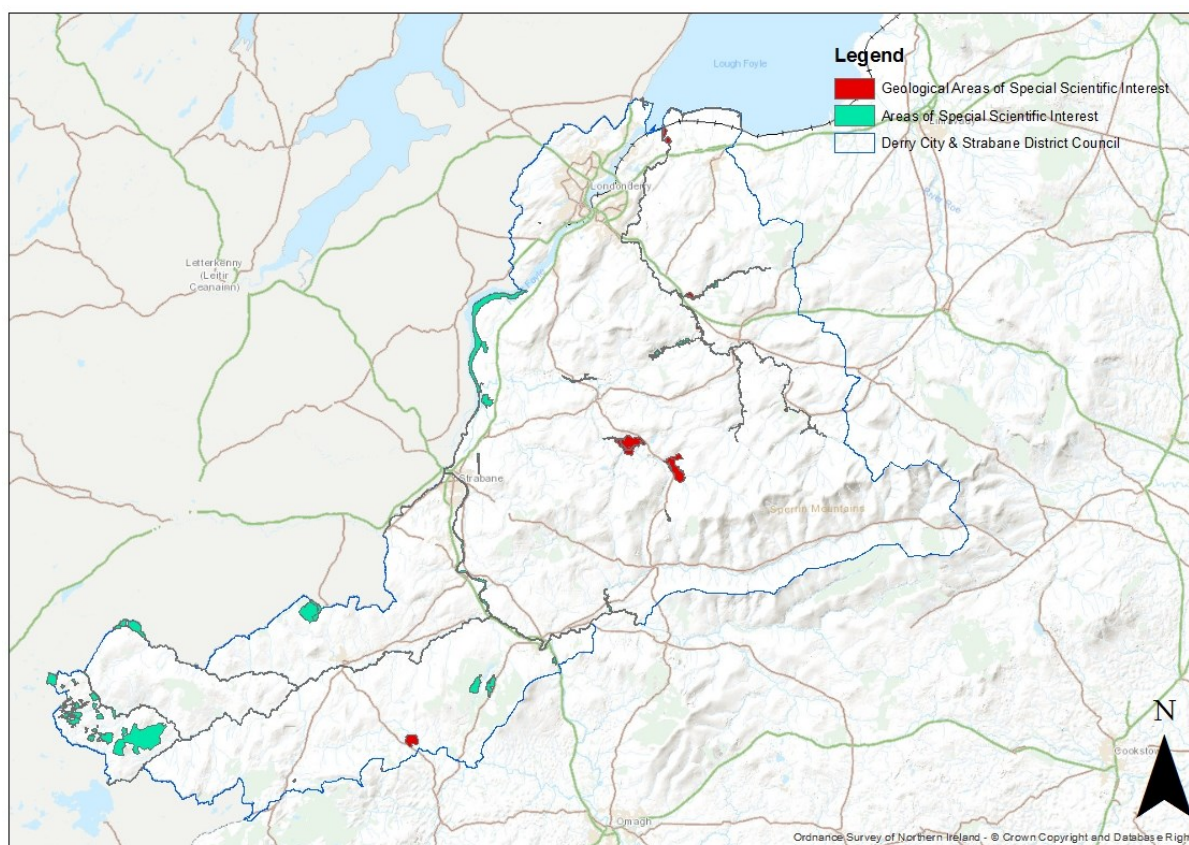
6.7.2 Baseline Information

The following evidence paper which can be found at www.derrystrobane.com/ldp is relevant to this topic: EVB19 – Minerals

Earth Science

There are several geological Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) within the Council. These are protected for their important geological features. They can also provide important habitat for priority species and their conservation helps to maintain local biodiversity levels. For example Lough Foyle exhibits coastal processes but also provides habitat for wintering Light-bellied Brent geese, whooper swan and bar tailed Godwit; and Fairy Water Bogs have important peat morphology but are also an important and rare example of lowland raised bog habitat.

Figure 6.7.1: Geological Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) in the Council



Source: Shared Environmental Service; NIEA

Minerals

The Quarry Products Association Northern Ireland (QPANI) estimates the annual turnover for the industry as £400 million. This is from 160 sites across Northern Ireland that help to provide jobs in rural areas where employment opportunities can be scarce. In 2013, 18 million tonnes of aggregate were supplied from Northern Ireland. In the Council area, there are 22 quarry sites. These account for over 10% of sites in Northern Ireland and from which nearly 300,000 tonnes of aggregate is produced.

The following maps show indicative mineral resources across two Counties that encompass the Council area:

http://nora.nerc.ac.uk/18980/1/Londonderry_Mineral_Final.pdf

http://nora.nerc.ac.uk/18973/1/Tyrone_Mineral_Final.pdf

The Council has a wide range of minerals including basalt, igneous rock, quartzite and metalliferous minerals (copper, lead, zinc). It is one of the main producers of sand and gravel and is widely worked for local building stone. Hardrock extraction is important to the local economy and some parts of the Council are very important for limestone production. There are sandstone deposits but these are not used to any noticeable level. The area is also known for its gold deposits located in the Sperrin Mountains but there are no current working operations in the Council area. The type of mining in the area tends to be opencast which can take up a wider area of land and present visual impacts.

After an area has been mined, it may become an important resource for earth science, research, recreation and nature conservation. With or without restoration, these redundant sites can become part of blue/green infrastructure, helping to connect habitats across the wider landscape and maintaining local biodiversity.

Historically there has been a lack of emphasis on the restoration of sites in Northern Ireland. This is in spite of the impacts that can affect the local environment and the amenity of local citizens. To help bring older sites up to date with environmental standards, a review of older mineral applications (ROMPS) was introduced to planning legislation.

Geothermal Energy

Naturally occurring heat is stored at depth in underground rock and can act as a source of renewable energy for electricity and heating. The UK National Renewable Energy Action Plan refers to ground heat and the Strategic Energy Framework (SEF)¹¹ discusses shallow geothermal energy. If investment and the necessary infrastructure were provided, geothermal energy could become a valid part of the future energy mix. Consideration of its installation and integration is needed at an early design stage alongside other infrastructure. Domestic scale ground heat pumps can be installed as permitted development.

Land

The Council is rurally dominated with 30% of the population residing in the wider countryside. The minerals industry in the Council tends to be opencast quarrying and wind energy projects are widely evident with more approvals waiting to be constructed. All of these types of development require relatively large areas of land. At the same time, other local land pressures exist. Mineral deposits not currently used need to be safeguarded for future use and nature conservation and landscape designations require careful consideration to ensure their integrity is protected. Other local land pressures exist in the City where cemetery provision is reaching capacity.

Soil

A proper functioning soil should be able to minimise erosion, reduce flooding, filter pollution and store essential nutrients that can support plants and animals. Any developments can potentially impact on soil through pollution and erosion.

6.7.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, it is assumed that the RDS, the SPPS, Area Plans and PPSs, and the Planning Strategy for Rural NI (PSRNI), would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would continue to inform decisions. The areas plans however were prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. In the absence of a LDP there could be less opportunity to spatially plan and manage existing and future physical resources and at the same time avoid environmental damage.

6.7.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Physical Resources

- Earth science sites should be protected and could be integrated to blue/green infrastructure as part of the Council's natural heritage.
- Existing mineral sites and reserves should be safeguarded from alternative uses and/or developments that may impede their accessibility.
- Older mineral sites (pre-1985) may be causing undue damage to the local environment and require new planning conditions to ensure adequate restoration.
- A spatial approach to new mineral sites and extensions could help to support rural communities and businesses as the most appropriate locations with adequate transport routes could be prioritised.

¹¹ DETI (2010): Strategic Energy Framework for Northern Ireland

- Redundant mineral sites may be suitable after restoration for reuse as educational or recreational purposes and at the same time add to local biodiversity as blue/green infrastructure.
- There is a need for a new cemetery in Derry City and which should be chosen to be sustainable.
- Some land zoned for recreation/open space has been used for housing and retail purposes but significant amounts of land zoned for recreation/open space have remained undeveloped.
- Some of the best farmland in the area is located in the low-lying areas of the Foyle.
- Soil quality across the Council should be protected using effective conservation measures due to a lack of specific legislation protecting soils at a regional or local level.
- The compatibility of adjacent land uses is important to ensure the most sustainable land use management.
- Development pressure exists from the larger settlements, and commercial and residential projects.

6.8 Transport and Accessibility

6.8.1 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 protecting Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).

Encouraging people to use public transport and to consider active travel options like walking and cycling will be 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 to help reduce car use. The Plan will also 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 Government (dPFG) has 14 strategic outcomes. One is based on connecting people and opportunities through infrastructure which links to providing a sustainable transport system. Improving transport connections, increasing the use of public transport and active travel, increasing environmental sustainability and improving air quality are four indicators to measure progress on this strategic outcome.

The draft Community Plan Environmental Pillar overall outcome 'We live sustainably, protecting the environment' applies to this topic. Enabling access to active and sustainable travel options will contribute to this outcome.

6.8.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is available from evidence based papers for the Local Development Plan including Transportation and Movement and can be found at www.derrystrabane.com/ldp. This section overlaps with the Health and Wellbeing, Air Quality, Climate Change and Natural Resources sections of this report.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In Northern Ireland, the most common greenhouse gas (GHG) emission is carbon dioxide (CO₂). Other emissions are evident but CO₂ was reported in the 2016 DAERA Environmental Statistics Report as accounting for nearly 70% of all emissions.

In Northern Ireland, the transport sector is one of the top four emitters of GHGs with 18% of total GHG emissions contributed to it. This is equal to emissions from the energy supply sector and higher than those emitted from the residential sector.

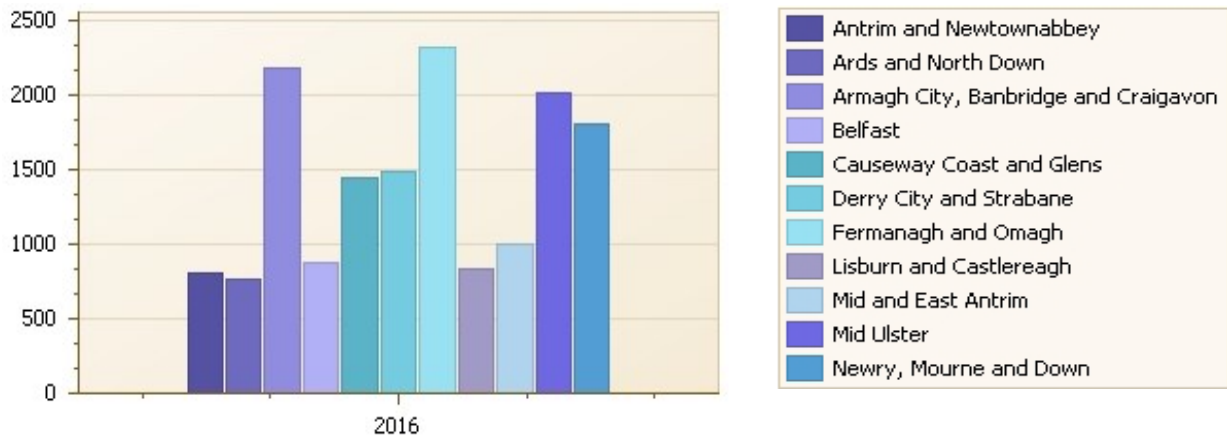
Emissions are a by-product from the burning of fossil fuels and although there is a government target to reduce GHG emissions by 35% on 1990 levels by 2025, the transport sector has not shown a declining trend. Additional information and graphs are available from the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016.

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) generated by road traffic combustion has not decreased since 2012. Levels in urban areas have generally increased and there is no evidence of a decline in NO₂ emissions. Ground level ozone can result from the chemical reactions of nitrogen oxides from sources such as vehicle emissions. Urban sites show ozone levels are variable but not reducing. Further information on transport emissions is provided in the Climate Change section of this report.

Transport Routes

There is no motorway within the Council but over 90 km of single carriageway and just under 18 km of dual carriageway. There are key transport routes to consider within the Council including the A5 (Dublin), A2/A40/A38 (Donegal) and the A6 (Belfast) but there are also a significant number of unclassified and B/C class roads with unclassified roads measuring approximately 1500kms.

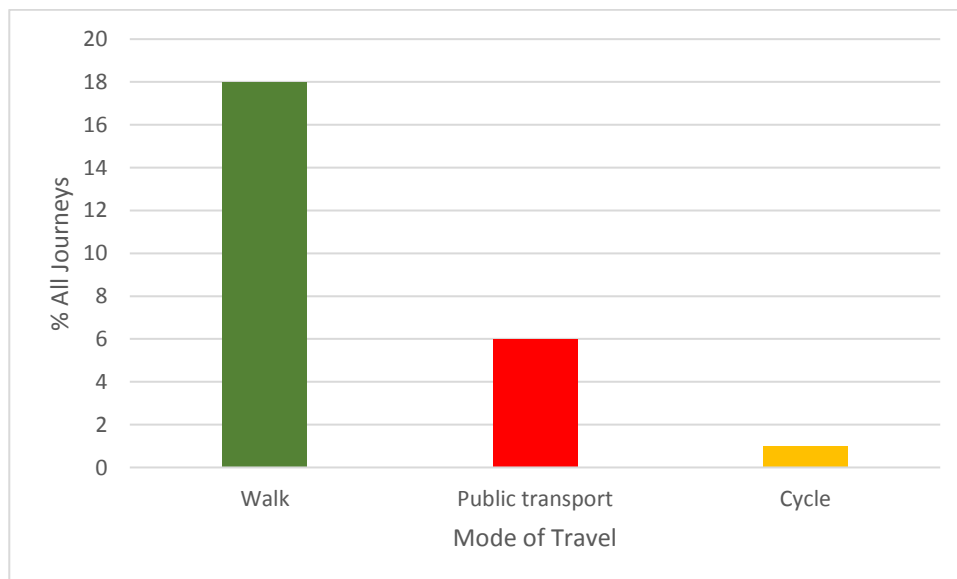
Figure 6.8.1: Unclassified Road Lengths (km)



Source: NINIS

Car journeys account for just over 70% of all journeys in the Council area. Likewise 56% of people in employment travel to work by car. Only 6% of all journeys were made by public transport whilst 18% were by foot and only 1% were by bike. The use of public transport for travel to work is 4% for the district compared to 5% for Northern Ireland as a whole. Further information on the number of licensed cars in the Council area is provided in the Air Quality section of this report.

Figure 6.8.2: Sustainable Travel Options for All Journeys



Source: Council Evidence Paper Transportation and Movement October 2016

The railway network is being invested in and upgraded and this should enable an increase in the numbers of people using public transport. There are pedestrian and cycle ways already available as well as bus options but travelling by car or bus remains the most common mode of transport for people. As a council where 30% of the population reside in rural areas, public transport options between settlements are limited. Where public transport is available, journeys can often be lengthy with poor connections for onward travel.

The LDP provides an opportunity to encourage a modal shift of people away from using the private car to being able to use other, more sustainable, modes of transport. The Council has already been involved in several active travel projects and has developed a growing network of walking and cycling routes throughout the District. Key Greenways include: The Peace Bridge, Waterside Greenway, Foyle Valley Greenway, Faughan Valley Cycleway, and Prehen Greenway. By expanding upon these types of local level green infrastructure plans, active travel should be more feasible for people. Another example is the Strabane Pedestrian Bridge, which improved access and connectivity into the town centre from the outlying housing developments, reducing the need for car travel into the town centre.

6.8.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, the RDS, the SPPS, Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would continue to inform decisions. The areas plans however were prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. In the absence of a LDP it could become more difficult to integrate sustainable travel options to new and existing developments to enable people to reduce their reliance on the car. Opportunities to integrate active travel with blue/green infrastructure plans may also be missed.

6.8.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Transport and Accessibility

- Car use is the most popular mode of transport in Northern Ireland and this is reflected in Derry City and Strabane District area.
- There are mostly unclassified and B roads across the Council.
- Sustainable travel options are required across the Council area so as to encourage people to use other transport options than private motorised vehicles.
- Currently there is a low level usage of public transport to get to work.
- Providing support for greenways and at least one more bridge project across the Foyle is important to help reduce vehicle use and improve local air quality.
- Sustainable and active travel links need to be integrated to existing and new infrastructure so people can choose other modes of transport to the private car.
- Public transport needs to be improved (cost, congestion, reliability) with adequate links to and from places of employment, housing and town centres.
- Consideration of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 is fundamental to transport development within the region as it could directly impact on air quality by providing more public transport (rail) and rural transport solutions (park & rides, carpooling, taxi schemes).
- There is potential for active travel in a cross border network, linking people and places together.
- The impact of 'Brexit' needs to be carefully considered in light of the impacts upon travel between the DCSDC area and County Donegal. It is estimated that there are 46,654 daily traffic movements at crossing points, (Derry-Bridgend, Derry-Culmore and Strabane-Lifford).

6.9 Air Quality

6.9.1 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, sulphur or ammonia are exceeded, the effects on ecosystems can also be adverse.

The Department and Councils manage air Quality in Northern Ireland in compliance with domestic legislation (the Environment Order 2002, the Air Quality Regulations (NI) 2003 and the Air Quality Standards Regulations (NI) 2010). These stem from European Air Quality Directives but an Air Quality Strategy for Northern Ireland 2007 provides the strategic framework for air quality in Northern Ireland (NI).

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 and sensitive habitats. Other measures include smoke control areas and Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA).

Overarching regional planning guidance highlights agriculture, transport and energy supply as the three sectors contributing most to a warming climate in Northern Ireland. Agricultural land makes up a significant amount of land cover in Northern Ireland; we remain heavily reliant on private car use for journeys; and we are mostly dependent on fossil fuels for our energy supply. All these sources emit air pollutants including greenhouse gas emissions. Regional policy thus recommends developing policy links between air quality and climate change and fully supports an air quality strategy.

In the draft Programme for Government (dPFG) there are several outcomes that can be linked to good air quality. These include outcomes to live and work sustainably; to live healthy and active lives; and to create a place that people want to live, work and visit. Air quality may not have a specific planning policy but under the SPPS, it can be a material consideration. Maintaining good air quality is an important aspect of sustainable development as it is fundamental to the quality of our environment, society and the economy. The dPFG has set improving air quality as an indicator of achieving its outcomes.

The draft Community Plan Environmental Pillar overall outcome 'We live sustainably, protecting the environment' applies to this topic. Improving air quality will contribute to this outcome. The sustainability theme includes the goal of protecting our local ecosystems as the source of clean air, clean water and fertile topsoil.

6.9.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information for air quality is presented in evidence based papers for the Local Development Plan including Public Utilities and Transport, and can be found at www.derrystrabane.com/ldp. This section also overlaps with the Health and Wellbeing, Transport, Climate Change and Natural Resources sections of this report.

Air Pollution

The city is recognised as the gateway of the North West with strategic transport links (air, sea, rail and road) to the rest of Europe and international locations. This has an impact on air quality particularly from road traffic.

Information on current air quality can be accessed at www.airqualityni.co.uk where recent progress reports and screening assessments can also be found. There are two continuous monitoring sites in Derry and one in Strabane. In Derry levels of particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide and ozone are all measured. There have been exceedances of particulate matter, ozone and nitrogen dioxide. In Strabane, levels of particulate matter and sulphur dioxide are

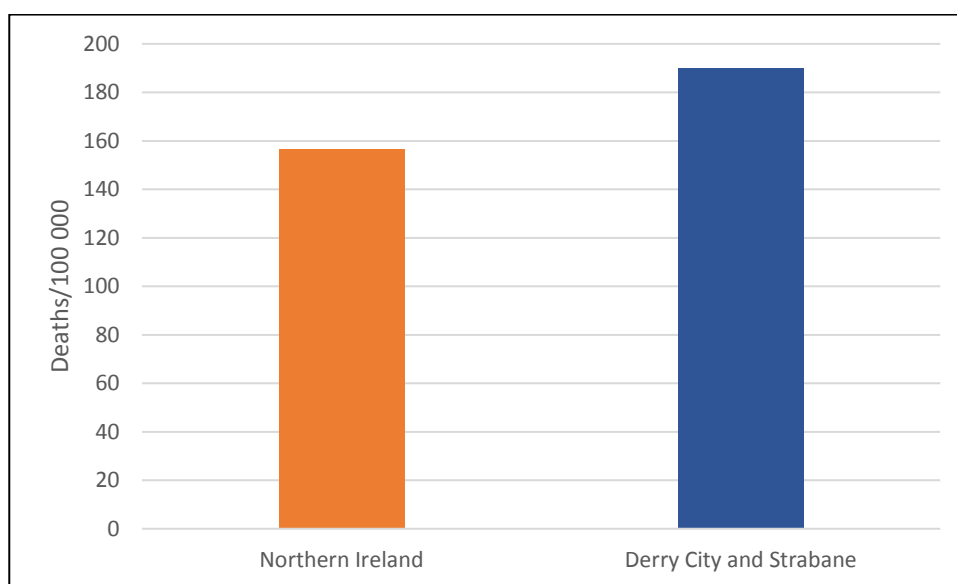
measured. Particulate matter has recently exceeded recommended guidelines on a couple of occasions.

Smoke control areas have been enforced to reduce smoke and other air pollutants/emissions from burning fuels with the aim of improving local air quality and are present across the Council. The smoke control areas were first introduced in the Strabane area in 2007, in a bid to improve air quality across the district. As a result air quality has improved dramatically, in particular in the Strabane area.

There are six Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the Council¹²; these are located at Derry, Strabane, Newtownstewart, Castlederg, Dales Corner (Derry) and Buncrana Road (Derry). Half of these AQMAs are for nitrogen dioxide and the other are for particulate matter. Particulate matter is fine air borne material that can come from road traffic, industry and construction sources. Due to its fine size, it can cause respiratory issues. Nitrogen dioxide is primarily from traffic or industrial sources and can be a severe respiratory irritant. Nitrogen oxides can readily mix with other chemicals to form pollutants like ground level ozone.

The standardised death rate in the Council from respiratory diseases is 190 per 100,000 of the population. This is above the Northern Ireland average (156) and the highest of all the Councils.

Figure 6.9.1: Standardised Respiratory Death Rate



Source: NINIS

Human Health

There is an important link between air quality and human health. Recent Departmental figures for Northern Ireland indicate that 553 deaths can be attributed to particulate matter, and 330 to nitrogen dioxide. Particulate matter pollution is composed of fine particles from natural and man-made sources; pollen, sand dust, road traffic, coal burning, and construction work are all potential sources¹³. It is currently estimated that in the United Kingdom, life expectancy is shortened by eight months because of poor air quality¹⁴.

¹² www.airqualityni.co.uk

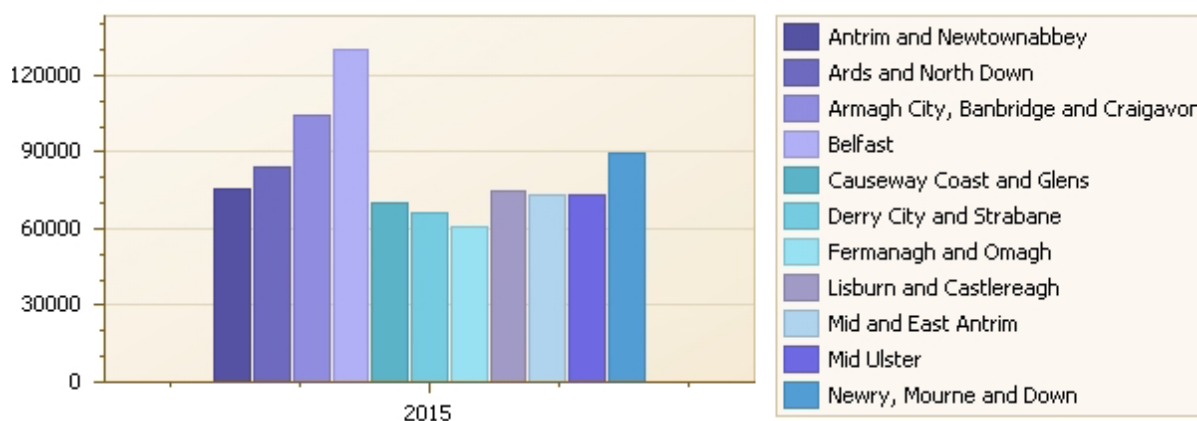
¹³ www.airqualityni.co.uk

¹⁴ DAERA held draft Programme for Government Air Quality Stakeholder Consultation, August 2016

Emissions- Transport

In 2015, the number of licensed vehicles in the Council was just under 66,300. This is the second lowest amount of all Councils in Northern Ireland.

Figure 6.9.2: Licensed Cars for Councils in Northern Ireland



Source: NINIS

Although there is a low number of licensed vehicles relative to other Councils, the car is still relied upon for the majority of journeys. There are also mostly unclassified or B roads across the Council which means there are many rural car journeys. The car accounts for 71% of all journeys made and is the most popular mode of transport; 6% are by public transport; 18% are by foot and only 1% are by bicycle. Just under 4% of people travel to work by public means and this is under the Northern Ireland average of 5%.

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) generated by road traffic combustion has not decreased since 2012. Levels in urban areas have generally increased and there is no evidence of a decline in NO₂ emissions.

Particulate matter has generally shown a decreasing trend in urban sites since 2003. Particulate matter in urban areas can come from road traffic and other fossil fuel combustion sources. Ground level ozone is produced during the chemical reactions of nitrogen oxides from sources such as vehicle emissions and can cause respiratory issues. Urban sites show levels are not in decline but remain variable.

Consideration of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 is fundamental to transport development within the region as it could directly impact on air quality by providing more public transport (rail) and rural transport solutions (park & rides, carpooling, taxi schemes).

Emissions - Agriculture

In Northern Ireland, ammonia emissions have been reported as 93% from livestock and 7% from the application of fertilizers. Trends for declines in emissions from livestock on a UK basis may not be reflected in Northern Ireland because cattle numbers have declined by a much lesser extent, whilst pig and poultry numbers have increased. Ammonia emissions from livestock have been increasing since 2010. Ammonia emissions from fertilizer use has significantly reduced by 39% but overall ammonia emissions have only fallen by 5%. This indicates other sources of ammonia emissions¹⁵. Ammonia is not included as an objective in the Air Quality Regulations but it is linked to deterioration of habitats and can also have impacts on ecosystems.

¹⁵ DAERA (2016): Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016 Issue 8

6.9.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, the RDS, the SPPS, Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. The areas plans however were prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. In the absence of a LDP there could be less opportunity to spatially plan and manage development to help improve air quality.

6.9.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Air Quality

- There are six active Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, nitrous oxides, sulphur dioxide and ozone are recorded.
- There are three urban air quality monitoring stations within the Council, two in Derry and one in Strabane.
- There are smoke control areas in the Council area.
- The standardised death rate for the Council from respiratory diseases was recorded as 190 per 100,000 of the population which is above the Northern Ireland average and the highest of all the Councils.
- The car is the most common mode of transport making up 71% of all journeys.
- Public transport needs to be improved (cost, congestion, reliability, feasibility) with adequate links to and from places of employment, housing and town centres.
- Sustainable and active travel links need to be integrated to existing and new infrastructure so people can choose other modes of transport to the private car.
- A behavioural shift is needed to help move people away from the private car and into using other forms of transport (bikes, greenways) to get around town centres and to complete short journeys.
- Partnership working with other agencies and Councils is needed to help ensure sustainable land use planning and compatible adjacent land uses that enable reduced travel to facilities and services.
- Open spaces and green areas need to be maintained within new plans to help maintain local air quality standards.
- Providing support for greenways and at least one more bridge project across the Foyle is important to help reduce vehicle use and improve local air quality.

6.10 Climatic Factors

6.10.1 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.

During the last few decades, concerns about the global climate have been linked to the effect that human activities have had on it. Carbon and sulphur dioxide from fossil fuel combustion, and nitrogen oxides and methane from deforestation, transport and agriculture, have all been entering the atmosphere. These additional gases add to the natural background levels already present, which increases the natural warming of the planet known as the “greenhouse effect”. This is the cause of anthropogenic climate change, which is climate change influenced by man.

In 2014 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) carried out an assessment of climate science. It stated that anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are the highest they have ever been since the pre-industrial era. Atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxides are the highest they have ever been in the last 800 000 years. Their effects are extremely likely to be the dominant cause of observed warming since the 1950s.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) met in Paris 2015. It agreed ambitious greenhouse gas reductions from 2020 in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to limit global warming to no more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century. The Paris Agreement aims for a low carbon future based on sustainable development.

The RDS recommends we reduce our carbon footprint, adapt to climate change and deliver a sustainable and secure energy supply. Reducing GHG emissions is the only way to mitigate climate change. In the SPPS climate change is viewed as a central challenge to achieving sustainable development. The SPPS promotes the planning system as a tool to shape new and existing developments to help combat climate change by promoting sustainable patterns of development, renewables, energy efficiency and using the natural environment as blue/green infrastructure.

The first UK National Adaptation Programme (NAP) was published in July 2013 for each devolved administration and Northern Ireland’s NAP was launched in 2014. The Northern Ireland NAP informed the SPPS, which details mitigation and adaptation for climate change. In the SPPS, sustainable patterns of development and transport are recommended. This should help reduce the need to use cars and enable people to access public transport and walk or cycle.

The devolved administrations of the United Kingdom (UK) are expected to contribute to the reductions stated in the UK Climate Change Act 2008, i.e. 80% reduction on GHG on 1990 levels by 2050. To help meet the 2050 target, the Northern Ireland Executive has set a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on 1990 levels by at least 35% by 2025¹⁶. The Cross Departmental Working Group for Climate Change (CDWGCC) has produced annual reports detailing progress toward meeting this target. The fifth report in 2016 suggests GHG emissions (excluding the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry sector) will be 34.1% lower in 2025 than in 1990 which is close to the target. The 2nd Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP) (2018-2023) will provide local level evidence with targeted local adaptation information.

¹⁶ www.theccc.org.uk

In 2015, a motion was brought to the Northern Ireland Assembly to introduce a Climate Change Bill and 74% of respondents favoured a domestic based piece of climate change legislation.

In 2015/16, the CDWGCC agreed 37 actions in an Action Plan to address climate change. Twelve actions were taken forward and a future action plan was proposed to be agreed in 2017.

Derry City and Strabane District Council's Community Plan 2017-2030 envisions a thriving, prosperous and sustainable city. The mission is, "To improve social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the city and district..." Considering how to combat climate change and how to prepare for the effects of it such as flooding, will be an integral part of this process. Our LDP could help deliver climate change mitigation and adaptation by protecting carbon stores, providing land for renewables, integrating blue/green infrastructure and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), promoting energy efficient measures for buildings and homes, and enabling shorter journeys and active travel.

6.10.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented within the evidence based papers for the Local Development Plan such as Renewable Energy and Public Utilities, and can be found at www.derrystrabane.com/ldp but regional level information such as the Carbon Intensity Indicators and the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report¹⁷ is also available. This section overlaps with Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport, Air Quality and Natural Resources.

Global context

The IPCC Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report, presents historical trends for increasing emissions of GHG, contributors to temperature change and trends in average temperatures and sea levels, GHGs include carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, ozone and methane. Climate scientists have estimated that the earth's atmosphere has already warmed from pre-industrial Revolution times by nearly 1°C. Global sea levels have increased by 15-20 centimetres with thermal expansion and ice loss from glaciers and land¹⁸.

UK Context

The second Climate Change Risk Assessment Evidence Report is due to be presented to Parliament in 2017. The Adaptation Sub Committee has prepared the independent evidence report which sets out the latest risks and opportunities to the UK from climate change. An interim report has been published entitled The UK Synthesis Report 2017.

The priority areas identified to be managed for climate change risks are flooding and coastal change, high temperatures, risks to natural capital, water shortages, impacts on global food system and risks from new and emerging pests/diseases.

Northern Ireland Context

There are nine climate-monitoring stations across Northern Ireland (NI) managed by Queens University for temperature and precipitation. Research informed by this monitoring predicts that increases in temperature will be evident across Northern Ireland becoming increasingly warmer toward the end of the 21st century. Overall precipitation is projected to fall slightly, winter is projected to be wetter and the summer to be drier. The Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016 also presents annual trends for temperature and rainfall that show increasing annual temperatures and decreasing rainfall in summer months.

¹⁷ DAERA 2016

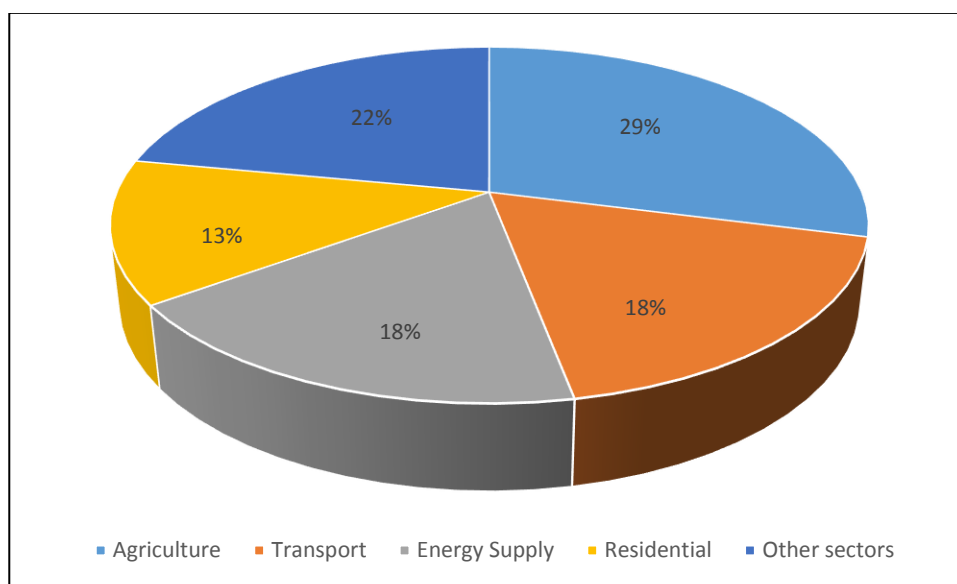
¹⁸ UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Synthesis Report 2016

Northern Ireland accounted for 4% of the total UK GHG emissions in Northern Ireland in 2013. This is high relative to the contribution made to gross domestic product (2.1%) and the proportion of the UK population (2.8%). Estimated GHG emissions were 22.4 million tonnes of CO₂ and had decreased by 16% compared to baseline levels in 1990. In contrast, the UK as a whole reduced emissions by 30%.

Carbon dioxide accounted for 67% of all GHG emissions. It was the most common gas emitted, with the transport, energy supply and residential sectors the largest contributors. Northern Ireland contributed 3.2% of the UK's total carbon dioxide emissions. Methane was the highest emission from the agriculture and waste management sectors as a by-product and accounted for 21% of the total GHG emissions. 85% of all methane emissions came from agriculture. Nitrous oxide from soils was the other significant gas emitted by the agriculture sector accounting for 90% of all agricultural emissions. Northern Ireland accounted for a much larger share of the UK's emissions of these gases due to the importance of agriculture in the Northern Ireland economy.

Agriculture, transport, energy supply and residential were the top four sectors in terms of GHG emissions in Northern Ireland. These emissions are a by-product either from livestock and farming practices, or from the burning of fossil fuels. Most sectors show a long-term decreasing trend in emissions with the largest decreases in energy supply, waste management and residential sectors. There is a government target to reduce GHG emissions by 35% on 1990 levels by 2025.

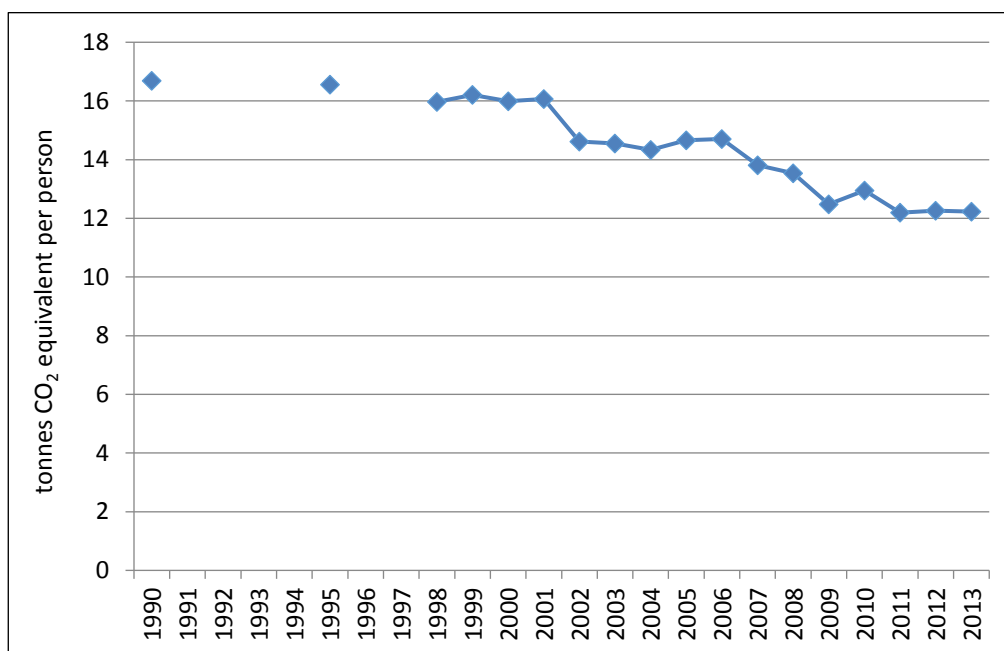
Figure 6.10.1: Main Greenhouse Gas Emitting Sectors in Northern Ireland



Source: Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016

A set of Carbon Intensity Indicators has been developed to help government track carbon reduction policies. These indicators show a reduction in GHG emissions in terms of intensity, as opposed to absolute figures. Emissions intensity demonstrates the amount of carbon dioxide generated per unit of output. Note that most of the trends, which cover the power (energy), buildings (housing), industry, transport, agriculture and waste sectors, are positive i.e. declining emissions. Although population growth and economic growth are the two main drivers of climate change, the Carbon Intensity Indicators show that in Northern Ireland, greenhouse gas emissions decreased by 16% from 1990 to 2013 whilst the population increased by 15% and the economy also increased.

Figure 6.10.2: Greenhouse gas Emissions per Capita



Source: DAERA, Carbon Intensity Indicators

Climate change is generally expected to increase flood risk, albeit that there remains much uncertainty as to the degree of climate change that will occur and the implications for particular areas of Northern Ireland. Flooding is considered further in 6.11.

Local Context - Greenhouse gas emissions

The Council area has a substantial amount of land contributing to the rural economy. Livestock and arable farming are both present. Agriculture accounts for the largest amount of greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland. The Transport and Air Quality sections of this report provide more information on vehicular transport emissions that contribute to climate change. There is also the City of Derry Airport located on Lough Foyle. Currently aircraft emissions are not accounted for in greenhouse gas emissions but this is something that may change in the future.

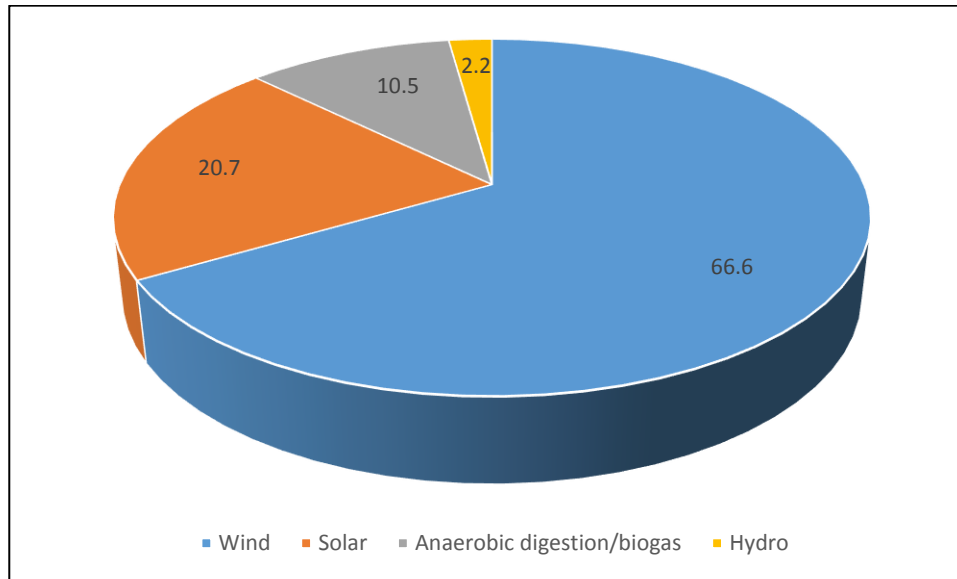
Local Context - Energy

Coolkeeragh power station is one of three in Northern Ireland. It is located on Lough Foyle and is gas fired and replaces an older station on the same site that was based on oil fuel. As changes in policy direct the energy market toward reduced greenhouse gas emissions and a low carbon future, further changes within the energy sector are expected, including adaptations to traditional power generation such as battery storage.

The System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) provides a 24-hour visual of energy production and distribution across the grid. There is also a breakdown of the fuel mix, which includes sources of renewable energy. This can be accessed at www.soni.ltd.uk.

Wind energy has dominated the renewables market in Northern Ireland and Derry City & Strabane District Council are the lead Council for wind generation. Over half of all renewable applications made to the Council are wind related but solar, hydro, biomass and anaerobic digestion technologies are also evident.

Figure 6.10.1: Renewables in Derry City & Strabane District Council



Source: Derry City & Strabane District Council Position Paper

Local Context - Residential

Northern Ireland remains heavily dependent on fossil fuels for home heating. In recent years, there has been a transition away from coal and oil to gas. Gas is less carbon intensive and more energy efficient so preferred to other fossil fuels. Gas infrastructure is in place in some parts of the Council but there are still areas with no access to it. However, wind generation is high in the Council and homes can benefit from this cleaner energy. There are also solar and hydro projects able to supply renewable energy to the grid. The Northern Ireland Housing Executive is also leading on micro-generation schemes to help reduce emissions from homes.

6.10.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new LDP, it is assumed that the RDS, the SPPS, Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would continue to inform decisions. The areas plans however were prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. In the absence of a LDP there could be fewer opportunities to apply sustainable development that helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and measures to adapt to climate change.

6.10.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Climatic Factors

- There may be a higher risk of coastal flooding in low-lying areas.
- Old sea walls may become more vulnerable to the effects of flooding and rising sea levels and require additional maintenance or replacement.
- The LDP should support a low-carbon energy future in anticipation of new energy and climate change policies.
- There are currently no financial incentives for renewables to help encourage uptake.
- Adequate electrical infrastructure is required to accommodate new grid connections for large-scale renewables and domestic scale producers.
- Alternative renewable technologies to wind, i.e. tidal, wave, hydro, solar, biomass, anaerobic digestion, are needed to improve the diversity of energy sources and enable a more sustainable energy mix.
- Sustainable drainage systems should be integrated to plans/projects.
- Adequate provision and accessibility to alternative transport options are required in rural and urban areas to help reduce reliance on the car and greenhouse gas emissions.

- The development of land can be planned to encourage and enable sustainable development that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, through reducing the need for vehicular travel, avoiding damage/development of floodplains, and protecting carbon/water stores.
- Carbon dioxide per capita emissions were estimated to be below the Northern Ireland average in 2012 for the Derry area but in Strabane they were estimated to be higher.
- Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture make a significant contribution to total emissions in Northern Ireland and the Council.

6.11 Water

6.11.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

European Directives and regional legislation, plans and strategies seek to protect the quality and supply of water to maintain natural resources and to protect human health. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires waterbodies to be protected from deterioration and, where necessary and practicable, to be restored to good status. The Groundwater Daughter Directive (2006/118/EC) sets the groundwater quality standard at 50 mg NO₃/l. Under the Nitrates Directive, Northern Ireland must monitor surface waters for nitrate pollution against a mandatory standard of 50 mg NO₃/l. The European Flood Directive requires flood risk to be assessed and mapped and management plans to be developed for the most significant flood risk areas.

At the Northern Ireland level there are regulations in place to implement these directives. These include regulations to prevent pollution, 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. The Strategy for Promoting the Use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) encourages the incorporation of measures to ameliorate the impacts of development on water quality and flow.

River Basin Management Plans are 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 as well as wetlands which are directly associated with ground or surface water.

Every six years, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) produces a RBMP for each river basin district within Northern Ireland. Derry and Strabane lie in the North West River Basin District. The RBMP 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 in the next six years (2015 – 2021). WFD requires action to meet good ecological and chemical status and prevent deterioration of our water bodies by 2027.

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 European wide requirements and directives, ensuring efficient and cost effective delivery. A Long Term Water Strategy has been developed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in partnership with Northern Ireland Water (NIW), DAERA and 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. The Nitrates Directive has been applied across all of NI using the total territory approach. This is the main tool for reducing diffuse pollution through the Nitrates Action Programme and Nutrient Management Plans. This has delivered significant improvements to date in water quality in the last 10-15 years, reducing failures due to nutrients from around 60% to 40%. An equivalent reduction of a further 20% is required by 2021 to meet WFD requirements.

Active engagement with stakeholders through partnerships may help deliver improvements in water quality. In this council area local volunteer groups such as the Roe Anglers, Camowen Anglers, Owenkillew Community Development Group and other volunteer/angling groups, are actively trying to improve their local aquatic environment. They report pollution or potential pollution to NIEA for

investigation, organise clean ups and undertake additional monitoring through citizen science projects. Some of the volunteer groups have implemented habitat improvement projects within the rivers, in the hope this will benefit Freshwater Pearl Mussels and biological parameters within that water body. The groups also encourage local interest in rivers with educational and cross community activities, with the aim of increasing environmental improvements.

A European INTERREG V funded project called 'Catchment Care' will be working on the Arney, Finn and Blackwater catchments and aims, amongst other goals, to fund stakeholder engagement/projects to improve water quality. The new Environmental Farming Scheme will undoubtedly bring further improvements by incentivising measures which will provide a barrier between the watercourses and the impacts of intensive agriculture.

Northern Ireland Water continues to invest in water infrastructure and waste water treatment. The Water Catchment Partnership is a working partnership between Northern Ireland Water, Ulster Farmers Union, College of Agriculture Food & Rural Enterprise, Voluntary Initiative, DAERA and NIEA and is active in this council area. Main activities include: Engagement visits giving best practice pesticide advice, attendance at local agricultural shows and rush control demonstration events.

The EU "Floods Directive" (2007/060/EC) came into force on the 26th November 2007 and aimed to establish a framework that will contribute to reducing the impact of flooding on communities and the environment. The Flood Directive requires flood risk to be managed by:

- 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.
- Preparedness: informing the public about flood risk and what to do in the event of a flood.

Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) are a requirement of the Floods Directive. Article 7 of the Directive required each member state to prepare Flood Risk Management Plans by December 2015. The FRMPs for Northern Ireland highlight the flood hazards and risks in the 20 most Significant Flood Risk Areas from flooding by rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. They identify the measures that will be undertaken over the next six years to address flooding and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together with communities to reduce the flood risks. The North West FRMP covers Derry and Strabane.

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 run-off
- RG12: 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 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 the flood risk area.

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 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 draft Community Plan outcome which is most relevant to this topic relates to the Environmental Pillar - Infrastructure: Energy, Waste, Transport and Water and is:

- Our water is cleaner and more effectively managed

The sustainability theme includes the goal of protecting our local ecosystems as the source of clean air, clean water and fertile topsoil.

6.11.2 Baseline Information

The following evidence papers which can be found at www.derrystrabane.com/ldp are relevant to this topic: EVB15 – Public Utilities and EVB17 – Coastal Development.

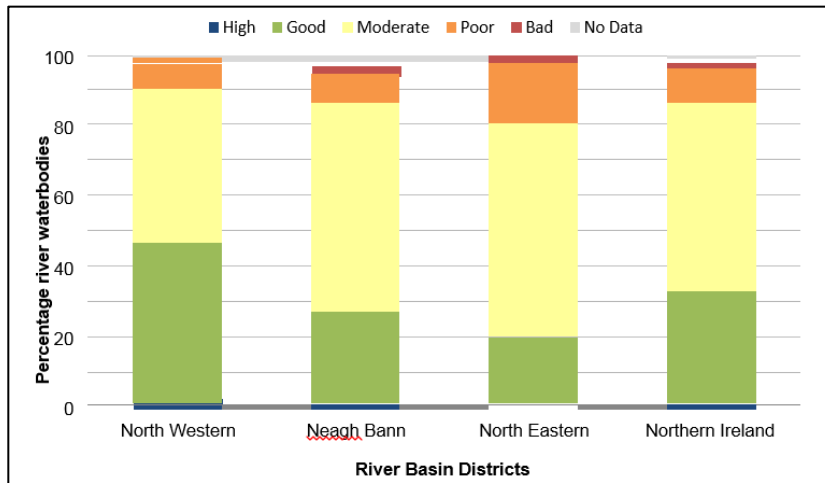
Nitrates

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. 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, and well within EU standards, which may be attributed to the measures implemented through the Nitrates Action Programme.

Water Framework Reporting

The WFD requires action to meet good ecological and chemical status and prevent deterioration of our water bodies by 2027. 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). The Northern Ireland figures for status of all our water bodies show that 37% meet good status in 2015. Figure 6.11.1 shows that the North Western River Basin District has a higher proportion of waterbodies classed as good and lower amount of poor. Classification tools and standards, as well as water body boundaries have changed during the first River Basin Cycle therefore a direct comparison between 2009 and 2015 data cannot be made.

Figure 6.11.1 Water Framework Directive overall classification (% river waterbodies), 2015



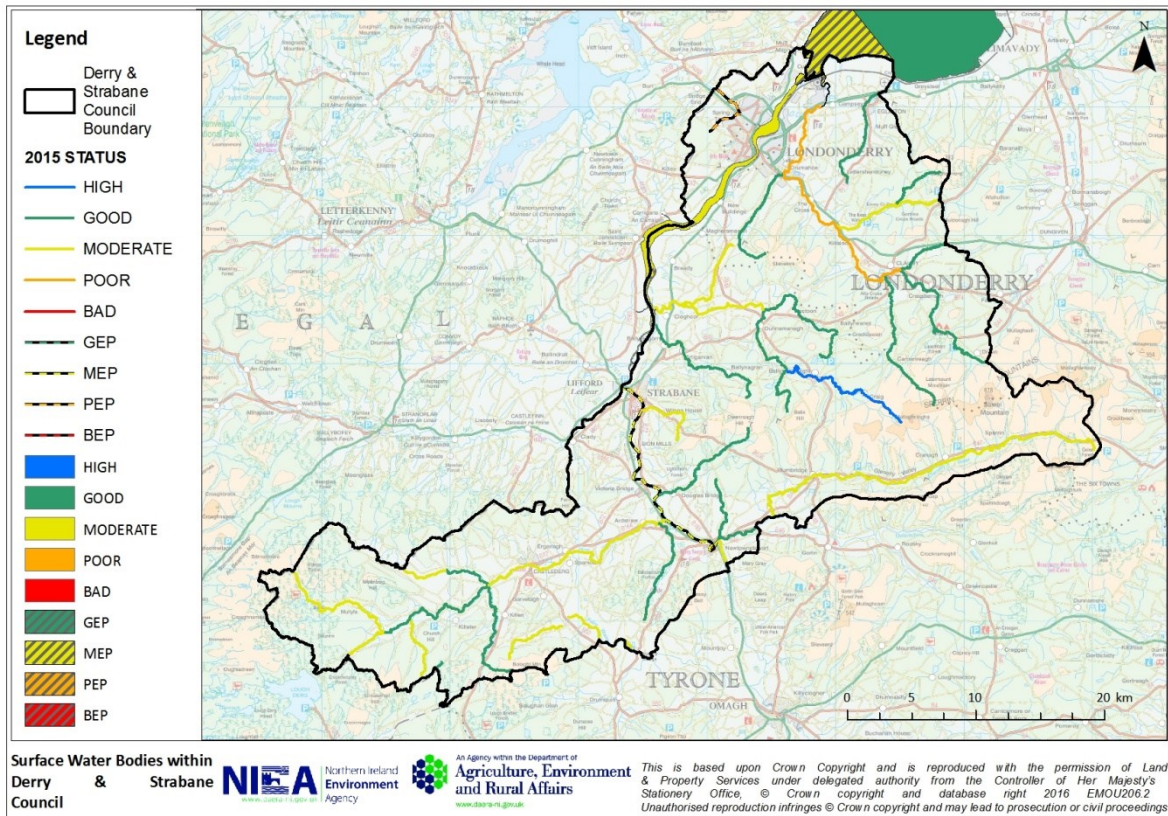
Source: North Western River Basin Management Plans, December 2015¹⁹

In 2015 the main pressures in failing water bodies have been identified and in Northern Ireland, around 68% of failures are due to diffuse agricultural pollution, and 33% are due to point source discharges from Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTWs), industry, sewerage networks, urban runoff and other non-sewered discharges. The Second River Basin Cycle (2015-2021) plans set out 120 new measures that are needed to improve the situation. These aim to bring up to 70% of our water bodies to good status by 2021, if the measures are implemented and funded. Although the targets are ambitious, they are well informed by comprehensive monitoring and the progress already achieved in 2009-2015. Implementation of the plans is now underway, but it is too early in the six year period to determine how effective they will be.

Derry and Strabane Council lies within the North Western River Basin District (RBD). The principal river systems are the Derg, Mourne, Burn Dennet and Faughan rivers which drain into River Foyle (Upper Foyle & Foyle Harbour and Faughan transitional water bodies) and eventually into Lough Foyle Coastal water body. Water bodies are the basic management units for reporting and assessing compliance with WFD objectives. Figure 6.11.2 illustrates the surface water bodies lying within Derry and Strabane BC and Table 6.11.1 summarises the 2015 status classification for water bodies within Derry and Strabane Council boundary.

Figure 6.11.2: 2015 status of surface water bodies within Derry and Strabane Council

¹⁹ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doe/water-report-north-eastern-river-basin-plan-2015.pdf>



Source: DAERA 2017

Table 6.11.1: Summary of 2015 classification of surface water bodies within Derry and Strabane Council

2015 WFD Classification	Rivers (km)	Lakes (no of water bodies)	Transitional (no of water bodies)	Coastal (no of water bodies)
High	23.90			
Good	271.34			1
Moderate	260.44		1	
Poor	41.15			
Bad				
GEP				
MEP	34.74		1	
PEP	10.38			
BEP				

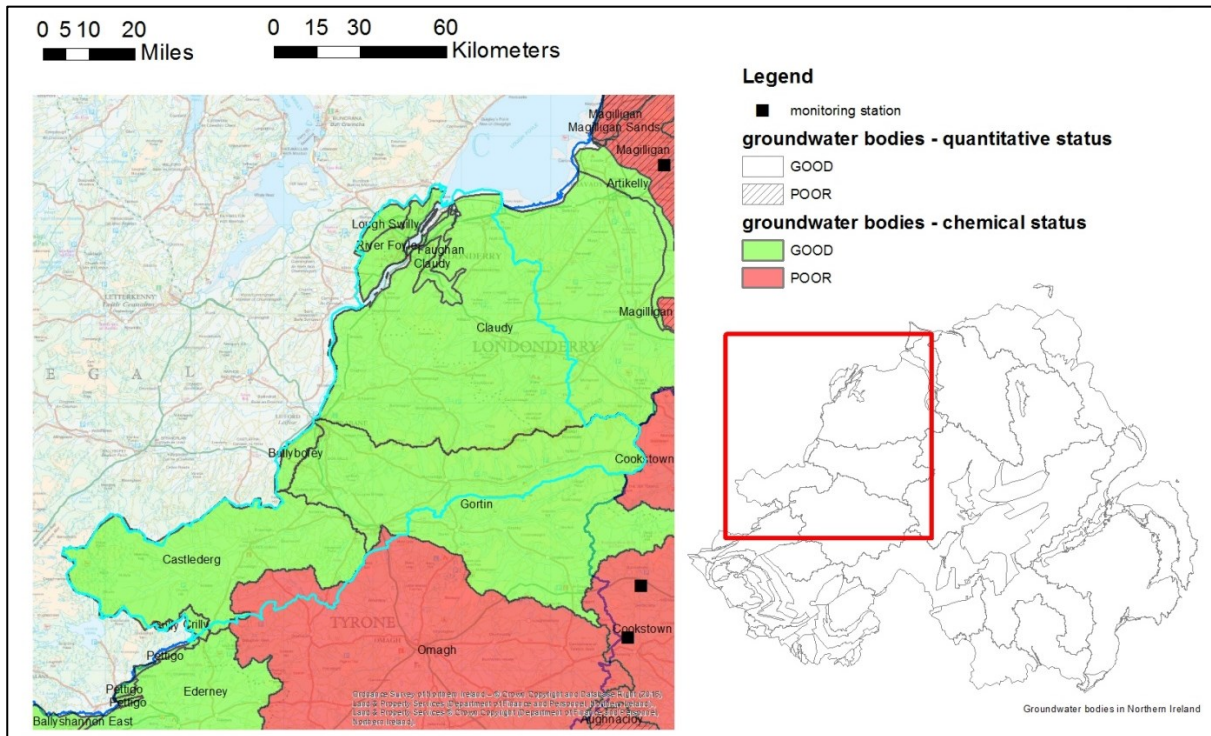
Source: DAERA 2017

This shows that about half of water bodies in Derry and Strabane are classified as good or high and half are moderate or poor. The significant sources of pressure preventing water bodies in this area from achieving good status are diffuse pressures from agricultural sources and point source pressures from urban wastewater and development.

Derry and Strabane – groundwater

The main challenge for groundwater bodies in the area is the lack of monitoring stations and hence the low confidence in the status assessment.

Figure 6.11.3 Derry and Strabane – status of groundwater bodies



Source: DAERA 2017

Surface Drainage

There are no significant drainage proposals for Derry and Strabane at this time.

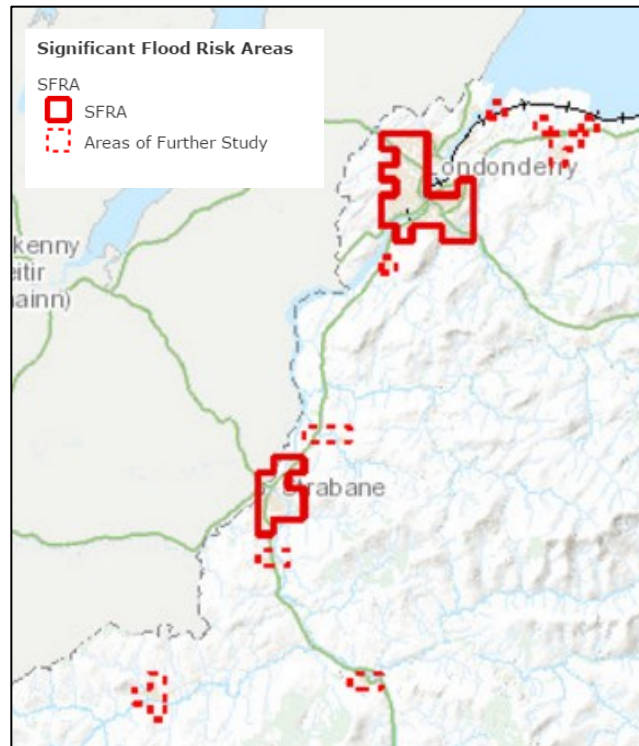
Flood Risk

Flooding is a natural process that cannot be entirely prevented. Some areas are already susceptible to intermittent flooding from various sources, principally from rivers, the sea or surface water run-off. Climate change is generally expected to increase flood risk, albeit that there remains much uncertainty as to the degree of climate change that will occur and the implications for particular areas of Northern Ireland.

There are recognised areas of significant flood risk within the District. In the preparation of the LDP for the District, Rivers Agency advises against bringing forward sites or the zoning of any land, particularly for built development, that has been identified from the flood maps as being within the 1 in 100 year fluvial floodplain; 1 in 200 year coastal floodplain/reservoir inundation area; or susceptible to surface water flooding elsewhere.

The Rivers Agency (Department for Infrastructure) undertook a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for all Northern Ireland in 2011. Areas of significant flood have been identified and are continuously updated on the [Flood Hazard and Risk Maps](#) produced by Rivers Agency.

Figure 6.11.4 Flood Risk Areas in Derry and Strabane



Source: Flood Maps (NI) © Crown Copyright and Database Right

The multi-layered strategic flood 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.

Two Significant Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs) are located in Derry and Strabane, Derry/Londonderry SFRA and Strabane SFRA. These are reported on in detail in the Public Services and Utilities Paper. Derry City is being considered for a Flood Alleviation Scheme and it was considered that it should be prioritised for the Works Study Programme. It is proposed that the following watercourses are considered for Flood Alleviation Schemes and prioritised for the Works Study Programme: Ardnabrocky Drain; Burnagibbagh; Woodburn Park Stream; and Pennyburn Stream.

Infrastructure

The provision of water supply and wastewater treatment within the District is the responsibility of NI Water. Whilst there is generally very good infrastructure in the District, they have identified a number of our settlements as having little or no remaining sewerage 'headroom capacity'; this poses challenges for future waste water management. Significant investment in water treatment works, service reservoirs and mains distribution has resulted in improvements in compliance across Northern Ireland with the drinking water standards, from 99.22% in 2004 to 99.86% in 2014.

Water Supply

The provision of water supply in Northern Ireland is the responsibility of NI Water. Water supplies for Derry area come from two water treatment works at Carmoney, near Eglinton and at Caugh Hill, near Dungiven. Water supplies for Strabane are provided by water treatment works at Derg, Lough Braden, Glenhordial, Loughmacrory and Caugh Hill. There are no significant proposals to be shown in the Plan. The lack of water supply is not considered likely to be a constraint in the Plan for development in any of the settlements.

Wastewater Treatment

The provision of sewage treatment facilities in the Plan Area is also the responsibility of NI Water. NI Water has provided tables of Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) within Derry and Strabane. At this stage the information is limited to those Works categorised as serving settlements greater than 50 Population Equivalent and the detail provided in the Public Utilities Evidence Paper.

The larger WWTW generally have good capacity although there are some constraints for some settlements. Most of the smaller works have constraints and there is no capacity at Drumlegagh. Therefore there are significant constraints on provision for small settlements. Where WWTWs are not available consideration will need to be given to the use of wetland or biological systems for the treatment of sewage instead of, or in addition to septic tanks. Where this is not feasible development may need to be delayed until there is adequate infrastructure.

Proximity to existing WWTW will also be a factor in considering the location of new development land as part of the LDP. When selecting land for development, it is generally desirable to avoid land which is near existing treatment works as these can have adverse amenity impacts. Guidelines are in place between the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and NI Water regarding what can be considered acceptable distances between development and WWTW's. For example, a WWTW with a design equivalent population of 5,000 should not be within 300m of inhabited development. Should there be any anticipated closure of WWTWs this could allow land to become available for development which was previously within the exclusion zone. Where known, the Plan will take account of these areas within settlements.

Reservoirs

In Derry and Strabane there are two "controlled reservoirs" (i.e. an impoundment $\geq 10,000$ cubic metres) Creggan Lower and Creggan Upper.

6.11.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without our LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. The Areas Plans were however prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. They were not therefore informed by the pressures on our environment today.

In the absence of a 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 the 2015 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. It is preferable that a range of Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) solutions be employed as these are more sustainable and often less costly than using traditional piped infrastructure. They also offer multiple benefits such as recreation and amenity provision. Examples of such are green roofs, permeable paving, soakaways, ponds and wetlands.

6.11.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Water

- There were no water scarcity issues in Northern Ireland 2005 – 2015 and demand has decreased by almost 11% between 2009 and 2015.

- The lack of water supply is not considered likely to be a constraint to development in any of the settlements however measures to make more efficient use of water should be promoted.
- Constructed flood alleviation and defence measures are expensive and should be avoided.
- 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.
- There are benefits in retaining and restoring natural flood plains and natural watercourses as a form of flood alleviation.
- Climate change will increase the risk of flooding.
- Plan proposals should be compatible with the Flood Risk Management Plans published by Rivers Agency in December 2015.
- Two Significant Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs) are located in DCSDC, Derry/Londonderry SFRA and Strabane SFRA. Areas of Further Study for flood risk are Eglinton, New Buildings, Ballymagorry, Sion Mills, Newtownstewart and Castlederg as well as Coolkeeragh Power Station.
- A safety issue arises because there are not currently legal requirements relating to impounded water therefore there are considered to be risks in potential inundation zones below reservoirs.
- By comparison to the rest of Northern Ireland surface water quality is generally high, this is reflected in designations to protect freshwater species and habitats in much of the council area.
- Freshwater angling, in particular for salmon, brown, trout and sea trout, and sea angling are important in DCSDC.
- There are shellfish protected waters at Longfield Bank and Balls Point in Lough Foyle.
- Emissions from development can impact on water quality and quantity.
- Development may lead to contaminated runoff which may cause pollution; the rate of surface water runoff may change or the capacity of a receiving watercourse may be altered which in turn has the potential to increase flood risk.
- Sustainable drainage SuDS measures should be incorporated and maintained in new development and redevelopment or regeneration schemes.
- Waste water generates the need for treatment of dirty water.
- The larger WWTWs generally have good capacity although there are constraints at some. There are significant constraints on WWTW provision for small settlements. This may limit or delay potential for development.
- Developments without access to mains sewers can incorporate sewage treatment on site but 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 long term.
- Other wastes may also cause pollution at the point where they are disposed of or utilised. Wastes from livestock, food processing or primary treatment such as sewage or anaerobic digestors have the potential to cause pollution elsewhere.

6.12 Natural Resources

6.12.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Natural resources covers biodiversity, fauna, flora, green and blue infrastructure and ecosystems services. It includes intertidal and coastal zones as well as marine environment. This topic overlaps with the Health and Wellbeing, Transport, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Air Quality, Climate Change and Landscape sections of this report. Natural resources are protected at a regional level through spatial planning policy which aims to conserve, protect and enhance our natural environment. It also aims to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate mitigation and adaptation to climate change whilst improving air quality.

One of the aims of the draft Programme for Government is for a society to live and work sustainably, whilst protecting the environment. Indicators include increasing environmental sustainability and improving the country's attractiveness as a destination. Between the draft Programme for Government and Northern Ireland's Sustainable Development Strategy, the benefits of protecting the natural environment for goods and services, and an improved quality of life are clear.

Our strategic planning policy highlights the diversity of Northern Ireland's natural environment. It provides protection of designated sites, species, habitats and other natural features as assets and directly links these to economic, social and environmental benefits. Plans such as Biodiversity Action Plans aim to protect the natural environment but also ensure provision of its recreational and biodiversity value.

One mechanism to help achieve future protection of our natural resources is the Local Development Plan (LDP). The Plan can integrate natural heritage features, promote ecological networks and green/blue infrastructure to help connect open space and natural habitats. These measures deliver regional policy and should help to protect the natural environment and ecosystem services, as well as provide climate change adaptation.

The draft Community Plan outcomes which are most relevant to this topic relate to the Environmental Pillar - Infrastructure: Energy, Waste, Transport and Water and are:

- We benefit from well designed and managed green space
- We value and enhance our environment
- We have stronger environmental stewardship

Protection of natural resources will contribute to these outcomes. The sustainability theme includes the goal of protecting our local ecosystems as the source of clean air, clean water and fertile topsoil.

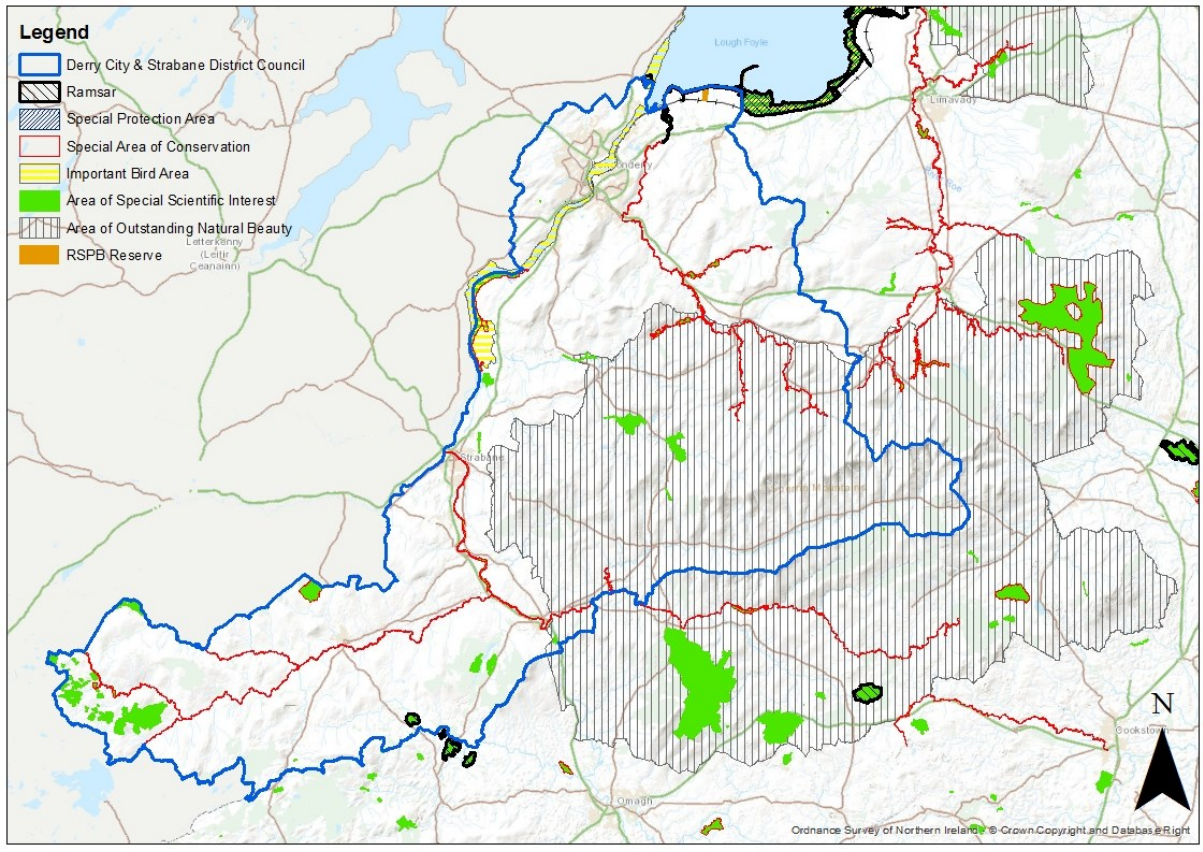
6.12.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the evidence based papers for the Local Development Plan and include Natural Environment, Open Space and Coastal Development all of which can be found at www.derrystrabane.com/ldp.

Nature and Landscape Conservation Sites

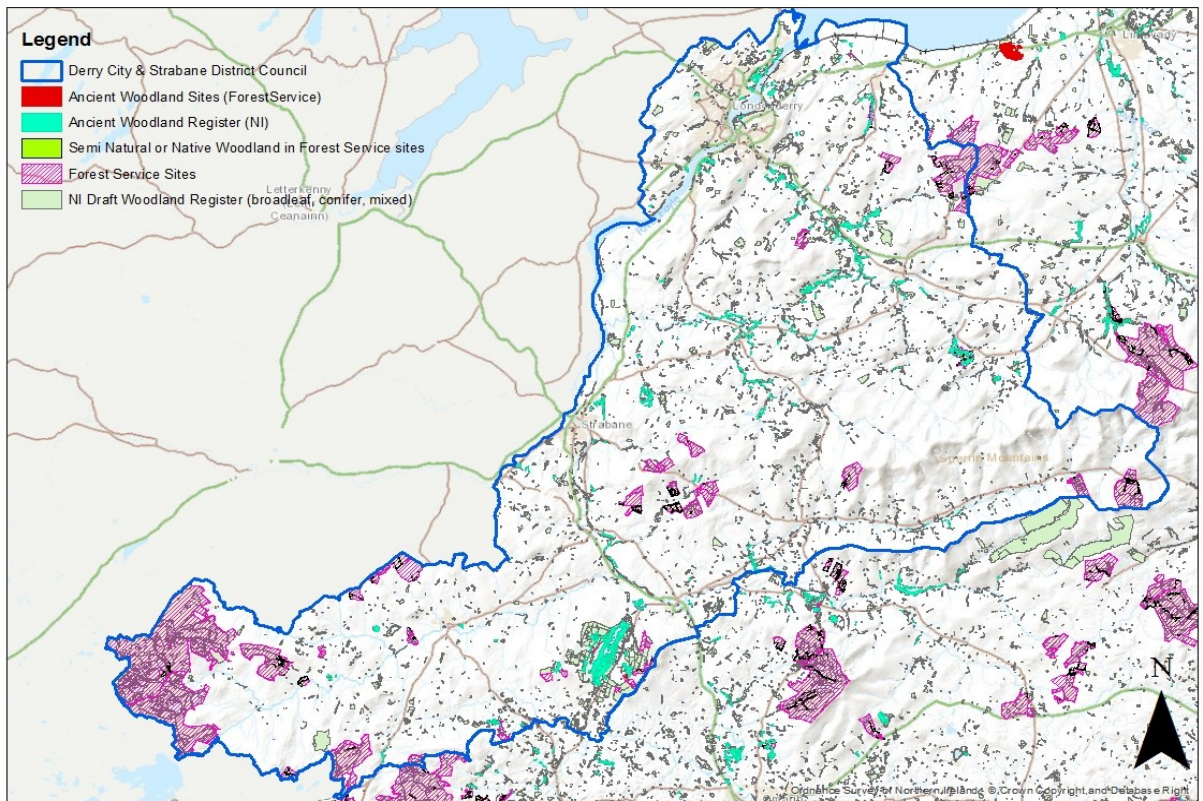
There are many important sites protected for their nature conservation interest in the Council area. These vary from international designations such as Ramsar sites and European sites to Local Nature Reserves. Together these help create a network of sites.

Figure 6.12.1: Nature Conservation Sites



Source: Shared Environmental Service; (DAERA & Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)

Figure 6.12.2: Woodland Sites



Source: Shared Environmental Service; DAERA, Forest Service, Woodland Trust

The number of people in the Council area that spend leisure time outdoors more than once a week is above the comparative figure for Northern Ireland and the number of people that never spend any leisure time outdoors is below the comparative figure for the country.

Development Pressure

Across the Council, there is development pressure on the unique natural heritage from industry, (energy), transport, agriculture and mining. The renewables industry has been particularly evident in parts of the Council because of local topography and suitable weather conditions for wind. There are also several significant developments located on the coast and any expansion or upgrades need to be appropriately considered in the context of the coastal nature conservation designations. Examples include the Coolkeeragh power station, the City of Derry Airport and the railway line to Coleraine.

Biodiversity

The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) (2011)²⁰ places a statutory duty on public bodies to conserve biodiversity. A new Local Biodiversity Action Plan is due from Council with updated information for priority species and habitats. Riparian and estuarine habitats will be a key aspect of any biodiversity plan and marine habitats/species will most likely feature. The plan should also be considered alongside the Green Infrastructure Network plan²¹. Together these local level initiatives can help to conserve the “ordinary” land that connects designated sites across both urban and rural areas²². The next update to the Scoping Report will reflect these plans,

Ecosystems Services

In recent years, the natural environment has become increasingly recognised for the beneficial services that it provides. There are various definitions of ecosystems services but broadly the concept considers all of the benefits provided by ecosystems. These include providing food and materials, regulation for example through water and carbon storage, supporting processes such as the water cycle and meeting other needs for people such as recreation and enjoyment.

Blue/green Infrastructure

Open spaces and features such as gardens, allotments, golf courses, greenways, streams, lakes, hedgerows and woodland can be described as blue/green infrastructure. Planning can help connect natural resources and open spaces together across landscapes. Blue/green infrastructure can provide habitat and wildlife corridors for species but as well as potential amenity value and recreational use for people. Walking and cycling routes can sometimes be integrated.

In Derry city centre, there is a lack of green space with and existing green/open spaces are disconnected and lack connectivity. In places, strategic arterial routes (road and rail) obstruct access to the Foyle and may affect potential plans for blue/green infrastructure. Greenways are very important to local people across communities and completion of the Northwest Greenways project should help to contribute to green infrastructure at the local level.

6.12.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without a Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, the RDS, the SPPS, Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would continue to inform decisions. The areas plans however were prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. In the absence of a LDP

²⁰ www.legislation.gov.uk

²¹ www.derrystabane.com

²² Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan Our Community Plan 2017-2032

there is the risk that it will become increasingly difficult to spatially manage and protect the Council's natural heritage from inappropriate development.

6.12.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Natural Resources

- There are a significant number of nature conservation sites and some of these are shared with other Councils, which presents opportunities for partnership working for effective management.
- Marine planning and its associated obligations need to be appropriately considered within the Local Development Plan particularly as previous plans and frameworks may not have referred to coastal or marine matters.
- Country parks provide recreational access to the local countryside but tend to be most popular with locals and less popular with visitors to the area.
- There is a higher level of outdoors leisure in DCSDC than in the rest of Northern Ireland.
- Development pressure on the natural heritage exists from industry (energy), transport, agriculture and mining.
- Much natural heritage is associated with wetland habitats – riparian, estuarine and coastal.
- The River Foyle is a salmonid river but salmon stocks are declining.
- In the south west of the River Foyle there is a lack of access to the river.
- There are a significant number of patches of ancient woodland, native forests and dense tree cover across the Council but these are disconnected.
- A new Local Biodiversity Action Plan is due to be published with updated species and habitats, and threats to biodiversity.
- Existing green spaces need to be connected together and protected from other types of development.
- New developments and regeneration sites should include attractive design settings using functional green spaces that encourage people to reside.
- Local level blue/green infrastructure projects should continue to be invested in.
- Public access to the coast should be protected and where possible enhanced.

6.13 Landscape

6.13.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

This topic overlaps with the Natural Resources and Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage sections of this report. Landscape protection in Northern Ireland is evident at the regional level with a key aim in the RDS to protect and enhance the environment for its own sake. The environment in Northern Ireland is seen as one of its greatest assets and regional policy encourages protection of natural heritage assets and landscape character.

The SPSS recognises the importance of the countryside as a significant asset. 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.

If areas of a unique landscape or amenity value are present, then the new LDP could include designated policy areas such as Special Countryside Areas (SCAs) or Areas of High Scenic Value (AoHSV) to conserve landscape character at a local level. This is in keeping with the aims of the European Landscape Convention, which encourages countries to consider protection of everyday landscapes.

Much of what is valued in a landscape is a blend of natural features and social and cultural history. It is the viewer's perception that provides an intrinsic value. This can help to define a region and provide a sense of place. Landscape is increasingly being realised in economic terms as an asset for tourism but also as a motivator to encourage people to purchase a home or to invest in a new location.

The draft Community Plan Environmental Pillar overall outcome 'We live sustainably, protecting the environment' applies to this topic. Protection of landscape will contribute to this outcome.

6.13.2 Baseline Information

The following evidence paper which can be found at www.derrystrabane.com/ldp is the one which is most relevant to this topic: EVB9 – Natural Environment & Countryside and Landscape.

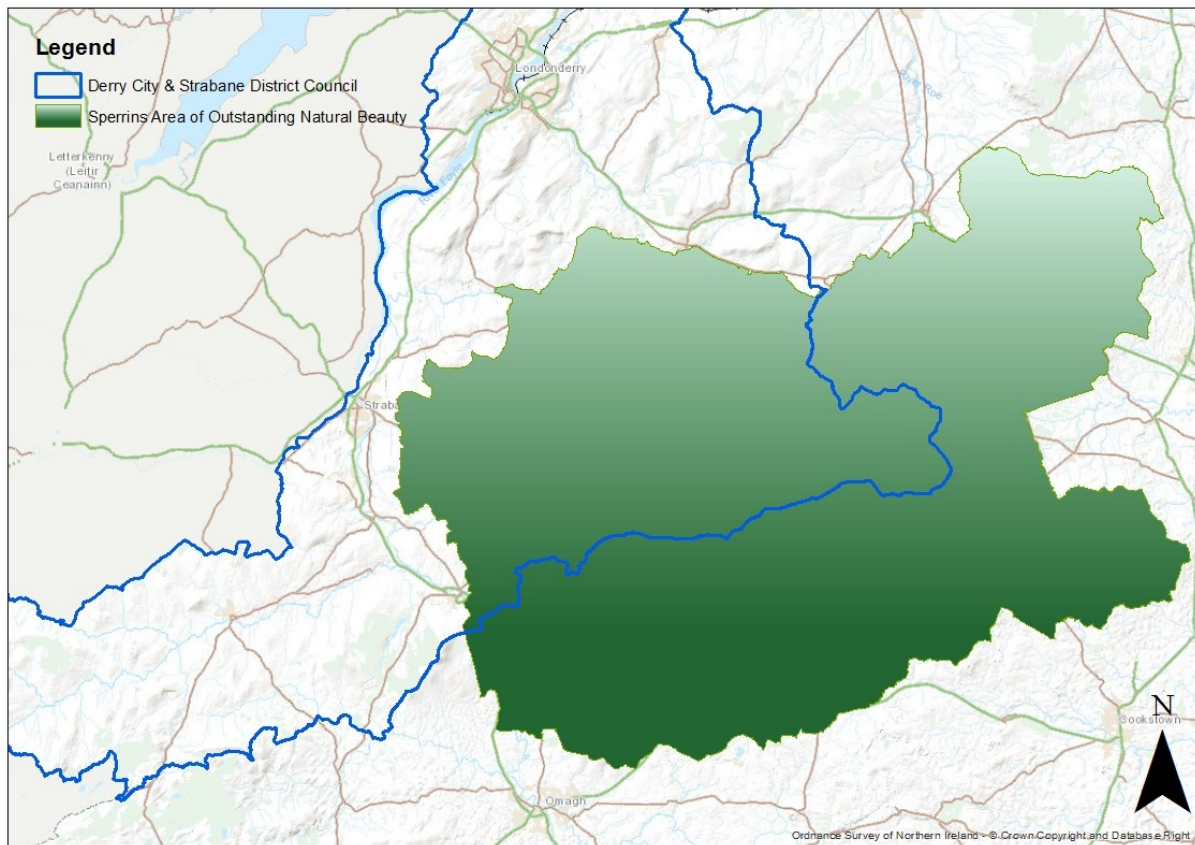
Overview

History and landscape have shaped our District. Derry has its hills, rivers and defensive walls and Strabane has also been shaped by its rivers and its former canal heritage. Both Derry city and Strabane town benefit from spectacular views, both into the settlements and out to the surrounding countryside including the backdrops of the Sperrins and Donegal Hills. Such landscape settings are enjoyed in many of our settlements.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

A relatively large area of land is encompassed within the Sperrins Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) the largest of eight AONBs in Northern Ireland. AONBs protect some of the most valued landscapes in the country.

Figure 6.13.1: Sperrins Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Source: Shared Environmental Service; DAERA

Landscape Character Areas

The Council has a unique combination of landscapes that includes mountain, moorland, valley, rolling farmland, lough, river, estuary and woodland. There are 18 Landscape Character Areas in the Council. Further information can be found at www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/landscape-character-northern-ireland The Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA) was consulted on in 2015 and divides the country into 26 distinct areas known as RLCAs, which provide a regional and strategic overview of landscape character. These can be further complemented by detailed local studies. There are five RLCAs in the Council. These are from north to south, the Lough Foyle Coast and Dunes, North Sperrin Hills and Valleys, Sperrins, Foyle Valley and West Tyrone Hills and Valleys. More information about RCLAs can also be found on the DAERA website.

Coastal Landscape

There is an area of the Council that lies adjacent to Lough Foyle and includes two regional seascape areas which are Foyle Estuary and Lough Foyle. Consideration of coastal landscapes/seascapes will be necessary in the future. Any decisions taken by Council that may affect the marine environment must be in accordance with the UK Marine Policy Statement 2011. This means any local development must now be considered for its impacts on the marine environment.

Development Pressure

Local development pressure on landscape changes across the Council but can be categorised into rural development (including forestry), housing, industry, transport and energy. Pressures are specific to local landscapes and vary in scale. Impacts can include actual losses of features or landscape character but may also be perceptions of inappropriate rural design.

6.13.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, the RDS, the SPPS, Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would continue to inform decisions. The areas plans however were prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. In the absence of a LDP there could be an increased risk of losing or degrading landscapes from over development or inappropriate siting of structures.

6.13.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Landscape

- The Sperrins Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is the largest AONB in the country and is shared with other Councils, which presents opportunities for partnership working.
- The Sperrins with their elevated position are a key feature for many of the views from lower hills across the area.
- There is a need to work in partnership with other jurisdictions as sites are very often linked to each other through either perception or boundary.
- Hedgerow and stonewall boundaries are a feature of some low-lying areas and valleys.
- Forested areas and open moorland are typical of some of the valleys and higher areas.
- Development pressure from conifer plantations exists in the upland moorland areas of the north Sperrin Hills.
- Development pressure for housing exists in the low-lying areas of the valley floors.
- Development pressure for airport works, waste management and commercial/industrial facilities exists around the mudflats and floodplains of Lough Foyle.
- Development pressure from wind turbine development, commercial forestry and mining/quarrying exists in the West Tyrone Hills.
- Development pressure exists from transport along the river valley of the Foyle.
- Protection is required from development that may affect the sense of tranquillity and wildness of areas.
- Protection is required from development that may affect the dark sky resource.
- The Council may need to consider further local level detailed studies to complement RLCAs and to help manage local development pressures on landscape.

6.14 Historic and Cultural Resources

6.14.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Overarching policy 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. It is also part of our culture and can contribute to our quality of life. Historic and cultural resources 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 our area. 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.

The policy objectives in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (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.

Derry has benefited from Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) investment led by the Walled City Partnership established in 2002. There is also a City Centre Initiative (CCI) established in April 2000 as a partnership between the private and public sectors. CCI is the dedicated city centre management organisation for Derry and is responsible for developing, initiating and managing a number of projects designed to promote the commercial vitality and viability of the city centre.

The draft Community Plan outcome which is most relevant to this topic relates to the Environmental Pillar - Tourism, Arts and Culture and is:

- We are the cultural destination of choice and offer world-class visitor experiences

The draft Community Plan Environmental Pillar overall outcome 'We live sustainably, protecting the environment' also applies to this topic.

6.14.2 Baseline Information

The following evidence paper which can be found at www.derrystrabane.com/ldp is the one which is most relevant to this topic: EVB10 – Built Environment & Urban Design

Overview

The Council has a rich and diverse historic environment. Derry has its hills, rivers and defensive walls, whilst the Peace Bridge and the Riverside walks on both sides of the city have opened up the River Foyle. Historically, Strabane developed as both an industrial centre and strong market town. It has also been shaped by its rivers and its former canal heritage. There are many elements of our historic environment, from the remains of remote ancient settlements and castles, ritual sites and tombs, and the many buildings of architectural importance in our District.

Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas

There are 675 Listed Buildings within the District and five Conservation Areas (CAs) located within the Council area, namely Sion Mills designated 1977, Newtown Stewart (1993), Historic City (1977, Reviewed / extended 2006), Clarendon Street (1978 Reviewed / extended 2006) and Magee (2006). Development in the Conservation Areas is informed by Designation Booklets, Baseline Audits and Design Guides.

Areas of Townscape Character

There are four Areas of Townscape Character identified in the Derry Area Plan 2011. These are Victoria Park, Bond's Hill, Eglinton and Culmore. This designation was not available at the time of the Strabane Area Plan in 1991.

Monuments

In the Council area there are

- 857 sites on the Sites and Monuments Register
- 124 Scheduled Monuments
- 18 State Care Monuments
- 10 Scheduled Monuments in State Care

State Care Monuments include the iconic Derry Walls - the largest monument in State Care in Northern Ireland. The monument means not only the city walls, but also the adjoining land and property and associated below-ground archaeology which forms its setting and is recognised as an Area of Archaeological Potential. Other notable scheduled monuments are the 14th Century Harry Avery's Castle (Newtownstewart) and the 15th Century Derg Castle (Castlederg). Other sites of importance include raths, burial chambers, lime kilns, defence and industrial heritage which are spread throughout the District. Potentially, more monuments exist and will continue to be discovered through archaeological work, during development operations or through agricultural activity.

Buildings at Risk

The Ulster Architecture and Heritage Society, in conjunction with the Department for Communities, compiles a list of buildings considered to be at risk in Northern Ireland. These are buildings and monuments of architectural and historic interest whose future seems threatened and may be suitable for restoration and repair. While these are not exclusively 'listed' buildings, the vast majority are. There are currently 57 properties on the list the Council area.

Historic Parks and Gardens Register

Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes reflect planned and managed landscape enhancement carried out since the 17th Century. The Register of Parks, Gardens and Demesnes of Special Historic Interest has been established to identify those sites that can be considered of exceptional importance within the Northern Ireland. The inclusion of sites has been carried out in a consistent way across the Province and is based upon a clear set of criteria and on an appreciation of the character of Ulster's gardens and designed landscapes.

The Council has 21 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes on the Register found on the Department for Communities Historic Environment webpage. Of these, eight are considered to be of exceptional importance within Northern Ireland, with the remaining 13 supplementary sites having been identified as having a high level of interest.

Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes (Registered)

Ashbrook L-001
Beech Hill L-029
Brook Hall L-004
Brooke Park L-049
St Columb's L-050
Baronscourt T-004
Holy Hill T-022
Moyle House T-061

Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes (Supplementary List)

Aberfoyle L-042
Ardmore L-032
Ballyarnet L-061
Belmont House L-062
Boom Hall L-003
Enagh House
Glengalliagh Hall L-028
Government House L-004
Learmount L-012
Molenan House L-060
The Oaks L-030
Templemoyle (Muff Glen)
L-046 Thornhill L-033

6.14.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without our 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. In the absence of a new plan opportunities to consider the historical and cultural assets in the Council area in future growth and place-shaping for the Council area may be missed.

In the absence of the LDP opportunities to designate new areas of significant archaeological interest and areas of archaeological potential in the LDP might be missed. Opportunities to consider archaeological, industrial, and defence heritage assets as a part of the tourism and visitor offer might also be missed.

The protection, conservation and regeneration of historic places can lead to an economic and tourism benefit, which can help local communities. Without a new LDP these opportunities may be missed. There is evidence of incremental erosion of historic/architectural character and appearance within some of the designated conservation areas. A new LDP is an opportunity to consider the reasons for this and identify the positive role that planning can play.

6.14.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

- Derry City and Strabane District Council has a wealth of Historic and Cultural Resources, including listed buildings, state monuments, historic gardens and demesnes and archaeological heritage. These assets contribute to the high quality environment that creates attractive places to live, invest in and visit.
- The Council area contains settlements 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.
- Heritage assets are at risk from neglect, decay and development pressure.
- Heritage crime is an issue in this Council area.
- Risks are presented by inappropriate development, enhancement or design that does not demonstrate an informed understanding of heritage asset and their settings.
- Traffic pollution is a contributing factor to erosion of historic environment assets.
- Appreciating the value of built heritage should also apply to new buildings, through understanding how new development will affect the setting of existing historic environment assets.

- The Historic City of Derry is considered an area of archaeological potential and contains many listed buildings and sites/monuments. Derry City's historic walls and the site at Ebrington Barracks to the East are scheduled zones and contain a number of state sites/monuments.
- Within all ATCs and Conservation Areas new development must preserve or enhance the character and appearance of these areas.
- The Council area has a rich industrial heritage both in the main settlements and also in rural locations.
- The Council area also has a rich defence heritage associated with World War II.
- There is evidence of incremental erosion of historical/architectural character and appearance within some of the designated Conservation Areas.
- There is ongoing loss of non-designated heritage assets such as historic farmsteads and buildings in the countryside, industrial and defence heritage, and historic shopfronts in some towns and settlement.
- Around half of respondents to the continuous household survey from DCSDC area stated that they had visited a museum or science centre in the last year.

7. 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 6. The rationale for selecting each is outlined. The prompts used to assess plan options against the Sustainability Objectives are presented in Appendix 5.

7.1 The Sustainability Objectives

Sustainability objectives have been identified through consideration of international, national, regional and local policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives; baseline information at regional and, where available, at local level and apparent trends. The objectives follow with a short rationale and description of what each seeks to achieve. There are several overlaps between objectives which support each other.

The objective for sustainable development in Derry City & Strabane District Council is to...

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 aging population and minimize 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 also contributes to avoidance of poverty and healthier lifestyles. The provision of suitable accommodation for educational establishments in appropriate, accessible locations should play a part in making schools 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 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 minimize adverse impacts. The concept of 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, 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 car use and increasing other forms of transport. Better access to public transport and opportunities for active travel make travel more affordable with added health benefits and also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Measures that help reduce car use and improve accessibility to encourage a shift to travel by 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 lessen their effects on climate. Measures that help reduce energy consumption and enable renewable energy helps lessen greenhouse gas emissions however adaptation is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change.

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 Framework Directive and other Directives that relate 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 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 lessen the effects of climate change. This objective includes protecting and enhancing biodiversity 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.

7.2 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. The Sustainability Objectives will therefore be reviewed at the next stage and the rationale updated to address this uncertainty.

7.3 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 at each subsequent step of plan preparation to reflect new context and baseline information.

7.4 Difficulties Encountered in Compiling the Scoping Report

With the establishment of the 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 draft Community Plan which is being published alongside the POP. It has not always been possible to align all of the evidence used for this scoping report with other evidence as timeframes and purpose for which data was collected may differ. Evidence papers for the LDP have also been updated prior to publication and it has not always been possible to reflect these however they will inform future updates to this report. The scoping report evidence will be reviewed and updated where necessary before publication of the draft Sustainability Report at Plan Strategy.

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. In some cases information is either not available at council level or there is not a series of data to inform trends.

APPENDIX 1: COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Schedule 2 of the 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 Interim 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 Derry City and Strabane District Council Local Development Plan (LDP) is presented in Chapter 4. Appendix 4 outlines the relationship with other plans, programmes and policies.
2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	Baseline information is presented in Chapter 6, under topic sections and each section highlights the likely evolution of the baseline without the LDP.
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	The environmental characteristics of the Council area are outlined in Chapter 6. More detail will be added to this at Plan Strategy stage.
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(9) and the Habitats Directive.	Chapter 6 identifies environmental problems and Appendix 4 of the Interim Report outlines sites to which the Directives apply and potential pathways and effects that could arise from development.
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.	Appendix 4 outlines the relationship with other plans, programmes and policies. Each section of Chapter 6 outlines the main policy themes for that topic.
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;	These issues are all covered in the 14 sustainability objectives in the Sustainability Appraisal Framework used to assess the options and reported in Appendix 5 of the SA Interim Report. Interrelationships are covered in Chapter 2 and Appendix 3 of the SA Interim Report.

Requirement	Location
(xi) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological 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 and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	This is considered in the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report Chapter 3 and in the matrices presented in Appendix 5.
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.	Chapter 2 of the SA Interim Report considers this in general and Chapter 3 and Appendix 5 provide more detail on the options appraised and assumptions and limitations encountered in the appraisal.
9. A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 16.	Not required at this stage
10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.	A non-technical summary is provided at the opening of this report.

APPENDIX 2: SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AND RELATIONSHIP TO SEA TOPICS

The objectives for sustainable development are to...	SEA Directive Topic
1...improve health and well-being.	Population Human Health
2...provide good quality, sustainable housing.	Population Human Health
3...enable access to high quality education.	Population
4...strengthen society.	Cultural Heritage Population
5...enable sustainable economic growth.	Population Human Health
6...encourage active and sustainable travel.	Human Health Population Climatic Factors
7...manage material assets sustainably.	Material Assets
8...protect physical resources and use sustainably.	Material Assets Soil
9...protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	Biodiversity Flora Fauna
10...protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	Water
11...improve air quality	Air
12...reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	Climatic Factors
13...conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	Cultural Heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage
14...maintain and enhance landscape character.	Landscape

APPENDIX 3: COMPATIBILITY OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

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.	✓	✓												
4 Enable access to high quality education.	✓	✓	✓											
5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	✓	✓	✓	✓										
6 Manage material assets sustainably.	✓	0	0	0	✓									
7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓								
8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	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.	✓	✓	0	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	✓	✓	0	0	✓	?	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓		
14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	0	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Compatible	✓	No relationship	0	Uncertain relationship	?	Incompatible	✗
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APPENDIX 4: REVIEW OF POLICIES, PLANS AND 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 in the updated scoping report which will accompany the draft Plan Strategy.

A number of cross cutting publications are presented first. Following that the publications are listed according to the most relevant topic however some may 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 Local Development Plan (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	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT					
Everyone's Involved – Sustainable Development Strategy (May 2010)	2010	NI	DAERA	Everyone's Involved – 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 utilise 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 largely support the strategy and the sustainability appraisal will help shape proposals to be sustainable.
Regional Development Strategy 2035	2012	NI	DfI	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 adaptation 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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
DOE Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS): Planning for Sustainable Development	2015	NI	DfI	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.
A Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development	2001	Europe	EC	A framework for a long-term vision of sustainability in which economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection go hand in hand and are mutually supporting. Particular environmental protection objectives include increasing the use of clean energy and natural resources to combat climate change, reducing noise and air pollution through promotion of sustainable transport, and conserving and managing the overall use of water and air.	In applying the policy requirements of the SPPS the LDP will also contribute to the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.
Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment	2001	Europe	EC	Provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.	The LDP will take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive at the national level. Requirements of the Directive will be addressed through the Sustainability Appraisals.
The Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)	2004	Europe	EC	The Environmental Liability Directive (ELD) has the objective of making operators of activities which cause environmental damage financially liable for that damage (the 'polluter pays' principle). It imposes duties on operators of economic activities to take immediate steps to prevent damage if there is an imminent threat, and to control damage which is occurring so as to limit its effects.	The LDP will take account of this Directive and local relevant legislation.
General Union Environmental Action Plan (2020)	2013	Europe	EC	This will guide European environment policy until 2020 but has a longer term vision: "In 2050, we live well, within the planet's ecological limits. Our prosperity and	The LDP should support the four key areas of work set out in the EAP.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				<p>healthy environment stem from an innovative, circular economy where nothing is wasted and where natural resources are managed sustainably, and biodiversity is protected, valued and restored in ways that enhance our society's resilience. Our low-carbon growth has long been decoupled from resource use, setting the pace for a safe and sustainable global society." It identifies three key objectives: to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital; to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy; to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing.</p>	
<p>Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Cohesion Policy 2014-2020</p>	<p>2014</p>	<p>Europe</p>	<p>EC</p>	<p>Almost 70% of the EU population lives in an urban area, and these areas generate more than two thirds of the EU's GDP. However, they are also the places where persistent problems such as unemployment, segregation and poverty, as well as severe environmental pressures, are concentrated. Measures concerning physical urban renewal should be combined with measures promoting education, economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection.</p>	<p>The principles of integrated sustainable urban development should be encouraged.</p>
<p>Securing the Future - delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy</p>	<p>2005</p>	<p>UK</p>	<p>Four Nations (DAERA)</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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 plan will support this.</p>

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006	2006	NI	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.
Focus on the Future - Sustainable Development Implementation Plan	2011	NI	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.
Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021	2016	NI	NI Executive	The PfG contains 14 strategic outcomes which touch on every aspect of government, including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and confident and peaceful communities. The outcomes are supported by 48 indicators which will show how the Executive is performing in relation to the outcomes and will provide a basis to monitor progress. In due course, the Programme for Government will provide the strategic context for other key Executive strategy documents, including the Investment Strategy, the Economic Strategy and a Social Strategy.	The LDP is required to support delivery of the Programme for Government. How it achieves this will be assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal.
Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	2015	International	UN	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.
Aarhus Convention - United Nations	1998	Europe	UNECE	The Aarhus Convention and its Protocol empower people with the rights to access easily information,	The plan will achieve this through the consultation process, as outlined in the Statement of Community

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Economic Commission for Europe 1998				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.	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
OTHER					
Our Passion, Our Place - Northern Ireland Environment Agency Strategic Priorities 2012 to 2022	2012	NI	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.
The Environmental Liability (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (as amended)	2009	NI	DAERA	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,	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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland	1993	NI	Dfi	preparations, organisms and micro-organisms. Note subject to amendments. 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, the following transitional arrangements shall apply.
DOE Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS): Planning for Sustainable Development	2015	NI	Dfi	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.
European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)	1999	Europe	EC	Economic and social cohesion across the community. Conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage. Balanced competitiveness between different tiers of government.	Through the influence of the sustainability appraisal the LDP should make a contribution towards fulfilling the goals of the ESDP.
Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, Equality of opportunity	1998	NI	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, 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	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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011	2011	NI	NI Executive	Part 2 of the act details the requirements of local development plans and Section 5 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 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 2011 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 SA process.
Border Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022	2010	RoI	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 as well as the potential for complementing each other.
HEALTH AND WELLBEING					
Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Recreation, 2009-2019	2009	NI	DfC	The Strategy's vision is "a culture of lifelong enjoyment and quality, quantity and access to places for sport is a key development input to the two primary development outcomes of increased participation in sport and physical recreation and improved sporting performances. In particular, the Strategy will ensure that every person in Northern Ireland has access to a range of new, improved and shared world-class and locally available sports facilities. The Strategy outlines a broad Government commitment to sport and physical recreation. Its vision is for "...a culture of lifelong enjoyment and success in sport...." It sets key strategic priorities for sports and physical recreation over the 10 year period; informing future investment by all stakeholders across the public, private and community/voluntary sectors underpinning three areas: Participation, Performance and Places. The successful delivery of the Strategy requires stakeholders to reflect	This is supported by the inclusion of Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation in the Subject Policies list for the SPPS.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				the Strategy in their business and development plans. At the core of the Strategy is to ensure that every person in Northern Ireland has access to a range of new, improved and shared world-class and locally available sports facilities.	
Planning Policy Statement 8 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (DOE 2004)	2004	NI	DfI	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.	Retained however six policies are incorporated in SPPS.
Design and Access Statements - A guide for Northern Ireland	2015	NI	DfI	The following planning applications must be accompanied by a D&AS: An application which is a major development; or where any part of the development is in a designated area, 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 and provision for open space, access and landscaping and addressing external factors such as noise and traffic safety.
Transforming Your Care Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety	2011	NI	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.
A Fitter Future For All: Framework for Preventing and Addressing Overweight and Obesity in Northern Ireland	2012	NI	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 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.	Creating a safe environment to encourage and promote increased physical activity.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Connected Health Economy	2013	NI	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.
Making Life Better: A Whole Strategic Framework for Public Health 2013-2023 Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (June 2014)	2013	NI	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 for example promoting age friendly environments and Quiet Areas.
A fitter future for all - Outcomes framework 2015 - 2019	2015	NI	DoH	Following a review of the first years of the plan an updated framework has been published for 2015-2019.	Creating a safe environment to encourage and promote increased physical activity.
Transforming your Care: Strategic Implementation Plan	2013	NI	HSCNI	This Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP): Describes a planned approach for the delivery of the TYC proposals over the next 3 to 5 years (starting from 2011/12 baseline). Sets out the key commitments and the major changes which will drive service transformation in Section 4.2. Presents the big themes for each of the Programmes of Care over the next 3 to 5 years across the 5 Local Commissioning Group (LCG) areas (Section 4.4). At the heart of this are the 5 local Population Plans, which provide the building blocks for this SIP. These set out in detail the service transformation initiatives for delivery of the TYC proposals for each of the 5 local areas. In terms of the changes in capital	Identifies need for infrastructure including for community care.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				infrastructure needed to fully implement TYC, the Population Plans will require a detailed working up of 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.	
Building a better future The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011-2021 (ISNI)	2011	NI	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 197 infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.
Western Health and Social Care Trust Population Plan	2013	Sub-Regional	WHST	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 may inform unmet infrastructure requirements.
COMMUNITY					
Rural White Paper Action Plan	2012	NI	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.	Rural proofing will be applied to plan preparation.
Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation	2012	NI	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	Rural proofing will be applied to plan preparation.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				<p>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.</p>	
Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing	2015	NI	DAERA	<p>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.</p>	Rural proofing will be applied to plan preparation.
Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016	2016	NI	DAERA	<p>The Act received Royal Assent in May 2016 and once commenced in 2017 will place 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.</p>	Rural proofing will be applied to plan preparation.
Department of Education Annual Business Plan 2016/2017	2016	NI	DE	<p>Corporate Goal 1: Improving the Well-Being of Children and Young People – includes rights, play and participation. Corporate Goal 2: Raising Standards for All – includes early years and childcare. Corporate Goal 3: Closing the Performance Gap, Increasing Access and Equality – includes Special Education Needs; youth work and sustainable schools. Corporate Goal 5 is Improving the learning environment – making sure that strategic investment supports the delivery of the area plans; that the premises in which young people grow and learn are safe, fit for purpose and conducive to learning; and that the environment provides opportunities for sharing and for building a more cohesive society. This Corporate Goal supports the draft PfG Indicator 13: Improve the quality of education.</p>	<p>This is a short term plan that is relevant to the facilities required for e.g. childcare, early years, primary and secondary school, special educational needs and youth. There is no current Corporate Plan for the Department. DE has agreed to provide a comprehensive list of all regional policies, programmes, strategies and action plans which may be influenced and supported by spatial planning by councils, these will be added to the register.</p>

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework	2013	NI	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 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	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. The two documents are thus aligned in many areas even though the SPPS does not specifically refer to regeneration. The LDP objectives broadly aligns with this framework, in particular strengthening the hubs, improving connectivity and facilitating community development. The LDP will indirectly support this aim by accommodating development for disadvantaged groups, such as the elderly and disabled, with emphasis on 'sustainable growth', facilitating new community facilities and promoting 'shared spaces'.
Planning Policy Statement 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside	2010	NI	DfI	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.	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.
Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities: A Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012-2017	2012	NI	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 LDP will take account of this Strategy.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	
Community Safety action plan 2015 to 2017	2015	NI	DoJ	The action plan includes an action for the DOE and councils: to support a sense of pride and ownership within neighbourhoods, to address the disorder (graffiti, litter, vandalism) that acts as a signal for ASB by contributing to the development of legislative framework to deal with the growing amenity problems associated with dilapidated or unsightly buildings and neglected sites.	The LDP may have scope to contribute to addressing this through place shaping.
Lifetime Opportunities – Government’s Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for Northern Ireland	2006	NI	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. LDPs proposals and policies consider these needs and support delivery against them.
Delivering Social Change framework	2012	NI	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 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	The programme has resulted in some new and proposed community facilities that should be considered in plan preparation. It may identify needs for new facilities. The Social Investment Fund is under a separate entry in this register.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	
Together: Building a United Community	2013	NI	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.
The Child Poverty Strategy	2016	NI	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, 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.	Promotion of employment opportunities, provision for housing, increasing accessibility and creating safer environments will contribute to the objectives of this strategy.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Building a better future The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011-2021 (ISNI)	2011	NI	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 197 infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.
NIHE - Race Relations Policy	2006	NI	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; Migrant worker issues	This is reflected in the sustainability objective to strengthen society.
NIHE Good Relations Plan	2007	NI	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 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.	This is reflected in the sustainability objective to strengthen society.
HOUSING					
Northern Ireland Housing Market Areas	2010	MEA	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 inform housing need. Reports for each HMA were prepared in 2011-2013 and are available on the home page.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 - 2017	2012	NI	NIHE	In response to the statutory duty (the Housing (NI) Order 1988 as amended) to produce a homelessness strategy, our strategic approach remains focused on addressing the issues that lead to homelessness as well as meeting the temporary and permanent accommodation needs of those who present as homeless.	In enabling housing need to be addressed the LDP will contribute to delivery of the objectives of this strategy.
Housing Executive Community Involvement Strategy	2015	NI	NIHE	Vision: ... to give residents a real say in making their neighbourhoods better places in which to live.	Opportunity to cooperate in place shaping.
Housing Executive Corporate Plan - Landlord Services	2015	NI	NIHE	Objective 1 Delivering quality services; Objective 2 Delivering better homes; Objective 3 Fostering vibrant communities	The LDP can help to support these objectives.
Housing Executive Corporate Plan - Regional Services	2015	NI	NIHE	Objective 1 Identification of housing requirements across Northern Ireland; Objective 2 Investing in homes and neighbourhoods; Objective 3 Improving People's Homes; Objective 4 Transforming people's lives; Objective 5 Enabling sustainable neighbourhoods.	The LDP can help to support these objectives.
Housing Executive Environmental Policy	2015	NI	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.
Housing Investment Plan 2015-2019	2015	Council	NIHE	NIHE has prepared four year Housing Investment Plans for each Council to provide a long term, holistic, cross tenure look at local housing markets. The Housing Investment Plans set out ten outcomes under five themes, which performance can be measured against. The themes are Identify and meet housing need and demand; Improving People's homes; Transforming people's lives; Enabling sustainable neighbourhoods; Delivering quality services.	The HIP is an important evidence base for the LDP and will help facilitate discussion on housing issues within each district. In addition, a purpose of the HIP is to inform Councils on the various programmes and initiatives the Housing Executive and Housing Associations are developing to meet local housing needs.
NIHE Social housing Development Programme (SHDP) - 2015/16 – 2017/18	2015	NI	NIHE	The Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) is a three year rolling programme of planned social housing construction and provision. The SHDP is split into three individual programme years and is a mechanism used by the Department to inform social	The LDP will take account of ongoing annual reporting and to prospectus will be used to inform social housing zonings within the plan area.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				housing funding investment decisions. The SHDP is the outcome of a formulation and assembly exercise undertaken by Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). Responsibility for the actual development of social housing for rent rests with registered Housing Associations. The 3-Year SHDP is published together with an Unmet Social Housing Need Prospectus. The Prospectus is an integral part of the SHDP formulation process, which recurs on an annual basis. The Prospectus document highlights areas throughout Northern Ireland with the greatest level of un-met housing need and a current shortage of acquired development sites. The Housing Executive would welcome development proposals for these areas.	
Delivering Sustainable Healthy Homes in Northern Ireland, NIHE, TPCA, Belfast Healthy Cities (March 2016)	2016	NI	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.	Taken into account in preparation of the LDP.
Social Housing Development Programme, Unmet Social Housing Need Prospectus	2016	NI	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 informs potential requirements for social housing which can inform the LDP.
EDUCATION AND SKILLS					
Every school a good school - a policy for school improvement	2009	NI	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 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	Creates the conditions for increased use of schools for community benefit which should be considered in planning for communities.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Schools for the Future: A Policy for Sustainable Schools	2009	NI	DE	community use of schools to help schools in building stronger links with their parents and local communities. 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.
Department of Education Annual Business Plan 2016/2017	2016	NI	DE	Corporate Goal 1: Improving the Well-Being of Children and Young People – includes rights, play and participation. Corporate Goal 2: Raising Standards for All – includes early years and childcare. Corporate Goal 3: Closing the Performance Gap, Increasing Access and Equality – includes Special Education Needs; youth work and sustainable schools. Corporate Goal 5 is Improving the learning environment – making sure that strategic investment supports the delivery of the area plans; that the premises in which young people grow and learn are safe, fit for purpose and conducive to learning; and that the environment provides opportunities for sharing and for building a more cohesive society. This Corporate Goal supports the draft PfG Indicator 13: Improve the quality of education.	This is a short term plan that is relevant to the facilities required for e.g. childcare, early years, primary and secondary school, special educational needs and youth. There is no current Corporate Plan for the Department. DE has agreed to provide a comprehensive list of all regional policies, programmes, strategies and action plans which may be influenced and supported by spatial planning by councils, these will be added to the register.
Development Control Advice Note 13: Crèches, Day Nurseries and Pre-School Play Groups	1993	NI	DfI	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 the topic it should be considered in LDP preparation however noting that there may be changes in the sector that also need to be taken into account.

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Delivering Social Change framework	2012	NI	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 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.	The programme has resulted in some new and proposed community facilities that should be considered in plan preparation. It may identify needs for new facilities. The Social Investment Fund is under a separate entry in this register.
Building a better future The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011-2021 (ISNI)	2011	NI	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 197 infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.
ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT					
Going for Growth - a strategic action plan	2014	NI	DAERA	In May 2012, DARD and DETI appointed the industry led Agri-Food Strategy Board (AFSB) 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.	Committed to centralised and more streamlined processing for poultry house planning applications while DOE was the planning authority. Commitment to supporting Sustainable Use of Poultry Litter loan scheme may address some of the environmental effects of pig and poultry production and also lead to new development.

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Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework	2013	NI	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 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	This is reflected in the sustainability objective to strengthen society and proposals relating to balanced communities and urban design and places.
DETI (2010) Draft Northern Ireland Tourism Strategy	2010	NI	DfE	The original 2010 draft is not available. The vision was to: create the new NI experience; get it on everyone's destination wish list; and double the income earned from tourism by 2020. The draft strategy, had the aim of providing the strategic direction for the development of NI's tourism experience to the year 2020 and a targeted Action Plan to deliver it. At the core of the strategy was the intention to grow income from visitor numbers with tourist revenue increased from £536 million in 2010 to £1 billion by 2020. An updated draft strategy, is currently being developed by The Department for the Economy and is due for consultation by the end of 2016.	By encouraging sustainable development, the LDP may also indirectly support development that enables tourism e.g. visitor centres, attractions, services, transport etc. As with any development, environmental considerations will need to be considered.

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Planning Policy Statement 4 – Planning and Economic Development (DOE 2010)	2010	NI	Dfi	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.
Planning Policy Statement 16 Tourism	2013	NI	Dfi	Policies in relation to tourism and safeguarding tourism assets.	Retention of some or all of these policies will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Europe 2020 Economic Strategy	2010	Europe	EC	Europe 2020 is the European Union’s ten-year jobs and growth strategy. It was launched in 2010 to create the conditions for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Five headline targets have been agreed for the EU to achieve by the end of 2020. These cover employment; research and development; climate/energy; education; social inclusion and poverty reduction and targets are set for each for example on energy efficiency.	LDP objectives and supporting policies are likely to be support delivery of this strategy.
Blue Growth	2012	Europe	EC	Blue Growth is the long term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors as a whole. Seas and oceans are drivers for the European economy and have great potential for innovation and growth. It is the maritime contribution to achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The 'blue' economy represents roughly 5.4 million jobs and generates a gross added value of almost €500 billion a year. However, further growth is possible in a number of areas which are highlighted within the strategy. The EC considers that by, for example, supporting innovative SMEs, and encouraging innovative products and solutions, Europe can unlock the untapped potential for growth in its blue economy while safeguarding biodiversity and protecting the environment through traditional sectors such as maritime transport and maritime and coastal tourism as well as growing and emerging sectors, such as ocean renewable energy and blue biotechnology.	This may inform LDP policies relating to economy and energy but has the potential to conflict with sustainable use of natural resources.
Delivering Social Change framework	2012	NI	EO	The DSC framework was established to deliver a sustained reduction in poverty and associated issues	The programme has resulted in some new and proposed community facilities that should be

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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 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.	considered in plan preparation. It may identify needs for new facilities. The Social Investment Fund is under a separate entry in this register.
Economic Strategy Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity	2012	NI	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.
MATERIAL ASSETS					
The UK Renewable Energy Strategy	2009	UK	BEIS	This UK Roadmap shows where we are now; analysis of how deployment may evolve by 2020, together with	Evidence that informs future energy needs and renewable provision.

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				<p>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.</p>	
National Renewable Energy Action Plan for the United Kingdom	2010	UK	BEIS	<p>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.</p>	<p>A proposal relating to renewable energy is proposed, helping to meet the objectives of this plan.</p>
Renewable Energy in the Land Based Sector A way forward. Interim Renewable Energy Action Plan 2013/14	2013	NI	DAERA	<p>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 development of renewable energy through capacity building, research and promotion of opportunities.</p>	<p>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'.</p>
The revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy "Delivering Resource Efficiency"	2013	NI	DAERA	<p>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</p>	<p>The proposed focus of 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 'green jobs' and ensure that the economy will benefit from planning decisions. Improved waste management will be good for the environment.</p>

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				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.	
Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDP) for Ireland	2010	RoI	DCCA	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 SPPS directly. However, developments arising under the SPPS could have an impact on the capacity available in Ireland. Developments in Ireland could also affect NI resources, particularly marine or coastal environments.
Strategy for Renewable Energy: 2012-2020	2012	RoI	DCCA	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 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. With any renewable development, environmental considerations will be part of the planning process and this would apply to renewable developments in Ireland that may have cross-border impacts. The LDP could therefore indirectly benefit or be a constraint to this Strategy.
Ireland's second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan	2014	RoI	DCCA	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, 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.	Supply or delivery of renewable energy in the LDP area may have a cross border dimension.
A Resource Opportunity: Waste Management Policy in Ireland	2012	RoI	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	There may be cross border implications for e.g. recycling facilities.

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DETI (2010) Energy: A Strategic Framework for Northern Ireland	2010	NI	DfE	<p>resource efficiency and the virtual elimination of landfilling of municipal waste.</p> <p>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. Also it 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.</p>	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.
DETI (2012) Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-2015	2012	NI	DfE	<p>The Action Plan aims to assist with the implementation of the Strategic Energy Framework (2010-2020). DETI set 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; 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 electricity network or refurbishing schools with renewable technologies for example.</p>	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.

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Offshore Renewable Energy Strategic Action Plan 2012-2020	2012	NI	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.	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.
Draft Onshore Renewable Electricity Action Plan	2013	NI	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.
Envisioning the Future: Considering Energy in Northern Ireland to 2050	2015	NI	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.	Evidence that informs future energy needs and provision.
Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015 - 2030	2015	RoI	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	Will influence the overall energy production requirement and may necessitate cross border distribution infrastructure.

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				transmission and the proposed North-South transmission line.	
Planning Policy Statement 10 Telecommunications	2002	NI	Dfi	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.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Planning Policy Statement 11 Planning and Waste Management (DOE 2002)	2002	NI	Dfi	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.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009)	2009	NI	Dfi	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.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Supplementary Planning Guidance Anaerobic Digestion	2010	NI	Dfi	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.	Informs the relative capacity for wind energy in respect of landscape.
Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Supplementary	2010	NI	Dfi	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	Informs the relative capacity for wind energy in respect of landscape.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Planning Guidance Wind Energy Development in Northern Ireland's Landscapes.				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.	
Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste	1994	Europe	EC	Harmonise the packaging waste system of Member States. Reduce the environmental impact of packaging waste.	The LDP will take account of the Directive.
Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste	1999	Europe	EC	Prevent or reduce negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills. The objective of the Directive is to prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment, in particular on surface water, groundwater, soil, air, and on human health from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills. The Landfill Directive defines the different categories of waste (municipal waste, hazardous waste, non-hazardous waste and inert waste) and applies to all landfills, defined as waste disposal sites for the deposit of waste onto or into land. Landfills are divided into three classes: landfills for hazardous waste; landfills for non-hazardous waste; landfills for inert waste.	The LDP will take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies contained in the SPPS.
Directive 2008/98/EC on waste	2008	Europe	EC	Establishes the five tier hierarchy of waste. This waste hierarchy aims to encourage the management of waste materials in order to reduce the amount of waste materials produced, and to recover maximum value from the wastes that are produced. It encourages the prevention of waste, followed by the reuse and refurbishment of goods, then value recovery through recycling and composting. Waste disposal should only be used when no option further up the hierarchy is possible. Prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness. The recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation. Recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without using processes that could harm the environment.	The LDP will reflect the Waste Hierarchy approach to Waste management. The LDP will provide for appropriate waste management facilities. The LDP will bring forward policies in regards of renewable energy including biomass. The LDP should make appropriate actions reflecting the need to manage wastes according to this directive.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Renewable energy Directive 2009 EC2009/28/EC2	2009	Europe	EC	The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU to limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and promote cleaner transport. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets. All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020.	The LDP will take account of the Directive.
2030 Framework for climate and energy	2014	Europe	EC	EU-wide targets aim to help the EU achieve a more competitive, secure and sustainable energy system and to meet its long-term 2050 greenhouse gas reductions target. The strategy sends a strong signal to the market, encouraging private investment in new pipelines, electricity networks, and low-carbon technology. Targets for 2030 are a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels; at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption; at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.	Local Plans can affect air quality in a number of ways, including through what development is proposed and where, incorporation of energy efficiency, enabling renewable energy and encouraging sustainable transport.
North Western Region Partnership 'Review of waste management plan 2006-2020'	2015	Sub-Regional	NWRWMG	To develop a waste management system that meets the region's needs and contributes to economic and sustainable development. This plan sets out arrangements for waste management and covers the period from 2012 to 2020.	There is a need to facilitate waste management with a focus on waste prevention and minimisation, recycling, composting, residual waste treatment and energy recovery with landfill as the option of last resort.
TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY					
Rural White Paper Action Plan	2012	NI	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.	Rural proofing will be applied to plan preparation.
Planning Policy Statement 13	2005	NI	Dfi	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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Transportation and Land Use					
Planning Policy Statement 3 – Access, Movement and Parking (2005) & PPS3 clarification (DOE 2006)	2005	NI	Dfi	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.
Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future - A New Approach to Regional Transportation.	2011	Regional	Dfi	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.
Design and Access Statements - A guide for Northern Ireland	2015	NI	Dfi	The following planning applications must be accompanied by a D&AS: An application which is a major development; or where any part of the development is in a designated area, 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 and provision for open space, access and landscaping and addressing external factors such as noise and traffic safety.
Building a better future The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011-2021 (ISNI)	2011	NI	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 197 infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
AIR QUALITY					
Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe	2008	Europe	EC	This Directive merged most of existing legislation into a single directive with no change to existing air quality objectives and added new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles). Establishes the need to reduce pollution to levels which minimise harmful effects on human health, paying particular attention to sensitive populations, and the environment as a whole, to improve the monitoring and assessment of air quality including the deposition of pollutants and to provide information to the public. Emissions of harmful air pollutants should be avoided, prevented or reduced.	The LDP should consider the implications of the LDP on air pollution and take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies contained in the SPPS.
Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)	2010	Europe	EC	The IED aims to achieve a high level of protection of human health and the environment taken as a whole by reducing harmful industrial emissions across the EU, in particular through better application of Best Available Techniques (BAT). Installations undertaking the industrial activities listed in Annex I of the IED are required to operate in accordance with a permit (granted by the authorities in the Member States). The integrated approach means that the permits must take into account the whole environmental performance of the plant, covering e.g. emissions to air, water and land, generation of waste, use of raw materials, energy efficiency, noise, prevention of accidents, and restoration of the site upon closure. For certain activities, i.e. large combustion plants, waste incineration and co-incineration plants, solvent using activities and titanium dioxide production, the IED also sets EU wide emission limit values for selected pollutants.	Location of land for industrial use should be considered in relation to people and sensitive environmental receptors.
2030 Framework for climate and energy	2014	Europe	EC	EU-wide targets aim to help the EU achieve a more competitive, secure and sustainable energy system and to meet its long-term 2050 greenhouse gas reductions target. The strategy sends a strong signal to the market, encouraging private investment in new pipelines, electricity networks, and low-carbon technology. Targets for 2030 are a 40% cut in greenhouse gas	Local Plans can affect air quality in a number of ways, including through what development is proposed and where, incorporation of energy efficiency, enabling renewable energy and encouraging sustainable transport.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
<p>Defra, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and DOE (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland</p>	2007	UK	Four Nations (DAERA)	<p>emissions compared to 1990 levels; at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption; at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Local 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.</p>
CLIMATE					
<p>Industrial Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency Roadmaps</p>	2015	UK	BEIS	<p>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.</p>	<p>Zoning and enabling infrastructure investments (in roads, ports, pipelines, etc.) would strengthen existing clusters and enable new ones to develop.</p>
<p>The appropriateness of a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act – December 2015 Update</p>	2015	NI	CCC	<p>In October 2015 the Northern Ireland Executive Minister asked the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) to provide an update on a CCC report produced in 2011 on 'The appropriateness of a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act' to inform the case for bringing forward Northern Ireland climate change legislation in the next Assembly term. The Committee concluded that the range of circumstances that are unique to Northern Ireland suggest local legislation is appropriate.</p>	<p>None at present but a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act (Bill) could influence future plans.</p>

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				<p>However, the benefits of specific legislation only outweigh the costs if it is possible to pass local legislation without adding undue additional costs on to the Northern Ireland Executive, ministries or the wider economy.</p>	
<p>UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report, Summary for Northern Ireland</p>	<p>2017</p>	<p>NI</p>	<p>CCC</p>	<p>The objective of the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) 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. The main finding is that extreme weather is still predominant among potential risks related to climate change but that other risks, such as water scarcity are becoming increasingly important. Highlights need for more strategic planning for increased water scarcity in vulnerable locations, including re-evaluation of land use options and if necessary investment in storage infrastructure to maximise use of surplus winter rainfall. Notes that land use planning is mainly based upon protecting prime agricultural land from development, on the assumption that prime land will remain in current locations into the future which may not be the case. Advises that more action is needed to manage current risks to people from cold temperatures through addressing fuel poverty. Highlights that there have been requests for new sea defence structures around the coast. There will need to be a system in place to decide which areas must be protected and where realignment is more appropriate however no shoreline management plans or other policies that assess and plan for changes to coastal communities have been developed for Northern Ireland. SPPS states that no development should take place in areas known to be at risk from coastal erosion. SPPS promotes and encourages developers to use SUDS and also indicates that council's should continue to promote the use of SUDS through their Local Development Plans. SPPS recognises the importance of peatlands to Northern Ireland for biodiversity, water and carbon storage.</p>	<p>The LDP will need to consider areas at risk from coastal erosion and vulnerable to flooding and to promote use of SuDS and protect peatlands. Measures that help reduce fuel poverty will address some social impacts of cold temperatures. Some infrastructure such as clean and waste water treatment will be more vulnerable to flooding therefore may need to be modified or relocated.</p>

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action Plan	2012	NI	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.	Encouraging sustainable development, good standards of design, renewable energy and overall sustainability will contribute to this action plan. Though a push on economic development could inhibit a reduction in greenhouse gases, the application of sustainability principles in development will lead to more efficient infrastructure. Scope for protection of or increase of carbon sinks in soil and trees.
Efficient Farming Cuts Greenhouse Gases Implementation Plan 2016-2020	2013	NI	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 and signposts the support available to facilitate this.	Aspects of relevant to planning are promotion of renewable energy, nutrient management including anaerobic digestion, energy efficiency and ventilation in livestock building.
Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP). 2014-2019	2014	NI	DAERA	Contains the Northern Ireland Executive's response to the risks and opportunities identified in the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) for Northern Ireland, which was published in January 2012, as part of the overall UK CCRA. The Adaptation Programme provides the strategic objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, the proposals and policies by which each department will meet these objectives, and the timescales associated with the proposals and policies identified in the period up to 2019. The priority areas are flooding, natural environment, water and agriculture and forestry.	The LDP will need to consider areas at risk from coastal erosion and vulnerable to flooding and to promote use of SuDS and protect peatlands. Some infrastructure such as clean and waste water treatment will be more vulnerable to flooding therefore may need to be modified or relocated.
Discussion Paper – Proposals for Taking Forward NI Climate Change Legislation - DOE on 1 December 2015	2015	NI	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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015 - 2030	2015	RoI	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.	Will influence the overall energy production requirement and may necessitate cross border distribution infrastructure.
National Climate Change Adaptation Framework: Building Resilience to Climate Change	2012	RoI	DHPCLG	Ireland's first National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (NCCAF) aims to ensure that adaptation actions are taken across key sectors and also at local level to reduce Ireland's vulnerability to climate change. The NCCAF requires the development and implementation of sectoral and local adaptation plans which will form part of the national response to the impacts of climate change. Each relevant Government Department (or State Agency, where appropriate) is required to prepare adaptation plans for their sectors. 12 Sectors were identified in total including Transport, Flood Defence, Agriculture and Energy. The objectives are: providing the policy context for a strategic national adaptation response to climate change; promoting dialogue and understanding of adaptation issues; identifying and promoting adaptation solutions; and committing to actions to support the adaptation process.	Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI plans will support this. This will result in due course to the development of sectoral and local government Adaptation Strategies in Ireland which will also need to be taken into account to ensure that development in Northern Ireland does not conflict. A National Climate Change Adaptation Framework to build on and supersede this framework is being developed for publication by December 2017 and this will also need to be considered.
Directive 2010 on the energy performance of buildings 2010/31/EU	2010	Europe	EC	Under the existing Energy Performance of Buildings Directive energy performance certificates are to be included in all advertisements for the sale or rental of buildings; EU countries must establish inspection	The need for energy efficiency will influence the design on new and renovated buildings.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				schemes for heating and air conditioning systems or put in place measures with equivalent effect; all new buildings must be nearly zero energy buildings by 31 December 2020 (public buildings by 31 December 2018); EU countries must set minimum energy performance requirements for new buildings, for the major renovation of buildings and for the replacement or retrofit of building elements (heating and cooling systems, roofs, walls, etc.); EU countries have to draw up lists of national financial measures to improve the energy efficiency of buildings. In 2016 the Commission proposed an update to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive to help promote the use of smart technology in buildings and to streamline the existing rules.	
Directive 2012 on the energy efficiency 2012/27/EU	2012	Europe	EC	Under the Energy Efficiency Directive EU countries make energy efficient renovations to at least 3% of buildings owned and occupied by central government; EU governments should only purchase buildings which are highly energy efficient; EU countries must draw-up long-term national building renovation strategies which can be included in their National Energy Efficiency Action Plans.	The need for energy efficiency will influence the design on new and renovated buildings.
The EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change	2013	Europe	EC	The EU Adaptation Strategy encourages all Member States to adopt comprehensive adaptation strategies. It 'Climate-proofs' action at EU level by promoting adaptation actions which include mainstreaming of climate change (mitigation and adaptation) into EU sector policies and funds, including marine and inland water issues, forestry, agriculture, biodiversity, infrastructure and buildings, but also migration and social issues. It supports better informed decision-making through Climate-ADAPT a platform which provides several useful resources to support adaptation policy and decision making, such as a toolset for adaptation planning and promotion of green infrastructure and ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation. Comprises a series of documents on	This Strategy aligns with the climate change focus of the SPPS. Adaptation to climate change should be considered for LDP proposals.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
2030 Framework for climate and energy	2014	Europe	EC	<p>adaption in different situations such as coastal and marine, infrastructure and rural development.</p> <p>EU-wide targets aim to help the EU achieve a more competitive, secure and sustainable energy system and to meet its long-term 2050 greenhouse gas reductions target. The strategy sends a strong signal to the market, encouraging private investment in new pipelines, electricity networks, and low-carbon technology. Targets for 2030 are a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels; at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption; at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.</p>	Local Plans can affect air quality in a number of ways, including through what development is proposed and where, incorporation of energy efficiency, enabling renewable energy and encouraging sustainable transport.
Climate Action and Low-Carbon Development - National Policy Position Ireland	2014	RoI	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.
The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015	2015	RoI	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.
Climate Change Act 2008	2008	UK	UK Gov.	Covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland established a legislative framework to enable the <i>reduction of UK GHG emissions by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050 and by 34% by 2020</i> . 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. The Climate Change Act 2008 covers all of the UK with targets set at the UK level.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	1994	International	UN	Climate Change Risk Assessment is a statutory requirement of the Act. 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 and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
The Kyoto Protocol Adopted 1997, came into force in 2005.	2005	International	UN	The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which commits its Parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets. Recognizing that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity, the Protocol places a heavier burden on developed nations under the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities." The protocol looks at limiting the emission of harmful greenhouses gases. Parties committed to reduce GHG emissions by at least 18 percent below 1990 levels in the eight-year period from 2013 to 2020. It was updated by the Doha Amendment in 2012.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
The Paris Agreement	2015	International	UN	The Paris agreement which entered into force in November 2016 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	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	
WATER RESOURCES					
Eel management plan: North Western International River Basin District	2010	International	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.
North Western River Basin Management Plan 2015 -2021	2015	NI	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 western river basin district (NW RBD) covers an area of around 4900km ² . It takes in large parts of Counties Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone. The principle river systems are the Foyle (whose tributaries are the Mourne, Derg, Strule and Finn Rivers) and the River Erne which drains the uplands of Cavan, Fermanagh and Monaghan. Lough Foyle is the main coastal water and Upper and Lower Lough Erne, Lough Melvin and Lough MacNean the main lakes.	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.
Pollution Reduction Programme - Lough Foyle	2015	Sub-Regional	DAERA	Pollution Reduction Programmes were established under the Shellfish Waters in order to reduce pollution in designated shellfish waters. As the Shellfish Waters	Consider any designated shellfish waters and actions required for the pollution reduction programme.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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 Water Framework Directive (WFD). All Shellfish Water Protected Areas must be managed to ensure that they meet their objectives under WFD and meet at least Class B status under the EU Hygiene Regulations, whilst making progress towards the WFD guideline standard.	
Planning Policy Statement 15 (Revised) – Planning and Flood Risk	2014	NI	Dfi	Planning policies to minimise and manage flood risk to people, property and the environment.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Social and environmental guidance for Water and Sewerage Services (2015-2021)	2014	NI	Dfi	The purpose of this document is to provide the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation with guidance on the key environmental and social policies the Minister for Regional Development expects it to contribute to in carrying out its role in regulating the water industry during the 2015-21 period. Sets out how NI Water should deliver to meet International, National and Local legislative and strategic commitments.	The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.
Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015-2040)	2016	NI	Dfi	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 four 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: provide high quality sustainable supplies of drinking water to households, industry and agriculture; manage flood risk and drainage in a sustainable manner; achieve the environmental requirements of the Water Framework Directive in a sustainable manner; 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 approaches to flood risk management and environmental protection which will all inform the spatial capacity for development. The plan will need to enable 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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Flood Maps (NI)	2011	NI	Dfl - Rivers Agency	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,
Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for NI	2011	NI	Dfl - Rivers Agency	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.
North Western River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan 2015 DARD	2015	Sub-Regional	Dfl - Rivers Agency	The Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) is aimed at reducing the potential adverse consequences of significant floods on human health, economic activity, cultural heritage and the environment. There are three FRMPs which together highlight the flood hazards and risks in the 20 most significant flood risk areas in Northern Ireland from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. The plans identify the measures that will be undertaken over the next 6 years and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together and with communities to reduce the flood risks.	One of the aims of the FRMP is to inform the development planning process to ensure, as far as possible, that 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 aim to prevent future development that may be at risk of flooding or that may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. This will be reflected in the LDP.
Northern Ireland Message on Water	2011	NI	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	Highlights potential long term problems and relating to water supply and flow including flooding investment needs to mitigate these.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	
Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment	1991	Europe	EC	Protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.	This is reflected in Sustainable Water.
Directive 91/676/EEC on nitrates from agricultural sources.	1991	Europe	EC	The Directive seeks to reduce the level of water pollution caused by the run off of nitrates into waterways/ground water from agricultural sources. In particular, it is about promoting better management of animal manures, chemical nitrogen fertilisers and other nitrogen-containing materials spread onto the land.	The LDP will take account of the Directive. The SEA will consider the likely significant effect of the plan on the aquatic environment.
Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption	1998	Europe	EC	Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.	This is reflected in Sustainable Water.
The Water Framework Directive - EU Directive 2000/60/EC (the Water Framework Directive)	2000	Europe	EC	Introduces 'good status', a more rigorous water quality standard. The Directive requires 'River Basin Management Plans' which should influence Development Plans and be influenced by them.	Contribute, wherever possible and appropriate, to achievement of water targets. Plan policies on the design, location of development & sustainable water management to ensure that the LDP does not create adverse pressures on the aquatic environment.
Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC	2006	Europe	EC	The directive requires each country to identify its most popular bathing waters for regular testing. In Northern Ireland 23 sites are formally identified. It requires Members States to monitor and assess the bathing water for at least two parameters and to inform the public about bathing water quality and beach management, through bathing water profiles.	Designated bathing waters will be taken into account in plan preparation. These sites represent assets for health and well-being and tourism.
Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks	2007	Europe	EC	Directive aims is to reduce and manage risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity and applies to inland waters as well as all coastal waters across the whole territory of the EU. It required identifying the relevant river basins and associated coastal areas at risk of flooding, drawing up flood maps and establishing flood	Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive. Integrating flood risk management into development planning will contribute to compliance with this directive.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness between 2011 and 2015. This has been coordinated with Water Framework Directive River Basin Planning.	
Ireland River Basin Management Plan	TBC	RoI	EPA	In preparation, a draft national River Basin Management Plan was due to be published by December 2016. A full public consultation will take place between December 2016 and December 2017. This will be a single national plan replacing the five River Basin Management Plans published in 2009 however the Neagh Bann and North Western River Basin Plans which also include parts of Northern Ireland will also apply to Ireland.	The plan will be published during preparation of the LDP and therefore will need to be taken into account once available. Measures to protect water quality, quantity and ecological resources will support the plan objectives which derive from the Water Framework Directive.
Building a better future The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011-2021 (ISNI)	2011	NI	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 197 infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.
NI Water - Water Resources Management Plan 2012	2012	NI	NIW	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	The LDP may need to accommodate water supply infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply. The Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan due to be published in 2017 should also be considered.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				justified through other more local studies, such as trunk main studies, detailed zonal studies and targeted leakage initiatives. Preparation of a Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan is underway with a target for publication in 2017.	
Our Strategy for NI Water	2014	NI	NIW	Sets out NI Water's long term strategy for providing water and wastewater services to customers in Northern Ireland. Its goal is 'to provide a range of essential services and associated contact channels which meet the rising expectations of our customers.' The strategy outlines the key challenges and opportunities facing the Northern Ireland water industry in the years to come. It outlines aspirations for customers in 2040 and priorities to 2020/21. Some of the priorities Invest available funding to minimise constraints in development caused by lack of capacity at wastewater treatment works and in sewerage networks. Prioritise investment to address issues in the sewerage system which lead to flooding from sewers. Increase the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Solutions. Invest in key water and wastewater treatment works and other critical sites to improve flood resilience. Expand use of sustainable wastewater treatment solutions which protect the environment, improve carbon efficiency and reduce operating costs. Undertake a focused programme of repair and renewal in relation to gravity sewers, CSO structures, pumping stations and syphons. Invest to improve our ability to transfer water from one area to another, remove bottlenecks and increase storage capacity.	The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.
PC 15 NIW's draft expenditure plan 2015-2021	2015	NI	NIW	This sets out NI waters long term strategy for providing water and wastewater services customers throughout Northern Ireland. Over the 6-year PC15 period investment will include 9 water treatment works schemes and upgrades to 19 large wastewater treatment works and 45 small works.	The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.
Guidelines for Planning Authorities 20: The	2009	RoI	OPW	The core objectives of the Guidelines are to: Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding;	There are a small number of catchments where transboundary impacts may need to be considered.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Planning System and Flood Risk Management				Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off; Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains; Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth; Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders; and Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management.	
NATURAL RESOURCES					
Marine Plan for Northern Ireland (in preparation)	Not applicable	NI	DAERA	The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of our marine area through a strategic framework with spatial elements. It will consist of a series of policy statements covering cross-cutting marine planning issues that apply to all decision making in the marine area and to relevant sectors. It will not bring forward new policies governed by other departments but will align with and contribute to the policy objectives for key marine activities as set out in the UK Marine Policy Statement and will support and complement existing plans and policies. A draft Marine Plan is proposed to be published in late 2016.	Public authorities taking authorisation or enforcement decisions, which affect or might affect the marine area, must do so in line with marine policy documents, such as Marine Plans and the Marine Policy Statement (MPS), unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise. A public authority must explain any decision not made in line with an adopted plan or the MPS.
Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment	2000	NI	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 which informs the state of the landscape, capacity for development and areas meriting protection.
An Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006 – 2026	2006	NI	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	LDP proposals and policies may directly support natural and cultural heritage aspects of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy, or have an indirect relationship, for example regarding

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	outdoor recreation, access, transportation and sustainable development.
Eel management plan: North Western International River Basin District	2010	International	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.
Draft Northern Ireland Marine Position Paper	2012	NI	DAERA	The Position Paper set out the Executive's objectives and lead departments for the sustainable development of the marine area including energy production and infrastructure development; tourism and recreation; port development; sewerage services; flood risk management and drainage; integrated coastal zone management; climate change; coastal change; and protection of the historic environment. It was intended to identify the policy context within which a Northern Ireland Marine Plan will be developed. The status of this document is not clear.	LDP proposals and policies may directly support natural and cultural heritage aspects of Marine Position Paper, or have an indirect relationship, for example regarding outdoor recreation, access, transportation and sustainable development.
DOE (2013) Northern Ireland Invasive Species Strategy	2013	NI	DAERA	In response to the threats posed by invasive alien species the Department of Environment published 'An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Northern Ireland'. The aim of the Strategy is to minimise the risk posed, and reduce the negative impacts caused, by invasive alien species in Northern Ireland.	Invasive species may be a constraint for some sites and consideration will need to be given to measures to minimise the risks caused by invasive species.
Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000	2013	NI	DAERA	The Prioritised Action Framework sets out the prioritised actions for managing the Natura 2000 network to be taken to address unfavourable conservation status of habitats in Annex I and species in Annex II of the Habitats Directive and Annex 1 of the Birds Directive. These are intended to help achieve the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2000. Priorities include measures such as agri-environmental schemes and an ecosystems approach. It states that the Department will publish guidance ...to advise developers and other key stakeholders ..., especially those who regulate development, to encourage them	This will be taken into account through Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP and planning proposals carried out under it which may have a significant effect on site selection features of European sites. Any advice from the Department will be taken into account.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				to minimise adverse impacts on habitats and species and to provide for biodiversity where possible.	
Strategy for Marine Protected Areas in the Northern Ireland Inshore Region	2014	NI	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.	Public authorities have a duty, when carrying out their functions and when permitting others to carry out regulated activities in relation to MCZs, 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.
Valuing Nature - A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020	2015	NI	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 240 hectares of ancient woodland and delivering peatland and wetland habitat restoration around the Lough Neagh basin with emphasis on an ecosystems approach. LDP proposals and policies should support delivery of these actions where appropriate.
Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment	2016	NI	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.	This 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.
Forest Service - Forest Plans	Various	Sub-Regional	DAERA	Forest Management plans set out the management objectives for the forests and woodlands Forest Service looks after. Plans are currently prepared for Down,	Relevant plans may inform land use, landscape and recreational use of forests in the plan area.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				Armagh, Sperrin, West Tyrone, East Fermanagh and East Tyrone.	
Ireland's Marine Strategy Framework Directive Article 19 Report Initial Assessment, GES and Targets and Indicators	2013	RoI	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. The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will need to fully consider these requirements.
Planning Policy Statement 2 – Planning and Nature Conservation	2013	NI	DfI	Policies for the conservation of natural heritage.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	1992	Europe	EC	The main aim of the Habitats Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species listed on the Annexes to the Directive at a favourable conservation status, introducing robust protection for those habitats and species of European importance. The Directive creates a network of sites in Europe for the conservation of biodiversity. In applying these measures Member States are required to take account of economic, social and cultural requirements, as well as regional and local characteristics. These sites are designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (collectively known as 'Natura 2000' sites).	Any development project or plan likely to have a significant effect (either directly or indirectly) on a Natura 2000 site must be subject to assessment. This will be taken into account through consideration of all SACs and by Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP.
European Eel Regulation 2007 (EC) No 1100/2007	2007	Europe	EC	Aims to establish measures for the recovery of the stock of European Eel and requires member states to prepare and implement eel management plans. As a result, eel fisheries are now managed under long-term plans drawn up by the EU countries at river-basin level.	The LDP will take account of any plan arising from the Regulations
Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (Codified version of Directive	2009	Europe	EC	The Directive provides a framework for the conservation and management of, and human interactions with, wild birds in Europe. It sets broad objectives for a wide range of activities, although the	Any development project or plan likely to have a significant effect (either directly or indirectly) on a Natura 2000 site must be subject to assessment. This will be taken into account through consideration of

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
79/409/EEC as amended)				precise legal mechanisms for their achievement are at the discretion of each Member State. In Northern Ireland, the provisions of the Birds Directive are implemented through the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, and The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & etc.) Regulations 1995.	all SPAs and by Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP.
EU Biodiversity Strategy	2011	Europe	EC	The EU Biodiversity Strategy aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU and help stop global biodiversity loss by 2020. It reflects the commitments taken by the EU in 2010, within the international Convention on Biological Diversity. The six targets to address the main drivers of biodiversity loss, and reduce the main pressures on nature and ecosystem services include protect species and habitats, maintain and restore ecosystems and combat invasive alien species. The strategy promotes the increased use of green infrastructure. A 2015 European Parliament Resolution on the mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 'notes that the 2020 targets will not be achieved without additional, substantial and continuous efforts' and among many statements 'Stresses that habitat destruction is the most important factor driving biodiversity loss and is a particular priority when it comes to addressing this loss' and 'Deplores the fact that, in Europe, around a quarter of wild species are at risk of extinction and many ecosystems are degraded, giving rise to severe social and economic damage for the EU.'	Natural heritage policies which will afford some protection from inappropriate development are included in the SPPS which informs the context for the LDP.
Blue Growth	2012	Europe	EC	Blue Growth is the long term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors as a whole. Seas and oceans are drivers for the European economy and have great potential for innovation and growth. It is the maritime contribution to achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The 'blue' economy represents roughly 5.4 million jobs and generates a gross added value of almost €500 billion a year. However, further growth is possible in a number	This may inform LDP policies relating to economy and energy but has the potential to conflict with sustainable use of natural resources.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				of areas which are highlighted within the strategy. The EC considers that by, for example, supporting innovative SMEs, and encouraging innovative products and solutions, Europe can unlock the untapped potential for growth in its blue economy while safeguarding biodiversity and protecting the environment through traditional sectors such as maritime transport and maritime and coastal tourism as well as growing and emerging sectors, such as ocean renewable energy and blue biotechnology.	
Action Plan for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic Area	2013	Europe	EC	The strategy for the Atlantic covers coastal, territorial and jurisdictional waters of five EU Member States and focuses on: Managing human activities that must deliver a healthy and productive ecosystem, through developing fisheries and aquaculture but also forecasting future change in oceanic circulation and climate; Reducing Europe's carbon footprint through climate change mitigation, for example expansion of offshore wind farms and tidal technology in the Atlantic, but also changes in maritime transport will contribute to carbon reduction; Developing the sustainable exploitation of the Atlantic's seafloor natural resources; and Prepare for threats and emergencies in the Atlantic whether caused by accidents, natural disasters or criminal activity such as oil spills. It promotes the implementation of climate change mitigation and seeks economic and social progress in conjunction with a healthy environment.	There is potential for the LDP to support the objectives of this plan through its own coastal, marine, industrial or natural heritage policies. However, due to the interconnectivity of marine habitats, it is possible for developments or proposals arising under the LDP to have negative impacts on the wider European marine resource, its species and dependent businesses or individuals.
UK Marine Policy Statement	2011	UK	Four Nations (DAERA)	The MPS will facilitate and support the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives and thereby: 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	The marine environment is not mentioned specifically at this stage of the SPPS preparation, though it could feasibly be merged with a possible new subject policy on the coast, whilst it could also be incorporated into natural heritage. Any development arising from the SPPS 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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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	
Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth - An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland	2012	RoI	MCG	The vision for this plan is 'Our ocean wealth will be a key element of our economic recovery and sustainable growth, generating benefits for all our citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.' It includes an action: Continue to foster a North/South and East/West approach in developing/enabling the marine sector (e.g. grid/all-island energy strategy, marine tourism and leisure) through existing structures and bodies.	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 this plan. The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will need to fully consider this related plan.
North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Commission Convention For The Conservation Of Salmon In The North Atlantic Ocean	1982	International	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.
North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Commission Precautionary Approach Agreement	1982	International	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 postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures.	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.
Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016 - Ireland's National Biodiversity Action Plan	2011	RoI	NPWS	This plan outlines the measures Ireland will take in preparing for pressures and losses in the level of biodiversity, and they are presented as 102 actions under a series of 7 strategic objectives. The objectives cover the conservation of biodiversity in the wider countryside and in the marine environment (within and outside protected areas), mainstreaming of biodiversity across the decision making process, the strengthening	Biodiversity is a cross-border objective. Developments either side of the border will have cross-border impacts. In addition, nature conservation species, in particular, will not necessarily respect this border. Therefore, the LDP may have an impact on the implementation of this plan. This may be positive or negative depending on

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				of the knowledge base on biodiversity, and increasing public awareness and participation.	how the LDP is implemented locally and the nature of any developments consented under relevant policy.
The Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2024	2016	International	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; Enhancing Implementation.	These objectives are reflected in NI strategies and plans.
The Ramsar Convention. The convention of Wetland of International Importance (1971 and amendments)	1971	International	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.
LANDSCAPE					
A National Landscape Strategy for Ireland	2015	RoI	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 the national and local Landscape Character Assessments will be taken into account as they become available.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)	2000	Europe	COE	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 covers all landscapes, including natural, managed, urban and peri-urban areas, and special, every day 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.
Northern Ireland Seascape Character Assessment	2014	NI	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.
Northern Ireland's Landscape Charter	2014	NI	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.
Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Supplementary Planning Guidance Wind Energy Development in Northern Ireland's Landscapes.	2010	NI	DfI	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.	Informs the relative capacity for wind energy in respect of landscape.
Building on Tradition: A sustainable Design Guide for the NI Countryside	2012	NI	DfI	Building on Tradition: A Sustainable Design Guide for the Northern Ireland Countryside' provides assistance to all those involved with sustainable development in	This can be used to inform siting and design standards for development in the countryside to achieve better landscape integration.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				the Northern Ireland countryside to understand the requirements of PPS21. The guide promotes quality and sustainable building design in Northern Ireland's countryside.	
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE					
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992)	1992	Europe	COE	The new text (revision of the 1985 Granada 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 optimum conservation of archaeological heritage. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. Protection of the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be investigated archaeologically both on land and underwater. Creation of archaeological reserves and conservation of excavated sites.	Consideration should be given to conservation of archaeological resources including potential archaeological reserves.
Living Places - An Urban Stewardship and Design Guide for NI	2014	NI	Dfi	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 proposed.	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.

APPENDIX 5: SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL GUIDE FOR DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL PREFERRED OPTIONS PAPER

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 aging population and minimize 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 Sustainability Issues for Health and Well-being

- The population profile is younger than that for Northern Ireland however trends indicate an aging population and by 2039 over 65s are expected to represent almost a quarter (23.9%) of the population.
- Overall, the health of the area is improving.
- However more than one in five people have long term health problems or disability that limit their day-to-day activities.
- Life expectancy is increasing but is about a year lower compared with the NI average.
- Hospital admission rates have dropped for circulatory disease but increased due to respiratory disease and alcohol related causes.
- While death rates from circulatory, respiratory and external causes have decreased they are higher for DCSDC than those for Northern Ireland.
- There are indicators that there is a greater prevalence of mental illness in DCSDC and that there is an increasing trend.
- Increase in the proportion of older people in the population will increase the requirement for care. 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.
- Levels of obesity in Northern Ireland and the UK are high by global standards reflecting poor diet and a relatively sedentary lifestyle.
- The rate of overweight or obese children in DCSDC is higher than the NI average.
- Levels of physical activity are lower than the NI average and much lower than recommended levels.
- There is a need to promote physical activity through provision of and ensuring good accessibility to sports facilities, open space, green infrastructure and walking and cycling routes.
- There is a gap in information about the provision for children's play.
- In particular there is a need for children to have accessible play in places where they feel safe.
- Also there will be a need to enable older people to engage in physical activity to prolong their healthy lives.
- Development should be sited and designed to connect with greenways where possible.
- More than one in ten people (11%) of people provide unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others and there is a steady increase in the number of people receiving carer's allowance (5%).
- DCSDC shows a higher rate of adaptation of accommodation to meet disability or mobility needs for those 65+ however this will continue to be a need.
- 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.
- There is a need to protect and enhance biodiversity to promote positive health benefits.
- Ambulance response times are typically better than those for Northern Ireland however can be long for rural areas; the location of and access to emergency services can impact on response times.
- There is a very strong correlation between health and income, employment and education.
- DCSDC shows a higher rate of health deprivation and disability compared with Northern Ireland and there is an inequality in health with most measures of health being significantly worse in the most deprived areas.
- 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.

Appraisal Prompts for Health and Well-being

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improve access to health care b) Reduce response times for the emergency services c) Provide opportunities for and encourage health lifestyles and physical activity for all ages d) Increase social contact and intergenerational contact (including family cohesion) e) Support those providing care f) Provide suitable accommodation for those with long term health problems or disability g) Maintain good air quality h) Avoid or reduce noise impacts that may affect health i) Reduce the risk of traffic accidents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> j) Reduce access to health care k) Increase response times for the emergency services l) Discourage healthy lifestyles and physical activity m) Decrease social contact and intergenerational contact n) Lack of support for carers o) Shortage of suitable accommodation for those with long term health problems or disability p) Decrease in air quality q) Increase noise impacts that may affect health r) Increase 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.

Key Sustainability Issues for Community

- The evidence relating to the population, community and safety indicates the following issues to be considered in preparing the LDP.
- The rate of population growth has been lower than for NI and is expected to decline by 2039 to a level similar to today.
- There is a need to promote social inclusion through shared, welcoming and accessible places.
- There is a need to provide appropriate shared space and apply place making to make areas inclusive for all backgrounds and income levels.
- There are a greater number of more deprived areas and neighbourhoods in DCSDC than in other councils, particularly in Derry and Strabane urban areas and in the rural hinterland surrounding Strabane.
- There is evidence that there is a high level of deprivation, particularly in terms of proximity to services, in some rural areas.
- The highest concentrations of deprivation with respect to proximity to services in DCSDC occurs in Banagher, Claudy 2, Clare, Donemana, Glenderg, Plumbridge and Slievekirk.
- While the main religions of 'Catholic' or 'Protestant' are balanced overall in many areas the population is represented by more than 70% of one of these.
- Design should seek to remove barriers that restrict life choices for disabled people.
- The community is not ethnically diverse, however the needs of minority groups must be taken into account.
- The proportion of households with dependent children is higher than the NI average although it has started to decline and will continue to do so.

Appraisal Prompts for Community

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Promote inclusion of all groups b) Retain, create, or enhance welcoming, shared space c) Increase access to shared space d) Provide appropriate access to facilities and services for rural communities e) Meet identified needs that will reduce inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities f) Promote equality of opportunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> g) Inhibit inclusion of all groups h) Shared space reduced or deteriorates i) Rural communities less access to facilities and services j) Exacerbate the factors causing inequalities k) Maintains or increases inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities l) Increase inequality of opportunity

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.

Key Sustainability Issues for Housing

- There is a projected need for 2,500 additional households between 2012 and 2022, rising to 4,000 between 2012 and 2037.
- Although the average household size is above the average for Northern Ireland, and will continue to be so for some time, it is expected to drop in 2037. At the same time there is an increasing growth of single people, and households with one adult. A decline in household size will increase the number of homes required per capita and influence the type of dwellings required
- There will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability.
- A greater proportion of older people will increase the need for suitable housing that is accessible for those who may not drive and enables support to be provided. People may be more likely to stay in a home long term if it meets their changing needs and facilities and amenities that they wish to use are as accessible as possible through their lives
- Around half of households in DCSDC area are considered to be in fuel poverty.
- The proportion of social housing stock in DCSDC area is considerably higher than the Northern Ireland figure.
- The total social housing need for DCSDC for 2015-2030 has been assessed at 5, 930 units. A large proportion of the social housing waiting list comprises single households and small families.
- In Derry District, Banagher and Claudy are ranked within the 8% most deprived SOAs for NI. Across the 'Living Environment' deprivation domain, which includes an assessment of housing quality and housing access, there are a particularly significant cluster of deprived SOAs within Derry city. Ten of these are ranked within the top 14% for NI.
- There is an increase in the number of people presenting themselves as homeless in the district.
- All new housing should aim to provide life time homes that are accessible and adaptable to all and meet modern standards.
- New housing should be low carbon and avoid the problems of fuel poverty.
- Affordable housing is required for a variety of housing types and sizes.
- All new housing should help to support healthy lifestyles.
- Housing provision should enable social cohesion in families and communities and promote vibrancy of settlements.
- The impact of Brexit may lead to people choosing to relocate.

Appraisal Prompts for Housing

Positive Effects

- Provide housing which meets locally identified needs (in terms of type, tenure and size)
- Meet the needs of specific groups e.g. single people, families, retired people, ethnic minorities, disabled
- Encourage low carbon homes
- Encourage the building of life-time homes with potential for adaptability, such as wheelchair access
- Encourage affordable housing
- Reduce homelessness
- Reduce the number of unfit homes

Negative Effects

- Does not meet local need for housing type/quantity
- Does not meet the needs of specific groups e.g. single people, families, retired people, ethnic minorities, disabled
- Decrease energy efficiency
- Homes not suited for lifetime use
- Reduced affordable housing
- Increase homelessness
- Reduces the quality of homes to unfit standards

4. The objective for sustainable development is to **enable access to high quality education.**

Rationale

Good education improves opportunities for employment and also contributes to avoidance of poverty and healthier lifestyles. The provision of suitable accommodation for educational establishments in appropriate, accessible locations should play a part in making schools more sustainable and reducing inequalities in education.

Key Sustainability Issues for Education and Skills

- Ensuring access to high quality education is one of the most significant investments in developing the individual, society and the economy.
- In some areas of the district a decline in pupil numbers will have implications for the sustainability of existing schools. Although approximately one fifth of the Derry and Strabane population is currently under 16, the proportion of children under 16 is due to fall between 2008 and 2023. This could mean implications for provision of crèches, nurseries and schools, and a rationalisation of second level education.
- There was a steady decrease in the number of pupils attending post-primary schools, within DCSDC, in the five year period 2012/13 to 2016/17. This trend will continue over the next 4 years, most evident in the Strabane area.
- Sharing facilities has been recognised as a way of promoting a more cohesive and tolerant society and assist a better use of the resources available to education. There is potential for schools sharing facilities with community centres so that pitches can be used for after school open spaces. In future school grounds could become integrated into community shared space.
- The area has seen an improvement in educational attainment over the last number of years, however, the DEAs vary in attainment.
- In the population as a whole, low educational attainment amongst those in work is higher than the Northern Ireland average.

Appraisal Prompts for Education and Skills

Positive Effects

- a) Improve education level and employability of the population
- b) Promote access to education for all
- c) Promote access to skills training
- d) Help rural communities access education and skills training
- e) Improve opportunities for multiple use of facilities
- f) Help educational establishments to provide modern sustainable accommodation

Negative Effects

- g) Does not help improve education level and employability of the population
- h) Decrease access to education and skills training
- i) Makes access to education and skills training harder for rural communities
- 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 startups, 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 increase their income.

Key Sustainability Issues for Economy and Employment

- Identifying and zoning appropriate land is a vital part of creating the conditions to sustain economic development that meets employment needs and supports economic growth.
- Derry needs to significantly develop to fulfil its role as the principal city of the North West and as a regional and international gateway.
- Strabane needs considerable relevant development to fulfil its role as a main hub.
- While the clear focus needs to be on Derry City and Strabane town, it is important that the employment needs of those people living in the extensive rural hinterland are also considered.
- Forecasts for the manufacturing sector suggest a continued decline in manufacturing employment levels both in Northern Ireland and the UK. However manufacturing is changing towards innovation based products with niche markets and knowledge based products.
- The four key growth sectors identified in the Derry and Strabane Draft Integrated Economic Development Strategy are: Advanced Manufacturing/Engineering, Digital/Creative Industries, Life and Health Sciences and Tourism and Culture.
- A cornerstone of the private sector in the DCSDC area is micro-businesses, those employing less than nine staff. In 2016, there were 4,830 VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in the district. 88.4% of them employed less than ten people, and 45.7% of them had turnover of less than £100,000 a year.
- While the business birth rate and survival rate, as represented by VAT registration is on a par with the rest of the NI, it does not appear to be impacting upon the net employment levels with little growth in employee numbers since 2009. There is potential to encourage new business to develop, innovate and grow.
- There is a need for quality employment to lower the need for benefits and to facilitate a culture of independence and entrepreneurship and move away from public sector reliance. The public sector accounts for almost a third of employment in the DCSDC area. This covers Health, Social Work and Education Sectors.
- New employment locations should be accessible by active travel and/or public transport. Homeworking can assist employment for those with other responsibilities such as caring, or those involved with agriculture.
- The unemployment rate for DCSDC area is higher than for Northern Ireland although it has been falling since October 2013, is still almost double the NI rate at 5.3% in February 2017.
- Unemployment is a particular issue for young people, with almost a third of those in the claimant count aged 18-24 having been claiming for more than one year, compared to less than a quarter in Northern Ireland.
- Of those on the claimant count the majority have low to middle skills and around a third had previously worked in a sales capacity.
- Employment related deprivation in 2010 was second highest for the 11 NI council areas in terms of the number of people and highest in terms of percentage of the population at 38%. 16,500 people were estimated to experience deprivation as a result of a lack of employment opportunities.
- Within retail, the market is in recovery and is evolving. There has been a number of challenges in recent years. The growth of internet shopping has contributed to shop closures and is likely to grow in the coming years. Within the district a number of large shops have closed including Austin's in Derry and Linton and Robinson in Strabane. These losses affect the vitality and viability of these centres, as economic and cultural shared space.
- There continues to be a demand from developers for out of town sites for retail and a new trend for retail in industrial estates. Both of these can become further factors to reduce vitality in Derry City and Strabane Town and must be carefully considered.
- A resident population will assist in developing an evening economy alongside additional office workers and students.

- There are a wealth of natural, landscape, heritage and cultural tourism assets within the DCSDC area with significant future potential. 2013 brought a rise in visitor numbers and spend, with the UK City of Culture. In 2015, there were an estimated 223,172 overnight trips – estimated expenditure of £42,502,028.
- Need to ensure that the DCSDC area is attractive to investors, and higher skilled people – by supporting the vitality and vibrancy of the City Centre, towns and villages and facilitating a high quality local environment through appropriate land use, design and layout.
- The impact of ‘Brexit’ needs to be carefully considered in light of the impacts on exchange rates, cross-border trade and implications for the labour market within tourism, retailing, construction and other sectors. Also it may bring changes in regulatory regimes and funding opportunities.

Appraisal Prompts for Economy and Employment

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Support innovation and competitiveness within the local economy	k) Does not promote innovation and competitiveness within the local economy
b) Ensure sufficient land supply in appropriate locations for economic growth	l) Does not support creation of a range of job types that are accessible especially to areas of greatest deprivation
c) Support creation of a range of job types that are accessible especially to areas of greatest deprivation	m) Does not support enhancement of the skills base.
d) Support enhancement of the skills base.	n) Does not help make the DCSDC area a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest
e) Help make DCSDC area a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest	o) Does not make the best use of Derry’s location as a regional and international gateway.
f) Make the best use of Derry’s location as a regional and international gateway.	p) Does not make the best use of Strabane’s location as a main hub.
g) Make the best use of Strabane’s location as a main hub.	q) Vitality and vibrancy of city and town centres may decline.
h) Ensure the vitality and vibrancy of city and town centres can be improved	r) Does not increase the number of people coming to the DCSDC area to work
i) Increase the number of people coming to the DCSDC area to work	s) Does not enable use of tourism assets.
j) Maximise economic benefits of sustainable tourism	

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 minimize adverse impacts. The concept of 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.

Key Sustainability Issues for Material Assets

- Less congestion on international telecommunications links and an improved local telecommunications network should help attract global companies and better support small to medium sized enterprises because of projects Kelvin, Super Connected Derry, and Broadband Improvement.
- Some rural areas have no access to broadband and poor mobile phone service provision.
- Some areas may never benefit from gas infrastructure due to feasibility issues.
- There is a potential gas source from the Culmore landfill site.
- A fit-for-purpose electrical infrastructure is required to enable an increasing number of renewable connections, including large-scale projects but also an increasing amount of domestic scale projects and prosumers.
- Wind technology has dominated renewables but a diversity of technologies will be needed for a sustainable energy mix i.e. solar, tidal, biomass, hydroelectric, anaerobic.
- There may be opportunities to develop community based renewable projects such as wind/solar farms or large single turbines, that could reduce the local impacts from several single applications and make more efficient use of land.
- In Northern Ireland, financial incentives to support the uptake of renewables has ceased.
- There is no active landfill capacity within the Council.
- Recycling rates are below the Northern Irish average and new measures are needed to increase rates.
- Up to 25% of waste is compostable but food caddy provision across the Council is limited.
- There is a need to ensure the location of fit-for-purpose recycling facilities based on the proximity principle.
- The existing location of material assets should be a consideration when planning new developments to help ensure sustainable land management.

Appraisal Prompts for Material Assets

Positive Effects

- a) Sufficient telecommunications
- b) Sufficient transmission/distribution lines
- c) Infrastructure is fit for purpose
- d) Enables renewable energy production
- e) Encourages diversity of renewables
- f) Proportion of waste to landfill decreases
- g) Makes recycling easier
- h) Recycling rates likely to increase
- i) Composting rates likely to increase
- j) Reuses contaminated /derelict land
- k) Safeguards land for material assets

Negative Effects

- l) Insufficient telecommunications
- m) Insufficient electrical infrastructure
- n) Renewable energy not supported/enabled
- o) Recycling rates do not increase
- p) Waste to landfill does not decrease
- q) Composting rates do not increase
- r) Vacant/derelict/contaminated land persists
- s) Does not consider/retain appropriate land for material assets

7. The objective for sustainable development is to **protect physical resources and use sustainably.**

Rationale

Earth science sites, minerals, geothermal energy, land use/cover and soil are resources that require protection from degradation and safeguarding for future use. Sustainable agriculture, tourism and sustainable use of minerals and geothermal energy can help to support the economy.

Key Sustainability Issues for Physical Resources

- Earth science sites should be protected and could be integrated to blue/green infrastructure as part of the Council’s natural heritage.
- Existing mineral sites and reserves should be safeguarded from alternative uses and/or developments that may impede their accessibility.
- Older mineral sites (pre-1985) may be causing undue damage to the local environment and require new planning conditions to ensure adequate restoration.
- A spatial approach to new mineral sites and extensions could help to support rural communities and businesses as the most appropriate locations with adequate transport routes could be prioritised.
- Redundant mineral sites may be suitable after restoration for reuse as educational or recreational purposes and at the same time add to local biodiversity as blue/green infrastructure.
- There is a need for a new cemetery in Derry City and which should be chosen to be sustainable.
- Some land zoned for recreation/open space has been used for housing and retail purposes but significant amounts of land zoned for recreation/open space have remained undeveloped.
- Some of the best farmland in the area is located in the low-lying areas of the Foyle.
- Soil quality across the Council should be protected using effective conservation measures due to a lack of specific legislation protecting soils at a regional or local level.
- The compatibility of adjacent land uses is important to ensure the most sustainable land use management.
- Development pressure exists from the larger settlements, and commercial and residential projects.

Appraisal Prompts for Physical Resources

Positive Effects

Negative Effects

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Earth science sites remain protected b) Enable the minerals industry to operate sustainably c) Enables materials to be locally sourced where available d) Retain potential future use of mineral sites after restoration e) Allow for the future development of geothermal energy f) Minimises loss of greenfield sites g) Retain semi natural land cover/biodiversity h) Avoid loss of land i) Avoid soil erosion/pollution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> j) Earth science features not protected k) Reduce ability of minerals industry to sustainably operate l) Does not protect potential future use/benefit of physical resources m) Inhibits future development of geothermal energy n) Reduces semi natural land cover/local biodiversity o) Causes soil erosion/pollution |
|---|--|

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 car use and increasing other forms of transport. Better access to public transport and opportunities for active travel make travel more affordable with added health benefits and also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Measures that help reduce car use and improve accessibility to encourage a shift to travel by public transport, walking and cycling will contribute to this goal.

Key Sustainability Issues for Transport and Accessibility

- Car use is the most popular mode of transport in Northern Ireland and this is reflected in Derry City and Strabane District area.
- There are mostly unclassified and B roads across the Council.
- Sustainable travel options are required across the Council area so as to encourage people to use other transport options than private motorised vehicles.
- Currently there is a low level usage of public transport to get to work.
- Providing support for greenways and at least one more bridge project across the Foyle is important to help reduce vehicle use and improve local air quality.
- Sustainable and active travel links need to be integrated to existing and new infrastructure so people can choose other modes of transport to the private car.
- Public transport needs to be improved (cost, congestion, reliability) with adequate links to and from places of employment, housing and town centres.
- Consideration of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 is fundamental to transport development within the region as it could directly impact on air quality by providing more public transport (rail) and rural transport solutions (park & rides, carpooling, taxi schemes).
- There is potential for active travel in a cross border network, linking people and places together.
- The impact of 'Brexit' needs to be carefully considered in light of the impacts upon travel between the DCSDC area and County Donegal. It is estimated that there are 46,654 daily traffic movements at crossing points, (Derry-Bridgend, Derry-Culmore and Strabane-Lifford).

Appraisal Prompts for Transport and Accessibility

Positive Effects

- a) Encourage modal shift to active travel
- b) Enhance access to and efficiency of public transport
- c) Benefit those without access to cars
- d) Retain, create, or enhance walking and cycle routes

Negative Effects

- e) Does not promote modal shift to active travel
- f) Does not enhance access to and efficiency of public transport
- g) Does not benefit those without access to cars
- h) Does not retain, create, or enhance walking and cycle 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.

Key Sustainability Issues for Air Quality

- There are six active Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, nitrous oxides, sulphur dioxide and ozone are recorded.
- There are three urban air quality monitoring stations within the Council, two in Derry and one in Strabane.
- There are smoke control areas in the Council area.
- The standardised death rate for the Council from respiratory diseases was recorded as 190 per 100,000 of the population which is above the Northern Ireland average and the highest of all the Councils.
- The car is the most common mode of transport making up 71% of all journeys.
- Public transport needs to be improved (cost, congestion, reliability, feasibility) with adequate links to and from places of employment, housing and town centres.
- Sustainable and active travel links need to be integrated to existing and new infrastructure so people can choose other modes of transport to the private car.
- A behavioural shift is needed to help move people away from the private car and into using other forms of transport (bikes, greenways) to get around town centres and to complete short journeys.
- Partnership working with other agencies and Councils is needed to help ensure sustainable land use planning and compatible adjacent land uses that enable reduced travel to facilities and services.
- Open spaces and green areas need to be maintained within new plans to help maintain local air quality standards.
- Providing support for greenways and at least one more bridge project across the Foyle is important to help reduce vehicle use and improve local air quality.

Appraisal Prompts for Air Quality

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improve air quality b) Help achieve the objectives of any Air Quality Management Area c) Reduce emissions of key pollutants d) Reduce transport emissions e) Encourage other modes of transport than the car – walking, cycling, public transport f) Encourage behavioural shift 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> g) Reduce air quality h) Risk achieving the objectives of any Air Quality Management Area i) Increase emissions of key pollutants j) Increase transport emissions k) Risk integration of active travel options l) Maintain/increase car use

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 lessen their effects on climate. Measures that help reduce energy consumption and enable renewable energy helps lessen greenhouse gas emissions however adaptation is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change.

Key Sustainability Issues for Climatic Factors

- There may be a higher risk of coastal flooding in low-lying areas.
- Old sea walls may become more vulnerable to the effects of flooding and rising sea levels and require additional maintenance or replacement.
- The LDP should support a low-carbon energy future in anticipation of new energy and climate change policies.
- There are currently no financial incentives for renewables to help encourage uptake.
- Adequate electrical infrastructure is required to accommodate new grid connections for large-scale renewables and domestic scale producers.
- Alternative renewable technologies to wind, i.e. tidal, wave, hydro, solar, biomass, anaerobic digestion, are needed to improve the diversity of energy sources and enable a more sustainable energy mix.
- Sustainable drainage systems should be integrated to plans/projects.
- Adequate provision and accessibility to alternative transport options are required in rural and urban areas to help reduce reliance on the car and greenhouse gas emissions.
- The development of land can be planned to encourage and enable sustainable development that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, through reducing the need for vehicular travel, avoiding damage/development of floodplains, and protecting carbon/water stores.
- Carbon dioxide per capita emissions were estimated to be below the Northern Ireland average in 2012 for the Derry area but in Strabane they were estimated to be higher.
- Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture make a significant contribution to total emissions in Northern Ireland and the Council.

Appraisal Prompts for Climatic Factors

Positive Effects

Negative Effects

- a) Manage/consider coastal flooding/erosion
- b) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- c) Reduce energy consumption
- d) Increase the production of renewable energy
- e) Incorporate measures to adapt to climate change
- f) Protect or enhance habitats that capture carbon
- g) Protect or enhance floodplains
- h) Increase/encourage other forms of transport than the car – public transport, cycling/walking
- i) Reduce car/vehicle journey times/frequency
- j) Encourage behavioural shift
- k) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture

- l) Does not consider marine issues
- m) Increases greenhouse gas emissions
- n) Increases energy consumption
- o) Does not encourage renewable energy
- p) Damage/loss to habitats that capture carbon/water
- q) Reduces the extent/ holding capacity of floodplains
- r) Discourages active travel
- s) Increases polluting forms of transport
- t) Does not allow for adaptation to climate change

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 Framework Directive and other Directives that relate to water and it takes account of the future impacts of climate change.

Key Sustainability Issues for Water

- There were no water scarcity issues in Northern Ireland 2005 – 2015 and demand has decreased by almost 11% between 2009 and 2015.
- The lack of water supply is not considered likely to be a constraint to development in any of the settlements however measures to make more efficient use of water should be promoted.
- Constructed flood alleviation and defence measures are expensive and should be avoided.
- 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.
- There are benefits in retaining and restoring natural flood plains and natural watercourses as a form of flood alleviation.
- Climate change will increase the risk of flooding.
- Plan proposals should be compatible with the Flood Risk Management Plans published by Rivers Agency in December 2015.
- Two Significant Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs) are located in DCSDC, Derry/Londonderry SFRA and Strabane SFRA. Areas of Further Study for flood risk are Eglington, New Buildings, Ballymagorry, Sion Mills, Newtownstewart and Castlederg as well as Coolkeeragh Power Station.
- A safety issue arises because there are not currently legal requirements relating to impounded water therefore there are considered to be risks in potential inundation zones below reservoirs.
- By comparison to the rest of Northern Ireland surface water quality is generally high, this is reflected in designations to protect freshwater species and habitats in much of the council area.
- Freshwater angling, in particular for salmon, brown, trout and sea trout, and sea angling are important in DCSDC.
- There are shellfish protected waters at Longfield Bank and Balls Point in Lough Foyle.
- Emissions from development can impact on water quality and quantity.
- Development may lead to contaminated runoff which may cause pollution; the rate of surface water runoff may change or the capacity of a receiving watercourse may be altered which in turn has the potential to increase flood risk.
- Sustainable drainage SuDS measures should be incorporated and maintained in new development and redevelopment or regeneration schemes.
- Waste water generates the need for treatment of dirty water.
- The larger WWTWs generally have good capacity although there are constraints at some. There are significant constraints on WWTW provision for small settlements. This may limit or delay potential for development.
- Developments without access to mains sewers can incorporate sewage treatment on site but 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 long term.
- Other wastes may also cause pollution at the point where they are disposed of or utilised. Wastes from livestock, food processing or primary treatment such as sewage or anaerobic digestors have the potential to cause pollution elsewhere.

Appraisal Prompts for Water

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improve the quality of surface and ground water to meet objectives b) Lead to more efficient use of water c) Minimise risks from flooding d) Avoid the need for flood defence e) Protect or enhance floodplains f) Maintain water flows for good ecological quality g) Protect aquatic food resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> h) Reduce quality of surface and ground water i) Fail to meet water quality objectives j) Lead to waste of water k) Increase risks from flooding (now or in future) l) Risk creating a need for flood defence m) Reduce the extent or holding capacity of floodplains n) Water flows/temperature not suitable for good ecological quality. o) Unsustainable impacts on aquatic food 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 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 lessen the effects of climate change. This objective includes protecting and enhancing biodiversity as well as protection of green and blue infrastructure to enhance the services that natural resources provide.

Key Sustainability Issues for Natural Resources

- There are a significant number of nature conservation sites and some of these are shared with other Councils, which presents opportunities for partnership working for effective management.
- Marine planning and its associated obligations need to be appropriately considered within the Local Development Plan particularly as previous plans and frameworks may not have referred to coastal or marine matters.
- Country parks provide recreational access to the local countryside but tend to be most popular with locals and less popular with visitors to the area.
- There is a higher level of outdoors leisure in DCSDC than in the rest of Northern Ireland.
- Development pressure on the natural heritage exists from industry (energy), transport, agriculture and mining.
- Much natural heritage is associated with wetland habitats – riparian, estuarine and coastal.
- The River Foyle is a salmonid river but salmon stocks are declining.
- In the south west of the River Foyle there is a lack of access to the river.
- There are a significant number of patches of ancient woodland, native forests and dense tree cover across the Council but these are disconnected.
- A new Local Biodiversity Action Plan is due to be published with updated species and habitats, and threats to biodiversity.
- Existing green spaces need to be connected together and protected from other types of development.
- New developments and regeneration sites should include attractive design settings using functional green spaces that encourage people to reside.
- Local level blue/green infrastructure projects should continue to be invested in.
- Public access to the coast should be protected and where possible enhanced.

Appraisal Prompts for Natural Resources

Positive Effects

- Protect or enhance local biodiversity
- Protect or enhance existing or potential wildlife corridors
- Protect or enhance designated sites and their buffers
- Enable ecological connectivity between habitats
- Locally important sites and buffers are protected
- Protect/enhance/integrate blue/green infrastructure
- Protect or enhance open space
- Attract visitors/tourists to the country park
- Create attractive town setting for people to reside
- Support/provide ecosystem services
- Coastal erosion / marine issues are able to be managed/considered

Negative Effects

- Loss of local biodiversity
- Damage/interrupt existing or potential wildlife corridors
- Damage designated site and their buffers
- Locally important sites and buffers damaged
- Remove or damage blue/green infrastructure
- Block or remove access to B/GI or open space
- Reduce ecosystem services
- Lack of consideration of coastal/marine issues

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 Sustainability Issues for Landscape

- The Sperrins Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is the largest AONB in the country and is shared with other Councils, which presents opportunities for partnership working.
- The Sperrins with their elevated position are a key feature for many of the views from lower hills across the area.
- There is a need to work in partnership with other jurisdictions as sites are very often linked to each other through either perception or boundary.
- Hedgerow and stonewall boundaries are a feature of some low-lying areas and valleys.
- Forested areas and open moorland are typical of some of the valleys and higher areas.
- Development pressure from conifer plantations exists in the upland moorland areas of the north Sperrin Hills.
- Development pressure for housing exists in the low-lying areas of the valley floors.
- Development pressure for airport works, waste management and commercial/industrial facilities exists around the mudflats and floodplains of Lough Foyle.
- Development pressure from wind turbine development, commercial forestry and mining/quarrying exists in the West Tyrone Hills.
- Development pressure exists from transport along the river valley of the Foyle.
- Protection is required from development that may affect the sense of tranquillity and wildness of areas.
- Protection is required from development that may affect the dark sky resource.
- The Council may need to consider further local level detailed studies to complement RLCAs and to help manage local development pressures on landscape.

Appraisal Prompts for Landscape

Positive Effects

Negative Effects

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Minimise visual intrusion within the AONB b) Avoid visual intrusion of views to the AONB c) Protect the typical landscape features/settings of each area (LCAs, RLCAs) d) Protect the sense of tranquillity e) Protect the dark sky resource f) Consider the impacts of development (transport, agriculture, renewables) on local landscape g) Integrate new development with measures to protect and enhance local distinctiveness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> h) Increases visual intrusion of the AONB i) Detracts from the setting of prominent features and settlements j) Reduces protection of areas designated for landscape k) Reduces protection of the dark sky resource l) Detracts from views to the coast m) New development not integrated to protect and enhance local distinctiveness |
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14. The objective for sustainable development is to protect, conserve and enhance 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.

Key Sustainability Issues for Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

- Derry City and Strabane District Council has a wealth of Historic and Cultural Resources, including listed buildings, state monuments, historic gardens and demesnes and archaeological heritage. These assets contribute to the high quality environment that creates attractive places to live, invest in and visit.
- The Council area contains settlements 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.
- Heritage assets are at risk from neglect, decay and development pressure.
- Heritage crime is an issue in this Council area.
- Risks are presented by inappropriate development, enhancement or design that does not demonstrate an informed understanding of heritage asset and their settings.
- Traffic pollution is a contributing factor to erosion of historic environment assets.
- Appreciating the value of built heritage should also apply to new buildings, through understanding how new development will affect the setting of existing historic environment assets.
- The Historic City of Derry is considered an area of archaeological potential and contains many listed buildings and sites/monuments. Derry City's historic walls and the site at Ebrington Barracks to the East are scheduled zones and contain a number of state sites/monuments.
- Within all ATCs and Conservation Areas new development must preserve or enhance the character and appearance of these areas.
- The Council area has a rich industrial heritage both in the main settlements and also in rural locations.
- The Council area also has a rich defence heritage associated with World War II.
- There is evidence of incremental erosion of historical/architectural character and appearance within some of the designated Conservation Areas.
- There is ongoing loss of non-designated heritage assets such as historic farmsteads and buildings in the countryside, industrial and defence heritage, and historic shopfronts in some towns and settlement.
- Around half of respondents to the continuous household survey from DCSDC area stated that they had visited a museum or science centre in the last year.

Appraisal Prompts for Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

Positive Effects

- a) Protect and conserve the historic environment and cultural heritage
- b) Enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage
- c) Allow 'sense of place' to be conserved in townscape and rural settings
- d) Protect and enhance local distinctiveness
- e) Allow archaeological features to be assessed, recorded and preserved
- f) Preserve and enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets
- g) Support access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment
- h) Enable assessment of impacts of development on complex and extensive archaeological sites adjacent to settlements
- i) Provide opportunities for cultural activities

Negative Effects

- j) Loss of the historic environment and cultural heritage
- k) Lose 'sense of place' in townscape and rural settings
- l) Reduce local distinctiveness
- m) Archaeological features not assessed, recorded and preserved
- n) Damage the setting of cultural heritage assets
- o) Reduce access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment
- p) Impacts of development on complex and extensive archaeological sites adjacent to settlements not understood
- q) Decrease opportunities for cultural activities

