

Directorate Delivery Plan 2026/27

Environment & Regeneration

Derry City and Strabane District Council

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Section One: Directorate Profile / Summary

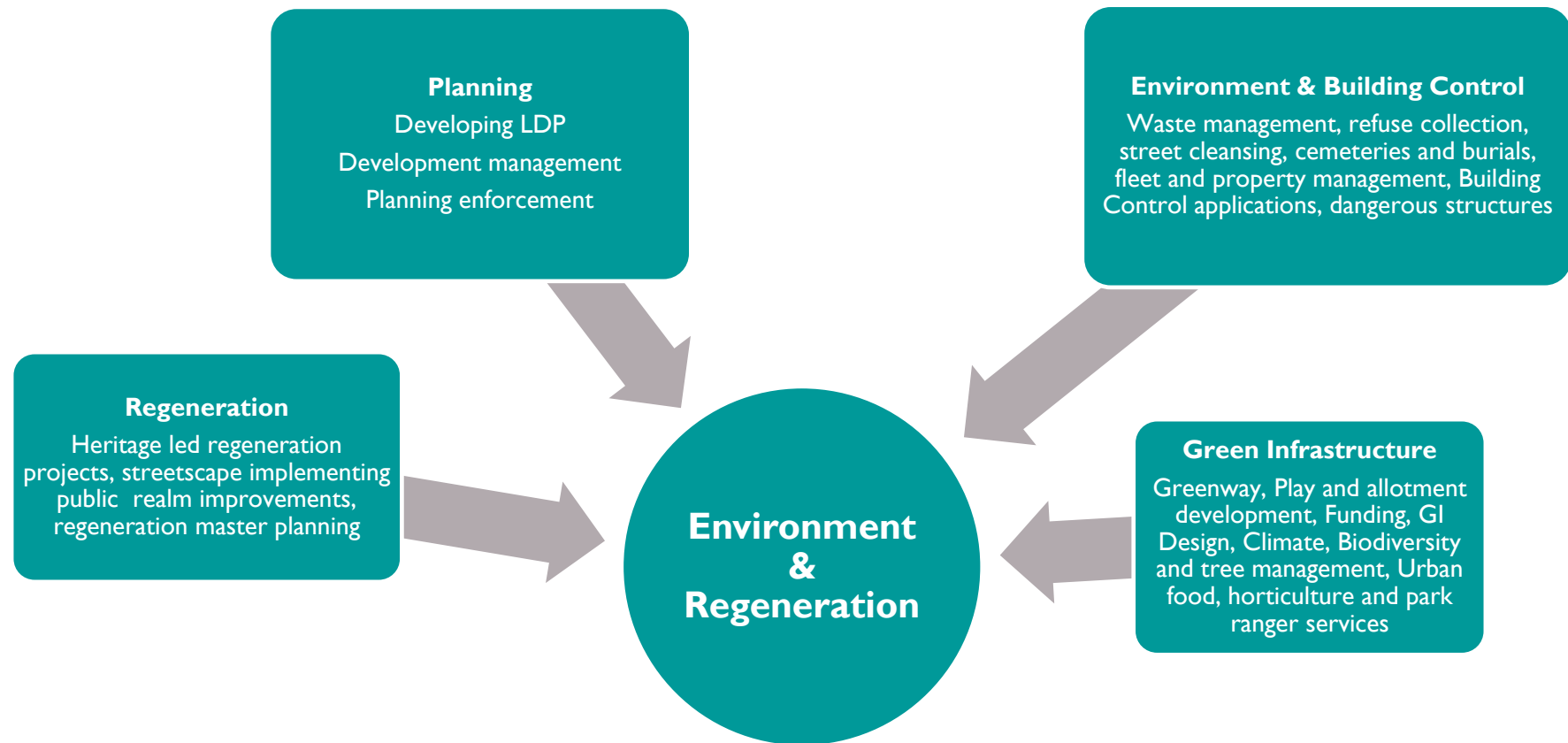
1.1 Purpose of Directorate

The Environment & Regeneration Directorate plays a key role in the delivery of the inclusive Strategic Growth Plan. The teams lead in strategies that will lead to the outcomes that we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment and we connect people and opportunities through infrastructure.

The Directorate leads on the development of the Local Development Plan which will contribute to the development of sustainable communities and to meet housing need. The Directorate also leads on the design and management of green spaces, on encouraging stronger environmental stewardship and on valuing and enhancing our environment and our built and natural heritage assets.

The Directorate also leads on pulling stakeholders together to ensure that we have a secure and affordable energy supply, that we move towards a zero waste circular economy and that we have more integrated, sustainable and accessible transport.

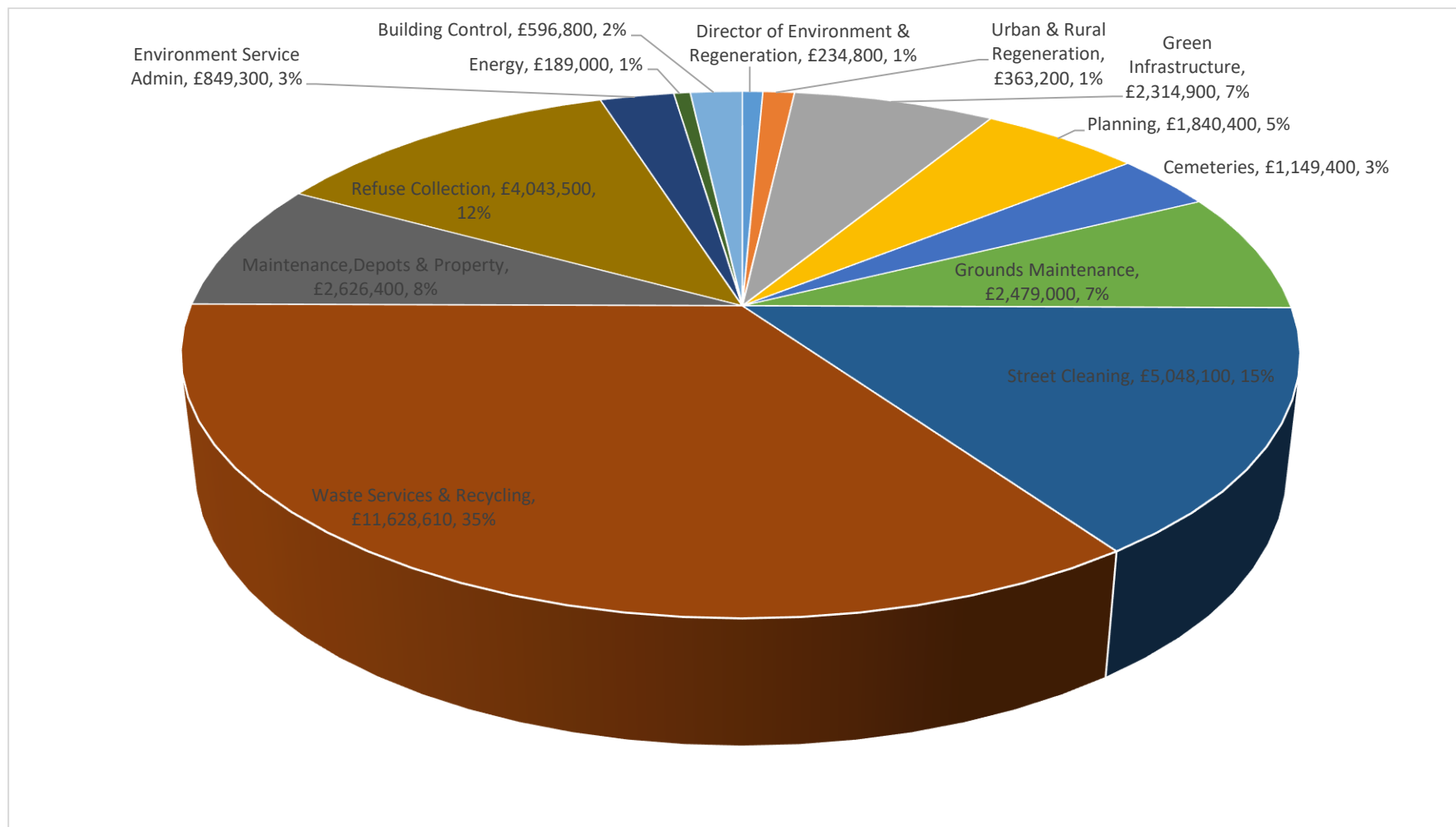
1.2 Services Provided



1.3 Summary of Resources

Financial Resources

The Directorate has a net budget of £33,363,410 representing 39.01% of the Council's overall net expenditure budget of £85,519,326 for the 2026/27 year. A breakdown of these resources by service area is provided in the diagram below.



Staff and Other Resources

- Building Control & Energy – 26 including 1 casual worker
- Planning – 40 including 1 agency worker
- Regeneration – 3
- Green Infrastructure - 23
- Environment – 365 including 39 casuals and 10 agency workers
- Director & Support – 2

Total = 459

Section Two: Achievements 2025/26

2.1 Highlights

Planning

Major/Strategic and Local Planning Permissions Granted in 2025/2026

Council Projects Approved

- New Greenway on the site of the former Ebrington Primary School
- 10 Nos. Additional car parking Spaces Mitchell Park Playing Fields, Castlederg
- Installation of car parking canopies with roof mounted solar panels at 4 Acorn Farm, St Columbs Road, Londonderry
- Installation of 50 No. 6-Metre-high columns and resurfacing of existing greenway path along Foyle Valley Greenway, 1 Foyle Road, Derry

- Public realm improvements including re-surfacing of existing footways with natural stone & concrete block paving, realignment and alterations to existing roads and car parking, upgrading of street furniture and associated landscaping in Strabane town centre.

Economically Significant Approvals

- Building to provide assembly area for recycling machinery, Campsey
- Battery Energy Storage System Magherakeel substation, Castlederg
- Replacement telecommunication tower, Maydown Industrial Estate
- 4 No Start Up Units to include one General Industry Use Class B3 Unit and three Storage and Distribution Use Class B4 Units and parking, Newbuildings Industrial Estate
- Light industrial building Strabane Business Park Melmount Road
- Erection of 1 building to facilitate Offices for Strabane Ambulance Station
- Proposed redevelopment lands at Meenan Square to provide a mixed-use regeneration scheme comprising community, commercial and retail uses with landscaped open space/'square' and amenity areas and associated car parking and service area with controlled access/egress via Westland Street and Meenan Square and alterations / upgrade of surrounding public footpaths, landscaping and parking spaces.
- Proposed upgrades to increase capacity at existing Culmore Wastewater Treatment Works, including 2 No. final settlement tanks, associated civil, mechanical and electrical infrastructure, temporary stock piling and construction compound on adjacent land, and landscaping works at Culmore Wastewater Treatment Works, Coney Road, Culmore.
- Wastewater Pumping Station Buncrana Road
- Additional waste streams approved at River Ridge Recycling, Electra Road, Londonderry.
- Change of use from office to teaching rooms and ancillary areas at Timber Quay Building for University of Ulster
- Student accommodation (281beds), Strand Road
- Proposed farm and equestrian (include animal feed) suppliers, in new purpose-built unit at the Former Robert Smith and Co (Derry) Ltd site 72-76 Glenshane Road, Drumahoe
- Erection of retail unit (Tesco) with associated service yard and car park on lands adjacent and to the West of Home Bargains, Unit 1, 11 Melmount Road, Strabane,

- Replacement retail unit including cafe/deli, ATM, petrol filling station, and car parking at Hamilton's Spar Strabane Road, Newtownstewart
- Petrol filling Station, Holdens Agriculture, Artigarvan, Strabane

Renewable energy approvals:

- 2x Replacement wind turbine Whitehouse Road, Castlederg,
- 248No. photovoltaic panels to the roof of existing Frylite buildings, Orchard Road Industrial estate Strabane
- Installation of 28 no. ground mounted solar PV panels Victoria Bridge, Strabane

Residential approvals:

- Residential development consisting of 161no dwellings and associated site works to include flood alleviation scheme at New Buildings.
- Residential development comprising 23 no. dwellings (mix of semi-detached & detached dwellings) Whitehouse Road, Derry
- Residential development comprising 15 units at Meadowview Park, Newtownstewart
- Four storey building consisting of 22 No. self-contained apartments and 1 No. commercial unit, Bridge Street Strabane
- Residential development comprising 8 no. social housing units at Meenan Square, Derry
- Reserved matters for full design/layout and enabling works for 259 No. affordable units at Springtown
- Reserved Matters for full design, layout, enabling works for 480 No. residential units, 7 No. retail units and associated service area in a single storey block, 2 No. three storey office blocks, communal open spaces including allotments, multi-use games area, landscaping, car parking on lands between Upper Galliagh Road, South of Beragh Hill Road, West of Beraghvale and North of Skeoge Link Road (A515) Derry.

Local Development Plan (LDP)

- Public consultation undertaken during March & April 2025, for the four technical assessment documents of the LDP – Habitats Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal, Equality EQIA and Rural Needs RNIA. The 4 documents were finalised and, along with the final version of the LDP Plan Strategy (PS), were approved by the Planning Cttee on 4th June 2025. That resolution was then formally approved by the Full Council at its meeting on 25th June 2025. The LDP Plan Strategy was formally adopted on 10th July 2025.
- Twenty-four Supplementary Planning Guidance documents (SPG) have been written, to support the implementation of the LDP Plan Strategy, with 18 of them having gone out to public consultation, ongoing from July 2025 to 2026.
- Capacity building sessions were delivered to Council Members and staff (up to end of May 2025) to assist on the the implementation of the LDP Plan Strategy, which has now become the prime policy document used in determining Planning applications. The implementation has been reviewed at 6 months.
- The formal commencement of preparation of the LDP Local Policies Plan (LPP) was publicly advertised in July 2025. The LDP Steering Group met in October 2025 and Project Management documents were considered, as well as a draft LDP Timetable and Workplan for the LPP preparation. Staff resources are being put in place for this LPP project. Methodology documents have been prepared and work initiated for some of the key topics of the LPP, namely Housing land, HMO Management Areas, Economic Development sites, Open Space land and Historic Environment sites.
- The Housing Monitor (HM) 2023-24 Report was completed and published online. The HM surveys were undertaken for the 2024-25 year and the Housing Monitor 2024-25 Report was also produced and published online. There is an ongoing monthly HMO Monitor, with monitoring tables of Planning applications and decisions throughout 2025-26.

- Ongoing management of the tree-protection system, administering Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and related queries and Tree Works Requests, in accordance with the Council's draft TPO Tree Strategy. From 1st April 2025 to end March 2026, 5 requests for new Provisional TPOs were processed, 2 TPOs were confirmed, 12 requests for Tree Works Consents were processed, and 145 Tree Queries were considered. Conservation Area meetings have been attended, and internal consultation advice has been issued on planning applications.

Implementation of Independent Planning Review 2025/2026

- The Independent Planning Review made 12 recommendations, which included 22 actions in total. To date 10 actions have been completed, 5 are ongoing, and 7 will be taken forward in 2026/2027.
- The most significant of the 9 actions completed has been the review of the Scheme of Delegation and the revised Protocol for the Operation of the Planning Committee.

Environment & Building Control

Environment

- Progressed with the development of new cemetery at Mullenan, works to complete March 2026. Maintained over 41,000 M² of land with 10 active and 20 historical cemeteries, to include burial services.
- Winner - APSE Waste, Recycling, and Circular Economy Innovation Awards - Local Authority Circular Economy - Sustainability at Derry Halloween
- Gold Award - Britain in Bloom – Small City, Ulster in Bloom – City Winner
- Completed maintenance in excess of 250,000M² on roadside grasslands and on over 55 football pitches equating to over 600,000.00 M² of groundworks. Maintained Synthetic pitches: 37 segments equating to over 90, 375 M² Secured sponsorship and completed maintenance to 30 roundabouts in and around the City & District.

- Maintained over 41,000 M² of land with our 10 active and 20 historical cemeteries, to include burial services. Resurfacing works to Cemeteries – at Tender Evaluation.
- Regularly serviced 1032 litter bins and 800 dog waste bins throughout the City & District. Carried out litter and detritus removal from over 1,100,942 linear m of kerb line. Completed street cleansing operations within City and Town centres 7 days per week 52 weeks of the year. Completed clean up operations after all the major events throughout the year, such as St Patrick's Day and Halloween.
- Refuse Collection including Bulky Waste Collection services provided across the city and district to domestic and business users to include 3.5 million bin collections, 120,000 Assisted Bin Collections and 18,300 Bulky Waste jobs completed.
- Ongoing promotional activity across all service areas with regard to anti – litter and fly tipping promotions, waste and recycling etc. Recycling centre pages still remain the most visited pages on the recycling website followed by bin collections and bulky lifts. Furthermore, users are staying on the website 31% longer.
- Circa 30 targeted campaigns of various sizes were delivered throughout the year to include Repair Week, Food Waste Action Week, Repair Week, Recycling Week, European Week of Waste Reduction utilising a number of tools such as traditional, digital, radio and out of home advertising to support waste reduction and best practice recycling.
- Implementation of reuse initiatives amongst Council staff such as clothing swaps & drop offs to promote clothing sustainability and to initiate a preloved consideration rather than buying new, to stimulate behavioural change
- Supporting initiatives delivered by Repair & Share Foyle through their Repair Cafes and any other reuse programmes that are in line with Council's objectives
- 1450 posts (images, reels, stories, videos) were published on social media garnering a reach of around 6.2M views for updates & recycling/waste related campaign messaging, representing an increase of 26% in engagement on previous year
- Profiling community clean ups and litter picks on social media and in press
- Launch of the Green Dog Walkers scheme and supported with the delivery of a dog fouling campaign to encourage responsible dog ownership

Building Control, Street Naming & Postal Numbering

- 3,627 Building Control Applications processed, 9,547 site inspections completed, 2,058 property Certificates Issued, 465 number Land and Property Services queries dealt with,
- 1866 requests for postal numbering and street naming requests processed, 187 New or replacement street signs erected,
- 40 number bilingual street name requests processed with circa 2861 residents consulted,
- 1 No. New Bus shelter installed as a replacement, 1 No Bus shelter refurbished and reallocated, 15 No. Bus Shelters refurbished on site, 3 No. Bus Shelters repaired due to storm damage.
- For the 11 months up to the end of February 2026, the Building Control Department received applications with a construction value of £180.5 million

Energy

- On Street Charging Project (EV)- Tender awarded works to commence March 2026 (Creggan, Irish Street, Shantallow)
- Derg Valley Internal LED light replacement complete
- Peace Bridge Lighting – at Tender Evaluation

Property / Compliance

- Completed maintenance works to council estate to include leisure centre, community centres, play areas etc

- Asset Management System (AMS) has developed into a corporate tool and is used daily by officers across all Directorates to Manage Maintenance, Certification, Premises Inspections, Play Park Inspections, Legionella, Contractor Control, Insurances, and the newly developed Health & Safety Hub.
- AMS is used as a means of reviewing certification in line with statutory obligations and relevant Codes of Practice in compliance with ISO 45001
- 700+ Assets listed to include Open spaces, Greenways, Pathways, Public Art, Skips etc.
- 160+ Assets includes certification management.
- 55+ Types of Certifications – Examples: EICR, Emergency Lighting, legionella, Fire alarms, Fire Fighting equipment, LOLER, Gas etc.
- 1625+ certificates on the system, averaging 180 Certificates monthly.
- 115+ ROSPA Safety Inspections annually.
- 95+ Contractors managed through Control of Contractor Procedures.
- Bi-annual Internal Property Inspections for 160+ Premises
- 6000+ Jobs managed annually
- Legionella Control averages 1800PPMs monthly

Green Infrastructure

GI Regeneration

- £6.2m UKLUF Acorn Farm Gate lodge complete (£0.5m) and Urban Farm at St Columb's Park progressing on site for summer 2026 completion
- Clooney Masterplan planning applications lodged and Area 1 approved

- Urban Skate Park designer appointed and draft concept plans engaged on with residents
- Boomhall Masterplan complete and presented to Council for endorsement.
- Top of the Hill Masterplan complete and presented to Council for endorsement.
- £1.2m Ballynagaard Community Park complete and allotment management arrangements in place.
- Funding secured to progress the development of 9 play areas across the district. Design development commenced.
- £3m Business Case secured for the REALM project in the Fountain/Bogside from TEO towards a phase 1 project cost of £6m.
- Planning approval secured for lighting projects at Drumahoe, Bay Road and Foyle Valley Parks and funding package of £1.44m secured from DfI Active Travel Fund and Council.
- Planning approval secured for the Acorn Farm Solar Market Place for a future Farmers Market in the city.
- Riverine Project (in conjunction with Donegal County Council) in Lifford and Strabane awarded €16.7 Million from SEUPB Peace Plus inclusive of a €660,000 engagement programme

GI Climate Action & Biodiversity

- UK Funded (£300,000) Net Zero Derry & Strabane Programme ongoing complete

- Derry & Strabane Sustainability & Climate Commission established (2 Additional cluster groups – Health/Community & Education) Vision & Roadmap complete
 - DCSDC Greenhouse Gas Emission Baseline and Mitigation Plan developed
 - DCSDC Responsible Procurement Strategy Developed
 - DCSDC Climate Screening Tool Developed
 - Community Climate Conversations complete(Support secured from Involve UK)
 - Climate Justice Modelling Report Complete
 - Green Investment Plan Complete
- Creative Ireland funded (€50,000 funding) Blueprint project delivered and showcase events held
 - Green Club (Peaceplus) programme funding secured £200,000 and projects underway 5 Clubs included in cohort 1
 - Lottery funded Artitude project secured further £1,099,320 of funding for stage II. Ongoing work as project partner with delivery during 2025/26.
 - Secured Shared Island Funding (Project completed)
 - Derg Valley Leisure Centre €18,105
 - Acorn Farm Solar Petal €50,000 and installed on site
 - Sigersons GAA €50,000
 - Shared Biodiversity Project – Donegal County Council Shared Island Funding – Funding secured (€11,000) Cross Border Schools Project
 - DAERA Public Body Report – Mitigation Report & Adaptation Report submitted

GI Services & Management

- Brooke Park – secured Green Flag & Heritage Award
- Retention of the Bronze Award from Sustainable Food Places for the City & District
- Acorn Farm Lead Horticulturalist appointed with external Lottery Funding through CFNI
- Ongoing Development of the Acorn Food Network, working in partnership with a wide range of public and private sector partners to further develop Council Area as a sustainable food place and continue to build the food movement within the city and district.
- Participation in NI Science Festival alongside Community Partners Acorn Farm programme ongoing partnership support and delivery of £2.0m funding from the Climate Action Fund Lottery Programme, in particular continuing to support the I Can Grow, I can Cook and Growing Challenges programmes.

Regeneration

- Completion of the £2.5m Covid Recovery Small Settlements Programme comprising delivery of environmental improvements, commercial façade painting schemes and active travel interventions across targeted rural settlements
- Contractor appointed for the DfC-funded £6m Strabane Public Realm Scheme (DFC funded), and delivery of two public engagement workshops with works commencing in May to strengthen connectivity between existing and proposed public realm and the town centre, and to upgrade pavements with high-quality materials and finishes.
- Appointment of design teams to advance the £650k PEACE+ funded heritage restoration and improvement projects for war memorials and historic cemeteries to include appointment of consultants to commence delivery of the respective community animation elements
- Appointment of consultants to prepare a Car Parking Capacity Study for Newtownstewart Town Centre

- Completion of the regeneration masterplan for the former Strabane Grammar School and advancement of key due diligence processes (legals, valuations, technical) as part of any proposed acquisition by project partners
- Progression of a conservation-led condition assessment for the Council-owned Mortuary Chapel at Derry City Cemetery
- Completion of Phase I designs for a Cathedral Quarter heritage-led façade painting scheme and submission of funding application for Phase II capital implementation
- Advancement of the Architectural Heritage Fund's Heritage Development Trust Programme working with lead partner Inner City Trust to identity and scope key heritage-led regeneration projects in Derry's Walled City to include the former Austins Department Store
- Funding secured and approvals sought to take forward a regeneration masterplan for identified lands at Gransha Estate with partners Department of Health and Choice Housing Association
- Completion of the Glenowen Taskforce, with the action plan delivered and ongoing engagement maintained with key stakeholders.

2.2 Progress Update

See appendix 2 Pentana Report.

Section Three: Improvement Planning and Performance 2026/27

The Directorate has set a number of improvement objectives for 2026/27 which aim to bring about improvement in one or more of the following improvement criteria:

- Strategic effectiveness (SE)
- Service quality (SQ)
- Service availability (SA)
- Fairness (F)

- Sustainability (S)
- Efficiency (E)
- Innovation. (I)

These improvement objectives may relate to improving the quality of life of our citizens (**outcome improvements**) and/or **service improvements** that will help bring about the delivery of more effective, quality and customer focussed services.

An overview of these objectives and the work we will be undertaking in 2026/27 is set out in paragraphs 3.1 – 3.3 below, under the headings of:

- 2026/27 Directorate Improvement Objectives (Outcome Improvement Objective, and Other Service Improvement Objectives)
- Mainstreaming the Equality and Disability Duties, Rural Needs and Climate Change
- Ending violence against women and girls, promoting child rights and tackling social deprivation.

Details of how we will deliver these commitments and monitor and measure progress/success are set out in paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6.

3.1 2026/27 Directorate Improvement Objectives

An overview of the outcome and/or service improvement objectives and how they relate to the Community/Corporate Plan is set out in the table below.

Planning

Community/Corporate Plan Objective	Directorate Outcome / Improvement Objective / Service Objective 2025/26	Link to Improvement Criteria **
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Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment	To meet the average processing times of local development management planning applications to meet Statutory KPI target of 15 weeks. Current processing time YTD 25/26 = 24.6 weeks	SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I
Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment	To improve the average processing times of major planning applications to meet target in line with Statutory KPI target of 30 weeks. Current processing time YTD 25/26 = 32.4 weeks.	SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I
Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment	To reduce the number of ongoing major planning applications that exceed 12 months plus by 10% - ongoing	SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I
Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment	To reduce the number of planning applications not concluded within 12 months. Current YTD 25/26 statistic is 42%	SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I
Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment	To meet the Statutory KPI target of 70% of Enforcement Case closures within 39 weeks. Current processing time for 25/26 is 62.7%	SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I
Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment	To reduce the number of ongoing Enforcement Cases that exceed 24 months by 10%. Qtr. 3 2024/25 YTD statistic is 46%	SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I
Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment	To progress the preparation of the LDP Local Policies Plan (LPP) in accordance with the agreed LDP Timetable & Workplan	SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I
Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment	To progress the process of a defined revision of the LDP Plan Strategy (PS) in accordance with the agreed LDP Timetable & Workplan	SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I

Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment	To assist implementation and monitoring of the LDP Plan Strategy policies / implementation and Planning criteria, in accordance with the agreed Monitoring procedures.	SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I
Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment	Manage Tree Preservation system & Conservation Areas	SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I
Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment	Implementation of current Planning Service Review – Take forward consideration the 7 remaining actions.	SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I
Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment	Implement & review Process for Quality of Submissions.	SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I

Environment & Building Control

Community/Corporate Plan Objective	Directorate Outcome / Improvement Objective / Service Objective 2024/25		Link to Improvement Criteria **
EB1	Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment	Increase the volume of waste recycled and composted further reducing the volumes of waste to landfill and increasing recycling rates.	SE, S, E
EB2	Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment	Achieve one number environmental award and prepare the city and district	S, SQ, E

EB3	Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment	Engage with communities to improve their local environments through community clean ups, litter picks, graffiti removal	SQ, SA, S
EB4	Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment	Continue with marketing and promotion of environment services, highlighting campaigns to encourage positive behavioural change.	S, E, SQ
EB5	Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment	Ensure that all Building Control applications are processing in accordance with performance standards providing high levels of customer service.	SE, SQ, SA, F, E
EB6	Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment	Take forward a number of invest to save energy schemes reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions.	SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E
EB7	Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment	Ensure that all Council properties and facilities remain in continuous compliance with statutory requirements and Councils 45001 Occupational Health and Safety System	SQ, E
EB8	Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment	Ensure that Councils Property and Fleet services provide effective and efficient services to end	SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E

		users providing high levels of customer service	
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Green Infrastructure

Community/Corporate Plan Objective	Directorate Outcome / Improvement Objective / Service Objective 2026/27	Link to Improvement Criteria **
Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live in sustainably protecting the environment	Complete the Acorn Farm £6.2m project	S,E
Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live in sustainably protecting the environment	Commence development of a GI Regeneration Masterplan for Prehen Playing Fields	S,E,F
Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live in sustainably protecting the environment	Secure one number environmental Award for the Service	S, SQ, E
Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live in sustainably protecting the environment	Obtain a green flag award and a green heritage accreditation for Brooke Park.	S, SQ
Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live in sustainably protecting the environment	Continue to facilitate the Derry & Strabane Sustainability & Climate Commission and associated action plans	

Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live in sustainably protecting the environment	Deliver DCSDC Climate Change Strategy & Associated Climate Action Plan (Adaptation & Mitigation, Responsible Procurement & Climate Screening)	
Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live in sustainably protecting the environment	Review and Update City & District Green Infrastructure Plan	
Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live in sustainably protecting the environment	Implement the Invasive Species Management Plan	

Regeneration

Community/Corporate Plan Objective	Directorate Outcome / Improvement Objective / Service Objective 2026/27	Link to Improvement Criteria **
RG1 - Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment	Develop regeneration/heritage/conservation-led masterplans and other urban design frameworks eg District Heritage Plan; Newtownstewart Town Centre Regeneration Framework; Sion Mills Regeneration Masterplan; Former Strabane Grammar School Site Regeneration Masterplan; Gransha Lands Regeneration Masterplan etc	SE, S
RG2 - Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment	Protect & promote our natural and built heritage assets; Targeting 'heritage at risk' buildings and sites	SE, SQ, S, E, I

RG3 - Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment	Progress the development of regionally/district-wide significant regeneration sites eg, Boom Hall, Walled City, Strabane Canal Basin/Town Centre; Gransha Lands	SE, S,
RG4 - Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment	Deliver area-based City/Town/Village centre regeneration projects including Revitalisation shopfront improvements; rural settlement commercial façade upgrades; streetscape environmental improvement schemes; public realm audits; retail/commercial vacancy audits; targeting derelict sites/'heritage at risk' properties	SE, SQ, S, E
RG5 - Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment	Continued coordination, design and delivery of urban and rural regeneration working in partnership with key stakeholders	SE, S, F

3.2 Outcome Improvement Objective

Objective	To create a greener, cleaner more attractive district <u>Sub-Objectives</u> • To protect and promote our natural and built assets • To protect and enhance our environment
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Lead Officer	Director of Environment & Regeneration
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Why we have selected this objective
This improvement objective relates directly to the Strategic Growth Plan objective that we live sustainably – protecting the environment, under the theme of Physical and Environmental Regeneration. This was a key theme that emerged during the significant engagement process carried out as part of the development of the Strategic Growth Plan. The improvement objective will allow us to pull together the actions that will demonstrate that we are protecting and enhancing our local environment and the partnership approach that we have taken to maximise effect.

What benefits citizens will see: Target Outcomes to be achieved in 2026/27
• Developing an enhanced public realm and built environment • The development of additional greenways for active travel and modal shift • A reduction in the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill and increase in circular economy initiatives • An increase in the percentage of household waste recycled and composted

What actions are we taking to make a difference in 2026/27
• We will progress the delivery of regeneration plans and projects such as restoration of war memorials • We will complete the development of a new strategic West Bank cemetery for Derry City and progress improvements to other existing cemeteries

3.3 Mainstreaming the Equality and Disability Duties, Rural Need, and Climate Change

The Directorate is committed to embedding children's rights by deliberately and systematically using children's rights in the language it uses, staff training and development and integrating rights thinking into service development and delivery. The Directorate will protect Children's Rights in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and locally work together with other children's authorities and children's services providers, adhering to the Children's Service Cooperation Act (NI 2015), working together to improve the wellbeing of children and young people in manner that upholds and recognises their rights. The Directorate are actively encouraging the implementation of A Child Rights Based Approach (CRBA) in relation to how the Directorate and Council works with children and young people in future. There are seven principles to a Child Rights based approach with participation of children and young people at the centre of this approach. The Directorate is committed to mainstreaming equality and its disability duties.

The Directorate is committed to fulfilling its Section 75 and Disability Duties and promoting equality of opportunity and good relations.

The Directorate is committed to ensuring that rural needs are considered and addressed.

The Directorate leads on the development and implementation of Council strategies and policies to tackle climate change.

3.4 Ending violence against women and girls, promoting child rights, and tackling social deprivation.

The Directorate is leading on initiatives to improve lighting in parks and to ensure that public realm and public spaces feel safe.

3.5 Improvement Delivery Plan

In order to deliver our Directorate outcome and/or service improvement objectives we have identified a number of key activities, as set out below. These actions represent part of the work that will be progressed by the Directorate during 2026/27.

Planning

Ref	Directorate Outcome/ Service Improvement Objective	Key Activities/Actions/Sub-actions/milestones	Target Date	Lead Officer
1	Meet the average processing times of local development management planning applications to meet Statutory KPI target of 15 weeks. Current processing time for YTD 2025/2026 24.6 weeks	Staff performance reports will be completed and reviewed on a weekly basis. Staff Group Meetings to be held monthly with PPTO. Management will review and manage staff caseloads.	March 2027	Suzanne McCracken
2	Improve the average processing times of major planning applications by 10% in line with Statutory KPI target of 30 weeks. Current processing time for YTD 2025/26 is 32.4 weeks.	Weekly staff performance reports to be reviewed. Staff will engage in monthly Group Staff Meetings with PPTO. Management will review and manage staff caseloads with a focus on major applications 12 months plus.	March 2027	Suzanne McCracken
3	Reduce the number of ongoing major planning applications that exceed 12 months plus by 10%.	Key timelines will be identified and managed to reduce processing times for major planning applications.	March 2027	Suzanne McCracken

		Focused review on managing staff caseloads that exceed 12 months.		
4	Reduce the number of planning applications not concluded within 12 months. Qtr. 3 2025/2025 YTD statistic is 42%	Planning applications exceeding 12 months will be identified and key timelines agreed. Individual staff caseloads will be reviewed and managed.	March 2027	Suzanne McCracken
5	Meet the Statutory KPI target of 70% of Enforcement Case closures within 39 weeks. Current processing time 2026/2026 YTD is 62.7%	Staff will complete weekly performance reports. Staff will continue to engage in monthly Group Meetings with PPTO. Individual staff caseloads will be reviewed and monitored.	March 2027	Suzanne McCracken
6	Reduce the number of ongoing Enforcement Cases that exceed 24 months by 10%. Qtr. 3 2025/2026 YTD statistic is 46%	Enforcement Cases exceeding 24 months will be identified and key timelines agreed.	March 2027	Suzanne McCracken
7	Progress the preparation of the LDP Local Policies Plan (LPP)	Agree/Publish revised LDP Timetable, Workplan with resources in place. Publish Planning's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Initiate Sustainability Appraisal (SA – procure consultants) & Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA by SES) Progress the Call for Sites consultation exercise	June 2026 June 2026 July 2026 July 2026	Suzanne McCracken

		Complete Settlement Appraisals / Reports	Sept 2026	
		Identify & map LPP sites for i) Housing, & ii) Economic Development	March 2027	
		Progress LPP sites identification & mapping for: iii) Open Space, iv) Built Heritage, v) Natural Environment, vi) Transportation, and Settlement Reports	March 2027	
8	Progress the process of a defined revision of the LDP Plan Strategy (PS) .	Agree scope and terms for the defined amendment of the LDP Plan Strategy (PS)	May 2026	Suzanne McCracken
		Agree the PS revision process within the LDP timetable, work plan and resources.	June 2026	
9	Assist implementation and monitoring of the LDP Plan Strategy policies / implementation and Planning criteria, in accordance with the agreed Monitoring procedures.	Progress Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) documents, including public consultations	March 2027	
		Review implementation of LDP PS policies.	March 2027	
		Set up the Monitoring System of key LDP Indicators		
		Undertake the Monitoring of: Urban Housing, Rural houses, HMOs, Economic Development, Sperrin AONB, Environment and other key LDP Indicators – as is agreed.	April 2026	
			March 2027	

10	Manage Tree Preservation system & Conservation Areas	Timely management of TPO queries, requests for Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and Tree Works Requests, in line with agreed TPO processes. Timely management of Conservation Areas – consultations, Weekly / Monthly staff Performance Reports to be completed, plus LDP Team Meetings held.	March 2027	Suzanne McCracken
11	Implementation of current Planning Service Review	Progress remaining actions	March 2027	Suzanne McCracken
12	Implement and Review Process for Quality of Submissions	Implement Quality Submission process Review validation process at 6 months	June 2027 March 2027	Suzanne McCracken

Environment & Building Control

Ref	Directorate Outcome/ Service Improvement Objective	Key Activities/Actions/Sub- actions/milestones	Target Date	Status	Lead Officer
EB125	Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment	Complete a number of energy reduction schemes across the Council estate to include retrofitting of LED lighting within buildings, heating control systems, installation of pool covers and smart motors with HAV systems	March 2026	Number of LED lighting schemes complete. Pool covers ongoing	Conor Canning
EB225	Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment	Draft and prepare for issue a tender with regard to the provision of Electric Vehicle charge points at Council properties across the City and District	March 2026	Working group established. Scoping exercise underway.	Conor Canning
EB325	Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment	Achieve at least 1 number environmental award across Streetscape services	March 2026	Complete	Conor Canning
EB425	Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment	Engage community organisations in a range of environmental projects to include community clean ups, litter picks etc	March 2026	Complete	Conor Canning
EB525	Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment	To respond to and investigate all incidents of indiscriminate dumping taking action as appropriate	March 2026	Complete & Ongoing	Conor Canning
EB625	Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live	Ensure that council properties and facilities remain in constant compliance with all statutort	March 2026	Complete & Ongoing	Conor Canning

	sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment	requirements and Councils Occupational Health and Safety System - 45001			
EB725	Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment	Ensure that all Building Control applications are processed in a timely manner ensuring high levels of customer service.	March 2026	Complete & Ongoing	Conor Canning
EB825	Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment	Ensure that Councils Property and Fleet services provide effective and efficient service to service users ensuring high levels of customer service.	March 2026	Complete & Ongoing	Conor Canning

Green Infrastructure

Ref	Directorate Outcome/ Service Improvement Objective	Key Activities/Actions/Sub-actions/milestones	Target Date	Lead Officer
GI1	Secure Planning Permission for the Clooney Masterplan (Area 2)	Secure Planning Permission	April 27	MF
GI2	The Realm –work with Design & Project Management to appoint a design team to progress design development.	RIBA Stage 3 Designs complete using in-house GI Designer	Dec 26	CK
GI3	Complete Acorn Farm £5.7m UKLUF Project	Complete project and open to the public	Sept 26	CK
GI4	Complete Phase 2 of the Castle Derg Public Realm	Complete project and open to the public	August 26	CK

GI5	Delivery of lighting schemes for at Bay Road, Drumahoe and Foyle Valley.	Complete projects and open to public	March 27	MF
GI6	Masterplan Plan for Crawford Square	Complete historic regeneration plan for Crawford Square and engage with local residents.	Dec 26	CK
GI7	Creggan Burn Park (Phase 2) completion	Lodge Planning Application	June 26	MF
GI8	Top of The Hill Masterplan	Present to Members for sign off at Committee and share wider for feedback	April 26	MF
GI9	Strabane- Sion Greenway	Submit Planning Application for Phase 1 up to RIBA 3, identify landowners and engage.	June 26	CK
GI10	Acorn Farm	Lodge revenue funding application to Lottery for programme costs with partners	Sept 26	CK
GI11	Strabane Urban Skate Park	Engage with local residents and present final plan to Committee for endorsement.	Oct 26	CK
GI12	Ballyfattan Project	Design proposal and consult on the future use of the old pitch following community engagement	Oct 26	MF
GI13	Clady & Sperrin Play complete	Complete 2 of the 9 play areas this financial year	Oct 26	MF
GI14	Progress with design and delivery of Rosstowney Play Park,	Appoint ICT to be procured upon completion of design and preparation of full tender package.	Sept 26	MF
GI15	Progress with design and delivery of Currynrierin Community Park,	Issue single stage tender package ICT(PQQ&IIT) and appoint ICT. IST to be procured upon completion of design and preparation of full tender package.	Sept 26	MF
GI16	Progress with design and Delivery of Hazelbank Play Park	ICT to be commissioned to design and submit planning application. Additional surveys to be	Sept 26	MF

		commissioned to support the planning application.		
GI17	Prehen Play Park	Undertake feasibility work to identify a suitable site in the Prehen playing fields. Engage with steering group and H&C and design to RIBA stage 3	April 27	MF
GI18	Carlton Drive Play Park	Undertake feasibility work for the identified site and design to RIBA stage 3 engage with steering group and local community. Commence land acquisition.	April 27	MF
GI19	Glenowen Play Park	Undertake feasibility work to identify a suitable site in the Glenowen/Creggan areas for a play park and design to RIBA stage 3. Engage with steering group and local community.	April 27	MF
GI20	Carnhill Play Park	Undertake feasibility work for the identified site and design to RIBA stage 3 engage with steering group and local community. Commence land acquisition.	April 27	MF
GI21	Irish Street (Phase 3) plans	Lodge Planning Application for Phase 3 to include a reduced MUGA, paths and environmental improvements	December 26	MF
GI22	Adria site Play Park handover	Provide supervisory support for play park installation and handover to Council	Sept 26	MF
GI23	Appoint Horticulture Team to manage Acorn Farm	Appointed x 3 staff as Horticulturalists		EB
GI24	Implementation an interpretation strategy for Acorn farm	Consultant to be appointed, strategy to be agreed and implemented on site	August 26	CB

GI25	Brooke Park – Green Flag Award and Heritage Accreditation from Keep NI Beautiful	Secure Award	August 26	EB
GI26	Appoint Reservoir Engineer	Appoint Officer to coordinate the management of Creggan Reservoir	August 26	CK
GI27	Bronze award from Sustainable Food places	Retention of Bronze Award	March 27	EB
GI28	Play Area Repair Programme for play areas	Complete ongoing works	August 26	EB
GI29	Revisit and modify community engagement and animation plan for Riverine Project	Continue to update and agree revised plan with SEUPB in line with projected completion dates	March 27	EB
GI23	Develop an education programme for primary schools in Acorn Farm	Aim to engage with 15 schools throughout the city and district	March 27	EB
GI24	Complete & Implement Climate Change Strategy	Draft document developed and subject to committee approval	June 26	CB
GI25	Complete & Implement Climate Mitigation Plan	Draft document developed and subject to committee approval	June 26	CB
GI26	Complete & Implement Climate Adaptation Plan	Current plan to be reviewed, updated and subject to committee approval	July 26	CB
GI27	Complete Responsible Procurement Strategy	Draft document developed and subject to committee approval	June 26	CB
GI28	Finalise Sustainability & Climate Commission Delivery Framework & Continue to facilitate governance and programme	Complete Commission Governance arrangements agreed	June 25	CB
GI29	Review & Update Invasive Species Management Plan	Commence review of plan	June 26	CB

GI30	Review and Update City & District Green Infrastructure Plan & Renew Stakeholder Group	Commence review document & liaise with stakeholders	Sept 26	CB
GI31	Implement All Ireland Pollinator Plan initiatives	Review current programme and update Ongoing	June 26	CB

Regeneration

Ref	Directorate Outcome/ Service Improvement Objective	Key Activities/Actions/Sub-actions/milestones	Target Date	Lead Officer
RG1	Deliver and complete the capital implementation and community animation phases of the PEACE+ funded Historic Cemeteries restoration project targeting 6 sites in the DCSDC area	Initiate procurement exercise for main contractor; complete works; complete community animation and engagement activities	March 2027	Tony Monaghan
RG2	Deliver and complete the capital implementation and community animation phases of the PEACE+ funded War Memorials Conservation-led Maintenance Project restoration project targeting 4 memorials in the DCSDC area	Initiate procurement exercise for main contractor; complete works; complete community animation and engagement activities	March 2027	Tony Monaghan
RG3	Secure a package of funding under DfC's Shaping Sustainable Places Programme when launched in 2026/27	Liaison with funders; Preparation of draft action plan; Secure Committee approval; Stakeholder engagement; Secure funding	March 2027	Tony Monaghan

RG4	Support the continued delivery of the Architectural Heritage Fund's Heritage Development Programme with lead project partner Inner City Trust - targeting restoration of identified heritage buildings in Derry City Centre	Provide technical advice/input; Attend Project Steering Group meetings; Report relevant updates to Committee	March 2027	Tony Monaghan
RG5	Secure funding for phase II capital implementation of the Cathedral Quarter conservation-led façade painting scheme in identified streets within Derry's Cathedral Quarter	Secure funding from DfC; Initiate engagement with property owners; Appoint contractor; Commence works	March 2027	Tony Monaghan
RG6	Secure funding to commission phase I design stage for a streetscape environmental improvement scheme in Foyle Street	Liaison with funder; secure funding; appoint design team; Commence Phase I designs; Stakeholder engagement	March 2027	Tony Monaghan
RG7	Consider site purchase options for the joint acquisition of the former Strabane Grammar School site as part of the agreed regeneration masterplan	Ongoing engagement with co-partners Clanmil HA and Strabane Rugby FC; Continued liaison with site owner (EA); Confirm site purchase options; Secure Committee/Council approval on preferred option; Commence acquisition process	March 2027	Tony Monaghan
RG8	Coordinate delivery of Phase I design process in respect of the City Deals-funded Strabane Public Realm & Enabling Works project	Coordination of appointed design team; Stakeholder engagement; Preparation of design concepts	March 2027	Tony Monaghan

RG9	Coordinate delivery of Phase I design process in respect of the City Deals-funded Walled City Public Realm & Lighting Project	Appointment of design team; coordination of appointed design team; Stakeholder engagement; Preparation of design concepts	March 2027	Tony Monaghan
RG10	Support the capital delivery element of the Strabane Town Centre Public Realm Scheme	Ongoing engagement with local stakeholders; Regular liaison with funder; Input to Project Board Meetings; Engagement with design team/contractor; Report updates to Committee	March 2027	Tony Monaghan
RG11	Scope and identify funding options to progress phase I design stage for the following projects; (i)Derry City Centre Pedestrian Wayfinding; (ii) City Walls Cannons & Carriages Conservation Maintenance Programme (iii) Lower Fountain Hill Environmental Improvement Scheme	Engagement with funder; secure funding; commission design teams for the funding approved projects	March 2027	
RG12	Deliver a conservation-led façade lighting scheme at Newtownstewart Castle	Secure statutory consents; Appointment of contractor; Completion of works	December 2026	Tony Monaghan
RG13	Commission and complete conservation-led lighting design options for 4 no. City Walls Gates	Complete design options; Stakeholder engagement; Secure statutory consents; Secure funding; Commence Phase II capital implementation	March 2027	Tony Monaghan
RG14	Coordinate and support the delivery of the Newtownstewart Town Centre Regeneration Framework	Establish DCSDC/statutory agency delivery group; Coordinate local stakeholder group; Schedule meetings; Scope external funding opportunities to support delivery	March 2027	Tony Monaghan

RG15	Coordinate the District Built Heritage Stakeholder Group as a key output of the DCSDC Heritage Plan 2022-27	Convene stakeholders quarterly as a key network and communications forum; identification of actions and follow-up with relevant partners	March 2027	Tony Monaghan
RG16	Commence & coordinate regeneration-led masterplan for Gransha lands with partners Dept of Health, Choice Housing Association & NIHE	Convene & coordinate Project Steering Group; Undertake initial technical due diligence; Appoint Integrated Consultancy Team to commence the regeneration masterplan	March 2027	Tony Monaghan
RG17	Coordinate the Following Council-led Task Forces (a) Austins Department Store (b) Glenowen Estate (c) Fountain Dereliction	Coordinate & organise meetings; coordinate and assign follow-up actions; engage with statutory and local stakeholders	March 2027	Tony Monaghan
RG18	Commission and complete a feasibility study to scope/identify the regeneration options for the Council-owned former Mortuary Chapel at Derry City Cemetery	Initiate procurement process to appoint specialist consultants; Stakeholder engagement; Update Committee; Complete feasibility study	March 2027	Tony Monaghan

3.6 Measures of Success and Performance

During 2026/27 we will continue our work to establish baseline and benchmarking information in order to promote continuous improvement. The following performance indicators/measures and targets have been identified for 2026/27.

Planning

Outcome / Service Improvement Objective Reference	Performance Measure/Indicator	2021/22 Performance	2022/23 Performance	2023/24 Performance	2024/25 Performance	2025/26
	Improve average processing time of Local Planning Applications based on DFI Statutory target of 15 weeks	15.6	21	23.4	20.7	*24.6
	Improve average processing time of Major Planning Applications based on DFI Statutory target of 30 weeks	51.3	78	68.6	55	*32.4
	Improve conclusion times of enforcement cases by ensuring 70% of cases concluded in 39 weeks	77.9	Not available due to portal migration	75.0	83.3	*62.7%
	Total number of major and local applications received	1065	802	756	667	*451

- Based on most recent DFI YTD statistical information as end of year stats not available until Apr 26.

Environment & Building Control

Outcome / Service Improvement Objective Reference	Performance Measure/Indicator	2020/21 Performance	2021/22 Performance	2022/23 Performance	2023/24 Performance	2024/25 Performance	2025/26 Performance
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Building Control							
BC1	Total number of applications processed by Building Control	3439	4195	4196	3897	3136	3833
3energy							
EN1	Energy Consumption (Kwhrs)	19,000,000	15,896,210	18,828,343	17,616,142 *	17,522,00**	16,528,000
	Energy Consumption (Value)	N/A***	£972,610	£1,175,053	£1,934,145*	£2,2m**	£2.06m
Waste							
ES 1	Percentage of household waste arisings sent for preparing for reuse an recycling (including composting)	46.1	46.9	46	48.2	51%*	49.69%*
ES 2	Biodegradable local authority collected municipal waste sent to landfill (tonnes) - reduce	4,802	5,347	5,310	4,076	4,216*	5,988.53*
ES 3	Total amount of local authority collected waste which has been collected by a district council	83,989	83,540	79,114	81,027	62,898*	83,236.41*

*Subject to year end verification

Section Four: Risk Management

4.1 Risk Register

A summary of the Directorate's Risk Register has been attached as Appendix 3.

Section Five – Contact Details

5.1 Staff Contacts

Senior Management

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5.2 Facilities / Office Details

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