



Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle
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Cheantar an tSraitha Bain
Derry Cittie & Strabane
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**DERRY CITY
AND
STRABANE DISTRICT
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2030
TIMETABLE**

July 2016

Getting in Touch:

Should you have a planning query, you can contact the Council's Planning Section in the following ways:

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Should you require a copy of this Timetable in an alternative format, it can be made available on request in large print, audio format, DAISY or Braille. It may also be made available in minority languages to meet the needs of those for whom English is not their first language.

Keeping you Informed

Derry City and Strabane District Council - Planning Section is developing new methods of actively communicating and effectively engaging with the residents of the District about LDP progress and planning issues in general.

As part of a European funded project (IMPROVE), the Planning Section has created a LDP website via which you can input your thoughts and comments on a regular basis on the planning topics that are important to you. Your feedback will form part of the decision making process for that particular planning topic and ultimately will help shape the content of the Plan. We will also regularly update the website to keep you informed of LDP progress.

To visit this LDP website, please go to: <http://www.derrystrabane.com/ldp>

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Timetable document sets out an indicative timescale along with the associated key stages for the production of the Derry City and Strabane District Local Development Plan 2030 (LDP). It is a public statement of our programme for the delivery of the LDP which will subsequently replace both the Strabane Area Plan 2001 and the Derry Area Plan 2011. The timetable will help ensure that the plan process is efficiently managed and that all involved in its preparation are kept informed and can manage their own resources to facilitate their involvement in the LDP process.

1.2 The Timetable was approved by resolution of Derry City and Strabane District Council prior to being submitted to and agreed by the Department for Infrastructure in accordance with Regulation 7 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

1.3 The Timetable meets the requirements of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, which requires Council to prepare and keep under review a Timetable for the preparation and adoption of its LDP. The Timetable has also been developed within the context of the Council's Corporate Plan.

2.0 PURPOSE OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP)

2.1 The purpose of the Local Development Plan is to inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested parties of the policy framework and land use proposals that will guide development decisions within the District up to 2030.

2.2 Our new LDP will be prepared within the context of the Council's Corporate Plan and will integrate with the Community Planning process to assist us in planning to deliver the future vision sought by all those who live, work and invest in this District. It will ensure that development is sustainably managed, lands are appropriately zoned and that our infrastructure is enhanced to meet the need of future generations.

2.3 The LDP must also take account of the regional policy context set by the Northern Ireland Executive and Central Government Departments. This includes, amongst others, the Sustainable Development Strategy, the Regional Development Strategy, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement and Planning Policy Statements.

2.4 The LDP, when adopted, will replace both the Strabane Area Plan 2001 and the Derry Area Plan 2011 and their associated operational planning policies that were produced by the Department of the Environment (now Department for Infrastructure – DFI). The LDP will be produced in two stages consisting of first, a Plan Strategy (PS), and later followed by a Local Policies Plan (LPP).

2.5 The PS will set the broad aims, objectives and the overall growth strategy and associated generic planning policies applicable across the District. In contrast, the LPP will deal with the site specific policies and proposals associated with our settlements, such as their settlement development limits, land use zonings and environmental designations. The land use zonings will articulate the vision, objectives, spatial strategy and strategic policies contained within the PS, reinforcing the integrated connection between both documents.

2.6 To inform the preparation of these plan documents, a key next step is to identify the most significant planning issues currently affecting our District, as well as those likely to become relevant in the future. We will define a range of options for addressing these issues and subsequently publish these for consultation in a Preferred Options Paper (POP). The POP and the consultation response to it will significantly shape the content of the resulting Draft PS.

2.7 Throughout the preparation of the LDP, we will undertake a parallel process of Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The SA process aims to ensure that social, economic and environmental considerations are put at the heart of the policy and proposal development process to ensure the resulting decisions, and ultimately the Plan, is sustainably sound.

2.8 Relevant SA reports will be published at each of the key stages of the plan making process. This will include consultation on the scope of the appraisal at the Preferred Options Paper stage.

3.0 THE TIMETABLE

3.1 The Timetable Summary which sets out indicative dates for the key stages in the preparation of the LDP is set out in Appendix 1. A brief explanation of the key stages is set out below:

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)– This will set out how the Council intends to engage with the local community during the preparation of the LDP.

Preferred Options Paper (POP)- The POP is a public consultation document which will set out the most significant planning issues currently affecting our District, as well as those likely to become relevant in the future. It will include the Council's preferred options to address them.

Draft Plan Strategy (PS)- The draft PS is a public consultation document which will set out in draft terms the proposed broad aims, objectives and the overall future growth strategy and associated generic planning policies applicable across the District.

Independent Examination (IE)- An IE will be held to determine the soundness of the draft PS, taking into account a consideration of the representations and counter representations received during the draft PS consultation period. After the IE, an Advisory Report of its findings will be issued to the DfI.

Binding Report – following consideration of the Advisory Report, DfI will issue a Binding Report to Council directing it to adopt the draft PS as originally prepared or with modifications. Alternatively, Council may be directed to withdraw the draft PS. Council must incorporate any changes outlined in the Binding Report into the final PS.

Adoption of Plan Strategy- Following the IE and any relevant direction from DfI, the Council will formally adopt the PS.

Draft Local Policies Plan (LPP) - The LPP is the second Plan document within the LDP process. The draft LPP is a public consultation document and will contain Council's detailed land use proposals for the District. The land use zonings will articulate the vision, objectives, spatial strategy and strategic policies contained within the PS.

Independent Examination - An IE will be held to determine the soundness of the draft LPP, taking into account any representations or counter representations. Following the IE, an Advisory Report of its findings will be issued to DfI.

Binding Report – following consideration of the Advisory Report, DfI will issue a Binding Report to Council directing it to adopt the draft LPP as originally prepared or with modifications. Alternatively, Council may be directed to withdraw the draft LPP. Council must incorporate any changes outlined in the Binding Report into the final LPP.

Adoption of Local Policies Plan - Following the IE and any relevant direction from DfI, the Council will formally adopt the LPP.

3.2 The Timetable does not just relate to the actual preparation of the Plan documents. Council is also required to carry out a number of assessments in parallel with the preparation of the LDP documents. These assessments are essential for informing various aspects of Plan production and their undertaking and findings will contribute towards the LDP's test of soundness at the IE.

3.3 As indicated above, a **Sustainability Appraisal (SA)** will be undertaken. This will assist the Council to assess the sustainability or otherwise of the LDP proposals and how they will combine and interact in the LDP to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Aside from the SA process, which includes social and economic considerations, an integral part of the SA process will be the undertaking of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – which will solely examine the environmental effects of the LDP proposals.

3.4 A **Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)** will also be required to consider the potential impact of LDP policies and proposals on European protected nature conservation sites.

3.5 An **Equality Impact Assessment** and **Rural Proofing** will also be required to examine and assess whether the LDP is likely to impact on different sections of the community or appropriately and proportionately caters for those living and working in rural areas as well as those in urban areas

4.0 DELIVERING ON TIME

4.1 Meeting the timetable is dependent upon Councillor involvement, adequate resourcing and risk management. The Timetable is an extremely challenging one, especially as we are seeking to produce a completely new style of plan based on significant levels of public engagement whilst simultaneously subjecting the process to a number of legislatively required Appraisals and Assessments.

Councillor Involvement

4.2 Progress on the Derry City and Strabane District Local Development Plan will be reported to the Council on a regular, normally monthly, basis through Planning Committee meetings and a series of workshops focussing on relevant LDP planning topics.

4.3 To further assist with the effective management of the Timetable, it is essential that relevant steps and safeguards are put in place to manage the LDP decision-making process and provide early warning of potential time slippage. Such steps include:

- A work programme will be presented to Council Members for each key stage of the plan process.
- Papers will be presented to Council Members on a regular basis regarding local development plan matters, including key planning topics and findings as they emerge.
- Web based interaction will allow people to input their thoughts into the decision making process on various planning topics as we seek to develop our POP

- A Steering Group will be established comprising of nominated Members of the Planning Committee, the Chief Executive / Director of Environment & Regeneration (or authorised replacement) and the Head of Planning. This is the high level co-ordinating body that will ensure oversight and strategic input on behalf of the whole community, as well as from planning professionals.
- A Project Management Team will be established comprising of Senior Council Officers and representatives from the key Statutory/Government Departments. The purpose of the team will be to ensure key consultees cooperate in the plan making process. The Project Management team will be consulted on and act as the screening and scoping group for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Plan.
- An annual monitoring report will be produced to inform Council Members and Central Government on progress in meeting the Timetable.
- Progress Reports on the LDP will be submitted on a quarterly basis to the Planning Committee.

Adequate Resourcing

4.4 As well as a suitably resourced LDP team, the use of experienced consultants will also be required at key stages, to bring forward studies related to retailing, transport and urban design within the District. Consultants will also be required to assist in a 'critical friend' capacity throughout the SA process.

Risk Management

4.5 As already stated, the timetable is extremely challenging and there are a variety of risks that could slow down the LDP programme e.g. ranging from financial, judicial reviews, timely input from stakeholder bodies, competing plans seeking similar IE dates to staffing resources. A Risk Management Log will be adopted to assess a variety of risks, identify their likelihood and potential impact and plan counter-measures to mitigate delays.

5.0 ANNUAL MONITORING AND REVIEW

5.1 An annual monitoring report will be produced by Council to inform Members, key consultees and the DfI on progress in meeting the timetable. If progress on plan production has slipped, the timetable will need to be revised and agreed with the Department in accordance with the Development Plan Regulations. In the event that the LDP Timetable requires amendment, Council has the power under the Planning Act 2011 to publish a revised Timetable. Any amendments will be publicised and made available on the Council's website <http://www.derrystrabane.com>

APPENDIX 1

Local Development Plan 2015-2030 (LDP) Timetable – June 2016		
Estimated Timescale (Commencement of tasks per Quarter)	LDP Stage	Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Stage
2016 2nd Quarter 2nd Quarter	Agree Timetable and Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) with Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) Publication of Statement of Community Involvement and Timetable	
2016 3rd Quarter		Invite comment from Consultation Body (NIEA) on draft Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment - SEA) Scoping Report
2017 1st Quarter Statutory Public Consultation 8-12 weeks	Publish Preferred Options Paper (POP)	Publication of SA Interim Report
2017 4th Quarter Statutory Public Consultation: 8 weeks for Representations; 8 weeks for Counter representations	Publication of draft Plan Strategy (PS)	Publication of SA Report (incorporating SEA) Publication of draft HRA, EQIA and Rural Proofing reports
2018 2nd Quarter 3rd Quarter 4th Quarter	Hold Independent Examination (IE) IE Advisory Report to Dfi Dfi issues Binding Report to Council	
2019 1st Quarter	Adoption of Plan Strategy (PS)	Publication of SA Adoption Report (incorporating SEA) Publication of draft HRA, EQIA and Rural Proofing reports
2019 2nd Quarter	Commence preparation of draft Local Policies Plan (LPP)	Invite comment from Consultation Body (NIEA) on draft Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment - SEA) Scoping Report for LPP

<p>2019 4th Quarter Statutory Public Consultation: 8 weeks for Representations; 8 weeks for Counter representations</p>	<p>Publish Draft LPP</p>	<p>Publication of SA Report (incorporating SEA) Publication of draft HRA, EQIA and Rural Proofing reports</p>
<p>2020 2nd Quarter 4th Quarter</p>	<p>Hold Independent Examination (IE) Dfl Binding Report to Council and adoption of Local Policies Plan</p>	<p>Publication of SA Adoption Report (incorporating SEA) Publication of draft HRA, EQIA and Rural Proofing reports</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Monitor • 5 and 10 Year Review <p>Public Engagement during 5 and 10 year Reviews</p>	<p>Monitoring and Review of LDP, SA and other related assessments</p>	

Please note: This is an indicative timetable and may be subject to change due to factors outside the control of the Council. Quarters referred to represent year start to year end; i.e. 1st Quarter (January – March) to 4th Quarter (October – December).