



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Mid Ulster District Council
Planning Department
Local Development Plan Team
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Principal Planning Officer
By Email Only

Date: 12.01.2021

Dear [redacted]

**Consultation on Derry and Strabane District Council Local Development Plan:
Draft Plan Strategy – Public Consultation on site specific policy
representations (counter representations)**

I write with reference to the above subject and further to your recent consultation in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 17 of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

We have worked closely with Derry and Strabane (DSDC) as well as with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, as part of our cross boundary development plan work within the Sperrins Forum. The forum has met on a number of occasions and have produced a Draft Statement of Common Ground, which details the main areas of common ground that all member councils share. It is hoped that the draft can shortly be agreed by the forum. The areas of common ground are:

- Protection of Landscapes;
- Management of Minerals Development;
- Sustainable Tourism;
- Road Linkages and Infrastructure;
- Sustaining Rural Communities/Accommodating Growth.

An examination of the representations submitted to your draft Plan Strategy has revealed that a number of them raise issues that have the potential to undermine the commitment of the Sperrins Forum to protect our most sensitive landscapes from inappropriate development.

Specially representations in the context of wind energy development raise concerns on the introduction of a Special Countryside Area (SCA) in the Sperrins, and request that this be reconsidered.

1-939-3-29-903

(I-A)

LDP-PS-REP-41 & LDP-PS-REP-115,
LDP-PS-REP-46
LDP-PS-REP-53 & LDP-PS-REP-117
LDP-PS-REP-63 & LDP-PS-REP-130

In addition, representations;

LDP-PS-REP-16
LDP-PS-REP-52
LDP-PS-REP-61

either raise concerns in relation to the Special Countryside Area (SCA) and/or the Area of High Landscape Importance (AHLI) designations in terms of its extent, or its introduction.

Within your draft Plan Strategy DSDC have designated a Special Countryside Area (SCA) in the High Sperrins and within the SCA, development will not be permitted unless in a limited number of circumstances. You have also designated an Area of High Landscape Importance (AHLI) which seeks to afford additional protection to our important landscape.

It is the view of Mid Ulster District Council that DSDC should designate an SCA and AHLI in the Sperrins AONB, which will protect our most sensitive landscapes from inappropriate development. How DSDC do this in terms of the extent of the designations, and timing of them, is considered a matter for your council.

We are supportive of the SCA and AHLI designations as they conform with the Draft Statement of Common Ground which recognises a need for the protection of our sensitive landscapes and environmental assets and, in particular, the integrity of the Sperrin AONB designation.

Mid Ulster District Council wish to avail of the opportunity for a hearing at the Independent Examination in the context of this counter-representation to the representations detailed above.

Should you wish to discuss this please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely,

Planning Manager