

Ref: EIR / 6237

04th March 2026

Environmental Information Regulations Request - Designated Distinctive Areas

I refer to your Freedom of Information request of 4th February 2026. As your request relates to environmental information, it has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Request

Please can you provide me details of all areas within Borough that have been designated as distinctive coastal areas or distinctive townscape areas along with the assessment undertaken to determine them as such. This is not to be confused with ATCs.

Response

The Council does hold this information. Derry City & Strabane District Council has recently adopted the first part of our Local Development Plan (LDP), the LDP Plan Strategy (PS) – which identify in principle, our various strategic designations. The second part of the LDP, the LDP Local Policies Plan (LPP) will be prepared over the next few years, and it is this LPP that will show the boundaries of all our designations and zonings on maps.

Please see the adopted LDP Plan Strategy, which is already publicly available, at:

www.derrystrabane.com/getmedia/a1974c5e-68ce-4db6-812c-871b208a7a16/DC-SDC-LDP-Plan-Strategy,-Print-friendly,-Adopted-10th-July-2025.pdf

The new LDP will not have any designations called 'distinctive coastal areas'. Chapter 22 deals with Coastal Development and paras. 22.6 and 22.9 explain the proposed

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coastal designations. There will also be an LDP designation called 'Areas of High Landscape Importance' (AHLIs), some of which are along the coast; see paras 6.19 and 6.20 & Map 2.

The existing Derry Area Plan (DAP) 2011, which is also publicly available and whose maps/designations still apply in the interim period, also contains a number of designations that protect the countryside, some of which are along the coast; see Map 1 in the Map Library (on rhs) at:

https://wayback.archive-it.org/11112/20190702145748/https://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/dev_plans/devplans_az/derry_2011.htm

I trust that this provides you with the information you require.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes.

Firstly, our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

John Kelpie
Chief Executive
Derry City and Strabane District Council
98 Strand Road
Derry BT48 7NN
Tel: 028 71253253 or email: john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
CHESHIRE SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: casework@ico.org.uk

I would however advise that the Information Commissioner has indicated that a review will not be undertaken unless the Council has first had an opportunity to reconsider its decision.

Yours sincerely

P McCaughey
Principal Planning Officer
Local Development Plan