



Derry City & Strabane
District Council

Comhairle Chathair
Dhoire & Cheantar
an tSrátha Báin

Derry Citty & Strábane
Destríck Cooncil

DERRY CITY & STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) 2032



PLAN STRATEGY

Sustainability Appraisal (inc. SEA) Post-Adoption Statement, June 2025

<https://www.derrystrabane.com/subsites/ldp>

DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) 2032



Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating SEA) - Post-Adoption Statement

for

LDP Plan Strategy, June 2025

Contents

1	Introduction	1
	Derry City and Strabane District Council Local Development Plan 2032 Plan Strategy	4
	The Requirement for Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment	4
	Habitats Regulations Assessment	4
	Purpose of this Post Adoption Statement.....	5
2	How Environmental Considerations have been Integrated into the Plan Strategy.....	5
3	How the SA Report Has Been Taken into Account by the Council	7
4	How Opinions Expressed During Consultation Have Been Taken into Account.....	8
	Preferred Options Paper	8
	<i>Consultation on the Interim SA and SA Scoping Report</i>	8
	<i>Consultation on the Preferred Options Paper</i>	8
	Draft Plan Strategy.....	8
	<i>Consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal</i>	8
	<i>Consultation on the draft Plan Strategy</i>	9
	<i>Consultation on Proposed Changes to the draft PS and SA Addendum Report No 1</i>	9
	Independent Examination and Recommendations	10
	<i>Pre-Adoption Consultation on LDP Assessment Documents (Includes SA Addendum Report No 2)</i>	11
5	The Reasons for Choosing the Local Plan as Adopted in the Light of the Other Reasonable Alternatives Considered	12
6	Monitoring.....	13
	Appendix A – SA Monitoring Framework.....	14

List of Abbreviations

CC	County Council
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DCSDC	Derry City and Strabane District Council
DfI	Department for Infrastructure
DPD	Development Plan Document
DPPN	Development Plan Practice Note
EAPP	Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
LDP	Local Development Plan
NI	Northern Ireland
PAC	Planning Appeal Commission
PCR	Public Consultation Report
POP	Preferred Options Paper
PS	Plan Strategy
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Derry City and Strabane District Council Local Development Plan 2032 Plan Strategy was adopted by the Council on 10th July 2025, following resolution by full Council. The adoption of the Plan Strategy follows the submission of the draft Plan Strategy to the Department for Infrastructure in May 2022, in accordance with Regulation 20 of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and a subsequent Independent Examination which took place between September and October 2023. Following the Independent Examination, the Planning Appeals Commission concluded that, subject to the recommended amendments identified, the draft Plan Strategy met the tests of soundness as required¹.
- 1.2 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Local Development Plan (LDP) 2032 has been carried out during each stage of the LDP process by the Plan team, assisted by the Sustainable Development team from Shared Environmental Service. The SA of the draft Plan Strategy has been documented through a series of SA reports prepared by Shared Environmental Service.
- 1.3 All reports and documents are available on the Local Development Plan section of the Council's website.
- 1.4 All of the SA reports are published on the LDP section of the Council's website. The outputs of the SA process to date are as follows:
- May 2017 Preferred Options Paper Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) [DS-702] ('the May 2017 SA Scoping Report')
 - May 2017 Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report (Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Preferred Options Paper) [DS-703] ('the May 2017 SA Interim Report')
 - December 2019 Local Development Plan – Draft Plan Strategy (LDP PS) Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report [DS-100] ('the December 2019 SA Scoping Report')
 - December 2019 Local Development Plan – Draft Plan Strategy (LDP PS) Sustainability Appraisal [DS-101] ('the SA Report')
 - December 2019 Local Development Plan – Draft Plan Strategy (LDP PS) SA Non-Technical Summary [DS-102]
 - November 2021 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the LDP Draft Plan Strategy 2032 Addendum Report (dPS Proposed Changes) [DS-101A] ('the SA Addendum Report No. 1')
 - May 2025 Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Plan Strategy - Addendum Report 2 ('the SA Addendum Report No. 2')
- 1.5 The relationship of these documents to each stage of the SA is summarised in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Sustainability Appraisal Stages and Locations of Outputs

Stage	Description	Location
Stage A (1) Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	1. Identify other relevant policies, plans, programmes and Sustainability Objectives.	May 2017 SA Scoping Report [DS-702], Appendix 4 and Chapter 6. The most influential policies, plans, programmes and strategies are highlighted in the 'strategic context' section of the SA Scoping Report and in the introduction to each of the evidence base sub-chapters.

¹ Planning Appeals Commission (2024) *Independent Examination Report of Derry City and Strabane District Council's Local Development Plan: Plan Strategy 2032* by Commissioner Diane O'Neill (Date of Report: 10th May 2024).

Stage	Description	Location	
	2. Collect baseline information	May 2017 SA Scoping Report [DS-702], Chapter 6.	Updated in the December 2019 SA Scoping Report [DS-100], Chapter 5.
	3. Consult the Consultation Body on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.	<p>Initial consultation with consultation body on draft Scoping and SA Framework 21/02/2017, response received 23/03/2017.</p> <p>Consultation Body consulted on May 2017 SA Scoping Report [DS-702]. Response received 21/08/2017.</p> <p>Consultation Body re-consulted to provide updated comments on scope at Plan Strategy stage, response dated 26/11/2018 received.</p>	
	4. Identify environmental issues and challenges	May 2017 SA Scoping Report [DS-702], Chapter 6.	Updated in the December 2019 SA Scoping Report [DS-100], Chapter 5.
	5. Develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework	May 2017 SA Scoping Report [DS-702], Chapter 7.	Updated in the December 2019 SA Scoping Report [DS-100], Chapter 6.
	6. Produce draft Scoping Report and share with stakeholders	<p>May 2017 SA Scoping Report [DS-702] published for consultation with the public, statutory authorities and other stakeholders for a period of 12 weeks ending 22nd August 2017.</p> <p>All comments on the SA Scoping Report and received during this consultation period were considered when appraising the draft Plan Strategy and, where applicable, incorporated into the December 2019 SA Scoping Report [DS-100].</p>	
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.	June 2017 SA Interim Report [DS-703] published for consultation with public, statutory authorities and other stakeholders for a period of 12 weeks ending 22 nd August 2017.	
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	Carried out throughout the preparation of the draft Plan Strategy, building upon the Interim Appraisal (Stage A(2)) and taking account of comments received from the consultation process.	

Stage	Description	Location
	mitigation measures for alleviating any adverse effects.	
Stage C	Sustainability Appraisal Report to document the appraisal process and findings.	The SA Report [DS-101].
Stage D	Consultation with the public, environmental authorities and any EU member state affected on the Sustainability Appraisal report and draft plan.	<p>The SA Report [DS-101] published for consultation with the public, statutory authorities and other stakeholders alongside the draft Plan Strategy for a period of 8 weeks ending 27th January 2020.</p> <p>SA Addendum Report No. 1 [DS-101A] published November 2021 alongside the Schedule of Proposed Changes [DS-001A], and consulted on with the public, statutory authorities and other stakeholders for a period of 8 weeks ending 3rd February 2022.</p> <p>SA Addendum Report No. 2 referred to Consultation Body in July 2023 under EAPP (NI) Regulations 9(2)-9(5) and made available to the public on the Council's Local Development Plan 2032 website on 19th March 2025.</p>
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.	This report (Sections 2-6 and Appendix A).
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.	<p>An outline monitoring framework was included as Chapter 5 of the December 2019 Local Development Plan 2032 SA Report [DS-101].</p> <p>The SA Monitoring Framework is included in Appendix A of this report.</p>

- 1.6 This Post Adoption Statement is the final output of the SA process. It describes the way in which the Council has taken environmental and sustainability considerations and any views of consultees into account in the adopted Plan Strategy and fulfils the plan and programme adoption requirements of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 ('the EAPP (NI) Regulations').

Derry City and Strabane District Council Local Development Plan 2032 Plan Strategy

The Plan Strategy for Derry City and Strabane District Council is the first document in a two-stage LDP process; the second will be the Local Policies Plan. The main purpose of the LDP is to inform the general public, statutory authorities, service providers, developers and other interested parties of the policy framework and land use proposals that will guide decisions on planning applications for development in Derry City and Strabane District until 2032.

The Plan will aim to provide sufficient land to meet anticipated needs for housing, employment, and services; all supported by adequate infrastructure, over the Plan period. It will also seek to ensure that all new development is of high quality and located in suitable places - which themselves should be enhanced by the development. In seeking to deliver sustainable development, the Plan will serve to implement the regional direction set out in the Regional Development Strategy 2035 and other central government initiatives.

- 1.7 The Preferred Options Paper, draft Plan Strategy and the SA Reports have each been subject to extensive consultation, which has played an important role in helping to shape the policies in the Plan Strategy. In addition to informal consultations with relevant stakeholders and public authorities, the Council undertook three key statutory and public consultation exercises prior to submission of the draft Plan to the Department for Infrastructure on 20th May 2022:
- Publication of the Preferred Options Paper on 31st May 2017 (with the May 2017 SA Scoping Report and Interim SA Report published alongside) with a twelve-week consultation period that ended on 22nd August 2017.
 - Publication of the draft Plan Strategy on 2nd December 2019 (with the updated SA Scoping Report and the SA Report published alongside) with an eight-week consultation period that ended on 27th January 2020.
 - Publication of a number of Proposed Changes to the draft Plan Strategy (with the SA Addendum Report No. 1 published alongside) with an eight-week consultation period that ended on 3rd February 2022.

The Requirement for Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.8 Section 25 of The Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 requires that all Northern Ireland Departments and Councils, in exercising their functions, act in the way they consider best calculated to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.
- 1.9 Section 5 of The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 ('the Planning Act') requires those who exercise any function in relation to LDPs do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development. In addition, Sections 8(6) and 9(7) of the Planning Act requires an appraisal of sustainability to be carried out for the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, respectively.
- 1.10 The Northern Ireland Development Plan Practice Note 04² (DPPN 04) provides Councils with direct guidance on the SA process and the preparation and production of SA reports. Throughout the stages of the LDP, the SA process has been informed by DPPN 04. The SA has thus taken an integrated approach which fully incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and fulfils the requirements for both SA and SEA.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 1.11 The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended), ('the Habitats Regulations'), implemented the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives in Northern Ireland and is the domestic law establishing the obligations of competent authorities for the protection of certain sites or species.

² Department of the Environment (April 2015) Development Plan Practice Note, Practice Note 04 'Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment' (found at https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/infrastructure/dppn-4-sa-incorporating-sea-v1-april-2015_0.pdf [accessed 28/04/2025])

- 1.12 Regulation 43 of the Habitats Regulations requires that competent authorities assess the potential impacts of plans or projects on European sites in Northern Ireland and European offshore marine sites³ to determine whether there will be any 'likely significant effects' on any European site as a result of the plan's implementation (either alone or 'in combination' with other plans or projects); and, if so, whether these effects will result in any adverse effects on that site's integrity with reference to the site's conservation objectives. This is known as Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Regulation 64B of the Habitats Regulations also applies the assessment provisions to a plan-making authority for a land use plan as defined in the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.
- 1.13 A draft HRA was first undertaken in 2019 in support of the draft Plan Strategy. NIEA, as the 'Statutory Nature Conservation Body' was invited to comment on the draft HRA during the draft Plan Strategy consultation period and ahead of Plan Strategy adoption. Its representations have informed the final HRA. Following screening, 96 policies in the Plan Strategy to be adopted are identified as having a 'likely significant effect' in the absence of mitigation. Mitigation measures, in the form of case-specific policy caveats, have been incorporated in these policies. These have been reviewed as part of the appropriate assessment of the Plan Strategy. The appropriate assessment has concluded that the Plan Strategy (with the modifications set out in the direction made by the Department for Infrastructure) will not adversely affect the integrity of any international sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
- 1.14 The HRA of the Plan Strategy has been documented separately from the SA, but potential effects identified through the screening and assessment of policies in the draft HRA also informed the SA, particularly in respect of Sustainability Objective 11 'to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably' and Sustainability Objective 12 'to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity'.

Purpose of this Post Adoption Statement

- 1.15 This Post Adoption Statement represents the conclusion of the SA process and fulfils the plan and programme adoption requirements of the EAPP (NI) Regulations. In accordance with Regulation 15, this statement sets out the following:
- a) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme;
 - b) how the environmental report has been taken into account;
 - c) how the opinions expressed in response to the invitations mentioned in Regulation 12 have been taken into account;
 - d) how the results of any consultations entered into under Regulation 13(4) have been taken into account;
 - e) the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
 - f) the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.

2 How Environmental Considerations have been Integrated into the Plan Strategy

- 2.1 As SA is a legislative requirement for a Plan Strategy under Sections 8(6) and 9(7) of the Planning Act, it was not necessary to make a formal Determination that a SA (incorporating SEA) would be required. The SA process (incorporating SEA) began when the Council published its first Statement of Community Involvement and LDP timetable in July 2016.
- 2.2 To provide the context for the SA and in compliance with the EAPP (NI) Regulations, a review of other relevant plans and programmes was carried out during the preparatory phase and an outline SA Framework was developed. This process ran concurrently with the preparation of the LDP

³ European sites are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Proposed or candidate European sites and Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance (both listed and proposed)) are also subject to HRA, as they are protected by policy.

preparatory studies position papers, which were also informed by initial consultation with relevant statutory consultees.

- 2.3 In February 2017, the Council consulted the Consultation Body⁴ under Regulation 11 of the EAPP (NI) Regulations to agree the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the SA. The Consultation Body's comments were incorporated into the SA scope and fourteen Sustainability Objectives forming the Sustainability Framework were agreed. The Sustainability Objectives and their relationship with the Issues listed in the EAPP (NI) Regulations are set out in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: The Sustainability Objectives and their Relationship with the Issues listed in Schedule 2 of the EAPP (NI) Regulations.

The objectives for sustainable development are...	Corresponding Issue in EAPP (NI) Schedule 2 (6)
1. to improve health and well-being.	(ii) Population (iii) Human Health
2. to strengthen society.	(xi) Cultural Heritage including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage (ii) Population
3. to provide good quality, sustainable housing.	(ii) Population (iii) Human Health
4. to enable access to high quality education.	(ii) Population
5. to enable sustainable economic growth.	(ii) Population (iii) Human Health
6. to manage material assets sustainably.	(x) Material Assets
7. to protect physical resources and use sustainably.	(x) Material Assets (vi) Soil
8. to encourage active and sustainable travel.	(iii) Human Health (ii) Population (ix) Climatic Factors
9. to improve air quality	(viii) Air
10. to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	(ix) Climatic Factors
11. to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	(vii) Water
12. to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	(i) Biodiversity (v) Flora (iv) Fauna
13. to maintain and enhance landscape character.	(xii) Landscape
14. to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	(xi) Cultural Heritage including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage

- 2.4 Baseline evidence was collected and arranged under the theme of each Sustainability Objective. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and its likely evolution without the LDP were described. These elements informed the identification of Key Sustainability Issues that are relevant to the Council area and to each of the Sustainability Objectives. Appraisal prompts were also developed to assist in identifying and evaluating the potential effects of Options and Alternatives on the achievement of each Sustainability Objective in a consistent way.
- 2.5 In addition to using the SA Framework to evaluate the potential effects of LDP objectives, options and policies as they were being developed and drafted, the overall SA process enabled measures to avoid

⁴ Regulation 4 of the EAPP (NI) Regulations designated the Department of Environment (DOE) as the Consultation Body for the SEA process in Northern Ireland. The SEA Coordination Unit of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs' Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is currently responsible for carrying out the role of the Consultation Body.

or minimise negative effects or to enhance potential positive effects to be identified at an early stage. Possible measures were identified in the interim appraisal of options for the Preferred Options Paper (POP). Along with evidence and representations collected following consultation on the POP, these were considered when developing and drafting the emerging policies of the draft Plan Strategy. Shared Environmental Service worked closely with the LDP officers and early draft sections of the draft Plan Strategy, including draft policies, were appraised collaboratively. The involvement of officers with a broad range of environmental as well as planning experience in the sustainability appraisal has helped to ensure that potential effects of the LDP were identified and appraised from various perspectives, and relationships with other relevant plans, programmes and strategies were given due consideration.

- 2.6 The strategic policies and proposals contained in the Plan Strategy are intended to deliver on the LDP Vision and Strategic Objectives set out in the document. The Vision is *‘to make Derry City and Strabane District a thriving, prosperous and sustainable area’*. The strategic objectives are generally directed towards the attainment of this Vision and are expressed in relation to the three recognised ‘pillars’ of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental, along with spatial and cross-cutting aspects.

3 How the SA Report Has Been Taken into Account by the Council

- 3.1 The SA process is an iterative one, and as emerging policy options were identified, developed and refined, the sustainability strengths and weaknesses were considered.
- 3.2 Ahead of the Council publishing its Preferred Options Paper in May 2017, the Sustainability Framework was used to appraise strategic options for addressing 25 key planning issues affecting the Council area and to assist in the selection of a Preferred Option, by identifying the most sustainable option. This interim appraisal also identified potential measures to reduce negative effects or promote positive effects for consideration in subsequent phases of the emerging LDP. There was not a legal requirement to implement these measures, however they were recorded so that, where appropriate, they could be incorporated to further the overall sustainability of the LDP. The interim appraisal is documented in the Preferred Options Paper SA Interim Report (Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) [DS-703].
- 3.3 Reasonable Alternatives are the different realistic options available to a Council for delivering the objectives of its LDP. Options should be consistent with other aspects of the LDP, as well as higher-level plans and policies. As the draft Plan Strategy was being developed, all of the Strategic and Operational Policy objectives were screened in the context of the SA, and consideration was given to whether any reasonable alternatives were available to deliver the policy objective.
- 3.4 As the evolution of the draft Plan Strategy and the Spatial Proposals and Policies contained within it were influenced by regional policy, and the strategic approach to addressing many of the key planning issues within the Council area had already been explored through the POP, very few ‘reasonable’ alternative options for delivering the policy aims/objectives were identified for any of the policies brought forward in the draft Plan Strategy. A summary of the factors influencing policy formation from POP to the draft Plan Strategy is included in Chapter 3.7 of the SA Report [DS-101]. These factors included the Interim SA and the SA of the draft Plan Strategy. Details are also included, where relevant, in the suite of Technical Supplements that accompanied the draft Plan Strategy⁵.
- 3.5 The SA of the draft Plan Strategy focused on the likely changes to the baseline conditions as a result of the LDP’s implementation. These effects were described (where possible) in terms of their extent, the timescale over which they could occur, whether the effects would be temporary or permanent, positive or negative, short, medium and/or long-term. Identifying the effects of each option in the

⁵ All of the accompanying Assessments, Studies & Evidence Base Papers that accompanied the draft Plan Strategy are published on the Local Development Plan section of the Council’s website (available at [https://www.derrystabane.com/subsites/ldp/ldp-draft-plan-strategy-\(dps\)/ldp-dps-submission-documents-may-2022](https://www.derrystabane.com/subsites/ldp/ldp-draft-plan-strategy-(dps)/ldp-dps-submission-documents-may-2022) [accessed 28/04/2025]).

context of the sustainability objectives helped to ensure that each policy would successfully deliver its intended purpose in a sustainable way and would accord with (or not conflict with) the delivery of other relevant plans, programmes and strategies.

4 How Opinions Expressed During Consultation Have Been Taken into Account

Preferred Options Paper

Consultation on the Interim SA and SA Scoping Report

- 4.1 The May 2017 SA Scoping Report [DS-702] and the May 2017 SA Interim Report [DS-703] were published for public and statutory consultation alongside the POP for a period of period of 12 weeks, ending 22nd August 2017. This included consultation with the Consultation Body, which responded on 21st August 2017.
- 4.2 Appendix 6 of the December 2019 SA Scoping Report [DS-100] provides a record of the representations made on the May 2017 SA Scoping Report and Interim SA, and how these were considered and addressed in the SA, where relevant.
- 4.3 The POP Representations Reports [DS-704A], [DS-704B] and [DS-705] also provide details of the representations made to the Interim SA and how they were considered and responded to by the Council.

Consultation on the Preferred Options Paper

- 4.4 The processes involved in consulting on the POP are set out in section 3.0 of the Interim Representations Report [DS-704A]. The findings of the consultation are set out in that report and in the Representations Summary List [DS-704B]. These reports and the subsequent final Report on Representations Received [DS-705] (published December 2019) highlight the issues raised and how the Council would consider them going forward in the preparation of the draft Plan Strategy, including drafting planning policies.

Draft Plan Strategy

Consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal

- 4.5 The Consultation Body and key statutory consultees were re-consulted on the scope of the SA in October/November 2018 before commencing the appraisal of Options and Alternatives for the draft Plan Strategy. The baseline evidence, Key Sustainability Issues and the Plans, Programmes, Policies and Strategies were all reviewed to ensure they remained up to date. The updated Sustainability Framework and Appraisal Guide were subsequently referred to throughout the appraisal of Options and Alternatives.
- 4.6 The December 2019 SA Scoping Report [DS-100] and the SA Report [DS-101] were published for public and statutory consultation alongside the draft Plan Strategy for a period of 8 weeks, ending 27th January 2020. This included consultation with the Consultation Body, which responded on 27th January 2020.
- 4.7 Consultation letters, specifically naming the Sustainability Appraisal (SA/SEA), were issued to over 500 LDP Stakeholders, notifying them and seeking comments on the LDP documents. These letters went to all the government departments, those who had submitted POP representations or been involved in the dPS Stakeholder engagement, as well as to all the adjoining Councils (including Donegal CC in Rol).
- 4.8 A summary of the main issues raised in the representations received on the SA and how these were considered by Council and Shared Environmental Service is provided in the Draft Plan Strategy Public Consultation Report (PCR) [DS-500]. The representations received on the SA can be broadly categorised as follows:

- Respondent disagreed with the option's score, or the SA panel's evaluation of how an option (or options) would perform against the sustainability objectives - a small minority of representations considered the SA to be 'unsound' on that basis;
- Respondent disagreed with the selection of one or more options brought forward and questioned the absence of alternative options in the SA; - a small minority of representations considered the SA to be 'unsound' on that basis;
- Respondent advised of information / updates to the baseline evidence that might be relevant in the SA.

4.9 The draft Plan Strategy PCR demonstrates that full consideration was given to all the representations received. Council and Shared Environmental Service concluded that none of the representations on scoring or option selection had grounds to necessitate a change to the published SA. The Local Policies Plan will focus on zonings, and further SA of options and alternatives will take place at that stage.

Consultation on the draft Plan Strategy

4.10 The processes involved in consulting on the draft Plan Strategy are detailed in Chapter 2 of the draft Plan Strategy PCR [DS-500].

4.11 Chapter 3 of the draft Plan Strategy PCR records and summarises the main issues raised in the representations received on the draft Plan Strategy during the consultation period, as required under Regulation 20(2)(g) of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. Chapter 4 of the PCR documents the Council's Response to Representations to the LDP draft Plan Strategy. The PCR was therefore a key document for the Independent Examination and was integral to the assessment of the soundness of the Plan Strategy.

4.12 After due consideration of all representations received to the draft Plan Strategy, the Council recommended a number of Proposed Changes to be incorporated into the published draft Plan Strategy, ahead of the draft Plan Strategy's submission for Independent Examination. The Proposed Changes were set out in the draft Plan Strategy Schedule of Proposed Changes [DS-001A]. The draft Plan Strategy PCR thus refers to Proposed Changes that were included for consideration and discussion during the Independent Examination.

Consultation on Proposed Changes to the draft PS and SA Addendum Report No 1.

4.13 Focussed changes are described in Development Plan Practice Note 10⁶ (DPPN 10) as *"changes to the [development plan] document to ensure that issues impacting upon the soundness of the DPD are addressed"*. DPPN 10 also recommends that *"the Council should consider the impact of such changes on the overall soundness of the DPD, the integrated Sustainability Appraisal process and other supporting assessments"*. Minor changes are *"minor editing changes that ought to be made to the development plan document for factual correction"* and *"which would not impact on the soundness of the document"*.

4.14 The Draft Plan Strategy Schedule of Proposed Changes [DS-001A] was published for public and statutory consultation for a period of 8 weeks ending 3rd February 2022. This document identified the changes that the Council considered to be the most substantive with a yellow highlight and intermediate changes with a green highlight. Changes the Council considered 'minor' were highlighted with a grey colour. All the Proposed Changes to the draft Plan Strategy underwent a SA screening exercise, to assess if they would alter the 'likely significant effects' predicted in the already published SA Report of December 2019, or if they could lead to any new or additional potential significant effects.

⁶ Department for Infrastructure (December 2019) Development Plan Practice Note, Practice Note 10 'Submitting Development Plan Documents for Independent Examination' (found at <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/infrastructure/DPS-practice-note-10-submitting-for-independent-examination%20-2.pdf> [accessed 12/09/2023])

- 4.15 This SA screening was documented in the SA Addendum Report No. 1 [DS-101A]. The SA screening of the Proposed Changes concluded that the majority of the Proposed Changes would not materially change what the SA initially assessed, or what it assumed about how the LDP would be implemented. A small proportion of the Proposed Changes would deliver one or more policy elements that would not have been considered in the original SA. Those modifications which may not be considered minor in nature underwent a review of the significance alone, and in combination.
- 4.16 The SA screening found that where implementation of the proposed changes or the introduction of new policy would result in an effect, it is generally a beneficial one and would result in an improvement in the performance of the policy against certain Sustainability Objectives. The SA screening concluded that none of the Proposed Changes would present any probable conflict with the conclusions of the original SA and their implementation in the draft Plan Strategy would have no significant impact on the Plan's performance against the Sustainability Objectives. Following consideration of the proposed changes, other than including the assessment of options for ODC 1 via this Addendum, the Council concluded that no further amendments to the SA were required.
- 4.17 The SA Addendum Report No. 1 was published and consulted on in November 2021 alongside the Draft Plan Strategy Schedule of Proposed Changes. This included consultation with the Consultation Body, which responded on 3rd February 2022. The Consultation Body, DAERA, confirmed in its response dated 3rd February 2022 that *'it noted that the points raised in our previous correspondence in relation to the Sustainability Appraisal have been addressed'*.

Independent Examination and Recommendations

In September 2022, the Department for Infrastructure ('the Department') appointed the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) to cause an Independent Examination of the Derry City and Strabane District Local Development Plan draft Plan Strategy. The Independent Examination public hearing sessions took place Strategy took place from September until October 2023.

- 4.18 Following the Independent Examination, the PAC, concluded that, subject to the amendments identified within its Independent Examination Report of 10th May 2024, the Plan meets the tests of soundness as required. The PAC Commissioner's report also confirmed that, in respect of SA, the requirements of Section 8 (6) of the Planning Act and Article 15 (a) (ii) of the Regulations⁷ have been satisfied.
- 4.19 On 17th December 2024, the Department for Infrastructure issued a direction to the Council to adopt the Plan Strategy with modifications. The Department's Direction includes four Schedules (Schedules 1A, 1B, 2 and 3).
- Schedules 1A and 1B contain recommended modifications which reflect the proposed changes brought forward by the Council before the Independent Examination. These modifications have therefore already been assessed in the SA Addendum Report No. 1 [DS-101A], as described in paragraphs 4.15 - 4.17 above.
 - Schedule 2 in the Direction contains modifications recommended in the Planning Appeals Commission's Independent Examination Report, which the Department has directed as being necessary for the adoption of the Plan Strategy. These modifications include some 'Further Changes' introduced during the Independent Examination.
 - Schedule 3 in the Direction identifies 11 of the 'further changes' brought forward by Council which the Department considers are not required for plan soundness, or which are sufficiently minor in nature that they can be incorporated in the Plan as a correction, a factual amendment, or presentational adjustment.

⁷ The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

- 4.20 The SA Addendum Report No. 2 documents the assessment of whether any likely significant effects will arise from implementing the modifications detailed in Schedule 2 of the Department's Direction within the draft Plan Strategy and whether any update to Sustainability Appraisal is required.
- 4.21 The conclusions of the SA Addendum Report No. 2 are that implementing the recommended modifications within the Plan Strategy would not result in any new significant effects. All the recommended modifications can be made without impacting or changing in a significant manner how the Plan would perform against the Sustainability Objectives.

Pre-Adoption Consultation on LDP Assessment Documents (Includes SA Addendum Report No 2)

- 4.22 The SA Addendum Report No. 2 was published alongside the Plan Strategy (with the PAC's recommended Modifications incorporated) and other appraisal documents for public consultation in a Pre-Adoption Consultation, which ran from 19th March 2025 to 01st May 2025.
- 4.23 The SA Addendum Report No. 2 was also referred to the Consultation Body on 19th March 2025 for consideration under Regulation 9 of the EAPP (NI) Regulations 2004. DAERA responded on 7th April 2025, confirming they "note and are content with the conclusions of the SA Addendum that none of the modifications would 'materially' change what the SA initially assessed, or what it assumed about how the LDP would be implemented and that there will be no likely significant effects because of their implementation within the draft Plan Strategy. We acknowledge that the majority of the modifications to the draft Plan Strategy are changes to the document for the purposes of clarity, coherence and consistency". DAERA also confirmed they are "content with the conclusion of the final Draft HRA that the Plan Strategy (with the modifications set out in the Direction made by the Department for Infrastructure) will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects".
- 4.24 DAERA's response included recommendations relating to the HRA. These recommendations have been considered and, where relevant, implemented into the final HRA.
- 4.25 A small number of representations to the Pre-Adoption Consultation referenced the SA. The main issues raised are summarised below:
- Acknowledgement of SA Addendum. General information provided, including information and guidance which will be reviewed and considered at the next stage of the LDP.
 - Representations alleging that the SA (and Plan) fail to acknowledge Northern Ireland's climate change targets, especially the 2030 renewable energy target outlined in the Climate Change (Northern Ireland) Act 2022. Council considers that climate change obligations have been given due weight in the SA and the options brought forward in the LDP are sustainable.
 - Concerns around the sustainability of [different types of] rural development that the LDP could facilitate, and site-specific examples. Council considers that options brought forward in the LDP are sustainable. Site-specific concerns are outside the scope of a strategic-level assessment. Further SA will take place in the identification of options and alternatives when reviewing zonings for the Local Policies Plan.
 - Representations alleging that the SA has failed to address cumulative impacts. Chapter 4 of the SA Report [DS-101] incorporates an assessment of the cumulative impact of the Preferred Options.
- 4.26 The Council's response to these representations is included in the Pre-Adoption Consultation Report published in the Local Development Plan section of the Council's website.
- 4.27 In response to the representations, a minor revision was made to the SA Addendum Report No. 2. The new/emerging Plans Policies, Programmes and Strategies and other baseline statistics published since the SA Scoping report was prepared in 2019 have been referenced, to clarify the Council's assessment that there are no significant changes that would result in a requirement to update the SA.

- 4.28 As the Consultation Body has confirmed it agrees with the conclusions of the SA Addendum Report No. 2 SA Report, no further environmental assessment is required, the reason being that the implementation of the modifications to the draft Plan Strategy are not likely to have significant environmental effects.

5 The Reasons for Choosing the Local Plan as Adopted in the Light of the Other Reasonable Alternatives Considered

- 5.1 Regulation 11 of the EAPP (NI) Regulations requires an environmental report to be prepared which *“shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of (a) implementing the plan or programme; and (b) reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme.”*
- 5.2 The information to be provided includes *“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”*.
- 5.3 The UK Government guidance on SA and SEA⁸ identifies reasonable alternatives as *“the different realistic options considered by the plan-maker in developing the policies in the plan. They need to be sufficiently distinct to highlight the different sustainability implications of each so that meaningful comparisons can be made.”*
- 5.4 Part of the reason for studying options and alternatives is to identify ways of reducing or avoiding the significant adverse effects of a proposed plan or programme. The Preferred Options Paper [DS-700] was the first stage of the LDP process. It set out the Plan’s vision, its strategic objectives, and identified key planning issues with possible options and alternatives for how the Council could deliver new development and planned growth for the Council area. The findings of the appraisal of the Preferred Options and reasonable alternatives were reported in the May 2017 SA Interim Report [DS-703]. Section 2.3.7 of the Interim SA Report includes a description of the limitations in undertaking the appraisal and any assumptions made. It acknowledged that further SA would be required at the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan stages of Plan development, with additional and updated information available at that time.
- 5.5 Sections 2.4.4 – 2.4.7 of the SA Report [DS-101] set out the process of identifying and evaluating the reasonable alternatives for the draft Plan Strategy and the assumptions and limitations of the appraisal process. The options and alternatives that have led to the adopted Plan Strategy have been described in Chapter 3 and Appendix 5 of the May 2017 SA Interim Report [DS-703] and in Chapter 3 and Appendix 4 of the SA Report [DS-101]. Chapter 4.1 of the SA Report [DS-101] describes the ‘total effects’ of the draft Plan Strategy, while the cumulative effects (including secondary and synergistic effects) are described in Chapter 4.2.
- 5.6 Overall, the adopted Plan Strategy reflects the preferred options selected following the consideration of reasonable alternatives during each stage of its preparation, taking into account the evidence base, engagement and assessment, including SA. The adopted Plan Strategy also reflects the modifications recommended in the Planning Appeals Commission’s Independent Examination Report which the Department has directed as being necessary for the adoption of the Plan Strategy. The modifications include changes to policy wording and supporting text. These are all deemed to be necessary to ensure that the Plan Strategy provides a sound and legally compliant plan for the Council area. As concluded in the SA Addendum Reports No. 1 and No. 2, these modifications will not give rise to any likely significant effects not already identified in the SA.
- 5.7 The final HRA of the adopted Plan Strategy has also concluded that the Plan Strategy (with the modifications set out in the Direction made by the Department for Infrastructure) will not adversely

⁸ UK GOV Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2015, updated 2020) Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal (found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal> [accessed 12/09/2023])

affect the integrity of any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects..

- 5.8 It is Council's view that the Plan Strategy, as adopted, provides the framework for contributing to sustainable development across the Council area and will help to realise the Council's vision and objectives. It reflects a rigorous process of evidence gathering, assessment, consultation and independent examination.

6 Monitoring

- 6.1 Regulation 16 of the EAPP (NI) Regulations sets out the requirements for monitoring the implementation of the plan. DPPN 04 advises that *"monitoring should help a council to identify any unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and implement the necessary remedial action. Monitoring should focus upon the likely significant effect identified by the SA and the mitigation measures proposed to offset or reduce significant adverse effects"*.
- 6.2 A preliminary framework for monitoring was developed from the Key Sustainability Issues and significant effects identified through the SA. This framework was published in Chapter 5 of the SA Report [DS-101]. Council has considered the representations made on the SA Report and the recommended modifications brought forward through the Independent Examination and has reviewed and updated the preliminary SA monitoring framework. A final monitoring framework is attached at Appendix A of this report.
- 6.3 Regulation 16 does not specify an interval for monitoring, however it states *"the responsible authority's monitoring arrangements may comprise or include arrangements established otherwise than for the express purpose of complying with paragraph (1)."* Regulation 25 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 requires Council to produce an annual monitoring report. Therefore, where annually published statistics and data are available for SA monitoring indicators, these will be collated as part of the annual LDP monitoring. Where data are not available on an annual basis, the most recent data will be collated and incorporated in Plan monitoring at each 5-year Plan review period.
- 6.4 It should be noted that monitoring of some of the indicators may rely on adoption of the Local Policies Plan. The SA monitoring framework will be reviewed as the SA continues to the second stage of the LDP, where it may be subject to further development and refinement.
- 6.5 It is also recognised that the LDP alone may not enable the delivery of all the outcomes identified in the 'target' column of the monitoring framework. However, certain targets have been included as the LDP may influence their achievement through cumulative and synergistic effects in combination with other Plans and Programmes. These effects have been identified in Chapter 5 of the SA Report [DS-101]. Delivery will also rest with the actions of other statutory bodies and service providers.

Appendix A – SA Monitoring Framework

Indicator	Source	Target
Improve health and well-being		
1. The level of usage of the District's recreational facilities	Derry City and Strabane District Council	No Target. Objective to maintain/Increase in participation in physical activity.
2. Proportion of people who rank themselves as having high levels of wellbeing	NISRA / ONS	No Target. Objective to maintain/increase %.
3. % Persons meeting recommended physical activity levels of at least 150 minutes per week	NISRA / Health Survey NI	No Target. Objective to maintain/increase in persons meeting recommended physical activity levels.
4. % persons spending leisure time outdoors once a week or more	NISRA / The Continuous Household Survey	No Target. Objective to maintain/increase in % persons spending leisure time outdoors.
5. Number/area of Council areas of open space, sport and recreation	Derry City and Strabane District Council	No Target. Objective to maintain/increase areas of open space and natural greenspace.
6. Population Change	Census, Mid-Year population estimates (NISRA)	160k people by 2032, from 2017 baseline of 150k. Trigger for review: Population growth more than 10% above / below projections.
7. Number of planning permissions granted on zoned open space including through development agreements	DCSDC Planning Decisions	To limit the net loss of zoned open space to non-compatible/ancillary uses. Trigger for review: Net loss of significant areas of zoned open space to non-compatible / ancillary uses.
8. Public open space provision in new residential development	DCSDC Planning Decisions	25 units or more on sites of 1 ha or more, less than 25 units on merit. Trigger for review: More than 10% of housing approvals in any year does not meet the specified standards.

Indicator	Source	Target
Strengthen society		
1. The number of planning applications permitted for the development of new social, educational, recreational and community services.	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No target. (Objective is to meet identified needs for new or improved social, educational, recreational and community services)
2. Applications creating or maintaining access to the coast, river corridors and heritage assets.	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No target. (Objective is to create/enhance access to shared space.)
3. Balanced population and housing growth across the settlement hierarchy, including in the countryside.	Census (NISRA) DCSDC Housing Monitor	To generally align the spatial distribution of new housing growth with the Strategic Housing Allocation and maintain growth rates in the lower tiers and countryside that are within 5% of target set in Strategic Housing Allocation.

Indicator	Source	Target
Provide good quality sustainable housing		
1. Amount of housing growth across the settlement hierarchy to maintain a sufficient supply of land for housing	Housing Stock Tables 2008 - 2019, Census (NISRA), Housing Monitor	To ensure that a sufficient number of dwellings are built and remain available in settlements to align with the spatial distribution of the indicative strategic housing allocation. Trigger for review: Number of new dwellings exceeds 10% above / below the target set in the strategic housing allocation in any settlement or sector of Derry or Strabane Town or Local Towns.
2. The number of new homes completed in the District by tenure.	DCSDC Housing Monitor NI Housing Statistics (DFC) DCSDC Planning Decisions	Increase in affordable housing provision and assist in meeting identified needs. 10 or more residential units or on a site of 0.5ha to provide a minimum of 10%. Trigger for review: Affordable housing in the District more than 10% above/below targets.

3. Number of dwellings by types / size approved.	DCSDC Housing Monitor NI Housing Statistics (DFC) DCSDC Planning Decisions	No target. Objective to reduce no. of housing development planning permissions without a good mix. Trigger for review: House types in the District more than 10% above/below targets.
4. Number of dwellings approved by Lifetime Homes (LTH) Standards.	DCSDC Housing Monitor DCSDC Planning Decisions.	All new developments to be built to LTH Standards. Trigger for review: LTH Standard planning permissions 10% below targets.
5. Number of planning approvals for conversion of replacement of buildings in the Countryside	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No target. Monitor trend.
5. Number of new dwellings permitted in the countryside, to align generally with the spatial distribution of the strategic housing allocation.	LPS pointer data derived from Building completion certification and rates information DCSDC Rural Housing Monitor	1,100 - 1,400 homes in the Countryside. Trigger for review: Number of new dwellings in the countryside does not exceed 5% of the target set in the strategic housing allocation.
6. Average density of approved residential developments	DCSDC Housing Monitor	All new residential housing in the character areas are within the relevant density band and assumed density for settlement tiers. Trigger for review: Average densities within a character area fall outside + - 10% of broad density bands.

Indicator	Source	Target
Enable access to high quality education		
1. % of working age population with no qualifications	NISRA Labour Force Survey DCSDC Community Plan	No target. (Objective is to decrease the percentage of the working age population with no qualifications.)
2. Number of planning applications permitted for the development of new education facilities (including shared facilities).	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No target. (Objective is to meet identified needs for new or improved education facilities).

Indicator	Source	Target
Enable sustainable economic growth		
1. Net additional employee jobs	Job statistics NISRA, Census of Employment, Business Registration Employment Survey.	+ 8 - 15k additional jobs by 2032, from 2017 baseline of 55,800. Trigger for review: Additional jobs more than 10% above / below statistic.
2. Quantity of zoned employment land	DCSDC Economic Land Monitor	No zoned or current economic development land lost to non-employment uses. Trigger for review: Provision falls to level below 5 - year supply.
3. The number of planning permissions for office development in the Derry city centre & Strabane Town Centre.	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No target. Objective increased number from current (baseline to be set).
4. Number of retail planning permissions in the retail hierarchy.	Based on the range of Town Centre Health check indicators as set out in SPSS para 6.285	No target. Objective is to demonstrate that 'town centre' uses are directed to the town centre first. Trigger for review: More than 5% of the retail floorspace approved in any one year outside Town Centres
5. No. of non-retail planning permissions in primary retail cores and other centres	DCSDC Planning Decisions	Improve on 2017 Baseline. Trigger for review: Non-retail uses must not exceed 30%
6. Number of new tourism amenities and accommodation developments.	DCSDC Planning Decisions and tourism statistics (NISRA)	No target. Objective is to have an increasing trend.
7. Number of applications for Farm Diversification Schemes	DCSDC Planning Decisions, Rural Development Programme Records.	Increase on 2017 Baseline. Trigger for review: a lack of farm diversification schemes receiving planning permission.

Indicator	Source	Target
Manage Material Assets Sustainably		
1. % of premises in Borough with access to broadband in excess of 10 Mbit/s	OFCOM Connected Nations	No target. (Objective is to maintain/ increase proportion of premises with access to broadband in excess of 10 Mbit/s).
2. % of premises in Borough with access to broadband in excess of 30 Mbit/s	OFCOM Connected Nations	No target. (Objective is to increase proportion of premises with access to broadband in excess of 30 Mbit/s).

3. % landmass in Borough with 3G / 4G mobile data availability	OFCOM Connected Nations	No target. (Objective is to maintain/ increase proportion of landmass with availability to premises with access to 3G / 4G mobile data).
4. The number of applications granted for renewable development (by type).	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No target. (Objective is to increase locally generated renewable energy).No inappropriate development contrary to policy provisions.
5. Household and Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste prepared for Reuse, Recycled and Composted within the District.	NI Waste Management Statistics (DAERA)	No target. (Objective is to increase quantities of waste reused or recycled / decrease in waste landfilled).
6. Development of waste management facilities in line with NWRWMG Waste Management Plan.	NWRWMG Waste Management Plan	No target. (Objective is to meet development needs for new or extended waste management facilities, where identified through NWRWMG Waste Management Plan).

Indicator	Source	Target
Protect physical resources and use sustainably		
1. The level of growth and amount of physical development that occurs in the Places of the District	(CORINE / land use mapping)	Maintain/Increase % 'green urban' Reduce rate of increase of 'built on' land use types
2. Quantum of mineral production (value / tonnage) in the District	DCSDC Planning Decisions. DETI (now DfE) Annual Minerals Statement.	No target. Objective is to have adequate minerals supply to meet needs of local/regional economy.
3. Number and extent of developments approved / refused on designated features of earth science importance.	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No inappropriate development contrary to policy provisions /contrary to advice received from DAERA Natural Environment Division or GSNI.

Indicator	Source	Target
Encourage active and sustainable travel		
1. Number of people travelling by sustainable modes - active travel, bus & rail.	Travel Survey for Northern Ireland (TSNI) (DfI), Sustrans.	Year-on-year improvement on Baseline levels. Trigger for review: Reduction in numbers of people travelling by sustainable modes.
2. Travel to work or school by sustainable modes of transport	NISRA (Census) Travel Survey for Northern Ireland (TSNI)	No target. Objective is to increase the proportion of journeys carried out using modes other than the car.
3. The development of Greenways and new cycle paths (measured in metres / km).	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No target. Objective is increased km, to encourage walking cycling
4. Restriction of development on protected transport schemes and disused transport routes.	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No new development on protected transport, except where justified through policy provisions. Trigger for review: More than 1 application permitted in any one year for a use other than prescribed in the policy
5. New green and blue infrastructure created within new developments.	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No target. Objective is to increase network of green and blue infrastructure.

Indicator	Source	Target
Improve air quality		
1. Air Quality	Derry City and Strabane District Council	Achieving annual mean objectives / improvement in NO ₂ air quality, revocation of AQMAs.
2. Travel to work or school by sustainable modes of transport	NISRA (Census) Travel Survey for Northern Ireland (TSNI)	No target. Objective is to increase the proportion of journeys carried out using modes other than the car.

Indicator	Source	Target
Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change		
1. The number of development proposals permitted in identified Flood Risk Areas.	DCSDC Planning Decisions and DFI Rivers Consultations	No target. Objective to minimise level of new development at flood risk from 1% AEP event (0.5% AEP for coastal). No development contrary to policy provisions.
2. The number of development proposals permitted that incorporate SuDS	DCSDC Planning Decisions	Increased proportion of new development with surface runoff attenuated to greenfield runoff rates.

3. The amount of energy (MW) produced from renewable sources in the District	DfE Electricity Consumption and Renewable Generation Statistics	Increase in locally generated renewable energy
4. The number of development proposals permitted that incorporate SuDS, of types that do not qualify for adoption by NI Water under The Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No target. Objective is to monitor increase development incorporating 'soft' SuDS

Indicator	Source	Target
Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably		
1. % surface waterbodies in Borough (including transitional and coastal waterbodies) achieving 'good' ecological status (or 'good' ecological potential) or better	DAERA NI Environment Agency Water Management Unit	No target. (Objective is improvement in surface water quality).
2. The number of planning permissions (PPs) granted to incorporate SuDS measures in development proposals.	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No target. Objective is increasing number of development proposals permitted with SuDS. To be reviewed as NI - wide practice is put in place.
3. The number of development proposals permitted that incorporate SuDS, of types that do not qualify for adoption by NI Water under The Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No target. Objective is to monitor increase development incorporating 'soft' SuDS
4. Number and location of properties approved with non-mains wastewater treatment.	DAERA NI Environment Agency DCSDC Planning Decisions NI Water	No target. (Objective is to decrease number of potential point pollution sources).
5. Number of applications refused due to capacity issues with WwTW	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No target. Monitor trend.
6. The number of development proposals permitted in identified Flood Risk Areas.	DCSDC Planning Decisions and DFI Rivers Consultations	No target. Objective to minimise level of new development at flood risk from 1% AEP event (0.5% AEP for coastal). No development contrary to policy provisions.
7. Number and extent of development approved and refused that require a marine licence or other marine consent.	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No target. Monitor trend.
8. Number and extent of development approved and refused that considered impacts on the marine area	DCSDC Planning Decisions DAERA Marine Division Consultations	No target. Monitor trend.

Indicator	Source	Target
Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity		
1. Changes to designation of natural heritage assets (surface area km ² , number).	DAERA NI Environment Agency	No Target. (Objective is to maintain / increase areas designated for nature conservation value).
2. Condition of natural heritage assets within the District (DAERA condition assessments)	DAERA NI Environment Agency	No Target. (Objective is to maintain / improve areas designated for their nature conservation value).
3. The number of development proposals permitted impacting on natural heritage sites (International / European, National and Local) contrary to advice received from DAERA Natural Environment Division	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No Target. Objective is to maintaining / improving areas designated for their nature conservation value. No inappropriate development contrary to policy provisions.
4. New green and blue infrastructure created within new developments.	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No target. Objective is to increase network of green and blue infrastructure.
5. Number of trees planted associated with development. Outside of development limits each new house will be encouraged to plant on- site or nearby.	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No target. Objective is to increase numbers of trees planted in the District.
6. Number and extent of development with Key Site Requirements which include measures to protect and integrate species, habitats and natural heritage features (both marine and terrestrial).	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No target. Monitor trend.
7. Number and extent of development approved and refused that require a marine licence or other marine consent.	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No target. Monitor trend.

8. Number and extent of development approved and refused that considered impacts on the marine area	DCSDC Planning Decisions DAERA Marine Division Consultations	No target. Monitor trend.
---	---	------------------------------

Indicator	Source	Target
Maintain and enhance landscape character		
1. New development within the AONB, SCA and AHLI.	DCSDC Planning Decisions	Protecting areas of high landscape quality - no inappropriate development contrary to policy provisions.
2. Amount of development within Coastal AHLIs.	DCSDC Planning Decisions	Protecting areas of high coastal landscape and seascape quality - no inappropriate development contrary to policy provisions.
3. Number, height and location of new or re-powered wind turbines approved / operational within Wind Energy Capacity Area (WECA).	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No inappropriate development contrary to policy provisions.

Indicator	Source	Target
Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage		
1. Changes to designation of heritage assets (area, Ha) and no. of scheduled zones, no. of monuments in state care, area of parks, gardens and demesnes.	DfC Historic Environment Division	No Target (Objective is to Conserve/ Enhance sites, buildings and monuments designated for their heritage value).
2. Change in number of heritage assets at risk in the District	Derry City and Strabane District Council, Ulster Architectural Heritage Society	No Target. Monitor trend. Objective is to maintain/enhance sites, buildings and monuments designated for their heritage value.
3. The number of development proposals permitted involving heritage assets contrary to advice received from DfC Historic Environment Division.	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No inappropriate development contrary to policy provisions. (Objective is to Protect/ Conserve/ Enhance sites, buildings and monuments designated for their heritage value).
4. Number of tourism applications adjacent to Derry City's Historic Walls.	DCSDC Planning Decisions	No inappropriate development causing harm to Walls or contrary to policy provisions. (Objective is to Protect/ Conserve/ Enhance sites and monuments designated for their heritage value).
5. Number of signage applications adjacent to Derry City's Historic Walls.	DCSDC Planning Decisions & Enforcement Records.	No inappropriate development contrary to policy provisions / no signage that harms the City Walls. (Objective is to Protect/ Conserve/ Enhance sites and monuments designated for their heritage value).
6. Number of demolitions in Conservation Areas & Areas of Townscape/Village Character (ATCs)	DCSDC Planning and appeal Decisions, Built Heritage at Risk NI (UAH/HED)	No inappropriate development contrary to policy provisions. (Objective is to Protect/Conserve/Enhance buildings and areas designated for their heritage value).

List of Abbreviations in Appendix A

AEP	Annual Equivalent Probability
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
ATC	Area of Townscape Character
CORINE	Coordination of Information on the Environment
DETI	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (now Department for the Economy, DfE)
DFC	Department for Communities
DFI	Department for Infrastructure
GSNI	Geological Survey Northern Ireland
HED	Historic Environment Division
AHLI	Areas of High Landscape Importance
LPS	Land and Property Services
LTH	Lifetime Home
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
NWRWMG	North West Region Waste Management Group
ONS	Office for National Statistics
SCA	Special Countryside Area
SPPS	Strategic Planning Policy Statement
TSNI	Travel Survey Northern Ireland
WwTW	Wastewater Treatment Works
UAH	Ulster Architectural Heritage
WECA	Wind Energy Capacity Area