Outlook

DCSDC LDP Plan Strategy Revision Consultation

From DAERA Development Plan Team <DevelopmentPlanTeam@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Date Mon 28/09/2026 15:23
To Local Development Plan <ldp@derrystrabane.com>
Cc DAERA Development Plan Team <DevelopmentPlanTeam@daera-ni.gov.uk>

1 attachment (149 KB)
DAERA Response DCSDC LDP Plan Strategy Revision Consultation.DOCX;

Good afternoon,

Please find attached the DAERA response to DCSDC LDP Plan Strategy Revision Consultation.

Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Development Plan Team

Counrtyside, Coast and Landscapes

Northern Ireland Environment Agency

DAERA

Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED

Contact : DevelopmentPlanTeam@daera-ni.gov.uk

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NIEA Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann
Norlin Airlan Environment Agency
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

An Agency within the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Gníomhaireacht de chuid na Roinne Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe
An Agency wi'in the Depairtment o Fairmin, Environment an' Kintra Matthers
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Development Plan Team
DAERA – NIEA
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Belfast
BT3 9ED

DevelopmentPlanTeam@daera-ni.gov.uk

28/09/2026

Proinsias McCaughey
Principal Planning Officer,
Local Development Plan Team
Derry City and Strabane District Council

Dear Mr. McCaughey,

Re: Derry City & Strabane District Council LDP Plan Strategy Revision (PS-R) Preferred Options Paper (POP) and Integrated Assessments.

Thank you for your e-mail dated 9th September 2026 regarding the Derry City & Strabane District Council LDP Plan Strategy Revision (PS-R) Preferred Options Paper (POP) and Integrated Assessments. The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA) has considered the consultation and associated documents, and our opinions are set out below.

Natural Environment Division (NED) Comments

NED are generally content with the approach to the updated sustainability appraisal incorporating SEA for the PS-R. We acknowledge that this is the 3rd Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal Reports of the draft Plan Strategy and should be read in conjunction with the previous Scoping Reports, as updated.

We note the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping assessment document that the initial screening and assessment conclude that the PS-R options to the Plan Strategy would not result in any new significant effects. We are content that the conclusions of the 2019 Sustainability Appraisal Report and the SA Addendum Reports No. 1 and No 2 as stated remain unchanged and the overall impact of the Plan Strategy is a finding of no likely significant effects on society economy and the environment.

We note the assessments finding that impacts in relation to European sites have not changed since the final PS HRA assessment of 2025 and the subsequent conclusion that the proposed revision would not substantially alter the assessment and conclusions of the adopted LDP Plan Strategy HRA.

Relevant baseline information sources for biodiversity in Northern Ireland include:

Northern Ireland State of the Environment Reports: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/state-environment-report-2013

Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Reports: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-environmental-statistics-report

The State of Nature Northern Ireland 2023
TP26055-SoN-N_Ireland-summary-report-v4-1.pdf

DAERA (2026) Habitats Regulation General Implementation Report for the Reporting Period 2019-2024 Northern Ireland
https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/habitats-regulations

Habitats Regulations Reporting is six yearly reporting on our most important habitats and species. It replaces reporting under Article 17 and Article 12 of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive) and EU Directive on the conservation of wild birds (2009/147/EC) (Birds Directive) respectively.

Other relevant web-links are;

Designated Scientific Sites: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/protected-areas

Regional Landscape Character Map viewer: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/regional-landscape-character-areas-map-viewer

DAERA have a map browser for NI protected sites and known priority habitat:
www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/natural-environment-map-viewer

Our natural environment datasets are available at the link below:
www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/download-digital-datasets

It may be worth including the following plans and programmes:

- The Northern Ireland Environmental Principles Policy Statement (EPPS) NI Environment Principles Policy Statement | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
- The Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 (as amended)
- Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011
- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended)

- The Environment (NI) Order 2002
- The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017
- The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) for Northern Ireland
- Planning Policy Statements (PPS – in particular PPS2 and PPS18). It should be noted that the PPS's will be superseded by Local Development Plans when they are adopted.
- Biodiversity Strategy for NI to 2020 https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/biodiversity-strategy-northern-ireland-2020-0
- The Draft Green Growth Strategy Consultation on the draft Green Growth Strategy for Northern Ireland | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)
- Draft Nature Recovery Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2032 Draft Nature Recovery Strategy - Extended Consultation Period | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
- Environmental Improvement Plan Environmental Improvement Plan for Northern Ireland | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
- Northern Ireland Energy Strategy 2050 Northern Ireland Energy Strategy 2050 | Department for the Economy (economy-ni.gov.uk)
- DfE (2025) Offshore Renewable Energy Action Plan for Northern Ireland
- The Path to Net Zero Energy (DfE 2021)
- Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy to 2040
- NI Peatland Strategy Delivery Plan April 2026 - December 2027. FINAL. 20-4-2026_0.PDF
- Sustainability for the future DAERA's - Plan to 2050 (DAERA 2021)

Air Quality and Biodiversity Unit (AQBU) comments

Air Quality and Biodiversity Unit welcome the Sustainability Objectives listed in Section 2.24 to include SO9 'improve air quality' and SO12 'protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity' .

Air quality assessments should be undertaken at the project level. These should consider the impact of emission sources from proposed developments including wood burning stoves and increased traffic emissions, if appropriate, depending on the distance to designated sites and priority habitats.

Please contact the Development Plan Team should you have any queries or require clarification.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Senior Scientific Officer
Countryside, Coast and Landscape

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