

# **Local Development Plan – Draft Plan Strategy (LDP PS)**

## **SA Scoping Report**

**December 2019**

**Prepared for  
Derry City & Strabane District Council  
by  
Shared Environmental Services.**

## Consultation Arrangements

The LDP draft Plan Strategy (dPS) is a consultation document, to which representations can be made during a formal consultation period from **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 to Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020**. **Representations received after this date will not be considered.**

The dPS document is available, together with the associated documents, at <http://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/LDP/Local-Development-Plan>

These documents are also available to view, during normal opening hours, at:

- Council Offices, 98 Strand Road, Derry, BT48 7NN
- Council Offices, 47 Derry Road, Strabane, BT82 8DY
- Public Libraries and Council Leisure Centres throughout the District.

Public Meetings and Workshops will be held throughout the District during December 2019 / January 2020; see the Council's website and local press advertisements for details: <http://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/LDP/Local-Development-Plan>

The LDP draft Plan Strategy is considered by the Council to be 'sound'; if you have any comments or objections to make, it is necessary to demonstrate why you consider that the Plan is not 'sound' and / or why you consider your proposal to be 'sound'. Comments, or representations made in writing, will be considered at an Independent Examination (IE) conducted by the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) or other independent body that will be appointed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI). The IE will determine whether the dPS satisfies statutory requirements and also consider the 'soundness' of the LDP dPS - against the Procedural Tests, Consistency Tests and the Coherence & Effectiveness Tests.

Before submitting a representation, you are strongly advised to read DfI's guidance on soundness in Development Plan Practice Note (DPPN) 06 (See <https://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/advice/practice-notes/common-newpage-9.htm>). It is also recommended that you read the PAC's guidance entitled 'Procedures for Independent Examination of Local Development Plans' available on their website [www.pacni.gov.uk](http://www.pacni.gov.uk).

Representations can also be submitted during the consultation period regarding the associated appraisal documents, namely the draft Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment, SEA), the draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA or AA), draft Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) and draft Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA).

Your comments may be submitted by e-mail to: [LDP@DerryStrabane.com](mailto:LDP@DerryStrabane.com) preferably by using the online questionnaire at the above website. Alternatively, you can write to the **Planning LDP Team, 98 Strand Road, Derry BT48 7NN**. (Please note that, under Freedom of Information and Council's policy of Transparency, all representations will normally be made publicly available. Any requests otherwise should be clearly stated and the request will be considered by the Council.)

The LDP draft Plan Strategy and supporting documents can be supplied in alternative formats; please submit your request and requirements to the above address. Our other contacts are: Telephone - 028 71 253 253 Ext. 7014, Textphone - 028 71 376 646.

**The Closing Date for Representations is Monday 27th January 2020**

This page has been left intentionally blank.

## Overview

### What is the purpose of the Local Development Plan?

The main purpose of the Local Development Plan (LDP) is to inform the general public, statutory 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 & Strabane District Council 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. A 'suitable place' will generally be a location where the development proposal can help meet economic and social needs without compromising the quality of the environment. This is often referred to as 'sustainable development' which has been defined as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

In seeking to deliver sustainable development, the Plan will serve to implement the regional direction set out in the Regional Development Strategy (RDS), Sustainable Development Strategy and other central government initiatives.

### What is Sustainability Appraisal?

A Sustainability Appraisal is being carried out alongside preparation of the Derry City and Strabane District Council Local Development Plan. Local Planning Authorities use Sustainability Appraisal to assess plans against a set of sustainability objectives developed in consultation with stakeholders. This assessment helps the Council to identify the relative environmental, social and economic performance of possible strategic, policy and site options, and to evaluate which of these may be more sustainable. Sustainability Appraisal is a statutory process incorporating the requirements of the European Union Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

### What is the purpose of this document?

The purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report is to:

- Identify other policies, plans, programmes and Sustainability Objectives of relevance to the LDP.
- Collect baseline information about the environmental, social and economic conditions in our Council area, and consider how these might change in the future.
- Identify sustainability issues and challenges which could affect or be addressed by the LDP.
- Develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework, consisting of sustainability objectives and appraisal prompts which will form the basis for assessment of the LDP; and
- Invite comment on the scope and method of the Sustainability Appraisal.

## Sustainability Appraisal Objectives for Derry City and Strabane District Council Local Development Plan

The objectives for sustainable development for Derry City and Strabane District Council are to:

1. improve health and well-being.
2. strengthen society
3. provide good quality, sustainable housing
4. enable access to high quality education
5. enable sustainable economic growth
6. manage material assets sustainably
7. protect physical resources and use sustainably
8. encourage active and sustainable travel
9. improve air quality
10. reduce causes of and adapt to climate change
11. protect, manage and use water resources sustainably
12. protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity
13. maintain and enhance landscape character
14. protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage

<b>List of Abbreviations .....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Purpose of this Scoping Report .....	1
1.2 Derry City and Strabane District Council Local Development Plan .....	1
1.3 Sustainable Development.....	1
1.4 Strategic Environmental Assessment .....	2
1.5 Integrated Sustainability Appraisal.....	2
1.6 Stages in Sustainability Appraisal .....	2
1.7 Other Assessments.....	4
1.8 Scoping Report Structure .....	4
<b>2.0 Sustainability Appraisal: The Approach.....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 Introduction.....	5
2.2 Principles .....	5
2.3 Involving Others .....	5
2.4 The Evidence Base.....	6
2.5 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework.....	6
2.6 Significant Effects .....	6
2.7 Assessment Method.....	6
2.8 Appraisal of reasonable alternatives for the draft Plan Strategy Stage .....	7
2.9 Plan Strategy .....	8
2.10 Local Policies Plan.....	8
2.11 Cumulative Effects.....	8
<b>3.0 Derry City and Strabane District Council Local Development Plan .....</b>	<b>9</b>
3.1 Context - Requirement to Prepare a Local Development Plan .....	9
3.2 Preparation.....	9
3.3 Spatial Overview of Derry City and Strabane District Council.....	10
3.4 Challenges and Opportunities Ahead .....	11
3.5 How can our LDP contribute?.....	12
<b>4.0 Overview of the baseline evidence.....</b>	<b>13</b>
4.1 Presentation of Baseline Evidence .....	13
4.2 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies.....	14
4.3 Strategic Context.....	14
4.4 Baseline Evidence .....	17
4.5 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan .....	18
4.6 The Key Sustainability Issues .....	18
4.7 Sustainability Objectives.....	18
<b>5.0 The Evidence Base.....</b>	<b>19</b>
5.1 Health and Well-being .....	19

5.2 Community.....	33
5.3 Housing .....	39
5.4 Education and Skills .....	50
5.5 Economy and Employment.....	56
5.6 Material Assets .....	69
5.7 Physical Resources.....	79
5.8 Transport and Accessibility.....	87
5.9 Air Quality.....	96
5.10 Climate Change .....	101
5.11 Water .....	111
5.12 Natural Resources .....	125
5.13 Landscape.....	133
5.14 Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage.....	138
<b>The Sustainability Appraisal Framework.....</b>	<b>147</b>
1.9 The Sustainability Objectives .....	147
1.10 Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives .....	149
1.11 Next Steps .....	149
1.12 Difficulties Encountered in Compiling the Scoping Report.....	149
<b>APPENDIX 1: COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.....</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2: SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AND RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC Environmental Assessment (SEA) TOPICS.....</b>	<b>152</b>
<b>APPENDIX 3: COMPATIBILITY OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES.....</b>	<b>153</b>
<b>APPENDIX 4: REVIEW OF POLICIES, PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES .....</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>APPENDIX 5: SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL GUIDE FOR DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL DRAFT PLAN STRATEGY .....</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>APPENDIX 6: CONSULTATION BODY COMMENTS ON THE SA SCOPING REPORT AT DRAFT PLAN STRATEGY AND POP STAGE.....</b>	<b>220</b>

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAP	Area of Archaeological Potential
AHRRGA	Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
AoHSV	Area of High Scenic Value
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
ASAI	Area(s) of Significant Archaeological Interest
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest
AWB	Artificial Waterbody
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
BMAP	Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan
CCC	Committee on Climate Change
COE	Council of Europe
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DCSDC	Derry City and Strabane District Council
DCCAE	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
DE	The Department of Education
DEA	District Electoral Area
DETI	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
DfC	Department for Communities
DfE	Department for the Economy
DfI	Department for Infrastructure
DHPLG	Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (RoI)
DOE	Department of the Environment
DoH	Department of Health
DoJ	Department of Justice
EA	Education Authority
EAPP	Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations
EC	European Commission
EO	The Executive Office
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ES	Ecosystem Services
ESCR	Earth Science Conservation Site
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan
GEP	Good Ecological Potential
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GSNI	Geological Survey of Northern Ireland
HED	Historic Environment Division
HGI	Housing Growth Indicator(s)
HMWB	Heavily Modified Waterbody
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LDP	Local Development Plan
LPP	Local Policies Plan
LGD	Local Government District
MCAA	Marine and Coastal Access Act
MPS	Marine Policy Statement
NASCO	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation



NI	Northern Ireland
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
NINIS	Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
NIW	Northern Ireland Water
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
OPW	Office of Public Works
PfG	Programme for Government
PFRA	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for NI
POMs	Programme of Measures
POP	Preferred Options Paper
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
PS	Plan Strategy
RBD	River Basin District
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RDS	Regional Development Strategy
RLCA	Regional Landscape Character Area
RoI	Republic of Ireland
ROMP	Review of Old Mineral Permissions
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCA	Seascape Character Area
SCaMP	Sustainable Catchment Area Management Practice
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SFRA	Significant Flood Risk Area
SLNCI	Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
SOA	Super Output Area
SONI	System Operator for Northern Ireland
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPPS	Strategic Planning Policy Statement
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
TSNI	Travel Survey Northern Ireland
UK	United Kingdom
UK Gov.	UK Government
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WHSC	Western Health and Social Care Trust
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WMG	Waste Management Group
WMU	Water Management Unit
WTW	Water Treatment Works
WwTW	Wastewater Treatment Works

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Purpose of this Scoping Report

This Scoping Report is the second formal output of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process for the Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) Local Development Plan (LDP). It updates and builds on the Scoping Report prepared alongside the Preferred Options Paper (POP), published in May 2017. It presents information about the topics being assessed under the Sustainability Appraisal (SA), which incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The Scoping Report will be updated throughout the Plan preparation and will be included with all SA Reports published as part of the consultation process for the LDP.

## 1.2 Derry City and Strabane District Council Local Development Plan

The current LDP Timetable was published in July 2016 and sets out indicative timeframes for the key stages in the production of the LDP. Section 3 of this report describes the approach we are taking to plan preparation in more detail and provides an overview of our Council area. The District Council shares its boundary with neighbouring Councils – Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Mid Ulster District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Donegal County Council.

## 1.3 Sustainable Development

The Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy - ‘Everyone’s Involved’<sup>1</sup>, states that sustainability policy ‘is driven by intergenerational equity; to secure a quality of life for present and future generations that is positive and rewarding.’

Achieving sustainable development is a requirement set out in Provision 25 of The Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006. This requires all Departments and Councils in Northern Ireland (NI), in exercising their functions, to act in the way they consider best calculated to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. In doing this they must have regard to any strategy or guidance relating to sustainable development published by NI departments.

Within planning legislation Section 5 of The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (as amended), requires those who exercise any function in relation to LDPs to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development.

SA is the approach used to promote sustainable development within LDPs by evaluating the social, environmental and economic effects of all aspects of the LDP throughout its preparation.

The Sustainable Development Strategy identifies 32 strategic objectives in the following Priority Areas:

- Building a dynamic, innovative economy that delivers the prosperity required to tackle disadvantage and lift communities out of poverty.
- Strengthening society so that it is more tolerant, inclusive and stable and permits positive progress in quality of life for everyone.
- Driving sustainable, long-term investment in key infrastructure to support economic and social development.
- Striking an appropriate balance between the responsible use and protection of natural resources in support of a better quality of life and a better quality environment.
- Ensuring reliable, affordable and sustainable energy provision and reducing our carbon footprint.
- Ensuring the existence of a policy environment which supports the overall advancement of sustainable development in and beyond Government.

---

<sup>1</sup> Northern Ireland Executive (2010): Everyone’s Involved – Sustainable Development Strategy

## 1.4 Strategic Environmental Assessment

SEA is a systematic process for assessing potential effects of proposed plans or programmes to ensure that significant environmental impacts are considered from the earliest opportunity and addressed in decision making. It was introduced by the European Directive 2001/42/EC 'On the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment' ('the SEA Directive'). In NI the SEA Directive's requirements are taken forward through The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (EAPP) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004. The EAPP (NI) Regulations set out more detailed requirements for the process and content of the environmental assessment of plans and development. Appendix 1 of this report records how these regulations are being complied with.

## 1.5 Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

Section 25 of The Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 requires that all NI Departments and Councils, in exercising their functions, act in the way they consider best calculated to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

Section 5 of The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 ('the 2011 Act') requires those who exercise any function in relation to LDPs to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development. In addition, Sections 8(6) and 9(7) of the 2011 Act requires an appraisal of sustainability to be carried out for the Plan Strategy (PS) and Local Policies Plan (LPP), respectively.

The approach in this report is informed by Development Plan Practice Note 04: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment<sup>1</sup>. SA therefore refers to an integrated approach which fully incorporates SEA and fulfils the requirements for both SA and SEA.

## 1.6 Stages in Sustainability Appraisal

The key stages of the SA are summarised below and their location in this report or accompanying reports identified.

**Table 1.6.1: Stages of Sustainability Appraisal**

Stage	Description	Location
<b>Stage A (1) Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report</b>	Identify other relevant policies, plans, programmes and Sustainability Objectives.	Appendix 4
	Collect baseline information	Section 5
	Consult the Consultation Body on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.	Prior to POP, consulted Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) SEA Team on 21/02/17 on SA Scoping Report template and response received 23/3/17.  Formally consulted DAERA on SA Interim and Scoping Reports on 22/06/2017 and response received 21/08/2017.  At draft PS statutory consultees re- consulted from 31/10/18 to 30/11/18 and DAERA

<sup>1</sup> [Department of the Environment \(2015\) Development Plan Practice Note 04: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment](#)

		<p>responded dated 26/11/18 - superseded by second response dated 26/11/18 but sent 30/11/18.</p> <p>Where possible recommendations have been incorporated.</p> <p>Refer to Appendix 6.</p>
	Identify environmental issues and challenges	Section 5
	Develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework	Section 6
	Produce draft Scoping Report and share with stakeholders	Section 2.3
<b>Stage A (2) Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report</b>	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 (POP).	Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report published with POP in May 2017
<b>Stage B</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 mitigation measured for alleviating any adverse effects.	Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report published with POP in May 2017
<b>Stage C</b>	Sustainability Appraisal Report to document the appraisal process and findings.	SA Report
<b>Stage D</b>	Consultation with the public, environmental authorities and any EU member state affected on the Sustainability Appraisal Report and draft plan.	SA Report
<b>Stage E</b>	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.	SA Report
<b>Stage F</b>	Monitoring: Establishing arrangements to monitor the significant effects of the implementation of the plan, to identify unforeseen adverse effects and undertake appropriate remedial action.	SA Report

## 1.7 Other Assessments

### 1.7.1 Habitats Regulations Assessment

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is a provision of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended). The regulations require assessment of possible adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas) as a result of plans and policies in the LDP; this is also carried out for Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance designated under the provisions of the Ramsar Convention). A draft HRA has been published for consultation with the Draft PS and an updated version will be prepared for the Draft LPP. A final HRA will be published when each of these are adopted.

### 1.7.2 Rural Proofing

The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, which came in to force 1 June 2017, applies to NI Government Departments and Councils. It states that 'A public authority must have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans.' Public authorities must report annually on how they have implemented this requirement.

The approach to considering rural needs is called 'rural proofing' and DAERA has provided advice on carrying it out in 'Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing'<sup>1</sup>. Rural proofing is the process by which all major policies and strategies are assessed to determine whether they have a differential impact on rural areas and, where appropriate, adjustments are made to take account of particular rural circumstances. The Council has reported on rural proofing in their Rural Needs Impact Assessment, which has been published alongside the draft PS.

The SA Scoping Report considers rural populations and how the LDP could affect them in the evidence base for the community topic. Data on rural populations, where available, is also included under other topics, for example health, education and infrastructure. Key sustainability issues for the District Council area include some that are specific to rural communities and the appraisal prompts include questions about how a proposal will meet the needs of rural populations or potentially have a disproportionate impact.

## 1.8 Scoping Report Structure

Section 2 of this report details the proposed approach to SA while Section 3 provides an overview of plan preparation. Section 4 gives an overview of the baseline information and each topic is reported on in Section 5 with the context, relevant baseline information, trends, key issues and the implications for the LDP. Section 6 presents the Sustainability Framework and outlines the next steps in the SA.

---

<sup>1</sup> DAERA 2015: Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing

## 2.0 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL: THE APPROACH

### 2.1 Introduction

This section describes the overall approach taken to SA throughout the LDP process. Sections 4 to 6 are the application of this approach for the Scoping Report for DCSDC's LDP.

### 2.2 Principles

The SA process is carried out under the following principles:

#### *Role*

SA is a tool to aid plan-making which identifies potential effects of options, how these may be mitigated and with a view to informing on the most appropriate option. It does not, however, give a 'right' answer and is not the decision-making mechanism.

#### *Integrated*

SA is an essential part of the plan-making process. It is integral to and carried out through the whole of plan preparation and subsequent monitoring. It helps to test the effects of options and inform the selection of proposals. It will provide evidence of the decision-making process and any changes brought about to ensure sustainability of the LDP.

#### *Shared Information*

Where appropriate, data collected for other purposes such as LDP Preparatory Papers or Community Planning is utilised for evidence or for future monitoring.

#### *Relevant*

The SA focuses on context and data that is relevant to the plan. It will not detail issues that cannot be addressed within the remit of the LDP.

#### *Connected*

The LDP may be influenced by, or have an impact on, neighbouring areas. The SA considers strategies and plans beyond the Council area, where there is potential for significant positive or negative effects. Neighbouring Councils were invited to comment on the SA Scoping Report and SA Interim Report when these were published in May 2017 and will be invited to comment on the SA Reports. It is also acknowledged that DCSDC has direct and indirect connectivity to the marine environment through its location, watercourses and river systems.

#### *Proportionate*

The SA aims to avoid duplication. Therefore, for example, international strategies are not included where they have been given effect in a national or regional strategy. Where more detailed information is available in another document the essentials are included here and a link or web address provided.

#### *Up-to-date*

The SA Reports will be updated during plan preparation to ensure that current policies, plans and programmes are reflected and recent data is used.

#### *Future proof*

Potential future changes within and beyond the life of the plan are considered to anticipate needs and to try to maintain opportunities for long term sustainable development.

### 2.3 Involving Others

Informal and formal consultation with stakeholders and the public is an essential part of SA, to ensure that the topics and issues have been fully considered. The first formal consultation required on the SA Scoping Report was with the Statutory Consultation Body. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) acts as the lead for the Consultation Body and was consulted on the outline of the SA Scoping

Report in February 2017 and the published version in June 2017 and again in November 2018 at the draft PS stage. Where possible, experts with general and local knowledge of all topics have been consulted to inform the LDP Baseline Evidence Papers and Section 5. Statutory consultees were invited to comment on the SA Reports published at POP stage in June 2017 and were re-consulted regarding updates to the SA Scoping Report in November 2018.

Where appropriate, the NIEA's comments have been incorporated and will further inform future updates to the SA Reports. A register of consultation responses is being maintained and has been provided in Appendix 6 of this report.

Where possible, experts with general and local knowledge of all topics have been consulted to inform the Baseline Evidence papers and Section 5. Statutory consultees were invited to comment on the SA Reports published at POP stage in June 2017 and were re-consulted in November 2018. A register of consultation responses is being maintained and has been provided in Appendix 6 of this report.

DCSDC shares boundaries with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Mid Ulster District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Donegal County Council. These Councils will be invited to comment on the draft PS and SA Reports.

The public was formally consulted on the SA Interim Report in June 2017, together with the SA Scoping Report, following the publication of the POP in May 2017. There will also be public consultation on the SA Reports which accompany the draft PS and draft LPP. Representations at public consultation that are relevant to the SA will be reviewed. Where necessary, the SA Reports will be revised in response to representations and to any changes to the PS or LPP.

## 2.4 The Evidence Base

The evidence base is arranged according to a number of topics and for each topic a consistent approach to reporting is followed. The approach is described in more detail in Section 4 and the evidence base is presented in Section 5.

The evidence base was prepared using all available information sources. Every effort has been made to ensure that the document refers to the most recent information available, however it is an evolving document and is reviewed and updated at each stage of appraisal.

## 2.5 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

The purpose of the SA Framework is to provide a means of ensuring that the social, environmental and economic needs of the area are considered in plan preparation. It enables the effects of plan proposals to be described, analysed and compared. It also helps identify measures to minimise negative effects and enhance positive effects.

The SA Framework consists of Sustainability Objectives with prompts which are used to assess plan proposals against the baseline. All stages of plan-making will be assessed using the Framework which may be updated as further information becomes available. The Sustainability Reports to accompany the PS will include proposed indicators for monitoring any significant effects of delivery of the LDP in relation to the Sustainability Objectives.

## 2.6 Significant Effects

The SA will assess the significant effects of options both positive and negative. There is no single definition of a significant effect, therefore assessment is a matter of judgement from discussion that takes account of the extent of the effect spatially and in time.

## 2.7 Assessment Method

The key stages are SA of:

- options and reasonable alternatives for the POP;
- options and reasonable alternatives for the PS; and
- the LPP.

The proposed method for the appraisal of each part of the LDP follows.

## 2.8 Appraisal of reasonable alternatives for the draft Plan Strategy Stage

In the draft PS, policy options are presented at a strategic and operational level. In some cases, more than one policy option has been assessed. Only reasonable alternatives were considered. The SA Report accompanying the draft PS evaluates all policy options using the appraisal matrix shown below in Table 2.1. The matrix includes:

- The plan topic and delivery options to be assessed.
- A score indicating the nature of the effect for each option in the short, medium and long term with an explanation of why the score was given.
- A summary comparing the options and recommending the preferred approach together with any mitigation recommended to address negative effects and measures where appropriate to enhance positive effects.

**Table 2.8.1: Outline SA Matrix**

ISSUE												
OPTIONS	Option 1:				Option 2:				Option 3:			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1. Sustainability Objective												
2. Sustainability Objective												
3. Sustainability Objective, etc.												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Summary and comparison of alternative options against the sustainability objectives.</li> <li>▪ Identification of the most sustainable option.</li> <li>▪ Identification of the preferred option.</li> <li>▪ Summary of what, if any, significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option.</li> <li>▪ Summary of mitigation measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and/or offset as fully as possible any significant adverse effects of the preferred option.</li> <li>▪ Summary of possible measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.</li> </ul>												



Table 2.8.2: Scores and definitions for SA Matrix

Rating		Description
++	<b>Significant Positive</b>	Policy/ proposal would greatly help to achieve the objective
+	<b>Minor Positive</b>	Policy/ proposal would slightly help to achieve the objective
0	<b>Neutral / no effect</b>	Policy/ proposal would have no overall effect
-	<b>Minor Negative</b>	Policy/ proposal would slightly conflict with the objective
--	<b>Significant Negative</b>	Policy/ proposal would greatly conflict with the objective
?	<b>Uncertain</b>	The effect cannot be predicted because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the approach has an uncertain relationship to the objective; or</li> <li>▪ the relationship is dependent on the way in which the approach is implemented; or</li> <li>▪ insufficient information may be available to enable an appraisal to be made.</li> </ul>
ST	<b>Short Term</b>	Up to five years
MT	<b>Medium Term</b>	Five to 15 years
LT	<b>Long term</b>	Over 15 years

## 2.9 Plan Strategy

The proposals in the draft PS will be reviewed and the Scoping Report and SA updated to reflect any changes from the previous stage. A SA Scoping Report and a separate SA Report will be provided in support of the consultation on the draft PS.

## 2.10 Local Policies Plan

In advance of preparation of the LPP, criteria will be developed to help guide the appraisal of sites. The proposals in the LPP will be appraised using the SA Framework and a SA Report will be published as part of the consultation on these papers.

## 2.11 Cumulative Effects

Consideration will be given to any cumulative effects of proposals at each stage of plan preparation. These will include potential cumulative effects within the plan and in combination with other relevant plans and strategies. A section on cumulative effects has been included in the SA Report to accompany the draft PS.

## 3.0 DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

### 3.1 Context - Requirement to Prepare a Local Development Plan

Part 2 of The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the 2011 Act) provides for the preparation of a LDP by a Council for its district, which will (when adopted) replace current development plans. The LDP will comprise two development plan documents;

- The Plan Strategy (PS); and
- The Local Policies Plan (LPP).

The LDP should fulfil the following functions:

- provide a 15-year plan framework to support the economic and social needs of a Council's district in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing for the delivery of sustainable development;
- facilitate sustainable growth by co-ordinating public and private investment to encourage development where it can be of most benefit to the well-being of the community;
- allocate sufficient land to meet society's needs;
- provide an opportunity for all stakeholders, including the public, to have a say about where and how development within their local area should take place;
- provide a plan-led framework for rational and consistent decision-making by the public, private and community sectors and those affected by development proposals; and
- deliver the spatial aspects of a Council's current Community Plan.

### 3.2 Preparation

The purpose of the Derry City and Strabane District Council LDP is to inform the public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested parties of the policy framework and land use proposals that will implement the strategic objectives of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS)<sup>1</sup> and guide development decisions within the Council area up to 2032.

The new LDP will be prepared within the context of the Council's Corporate Plan and takes account of the Council's Community Plan to enable us to plan positively for the future of our Council area. It will ensure that land is zoned appropriately and that our infrastructure is enhanced to develop the Council area for future generations.

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 RDS, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)<sup>2</sup> and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs)<sup>3</sup>, the UK Marine Policy Statement (UK MPS) and, when adopted, the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland. The new LDP will replace the two current statutory development plans that apply to the District Council.

The Plan will be produced in two parts; the PS is published first, followed by the LPP. The PS identifies the aims, objectives, growth strategy and strategic policies applicable to the Plan Area. The LPP will provide site specific policies and proposals, including settlement limits, land use zonings and environmental designations.

---

<sup>1</sup> Department for Regional Development: Regional Development Strategy RDS 2035 *Building a Better Future*

<sup>2</sup> Department of Environment: Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) 2015

<sup>3</sup> Planning Policy Statements and Other Policy Publications [www.planningni.gov.uk](http://www.planningni.gov.uk)

### 3.3 Spatial Overview of Derry City and Strabane District Council

The preparation of this District’s Strategic Growth Plan - our Community Plan (CP) and the Local Development Plan (LDP) is the beginning of a significant and ambitious long term, collaborative process which is aimed to improve all our lives and transform our City and District. It comes at a time in which we are determined to improve our regional competitiveness, our skills, address poverty, social exclusion and patterns of deprivation, sustainably enhance our environment and develop connected, vibrant, rural areas.

Figure 3.3.1 Derry City and Strabane District Settlements Context Map

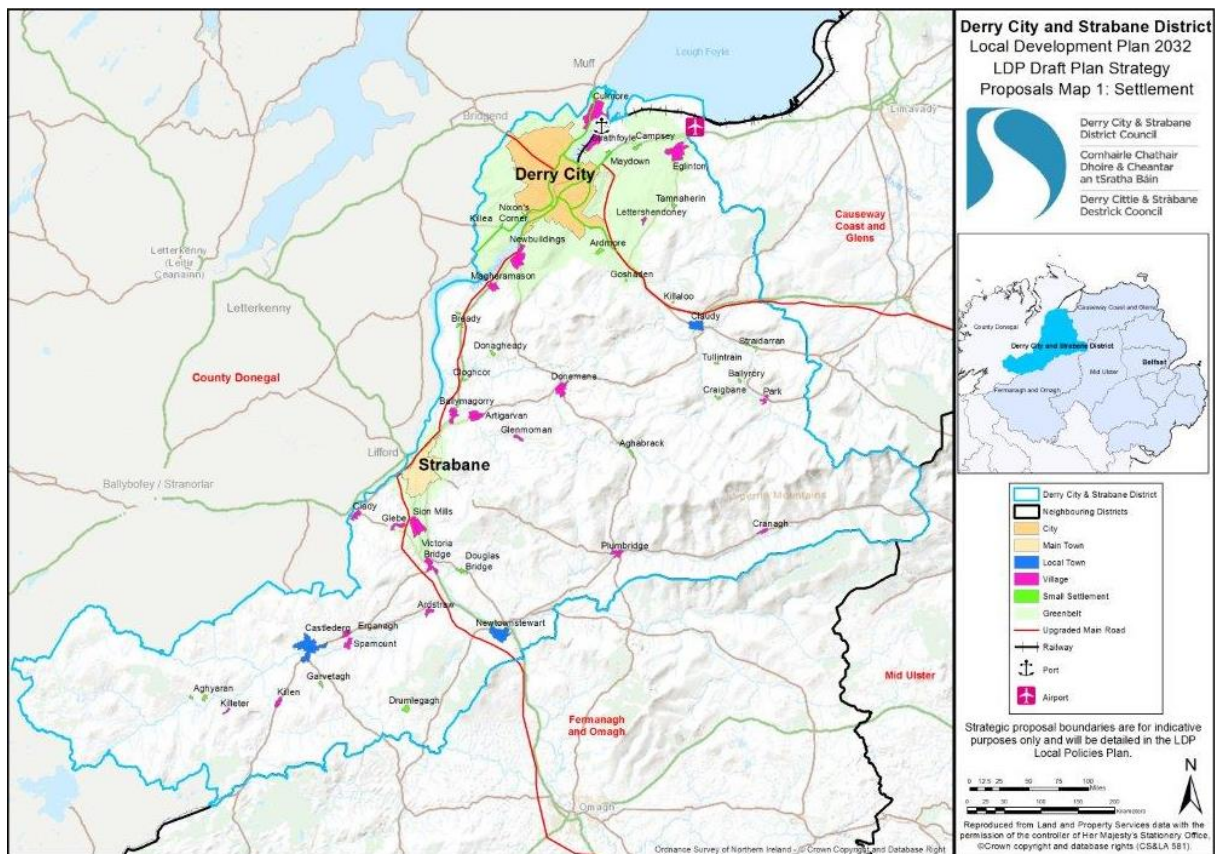
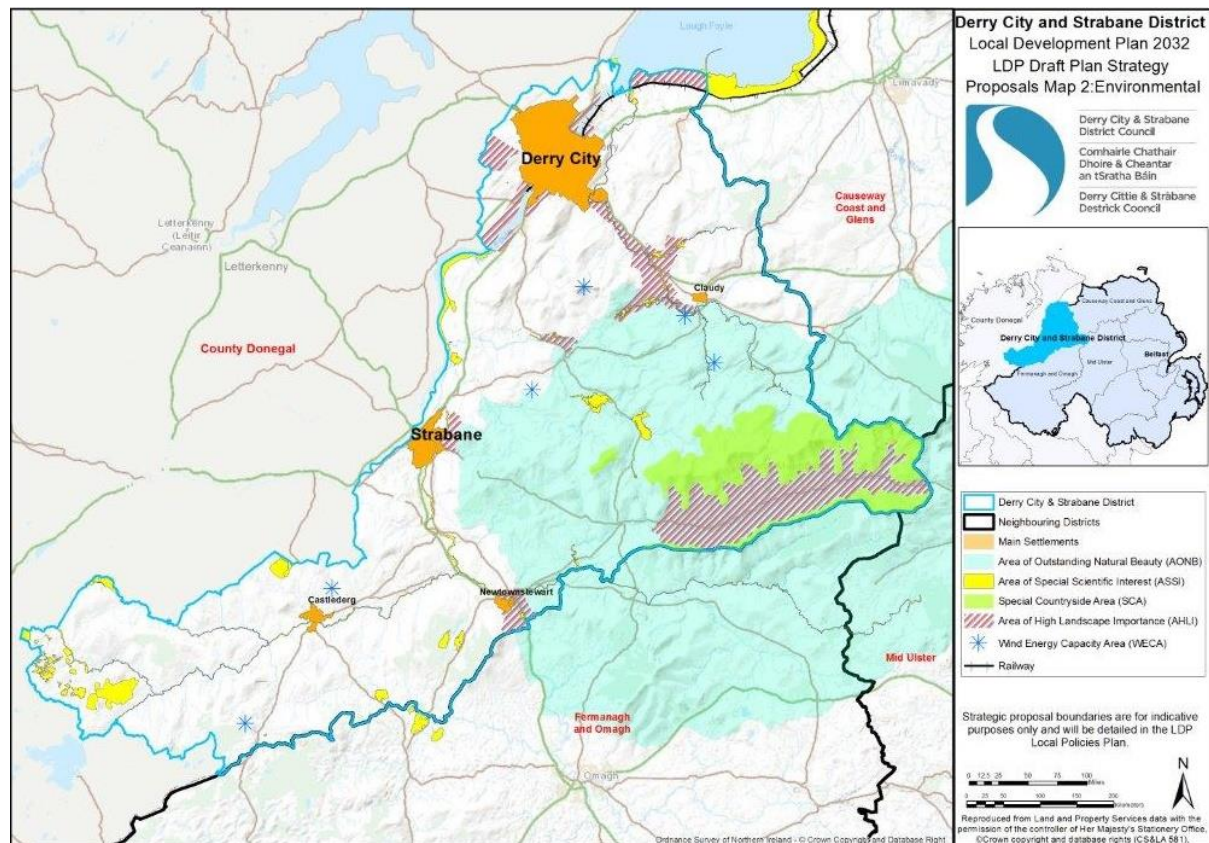


Figure 3.3.2 Derry City and Strabane District Environmental Context Map



Our Council borders the ROI and shares boundaries with three adjacent Councils shown in Figure 3.3.1. Derry City and Strabane are the two main settlements and are important locations for access to and from County Donegal. DCSDC is responsible for a significant area (1245 square kilometres) with the majority of the population residing in urban areas. However, nearly a third of the population reside in rural areas. The District Council area also benefits from a rich diversity of landscape and environmental designations, some of which are shown in Figure 3.3.2. These include the Sperrins Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and numerous Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs). Our Council also benefits from ancient woodland sites that are now lost from most other parts of the country making this unique habitat even more important as a natural asset. Likewise, the District benefits from buildings and features of archaeological importance as well as unique historic features including castles and tombs. More information is in the PS.

### 3.4 Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

Our District faces particular challenges and opportunities ahead, including

- **Population** - Over the next 20 years the growth in the City and District's population is projected to rise slightly and then fall back to just below the current level of approximately 150,000.
- **Social challenges** - We experience huge inequalities with a troubling number of our local areas witnessing high levels of deprivation - unemployment, life-expectancy, health, rural isolation, poor access to services, economic inactivity, lack of educational qualifications and poverty. The Council area has a higher proportion of social housing but there is a long waiting list with 75% of those on it in housing stress. The social housing need from 2018-23 is projected at 2,744.
- **Economic challenges** - These social challenges are themselves a reflection of the relatively weak state of the local economy and poor rural connectivity. Our economic inactivity rate is higher than that of NI as a whole, which already has a much higher rate than the rest of the UK and Ireland. While the businesses birth and survival rate is on a par with the rest of NI, there has been little growth in employee numbers since 2009.

- **Brexit uncertainty** - The impending implications of Brexit vote adds considerable uncertainty to the economic outlook and could change the dynamic of cross border trade, commuting and associated population change. In the short term it is likely to have a dampening impact on private sector investment, although this is partially offset by positive impacts resulting from a more competitive currency.
- **Environmental Challenges** - Recycling rates are below the NI average. Per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions present a mixed picture – in 2012 they were lower than the NI average in Derry but higher in Strabane. Fuel poverty is higher than the NI average and uptake of public transport is lower than average.

### 3.5 How can our LDP contribute?

Population change has implications for the provision of housing, employment opportunities and public services including health, education and infrastructure. It is therefore important to know the components of population change and the characteristics of the population when planning for future growth. Planning is also about meeting the needs of everyone – both the majorities and the minorities within the community. Our Local Development Plan can assist in building inclusive and cohesive communities, addressing everyone's needs by providing equality of opportunity, facilitating employment and wealth creation, providing accessible services, increasing transportation options and promoting shared space. Decisions must be made based on targeting deprivation and being aware of the consequences for Catholic and Protestant communities in particular.

It is clear that Derry needs to significantly develop to fulfil its role as the principal city of the North West and as a regional and international gateway. Similarly, Strabane needs considerable relevant development to fulfil its role as a main hub. While the clear focus needs to be on Derry City and Strabane Town, it is important that the needs of those people living in the countryside are also considered. For these populations to be sustained and vibrant communities to be maintained they too will also require their share of sustainable housing, employment and service opportunities.

## 4.0 OVERVIEW OF THE BASELINE EVIDENCE

### 4.1 Presentation of Baseline Evidence

The baseline evidence is presented in Section 5 for fourteen topics, which span the social, economic and environmental themes. Several topics contribute to social, economic and environmental themes. Due to these overlaps, Table 4.1 presents an outline scope for each topic to clarify where information is likely to be presented in this report.

**Table 4.1: Scope of Sustainability Topics**

Topic	Includes
1. Health and Wellbeing	Health profile, physical activity, access to health care, access to open space and recreation, quiet areas and noise.
2. Community	Community identity, shared space, social inclusion, crime prevention and safety, good relations, rural issues.
3. Housing	Housing, urban capacity, settlements.
4. Education and Skills	Primary through to third level and apprenticeships.
5. Economy and Employment	Employment, economic growth, investment, tourism, industry and commerce, town centres and retailing.
6. Material Assets	Infrastructure relating to energy / heat generation and distribution; telecommunications; waste management and pipelines; derelict and contaminated land; renewable energy; cemeteries.
7. Physical Resources	Earth science, minerals, land (including land use), soil, geothermal energy.
8. Transport and Accessibility	Public, private transport, traffic and efficient movement, walking and cycling.
9. Air	Air quality and short-term changes.
10. Climate Change	Northern Ireland in global context of climate change, greenhouse gas emissions; implications of climate change, mitigation and adaptation
11. Water	Water quality and resources, coastal waters, water levels (flood risk).
12. Natural Resources	Biodiversity, fauna, flora, designated sites, green and blue infrastructure, ecosystem services. Includes intertidal and coastal zones as well as marine environment.
13. Landscape	Landscape, seascape.
14. Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage	Historic environment, archaeology including marine, built and industrial heritage, townscape and cultural heritage assets.

Each topic is presented using the following structure, and the headings are explained below:

- Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies;
- Baseline evidence;
- Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the LDP; and
- Key Sustainability Issues.

## 4.2 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The SA must include a review of other policies, plans, programmes and strategies that have an influence on the content of the LDP. The aims of this review are:

- to identify all external social, economic and environmental objectives which have a bearing on the SA of the LDP;
- to reflect sustainability themes contained in regional policies and strategies;
- to identify any other sustainability issues that might influence the preparation of the plan;
- to highlight whether other policies, plans or programmes might give rise to cumulative effects when combined with the LDP.

Consideration of this context also helps ensure that the LDP will deliver obligations for DCSDC, which are within the scope of the LDP. Appendix 4 presents the strategies, policies, programmes and plans that have been considered with their key objectives and implications for the LDP. This will be updated throughout plan preparation.

## 4.3 Strategic Context

The following regional strategies are overarching and form a backdrop to the LDP. Each is introduced here and key relevant aspects are described in more detail under each topic in Section 5.

### 4.3.1 Regional Development Strategy

The RDS provides a strategic and long-term perspective on the future development of NI up to 2035 to deliver the spatial aspects of the Programme for Government (PfG). It contains regional guidance to provide policy direction in relation to the economy, society and environment. It complements the Sustainable Development Strategy and sets the context for policy and development decisions in order to achieve sustainable development throughout the region.

The RDS recognises the important role of Belfast in generating regional prosperity and that Derry-Londonderry is the focus for economic growth in the North West. The RDS also reflects the PfG approach of balanced sub-regional growth, to ensure all areas benefit from economic growth and recognises the importance of key settlements as centres for growth and prosperity. It also recognises there is a need to understand the role and function of settlements and their role in serving rural communities. The RDS promotes co-operation between places and encourages clustering of Hubs so that services do not need to be duplicated but rather shared. The RDS identifies Derry as the principal city of the North West and ‘a regional and international gateway’. Strabane is also recognised ‘as a main hub’ because of its location to Derry. The RDS stresses the importance of both locations in future development and the ability to ‘deliver quality services’.

The RDS refers to the diversity of important landscape and environmental designations that are located within the DCSDC as well as its valuable built heritage.

The RDS has a statutory basis, is material to decisions on individual planning applications and appeals, and Councils must take account of the RDS when drawing up their LDPs.

### 4.3.2 Strategic Planning Policy Statement

The SPSS provides an overarching statement of the general regional planning principles underlying the reformed plan-led system. It provides a planning policy framework which must be taken into account in the preparation of LDPs and the provisions are also material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.

The SPSS outlines a number of core principles underpinning the reformed planning system in NI. These are:

- improving health and well-being;
- creating and enhancing shared space;
- supporting sustainable economic growth;

- supporting good design and positive place-making; and
- preserving and improving the built and natural environment.

The latter part of the SPPS contains 72 regional strategic objectives across 16 subject areas, in addition to the introduction of new policy for retailing.

#### 4.3.3 Sustainable Development Strategy

The Sustainable Development Strategy identifies 32 strategic objectives in the following Priority Areas:

- Building a dynamic, innovative economy that delivers the prosperity required to tackle disadvantage and lift communities out of poverty.
- Strengthening society so that it is more tolerant, inclusive and stable and permits positive progress in quality of life for everyone.
- Driving sustainable, long-term investment in key infrastructure to support economic and social development.
- Striking an appropriate balance between the responsible use and protection of natural resources in support of a better quality of life and a better quality environment.
- Ensuring reliable, affordable and sustainable energy provision and reducing our carbon footprint.
- Ensuring the existence of a policy environment which supports the overall advancement of sustainable development in and beyond Government.

The strategic objectives that are key are highlighted under their relevant topic.

#### 4.3.4 Draft Programme for Government

The Programme for Government (PfG) is the highest level strategic document of the Executive setting out the priorities that it intends to pursue. The Executive formed in March 2016 adopted an outcomes-based approach in developing a PfG. At its centre was a framework of outcomes designed to target those things that will make real improvement to people's quality of life. The draft PfG was consulted on in summer 2016 and a fuller version was subject to further public consultation in December 2016. In the absence of an Executive, an Outcomes Delivery Plan was published in June 2018, setting out the programme of work the Northern Ireland Civil Service has put in place for 2018/19 to give effect to the previous Executive's stated objective of improving wellbeing for all - by tackling disadvantage and driving economic growth.

The draft PfG contains 14 Strategic Outcomes supported by 42 Indicators. The outcomes touch on every aspect of government, including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and confident and peaceful communities. The outcomes are intended to meet statutory obligations and to make real improvements to the quality of life of residents.

While efforts continue to restore the institutions of Government, Departments continue to act, operating within the adjusted indicative departmental financial allocations announced to Parliament by the Secretary of State, in line with the direction set by previous Ministers and the Executive in their draft PfG.

#### 4.3.5 Republic of Ireland's National Planning Framework 2040

The Republic of Ireland (RoI) has a National Planning Framework (NPF, Project Ireland 2040, 2018). It recognises the existing cooperation between Donegal County Council and DCSDC. Both Councils have input to the NPF and DCSDC is supportive of the North-West Metropolitan City Region initiative and the critical role that Derry City and Strabane will have in it as linked metropolitan areas. More information on the RoI's NPF is in DCSDC's PS.

#### 4.3.6 UK Marine Policy Statement and Marine Plan for Northern Ireland

The UK MPS, the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009 and the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 provide the policy and legislative framework for the management of the marine area in



Northern Ireland. The UK vision for the marine environment, set out in the UK MPS, is the attainment of ‘clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas’.

The MCAA is a UK-wide Act which includes a number of provisions for the management of the UK’s marine area. For NI, key provisions within this Act include a licensing system for management of development within the marine area from the mean high water spring tide out to 12 nautical miles (the inshore region).

The Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 includes duties to protect and enhance the marine area. This includes provisions to prepare and adopt a Marine Plan for the NI inshore region; and provision to improve marine conservation and protection. The draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland was consulted on for an eight week period beginning 18 April 2018. Once adopted, it will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of the marine area through a strategic framework with spatial elements.

Section 58 of the MCAA and Section 8 of the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, require a public authority to “*have regard to the appropriate marine policy documents in taking any decision which relates to the exercise of any function capable of affecting the whole or any part of the UK marine area*”. This means that all public authorities must have regard to the UK MPS and other relevant policy in the preparation of LDPs and all associated documents.

#### 4.3.7 Community Planning

The new duty of Community Planning came into operation on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and requires Councils to act as the lead for community planning in their areas, in partnership with the community and service providers. The Local Government Act introduces a statutory link between the CP and the LDP, in that the preparation of the LDP must ‘take account of’ the CP.

The CP also aims to promote community cohesion and improve the quality of life for all of our citizens. This will result in a long-term vision for the social, environmental and economic well-being of our area and its citizens. It will integrate service and function delivery and set out the future direction for development within the council area. The LDP will support delivery of the spatial aspects of the CP.

Our CP, The Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032<sup>1</sup>, was developed through extensive engagement with stakeholders and the community and sets out the shared outcomes for this area. The CP process has identified those things that matter most to us as a community and the key transformative projects that will deliver inclusive growth.

Our vision is ***a thriving, prosperous and sustainable City and District with equality of opportunity for all.***

The CP places emphasis on the regional status of Derry and Strabane and the need to maximise its strengths for communication, transport, tourism, economic productivity, knowledge, education and innovation.

Key issues that are identified are the need to improve educational outcomes; the need to reverse population decline; the need to increase investment and income levels; and the need to improve cooperation.

Cross cutting themes are: addressing inequality and promoting inclusive growth; sustainability; good relations and rural development.

Eight primary outcomes have been identified for the CP. These are:

1. We live in a shared, equal and safe community.
2. We live long, healthy and fulfilling lives.
3. Our children and young people have the best start in life.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/Community-Planning/An-Update-on-Our-Community-Plan>

4. We prosper through a strong, competitive, entrepreneurial and innovative economy.
5. We are better skilled and educated.
6. We live in the cultural destination of choice and offer world class visitor experiences.
7. We live sustainably – protecting the environment.
8. We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure

The CP is to be supported by a Local Community Planning process to identify actions to meet local needs and improve well-being. The CP sustainability theme includes the goal of protecting our local ecosystems as the source of clean air, clean water and fertile topsoil.

#### 4.3.8 Corporate Plan

The DCSDC Corporate Plan and Performance Improvement Plan 2019/20<sup>1</sup> focuses on the Council's priority outcomes as set out in the Strategic Growth Plan. The Council's mission is to 'Deliver improved social, economic and environmental outcomes for everyone.' This has been conducted through four key objectives that focus on business growth and cultural development, environmental protection and physical regeneration, healthy communities, and cross functioning support services. These four objectives directly align to the outcomes of the CP - outcomes identified under the pillars of economic, social and environmental wellbeing. The Corporate Plan also makes reference to the Council's commitment to sustainable development and identifies the Council's duty to support sustainable development.

#### 4.4 Baseline Evidence

A desk-based review has been undertaken to identify baseline conditions in DCSDC. Each sustainability topic is presented in Section 5 with a review of relevant current information available. Where it has not been possible to provide specific information at a local Council level, information for NI has been used. Where there are critical data gaps, these have been identified. Information sources include data collected for LDP Evidence Papers and the draft Community Plan.

Information sources include data collected for the LDP from the POP to the DPS stage. This information is available as part of the LDP Baseline Evidence<sup>2</sup> which can be accessed here <https://www.derrystrabane.com/> along with the CP from here <https://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/Community-Planning/An-Update-on-Our-Community-Plan>.

It should be noted that a series of Technical Supplements have been published alongside the LDP draft PS. The Technical Supplements bring together the evidence base that has been used to inform the preparation of the LDP draft PS. The Technical Supplements build upon and update some of the LDP Baseline Evidence papers. The Technical Supplements to the draft PS were being prepared simultaneously to the Scoping Report and consequently some of the updated information presented within the Technical Supplements was not available at the time the Scoping Report was finalised. Consequently, the Scoping Report has not included information from the Technical Supplements.

The baseline topics for the SA have a wider scope than the LDP evidence gathering requirements. Data sources in Local Development Plans: Environmental Evidence and Information<sup>3</sup> have been referred to, as well as the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Reports for relevant years<sup>4</sup>.

In addition to the LDP and Community Plan evidence, we have used evidence presented on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) website. NISRA is the principal source of official statistics and social research on NI. Much data at Council or sub-Council level was sourced from the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) website. NINIS is part of NISRA and aims to make small area information held within Central Government and Non-Departmental

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.derrystrabane.com/Council/Corporate-and-Improvement-Plan/Corporate-Plans>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/LDP/Preferred-Options-Paper-\(POP\)/Baseline-Evidence](https://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/LDP/Preferred-Options-Paper-(POP)/Baseline-Evidence)

<sup>3</sup> DAERA (2017) Local Development Plans: DAERA Environmental Evidence and Information (Version 2.1/ May 2017)

<sup>4</sup> DAERA Northern Ireland Statistics Report (found at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-environmental-statistics-report>)

Public Bodies available to as wide an audience as possible. The NINIS website contains datasets on a range of socio-economic themes at small-area statistical geographies.

#### 4.5 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

This section highlights trends in the baseline information and describes how the baseline might evolve without the LDP. This also helps identify key issues for each topic and identifies potential sustainability problems or opportunities that could be addressed through the LDP.

DCSDC was included within two previous Area Plans prior to April 2015. These were the:

- Derry Area Plan 2011, and
- Strabane Area Plan 2001.

These do not reflect the current DCSDC baseline, or the Community Plan.

#### 4.6 The Key Sustainability Issues

Drawing on the policies, plans, programmes and strategies review, the baseline information and the likely evolution of the baseline without the LDP, Key Sustainability Issues are set out for each topic. These reflect the local area and are mainly issues that are relevant to and may be influenced by the LDP. These Key Sustainability Issues will also identify the potential for cumulative effects which should be considered in preparation of the LDP. Key Sustainability Issues will be reviewed and, where necessary, updated at key stages of Plan preparation

#### 4.7 Sustainability Objectives

The Key Sustainability Issues inform the sustainability objectives. These are presented in Section 6 with a short rationale and description of what each objective seeks to achieve. There are several overlaps between objectives which support each other.

## 5.0 THE EVIDENCE BASE

### 5.1 Health and Well-being

#### 5.1.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

This topic considers the health profile for the district, needs for and access to health care, physical activity and the effects of noise. It overlaps many of the other topics, for example where they shape the environment in which we live, interactions with others and opportunities for employment and education.

The common thread of relevant policies is that actions should improve the outcomes for everyone's mental and physical health and well-being. Policy measures seek to prolong healthy life and reduce preventable deaths. Contributors to this include improving health in pregnancy and improving mental health, which can have long term effects on healthy life. They also acknowledge that the health conditions of those who are most deprived are significantly worse. Consequently, programmes have been developed such as 'Delivering Social Change', an Executive programme that seeks to reduce inequalities. Northern Ireland health-related strategies are supportive of international strategies and the Sustainable Development Strategy.

Part of supporting good health is encouraging physical activity. There are several strategies and initiatives for this purpose including 'Sport Matters', 'A Fitter Future for All', the 'Outdoor Recreation Action Plan', and 'Exercise, Explore, Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways'. These include creating the environment and specific facilities to encourage increased physical activity, including active travel. There is a particular focus on groups that have lower rates of activity which is now women and girls, people with disabilities, older people and the most economically disadvantaged.

The 'Transforming your Care: Strategic Implementation Plan' and the Western Health and Social Care Trust Population Plans inform infrastructure requirements for health care. Making Life Better is a ten-year strategic framework for public health launched in 2014. It provides direction for policies and actions to improve the health and well-being of the people of Northern Ireland and reduce inequalities in health. Outcome 12 of this framework 'Making the Most of the Physical Environment' is highly relevant to the LDP. Actions can be grouped into the following general themes:

- To improve and maintain the environment in terms of air quality, water quality, waste management and environmental noise;
- To enhance the capacity of our physical infrastructure to protect, support and provide access to healthy and active living and well-being through, for example, creating environments that promote social interaction and mental well-being, are safe for all ages and incentivise physical activity.

The SPPS reflects this, in particular through six regional strategic objectives that require provision of, and accessibility for all, to open space with high standards of design.

The Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 locally implement the European Noise Directive, the aim of which is to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, of exposure to environmental noise. The Regulations apply to noise from major road, railway, airport and industrial sources. These existing sources are not subject to planning control, but may be considered in the context of proposed development, which could be affected by environmental noise. A range of legislation is in place to establish permitted noise levels and manage noise emissions from domestic, industrial and commercial sources. The 2014 Noise Policy Statement for Northern Ireland provides clarity on current noise policies and practices.

In the Councils Corporate Plan 2018-2019 they are committed to delivering improved social, economic and environmental outcomes for everyone. One of their corporate objectives is to 'promote healthy communities.' Key indicators of success include increased participation in leisure

services, the development and completion of a sport, physical activity and wellbeing plan, securing funding for cross border sports development programme, providing improved facilities and improving local air quality through the delivery of an Air Quality Action Plan.

Within Derry and Strabane Districts Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032 Community Plan one of the key outcomes is that 'we live long, healthy and fulfilling lives.' This will be manifested through people ageing actively and independently, a reduction in health inequalities, people that are more physically active and improved physical and mental health.

### 5.1.2 Baseline Information

Detailed information on health and well-being has been provided in the Derry and Strabane District Councils Community Plan. In addition data has been sourced from the Local Development Plan Evidence Papers; Evidence Base (EVB) 3 Population and Growth Strategy ,EVB12 – Open Space & Recreation and EVB 16 Community Infrastructure as well as further sources referenced separately such as the Health Survey Northern Ireland, a Department of Health survey that has run every year from April 2010 across Northern Ireland.

#### Overview

The area on average exhibits life expectancy levels on a par with NI however life expectancy in urban deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs) is significantly lower. Within Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSD) area out of 42 indicators analysed 30 were worse than the NI average, 9 were similar to the NI average and 3 outcomes were better than the NI average. Health outcomes across 40 out of 42 indicators were worse in the more deprived areas compared to the Council as a whole<sup>1</sup>.

#### Population profile

The future population profile is relevant as it helps to inform future health care needs, provision for housing and childcare and educational facilities (Table 5.1.1). DCSD has the fifth highest population relative to other Council areas<sup>2</sup>. In June 2018, the District accounted for 8% or 150,679 people, of the population of Northern Ireland (1,881,641). This was a 5% increase in the population from the 2001 figure, of 143,810 and a 3% increase from the Census 2011 figure of 148,191. Population Projections up to 2041 predict the population in NI will reach two million<sup>3</sup>. NISRA population projection estimates (2016) predict that the population of DCSD will decline by -0.2% by 2026 and -1% by 2032. By 2041 it is estimated that the population of the District will have diminished by -3.2%.

The median age in the District in 2001 was 31.5 years but in 2018, it was 37.7 years<sup>4</sup>. This rise in median age increases the older age groups. In June 2018, 14.9% of the Boroughs population was aged 65 or over<sup>5</sup>, the third lowest of all Councils in NI<sup>6</sup>. By 2032 this proportion is predicted to increase to 21%. This aligns with the regional trend of an increasing proportion of people aged 65 and over as can be seen in Table 5.1.1 below.

---

<sup>1</sup> DoH: Health Inequalities Sub Regional Report 2017

<sup>2</sup> NISRA: Mid-Year Population Estimates- LGD Factsheets 2018

<sup>3</sup> NISRA: 2016-based Population projections for Areas within NI Statistical Bulletin Charts

<sup>4</sup> NISRA: All areas - Median age (2001-2018)

<sup>5</sup> NISRA Area Profile Report LGD 2014 Information for Derry City and Strabane Population Estimates: Broad Age Bands

<sup>6</sup> NISRA: 2018 Mid-year population estimates for Northern Ireland

**Table 5.1.1: Population Projections for DCSD by Age Band**

Age Band	2026			2032			2041		
	DCSD	DCSD %	NI %	DCSD	DCSD %	NI %	DCSD	DCSD %	NI %
0-14	29,752	19.8	18.7	27,780	18.6	17.6	26,231	18	17.1
15-24	18,571	12.4	12.3	19,309	13	12.7	17,447	12	11.6
25-44	36,149	24	24.4	33,651	22.6	23.3	32,554	22.3	23
45-64	38,994	25.9	25.4	36,950	24.8	24.5	34,475	23.6	23.7
65+	26,884	17.9	19.2	31,360	21	21.9	35,145	24.1	24.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>150350</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>149050</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>145852</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Northern Ireland Population Projections (2016 Based) (NISRA)

The number of children under 16 accounted for 21.7% (32,807) of the population<sup>1</sup>. This amount is lower than the 2001 figure (38,229) and sits mid-range in the context of other Councils. The birth rate in DCSD has fluctuated since 2010 in common with the NI birth rate. While the teenage birth rate is slightly higher than that for NI it has fallen steadily over this period<sup>2</sup>.

The LDP can play a role in ensuring that adequate land is available for the provision of development that can meet the future health care needs of the increasing population and its vulnerable groups. This may include adequate housing, healthcare facilities, nursery's and schools, open space and community facilities.

#### *Life expectancy*

Life expectancy for males in Northern Ireland for 2015-2017 was 78.5 years, and for females 82.3 years<sup>3</sup>. Life expectancy for males in DCSD for 2015-2017 was 77.7 years, and for females 81.4 years. These have shown a steady increase of over two years from 2001 but remain about a year lower than the NI average.

The mortality rate for DCSD has been consistently higher than the NI standardised mortality rate since 2009-11. It has fluctuated between being 2.3% above the standardised mortality rate to being 4.9% (2009-11 and currently) above the standardised mortality rate which is considered statistically significantly different from the NI rate.

Healthy life expectancy for males in Northern Ireland for 2015-17 was 61.2 years, and for females was 62.8years<sup>4</sup>. Disability-free life expectancy for males in Northern Ireland for 2015-17 was 61.1 years, and for females was 61.7 years. Healthy and disability free life expectancy for males is 57.3 years and for females is 57.4 years within DCSD<sup>5</sup>.

#### *Causes of Death*

In 2017, of the 16 036 registered deaths in NI, 28% (4490) were cancer related<sup>6</sup>. While cancer is the most commonly recorded cause of death, other principal causes include circulatory diseases (24%) and respiratory diseases (13%). Alzheimer's and other dementias accounted for 12%.

<sup>1</sup> NISRA: 2018 Mid-year population estimates for Northern Ireland

<sup>2</sup> NISRA: Teenage Birth Rate for Mothers under the age of 17 and 20 (administrative geographies)

<sup>3</sup> Office National Statistics (ONS) Life expectancy (LE), healthy life expectancy (HLE) and disability-free life expectancy (DFLE) at birth and age 65 by sex, UK, 2015 to 2017

<sup>4</sup> Office National Statistics (ONS) Life expectancy (LE), healthy life expectancy (HLE) and disability-free life expectancy (DFLE) at birth and age 65 by sex, UK, 2015 to 2017

<sup>5</sup> Office National Statistics (ONS) Life expectancy (LE), healthy life expectancy (HLE) and disability-free life expectancy (DFLE) at birth and age 65 by sex, UK, 2015 to 2017

<sup>6</sup> NISRA: [Registrar General Annual Report 2017 Cause of Death](#) (Date published: 07 November 2018)

In 2017, nearly 7.5% of deaths registered in NI were from the Council area<sup>1</sup>. Of these, cancer was accountable for the majority of deaths (340) followed by circulatory disease (287) and respiratory disease (172).

Relative to other Councils DCSD ranks 4<sup>th</sup> lowest for cancer related deaths.

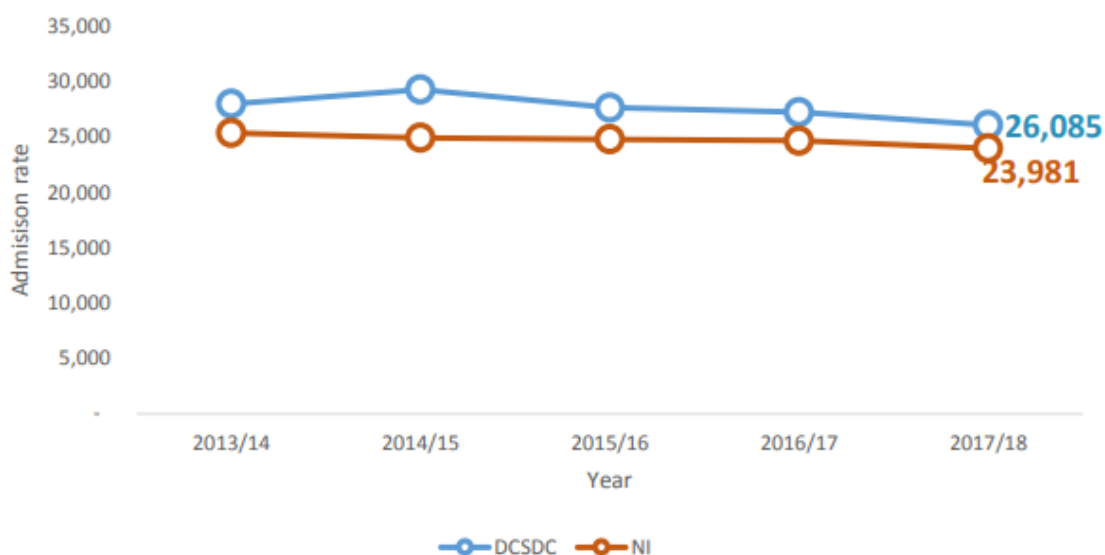
#### *Western Health and Social Care Trust and Ambulance Response Times*

The Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHSCT) is responsible for the provision of community health and social care in the Council area. Acute care is provided by Altnagelvin Hospital and mental health care is carried out in Gransha Hospital (Waterside Hospital) in Derry. Altnagelvin is currently undergoing a £73 million refurbishment programme which will incorporate six inpatient ward areas, a new main entrance and relocation of car parking facilities.

Health Centres are located within Derry, Strabane, Castlederg, Donnemana, Newtown Stewart, Plumbridge and Killeter. There are also 23 GP practices in the Council area. Foyle Hospice also provides ongoing palliative care within the District<sup>2</sup>.

The standardised admission rate to hospital for those in DCSD has diverged from the NI rate in the period 2013/14 to 2017/18. By 2017/18, there were 26,085 admissions per 100,000 people compared with a lower rate of 23,981 for NI. Standardised admission rates, due to alcohol related causes have increased since 2008 both in the council area and in NI. However they are significantly higher in DCSD and were over 44% higher in 2015/16 -2017/18. Standardised admission rates, due to respiratory disease have increased since 2008 both in the council area and in NI however they are significantly higher in DCSD and were over 8% higher in 2015/16 -2016/17. In contrast standardised admission rates, due to circulatory disease have decreased since 2008 both in the council area and in NI and were significantly lower than the NI rate in DCSD in 2015/16 -2017/18.

**Figure 5.1.1: Standardised admission rates (all admissions) per 100,000 population for DCSDC and NI**



Source: Public Health Information and Research Branch, DoH

The admission rate for emergency admissions had been increasing from 2009/10. However, since 2014/15 the number has been decreasing in DCSD and now stands at 9,657 admissions per 100,000 people for 2017/18 figures. This is still 4.5% higher than the NI rate.

The Health Inequalities Sub Regional Report 2017 provides ambulance response times annually from 2011 to 2015. The average annual response time has increased steadily for both Northern Ireland

<sup>1</sup> NISRA: Cause of Death 2017 Tables – Deaths by sex and cause, by Local Government District, 2017

<sup>2</sup> LDP EVB 16 Community Infrastructure

and for the Council area to 9 minutes 21 seconds and six minutes 58 seconds respectively. The ambulance response times for DCSD are significantly lower than the NI average. There are additional provisions for emergency response which are not accounted for in these figures. These are Rapid Response Vehicles and paramedics and Community First Responders who may be the first person to arrive on the scene in rural areas and are trained to provide life-saving treatment while waiting on an ambulance or rapid response vehicle.

### *Physical Health*

A person is described as having a limiting long term health problem if they have a health problem or disability that limits their daily activities and which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months. This includes problems that are due to old age. Results from the 2011 Census show that in DCSD 77.2% stated their health was either 'good' or 'very good'. This is lower than the NI average of 79.5% of the population who classed their health as either 'good' or 'very good'. Almost a quarter 22.9% (NI 20.7%), of people had a long term health problem or disability that limited their day to day activities in DCSD. The most common types of long-term condition were mobility or dexterity difficulty, long-term pain or discomfort, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing and an emotional, psychological or mental health condition.

Disease data for 2019 shows that the prevalence of most diseases are similar to rates for Northern Ireland. Notable exceptions are for diabetes and hypertension which are lower and asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease which are higher with 11,318 on the asthma register and 4,146 on the chronic obstructive pulmonary disease register. There is only five years' data at the Council level but Northern Ireland trends since 2007 show a steady increase in the prevalence of cancer and dementia and a marked increase in the prevalence of osteoporosis since 2012 when this data started being collected. The latter two diseases reflect the ageing population.

### *Infant Related Health*

Measures relating to infant health and associated maternal health indicate that DCSD has a higher proportion of teenage mothers than the NI rate, the third highest percentage of mothers smoking during pregnancy (15.2%) and the lowest rate of mothers breastfeeding and complimentary on discharge (29.3%) out of all the Councils in NI<sup>1</sup> in 2017.

### *Mental Health*

Mental health is a level of psychological well-being. A mental disorder is a mental or behavioural pattern or anomaly that causes either suffering or an impaired ability to function in ordinary life (disability), and which is not developmentally or socially normative.

Mental disorders are generally defined by a combination of how a person feels, acts, thinks or perceives. This may be associated with particular regions or functions of the brain or rest of the nervous system, often in a social context.<sup>2</sup>

The Health Survey NI 2017/18 reported that across NI around a fifth (18%) scored highly on the GHQ12<sup>3</sup> (General Health Questionnaire) suggesting they may have a possible mental health problem. The proportion of males indicating a possible mental health illness has increased from 16% in 2016/17 to 17% in 2017/18. The findings for females remains unchanged at 18%. The proportion of respondents in the most deprived areas recording a high GHQ12 score has dropped from 27% in 2016/17 to 22% in 2017/18. However, respondents in the most deprived areas are more likely to record a higher GHQ12 score than those in the least deprived areas.

---

<sup>1</sup> NISRA: Making Life Better Profile for the Derry City and Strabane LGD

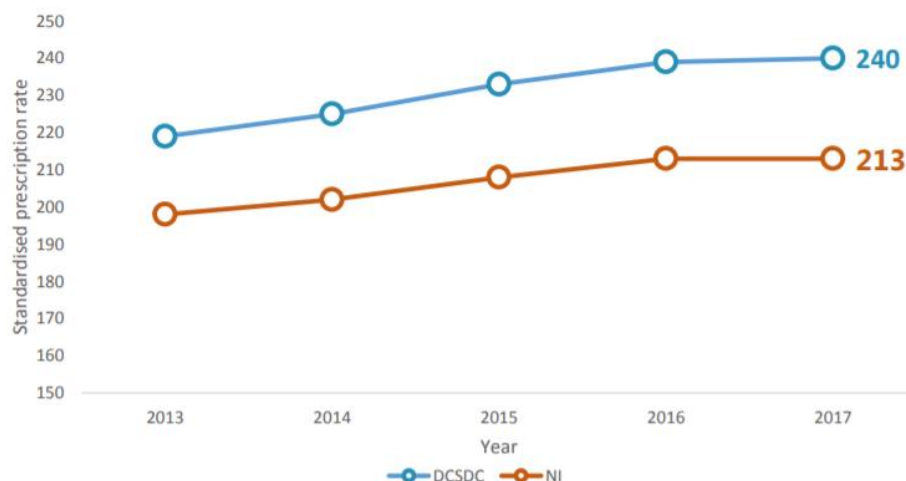
<sup>2</sup> Department of Health

<sup>3</sup> The General Health Questionnaire (GHQ) 12 is a screening device for identifying minor psychiatric disorders in the general population and within community or non-psychiatric clinical settings.



There has been an increase in the standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety disorders for both DCSDC and NI between 2013 and 2017. By 2017, the standardised prescription rate stood at 240 per 100,000 people within DCSDC.

**Figure 5.1.2: Standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety disorders, per 100,000 population, DCSDC and NI**



Source: Public Health Information and Research Branch, DoH

The crude suicide rate for Northern Ireland has remained relatively static since 2006 and currently stands at 15.8 per 100,000 population. In DCSD the crude suicide rate had been decreasing from the period beginning 2006 where it was recorded at 20.8 per 100,000 population. However, in the period 2012-2016 the crude suicide rate had started to rise and was recorded at 17.2 per 100,000 population. This is higher than the NI rate.

### Wellbeing

In the Health Survey Northern Ireland 2017/18, 88% of respondents were very satisfied or satisfied with life but 4% felt to some extent dissatisfied. This was similar to figures reported in previous years. Personal well-being for Northern Ireland was measured in 2018-19 and identified that Northern Ireland scored highest of all UK countries for life satisfaction, feelings that things done in life are worthwhile and happiness. When compared to other Councils DCSD scored lowest in the life satisfaction rating and highest in the anxiety rating.

**Table 5.1.2: Personal Well-being Measures 2018/19**

Personal Wellbeing Measures	DCSD	NI
Life Satisfaction	7.72	7.89
Worthwhile	8.00	8.07
Happiness	7.66	7.69
Anxiety	3.35	2.83

Source: NISRA: Personal Well-being in Northern Ireland 2018/19

### Physical activity

It is recommended by the Department of Health, that people aged 19 and over should try to be active on a daily basis and have 150 minutes of moderate activity, or 75 minutes of vigorous activity a week.

In the Health Survey Northern Ireland 2016/2017, 55% of the respondents met the recommendations. Although a slight increase on previous years, 26% remained inactive. Men tend to be more active than women. The Department for Health also recommend that adults should undertake muscle strengthening physical activities which involves all the major muscle groups in the

body at least twice a week. In 2016/17, 25% of respondents to the HSNi met the recommendations but 60% had no muscle building activity. It is noted that those in the most deprived areas are less likely to meet the recommended levels of physical activity or muscle building activity.

**Table 5.1.3: Percentage of Population Meeting Recommended Physical Activity Levels 2016/17**

	Less than 30 minutes of exercise per week	30-59 minutes of exercise per week	60-149 minutes of exercise per week	Meets recommendations of at least 150 minutes per week	Meets recommended muscle strengthening exercise level-twice per week
All respondents aged over 19					
<b>Overall</b>	26	6	13	55	25
<b>Male</b>	22	6	14	61	30
<b>Female</b>	28	6	14	51	22
<b>Western HSCT</b>	N/A			49	24

Source: Health Survey Northern Ireland 2016/17

Data for leisure time spent outdoors highlights that people within the Council area spend less leisure time outdoors than the Northern Irish average. Only 64% of those surveyed in 2017 spent more than once a week participating in leisure time outdoors which is 8% less than the NI average. 9% of those surveyed never spent leisure time outdoors.

**Table 5.1.4: Outdoor Leisure Time 2015 to 2017**

	2015				2016				2017			
	Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Once a week or more (%)	Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Less frequent than once a week (%)	Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Never (%)	Base	Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Once a week or more (%)	Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Less frequent than once a week (%)	Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Never (%)	Base	Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Once a week or more (%)	Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Less frequent than once a week (%)	Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Never (%)	Base
<b>NI</b>	66	23	11	3,286	67	22	11	3,262	72	22	6	2,818
<b>DCSD</b>	58	19	22	283	64	17	19	268	64	27	9	246

Source: Continuous Household Survey via Central Survey Unit, NISRA

There are two weekly parkrun events in the Council area one located in Derry City and the other at the Holy Cross College in Strabane. The events provide access to a free, timed 5k run which is run by a team of volunteers and provides opportunities for exercise and social engagement. The Derry City Park run has 5,1700 runners with an average of 81.7 runners per week. Strabane Park Run has 658 registered runners with an average attendance of 81.5 runners every week.

### *Disability Sport*

According to Disability Sport NI people with a disability are less than half as likely to participate in sport as non-disabled people<sup>1</sup>. The Foyle Arena in Derry has been recognised for its on-going commitment to Disability Sports and Participation by receiving Inclusive Sports Facility (ISF) Excellence Accreditation from Disability Sport NI. The Foyle Arena is also home to the Disability Sports Hub project which is funded by the Department for Communities. The Disability Sports hub has a wide

<sup>1</sup> Continuous Household Survey 2014/15: Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

variety of disability sports equipment such as sports wheelchairs, hand cycles, boccia sets and a sensory activity pack.

### *Children and physical activity*

The following information is from A Question of Sport, Research Update 107, by Dirk Schubotz, Katrina Lloyd and Martina McKnight 2016<sup>1</sup> and Are children getting the opportunities to realise their right to play?, Research Update 98, by Laura McQuade, Susan Kehoe and Lesley Emerson 2015<sup>2</sup>.

These found that almost one third of P7 children, and less than one in ten 16-year olds meet a target of 60 minutes of physical activity per day therefore there are large proportions of children who are not engaging regularly in physical activity. One in ten children felt they could not play freely with their friends in their community and children reported being able to play more freely with friends in school (84%), compared with being able to play with friends when in their communities or homes (77%). Children reported feeling safer when playing in school (89%), compared with feeling safe when playing in their communities or homes (73%). This reflects the findings of several UK studies<sup>3</sup> which found, among other things, that a fifth of children did not play outside at all on an average day; less than one in 10 children regularly played in wild spaces compared to half of children a generation ago.

### *Diet*

Health Survey Northern Ireland data suggest that from 2010/11 to 2017/18 there has been little change in the composition of the diet with 46% of respondents consuming biscuits and 25% consuming sweets on most days of the week. There has been a marked drop in the percentage of respondents consuming fizzy drinks with 18% in 2016/17 compared to 29% in 2017/18. The most recent data showed that 38% of respondents consume five or more portions of fruit and vegetables per day.

### *Obesity*

Globally, around 39% of adults aged 18 and over were overweight or obese in 2016<sup>4</sup>. According to the Health Survey NI 2017/18 64% of adults were either overweight (37%) or obese (27%). The percentage of adults classed as obese or overweight has increased from the level of 56% reported in 1997, although has remained at a similar level since 2005/06. Of children (age 2 -15) 18% were classed as overweight and 9% as obese. In DCSD the prevalence for those on the obesity register in 2015 was 117.29 compared to 109 per thousand for Northern Ireland and is the fourth highest of all Councils. The Health Inequalities Annual Report 2019 notes that Derry and Strabane has a higher level of overweight or obese children starting Primary 1 (23%) compared to Northern Ireland (21%). This rises to 24% for deprived areas.

---

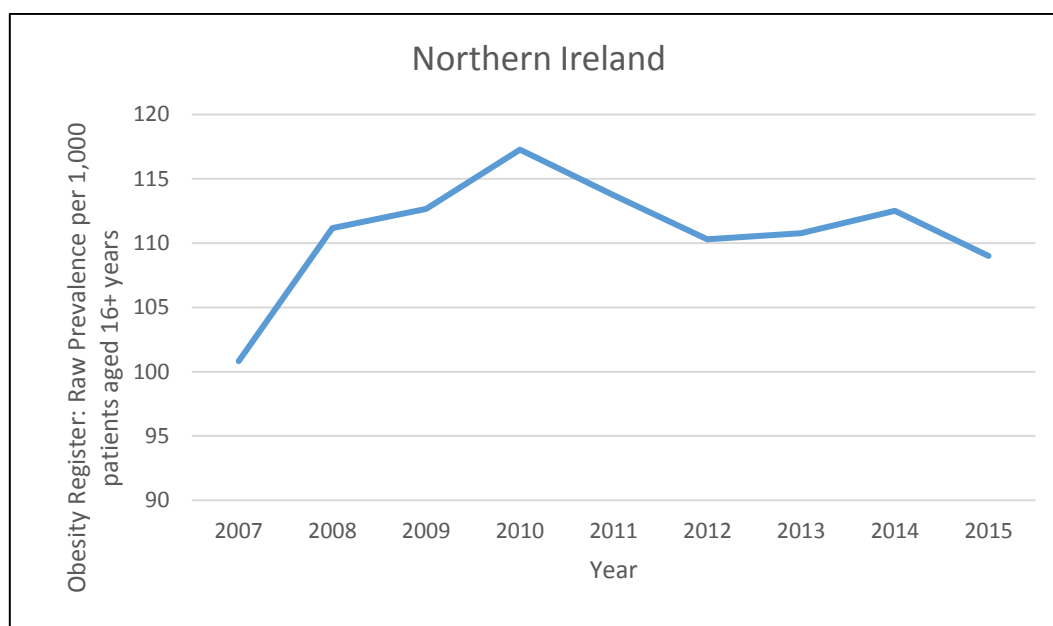
<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ark.ac.uk/publications/updates/update107.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ark.ac.uk/publications/updates/update98.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/mar/25/three-quarters-of-uk-children-spend-less-time-outdoors-than-prison-inmates-survey>

<sup>4</sup> World Health Organisation

Figure 5.1.3: Over 16 Obesity prevalence Northern Ireland



Source: NINIS Disease Prevalence (Quality Outcomes Framework) (administrative geographies)

The rate of childhood obesity is higher for DCSDC than for NI.

Table 5.1.5: Childhood obesity 2014/15- 2016-17

Year	P1		Y8	
	DCSD	NI	DCSD	NI
<b>Obese</b>	6.0%	5.3%	8.5%	7%
<b>Overweight</b>	23%	21%	32%	28%

Source: Health Inequalities Annual Report 2019 Data Tables

### Noise

The total number of noise complaints in Northern Ireland has remained fairly constant over the previous 10 years, varying between 11,099 and 12,193. Analysis of the 2016/17 data reveals that domestic noise accounted for 80.3% of all complaints, followed by complaints relating to commerce and leisure (7.8%), noise in the street (4.4%) and construction noise (3.1%); the proportion of noise complaints attributable to each category varies little year on year.

For DCSDC there were 532 complaints in 2016/17 the top three sources, accounting for 67% of complaints, were noise from animals (239), Music, Televisions & Parties (77) and Other Neighbour Noise (52). Noise from sources such as traffic is presented in noise maps published by DAERA and will be considered in more detail when preparing the LPP.

### Providing care

In the 2011 census 11.3% of people in DCSSDC stated that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others. This unpaid care only relates to long-term physical or mental ill-health/disability or problems related to old age. Carers allowance claimants is a measure of the people within our district that are dependent on carers. The data shows that the number of carers allowance claimants has been increasing steadily year on year since 2017 with 8,360 claimants in May 2019<sup>1</sup>. DCSD have the second highest number of carers claimants after Belfast City Council.

### Inequalities

Cancer rates, prescriptions for anti-depressants, admissions to A&E for residents from the more deprived areas in DCSDC are all multiples of the rates for NI and non-deprived areas in the District.

<sup>1</sup> NISRA:

The Community Planning Resource Support Pack June 2015 provides a comparison between the most deprived parts of DCSD compared to the council as a whole which illustrates the health inequalities.

The Health Inequalities Sub Regional Report 2016/17 indicates that almost half (49%) of Super Output Areas (SOAs) within DCSD are among the most deprived areas in NI and that comparatively only 2% fall within NI's least deprived quintile. Out of 42 indicators analysed 30 were worse than the NI average. The largest deprivation inequality gaps were for deaths due to alcohol and respiratory related causes and admission rates due to alcohol, drug or self-harm related causes. The most notable widening of gaps was for death rates due to lung cancer and circulatory issues.

#### *Health Survey Northern Ireland*

Health Survey Northern Ireland is a Department of Health survey that has run every year from April 2010 across Northern Ireland. Only differences that are statistically significant are reported and, as results are based on responses from 4,144 individuals, it cannot be reported at LGD level. Some findings that can inform trends or provide a basis for future comparison are as follows. A decline in the general health rating was observed with increasing age, with respondents in the 75 years and over age group more than four times as likely to report 'bad' or 'very bad' health (13%).

Overall, three-quarters of adults (75%) felt there was something they could do to make their life healthier in one or more of the following ways.

**Figure 5.1.4: How people feel they can make their life healthier**



Source: Health Survey Northern Ireland

Around two-fifths of adults reported having a longstanding illness, with over two-thirds (69%) in the 75 years and over age group. Respondents in the most deprived areas were more likely to report a longstanding illness (49%) and of those 79% were likely to be limited by it, this being significantly higher than in the least deprived areas.

Around half of respondents (45%) reported having 3 -5 people close to them that could be counted on if they had serious personal problems, while almost all respondents (98%) reported having at least one. Over a third of respondents aged 16 to 24 years (37%) stated it would be easy or very easy to get practical help from neighbours if they needed it. This rate increased with age reaching 71% for those aged 75 years and over.

#### *Recreation, Open Space and Greenways*

Derry City and Strabane District Council operates eight leisure facilities across the District. Land to be used for open space, sport and outdoor recreation, whether or not there is public access to it, is important for its contribution to the quality of urban life by providing 'green lungs', visual breaks and wildlife habitats in built-up areas. A need has been identified for a City and District wide audit/assessment of our current open space and recreation provision in terms of role and function. The outcomes will be taken into account in future updates of this scoping report.

Plans were published in November 2016 for a network of greenways in Exercise – Explore – Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways<sup>1</sup>, November 2016, Department for Infrastructure, connecting towns and cities to the villages and countryside from east to west and north to south across all eleven councils. It aims to bring back into use much of the disused railway network and give people ready access to a safe traffic-free environment for health, active travel and leisure. This Strategic Plan for Greenways identifies routes that should be explored to develop a Primary Greenway Network (Figure 5.1.6) from

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/infrastructure/exercise-explore-enjoy-a-strategic-plan-for-greenways-november-2016-final.pdf>

which a Secondary Greenway Network could progressively extend across the region. The evidence paper (AECOM, July 2016) in support of this strategic plan reports for DCSDC as follows, 'To date over 80km of traffic free (i.e. separated by at least a kerb from motor vehicle traffic) routes have been developed in the city alone, 30km of which are greenway standard. There is potential to expand the greenway network to communities and amenities away from the city centre and river basin, some of which could form part of longer greenway projects. With the creation of the new Derry City and Strabane District Council in April 2015, a revised walking and cycling masterplan for the new Council area has been agreed. The masterplan highlights not only possible new purpose built greenway routes but improvements to the local network that would increase active travel and cognisance of these has been taken in developing the overall strategic plan.'

**Figure 5.1.5: Map of Primary and Secondary Greenway Routes**



Source: Exercise – Explore – Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways, November 2016, Department for Infrastructure (DfI)

Further information about the local network of cycling and walking routes is provided in 5.8.

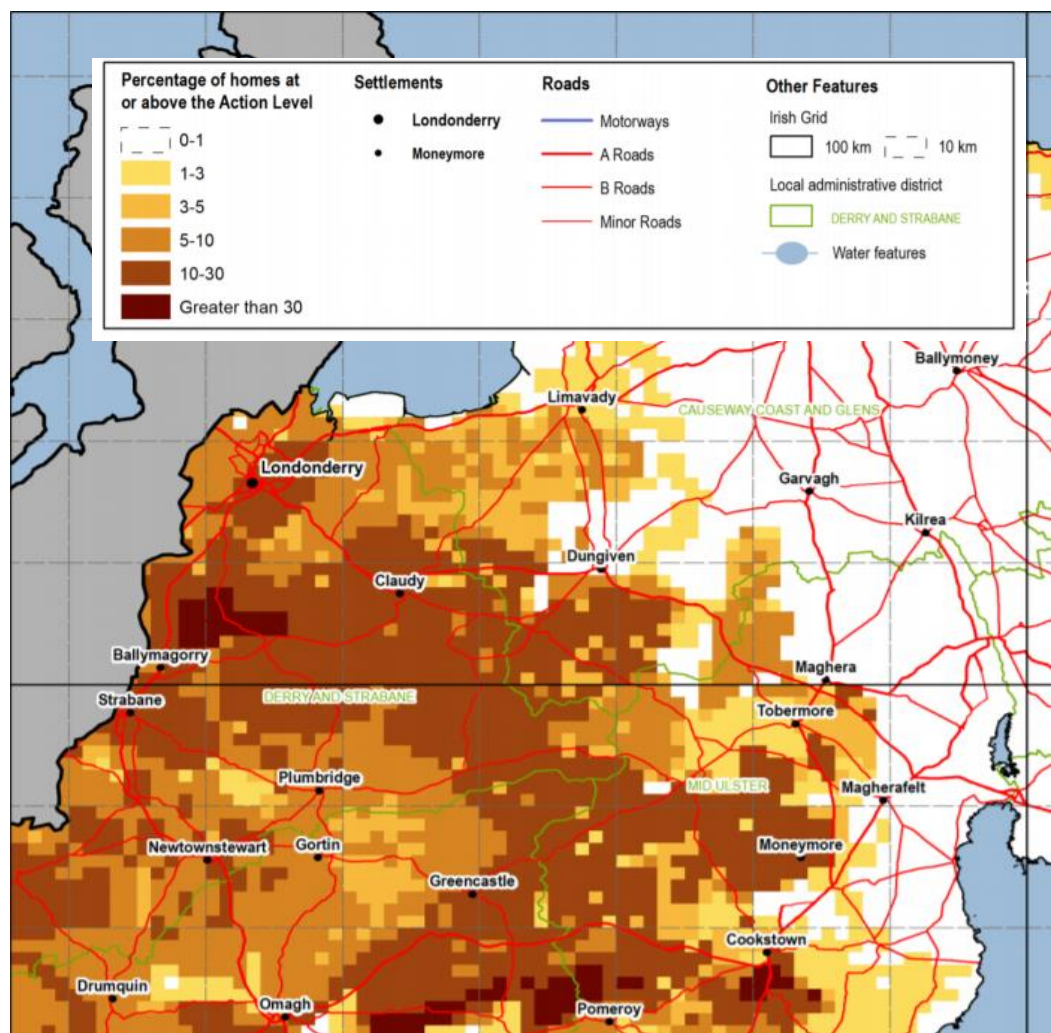
## Radon

Radon is a natural radioactive gas that occurs at low levels outside but which can become concentrated in enclosed places, such as houses, workplaces and other buildings. Long-term exposure to radon increases the risk of lung cancer, particularly in smokers or ex-smokers. After smoking, radon exposure is the second greatest cause of lung cancer. It is estimated to cause 30 deaths per year in NI<sup>1</sup>.

Public Health England (in conjunction with the GSNI) published a new indicative atlas of Radon levels in homes throughout Northern Ireland in 2015. It estimates that some 155,000 homes, about 1 in 5 in Northern Ireland, are now in 'Affected Areas'<sup>2</sup>.

An extract from this atlas is shown in Figure 5.1.7. The darker colours on the radon map indicate a greater probability of high radon levels in a building. The government has recommended that householders take action to reduce their radon levels where they exceed the 'action level' of 200 Becquerels per cubic metre. The atlas helps inform where measurement of Radon levels may be required at dwellings, and if necessary, where action may be required to protect homes. It can be seen in Figure 5.1.7 that there are large sections of DCSD with a 10% or greater probability of exceeding the recommended action level for Radon.

Figure 5.1.6: Extract from 'Radon in Northern Ireland: Indicative Atlas



Source: Radon in NI: Indicative Atlas August 2015 © Crown copyright and British Geological Survey © NERC 2015

<sup>1</sup> NI Direct Radon Gas in your Home (found at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/radon-gas-your-home](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/radon-gas-your-home))

<sup>2</sup> Gov.uk "New Radon Map for Northern Ireland Published" (found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-radon-map-for-northern-ireland-published>)

### 5.1.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without the Local Development Plan (LDP) in place, the Regional Development Strategy (RDS), the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS), Area Plans and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. The Areas Plans however were prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. They were not therefore informed by the needs of our society today.

Some of the measures of health such as asthma may be exacerbated if there is no change or a deterioration in environmental conditions. While there are other environmental controls in place, the lack of a plan would mean that there is less opportunity to site development to reduce negative interactions between uses.

### 5.1.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Health and Well-being

- The population profile is younger than that for Northern Ireland however trends indicate an aging population and by 2041 over 65s are expected to represent almost a quarter (24.1%) of the population.
- Overall, the health of the area is improving.
- However more than one in five people have long term health problems or disability that limit their day-to-day activities.
- Life expectancy is increasing but is about a year lower compared with the NI average.
- Hospital admission rates have dropped for circulatory disease but increased due to respiratory disease and alcohol related causes.
- While death rates from circulatory, respiratory and external causes have decreased they are higher for DCSDC than those for Northern Ireland.
- There are indicators that there is a greater prevalence of mental illness in DCSDC and that there is an increasing trend.
- Increases in the proportion of older people in the population will increase the requirement for care. There is a need to meet the future needs for care and support for older people at home or in communal homes and to improve access to health services, other facilities and services.
- Levels of obesity in Northern Ireland and the UK are high by global standards reflecting poor diet and a relatively sedentary lifestyle.
- The rate of overweight or obese children in DCSDC is higher than the NI average.
- Levels of physical activity are lower than the NI average and much lower than recommended levels.
- There is a need to promote physical activity through provision of and ensuring good accessibility to sports facilities, open space, green infrastructure and walking and cycling routes.
- There is a gap in information about the provision for children's play.
- In particular there is a need for children to have accessible play in places where they feel safe.
- Also there will be a need to enable older people to engage in physical activity to prolong their healthy lives.
- Development should be sited and designed to connect with greenways where possible.



- More than one in ten people (11%) of people provide unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others and there is a steady increase in the number of people receiving carers' allowance (7.1%).
- DCSDC shows a higher rate of adaptation of accommodation to meet disability or mobility needs for those 65+ however this will continue to be a need.
- Noise and environmental quality are not identified as being significant adverse effects at present however they can impact on health and therefore environmental quality should be improved, or sustained where it is good, to minimise adverse health impacts.
- There is a need to protect and enhance biodiversity to promote positive health benefits.
- Ambulance response times are typically better than those for Northern Ireland however can be long for rural areas; the location of and access to emergency services can impact on response times.
- There is a very strong correlation between health and income, employment and education.
- DCSDC shows a higher rate of health deprivation and disability compared with Northern Ireland and there is an inequality in health with most measures of health being significantly worse in the most deprived areas.
- Good spatial planning can reduce health inequalities by providing a high standard of design and place making, open space, capacity for any additional services required and accessibility.
- Increasing rates of Obesity are a cause for concern. Good spatial planning can encourage a more active lifestyle, promote accessibility to sports facilities / Open Space and seek to manage fast outlets and their proximity to schools.
- Our current dependence on the car could be linked to increased rates of respiratory disease. Car usage reflects our significant urban centres and extensive surrounding countryside.

## 5.2 Community

### 5.2.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Community considers demographics, community identity, shared space, prosperity and social inclusion, crime and community safety, good relations and the rural population.

An understanding of changes in the makeup of the population helps inform future needs for the plan area for housing, employment, infrastructure, facilities and amenities. Models of the future population take account of other policies, net migration and, for example, health initiatives, which are likely to have an influence on births, deaths. A consistent requirement of policies related to the various demographic groups is the need to incorporate equality of treatment and opportunity.

'Delivering Social Change', an NI Executive Programme, seeks to reduce inequalities, often through targeted approaches, and the draft Programme for Government includes an outcome that '*We have a more equal society*' which includes measures to reduce poverty, health and educational inequality and also relates to employment.

The Regional Strategic Objective of the SPSS to '*sustain a vibrant rural community by supporting rural economic development of an appropriate nature and scale*' is representative of regional rural policy. It seeks to enable people to live and work in rural communities with reasonable provision of facilities while retaining the intrinsic character and value of the countryside and small communities. This echoes the Rural White Paper Action Plan which also refers to improved infrastructure, transport and key services; strong community infrastructure which can avail of economic, social and cultural opportunities; and better linkages between rural and urban areas.

There is growing recognition of the need for provision to take account of the varying needs of different age groups. The World Health Organisation promotes Age-friendly practices. It states that '*An age-friendly world enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities and treats everyone with respect, regardless of their age. It is a place that makes it easy for older people to stay connected to people that are important to them.*'<sup>1</sup> This ethos is reflected in the objectives of the Active Ageing Strategy 2016-2021 which includes aims such as the co-ordinated delivery of suitable warm housing and timely and reliable transport provision. Other aims include social participation and volunteering opportunities which help address isolation and loneliness and the active participation and citizenship of older people in decision making on policies and the provision of services. The draft Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Strategy 2017-2027 promotes co-operation amongst Departments, Agencies and other service deliverers. Its aims include that children and young people are provided the opportunity to experience good relations with those of a different race, religion or culture.

Together: Building a United Community Strategy<sup>2</sup> is another Executive programme. It has a vision for '*a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance*'.<sup>3</sup> It includes a commitment to create a 10-year Programme to reduce interface barriers, with the aim of removing them entirely by 2023 via an Interface Barrier Support Package.

The Derry City and Strabane Corporate Plan 2019-2020 is committed to delivering improved social, economic, and environmental outcomes for everyone. One of their corporate objectives seeks to promote healthy communities. Following a revision of annual rates across the Council area it is anticipated that 17% of expenditure will go towards health and communities in 2019/20.

---

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization – Ageing and lifecourse/Towards an Age-friendly world (found at <https://www.who.int/ageing/age-friendly-world/en/>)

<sup>2</sup> Together: Building a United Community Strategy (Date published: 23 May 2013) <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/together-building-united-community-strategy>

<sup>3</sup> The Executive Office: Together: Building a United Community Strategy

The vision of the Derry City and Strabane Districts Community Plan, the 'Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032' is 'a thriving, prosperous and sustainable City and District with equality of opportunity for all.' A key ambition within this includes living in a shared, equal and safe community. This will be realised through a vibrant and resilient community and voluntary sector, safer communities, improved access to quality facilities and services and citizens who are actively engaged in decision making processes.

### 5.2.2 Baseline information

The Community Planning Resource Support Pack June 2015 and updates (May 2017) found at Derry and Strabane Statistics provide detailed information on the community profile for our council. In addition the following evidence papers which can be found at [www.derrystrabane.com/ldp](http://www.derrystrabane.com/ldp) are relevant to this topic: EVB3 - Population & Growth Strategy; EVB16 – Community Infrastructure.

Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service data in general and its Area Profile for DCSD at December 2016 have been important data sources. The baseline data also refers to the 2018 Equality Awareness Survey which measured attitudes towards specific equality groups and perceptions and experiences of unfair treatment. The survey of over 1000 people followed a similar structure and content to that of the Commission's previous Equality Awareness Surveys (2011, 2008 and 2005).

#### *Population Distribution*

As of June 2018 DCSD has a population of approximately 150,000 people and a land area of approximately 1,245 square kilometres therefore the average population density is 120 per hectare which is low by comparison to the rest of NI although there is wide variation and some very sparsely populated rural areas. It is estimated that 71% of the population live in urban areas whereas 29% reside in the rural area<sup>1</sup>. However, based on the 47 settlements in the District, 84% of the population live within designated settlements with the remaining 16% of the population living in the rural area. Outside the larger population centres such as Derry and Strabane, the dispersed pattern creates challenges for service provision especially in the more rural and remote areas of the District.

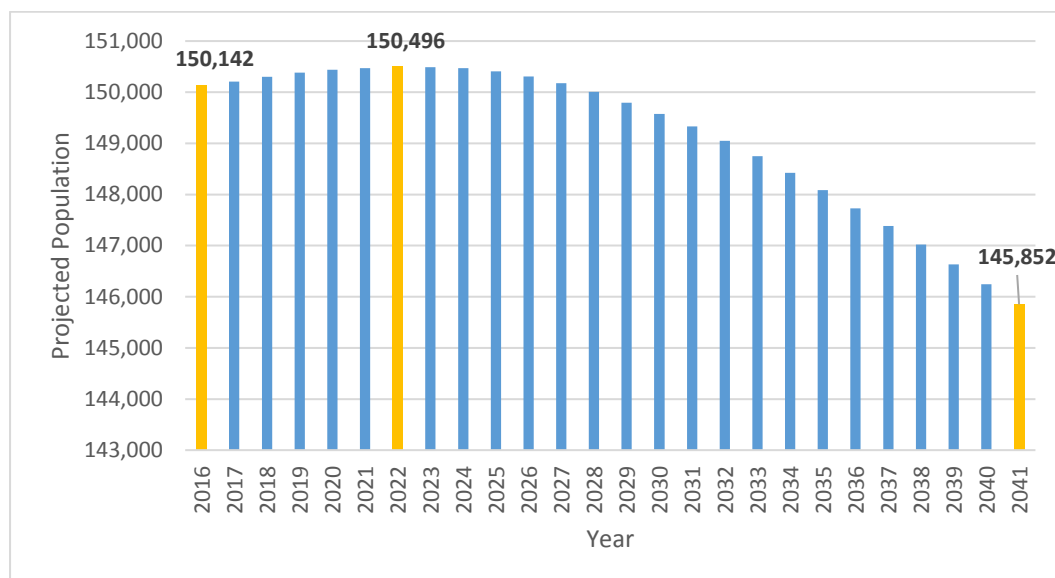
Based on 2016 population projections produced by NISRA, the population of DCSD is expected to decrease from 150,142 in 2016 to 149,050 in 2032. Further projections anticipate this trend will continue. In addition to a shrinking population it is also an ageing population with a rise in those aged 65+. It is expected that those over 65+ will represent over a fifth of the population of DCSD by 2032. An ageing population will place additional demands on health and community services while fluctuations in the under 16s could have implications for service provision such as schools.

The rate of population growth for DCSD has been lower than that for Northern Ireland as a whole.

---

<sup>1</sup> NISRA: Urban Rural Estimates 2017

Figure 5.2.1: Projected DCSDC Population 2016 – 2041



Source NISRA Population Projections (2016 based)

#### *Religious Belief, Identity, Language and Ethnicity*

On Census Day 27th March 2011, 72.16% of the DCSD population belonged to or were brought up in the Catholic religion and 25.40% belong to or were brought up in a 'Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)' religion<sup>1</sup>. DCSD has a strong majority Catholic background in comparison to NI. Those of other religions were slightly below the Northern Ireland percentage and the number reporting no religion (1.8%) was significantly lower than the NI average (5.59%).

In respect of identity 26.20% indicated that they had a British national identity, 50.75% had an Irish national identity and 26.54% had a Northern Irish national identity<sup>2</sup>(respondents could indicate more than one national identity.)

In the 2011 census 1.39% were from an ethnic minority population (NI: 1.72%) and the remaining 98.61% were white (including Irish Traveller) (NI: 98.28)<sup>3</sup>. 1.7% of the of the Districts resident population reported that they did not have English as their first language<sup>4</sup>. The 2018 Equality Awareness Survey found that attitudes towards the different groups were generally positive. The previous negative attitudes that existed towards Irish Travellers fell from 30% in 2011 to 19% in 2016.

#### *Political Opinion*

At the 2019 Local Elections the results for the different political parties were as follows:

- Alliance- Two Councillors elected
- Aontú – One Councillor elected
- Democratic Unionist Party- Seven Councillors elected
- Independent- Four Councillors elected
- People Before Profit Alliance- Two Councillors elected
- Social Democratic Labour Party- 11 Councillors elected
- Sinn Féin- 11 Councillors elected
- Ulster Unionist Party- Two Councillors elected

<sup>1</sup> NISRA: Census 2011: Religion or Religion Brought Up In : KS212NI (administrative geographies)

<sup>2</sup> NISRA: Census 2011: National Identity (Classification 2): KS203NI (administrative geographies)

<sup>3</sup> NISRA: Census 2011: Ethnic Group: KS201NI (administrative geographies)

<sup>4</sup> NISRA: Census 2011: Main Language KS207NI (administrative geographies)

### *Marital Status*

Between 2001 and 2011 there has been an increase in the number of single people in Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup>. IN DCSD the trend is similar albeit with a higher proportion of single people (40.39%) than the NI average (36.14%). This is reflected in the fact that fewer people are married in DCSD than the NI average. The proportion of divorced (5.39) and widowed (6.09) is close to that for Northern Ireland.

Increases in 'single' may be deceptive - increasing numbers of couples may choose not to marry, e.g. the Registrar General's report of 2017 notes that 43 per cent of births in 2016 occurred outside of marriage, compared to only 13 per cent three decades ago.

Single people may have different housing requirements and may have less purchasing power or different social needs to those who are married. Young single people may be a key consideration in the economy of town centres, as they can provide a significant part of the market for the evening economy, for example in pubs, clubs and restaurants. However, single people may also experience social exclusion, particularly the elderly, disabled and single parents.

### *Sexual orientation*

Data on sexual orientation is not available at council level and there are no direct measures therefore while it can be assumed that the population includes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons there is no indicator of the proportion of the population represented by these groups. The 2018 Equality Awareness Survey did illustrate negative attitudes towards transgender persons in 2011 (22%), this fell to 9% in 2016 and negative attitudes towards lesbian, gay or bisexual persons decreased from 21% in 2008 to 6% in 2016 with an 83% change to positive views.

### *Gender*

On Census day 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011, 49.06% of the usually resident population were male and 50.94% were female. The Health and Wellbeing Chapter of the report highlights that life expectancy for both sexes remains below the NI average by approximately 1 year.

### *Persons with a disability and persons without*

On Census Day 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011, in Derry and Strabane, 22.95% of people had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities; and 11.27% of people stated that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others. There are likely to be discrepancies across DCSD reflecting differences in the age composition and deprivation.

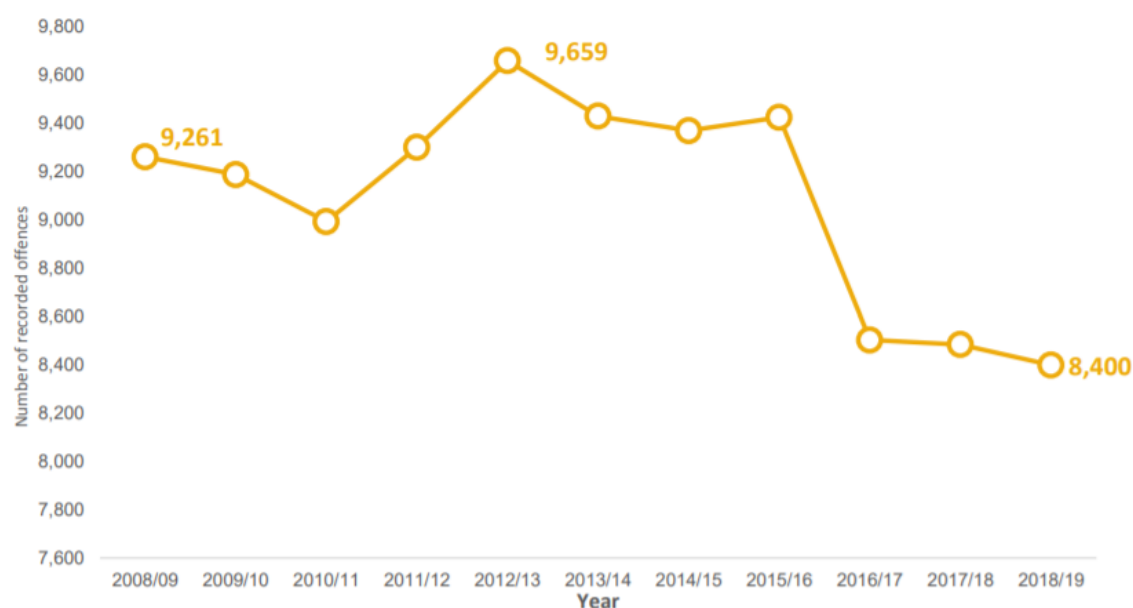
### *Crime, Safety and Deprivation*

Communities living in Derry City & Strabane District have two Local Policing Teams (LPTs), based in Strand Road and Strabane Police Stations, providing 24-hour cover. These officers are supported by four Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs), based in Strand Road, Waterside and Strabane Police Stations, which are mobile and deployed to areas to deal with critical issues. One of the key actions of the Community Plan is to 'reduce crime, disorder and community tensions by addressing interface and contested space issues and improve safety.' The overall incidence of crime in DCSD has steadily declined from 2008/09 to 2018/19 as can be seen in Figure 5:2:3. There has been a decrease in the overall incidences of robbery and criminal damage. However, there has been a steady increase in the number of reported incidences of sexual offences, trafficking drugs and possession of drugs since 2001/02 to 2018/19<sup>2</sup>. In DCSDC the largest motivation to result in a hate crime is sectarianism, with 121 incidents in 2018/19 although there has been a general fall since 2010/11 when the figure stood at 201. All groups may find their environment less inclusive due to hate crime including unreported incidents.

<sup>1</sup> NISRA Marital Status (administrative geographies), 2001 Census and NISRA Marital Status and Civil Partnership Status by age, 2011 Census

<sup>2</sup> PSNI Statistics: Recorded Crimes by Policing District

Figure 5.2.2: Number of police recorded crime offences (excluding fraud) in DCSD 2008/09 to 2018/19



Source: PSNI Statistics

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2017 scores areas in NI across several deprivation domains including income, employment, access to services and crime. Scores range from one (most deprived) to 890 (least deprived). Spatially there is a wide range of scores across the Council area. East Super Output Area (SOA) scores lowest out of all Northern Ireland in terms of multiple deprivation with a rank of 1. Out of the 75 SOA's making up the Council area there are 32 that have a multiple deprivation measure (MDM) rank within the top quintile which is almost half of the SOA's. The highest rankings for multiple deprivation are evident in and around the city of Derry and the town of Strabane and its rural hinterlands. There are links with deprivation, crime and poor health as can be seen from Table 5:2:1 which highlights that those areas with a lower Crime & Disorder rank (with the exception of Pennyburn 1) are also likely to have a low ranking in terms of health deprivation and multiple deprivation.

Table 5:2:1: DCSD Deprivation Rank for Crime, Health and MDM

SOA	Crime & Disorder Rank	Health Deprivation & Disability Domain Rank	NIMDM Rank
The Diamond	1	44	6
Strand 1	10	36	5
Shantallow West 1	19	13	19
Pennyburn 1	24	421	419
Crevagh 2	28	9	3
Shantallow West 2	29	46	27
Culmore 2	30	22	22
Ebrington 2	33	104	38
Rosemount	44	105	68
Brandywell	50	476	13

Source: NISRA 2017 NIMDM

Access to services is an issue across more rural parts of the District with Plumbridge SOA ranked lowest of all SOA's in Northern Ireland.

#### *Shared Space and Community Facilities*

DCSD operates eight leisure facilities across the District, as well as a range of other community facilities such as community centres and libraries. Derry already has a distinct urban identity as

exhibited in the areas such the grid pattern layouts of the Walled City and Clarendon Street area. In the modern era, the Riverside Strategy Framework within the Derry Area Plan 2011, which included the concept of the Peace Bridge, has transformed the heart of the city. These demonstrate good place-making and reflect the river setting and hillsides and public spaces which give its unique setting and provide space for interaction. This model, which integrates place and people, can be scaled to communities across the council area.

### 5.2.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without our LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. The Areas Plans were however prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. They were not therefore informed by the needs of our society today.

In the absence of a new plan there is a risk that policies and provision for development will not reflect the needs of our council area or support delivery of our community plan. A new plan brings an opportunity to develop a plan led system and to reflect the most recent strategies.

Population trends are largely influenced by other factors such as birth and death rate which in turn reflect many other factors such as health. Migration is subject to external influences such as national policy and the regional economy however it can also be directly influenced by the physical, economic and social environment. Planning can have an influence on this by creating the conditions for investment and place shaping to make it more attractive to live.

### 5.2.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Community

- The evidence relating to the population, community and safety indicates the following issues to be considered in preparing the LDP.
- The rate of population growth has been lower than for NI and is expected to decline by 2041 to a rate lower than today.
- There is a commitment and need to promote social inclusion through appropriate and accessible shared space and applying place making to make areas inclusive for all backgrounds, abilities and income levels.
- There are a greater number of more deprived areas and neighbourhoods in DCSDC than in other councils, particularly in Derry and Strabane urban areas and in the rural hinterland surrounding Strabane.
- There is evidence that there is a high level of deprivation, particularly in terms of proximity to services, in some rural areas.
- The highest concentrations of deprivation with respect to proximity to services in DCSD occurs in Banagher, Claudy 2, Clare, Dunnamanagh, Glenderg, Plumbridge and Slievekirk.
- While the main religions of 'Catholic' or 'Protestant' are balanced overall in many areas the population is represented by more than 70% of one of these.
- Design should seek to remove barriers that restrict life choices for disabled people.
- The community is not ethnically diverse; however the needs of minority groups must be taken into account.
- The proportion of households with dependent children is higher than the NI average although it has started to decline and will continue to do so.
- Planning has a significant role to play in future design and creating attractive and welcoming places to live.

## 5.3 Housing

### 5.3.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Good quality sustainable housing is a fundamental need of society and can make a significant positive contribution to community cohesion and the character of our built environment. It is the role of the LDP to facilitate land proactively for the delivery of homes to meet the variety of future housing needs, together with the opportunities for people living there to make healthy lifestyle choices and benefit from community services and facilities.

Our regional policy recognises the importance of housing in relation to sustainable development. It acknowledges the potential links between good quality, sustainable housing that enables access to jobs, facilities, services and infrastructure, and the benefits this can bring to wider society. Policy encourages housing near to public transport links and in residential areas with adequate facilities already in place. Consideration of local character and the environment, as well as attractive design, are also viewed as key elements for sustainable development. Good quality, sustainable housing supports wider society including the most disadvantaged who can be supported through the access to high quality social housing.

Good quality housing is essential to safety and well-being. Availability of appropriate housing and access to community and social services influences the independence and quality of life of older people. New homes should be capable of being lifetime homes and be built to wheelchair accessible standards. Good quality housing developments promote well-being and health improvement through design to encourage walking and cycling, and use of open space for recreation. Fuel poverty can be tackled through housing design that aims for a low-carbon future, which also helps local air quality and our contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Regional policy recognises that housing growth needs to be managed to achieve sustainable patterns of residential development. This can be achieved by promoting housing within existing hubs and clusters and by using vacant and underutilized land including brownfield sites. Regional policy encourages 60% of new housing to be in the hubs and clusters and to use brownfield sites. The needs of rural dwellers, those on low incomes, the vulnerable, the elderly, the disabled and the homeless should also be considered in housing policy.

The Derry City and Strabane Housing Investment Plan 2019-2023 was produced by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and identifies a number of desired outcomes in terms of housing in Derry City and Strabane. The housing vision for Derry City and Strabane is one where “everyone is able to live in an affordable and decent home, appropriate to their needs, in a safe and attractive place.” Outcomes identified within the plan include helping people find housing support and solutions, delivering better homes, fostering sustainable communities and delivering quality public services.

Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSD) Corporate Plan and Improvement Performance Plan 2019 sets the overall strategic direction with a number of objectives related to the promotion of healthy communities, protection of the environment and delivery of physical regeneration, the growth of business and facilitation of cultural development with facilitative and effective cross functional support systems. The corporate plan objectives most relevant to this topic is the promotion of healthy communities and the protection of our environment and delivery of physical regeneration.

The vision for Derry and Strabane Districts Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032 Community Plan is a ‘thriving, prosperous and sustainable City and District with equality of opportunity for all.’ One of the key outcomes is that ‘we live sustainably- protecting and enhancing the environment.’ Some actions to achieve this include the delivery of a new Local Development Plan, supporting the implementation of the Urban Villages Programme in the Bogside, Fountain and Bishop Street areas, delivering regional and major local regeneration projects such as Ebrington and Fort George and through the provision of high quality social and private housing in sustainable and urban neighbourhoods. This outcome will be realised through the development of the Local Development



Plan which will contribute to the development of sustainable communities and to meet housing need. The Community Plan identifies student housing developments as one of the Key strategic capital projects to be substantially progressed by 2025. This is in connection with planned expansion at Magee and the North West Regional College.

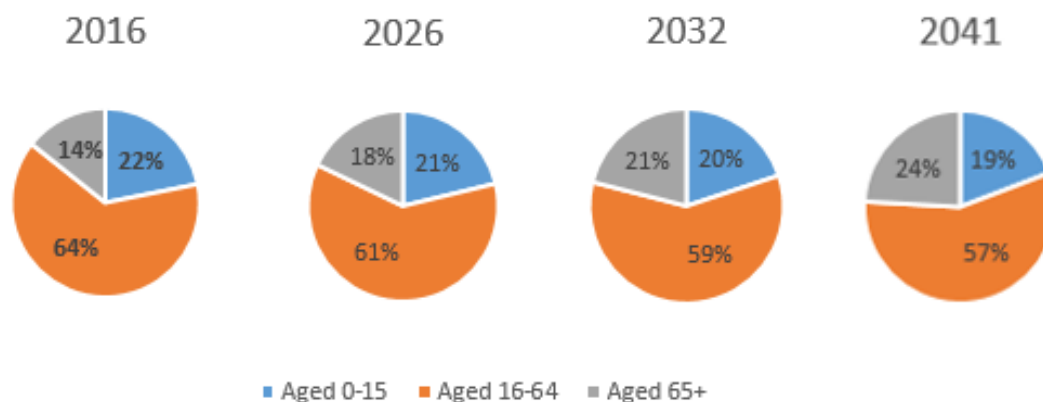
### 5.3.2 Baseline Information

The Community Planning Resource Support Pack June 2015 and updates (May 2017) found at Derry and Strabane Statistics provide detailed information on the community profile for our council. In addition the following evidence papers which can be found at [www.derrystrabane.com/ldp](http://www.derrystrabane.com/ldp) are relevant to this topic: EVB3 – Population & Growth Strategy, EVB4 – Settlements, EVB5 – Housing.

#### *Households, Projections and Profile*

In 2016 the number of households within DCSD was 57,544 households<sup>1</sup>. Households are projected to increase by 4.6% to 2032, with the number of households projected to be 60,211<sup>2</sup>. However, the number of households is expected to peak in 2036 at 60,319 and slowly begin to decline to 60,203 in 2041. This is in keeping with population projections which shows that DCSD will have a projected population decrease whilst all other Council areas in Northern Ireland are expecting a population increase of varying rates. Regionally household sizes are decreasing with the average household size expected to be 2.42 by 2041. In 2016 the average household size for DCSD was 2.58 which was above the regional average. However, by 2041 the average household size is expected to decrease to 2.39 which will be below the NI average. By 2041 the proportion of people over 65 is expected to account for just under a quarter of Northern Ireland's population. Within DCSD it is expected that there will be a 30.7% increase in the number of over 65's to 2041 from the 2016 base. The growing proportion of the population age 65 and over is likely to increase the need for housing that can accommodate the needs of the elderly.

**Figure 5.3.1: Age Distribution of Population DCSD 2016, 2026, 2032 and 2041**



Source: NISRA: 2016 based Population Projections

#### *Housing Growth Indicators*

Housing Growth Indicators (HGIs) provide an estimate of future housing need in Northern Ireland. The figures are based on current population/ household formation trends and assume that these trends will continue into the future<sup>3</sup>.

Central government provided a Housing Growth Indicator figure of 5,000 covering the period 2012-2025. This gives an annual figure of 385 dwellings. Projected from 2017- 2032 this gives an allocation of 6,545 dwellings over the lifetime of the Local Development Plan (2017-2032.)

<sup>1</sup> NISRA 2016 based household projections for Northern Ireland, published in December 2018

<sup>2</sup> NISRA 2016 based household projections for Northern Ireland, published in December 2018

<sup>3</sup> NISRA/ Land and Property Services, 2012 based Housing Growth Indicators (HGIs)

**Table 5.3.1: Projected New Dwelling Requirement DCSD**

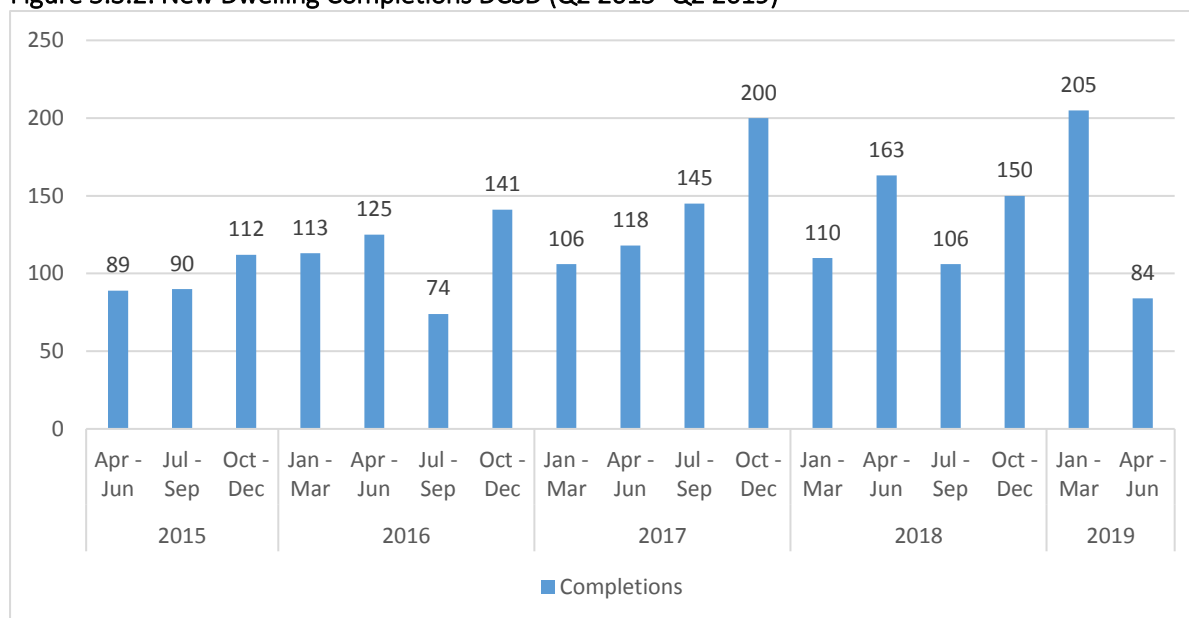
Projected Annual Yield	Projected New Dwelling Requirement 2017-2032
385	6,545

Source: Local Development Plan Evidence Base 5: Housing

DfI released updated HGI figures on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The newest HGI figure for DCSD for the period covering 2016-2030 is 4,100 which is a reduction of 2,445 units from the previous HGI calculation. This gives an annual figure of 293 units a year.

#### *Dwelling Completion Rates*

In 2012, the projected annual dwelling completion rate was approximately 365 dwellings per annum based on historical trend data over 2010-11 to 2014-15<sup>1</sup>. Completion rates are based on historical trend data and therefore reflect economic conditions at the time. The latest dwelling completion rates for the District demonstrate that dwelling completion rates have been increasing year on year since 2015. The highest number of dwellings completed was in Q2 2019. In 2016, 2017 and 2018 the annual dwelling completion rate exceeded the 2012 based HGI annual rate of 385. If Q3 and Q4 of 2019 continues at the same rate as previous years, it is likely that it will surpass this figure too.

**Figure 5.3.2: New Dwelling Completions DCSD (Q2 2015- Q2 2019)**

Source: Land and Property Services, Northern Ireland New Dwelling Statistics, 2019

New dwelling development in DCSD has been mainly driven by the private sector with 65% of new dwellings completed between Q2 2015-Q2 2019 being completed by this sector. When comparing DCSD completion rates for social housing during this time frame DCSD had the second highest rate of social dwelling completions (742) behind Belfast City Council (1194)<sup>2</sup>.

#### *Housing Supply and Distribution*

The existing Derry Area Plan (DAP) and Strabane Area Plan (SAP) define the settlement strategy for the district. Both the Derry Area Plan and Strabane Area Plan are well past their notional end dates and were prepared before the introduction of the RDS. Evidence Base 5 – Housing indicates that the DAP focused most of the city's growth on the periphery of the built up area, designated villages and identified small settlements which acted as local focal points in the countryside. The SAP designated four tiers of settlements which are as follows; Strabane was designated as the District Town, local

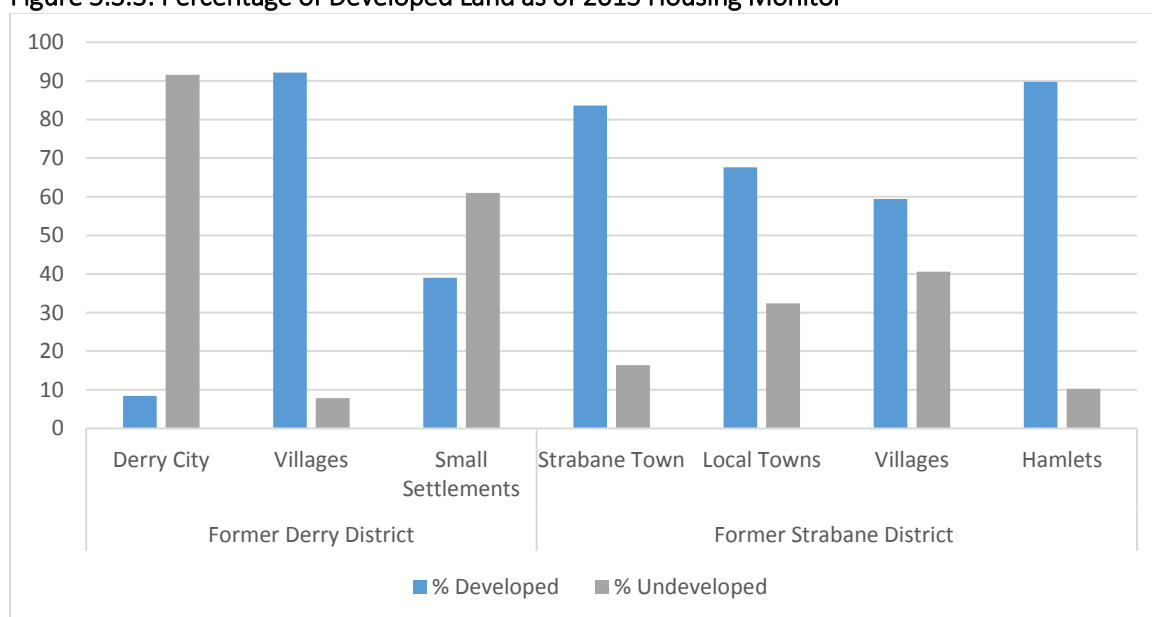
<sup>1</sup> DfI 2012 Based Housing Growth Indicators

<sup>2</sup> Land and Property Services, Northern Ireland New Dwelling Statistics 2019

towns, villages and hamlets. Both development plans favoured focusing development in main hubs and settlements.

Between 1999 and 2013, approximately 79% of all the houses built across the former Derry District were developed in Derry City where 595 hectares of land has been zoned for housing in the Derry Area Plan 2011, with an estimated 391 hectares remaining undeveloped. Within the villages, the greatest growth was in Culmore and Eglinton with disproportionate growth across some of the smaller settlements. In the former Strabane District Council area, approximately 49% of all the houses built across the settlements were developed in Strabane Town followed by Castlederg, Sion Mills and Newtownstewart. Within the villages, there have been notable build rates in Artigarvan and Erganagh, as well as significant growth in a number of the hamlets such as Bready, Glenmornan and Donagheady.

**Figure 5.3.3: Percentage of Developed Land as of 2013 Housing Monitor**



Source: Local Development Plan- Evidence Paper 5 - Housing

Of the 2017-18 rural approvals approximately 22% were for new rural single dwellings. The DCSD new rural dwelling approval rate is lower than the NI new rural dwelling approval rate of approximately 24%<sup>1</sup>.

### *Affordable Housing*

The SPSS states that 'affordable housing' relates to social rented housing and intermediate housing.' The Housing Executive currently define affordable housing as 'social rented housing and intermediate housing for eligible households<sup>2</sup>.' The Department for Communities has recently undertaken a public consultation exercise to seek views on its proposals to change the definition of affordable housing. Once this work is completed it is envisaged that the definition will encompass a wider range of intermediate housing products. Demand for social rented housing is prevalent within DCSD as indicated by the Derry City and Strabane Investment Housing Plan (HIP) 2019-23. Social rented housing need for the district has consistently increased since 2014 which displays evidence that social rented housing provision needs to be increased to meet with ever growing demand. In March 2019 there were 4,510 applicants on the waiting list with 3,401 of those in housing stress. There were 917 allocations over the year.

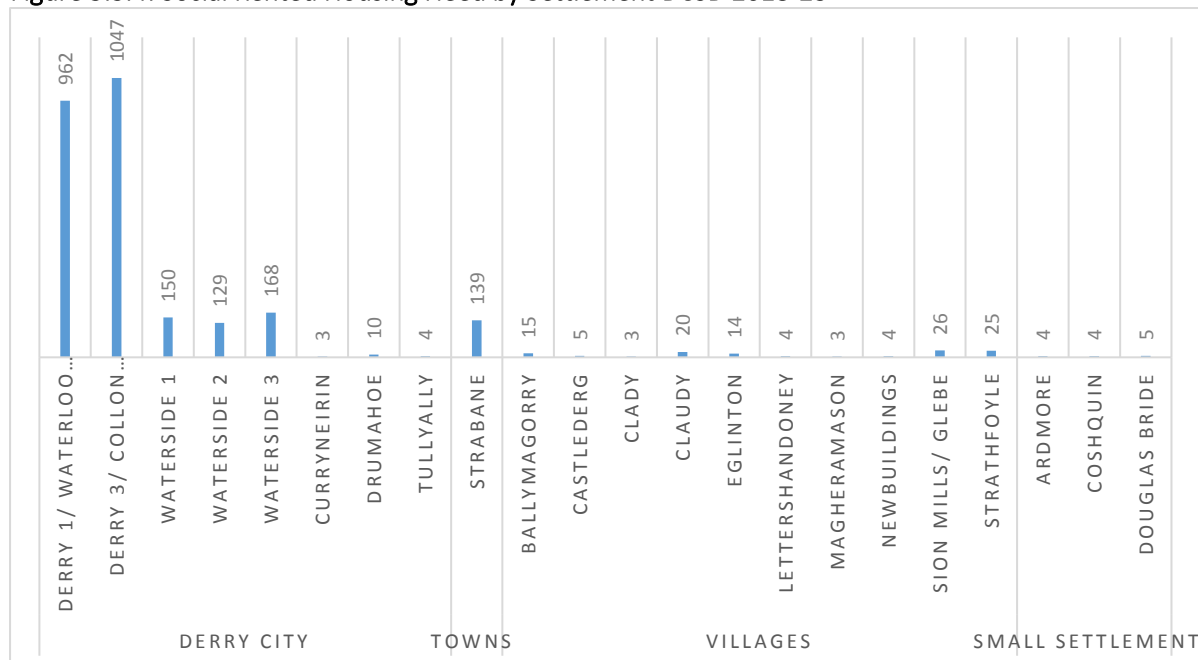
The five-year assessment for 2018-2023 projects a need for 2,744 social rented housing units in the district. Social rented housing need is greatest in the Westbank of Derry City (2,009) followed by the

<sup>1</sup> Department for Communities: Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2017-18

<sup>2</sup> NIHE: Derry City and Strabane Housing Investment Plan 2019-23

Waterside (447) and Strabane Town (139)<sup>1</sup>. 89% of the housing stress waiting list is comprised of single, older persons and small family households. Upon analysis of housing and population projections it is expected that the demand for one and two bedroom dwellings will increase given the increased rate of those over 65 years old and the decrease in household size. Future household mix in newly developed social housing will need to cater for these household groups.

**Figure 5.3.4: Social Rented Housing Need by Settlement DCSD 2018-23**



Source: Derry City and Strabane Housing Investment Plan 2019-2023

There are a number of social rented affordable housing schemes planned and started as part of the social housing development programme<sup>2</sup>. In 2018/19 223 general needs and two supported housing units were completed across Derry City and Strabane. From March 2019 there were 1,242 units on site. Going forward there are 1,485 general needs housing units planned and 9 supported housing units. NIHE aim to target affordable housing on land already owned by them and where such land is unavailable they recommend that Housing Associations and developers refer to the Housing Executives Commissioning Prospectus.

**Table 5.3.2: Number of Affordable Housing Units Onsite and Planned 2019-2022**

Affordable Housing Schemes	Onsite March 2019	Planned 2019-2022	Total
Units	1,242	1,494	2736

Source: NIHE: Derry City and Strabane Housing Investment Plan 2019-2023

The DCSD HIP 2019-23 highlights that low income households can find difficulty accessing the owner occupied market creating demand for intermediate housing. The Housing Executive estimates intermediate housing demand for the district at approximately 43 units per annum for the 2018 to 2028 period. There was an active stock of 374 co-ownership dwellings at March 2019, 17 of which were purchased during 2018/19.

The Housing Executive commissioned a Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment in 2002, 2008 and 2015. In 2019, new research will be undertaken to provide the necessary information to enable a new Irish Traveller Strategy for the period 2020-25. Transit sites are currently provided for Travellers at Greenbrae transit site in Strabane and Ballyarnett transit site in Derry.

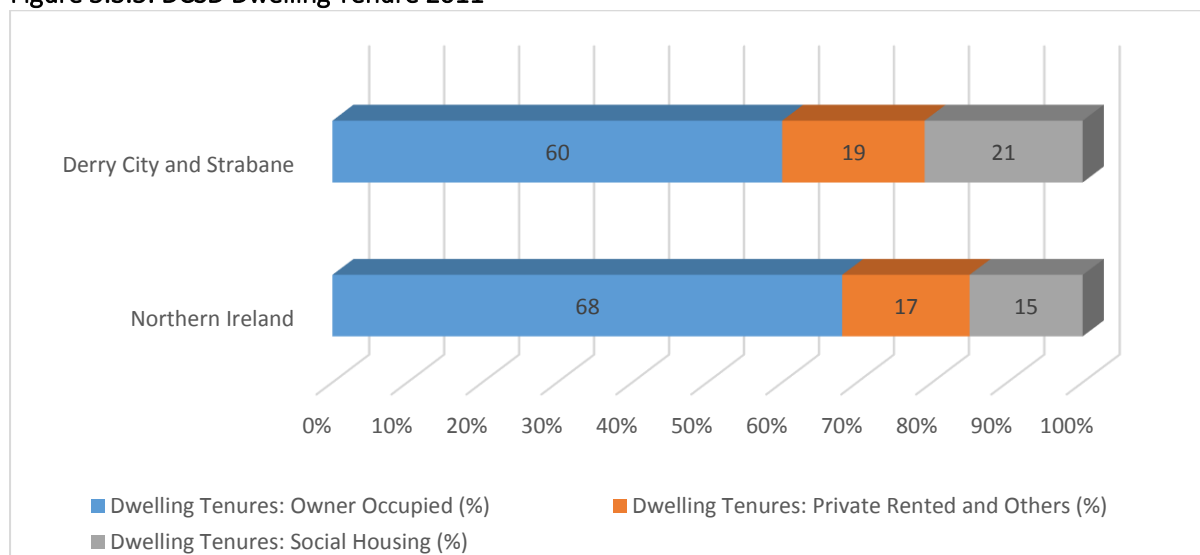
<sup>1</sup> NIHE: Derry City and Strabane Housing Investment Plan 2019-23

<sup>2</sup> Derry City and Strabane Housing Investment Plan 2019-23

### Tenure and Housing Type

In 2011, owner occupation accounted for 68% of housing tenure in Northern Ireland. The percentage of owner occupiers in DCSD accounted for 60% of all housing stock which is significantly lower than the NI average. Whilst the owner occupied sector accounts for the largest proportion of dwelling tenure in DCSD it is apparent that the social and private rented sector plays an important role within DCSD with a larger proportion of social and private dwelling tenure than the NI average. Private rental is now the chosen tenure of accommodation for many households. The Derry City and Strabane Housing Investment Plan indicates that this particularly the case for young households who may have availed of social housing or have become first time buyers in previous decades.

Figure 5.3.5: DCSD Dwelling Tenure 2011



Source: NISRA, Dwelling Tenure (administrative geographies) 2011

The housing stock of DCSD increased by 8.4% between 2008 and 2019. Over the period 2012 – 2019 the proportion of houses by property type has been fairly consistent with 34% terraced, 29% detached, 26% semi-detached and 11% apartments. There is a higher percentage of terraced in the district than the NI average.

Table 5.3.3: Number of Dwellings by Type – April 2019

District Council	Apartment	Detached	Semi-Detached	Terrace	Total Housing Stock
Derry City and Strabane	6,654	18,361	16,077	21,370	62,462
	11%	29%	26%	34%	100%
Northern Ireland	85,680	284,547	201,574	227,170	798,971
	11%	36%	25%	28%	100%

Source: Land and Property Services: Annual Housing Stock Statistics 2008-2019

### Housing Stress and Homelessness

The Housing Executive Homelessness Strategy 2017-2022 'Ending Homelessness Together,' provides strategic direction on how homelessness is addressed in Northern Ireland and aims to ensure that people avoid reaching a point of crisis. The Derry City and Strabane Housing Investment Plan 2019-2023 noted that the number of people presenting themselves as homeless had increased from 1,996 in March 2018 to 2,079 in March 2019. There has also been an increase in applicants being awarded 'full duty applicant' status (statutorily homeless) over the same period.

The main causes of homelessness in the Council area were due to accommodation not being reasonable, family disputes/breakdowns, loss of rented accommodation, neighbourhood harassment and domestic violence. The Housing Executive have a range of temporary accommodation within the Council area which include 180 privately owned single lets and 16 homeless schemes which provide 220 units of accommodation. 642 placements into temporary accommodation were made between 2018/19.

### *Affordability*

Housing affordability is determined by price, average incomes and access to borrowing. The Housing Market Review and Perspectives 2015-2018 reports that house price to income ratios are now at more sustainable levels and access to lending has become easier. Housing in Northern Ireland has been showing steady growth with a 3.5% increase in house prices in Q2 2019 over 12 months (see Table 5.3.7 below). For the same period DCSD experienced a 3.7% increase in house prices with the standardised house price for the Council area reported to be £123,184, which is the second lowest standardised house price in Northern Ireland.

Housing Market Review and Perspectives 2015-2018 reports that, while affordability has improved significantly in recent years across most housing market areas, 68% of homes are still unaffordable for first time buyers who may encounter difficulties in securing a mortgage.

**Table 5.3.4: Northern Ireland House Price Index Quarter 2 2019 (administrative geographies)**

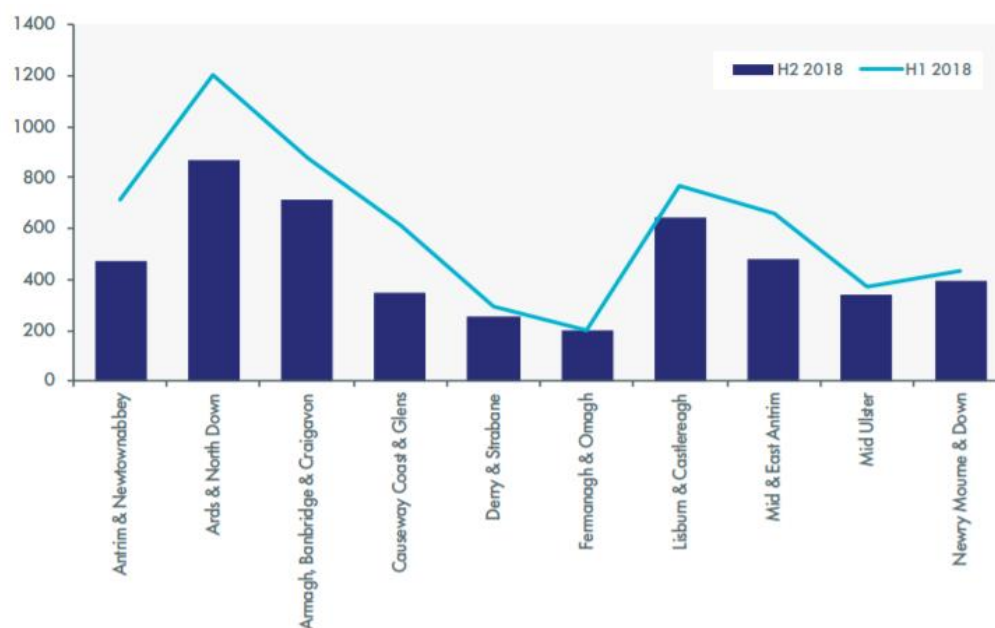
LGD 2014	Index (Quarter 2 2019)	Percentage Change on Previous Quarter	Percentage Change over 12 months	Standardised Price (Quarter 2 2019)
<b>Derry City and Strabane</b>	130.1	1.3	3.7	£123,184
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	123.3	0.8	3.5	£136 767

Source: NISRA Northern Ireland House Price Index Quarter 2 2019 (administrative geographies)

In H2 2018, Market research showed that outside Belfast, Derry and Strabane had a lower volume of rental transactions (251) when compared to other Council areas such as Ards and North Down (873). The average monthly rent was £526 which was below the NI average of £622<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Ulster University: Performance of the Private Rental Market

Figure 5.3.6: Number of Lettings by Local Government District (outside Belfast) H1 2018 and H2 2018



Source: Ulster University, Performance of the Private Rental Market: H2 2018

#### Fuel Poverty

A fuel poor household is one needing to spend in excess of 10% of its household income on all fuel use to achieve a satisfactory standard of warmth. It assesses the ability to meet all domestic energy costs including space and water heating, cooking, lights and appliances.

Key findings of the Northern Ireland House Condition Survey 2016 show a reduction in fuel poverty and improvements in energy efficiency of households in Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup>. In 2016 31% of households were living in fuel poverty in DCSD which is the second highest rate of fuel poverty behind Mid Ulster (33%). DCSD have also shown the least improvement in fuel poverty rates since 2006 with only a 2% improvement. In DCSD 660 measures were carried out to 351 private properties under the Affordable Warmth Scheme in 2018/19.

Table 5.3.5: Households in Fuel Poverty (10% definition) by Council Area 2016

Council	2006 % of Fuel Poverty	2016 % of Fuel Poverty
Antrim and Newtownabbey	25	14
Ards and North Down	37	20
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	33	24
Belfast	39	15
Causeway Coast and Glens	36	27
Derry and Strabane	33	31
Fermanagh and Omagh	35	26
Lisburn and Castlereagh	29	13
Mid and East Antrim	35	22
Mid Ulster	38	32
Newry, Mourne and Down	35	26
Total	34	22

Source: NIHE House Condition Survey: Main Report 2016

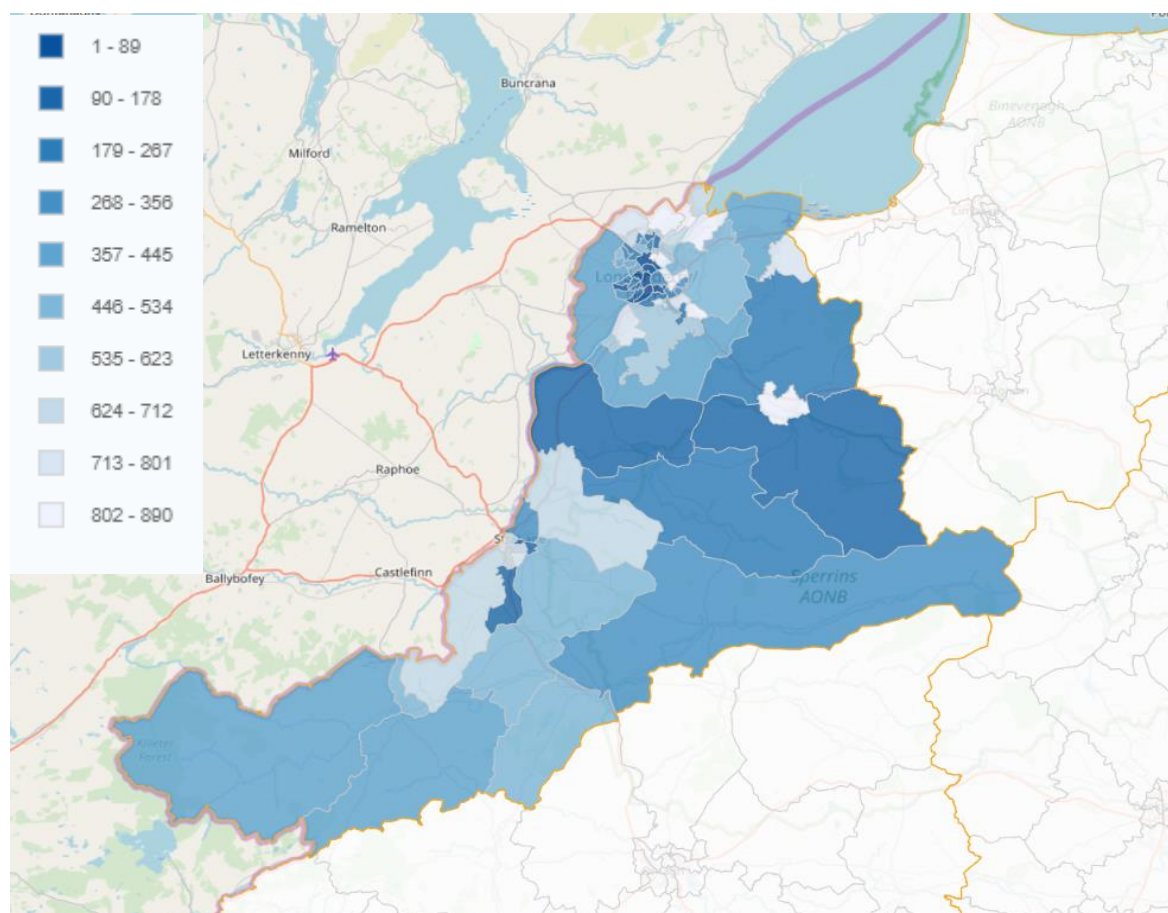
<sup>1</sup> NIHE, Northern Ireland House Condition Survey 2016

### Deprivation – Living Environment Rankings

The Northern Ireland Deprivation Measure 2017 explore the relative deprivation measures of small geographical areas known as Super Output Area (SOAs) There are 890 SOAs in Northern Ireland, of which there are 75 in DCSD. Deprivation is grouped into seven domains. The Living Environment Domain identifies areas experiencing deprivation in terms of the quality of housing, access to suitable housing and the outdoor physical environment. It comprises nine indicators including: the proportion of unfit dwellings; or require adaptations; or in need of repair; overcrowded households, road traffic collisions; road defects and the proportion of properties in flood risk areas<sup>1</sup>.

There are 15 SOA's within the top quintile of deprivation for Living environment and the majority of these are concentrated around Derry City as can be seen in Figure 5.3.8 below. Strand 1 is the most deprived SOA in DCSD with a rank of nine.

**Figure 5.3.7: Map showing Living Environment Domain Rankings for DCSD**



Source: NISRA NI Multiple Deprivation Measures 2017

### Vacancy Rates, Unfitness and Decent Homes

Vacancy rates are often an indicator of stock condition and the availability of existing housing stock. Dwellings unfit for habitation and second homes that are unoccupied contribute to vacancy rates reducing the supply of available housing. The 2016 House Condition Survey notes that there has been a significant decrease in the number of vacant properties between 2006 and 2016, 40,300 and 28,500 respectively. Owner occupied homes were more likely to be vacant than any other tenure type.

Between 2011 and 2016 there was a decrease in the rate of unfitness of Northern Ireland's housing stock from 4.6% to 2.1%. The three most common reasons for a property being classified as unfit in

<sup>1</sup> Northern Ireland Assembly: Research and Information Service Research Paper, Multiple Deprivation in Northern Ireland, published June 2018



2016 were: - Dampness (9,300 dwellings); - Serious disrepair (9,100 dwellings); - Unsatisfactory facilities for the preparation and cooking of food (8,800 dwellings). The NIHE House Condition Survey 2016 found that dwellings in the Derry urban area/large towns were least likely to be unfit.

‘Decent homes’ considers a range of factors beyond unfitness including meeting modern standards. The proportion and number of stock failing the decent homes standard has fallen by 70% since 2001.

### 5.3.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without our LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. The Areas Plans were however prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. They were not therefore informed by the needs of our society today.

Under such a scenario there would be less opportunity to consider current zonings for housing and adapt to meet the areas of greatest need. There would also be less opportunity to design housing policy to accommodate the changing demography of the Council area and the identified social housing need for more single elderly and small adult households.

All the existing plans were not prepared in the context of the new council areas and do not reflect the economic growth and social development for our area. Therefore, in the absence of a new plan there is a risk that policies and provision for development will not reflect the needs of our council area or support delivery of our community plan. A new plan brings an opportunity to develop a plan led system and to reflect the most recent strategies.

Applying sustainability appraisal will enable a more strategic and balanced plan for the future. Considerations for future housing include the availability of or capacity to provide necessary infrastructure, energy efficiency, a good quality environment, accessibility to employment and services, and to forms of transport that reduce reliance on private cars and address social considerations such as the vitality of towns and provision of care.

### 5.3.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Housing

- A changing demography has created a high demand within social rented housing for 1 and 2 bedroom households. The growing ageing population combined with the decreasing household size will increase demand for smaller households.
- Increasing demand for smaller accommodation could lead to lack of supply and make smaller accommodation less affordable.
- The total social housing need for DCSDC for 2018-2023 has been assessed at 2,744 units.
- The proportion of social housing stock in DCSDC area is considerably higher than the Northern Ireland figure.
- Some sites zoned for housing within the Borough have minimal development, identifying why land has gone undeveloped may be necessary when considering future land zoning.
- A growing proportion of older people (65+) will increase the need for suitable housing that is accessible for those who may not drive and which enables support to be provided.
- There will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability.
- Fuel Poverty rates in DCSD have shown the least improvement over a ten year period out of all Council areas.
- 15 SOA's predominantly clustered around Derry City are within the top quintile for living deprivation in Northern Ireland.
- There is an increase in the number of people presenting themselves as homeless in the district.

- All new housing should aim to provide life time homes that are accessible and adaptable to all and meet modern standards.
- New housing should be low carbon and avoid the problems of fuel poverty.
- Affordable housing is required for a variety of housing types and sizes.
- All new housing should help to support healthy lifestyles.
- Housing provision should enable social cohesion in families and communities and promote vibrancy of settlements.
- Future housing provision should be sustainably located and promote active travel.
- Future housing schemes should seek to include a range of housing tenures.

## 5.4 Education and Skills

### 5.4.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Education and skills takes account of learning from primary to third level education, in addition to vocational training. Good educational and skills outcomes support people to succeed economically, have better life chances and can enable opportunities for better health.

Low educational attainment and low skills levels significantly constrain life chances and increase the risk of poverty and poor health. Significant inequality in educational attainment exists within NI. Access to high quality education and skills training can be increased through cooperation between statutory agencies and other institutions. Overarching policies recognise that the education and skills levels of the population must improve in order meet the needs of communities and businesses. This will allow businesses to make use of opportunities for regional and global trade, and will help create conditions for increased high quality employment.

Education is one of the most significant investments in developing the individual, society and the economy. The overall vision of the Department of Education (DE) is to see *'every young person achieving to his or her full potential at each stage of his or her development'*.

In recent years there have been a number of influential publications which challenged all those involved in the education sector to consider new approaches. This includes sharing of facilities, which would promote a more cohesive and tolerant society and may provide a better use of the resources available to education.

In 2009, the DE introduced the 'Sustainable Schools Policy'. This was followed in 2011 by an area planning process, designed to address the long-term primary school needs from 2012-2025. The overall output of these is the assessment of schools against a set of criteria for sustainable enrolment levels, delivery of quality education and financial sustainability.

The 'Providing Pathways - Strategic Area Plan for Schools 2017-2020' identifies the challenges for the education system throughout each Local Government District area. Area planning aims to establish a network of viable schools that are of the right type, the right size, located in the right place, and have a focus on raising standards. The aim of area planning is to ensure that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum in sustainable, fit-for-purpose schools. The Education Authority (EA), in partnership with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, Controlled Schools' Support Council, Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, Governing Bodies Association, Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education, Catholic Schools' Trustee Service and the Further Education sector publishes an annual Action Plan to identify area planning solutions within each Council.

The draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021 has 14 outcomes, of which some are directly linked to the provision of a good education system. Some of these outcomes aim for *'more people in better jobs'*, and ensuring *'children and young people have the best start in life'*. Indicators for achieving these outcomes include reducing educational inequalities and improving the quality of education across NI.

Within a land use planning context, LDPs should allocate sufficient land to meet the anticipated educational needs of the community, and should recognise town centres as important hubs for a range of uses which include education. Within a rural context, policy requires that people who live in the countryside also have opportunities to access high quality education.

The Derry and Strabane Corporate Plan 2018-2019 aspires to the creation of over 10,000 jobs over the next ten years with associated reductions in unemployment and an improvement in prosperity and general well-being of all residents specifically targeting need, poverty and inequality. One of the Corporate Plans objectives is to 'grow our business and facilitate cultural development.' Key achievements to date include the establishment of an Education & Skills Delivery Partnership

Infrastructure, Apprenticeship marketing campaign and the design and delivery of software fundamentals courses in conjunction with North Western Regional College (NWRC).

The Derry City and Strabane District (DCSD) Community Plan the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032 recognises the importance of a better skilled and educated population. Some key actions to achieve this include increasing third level student numbers at Magee through its expansion and at NWRC, promoting educational pathways and apprenticeship frameworks, implementing vocational education programmes for young people at risk of disengaging and supporting community and parental engagement projects focusing on numeracy and literacy.

#### 5.4.2 Baseline Information

The Community Planning Resource Support Pack June 2015 and updates (May 2017) found at Derry and Strabane Statistics provide detailed information on the education profile for our council. In addition the following evidence paper which can be found at [www.derrystrabane.com/ldp](http://www.derrystrabane.com/ldp) is relevant to this topic: EVB3 - Population & Growth Strategy. Other sources are the Education Authority Primary and Post Primary Schools Annual Area Profile 2016.

##### *Education Facilities*

The Department of Education (DE) has overall responsibility for education policy and the Education Authority (EA) oversees the delivery of education, youth and library services. Within the context of Derry and Strabane, the Western Regional Office of the EA, the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education, are the key players.

##### *Pre School Education*

There are eight nursery schools and 23 voluntary and private preschool education centres within DCSD. Nursery schools provide pre-school education for children in their immediate pre-school year. Pre-schools are private or voluntary education settings which may also provide funded pre-school education places. The number of preschool admissions has been falling since 2012/13 and in 2018/19 there were 511 pupils enrolled in the eight nursey schools within DCSD (9% of all nursery school enrolments in Northern Ireland).

##### *Primary School Education*

Primary education in DCSD is provided by 69 Primary Schools (16,093 pupils) of which 22 are Controlled Primary Schools, 42 Catholic Maintained Primary Schools, one Controlled Integrated Primary School, one Grant Maintained Integrated and three Other Maintained. The number of pupils enrolling in Primary schools in the Council area has increased steadily since 2012. Providing Pathways identifies that in the 2015-16 year, which forms the baseline for the report, that there were 14,617 actual enrolments at primary level across the district. Over a quarter of the total approved enrolments (5,842 available places) were unfilled. This is the highest proportion of all LGD's in NI (NI average 22%). The Providing Pathways report also indicates that there will be no projected change in the age range 0-15 years to 2024 based on 2014 population projections. However, updated population 2016 projections predict that the age range 0-15 years will actually begin to decrease in the period to 2024 and beyond in DCSD.

##### *Post Primary Education*

There are 14 Post Primary Schools in DCSD, of which three are Controlled Schools, four are Voluntary, six Catholic Maintained and one GMI. Post Primary school admissions have been falling since 2012/13 and in 2018/19 there were 11,897 pupils enrolled in DCSD. The EA Annual Action Plan 2018/19 has identified that sustainability may be an issue within the Catholic school sector within Derry City and that managing authorities and trustees will need to consult on options for future provision. Providing Pathways report highlighted the population in the age range 16-19 years is projected to decrease by 13.6% by 2024.

### *Further & Higher Education*

Further Education is provided at the North West Regional College (NWRC), its main campus buildings are located in Derry, Limavady and Strabane with over 26,465 students every year. NWRC also works with many community and statutory organisations to deliver courses in community centres, school halls and clubs. The Ulster University currently maintains four sites in Northern Ireland, one of which is located in Magee College in Derry; there are currently plans to significantly expand the university over the Plan period, by approximately 5,000 students.

The North West Strategic Growth Partnership identifies opportunities for ongoing collaborative strategic work by Higher and Further Education Institutions in the North West including Letterkenny Institute of Technology, Ulster University, Donegal ETB and the North West Regional College, to deliver on skills needs<sup>1</sup>.

### *Special Education*

There are two special school located within DCSD. Ardnashee School and College caters for pupils aged three to 19 years old and was established in 2014 following the amalgamation of Belmont House School and Foyle View School. It caters for 265 children with a wide range of additional special needs and has 29 classrooms, preschool, five nursery classes, a transition centre and a programme catering for 16-19 year olds. The school has a large catchment area. The Education Department are currently reviewing a new school build project for Ardnashee School and College. Knockavoe School and Resource Centre located in Strabane provides education for pupils aged 3-19 years with a wide range of specialist education needs including those with moderate to severe learning difficulties, those on the autistic spectrum and pupils with complex medical needs. The pupils come from Strabane and the surrounding area including Sion Mills, Victoria Bridge, Castlederg and Clady.

### *NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017*

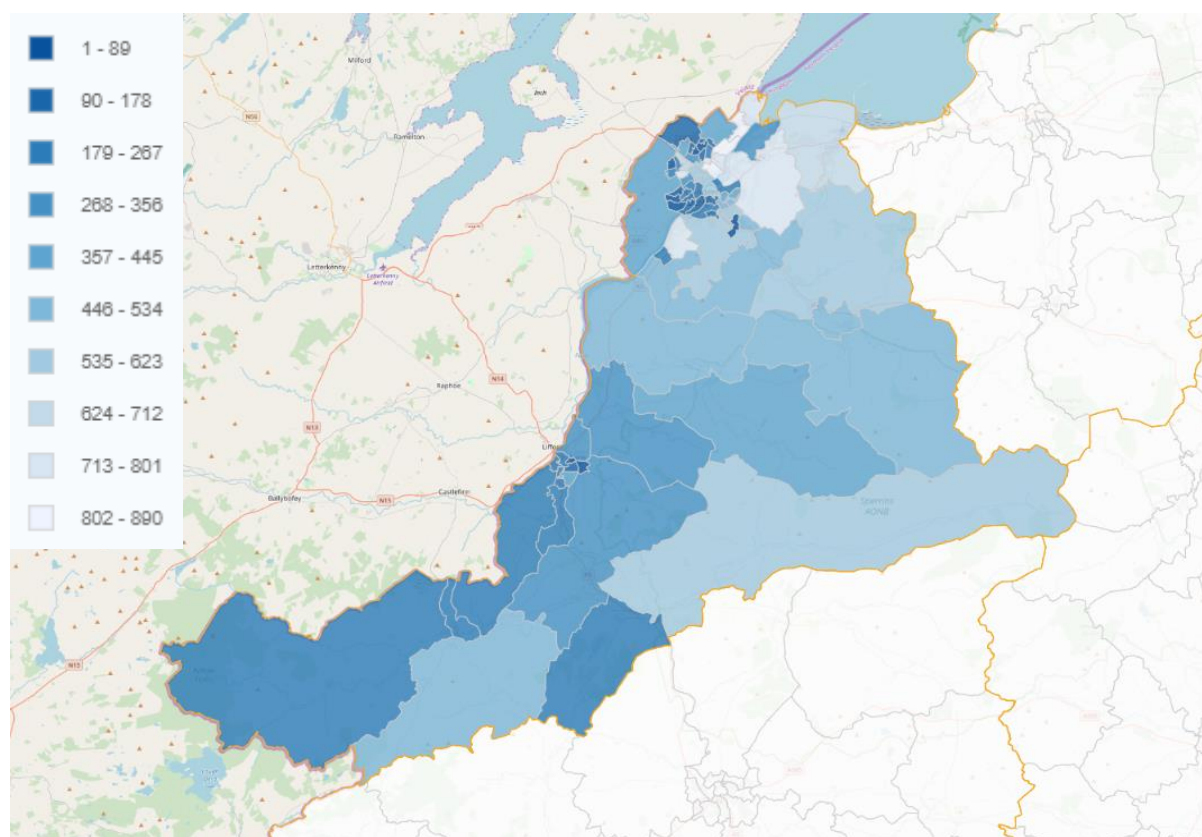
The Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain in the NIMDM 2017 identifies the prevalence of poor educational outcomes for children and low levels of qualifications for working age adults. The indicators used in the ranking of this domain include:

- Proportions of pupils attending special schools or attending primary school with Special Educational Needs stage 3-5;
- Absenteeism at primary schools;
- Proportions of school leavers not achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A\*- C (and equivalent) incl. English and Maths;
- Proportions of those leaving school ages 16, 17 and 18 and not entering Education, Employment or Training;
- Proportions of 18-21 year olds not enrolled in Higher Education courses;
- Proportions of pupils attending special schools or who are attending post-primary schools with special educational needs stages 3-5;
- Absenteeism at post-primary schools; and
- Proportions of working age adults (25-64) with no or low levels of qualification.
- 

---

<sup>1</sup> DCSDC (2018) North West strategic growth priorities top the agenda (published 28 June 2018, found at <https://www.derrystrabane.com/Council/News/North-West-strategic-growth-priorities-top-the-age>)

Figure 5.4.1: NIMDM 2017 Education, Skills and Training Domain Rank (Super Output Areas)



Source: NISRA NIMDM 2017 SOA Level Results Interactive Maps - Education, Skills and Training Domain (Super Output Areas)

Figure 5.4.1 shows the NIMDM 2017 rank for Super Output Areas in DCSD for the Education, Skills, Training and deprivation domain. The figure shows that generally speaking the west and south of the district are ranked higher/ more deprived (the darker blue colours) with the largest clusters of deprivation centred around Derry city and Strabane. There are 18 SOA's within the top quintile (ranks 1-178) and the most deprived SOA is East SOA located in Strabane (rank 14).

#### *Educational Attainment*

Educational attainment for DCSD has been consistently below the NI average for the number of pupils achieving at least 5 GCSE's grades A\* to C including GCSE Maths and English for the period 2013-2018. The percentage rates of educational attainment for those achieving 5 GCSE's grades A\*- C and those who achieved 2+ A Levels has fluctuated over the past five years but generally sits either just below or just above the NI average. Despite fluctuations there has been a general improvement in educational attainment across the district in the past five years.

**Table 5.4.1 Qualifications of school leavers by 2018 District Council of Pupil Residence 2017/18**

Region	School Leaver's Achievements	2013/14	2014/15	2016/17	2017/18
DCSD	Achieved 2+ A-levels (or equivalent)	55.5%	58.9%	58.4%	57.0%
	Achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A*- C (or equivalent)	76.4%	82.0%	82.3%	84.1%
	Achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A*- C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths	58.7%	63.2%	69.3%	70.0%

NI	Achieved 2+ A-levels (or equivalent)	55.7%	57.7%	58.5%	56.7%
	Achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A*- C (or equivalent)	78.6%	81.1%	83.8%	85.2%
	Achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A*- C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths	63.5%	66.0%	69.6%	70.6%

Source: NI School Leavers Survey, Department of Education NI

1. Excludes special and independent schools
2. Includes equivalent qualifications
3. District Council of pupil residence is based on the residential postcode of each individual pupil

However, across the District there is significant variation in educational attainment. The indicators used in the NIMDM 2017 shows that 28 SOA's have more than 40% of their pupils leaving school with fewer than 5 GCSE's (including English and Maths). There were four SOA's with more than 60% of school leavers receiving fewer than 5 GCSE'S (including English and Maths).

#### Skills Level of Working age population

In 2011 the census revealed that the percentage of residents aged 16-64 with no qualifications was higher in DCSDC (27.6%) compared with a rate of 21.3% in NI.

**Table 5.4.2: Highest qualifications of all usual residents aged 16-64 Qualification level**

Qualification	DCSDC	NI
None	27.6%	21.3%
Level 1	13.3%	13.2%
Level 2	16.5%	17.0%
Apprenticeship	3.4%	4.1%
Level 3	13.8%	14.4%
Level 4	21.9%	25.8%
Other	3.3%	4.1%

Source: Census of Population, 2011

The Labour Force Survey, Local Area database reported in 2016 that 'Derry City and Strabane had lower rates of employment and economic activity (16-64) than the other LGD's,' and it also had the highest proportion of those with no qualifications aged 16-64 (23.5%) The NIMDM 2017 indicated that in terms of the Education, Skills and Training indicator that Derry and Strabane had the highest percentage (43%) of working age adults (25-64) with no or low levels of qualifications in comparison with the other NI Council areas. This is 15.2% higher than Lisburn and Castlereagh who have the lowest percentage of working age adults with no or low levels of qualifications. In 21 out of 75 SOA's in DCSD, more than 50% of the working age population (25-64) have no or low levels of qualification.

#### 5.4.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline within the Local Development Plan

Without our LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied. Stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. Without a new LDP there may be fewer opportunities to look at school sustainability and settlement patterns or to help facilitate skills training and further education in areas of greatest need.

#### 5.4.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Education and Skills

- Ensuring access to high quality education is one of the most significant investments in developing the individual, society and the economy.
- The proportion of children under 16 is projected to decrease over the Plan Period. This could have implications on the provision of crèches, nurseries and schools, and a rationalisation of second level education.

- There was a steady decrease in the number of pupils attending post-primary schools, within DCSD, in the seven year period 2012/13 to 2018/19.
- Sharing facilities has been recognised as a way of promoting a more cohesive and tolerant society and assist a better use of the resources available to education. There is potential for schools sharing facilities with community centres so that pitches can be used for after school open spaces. In future school grounds could become integrated into community shared space.
- The area has seen an improvement in educational attainment over the last number of years, however, the SOA's vary in attainment.
- In the population as a whole, low educational attainment amongst those in work is higher than the Northern Ireland average.



## 5.5 Economy and Employment

### 5.5.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Creating the conditions to achieve and maintain stable economic growth are key aims of all relevant strategies locally, regionally and within a European context. Economic growth is driven by a healthy business sector, which itself relies on a base of high quality education, and delivery of relevant skills to the workforce.

The common thread of relevant economic policies is to achieve sustainable growth of the economy. In particular, policy recognises the priority in Northern Ireland (NI) to raise competitiveness through increased export, and to identify opportunities in new, emerging and developed markets. The need to support the development of a more innovation-based economy is also identified and this links to a high potential for research and development. The Draft Northern Ireland Tourism Strategy 2020 was identified in the PfG as one of the ‘building blocks’ to underpin the first strategic priority of growing a sustainable economy and investing in the future.

Within current planning policy, it is recognised that planning authorities should take a positive approach to sustainable economic development and enable job creation, giving priority to large scale proposals with job creation potential, through zoning land and promoting developments in settlement hubs. Policy also refers to the importance of creating the right conditions for investment through supporting urban and rural renaissance, ensuring that settlements remain vital. In terms of regional policy there is a recognition that accessible land should be made available to promote job creation and to promote sustainable economic growth at key locations.

The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035 promotes strong, sustainable growth for the benefit of all parts of Northern Ireland and recognises the importance of cities as drivers of economic growth especially when linked together in mutually supportive networks across wider spatial areas. The RDS highlights the role that Derry-Londonderry plays as a key population and economic centre.

The National Planning Framework – Ireland 2040, also outlines the need to enhance performance of the North West Metropolitan Area. Furthermore, the Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland outlines the intention to move towards a rebalancing focus and to invest in infrastructure to support growth of Derry-Londonderry as the driver of the North West.

The DCSDC Strategic Growth Plan (Community Plan) outcomes which are most relevant to this topic relate to the Economic Wellbeing Pillar and are;

- We prosper through a strong, sustainable and competitive economy
- We live in the cultural destination of choice
- We are better skilled and educated

To achieve these outcomes, key actions are highlighted under headings; Education & Skills, Enterprise and the Economy and Tourism, Arts and Culture.

To reinforce and grow Derry-Londonderry’s role as a vibrant University City, the expansion of the Ulster University Magee and North West Regional College is highlighted as a key catalytic action to support improvement objectives for education and skills. The integrated economic strategy identifies priority sectors for development and growth within the district. Culture and tourism are highlighted within the community plan as an opportunity to increase revenue and create a positive climate to support growth in other sectors.

The delivery of the vision and objectives set out in the community plan are supported through the expression of objectives, priorities and actions in the DCSDC Corporate Plan where the Council sets priorities for budget expenditure and improvement objectives for the period. The headline improvement objectives for period 2019/2020 are to increase employment opportunities and economic growth through a range of measures including creating new business start-ups, supporting existing business and delivering visitor growth as a destination of choice.

The Derry City & Strabane District Tourism Strategy 2018-2025, 'A New Level of Ambition' recognises that the District is a standout heritage destination. The historic and dynamic university city of Derry is unique. The historic Walls, built heritage and culture combine to give a distinctive 'sense of place'. The headline goal of the Councils Tourism Strategy is to sustain jobs and outlines aims to double visitor spend to £100m by 2025. Among the key objectives of the Strategy is to sustain the 4685 jobs currently supported by the sector and create up to 1000 new jobs.

Catalyst Projects which direct economic development to the region will include:

- The expansion of the University of Ulster at Magee and North West Regional College and associated investment in skills and pathways to employment
- Investment in Research & Innovation Assets to international scale (including transformative projects in Healthcare innovation, Industrial Digitalisation, Robotics and Automation and Cognitive Analytics Research)
- Enhancing external & internal connectivity through the A2 Economic Corridor Upgrade, the development of City of Derry Airport & Port and the continued progression of the A5 Western Transport Corridor Upgrade and the A6 Derry to Belfast Road Upgrade,
- Development of the City & Town centres & regionally significant economic sites with major physical regeneration projects in Fort George, Strabane Town Centre and the City riverfront.
- Development of tourism attractions
- Strategic Leisure facilities at both Templemore and in Strabane Town

Local plans which will direct economic development as well as providing infrastructure of community benefit include:

- Integrated Economic Development Strategy;
- The One Plan (Derry City);
- 8 Local Growth Plans; Strabane Town and the 7 District Electoral Areas (Ballyarnett, Derg, Faughan, Foyle, Sperrin, The Moor and Waterside)
- Cluster Village Plans
- Strabane Masterplan (Strabane Town);
- Foyle Valley Gateway Masterplan (draft published 2012);
- Strategic Riverside Masterplan (draft published 2011);
- Ebrington Development Framework (approved Spring 2016);
- Fort George Development Framework (approved December 2015);
- 3 significant cross border greenway developments from Derry to Bunrana, Derry to Muff and Strabane to Lifford
- Riverine project Strabane

### *City Deal*

The Derry and Strabane city deal when announced involved a £105m economic package by the UK Government for the City region. With this funding the Council plans to advance priority projects and initiatives within the City and District's Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan and City Deal proposals. However, the City Deal funding is dependent on a fully functioning devolved government in place. The Ulster University expansion has been highlighted as key to stimulating economic growth in the region and the impact of the delay could be widespread.

### *Brexit*

Derry City and Strabane District Council may face particular challenges as a result of Brexit given its EU/Non-EU frontier. Historically peripherally has been a continued issue for the region with poor infrastructural linkages to the major cities of Belfast and Dublin. Along with Donegal County Council, DCSDC have jointly undertaken a scoping study to consider the likely impacts of the Brexit decision on the North West Region. The report highlights the sensitivity of the region to trading arrangements

and demonstrates a greater significance to ensure the priorities of the Community Plan are realised. Development of Road Networks, Transport Hubs, The University Expansion and development of Tourism infrastructure will be necessary to help mitigate the potential impact of Brexit.

The Local Development Plan, as the policy framework for the District is a mechanism to guide the use of land in the Council area and can provide a spatial expression to the Councils' Strategic Growth Plan thereby linking public and private sector investment through land use planning to help deliver the objectives of the community plan.

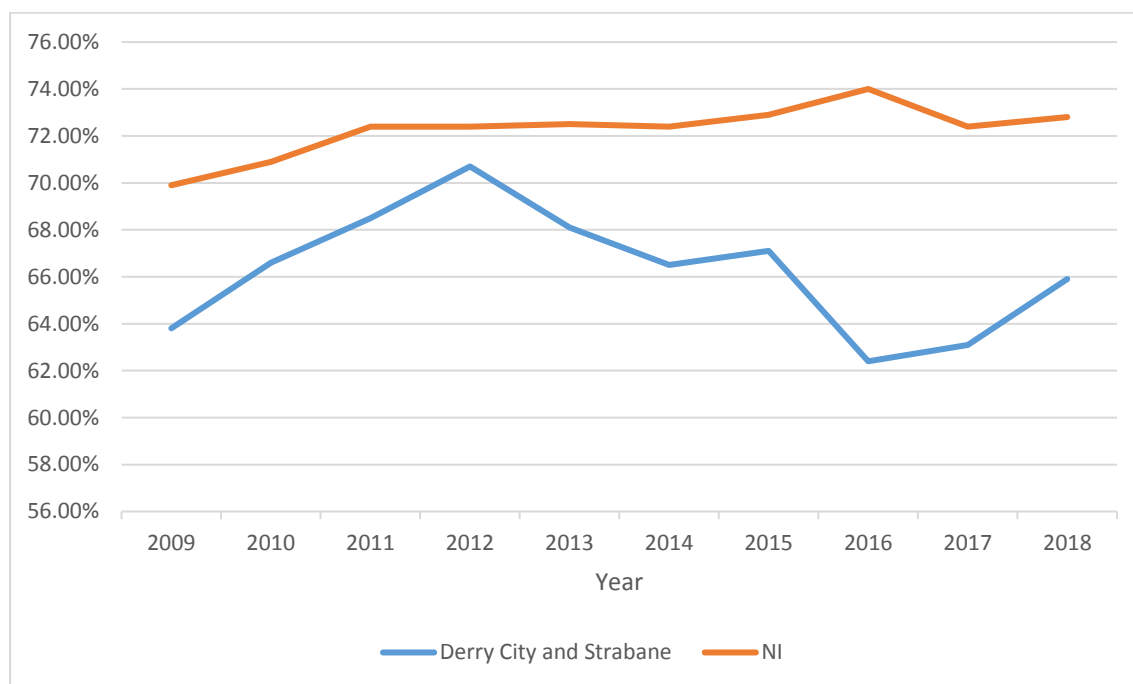
### 5.5.2 Baseline Information

The Community Planning Resource Support Pack June 2015 and updates found at Derry and Strabane Statistics provide detailed information on the economic profile for the council. In addition the following evidence papers which can be found at [www.derrystrabane.com/ldp](http://www.derrystrabane.com/ldp) are relevant to this topic: EVB6 – Economic Development, EVB7 – City and Town Centres, EVB8 – Retailing, EVB13 – Tourism.

#### *Economic Activity and Employment*

In 2018, there were 58,200 employee jobs in DCSDC with a sustained increase since 2015. Of these, 26,920 were jobs carried out by males and 31,270 were jobs held by females. The economic profile of the District is characterised by lower economic activity in 2018 (65.9%) compared to the overall NI rate (72.8%) and an employment rate of 61.6% compared to the NI average of 70%.

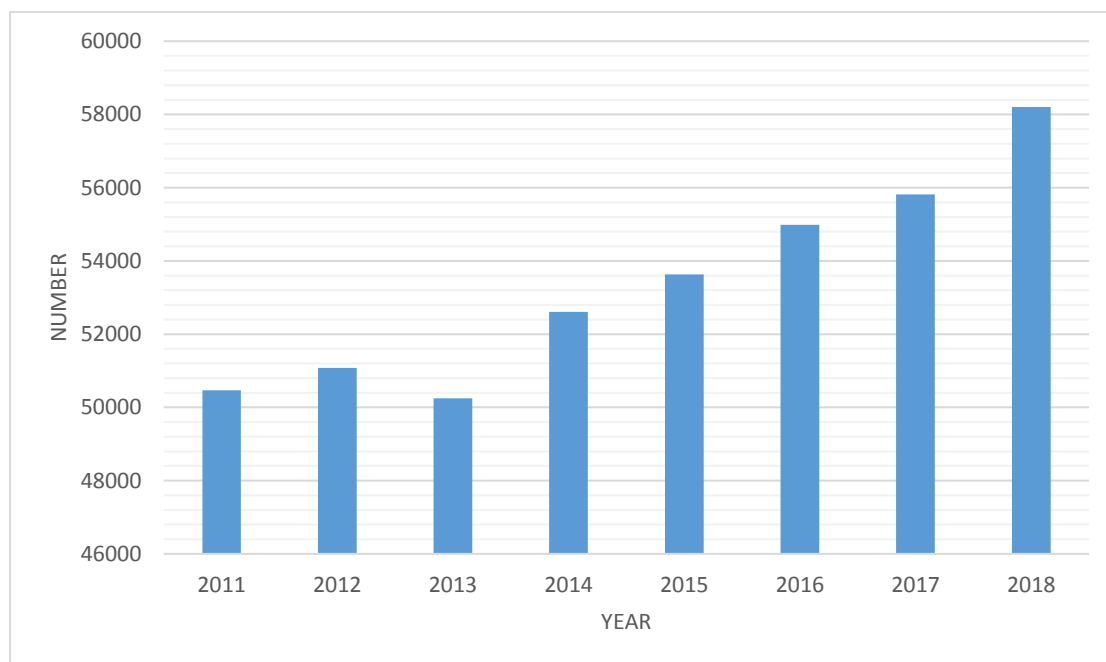
**Figure 5.5.1: Economic Activity Rate (16-64)**



Source: NISRA, Labour Force Survey Tables for Local Government Districts 2009-2018

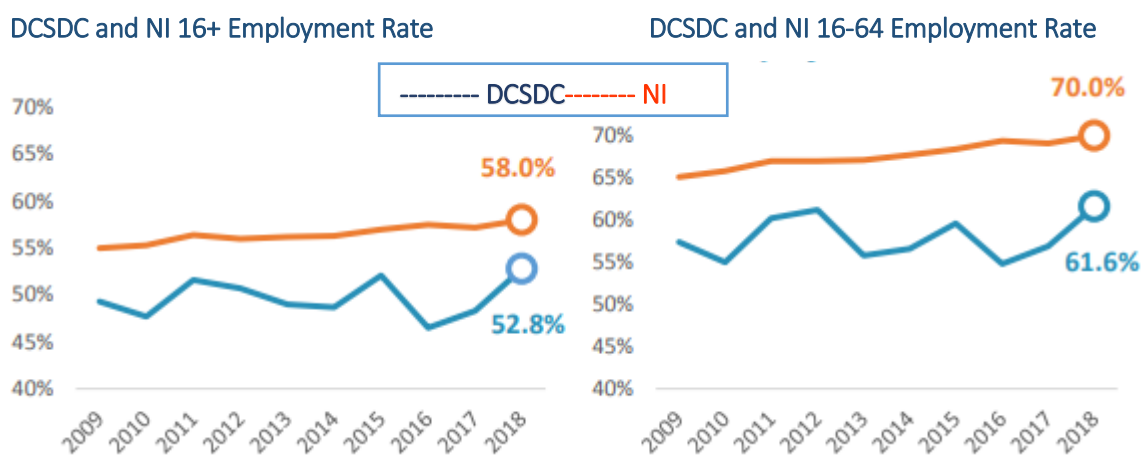
The 2015 unemployment rate of 6,720 claimants (7%) was significantly above the Northern Ireland figure of 3.7% however latest figures show a significant improvement, but are still well above the NI rates (Oct. 2019: 4,480 claimants (4.7%) v NI at 2.6%). The District also has high long-term unemployment with 91% of JSA claimants, claiming for a year or more compared to a rate of 80% for NI as a whole. DCSDC also has a higher proportion (97%) of young people (24 and under) claiming for a year or more compared to NI (82%) (Sept 2019 Figures).

Figure 5.5.2: Number of DCSDC Employee Jobs, 2011 - 2018



Source: NISRA, Census of Employment, Business Registration Employment Survey

Figure 5.5.3: DCSDC and NI Employment Rate, 2009-2018



Source: NISRA, Labour Force Survey

Both the 16+ and 16-64 employment rates for DCSDC have been consistently below the NI average but both have shown a general upward trend since 2009. Employee jobs refer to the number of employee jobs within business that have either a VAT or PAYE registration and exclude most agricultural businesses and the self-employed.

When compared to NI, a higher proportion of DCSDC employee jobs are concentrated in those sectors related to the high public sector. This is due to the presence of a major hospital, university campus and Regional Technical College in the Council District. As a result, 20.3 % of employee jobs within the District are in the ‘Human Health and Social Work’ industry in contrast to the Northern Ireland national figure of 17.2% for the same industry.

**Table 5.5.1: Number of Employee Jobs by Industry Sector – 2011 - 2017**

Industry	2011	2013	2015	2017
Agriculture, Forestry And Fishing	*	60	50	90
Mining and Quarrying	*	*	70	60
Manufacturing	4,540	4,620	5,090	5710
Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning	30	*	100	170
Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management	410	410	420	510
Construction	2,200	1,900	2,240	2640
Wholesale / Retail Trade <sup>1</sup>	9,620	9,290	9,280	9530
Transportation and Storage	1,290	1,240	1,380	1500
Accommodation and Food Service	2,940	3,080	3,410	3480
Information and Communication	*	1,720	1,870	2030
Financial and Insurance	1,240	1,200	1,150	1140
Real Estate	730	480	500	450
Professional, Scientific and Technical	1,120	1,180	1,240	1400
Administrative and Support Service	3,040	3,640	3,260	3970
Public Administration and Defence	3,900	3,910	3,790	3670
Education	*	5,640	6,040	5830
Human Health and Social Work	9,800	9,890	11,600	11310
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	1,020	1,080	1,260	1300
Other Service	800	830	880	1040
Total	50,470	50,250	53,630	55,820

Source: NISRA, Census of Employment, Business Registration Employment Survey

In 2018, the gross weekly median pay for those working in DCSDC was £381.90 compared with a figure of £342.10 for those who live in the council area. Both of these were lower than the overall NI average (£423.10). Those working in DCSDC tend to earn more than those who live in DCSDC. This is as a result of a greater tendency of workers to commute into the council area for higher earning employment.

**Table 5.5.2: Gross Median Weekly Pay, DCSDC and NI, 2013 - 2018**

Year	Working in DCSDC (£)	Resident in DCSDC (£)	NI (£)
2013	350.5	307.0	365.5
2014	346.2	323.0	363.1
2015	356.1	329.9	381.9
2016	351.0	361.9	393.0
2017	373.3	344.3	407.4
2018	381.9	342.1	423.1

Source: NISRA, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

Annual surveys that record the number of employee jobs do not record the number of self-employed. In 2017 there were estimated to be 7000 self-employed in the District representing 12.5% (NI 15.0%) of those employed. (NISRA, Labour Force Survey)

Across NI, the agricultural labour force has stabilized in the last number of years from an historic long-term downward trend in its size. It is believed that this stabilisation in numbers is not necessarily due to an increase demand for farm labour but more to difficulties in farm family members securing off-farm employment and to changes in Common Agricultural Policy support arrangements that link subsidies to some level of active farming.

**Table 5.5.3: DCSDC farm labour force, 2011 - 2015 Farm labour force**

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Farmers and partners								
Full-time	1,241	1,216	1,245	1,249	1,276	1,236	1,266	1,287
Part-time	799	784	760	793	817	870	903	896
Spouses	367	393	396	385	401	434	438	459
Other workers								
Full-time	253	248	254	255	240	237	219	210
Part-time	276	297	330	327	284	344	341	342
Casual / Seasonal	365	377	331	330	323	306	313	316
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,301</b>	<b>3,315</b>	<b>3,316</b>	<b>3,339</b>	<b>3,341</b>	<b>3,427</b>	<b>3,480</b>	<b>3,510</b>

Source: NISRA, Census of Employment, Business Registration Employment Survey

There are high levels of deprivation across the District with 20 of the NI most deprived SOAs being found in DCSDC.

#### *Employment and Income Deprivation*

NISRA publishes spatially linked statistics on deprivation as part of the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure, the most recent of which was published in 2017 (NIMDM2017). In total, seven deprivation indicators make up the overall NIMDM, including the 'Employment Deprivation Domain' and the 'Income Deprivation Domain'. Each Super Output Area (SOA) and Small Area (SA)<sup>1</sup> has been ranked against all the other SOAs and SAs in NI, to determine their relative position on the scale in terms of each indicator. It should be noted that the NIMDM 2017 is a relative measure of deprivation, meaning that it is possible to say that one area is more or less deprived than another, but it is not possible to say by how much.

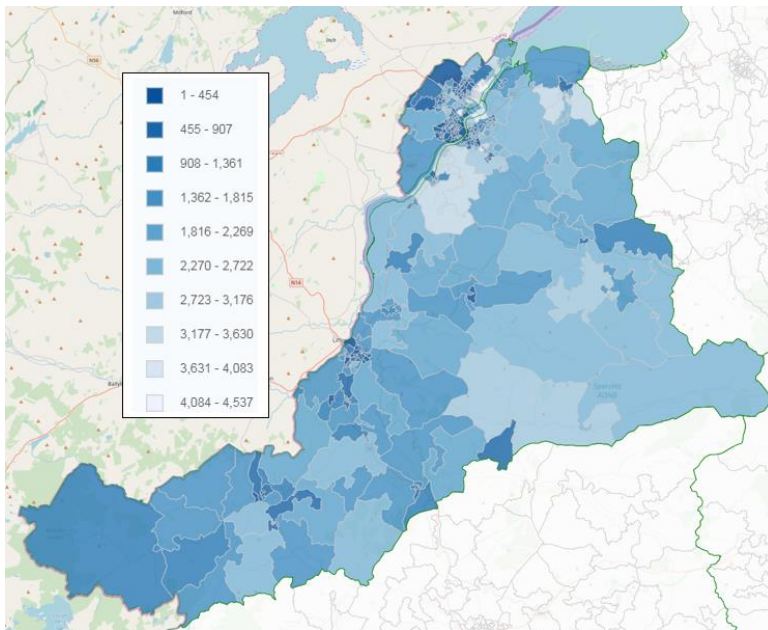
'Employment Deprivation' rankings are calculated on the basis of the proportion of working age population in the SOA or SA who are in receipt of at least one employment related benefit, and individuals who are not in receipt of the selected benefits, nor have received income from employment<sup>2</sup>.

Figure 5.5.4 shows the pattern of employment deprivation in the SAs across Derry City and Strabane District Council from the NIMDM2017. The darkest blue colours (ranks 1-454) show the most deprived SAs in NI in terms of the employment deprivation indicator and the lightest colours (4,804-4,537) are the least deprived. The figure shows greater employment deprivation within Derry City and Strabane Town Region which could be translated to urban areas. However, there are pockets of higher employment deprivation also in the smaller towns i.e. Castlederg, Claudy and Newtownstewart and in the rural area of Claudy village. DCSDC has the highest proportion of employment related deprivation SOAs within the 100 most deprived in NI (32%)

<sup>1</sup> Super Output Areas (SOA) and Small Areas (SA) are statistical geography boundaries created by NISRA to allow the reporting of small area statistics. There are 890 SOAs in NI and 4537 SAs.

<sup>2</sup> NISRA (2017) [Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures 2017 Description of Indicators](#)

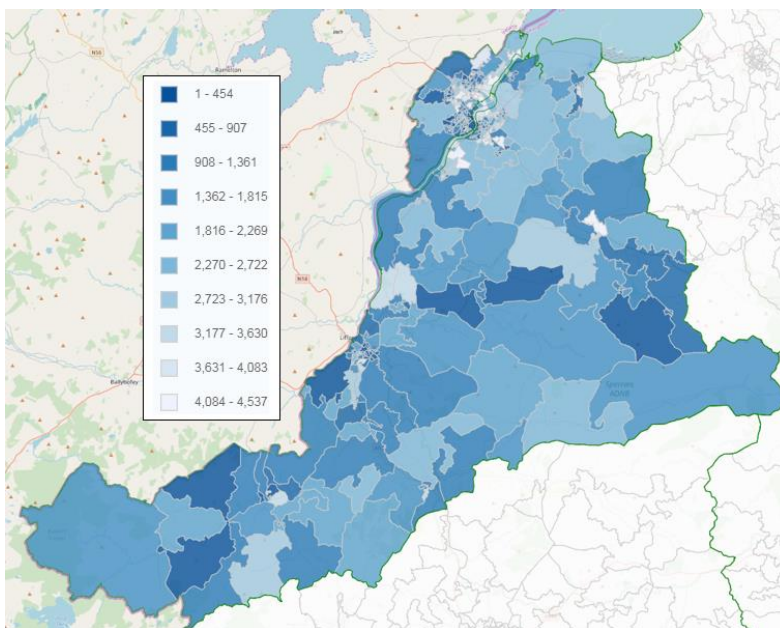
**Figure 5.5.4: NIMDM 2017 Employment Domain Rank for SAs in DCSDC**



Source: NINIS Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

‘Income Deprivation’ rankings are calculated on the basis of the proportion of the population living in households whose equalised income is below 60% of the NI median. Figure 5.5.5 shows the income deprivation pattern across DCSDC.

**Figure 5.5.5: NIMDM 2017 Income Domain Rank for SAs in DCSDC**



Source: NINIS Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

The figure shows that income deprivation in DCSDC is spread across both rural and urban areas, with many of the SAs shown in Figure 5.5.5 having darker blue colours.

However, the top 10 most income deprived small areas are within the urban areas of Derry City and Strabane Town. These areas are also in the top 50 (out of 4,537) most income deprived SAs of NI

An in-depth analysis of deprivation data pertinent to Derry and Strabane District can be found at: <https://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/Derry-and-Strabane-Statistics/Deprivation>

### Key Sectors

Employment may be classified into three sectors: primary, secondary and tertiary. Primary relates to producing raw materials, through agriculture, forestry and extraction of natural resources. The secondary sector takes the input of the primary sector and manufactures finished goods, or goods for use by other businesses, for export, or sale to domestic consumers. Tertiary is primarily concerned with service provision such as public administration, education, health, retailing, and banking.

Since 1961, the general trend in Northern Ireland has been a reduction in the numbers employed in the primary and secondary sectors although this has more than been absorbed by growth in the tertiary or service sector. The employment sector patterns of the former districts of Derry and Strabane, generally reflect the Northern Ireland trend of a fall in both the primary and secondary sectors and a significant increase in the tertiary sector

**Table 5.5.4: VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in DCSDC and NI by broad industry group 2019**

Industry	DCSDC		NI	DCSDC		NI
	Number	%	%	% (exc agri)	% (exc agri)	
Agriculture, Forestry And Fishing	1265	24.0	24.5	-	-	
Production	365	6.9	6.9	9.1	9.2	
Construction	840	16.0	13.9	21.0	18.5	
Motor Trade	195	3.7	3.5	4.9	4.7	
Wholesale	195	3.7	4.3	4.9	5.7	
Retail	455	8.7	8.0	11.4	10.6	
Transportation and Storage (Inc Postal)	175	3.3	3.3	4.4	4.3	
Accommodation and Food Service	300	5.7	5.5	7.5	7.3	
Information and Communication	115	2.2	2.7	2.9	3.6	
Financial and Insurance	65	1.3	1.7	1.6	2.2	
Property	165	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.2	
Professional, Scientific and Technical	350	6.7	8.8	8.8	10.6	
Business Administration and Support Services	170	3.2	3.6	4.3	4.8	
Public Administration and Defence	*	*	0.1	*	0.1	
Education	40	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.2	
Health	235	4.5	3.7	5.9	4.9	
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation and Other Services	335	6.4	6.1	8.4	8.1	
Total	5260	100	100	100	100	

Source NISRA, Inter-Departmental Business Register

Not Applicable \* Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 and counts under 5 have been suppressed

Considering both employed and self-employed the largest industry group in DCSDC and NI is Agriculture, forestry and fishing, accounting for just under a quarter (24.0% and 24.5% respectively) of all VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses.

In 2019, there were 5,260 VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses within Derry City and Strabane District Council area. In terms of agriculture specifically, in 2018 there were 1,771 farms within DCSDC being maintained by an agricultural labour force of 3,510. 82% of these farms were operating in Less Favoured Areas compared to 69.5% for NI and DCSDC also had a higher proportion of Large farms (7.2%) than the NI average (6.8%). Outside of Agriculture, the largest industry group in DCSDC is Construction (16%) and then Retail (8.7%). The Construction and Health industries feature more in DCSDC than in NI as a whole however there is lower instance of Professional, Scientific, Technical and IT industries.



### *Employment Land*

As part of the preparation of the LDP, an estimate is needed of the required amount and location of land, to ensure that an ample supply and range of suitable land is available to meet future economic development needs up to 2032.

A good indication of land requirement is gained by assessing the uptake of currently zoned land across the District.

For example, within the extant Derry District, uptake has been particularly slow with approximately 73% of zoned lands remaining undeveloped (153 hectares). In Strabane Town, 25% of land remains undeveloped (4 hectares) while most of the zonings in Castlederg and Newtownstewart have been taken up. In Sion Mills, industrial land was originally zoned to allow for possible expansion of the Mill, but this has now closed.

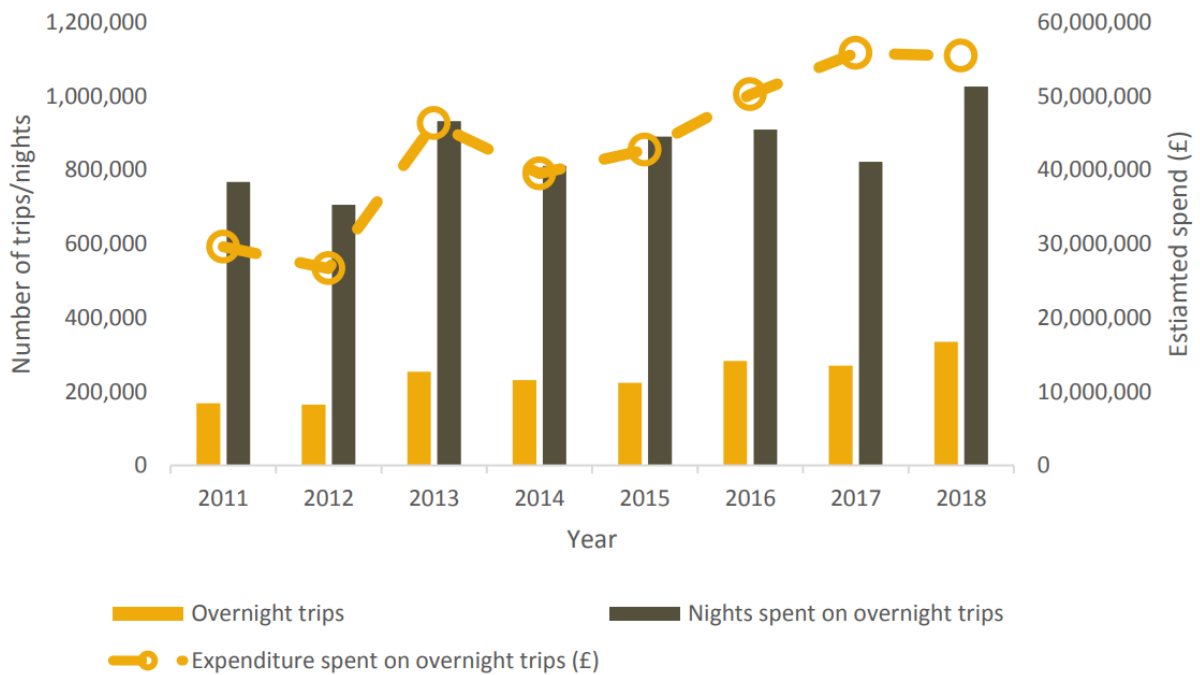
An assessment based on past trends in take-up of zoned land finds that theoretically, there is sufficient land zoned on the Derry Area Plan to meet demand beyond 2030 although additional land will be required in Strabane. However this methodology does not respond to recognise economic developments on un-zoned land. An appropriate method for assessment of land to meet the economic development need of the District must also therefore take account of the distinct economic profile of the area.

### *Tourism*

Investment in tourism brings new facilities to our city, town and surrounding landscapes and makes a vital contribution to the District in terms of the revenues it generates, the employment opportunities it provides, and the potential it creates for economic growth. It also provides the opportunity to get maximum benefit from our wealth of environmental and heritage assets; our waterways, landscapes and historic environment. There are also health benefits to be gained by a more active resident population who are motivated to be out and about exploring more of the District's tourism assets.

Tourism in the District has been strong in recent years, spearheaded by the city breaks, historic heritage, festivals and culture events. The challenge is to sustain and grow this city-based success, develop sustainable rural tourism especially through assets such as the Sperrin AONB and Foyle / Faughan valleys, and also to capitalise on the wider North West cross-border location, from the Wild Atlantic Way, Donegal and on to the Giant's Causeway / North Coast.

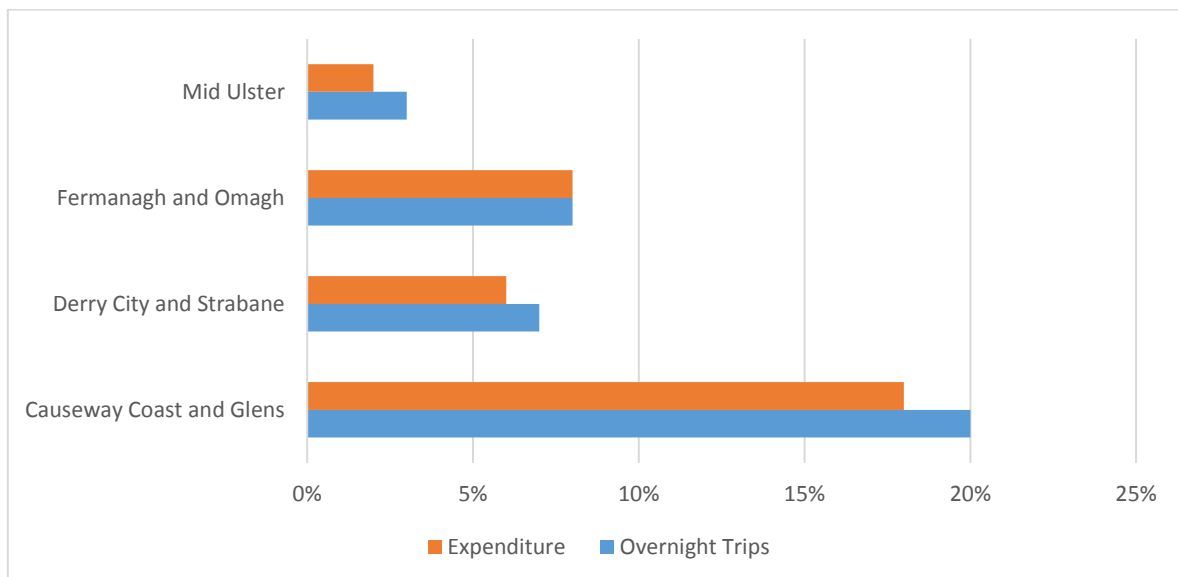
Figure 5.5.6: Estimated overnight Trips, Nights and Expenditure, DCSDC, 2011 – 2018



Source: NISRA, Tourism statistics

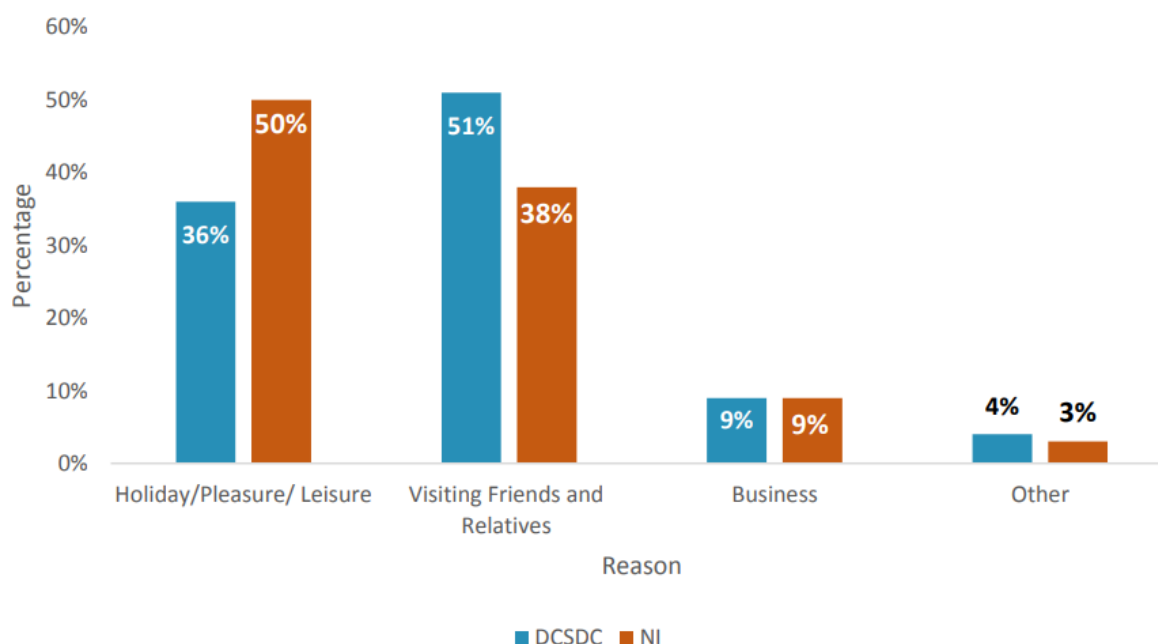
2013 was an obvious peak in tourism statistics in recent years due to the success of the UK City of Culture. Figures post 2013 have shown increases from 2012 in overnight trips to DCSDC, the number nights spent on these trips as well as the total expenditure spent on these overnight trips. In 2018, there were an estimated 334,874 overnight trips, incorporating a total of 1,025,913 nights. This led to an estimated expenditure of £55,433,203 to the District.

Figure 5.5.7: Estimated overnight trips and expenditure, as a percentage of Northern Ireland spend with comparison to selected Councils (2018 Figures)



Source: Northern Ireland Passenger Survey (NIPS) conducted by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)

Figure 5.5.8: Estimated average overnight trips in DCSDC and NI, by reason for visit, 3-year average (2016-2018)



Source: NISRA, Tourism statistics

The figure shows the largest reason (51%) for overnight trips to DCSDC was to visit friends and relatives which is comparably high against the NI figure (38%). By reason for holiday/pleasure/leisure trips, the figure is much lower (36%) than the rate for NI (50%) The LDP has a role to explore potential tourism opportunity sites and provide a policy framework to facilitate the sustainable growth of the tourism economy.

#### *Innovation*

It is widely recognised that improving the ability of the economy in Northern Ireland to be innovative is a key factor in improving economic growth and employment. The most recent innovation figures are presented in the UK Innovation Survey (UKIS) 2017 Northern Ireland Results. The results of the 2017 UKIS and revised results from the 2012 UKIS show that 40% of Northern Ireland enterprises were innovation active in 2014-16. At 40%, Northern Ireland was the least innovation active country in the UK whilst a comparison with the rest of Great Britain Large enterprises with 250 or more employees were more likely to engage in some sort of innovation activity, with 45% innovation active, as opposed to 42% of SMEs. 'Cost factors' rated the highest factor constraining innovation in the survey. 'Knowledge factors' (including lack of qualified personnel) featured second highest reason for lack of innovation.

#### *Competitiveness*

There is no data currently at council level on level of competitiveness. Total external sales by companies in Northern Ireland were estimated to be worth £22.5 billion in 2014, representing an increase of 2.1% (£458 million) over the year. This figure exceeds the previously recorded peak in 2013 (£22.0 billion), and external sales and are therefore at their highest over the time series presented. This represents just over a third (34.1%) of all sales by companies in Northern Ireland in 2014 (£65.8 billion).

#### *Retailing – Town Centres and retail provide employment*

Modern retailing in the District faces many challenges, such as the rise of internet shopping and the uncertainty over 'Brexit', especially exchange rates in this cross-border area. New and focussed, relevant planning policy and greater innovation and flexibility may be required from the Planning

system. A number of retail studies have been carried out over the past decade, for Derry and for Strabane, however, with the changing and dynamic scale and nature of retailing, LDP will need to commission a comprehensive up-to-date Retail Capacity Study. The purpose of such a study is to undertake an assessment of the potential need (or capacity) for additional retail floor space over the period to 2032 within the Derry City and Strabane District, including its comprehensive cross-border catchment.

Strabane performs an important role as a main service centre for North Tyrone and East Donegal providing a range of retail services to its residents and rural hinterland. Within the context of Tyrone, it is the second largest town after Omagh. On the other side of the River Foyle (across Lifford Bridge) is the smaller town of Lifford, so cross-border retailing is a very significant aspect. Strabane is roughly equidistant from Omagh, Letterkenny and Derry. Historically, Strabane developed as both an industrial centre and strong market town.

### 5.5.3 Likely Evolution of baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without a LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. The Areas Plans were however prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. They were not therefore informed by the needs of our society today.

The New LDP provides an opportunity to make plans for growth in line with all the available evidence.

### 5.5.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Economy and Employment

- Identifying and zoning appropriate land is a vital part of creating the conditions to sustain economic development that meets employment needs and supports economic growth.
- Derry needs to significantly develop to fulfil its role as the principal city of the North West and as a regional and international gateway.
- Strabane needs considerable relevant development to fulfil its role as a main hub.
- While the clear focus needs to be on Derry City and Strabane town, it is important that the employment needs of those people living in the extensive rural hinterland are also considered.
- Forecasts for the manufacturing sector suggest a continued decline in manufacturing employment levels both in Northern Ireland and the UK. However manufacturing is changing towards innovation based products with niche markets and knowledge based products.
- The four key growth sectors identified in the Derry and Strabane Draft Integrated Economic Development Strategy are: Advanced Manufacturing/Engineering, Digital/Creative Industries, Life and Health Sciences and Tourism and Culture.
- A cornerstone of the private sector in the DCSDC area is micro-businesses, those employing less than nine staff. In 2019, there were 4,700 VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in the *district*. *89.2% of businesses employed less than ten people, and 43.9% had turnover of less than £100,000 a year.*
- While the business birth rate and survival rate, as represented by VAT registration is on a par with the rest of the NI, it does not appear to be impacting upon the net employment levels with little growth in employee numbers since 2009. There is potential to encourage new business to develop, innovate and grow.
- There is a need for quality employment to lower the need for benefits and to facilitate a culture of independence and entrepreneurship and move away from public sector reliance. The public sector accounts for almost a third of employment in the DCSDC area. This covers Health, Social Work and Education Sectors.

- New employment locations should be accessible by active travel and/or public transport. Homeworking can assist employment for those with other responsibilities such as caring, or those involved with agriculture.
- The unemployment rate for DCSDC area is higher than for Northern Ireland although it has been falling since October 2013, is still almost double the NI rate at 4.7% in October 2019.
- Unemployment is a particular issue for young people, with almost a third of those in the claimant count aged 18-24 having been claiming for more than one year, compared to less than a quarter in Northern Ireland.
- Of those on the claimant count the majority have low to middle skills and around a third had previously worked in a sales capacity.
- Employment related deprivation for DCSDC in 2017 was highest of the 11 NI Council areas when 29.5% of the population were estimated to experience deprivation as a result of a lack of employment.
- Within retail, the market is in recovery and is evolving. There has been a number of challenges in recent years. The growth of internet shopping has contributed to shop closures and is likely to grow in the coming years. Within the district a number of large shops have closed including Austin's in Derry and Linton & Robinson in Strabane. These losses affect the vitality and viability of these centres, as economic and cultural shared space.
- There continues to be a demand from developers for out of town sites for retail and a new trend for retail in industrial estates. Both of these can become further factors to reduce vitality in Derry City and Strabane Town and must be carefully considered.
- A resident population will assist in developing an evening economy alongside additional office workers and students.
- There are a wealth of natural, landscape, heritage and cultural tourism assets within the DCSDC area with significant future potential. 2013 brought a rise in visitor numbers and spend, with the UK City of Culture. In 2015, there were an estimated 223,172 overnight trips – estimated expenditure of £42,502,028 and more recently, 2018 figures show 334,874 overnight trips with an estimated expenditure of £55,433,203.
- Need to ensure that the DCSDC area is attractive to investors, and higher skilled people – by supporting the vitality and vibrancy of the City Centre, towns and villages and facilitating a high quality local environment through appropriate land use, design and layout.
- The impact of 'Brexit' needs to be carefully considered in light of the impacts on exchange rates, cross-border trade and implications for the labour market within tourism, retailing, construction and other sectors. Also it may bring changes in regulatory regimes and funding opportunities.

## 5.6 Material Assets

### 5.6.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Material assets are referred to in the SEA Directive but the term is not defined. The material assets sustainability theme in this report covers a range of policy areas, including telecommunications, electrical infrastructure and energy distribution, renewable energy, derelict/contaminated land and waste management.

Overarching regional and strategic planning policy strives for the sustainable development of land to help ensure the integration of material assets. Growth of infrastructure should be enabled in an efficient and effective manner whilst environmental impacts are minimised. The National Renewable Energy Action Plan for the UK 2010, the Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-15 and beyond, the NI Waste Management Strategy and the North West Regional Waste Management Group's Waste Management Plan are all relevant to material assets. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI)'s Strategic Energy Framework 2010-2020 has at its core decarbonisation of the energy mix. The multifunctional use of land is encouraged; significant increases in renewables to the energy mix recommended; and reductions in waste and increases in recycling rates targeted.

Investing in telecommunications, particularly in rural areas and considering the infrastructure required for renewable energy projects and strengthening of the grid for future energy demands is encouraged at the regional level. New gas infrastructure is also supported as the move to gas helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet UK climate change commitments. Climate change concerns encourage the use of renewables and a move toward a more sustainable energy mix that reduces emissions and improves air quality. Sustainable waste management is also acknowledged as an opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by focusing on the waste management hierarchy, the proximity principle and the circular economy. Impacts should be considered of all types of installation on the environment and a strategic approach to the sustainable development of land could include multiple uses. For example, derelict land could be used to treat waste, which could in turn produce energy for local distribution.

The Corporate Plan recognises that Energy and Infrastructure contribute to well-being and to *“protect our environment and deliver physical regeneration”* is one of its key objectives. Another key objective is to *“ensure an integrated approach to waste management and developing a circular economy approach”*.

The Community Plan - the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan for DCSD includes *“Digital Industries including Business, Professional and Financial Services”* among its drivers for economic growth. The City and District benefits from Project Kelvin, a fast, high capacity city to city international telecommunications link to the east coast of the USA. Project Kelvin provides world class telecommunications connectivity and research capability and significantly enhances the region's capacity to create and grow high value 'Smart Economy' enterprises.

The Community Plan also includes *“we connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure”* among its key outcomes. This includes the aims that *“we have a secure and affordable energy supply”* and *“we have moved towards a Zero Waste circular economy”*.

Key actions under this objective include:

- Ensure an integrated approach to waste management and developing a circular economy approach to meet landfill diversion targets, invest further in high quality waste facilities and infrastructure.
- Analyse the region's energy consumption and develop a strategy to reduce energy use through the establishment of an energy sustainability forum, promote energy efficiency, gas availability, improve air quality, appropriate planning and siting of renewable energy development and implement a smart grid pilot project.

Provision for material assets will be an integral part of meeting these outcomes.

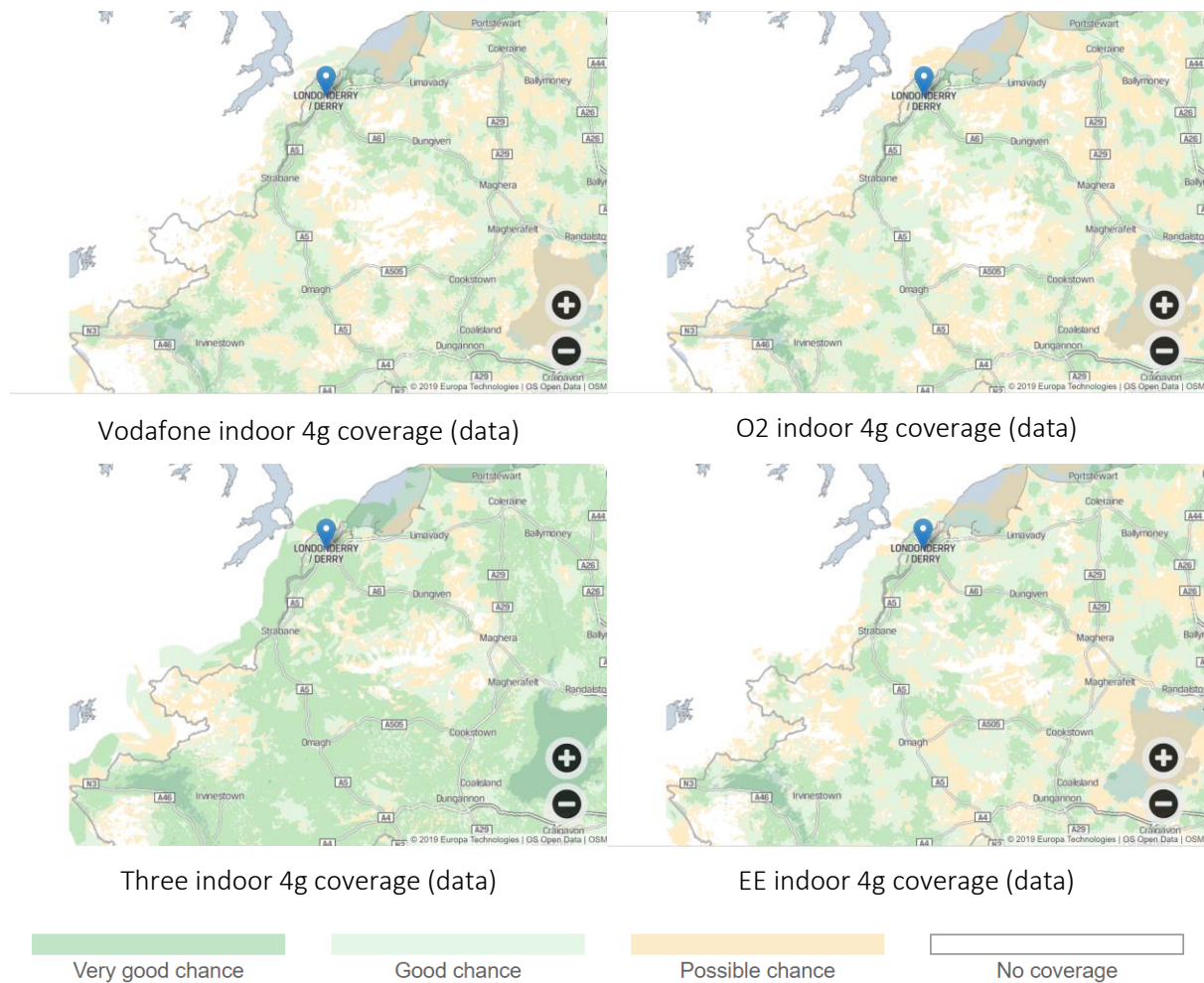
### 5.6.2 Baseline Information

The LDP baseline evidence papers which are relevant to this topic are EVB14 - Renewable Energy, EVB15 - Public Utilities and EVB18 - Waste Management. This topic overlaps with Community, Physical Resources and Climate Change sections of this report.

#### Telecommunications

There are four main network operators in NI: Vodafone, O2, Three and EE, all offering 3g and 4g services, with 5g services currently only available in Belfast<sup>1</sup>. In 2018 Good 4G services from all four operators were available (outdoor) across 79% of the Northern Ireland landmass while voice services from all four operators were available (outdoor) to 88% of the Northern Ireland landmass<sup>2</sup>.

Figure 5.6.1: Levels of indoor 4g coverage in DCSD for mobile network operators



Source: Ofcom Coverage Checker <https://checker.ofcom.org.uk/mobile-coverage> (accessed 27/11/19)

At the NI level Vodafone (93%) and O2 (90%) provide the highest number of premises with indoor 4g mobile coverage. In terms of geographic 4g coverage, Three has the highest, with 94%, followed by Vodafone (92%). In recent years, there has been increased consolidation and sharing of masts between O2 and Vodafone, and between EE and Three, which has seen coverage between sharing

<sup>1</sup> News Letter "Belfast gets connected to 5G mobile network" Published: Thursday 17 October 2019

<sup>2</sup> Ofcom Connected Nations 2018: Nations' supplements NI Summary (found at <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/research-and-data/multi-sector-research/infrastructure-research/connected-nations-2018/nations> )

network providers converge, however coverage is poorer in rural areas of the district, which is consistent regionally.<sup>1</sup>

Superfast broadband ( $\geq 30\text{Mbit/s}$ ), is now available to 89% of premises in NI, three percentage points (pp) higher than last year. Superfast broadband is available to 67% of premises in rural areas, up from 57% last year. At District level, 91% of premises in DCSD have Superfast broadband coverage and 19% to Ultrafast ( $\geq 300\text{Mbit/s}$ ) (NI: 38%)<sup>2</sup>.

5% of premises in the District are unable to get 10Mbit/s download, 1Mbit/s upload speed, which is equal to the NI average.

Through its Project Lightning programme, Virgin Media has increased coverage of its ultrafast broadband network in NI significantly since 2016 with Strabane joining Derry in being able to access this service.

Through the SuperConnected Derry/Strabane initiative, Council offers free wi-fi in Derry and Strabane public buildings and town centres.

### *Energy Supply and Distribution / Electrical Infrastructure*

The System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) manages the large-scale electrical transmission infrastructure across the country. It is the independent Transmission System Operator for Northern Ireland and operates 1,500km of transmission power lines and 45,000km of distribution power lines. The SONI website ([www.soni.ltd.uk](http://www.soni.ltd.uk)) displays the current energy sources for NI in real time, including connected sources of renewables. Currently all users are connected to the distribution network for their electricity<sup>3</sup>.

NI is part of the Single Electricity Market for the island of Ireland. The transmission system in Ireland is managed by EirGrid and is connected with NI via three North South tie-lines located between Tandragee and Louth, Strabane and Letterkenny and Enniskillen and Corraclassy. Following a public inquiry, planning approval was granted in 2018 for a new North South Interconnector between Tyrone and Cavan, but this approval was subsequently overturned in February 2019 following a legal challenge. Approval was granted in 2016 for the section located in the ROI.

The North/South Interconnector is a major infrastructure project which will link the Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland electricity networks. The project is vital to ensure the effective operation of an efficient 'all island' electricity market, to support the realisation of strategic renewable energy targets, increase energy security and establish a competitive energy market.<sup>4</sup> However, the UK's future energy relationship with EU member states could have implications for this project<sup>5</sup>.

One of the three power stations in Northern Ireland, Coolkeeragh, is located in the District, on the shores of Lough Foyle. Coolkeeragh was originally an oil-fired power station, but the construction of the North-West gas transmission pipeline enabled it to convert to gas in 2005 and it is capable of producing 400 megawatts.

Evermore Energy operates a 15.8MW CHP (combined heat and power) station in Lisahally<sup>6</sup> which is anticipated to divert around two million tonnes of wood earmarked for landfill to create electricity over its lifetime. It is able to provide green energy to almost 30,000 people in the North West region<sup>7</sup>. As well as burning recycled woodchip to generate electricity for the grid, the excess heat is also used to dry virgin woodchip, essential for smaller biomass boilers in commercial and domestic properties.

---

<sup>1</sup> Ofcom Connected Nations 2018 Northern Ireland report

<sup>2</sup> Ofcom Connected Nations 2018 Northern Ireland report

<sup>3</sup> Northern Ireland Electricity: Briefing on Grid Capacity in Northern Ireland in the context of enabling Economic Growth April 2015

<sup>4</sup> DETI: Energy in Northern Ireland 2016

<sup>5</sup> Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, Electricity Sector in Northern Ireland, 2017

<sup>6</sup> Agenda NI article "Evermore Energy: Efficiently powering the future". Found at <https://www.agendani.com/evermore-energy-efficiently-powering-future/> (accessed 09/08/19)

<sup>7</sup> Agenda NI "Reshaping the local energy market" (found at <https://www.agendani.com/reshaping-local-energy-market/>) accessed 09/08/19



SONI's Transmission Development Plan Northern Ireland 2018-2027 describes the North and West Planning Area as having limited high capacity 275 kV infrastructure, and currently little or no spare capacity for generation on the 110 kV system. There is considerably more generation than demand in this region.

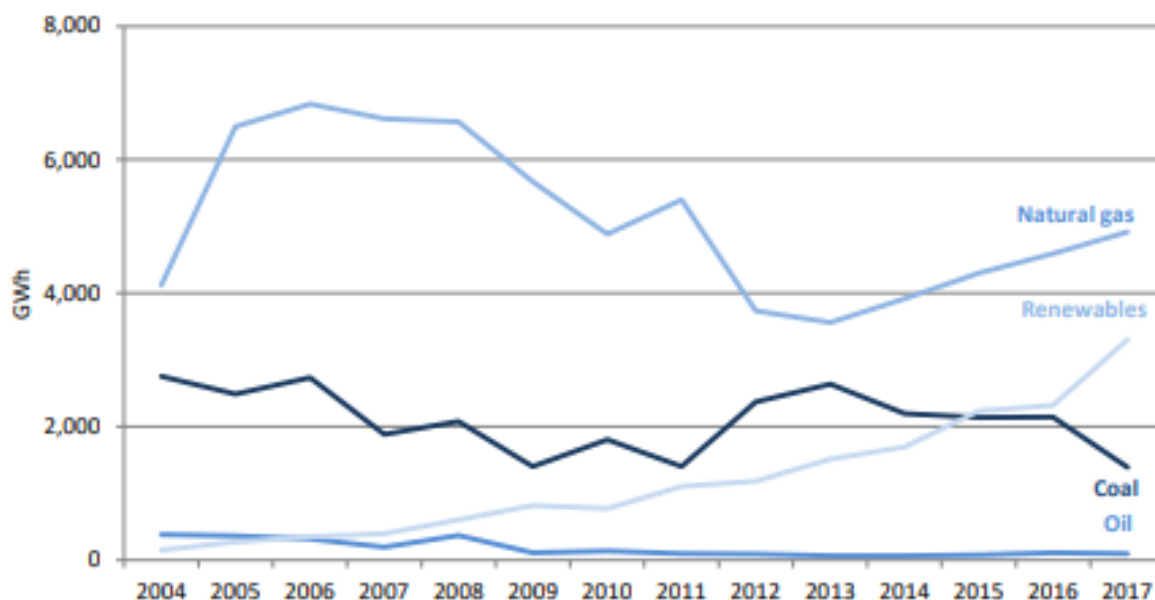
The excess of generation in the area is set to increase in the coming years. This is due to generators that currently have live connection offers connecting to the transmission and distribution networks. To cater for the high levels of generation described above, network reinforcement is necessary. This will enable the efficient export of generation from this area towards areas with high load, such as the South-East. There are also reinforcement needs due to local constraints related to a shortage of transmission capacity and voltage support. The Transmission Development Plan includes 17 proposed projects in the North and West Planning area, which include several in the District, to enable the transmission network to safely accommodate the more diverse power flows which are a result of excess regional generation.

The future security of supply in NI is dependent on its capacity to generate, transmit and distribute energy efficiently. It is anticipated that NI will fall into a generation supply deficit in 2021<sup>1</sup>. The planned closure of Kilroot power station and reduction in capacity at Ballylumford power station (both of which are located outside DCSD, in Mid and East Antrim Borough) combined with limited capacity of existing transmission lines have contributed to an increasing lack of security and stability of supply in NI.

#### Energy – Natural Gas

The Department for Economy's, Strategic Energy Framework 2010 is committed to extending the natural gas network in the region where it is economic to do so. As seen in the figure below, natural gas is the main fuel type for electricity generation in NI.

Figure 5.6.2: Electricity generated by fuel type in NI



Source: DAERA, NI Carbon Intensity Indicators 2019 (Published 24 October 2019)

The North-West gas transmission pipeline has enabled people and businesses in the District to benefit from natural gas, and an extension of the gas transmission network to Strabane was completed by SGN in 2017 as part of its 'Gas to the West' project. In 2018 Firmus energy completed the installation of a 660m long pipeline beneath the River Foyle from Strathfoyle to Culmore Road in Derry, to bring

<sup>1</sup> Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, Electricity Sector in Northern Ireland, 2017

additional network capacity to the City. It is anticipated that this project will provide enough gas for continued network expansion for the next 20 years<sup>1</sup>. However, it is likely that there will continue to be areas in the District where access to mains gas will not be feasible.

The 2016 NIHE House Condition Survey found that 33.4% of households in the Derry Urban area / Large Town heat their homes with natural gas and 62.5% with oil in comparison with overall NI figures of 24% and 68% respectively. These figures pre-date the expansion network to Strabane by the Gas to the West.

### *Renewable Energy*

The Strategic Energy Framework 2010 for NI set a target to achieve 40% of electrical consumption from renewable sources by 2020. For the 12 month period July 2018 to June 2019, 44.0 per cent of total electricity consumption in NI was generated from renewable sources located in NI. This represents an increase of 7.4 percentage points on the previous 12 month period (July 2017 to June 2018) and is the highest rolling 12 month proportion on record<sup>2</sup>.

Of all renewable electricity generated within Northern Ireland over the 12 month period July 2018 to June 2019, 85.3 per cent was generated from wind. This compares to 83.9 per cent for the previous 12 month period (July 2017 to June 2018)<sup>3</sup>.

The 2019 NI Carbon Intensity Indicators report indicates that annual power generation from renewables has increased by 2,066% from 153GWh to 3,306GWh over the period 2004-2017 and rose by 985GWh (42%) between 2016 and 2017.

At October 2016 there were 18 wind farms with planning permission granted in the District with a further six proposals under consideration. There is also a current proposal to extend an existing windfarm at Monnaboy<sup>4</sup>. Wind energy has dominated the renewables market in the area with Strabane legacy Council accounting for 24% of Northern Ireland's renewable generation<sup>5</sup>. Over half of all renewable energy applications are single turbines but there have been a number of biomass, solar and hydro schemes across the Council. NINIS data<sup>6</sup> shows that from 2002/03, 222 single turbines have been approved, from 2010/11 six windfarms have been approved and since 2018/19, two solar farms have been approved. This shows the reliance on wind as the main renewable energy source but also potentially the growing popularity of solar. There has also been previous interest around Northern Ireland in offshore windfarms and research into the suitability of the coast for renewables such as tidal power.

The capacity of the electricity distribution network within the District is essential to support the growth of small-scale renewable generation in the future. In 2015, 33Kv/11Kv Network Heat Maps produced by Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE), indicated that there was limited capacity for connection of additional generation within the District<sup>7</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> Firmus Energy press release "firmus energy Completes £3m Natural Gas Pipeline Project" published 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018

<sup>2</sup> Department for the Economy Electricity Consumption and Renewable Generation Statistics Overview – Latest Publication (found at <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/articles/electricity-consumption-and-renewable-generation-statistics> accessed 27/11/19)

<sup>3</sup> Department for the Economy Electricity Consumption and Renewable Generation Statistics Overview – Latest Publication (found at <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/articles/electricity-consumption-and-renewable-generation-statistics> accessed 27/11/19)

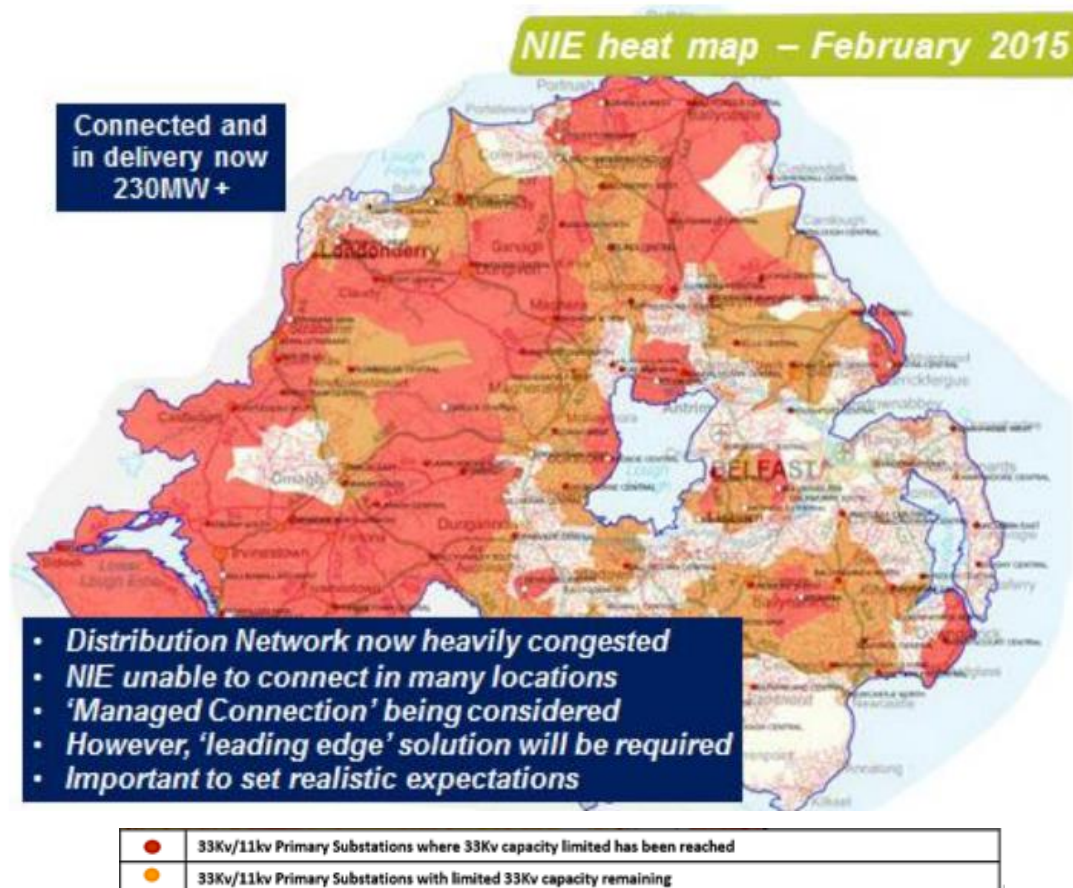
<sup>4</sup> LDP Evidence Base EVB 15 Public Utilities (May 2017)

<sup>5</sup> Dated 2014 and taken from a Renewable Energy Council paper dated 2016

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-planning-statistics-april-june-2019>

<sup>7</sup> Northern Ireland Electric 11kv Network Heat Map Small Scale Generation

Figure 5.6.3: NIE 'Heat Map' 2015



Source: NIE Briefing on Grid Capacity in Northern Ireland In the Context of Enabling Economic Growth Submitted to the ETI Committee 2 April 2015

A diversity of renewables is needed for a sustainable energy mix and fit for purpose electrical grid to enable future large scale and local level grid connections to ensure energy is supplied as efficiently as possible. The Renewable Integration Development Plan and other infrastructure projects included in the Transmission Development Plan as discussed above will see improvements within the region to enable the connection of renewables. The NIE Business Plan, 'Investing for the Future 2017-2024', states that planned investment will be taking place to improve network assets across the region which could see improvements in the District<sup>1</sup>. However, preservation of landscape character may be a constraint on wind energy development.

In NI, financial incentives to support the uptake of renewables have ceased.

#### *Waste Management*

Derry City and Strabane District Council and the neighbouring Council of Causeway Coast and Glens address waste management through a voluntary grouping known as the North West Regional Waste Management Group (NWRWGM). The NWRWGM follows the principles of the waste management hierarchy:

- Reduce the amount of waste we create in the first place;
- Reuse items as often as possible - to put less strain on the world's finite resources.
- Recycle appropriate man-made and natural materials.

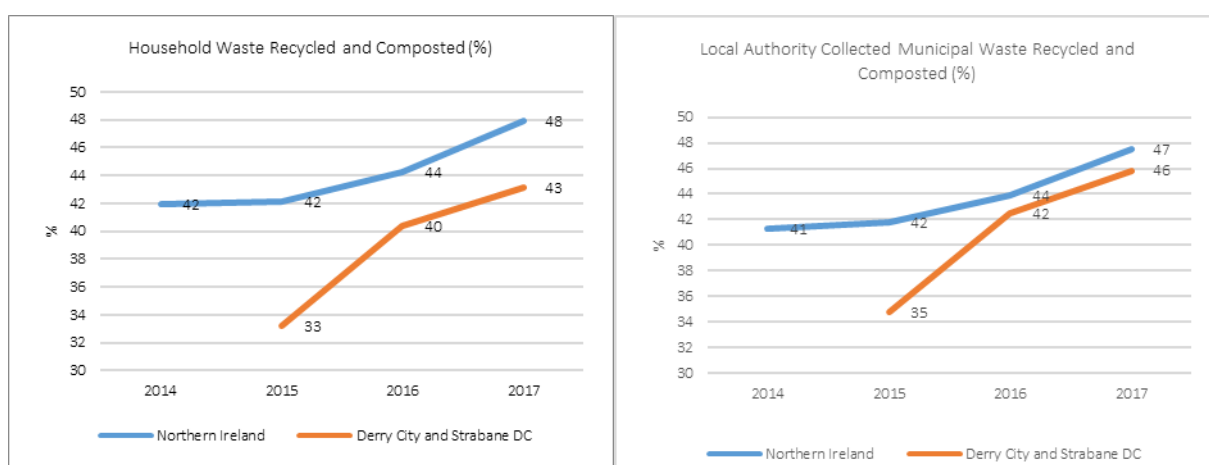
<sup>1</sup> Investing in the Future, NIE Networks summary business plans 2017-2024

- A fourth 'R', 'Recover' - means turning waste into a valuable resource such as renewable energy.

There are no currently active landfill sites within the District; Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste for disposal is currently taken to landfills elsewhere in the region. The former landfill at Culmore closed in 2007 and has since been turned into a Country Park. Restoration works were completed in 2016 and included capping of the site to reduce rainwater coming into contact with the waste and becoming polluted, and to trap gas being emitted by the infilled waste. The trapped gas is collected and used to generate electricity to operate the park, local waste water treatment works and for export to the National Grid<sup>1</sup>. The site now provides a landscaped green space for the public.

Recycling is available by house collection, at recycling centres and community centres. Up to 25% of waste is compostable and over half the homes in the Council have food waste collected.

**Figure 5.6.4: Household and Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste prepared for Reuse, Recycled and Composted**



Source: NISRA Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Recycling (administrative geographies)

Under new EU Waste Directives Council must attain a target of 50% recycling by 2020 or face significant financial penalties. Household recycling rates in the district have been increasing since 2015 but remained slightly below the NI average at 43.3% in 2017/18<sup>2</sup>. From April 2017, it became a statutory requirement for all councils in NI to provide each household with a container for food (potentially with other bio-waste) to enable its separate collection. It is hoped that with the completion of the Food Waste scheme and continued co-operation of the public, the Council should be on track to reach its target.

In 2017, DCSD became one of the first local authorities in the UK to publish a Zero Waste Circular Economy Strategy. The Strategy recognises that reducing waste generation, gaining value from discarded products through preparing them for re-use, and seeking to recycle as much as possible in a cost effective manner can contribute to reducing the costs of waste management. Developing a Zero Waste Circular Economy is a key part of the Council's Strategic Growth Plan.

At present, more than 90% of dry recyclable materials handled by DCSDC are exported, some being sent elsewhere within the UK and some travelling much further afield. This implies a loss of potential value added, and employment opportunities, from the local economy. The Strategy puts forward a number of actions which can deliver 'significant wins' in the move to a Zero Waste Circular Economy, arranged under the thematic pillars of Social, Economic and Environmental enhancement. These include:

<sup>1</sup> Derry City and Strabane DC | Parks and Open Spaces | Culmore Country Park (found at <https://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/Parks-and-Open-Spaces/Culmore-Country-Park>)

<sup>2</sup> Derry City and Strabane DC Press release "Council rolls out food caddy scheme to additional homes" published 31 August 2018

- Recycling collection system where materials collected are valued and can be reprocessed within local economy (Zero Waste Circular Economy).
- Improving food waste captures through education and delivering low carbon energy (Environmental Theme).
- Switching to a recycling collection system where material value is retained within the region and materials can be reprocessed generating further employment (Social Theme).
- Generating revenue from sale of goods prepared for re-use or recycled (Economic Theme).

The successful implementation of the Strategy may necessitate the development of new facilities to sort and reprocess waste and the LDP could play a role in enabling their delivery.

### *Cemeteries*

In addition to cemeteries linked with the various churches in the District, there are ten active public cemeteries<sup>1</sup>. There is an identified need for a new cemetery on the west bank of Derry City. The City Cemetery has only 700 plots remaining<sup>2</sup> and is anticipated to reach capacity in just a few years. There is no natural scope for expansion at this site, therefore the Council will have to consider a new site elsewhere on the west bank of the city. Based on burials rates for the city, it is envisaged that a site of somewhere between 30 and 50 acres will be required<sup>3</sup>. The LDP must carefully consider the location of any new cemeteries in terms of people, traffic generation and residential amenity and also a range of site specific environmental factors. It is not clear if a crematorium will be required in the District over the plan period.

### *Derelict/Contaminated Land*

The Land Use Database held by the NIEA provides a record of approximately 14,000 sites that have had previous industrial land use(s). This database was originally based on historic maps and records dating from 1834-1960 but it has been updated with NIEA datasets including Industrial Heritage, Waste Management License, and Pollution Incidents.

There are 1,673 records for DCSD on the Land Use Database. The map below shows the pattern of historical land use within the district. It shows the routes of former railways and the legacy of the former textiles and minerals industries.

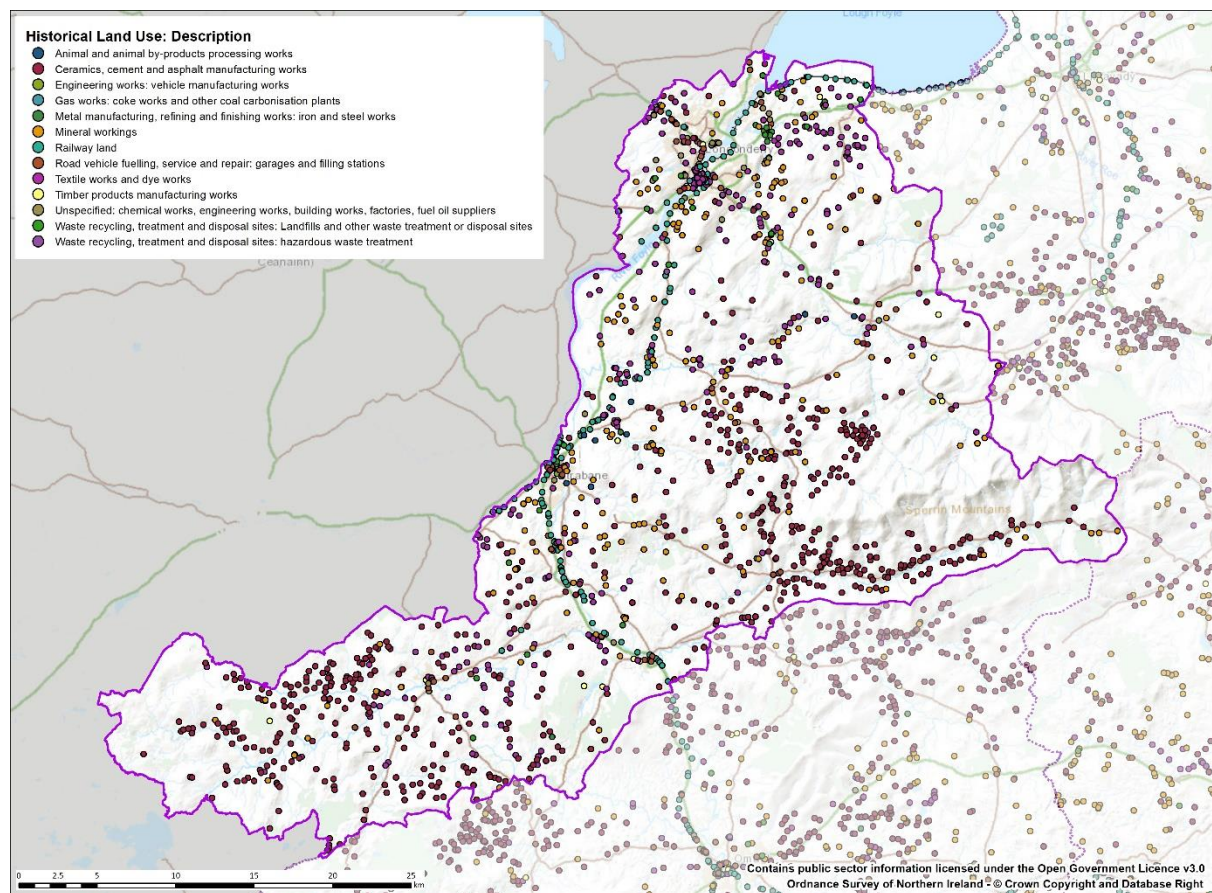
---

<sup>1</sup> Derry City and Strabane District Council | Cemeteries (found at [https://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/cemeteries-\(1\)/Cemeteries](https://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/cemeteries-(1)/Cemeteries) accessed 27/11/19)

<sup>2</sup> Derry Journal "Site probe under way for new Derry cityside cemetery" Published Tuesday 29 October 2019 (found at <https://www.derryjournal.com/news/site-probe-under-way-for-new-derry-cityside-cemetery-1-9123010> )

<sup>3</sup> LDP Evidence Base EVB 15 Public Utilities (May 2017)

Figure 5.6.5: Land Use Database –Historical Land Use Records in DCSD



Source: DAERA, Historical Landuse Database

Fort George is a strategic regeneration site located on the west bank of Derry city and is a level 6.2 hectare site. In 2018 it underwent remediation and decontamination works to address low level asbestos and other contaminants such as heavy carbons previously identified and the site is ready for development. In addition to being strategically positioned adjacent to one of the main arterial routes in to the city centre, Fort George is the site of the Hibernia Exchange Centre (a Project Kelvin facility)<sup>1</sup> which brings direct international connectivity. While the site was originally envisaged as a Science Park, current plans include the development of a new Cityside Health and Care Centre<sup>2</sup>.

### 5.6.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new LDP, opportunities to ensure the most appropriate locations are identified for material assets are likely to be missed. In terms of providing efficient and adequate material assets, achieving sustainable development could become increasingly difficult without an up to date spatial approach to planning. Development may not be feasible, or it could be constrained if existing infrastructure is deficient or absent. Without a spatial approach, there could be a higher risk of negative impacts on rural areas and inappropriate energy projects.

### 5.6.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Material Assets

- Access to superfast and ultrafast broadband, including Project Kelvin are important assets for attracting inward investment.
- Improving infrastructure and high-speed telecommunications across rural areas for the needs of rural communities, rural services and rural businesses is vital to support rural enterprise and economic activity.

<sup>1</sup> The Executive Office | Ebrington | Fort George (found at <http://www.yourebrington.com/our-successes/fort-george> accessed 27/11/19)

<sup>2</sup> Department for Communities "Fort George site explored as location for new primary health care hub" (published 20 February 2019)

- The LDP PS should cater for small-scale, appropriate economic opportunities in the countryside.
- Natural gas networks are expanding in the northwest, however some areas may never benefit from gas infrastructure due to lack of feasibility.
- A fit-for-purpose electrical infrastructure is required to facilitate the growth of renewable energy generation.
- The former Culmore landfill site now provides a gas source.
- Wind technology has dominated renewables but a diversity of technologies will be needed for a sustainable energy mix i.e. solar, tidal, biomass, hydroelectric, anaerobic.
- While it is important to support wind energy, the need to generate renewable energy must be balanced with safeguarding areas of particular scenic/environmental value.
- There may be opportunities to develop community based renewable projects such as wind/solar farms or large single turbines, that could reduce the local impacts from several single applications and make more efficient use of land.
- There is no active landfill capacity within the Council.
- The impact of existing or proposed waste management facilities should be considered when zoning land for development.
- The existing location of material assets should be a consideration when planning new developments to help ensure sustainable land management.
- There is a need to ensure the location of fit-for-purpose recycling and waste processing facilities based on the proximity principle to raise recycling rates and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.
- Derelict/contaminated land sites may be available for appropriate reuse
- There is an identified need for a new public Cemetery in the District

## 5.7 Physical Resources

### 5.7.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The physical resources sustainability theme covers minerals, earth science sites, geothermal energy, land and soil. Physical resources provide us with the building blocks we need for everyday life, but are mostly finite in their supply. Our protection of physical resources can be a clear indicator of how sustainable our society is.

The sustainable management of physical resources is a common theme of regional, strategic and subject planning policy. The need to safeguard sufficient land to provide physical resources into the future is evident. Land is recognised as multifunctional, in that it can act as a connective wildlife corridor; provide amenity value, building resources, adaptation for climate change; remove water and soil pollution; support biodiversity and create landscape character. Adequate amounts of land are required to deliver all of these functions. Some physical resources such as soil can become so contaminated from pollution that they no longer adequately function.

The overarching aims of current government policy and programmes are sustainable development and sustainable land management, as these will underpin sustainable economic growth and a sustainable energy supply. Current policy strives to ensure that physical resources are safeguarded for the future and that sufficient local supplies are available. The Department for Economy recognises that the concept of sustainability is different within the industry because reserves are finite but the industry can still play a part in the circular economy and the principles of the waste management hierarchy. NI also has a Geodiversity Charter that aims to inform decision makers of the importance of geodiversity to the economy and the environment.

The SPSS aims to minimise the impacts from the minerals industry on local communities and the environment. This is expected through sustainable minerals development that carefully considers impacts on the local area and includes the safe restoration of sites with an appropriate reuse. In NI, older mineral workings from the 1970s and 1980s had little emphasis placed on managing their environmental impacts or restoration. Recent changes to planning legislation through the Planning Act (NI) 2011, enables Councils to Review Old Mineral Permissions (ROMP) sites. However, a further Order is needed before Councils can begin this review.

The Councils Corporate Plan proposes for the Council area to be ‘a thriving prosperous and sustainable City and District with equality of opportunity for all.’ Ensuring the sustainable management of the Council’s physical resources will be essential to achieving this.

The Community Plan 2017-2032 recognises that *‘the LDP – or land use plan – aims to secure the orderly and consistent development of land with the objective of furthering sustainable development and improving wellbeing’*.

### 5.7.2 Baseline Information

Evidence paper EVB19 – Minerals which can be found at [www.derrystrabane.com/ldp](http://www.derrystrabane.com/ldp) is relevant to this topic. This topic also overlaps with the Housing, Material Assets, Climate Change, Natural Resources and Landscape sections of this scoping report.

#### *Minerals*

According to research published by the University of Ulster in 2019 Northern Ireland is recognised as an attractive area for mining investment.<sup>1</sup> Results from The Canadian Fraser Institutes 2018 Annual Survey of Mining Companies demonstrated that Northern Ireland is ranked within the top 10 worldwide with regard to overall policy attractiveness, performing well in the quality of infrastructure, trade friendliness and the quality of geological databases.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> University of Ulster: Economic Impact of the Geoscience Industry on the Northern Ireland Economy, 2019

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/annual-survey-of-mining-companies-2018.pdf>

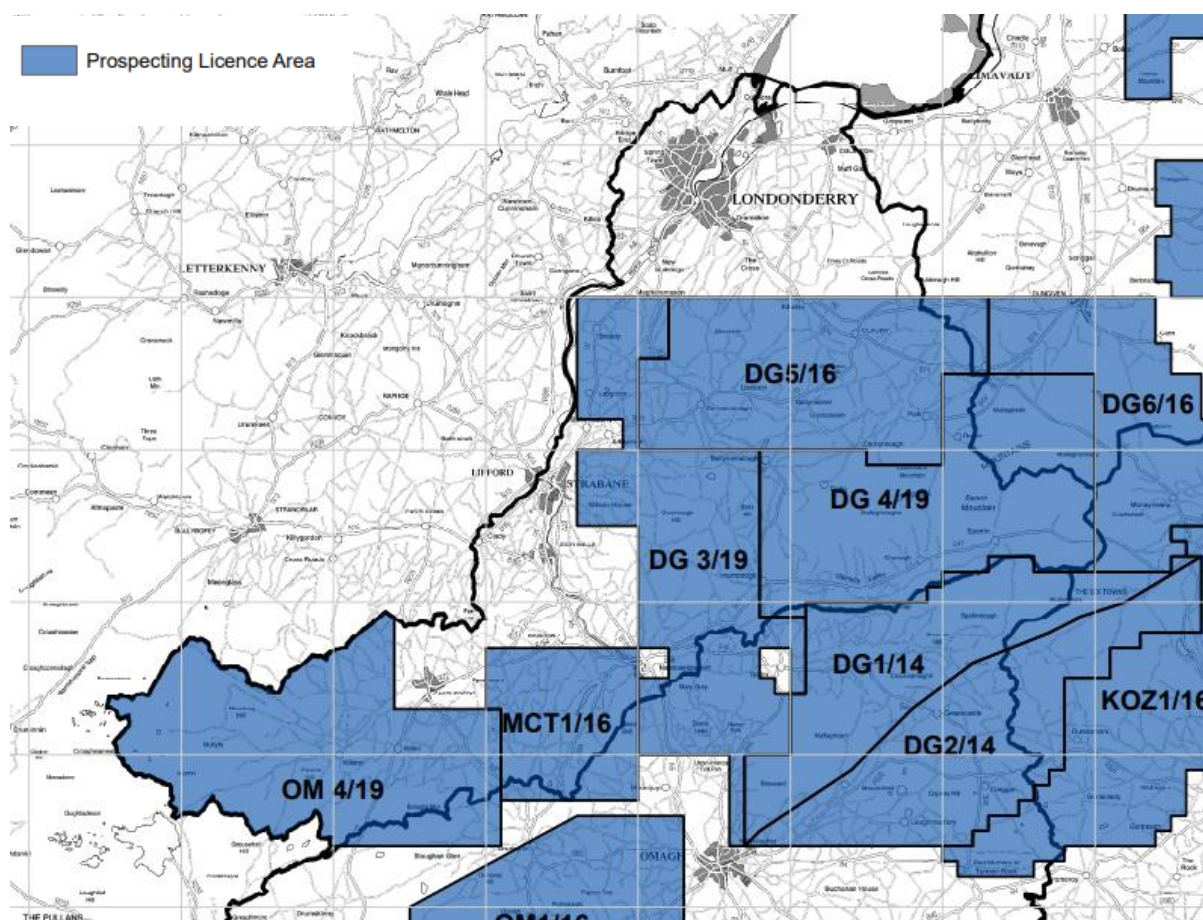


The DfE's submission on the DCSD POP<sup>1</sup> states that the geology of the district is generally dominated by hard crystalline metamorphic rocks. Smaller areas of sedimentary rocks of younger Carboniferous age are present adjacent to Lough Foyle, in the Newtown Stewart area and in the extreme south of the district. The hard psammities, metamorphosed limestones and igneous rocks are often suitable for use as crushed rock aggregates, with some of these rocks having high enough polished stone values to be categorised as 'high specification aggregate', suitable for the manufacture of skid-resistant road surfacing material. In more recent times distinctive yellow quartzites have been quarried near Claudy for use as building stone. Crushed meta-limestones are also used for agricultural purposes.

Extensive superficial glacial and glaciofluvial deposits exist in many of the river valleys throughout the district (Rivers Faughan, Burn Dennet, Mourne, Glenelly, Owenkillew, Strule and Derg). Many of these deposits have been worked to produce fine aggregate and the DfE reports that the Derry City and Strabane District Council area is the second largest producer of sand and gravel in NI, after the Mid-Ulster Council area. Current mineral extraction in the district is exclusively by surface working (quarrying), which can take up a wider area of land and present visual impacts. The DfE indicated in its POP submission<sup>2</sup> that underground mining usually only occurs for precious metals or metalliferous and non-metalliferous industrial minerals of medium to high value. Only one underground mine is currently operational in NI, (Kilroot salt mine) which is in Mid and East Antrim Borough.

The DfE also reports that, at the time of writing, the district has five Mineral Prospecting Licences completely or partially within its area (see Figure 5.7.1). This is the highest proportion of any council in NI (covering over 68% of the council area).

Figure 5.7.1 Mineral Prospecting Licences in DCSDC



Source: [DfE Local Development Plans - input on minerals](#) Mineral Prospecting Licences Map with Council boundaries (September 2018)

<sup>1</sup> [DfE Minerals - Local Development Plans - Input on Minerals](#), Derry City and Strabane District Council Preferred Options Paper - Minerals

<sup>2</sup> [DfE Minerals - Local Development Plans - Input on Minerals](#), Derry City and Strabane District Council Preferred Options Paper - Minerals

The majority of the prospecting licenses are for 'all minerals' with the exception of OM 4/19 which is for lead, copper, zinc and pyrite. Whilst prospecting / exploration does not usually lead to development, the DfE considers that the discovery of significant gold mineralisation elsewhere in the metamorphic rocks of the Sperrins indicates that there is potential for similar mineralisation to be found within DCSDC. A planning application for a proposed underground mine for the extraction of gold was submitted to the DfI's Strategic Planning Directorate for consideration in 2017. The proposed mine is located in the neighbouring district of Fermanagh and Omagh, around 2.5km from Derry City and Strabane district at its nearest point. Mineral prospecting carried out prior to the application indicates that mineralisation in the area also includes a significant quantity of silver.

After an area has been mined, it may become an important resource for earth science, research, recreation and nature conservation. With or without restoration, these redundant sites can provide ecosystems services or become part of blue/green infrastructure, helping to connect habitats across the wider landscape and maintaining local biodiversity.

Historically there has been a lack of emphasis on the restoration of sites in NI. This is in spite of the impacts that can affect the local environment and the amenity of local citizens. To help bring older sites up to date with environmental standards, a review of older mineral applications (ROMPS) was introduced to planning legislation.

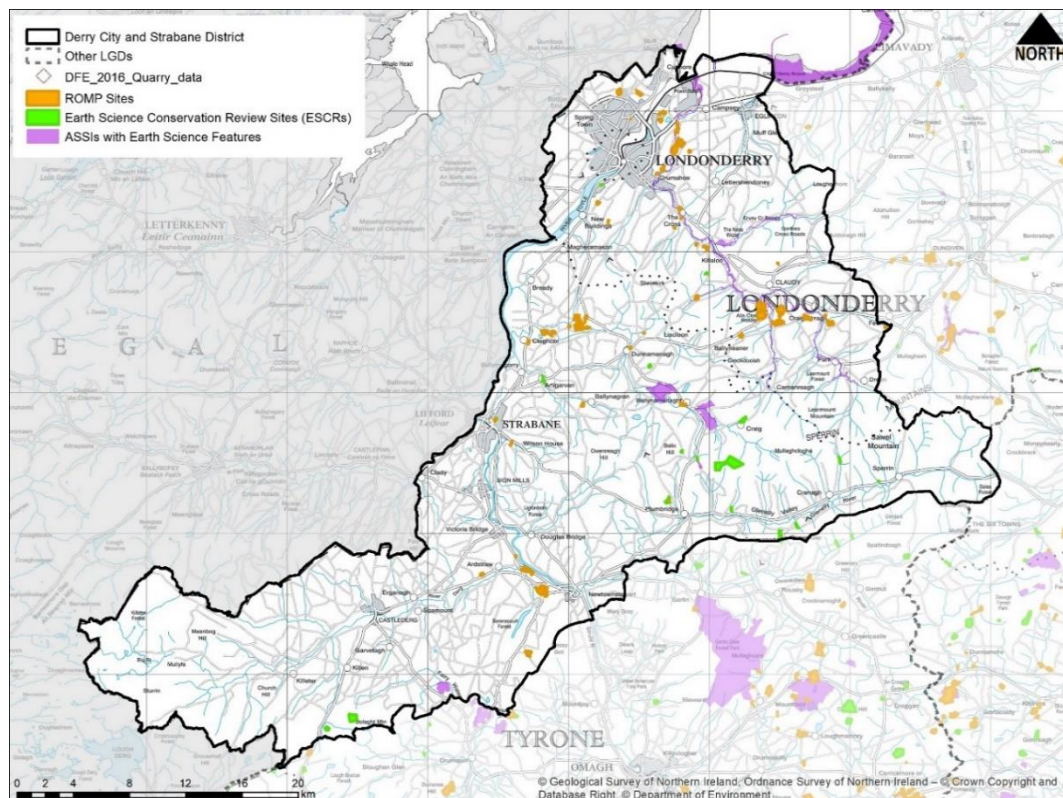
There were 59 ROMP sites identified (see Figure 5.7.2) in the district by the Department of the Environment in their 2014 Review of Old Mineral Applications, equating to 12.5% of the total number of ROMP sites in NI (470). The majority of these (48) were for the extraction of sand and gravel, alongside seven sites for hard rock, three for limestone and one for clay. The majority of the sand and gravel sites are located alongside the Rivers Faughan, Burndennet and Strule while the hard rock sites are distributed across the district. In the future, it may be feasible to restore some of these sites for recreational/educational use and/or as green/blue infrastructure.

The Mineral Products Association NI (MPANI) estimates that the aggregates industry directly employs 4,200 people, has an annual turnover of £650million (3% of NI GDP) and produces approximately 24 million tonnes of aggregate per year<sup>1</sup>. The aggregates industry provides jobs in rural areas where employment opportunities can be scarce. Within the Council area there are 22 quarry sites. These account for over 10% of sites in NI and from which nearly 300,000 tonnes of aggregate is produced.

---

<sup>1</sup> MPANI: Information for Local Councils: Derry & Strabane: published January 28<sup>th</sup> 2016

Figure 5.7.2: ROMP sites, Earth Science Conservation Sites and geological ASSIs



Source: Spatial NI DOENI Review of Old Mineral Applications 2013-07-04 | Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)

DfE has indicated in their POP submission that the DCSDC area does not appear to have any potential for the discovery and development of hydrocarbon resources.

### Earth Science

There are nine Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) in the district with earth science selection features (Figure 5.7.2). These are protected for their important geological features. These sites can also provide important habitat for priority species and their conservation helps to maintain local biodiversity levels. For example Lough Foyle exhibits coastal processes but also provides habitat for wintering Light-bellied Brent goose, whooper swan and bar tailed Godwit; and Fairy Water Bogs have important peat morphology but are also an important and rare example of lowland raised bog habitat. Earth Science Conservation Review sites (ESCRs) are recognised for their geological features and are generally located at disused quarries, streams and crags in the district (Figure 5.7.2). There are 20 such sites in DCSDC, the majority (18) of which are of interest for their Precambrian geology. There is a direct link between the geology and the geomorphology of an area and its physical character and natural heritage.

The GSNI published a Geodiversity Charter in 2017<sup>1</sup>, which aims to inform decision makers of the importance of geodiversity to the economy and the environment in NI.

### Geothermal Energy

Naturally occurring heat is stored in ground layers ranging from core depths to shallow layers. It can be used as a source of heating for buildings and possibly electricity. Geothermal energy is low carbon, renewable (without fluctuation) and is viable with existing technology. It could become a sustainable part of the future energy mix, if investment and the necessary infrastructure were provided. The UK National Renewable Energy Action Plan refers to ground heat and the Strategic Energy Framework (SEF)<sup>2</sup> discusses shallow geothermal energy. The DfE has advised in their POP submission that the

<sup>1</sup> DfE / Geological Survey of NI: [Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter - Safeguarding Northern Ireland's Rocks and Landscape](#)

<sup>2</sup> DETI (2010): Strategic Energy Framework for Northern Ireland

underlying geology of the district is such that most of the Council area would be suitable for the deployment of closed loop ground source heat pump systems to provide heating for domestic and non-domestic buildings. Small areas of the council would also be suitable for vertical open loop systems.

Consideration of its installation and integration is needed at an early design stage alongside other infrastructure. Domestic scale ground heat pumps can be installed as permitted development.

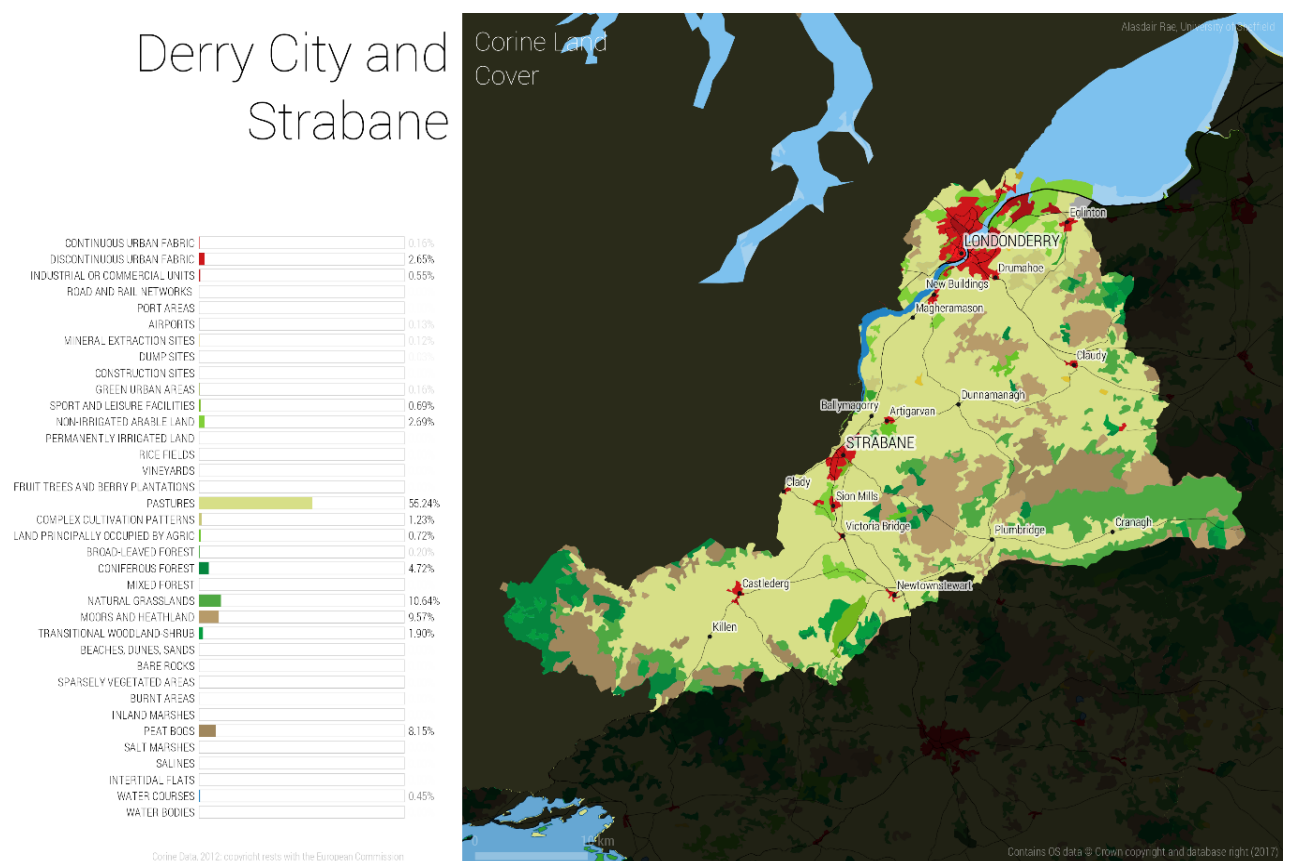
### *Land*

The Co-ordination of Information on the Environment (Corine) project, initiated by the European Commission in 1985, provides a comprehensive picture on land use in the UK and Ireland. Corine uses high-definition satellite images and detailed local maps to match land use against 44 different land use codes. These can be used to monitor changes in land use over time (reference years are 1990, 2000, 2006 and 2012).

Figure 5.7.2 shows a simplified version of the Corine land use classifications for the district. The detailed land use categories can be arranged into the four general categories of 'Built on', 'Green urban', 'Farmland' and 'Natural'. DCSDC currently has around 60% of its land cover classified as farmland, the lowest proportion of all the NI LGDs except Belfast and 36% as natural land cover, the highest proportion of all the NI LGDs. Only 3% of the district is classed as 'built on' and around 1% is 'green urban'.

The Northern Ireland Countryside Survey 2007 found that the main changes in land cover over time were the loss of semi natural habitats to agricultural grassland and rural buildings. The trend for natural land conversion to improved grassland and curtilage was observed in the 1998 survey. Building was mostly on neutral or improved grassland, indicating pressure on agricultural land but semi natural habitat losses were also recorded. The loss of semi natural habitat in lowland areas, where this habitat is already scarce, is a biodiversity issue. In the district, development pressure on land is evident from types of development such as single rural dwellings in the countryside.

Figure 5.7.3 Land Cover DCSDC, derived from Corine (2012)



Produced by the University of Leicester, The Centre for Landscape and Climate Research and Specto Natura and supported by Defra and the European Environment Agency under Grant Agreement 3541/B2012/R0-GIO/EEA.55055 with funding by the European Union.

The Council is rurally dominated with 30% of the population residing in the wider countryside. The minerals industry in the Council tends to be opencast quarrying and wind energy projects are widely evident with more approvals waiting to be constructed. All of these types of development require relatively large areas of land. At the same time, other local land pressures exist. Mineral deposits not currently used need to be safeguarded for future use and nature conservation and landscape designations require careful consideration to ensure their integrity is protected. Other local land pressures exist in the City where cemetery provision is reaching capacity.

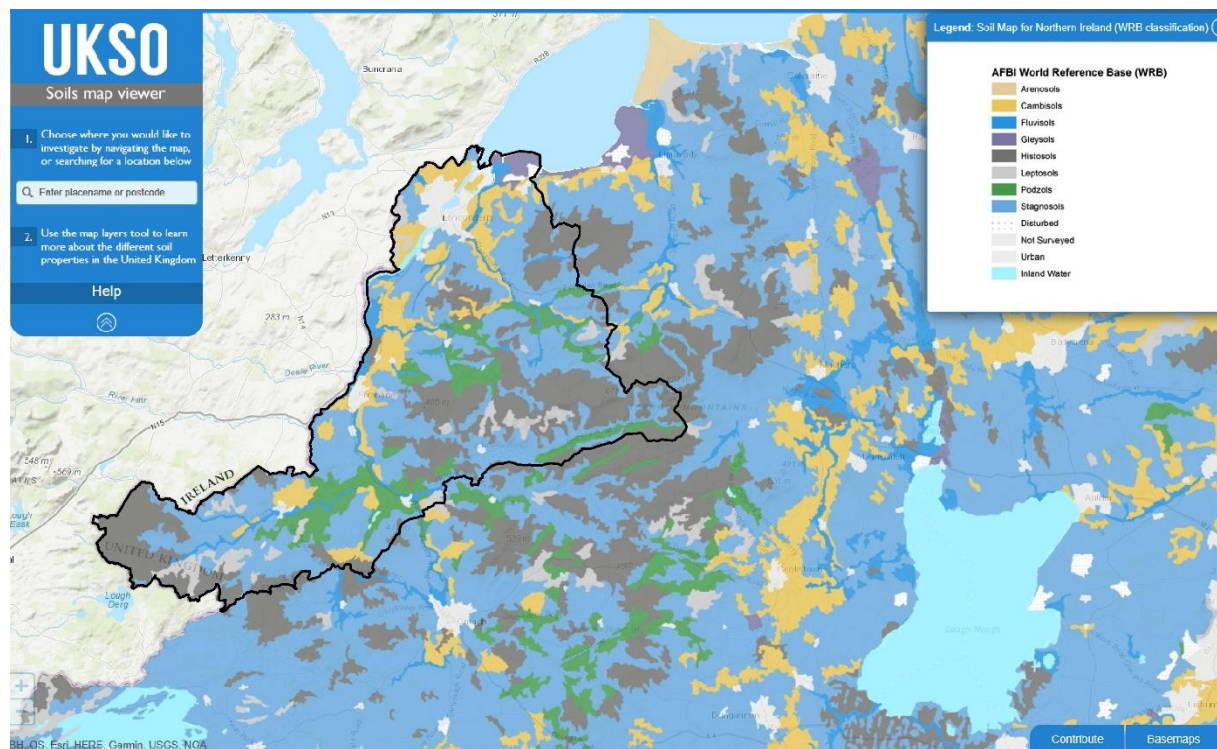
### Soil

Soil quality is not currently protected under any specific legislation in NI, but it is a fundamental physical resource. It acts as a store for - and source of - gases like oxygen, nitrogen and carbon dioxide. It also filters water and provides a base for biodiversity and raw materials. A properly functioning soil should be less vulnerable to erosion, reduce flooding, filter pollution and store essential nutrients that can support plants and animals. Development can affect soil quality through pollution and erosion. Figure 5.7.4 shows the UK Soil Observatory World Reference Base Soil Map for the district. The dominant soil types in the council area are:

- Stagnosols (pale blue colour on figure 5.7.4) – Soils with stagnating water.
- Histosols (dark grey colour on Figure 5.7.4 – poorly draining soils consisting primarily of organic materials.
- Podzols (green colour on figure 5.7.4) – soils set by Fe/Al chemistry, common in coniferous forests.
- Cambisols (sand colour on figure 5.7.4) - relatively young soils, with little or no profile development.

Cambisols in particular make good agricultural land and these are particularly evident in the Foyle valley.

Figure 5.7.4: Soils Map DCSDC



Source: AFBI NI / UKSO Soils Map Viewer<sup>1</sup>

### 5.7.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, it is assumed that the RDS, the SPPS, Area Plans and PPSs, and the Planning Strategy for Rural NI (PSRNI), would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would continue to inform decisions. However, the area plans were prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. In the absence of a LDP there could be less opportunity to spatially plan and manage existing and future physical resources and at the same time avoid environmental damage. It may become more difficult to respond to and manage development pressures on the district's physical resources and to avoid inappropriate development, pollution and erosion.

### 5.7.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Physical Resources

- Earth science sites should be protected and could be integrated to blue/green infrastructure as part of the Council's natural heritage.
- Existing mineral sites and reserves should be safeguarded from alternative uses and/or developments that may impede their accessibility.
- Older mineral sites (pre-1985) may be causing undue damage to the local environment and require new planning conditions to ensure adequate restoration.
- A spatial approach to new mineral sites and extensions could help to support rural communities and businesses as the most appropriate locations with adequate transport routes could be prioritised.
- Redundant mineral sites may be suitable for reuse after restoration as education or recreation assets and at the same time add to local biodiversity as blue/green infrastructure.

<sup>1</sup> UK Soil Observatory: Soil groups in Northern Ireland (found at <http://www.ukso.org/soilsofni/soilmap.html>)

- Some land zoned for recreation/open space has been used for housing and retail purposes but significant amounts of land zoned for recreation/open space have remained undeveloped.
- Some of the best farmland in the area is located in the low-lying areas of the Foyle.
- Soil quality across the Council should be protected using effective conservation measures due to a lack of specific legislation protecting soils at a regional or local level.
- The compatibility of adjacent land uses is important to ensure the most sustainable land use management.
- Development pressure exists from the larger settlements, and commercial and residential projects.
- The mineral prospecting licences presently issued within the district are principally investigating for silver or gold mineralisation, but other metalliferous minerals may be present.
- Recognition should be given to the damage caused to our landscape and ecosystems through illegal mineral / hard rock extraction and illegal dumping / infill.

## 5.8 Transport and Accessibility

### 5.8.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Overarching regional planning policy for Transport aims to deliver a balanced approach to transport infrastructure. Integral to this is an underlying drive to improve transport connectivity, accessibility, efficiency and social inclusivity. Regional policy also aims to reduce our carbon footprint and mitigate and adapt to climate change whilst improving air quality. Some measures to achieve this are directly linked to transport and include reducing emissions from transport, improving energy efficiency and revoking Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).

Encouraging people to use public transport and to consider active travel options like walking and cycling is key to achieving regional policy outcomes. This is reflected in the policy objectives for transport in the SPPS along with objectives for adequate parking facilities and road safety. The LDP will also be fundamental to promoting and enabling sustainable transport, but a behavioural shift within society is also required, both at home and at the workplace.

One of the strategic outcomes of the draft PfG centres on connecting people and opportunities through infrastructure, which links to providing a sustainable transport system. Improving transport connections, increasing the use of public transport and active travel, increasing environmental sustainability and improving air quality are four indicators to measure progress on this strategic outcome.

The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035 promotes strong, sustainable growth for the benefit of all parts of Northern Ireland and recognises the importance of cities as drivers of economic growth especially when linked together in mutually supportive networks across wider spatial areas. The RDS outlines regional guidance to; deliver a balanced approach to transport infrastructure that takes account of the needs of our environment, society and economy and, to reduce our carbon footprint, mitigate and adapt to climate change, whilst improving air quality.

The RDS highlights the role that Derry-Londonderry plays as the principal city of the North West and as a cross border and international gateway by way of its airport, sea port, and strategic links to Letterkenny and Donegal. The RDS guidance underlines the role transport plays in developing competitive cities and regions and in supporting rural communities.

Sub-Regional Transport Plan Technical Supplements are listed by geographical area according to administrative arrangement in 2007 (when the SRTP was developed) The technical supplements provide background detail for the SRTP proposals and outline principal problems and transport proposals for the area. Technical supplements were produced for both the former Derry and Strabane Districts.

The DCSDC Strategic Growth Plan (Community Plan) outcomes which are most relevant to this topic relate to the Environmental Wellbeing Pillar; 'We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure'.

Achievement of this outcome is largely dependent on the progress of key strategic road infrastructure catalyst projects including:

- The completion of the A5 Western Transport Corridor from Derry to Aughnacloy and N2 improvements beyond, to enhance critical and safe connectivity to Dublin
- The delivery of the A6 duelling project from Derry to the M22 providing quality connectivity to Belfast
- The upgrade of the A2 Buncrana Road cross-border economic corridor to release the potential of Fort George and other development opportunities along its route.

Further key actions from the Community Plan to deliver more integrated, sustainable and accessible transport with the aim to improve local, national and international connectivity include:



- Delivery of strategic road infrastructure whilst also enhancing greenway provision and promoting active travel.
- Development and delivery of a sub-regional integrated transport strategy and implementation plan for the City and District.
- Provision of enhanced rail services incorporating a new railway station connected to the city and regional public transport services and the greenway network.
- Improved connectivity and frequency of flights from City of Derry Airport and enhance City regional, cross-border and inter-city bus services. Design and delivery (subject to funding) of a city orbital route connecting the A5, A6 and a third Road Bridge across the River Foyle at Newbuildings.
- Further development of facilities at Foyle Port.

The community plan highlights that highly effective transport infrastructure is vital for the economy and for tourism but it is also about how we enable everyone to access essential services and participate fully in the life of society. In terms of climate change the big challenge is shifting from over-dependence on the private car to walking, cycling and public transport.

The delivery of the community plan objectives align to the Councils Corporate Plan objective to 'protect our environment and deliver physical regeneration'. The Corporate Plan highlights the advancement of capital projects including 3 significant cross border greenway developments from Derry to Buncrana, Derry to Muff and Strabane to Lifford and local greenway development at Ebrington, Clooney and Kilfennan.

### 5.8.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is available from evidence based papers for the Local Development Plan including Transportation and Movement and can be found at [www.derrystrabane.com/ldp](http://www.derrystrabane.com/ldp). This section overlaps with the Health and Wellbeing, Air Quality, Climate Change and Natural Resources sections of this report.

#### *Transport Emissions*

In Northern Ireland, the most common greenhouse gas (GHG) emission is carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Other emissions are evident but CO<sub>2</sub> was reported in the 2016 DAERA Environmental Statistics Report as accounting for nearly 70% of all emissions.

In Northern Ireland, the transport sector is one of the top four emitters of GHGs with 18% of total GHG emissions contributed to it. This is equal to emissions from the energy supply sector and higher than those emitted from the residential sector.

Emissions are a by-product from the burning of fossil fuels and although there is a government target to reduce GHG emissions by 35% on 1990 levels by 2025, the transport sector has not shown a declining trend. Additional information and graphs are available from the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016.

Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) generated by road traffic combustion has not decreased since 2012. Levels in urban areas have generally increased and there is no evidence of a decline in NO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Ground level ozone can result from the chemical reactions of nitrogen oxides from sources such as vehicle emissions. Urban sites show ozone levels are variable but not reducing. Further information on transport emissions is provided in the Climate Change section of this report.

#### *Transport Routes*

NINIS data shows that there is no motorway within the Council but over 90 km of single carriageway and just under 18 km of dual carriageway. There are key transport routes to consider within the Council including the A5 (Dublin), A2/A40/A38 (Donegal) and the A6 (Belfast) but there are also a significant number of unclassified and B/C class roads with unclassified roads measuring approximately 1500kms.

### *Protected Routes*

A number of roads in the Derry City and Strabane District have been established as Protected Routes by DfI, some of which extend into neighbouring Council Districts and to the border with RoI. The intent of Protected Routes are to restrict development onto main roads to facilitate the free and safe movement of traffic. Routes are identified on the basis of their contribution to providing efficient links between main towns, airports and seaports and with the Republic of Ireland.

### *City of Derry Airport*

The City of Derry airport provides a vital air access route to the North West region and is instrumental in supporting the local economy, not only acting to support the local tourism market but also by directly and indirectly providing employment. The airport currently links to London, Manchester, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Liverpool. In 2018 185,843 passengers used the airport<sup>1</sup> however this was a 36% reduction in passengers from 2016 figures.

### *Foyle Port*

Foyle Port is a key marine gateway to the North West of Ireland for both commerce and tourism. The port handles approximately 2 million tonnes of cargo per annum and supports approximately 1000 jobs thereby making a vital contribution to the North West region economy. The port also offers a range of services including dredging, engineering and steel fabrication and can also facilitate smaller cruise ships.

### *Cars*

In 2018, the total number of licenced vehicles in the Council area reached 71,710. This is the second lowest amount relative to other Council areas. The 2018 Travel Survey for Northern Ireland reports that on average 70% of journeys are made by car which is a decrease from 72% in 2013-2015. Within the same survey 5% of all journeys were made by public transport. Walking journeys represented 19% of journeys made per person per year. For those traveling to work the car was used for over 80% of journeys, this figure has remained quite similar since the 2005.

### *Electric Vehicles*

In an attempt to help combat climate change, the transport industry has been developing measures to improve fuel efficiency as well as use of alternative fuels. Electric vehicles are now becoming more common because they emit less GHG emissions than petrol or diesel. Currently 12 charging points are located in the Council District however, the majority of these are within the city and Strabane Town. The transport sector is one of the main contributors to GHG emissions in NI and needs to reduce its impact and shift away from fossil fuels. There is likely to be an increased demand for accessible electric vehicle charging points as low emission vehicles become more mainstream. Further information is in the Climate Change section of this report.

### *Car Parking*

Derry City and Strabane District Council is now responsible for all aspects relating to management, operation and maintenance of the car parks within the District. There are approximately 1662 car parking spaces between Derry City and Strabane Town. There are also car parks in Claudy, Castlederg, Donemana and Newtownstewart and a number of privately owned car parks, mainly for customer use, at Foyle side, Quayside, Sainsburys, Crescent Link and at the Pavillion / Asda.

### *Walking*

Alternative methods of transport might include walking, cycling and public Transport. 61% of respondents to the NISRA study for Attitudes to Walking, Cycling and Public Transport said they were satisfied with the current situation for walking in their local area at present. The main reasons why people were not satisfied were 'poor lighting', traffic traveling too fast and lack of footpaths. Those in the age group 16-24 were more likely to be satisfied with walking in their areas than those aged 65

---

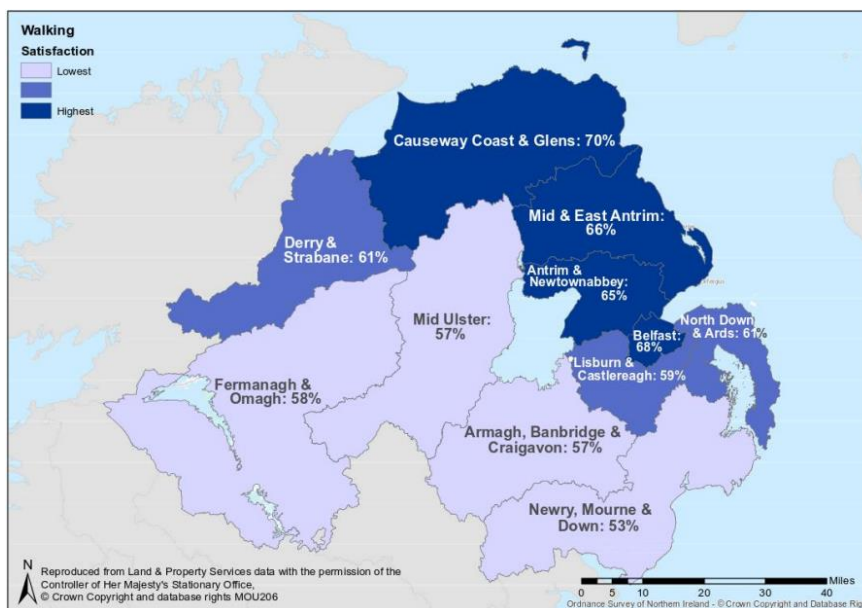
<sup>1</sup><https://www.caa.co.uk/Data-and-analysis/UK-aviation-market/Airports/Datasets/UK-Airport-data>

and over. Male respondents were more likely to be satisfied with walking in their area than female respondents.

The reasons why people might be discouraged from walking included, 'bad weather', 'lack of footpaths' and that 'the journey would take too long'. Of females who were dissatisfied with walking in their area, over half stated for reason of poor lighting where for males, the main reason was not enough footpaths.

The proportion of people satisfied with walking facilities among respondents living in Derry City and Strabane District Council was 61% and 5<sup>th</sup> highest in satisfaction of the 11 Councils in NI.

**Figure 5.8.1: Satisfaction with the current situation for walking and walkers in their area across LGDs 2018-19**

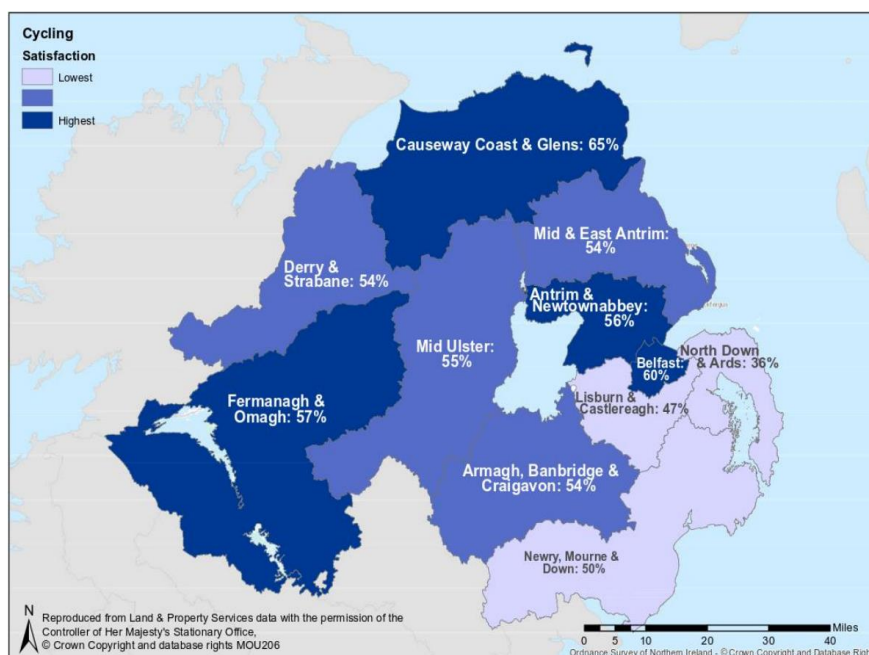


Source: NISRA Continuous Household Survey 2018/2019

### Cycling

The NISRA study also gathered information in relation to cycling where just over half (53%) of respondents said they were satisfied with the current situation for cycling in their area. The main reason for dissatisfaction with cycling facilities was lack of cycle lanes. Within DCSDC 54% of respondents expressed they were satisfied with the provision for cycling ranking the District 6<sup>th</sup> highest in satisfaction.

Figure 5.8.2: Satisfaction with the current situation for cycling by LGDs 2018-19



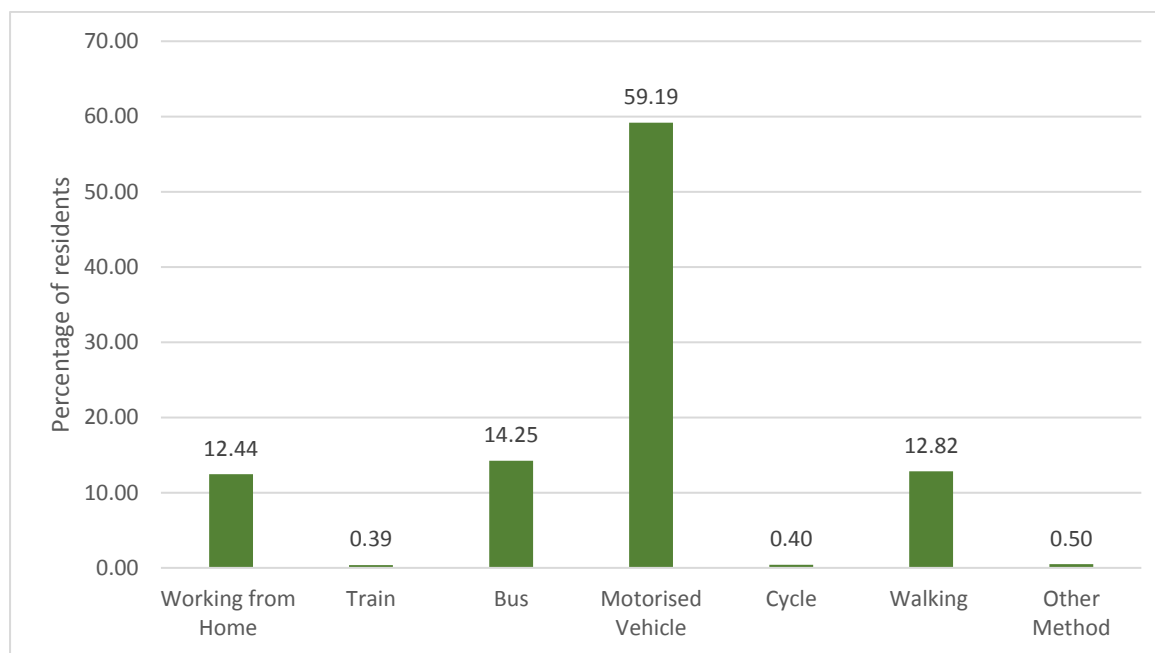
Source: NISRA Continuous Household Survey 2018/2019

#### *Travel to Work/Study*

Within DCSDC, there are approximately 86,053 people in employment, at school, or in study and although just over 12% of residents work or study from home, the majority remain reliant on motorised transport. Using public transport and active travel helps to reduce the number of vehicles on the road, which helps reduce transport emissions and helps to maintain air quality. Figure 5.8.5 shows a breakdown of the chosen modes of travel. In total, 59% of this group drive or travel as a passenger by motorised vehicle to their place of work or study. Motorised vehicles include those who are passengers (14.96%), car pool (6.80%), use taxis (2.60%) or motorbikes (0.13%).

Figures from the Census 2011 show that almost 15% of residents use public transport to travel to work or their place of study (14.25% by bus and 0.39% by train). Nearly 13% of commuters walk and less than 1% cycle. In contrast to regional figures, almost 63% of those sampled for NI commute by way of car and 13.5% use public transport.

Figure 5.8.4: Modes of Travel to Work or Place of Study in Derry City and Strabane District Council



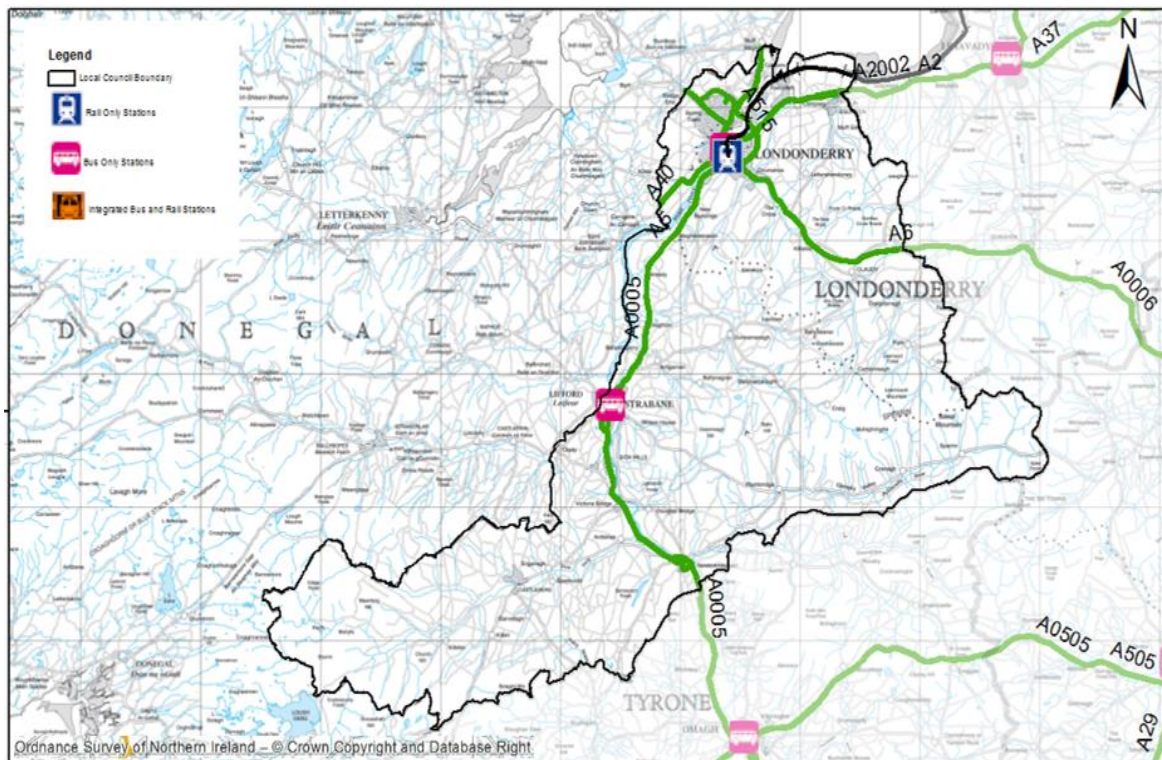
Source: Council Evidence Paper Transportation and Movement October 2016

#### Public Transport

The former Waterside Train Station in the City, a Grade B listed building, served as one of the city's main stations for a century before closing in 1980. However, refurbishment of the Train Station has recently taken place to provide the New North-West Transport Hub. The project is delivered by Translink along with funding from the EU and investment by the Department for Infrastructure, Department for Transport, Tourism and Sport in the Republic of Ireland, along with Derry City and Strabane District Council. The project also includes a new greenway link to the city centre and a new Park and Ride. The refurbishment should encourage a modal shift from car to public transport and other sustainable modes of transport and restores the landmark building as an important gateway to the north

Public bus services for Derry City and Strabane are provided primarily by Translink/Ulsterbus. Ulsterbus also work in co-operation with Bus Eireann and NI Railways with Iarnród Éireann to provide cross-border bus and rail link services between Dublin and Belfast. Bus depots are situated in Foyle Street, Derry and at Bradley Way in Strabane. The frequency of some routes varies depending on days of the week or for example school terms. DCSDC LDP Evidence Base Paper EVB 11 highlights details and deficiencies of Transportation across the Council area.

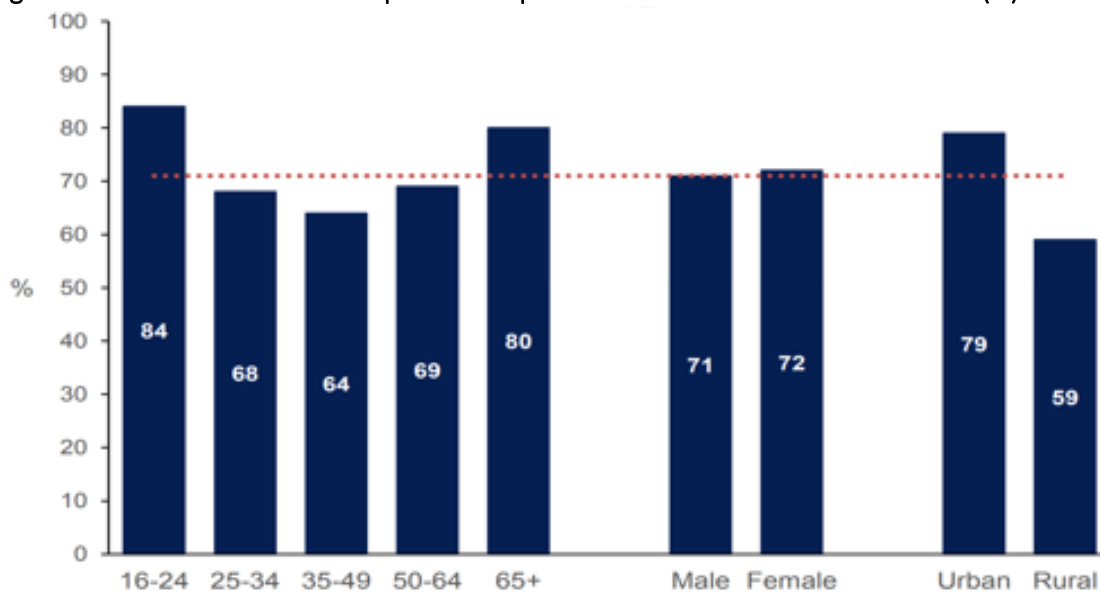
Figure: 5.8.5: Key Transport Infrastructure for DCSDC



Source: Spatial NI, Translink 2015

71% of respondents to the NISRA study for Attitudes to Walking, Cycling and Public Transport were satisfied with facilities in their area. Of those who were not satisfied, the main reason was reported as, ‘not enough services’ and ‘lack of direct services to destination’. A greater proportion of respondents to the survey who were in urban areas (79%) said they were satisfied with provisions. In contrast only 59% of respondents in rural areas expressed they were satisfied. Among all age groups the main reason for dissatisfaction with the transport situation was ‘not enough services’. The figure below shows the contrast of respondent’s opinions over individual groups.

Figure 5.8.6: Satisfaction with the public transport situation and facilities in their area (%)



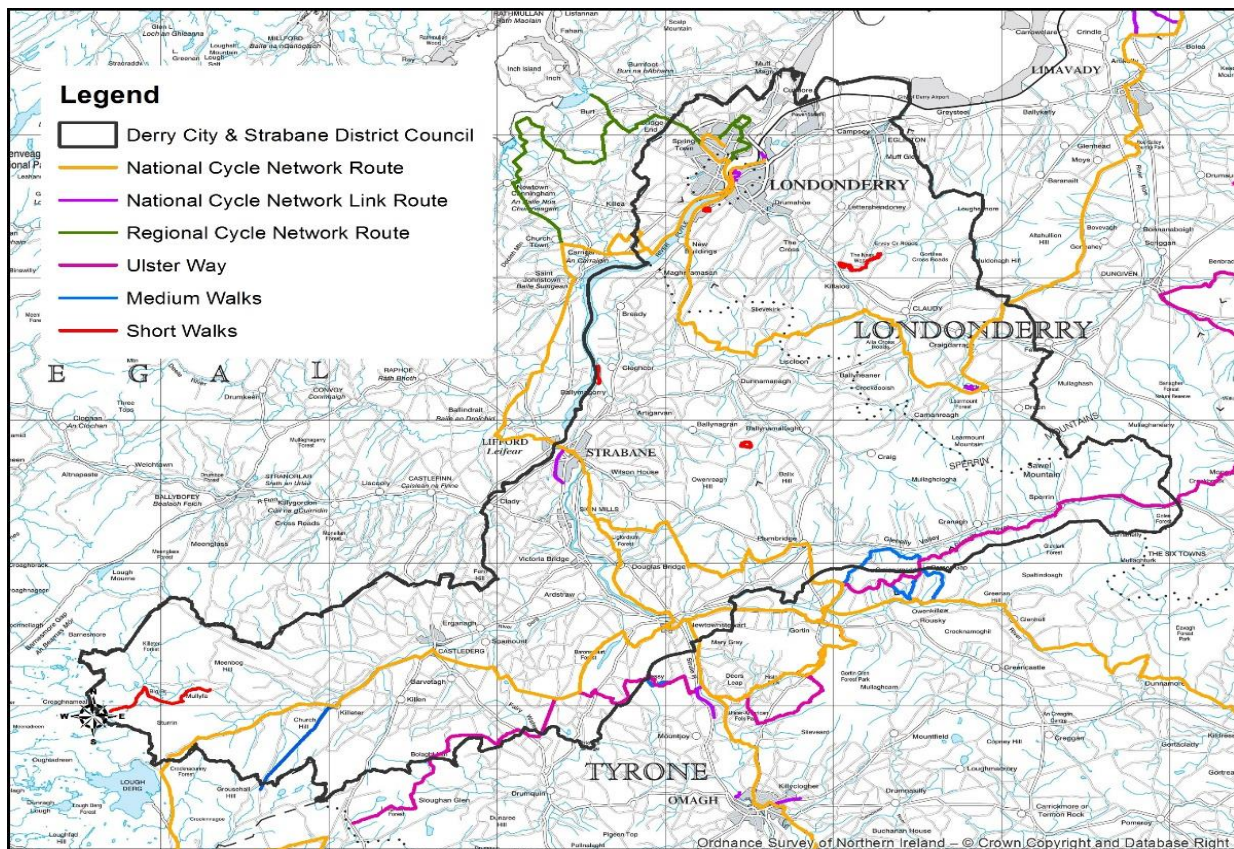
Source: DfI findings from NISRA Continuous Household Survey 2018/2019

Within Derry City and Strabane District Council area 73% of people are satisfied with public transport provisions<sup>1</sup>. This ranks 5<sup>th</sup> highest over all the Local Government Districts in NI.

### Active Travel

Walking and cycling routes can connect communities to local facilities and services, as well as areas of open space and the wider countryside. The concept of active travel can enable people to be self-reliant for their travel needs without using a vehicle but also provide benefits for local air quality and people's health and wellbeing. The LDP can help to encourage and facilitate active travel routes in new developments and projects as well as enhance existing areas. Figure 5.8.8 shows a number of medium and short walking routes as well as established cycling routes within the District.

Figure 5.8.7: Cycling Routes and Medium or Short Walking Routes in DCSDC



Source: Sustrans, WalkNI

### Greenways

The North West Greenway Network is a project led by the Council working in partnership with Donegal County Council, DfI and Sustrans (the UK based walking and cycling charity). The Forum aims to develop a 46.5km cross border greenway in the North West by December 2021. 30 km of greenway already exists in the District called the Derry-Londonderry Urban Greenway Network which includes the Foyle Valley Greenway and the Waterside Greenway. The Strabane Pedestrian Bridge, which has improved access and connectivity into the town centre from the outlying housing developments is another example that promotes active travel thereby reducing the need for car travel into the town centre.

To encourage more active travel a number of barrier will clearly need overcome in order to change the behaviour of commuters in the District. Whilst there are pedestrian and cycle ways available within the District, travelling by car remains the most common mode of transport. As a council where

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/infrastructure/attitudes-to-walking-cycling-and-public-transport-in-northern-ireland-2018-2019\\_0.pdf](https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/infrastructure/attitudes-to-walking-cycling-and-public-transport-in-northern-ireland-2018-2019_0.pdf)

30% of the population reside in rural areas, public transport options between settlements are limited. Where public transport is available, journeys can often be lengthy. However, the new Waterside Train Station, with improvements to the line may provide better opportunity for onward travel.

The LDP provides an opportunity to encourage a modal shift of people away from using the private car to being able to use other, more sustainable, modes of transport. The Councils involvement in several active travel projects has developed growing networks of walking and cycling routes at The Peace Bridge, Waterside, Foyle Valley, Faughan Valley and Prehen Greenway. By expanding upon these types of local level green infrastructure plans, active travel should be more feasible and in turn provide benefits to connectivity, local air quality, health and wellbeing.

### 5.8.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, the RDS, the SPPS, Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would continue to inform decisions. The areas plans however were prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. In the absence of a LDP it could become more difficult to integrate sustainable travel options to new and existing developments to enable people to reduce their reliance on the car. Opportunities to integrate active travel with blue/green infrastructure plans may also be missed.

### 5.8.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Transport and Accessibility

- The absence of a motorway/dual carriageway between Derry and Belfast continues to accentuate the peripherality of the City and Region. There is a clear infrastructural deficit in the North West and the uptake of public transport is lower than average.
- Car use is the most popular mode of transport in Northern Ireland and this is reflected in Derry City and Strabane District area.
- There are mostly unclassified and B roads across the Council.
- Sustainable travel options are required across the Council area so as to encourage people to use other transport options than private motorised vehicles.
- Currently there is a low level usage of public transport to get to work.
- Providing support for greenways is important to help reduce vehicle use and improve local air quality.
- Sustainable and active travel links need to be integrated to existing and new infrastructure so people can choose other modes of transport to the private car.
- Public transport needs to be improved (cost, congestion, reliability) with adequate links to and from places of employment, housing and town centres.
- Consideration of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 is fundamental to transport development within the region as it could directly impact on air quality by providing more public transport (rail) and rural transport solutions (park & rides, carpooling, taxi schemes).
- There is potential for active travel in a cross border network, linking people and places together.
- The impact of 'Brexit' needs to be carefully considered in light of the impacts upon travel between the DCSDC area and County Donegal. It is estimated that there are 46,654 daily traffic movements at crossing points, (Derry-Bridgend, Derry-Culmore and Strabane-Lifford).
- The reliance/ dependency on private car use in the rural area is significant and should be recognised in the absence of few other practical alternatives.
- There is scope for increasing the use of our Port and Airport.
- Our only rail link could be at risk from climate change.
- Those living in the countryside rely almost exclusively on private car for their daily needs.



## 5.9 Air Quality

### 5.9.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Air quality is an important indicator of local, regional and international environmental conditions as it helps to indicate levels and sources of air pollutants and air pollution trends. Air pollution is both an urban and a rural issue that can affect human health, but when levels of certain substances such as nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide or ammonia are exceeded, the effects on ecosystems can also be adverse.

DAERA and Councils manage air quality in Northern Ireland in compliance with domestic legislation (the Environment Order 2002, the Air Quality Regulations (NI) 2003 and the Air Quality Standards Regulations (NI) 2010). These stem from European Air Quality Directives and the UK Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007. The strategy provides the strategic direction to help meet objectives that will protect human health and ecosystems<sup>1</sup>. A published UK Clean Air Strategy 2019<sup>2</sup> states the main sources of air pollution as transport and industry, and highlights the risks posed to both the environment and human health.

Air quality objectives are set at a regional level and include limits for air pollutants. These are primarily based on ensuring protection of human health and sensitive habitats. Other measures include smoke control areas and Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). Overarching regional planning guidance highlights agriculture, transport and energy supply as the three sectors contributing most to a warming climate in Northern Ireland. All these sources emit other air pollutants in addition to greenhouse gases. Regional policy thus recommends developing policy links between air quality and climate change. Agricultural land makes up a significant amount of land cover in Northern Ireland, and we remain heavily reliant on private car use for journeys, and are mostly dependent on fossil fuels for our energy supply. Air quality does not have a specific planning policy, but under the SPPS it can be a material consideration.

In the draft Programme for Government (dPFG), several outcomes can be linked to good air quality<sup>3</sup>. These include outcomes to live and work sustainably – protecting the environment; to enjoy long healthy, active lives; and to create a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest. Indicators to help us determine progress in achieving all of the draft PFG outcomes include improving air quality, as well as increasing healthy life expectancy, reducing preventable deaths and increasing environmental sustainability. Improving air quality is a fundamental aspect of sustainable development as it is important for the quality of our environment, the health of our society and the sustainability of our economy.

The Council's Community Plan - Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan, 2017-2032, has the three pillars of sustainable development underpinning its vision to be, 'A thriving, prosperous and sustainable City and District with equality of opportunity for all.' The environmental wellbeing pillar of this vision promotes two outcomes - 'We live sustainably, protecting the environment', and 'We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure'. Improving air quality will contribute to the achievement of both of these outcomes. In addition, the social wellbeing pillar of the vision aims for 'long, healthy and fulfilling lives' which would also be supported through measures to help improve air quality.

The Council's Corporate Plan and Performance Improvement Plan 2019/20, supports delivery of the Council's Community Plan; through its objectives, priorities and actions. The Corporate Plan's mission is to 'Deliver improved social, economic and environmental outcomes for everyone.' through four corporate objectives. Collectively these objectives aim to grow the Council and facilitate cultural development, protect the environment, and promote healthy communities, whilst providing effective

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-air-quality-strategy-for-england-scotland-wales-and-northern-ireland-volume-1>

<sup>2</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/770715/clean-air-strategy-2019.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/770715/clean-air-strategy-2019.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Northern Ireland Executive: Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021

cross-functional support services. All of the Corporate Objectives will be more achievable if the importance of maintaining good air quality are adequately considered.

DCSDC has also developed with stakeholders a Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan 2019-2032, which places climate change, biodiversity, economic prosperity, and people and place, as its four strategic themes. The GI Plan will help to ensure delivery of a holistic approach to development where people and places are well connected with multifunctional GI. This should deliver benefits for local air quality by enabling as many people as possible to choose to walk or cycle rather than drive particularly in urban areas. The GI Plan also highlights the importance of green spaces such as parks and treelines in maintaining and increasing natural resilience to issues like air pollution. The LDP and the GI Plan will help DCSDC to futureproof itself, its citizens and the environment by reducing the risk of decreasing air quality.

### 5.9.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information has been presented for air quality in the LDP 2032 Baseline Evidence papers for Public Utilities, Transport and Movement, Open Space and Recreation, as well as under the Natural Environment title<sup>1</sup>. In addition, other sources of information include the DAERA NI Air Quality website, the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report and the NINIS site. The Air Quality topic also overlaps with the Health and Wellbeing, Transport and Accessibility, Climate Change, and the Natural Resources sections of this report.

#### *Air Quality Management Areas*

There are four Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within DCSDC area<sup>2</sup>. These are the Derry AQMA, the Dales Corner AQMA, the Buncrana Road/Racecourse Road AQMA, and the Spencer AQMA. Four AQMAs were revoked in 2018 but some of the remaining AQMAs have been declared since 2005 (Derry AQMA). The most recently declared AQMA was in 2013 (Spencer Road). All of the AQMAs are for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>). NO<sub>2</sub> is primarily released from the combustion of fossil fuels with transport and industry the most likely sources. NO<sub>2</sub> can be a severe respiratory irritant and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) can readily mix with other chemicals to form pollutants like ground level ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) that can also act as a respiratory irritant, as well as being toxic to plants<sup>3</sup>. Impacts on human health are discussed below.

Further information on DCSDC's air quality and monitoring can be accessed at [www.airqualityni.co.uk](http://www.airqualityni.co.uk) where progress reports and screening assessments for DCSDC can also be found.

#### *Smoke Control Areas*

Smoke Control Areas (SCAs) are located within the District Council area<sup>4</sup>. These have been enforced to help improve local air quality by reducing air pollutants like smoke, sulphur dioxide and particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) from the burning of fossil fuels. The SCAs were first introduced in the Strabane area in 2007 – an area where there is still substantial solid fuel burning<sup>5</sup>. The overall aim of the SCAs is to improve local air quality by ensuring only authorised fuels are used with positive benefits for people living in or adjacent to those areas. More information on emissions from residential heating can be found on the DEFRA website<sup>6</sup>.

#### *Air Quality Monitoring*

In Northern Ireland, there are 18 air quality monitoring stations across NI where pollutants that can adversely affect human health (including NO<sub>x</sub>) are measured for<sup>7</sup>. The average annual mean concentration of NO<sub>2</sub> in urban areas has 'remained relatively stable' over recent years but at roadside

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/LDP/Preferred-Options-Paper-\(POP\)/Baseline-Evidence](https://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/LDP/Preferred-Options-Paper-(POP)/Baseline-Evidence)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/laqm/aqma>

<sup>3</sup> DAERA (2019): NI Environmental Statistics Annual Report Issue 11

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/laqm/smoke-control-areas/452>

<sup>5</sup> [https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/reports/cat13/16111011539\\_2015\\_Black\\_Carbon\\_Network\\_Annual\\_Report\\_Final\\_18082016.pdf](https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/reports/cat13/16111011539_2015_Black_Carbon_Network_Annual_Report_Final_18082016.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/reports/cat05/16111011541\\_Defra\\_PAH\\_2015\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/reports/cat05/16111011541_Defra_PAH_2015_annual_report.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> DAERA (2019): NI Environmental Statistics Annual Report Issue 11

sites, 'levels have been variable'<sup>1</sup>. In 2017, NO<sub>2</sub> was monitored across 16 sites, two of which were located in the Council area – Derry Dale's Corner and Derry Rosemount. There were no exceedances recorded within the Council area against target values set under the UK Air Quality Strategy (AQS). NO<sub>2</sub> levels are used as an indicator for PfG reporting and in 2017, positive change was recorded due to decreasing levels. More information is in the NI Environmental Statistics Report 2019. It is noted however that the four AQMAs in the DCSDC for NO<sub>2</sub> emissions have been declared for several years and new measures to reduce emissions are clearly needed. The LDP could help bring measures forward including those to develop and improve sustainable and active travel networks as well as improving connectivity<sup>2</sup>.

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) are chemicals that can be generated from the burning of fossil fuels. They are of particular concern because they can cause cancer. In NI, PAHs are monitored across five sites with one located in the Council area – Derry Brandywell. From 2011, safe AQS target levels for PAHs were exceeded and in 2016 and 2017, both EU and AQS levels of PAHs were exceeded at this site. The site is in a residential area and the high PAH levels have been associated with 'combustion of smoky coal'<sup>3</sup>.

Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) is monitored at two locations in DCSD – Derry Rosemount and Springhill, Strabane<sup>4</sup>. It can be emitted from transport emissions but also from solid fuel burning. In 2017, both locations were found to be below the PM<sub>10</sub> annual mean objective and historically, from 2013, the Springhill site has been below this objective. The Rosemount site is not within an AQMA and consideration of measures may be needed to help reduce emissions and avoid any future breaches. Annual trends for PM<sub>10</sub> appear to be declining.

### *Transport Emissions*

As referred to previously, there are four AQMAs within DCSDC with some declared for over ten years. All are for NO<sub>2</sub>, a pollutant emitted from transport sources. Within the Council area, 71,710 vehicles are registered<sup>5</sup>. In NI, this is the second lowest amount of all Councils however, several main transport corridors are located within the DCSDC including links to Belfast (A6), Dublin (a5) and Donegal (A2, A40)<sup>6</sup>. A significant amount of households at 76%, still have access to one or more cars<sup>7</sup>. Nearly a quarter of the Council's population are without access to any car (24%) and are most likely to be reliant on public transport, taxis and lift sharing but also walking and cycling.

The DfI reported in The Travel Survey for NI, that the car was the most common mode of transport and accounted for 71% of all journeys made<sup>8</sup>. In the Census 2011, it was reported for DCSDC that just over 14% of people working or going to school, went by bus and less than 0.5% went by train<sup>9</sup>. There were similar figures for active travel, with just under 13% of people walking and less than 0.5% cycling. The majority of journeys were made by vehicle at 59% as either a driver or passenger. The private car or van remains the most common mode of transport within the Council area with subsequent impacts for local air quality. More information is in the Transport and Accessibility section of this report.

### *Agricultural Emissions*

Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) is a gas emitted into the air as a result of mostly 'agricultural practices' such as the housing of livestock, the storage and spreading of animal manures and slurries, and the use of

---

<sup>1</sup> DAERA (2019): NI Environmental Statistics Annual Report Issue 11

<sup>2</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/633270/air-quality-plan-detail.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/633270/air-quality-plan-detail.pdf) Section 7.7

<sup>3</sup> DAERA (2019): NI Environmental Statistics Annual Report Issue 11

<sup>4</sup> DCSDC 2018 Updating and Screening Assessment for DCSDC June 2018

<sup>5</sup> NINIS: Travel and Transport - Cars – Private & Company (administrative geographies) 2015-2018

<sup>6</sup> DCSDC: LDP 2030 Transportation and Movement Baseline Evidence Paper October 2016

<sup>7</sup> NINIS: People & Places – Car Ownership Access (administrative geographies)

<sup>8</sup> DCSDC: LDP 2030 Transportation and Movement Baseline Evidence Paper October 2016

<sup>9</sup> NINIS: Census 2011 - Method of travel to work or place of study (Resident Population):KS702NI (administrative geographies)

chemical fertiliser<sup>1</sup>. High emissions are associated with dairy, pig and poultry farming and it has been identified in the UK Clean Air Strategy as one of the main sources of air pollution in NI<sup>2</sup>. Air pollution related to NH<sub>3</sub>, and the associated nitrogen deposition, is known to have a damaging impact on sensitive habitats and species, and ecosystem resilience<sup>3</sup>, but also human health through the generation of secondary particulate matter<sup>4</sup>. In NI, agriculture is the dominant source of NH<sub>3</sub> emissions, with 92% of emission levels derived from livestock, and 8% from the application of nitrogen fertilisers<sup>5</sup>. Since 2001, NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from livestock have increased by 7.4% but emissions from fertilisers have decreased by 0.7%. Overall, however, NH<sub>3</sub> emissions are increasing<sup>6</sup>. The majority of NI's designated sites for nature conservation are exceeding their critical levels, the concentration at which environmental damage occurs<sup>7</sup>. Increased (or more intensive) agricultural activities may further exacerbate this widespread issue. More information on Agriculture is in the Climate Change section of this report.

### Energy Sources

In NI, electricity supplied from renewable energy has more or less increased every year since 2001/02<sup>8</sup>. By 2017/18, 36.4% of total electricity consumed in NI, came from indigenous renewable sources. The majority of this energy came from wind sources but other energy sources could include solar, biomass, heat or anaerobic. This type of diversification in our energy supply helps to reduce carbon emissions and other pollutants from fossil fuel combustion. In NI, the long-term trend shows an increase in the generation and use of renewable electricity<sup>9</sup>. More information is in the Material Assets and Climate Change sections of this report.

### Human Health

There is an important link between air quality and human health. In the UK Clean Air Strategy, traffic emissions were highlighted as one of the top sources of air pollution problems and that, 'It causes more harm than passive smoking.'<sup>10</sup> It is estimated that in the UK, life expectancy is shortened by eight months because of poor air quality<sup>11</sup>. Public Health England<sup>12</sup> estimates that in NI around 553 deaths annually may be attributed to pollution from particulates. In the report on local mortality due to air pollution, it is stated that, 'current levels of particulate air pollution have a considerable impact on public health.' It is not just mortality but also hospital admissions that are affected. As previously referred to, NO<sub>2</sub> can irritate the lungs and reduce resistance to respiratory infections with prolonged exposure particularly dangerous for children<sup>13</sup>. Domestic coal burning is a contributor to PM pollution<sup>14</sup> which can cause heart and lung issues with carcinogenic risks. In DCSDC, the standardised death rate from respiratory disease in the under 75s was 43.7 per 100,000 of the population. This was much higher than the NI average of 34 and the second highest relative to the other Councils<sup>15</sup>.

#### 5.9.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan and without up to date spatial information, there may be a greater risk of decreasing air quality through inappropriately located development. There would likely be fewer opportunities to integrate measures to help people opt for more sustainable modes of travel

<sup>1</sup> DAERA: NI Environmental Statistics Annual Report Issue 11 2019

<sup>2</sup> BBC News: Clean Air Strategy: Traffic Pollution 'significant problem' in NI. January 2019

<sup>3</sup> Air Pollution Information System UK

<sup>4</sup> DAERA: NIEA DCSDC Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report consultation response dated 21/08/2017

<sup>5</sup> DAERA: NI Environmental Statistics Annual Report Issue 11 2019

<sup>6</sup> DAERA: NI Environmental Statistics Annual Report Issue 11 2019

<sup>7</sup> Defra: UK Air Information Resource – Report: Trends Report 2019: Trends in critical load and critical level exceedances in the UK

<sup>8</sup> DAERA: NI Environmental Statistics Annual Report Issue 11 2019

<sup>9</sup> DAERA: NI Environmental Statistics Annual Report Issue 11 2019

<sup>10</sup> DEFRA: UK Clean Air Strategy 2019

<sup>11</sup> DAERA presentation for draft Programme for Government Air Quality Stakeholder Consultation, August 2016

<sup>12</sup> Public Health England

<sup>13</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/332854/PHE\\_CRCE\\_010.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/332854/PHE_CRCE_010.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> DAERA: NI Environmental Statistics Annual Report Issue 11 2019

<sup>15</sup> DCSDC Environmental Health Office Scoping Report Update November 2018 consultation

<sup>16</sup> NINIS: Health and Social Care – Standardised Death Rate – Respiratory Under 75 (administrative geographies) 2004-2013

including public transport, cycling and walking. Likewise, there may be a greater risk of losing land to certain types of development where it could otherwise help to maintain local air quality. There would be less opportunity to deliver sustainable infrastructure and land use that will reduce public exposure to air pollutants.

#### 5.9.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Air Quality

- There are four active Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within the District Council area and all four are for nitrogen dioxide from transport sources.
- There are smoke control areas across the DCSDC area, where authorised fuels must be used. The Strabane area has a particularly high amount of solid fuel burning.
- A significant amount of households – 76%, have access to one or more car and the car or van is the most common mode of transport making up 59% of work or school related journeys.
- Measures within the LDP are needed to help facilitate and encourage people to use public transport or to walk or cycle rather than use the private car or van for daily journeys.
- Measures to reduce ammonia emissions from the agriculture sector would likely help to improve local air quality with positives for human health and climate change objectives.
- Measures to develop and integrate appropriate renewables to the energy system would likely help to improve air quality with positives for human health and climate change objectives.
- In the DCSDC, respiratory related deaths are much higher than the NI average and so improving air quality will be particularly important for public health.
- Partnership working with other agencies and Councils will be needed to help ensure sustainable land use with compatible adjacent land uses that protect local air quality and enable reduced travel to facilities and services.

## 5.10 Climate Change

### 5.10.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Greenhouse gases (GHG) - carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and fluorinated gases - have been entering the atmosphere at an accelerated rate since the Industrial Revolution. These additional gases are mostly from fossil fuel combustion but also deforestation and agricultural practices. They add to background levels and increase the natural warming of the planet - the 'greenhouse effect'. Climate scientists have estimated that the earth's atmosphere has already warmed from pre-Industrial Revolution times by nearly 1°C and that global sea levels have increased by 15-20 centimetres with thermal expansion and ice loss from glaciers and land<sup>1</sup>.

Reducing GHG emissions is the only way to mitigate human-induced climate change so the RDS recommends we reduce our carbon footprint, adapt to climate change and deliver a sustainable and secure energy supply. In the SPPS, climate change is viewed as a central challenge to achieving sustainable development. The SPPS promotes the planning system as a tool to shape new and existing developments to help combat climate change by promoting sustainable patterns of development and transport, with renewables, energy efficiency and green/blue infrastructure accounted for. It details mitigation and adaptation for climate change. Planning Policy Statement 18 'Renewable Energy' (PPS18) sets out policy for renewables in NI. It encourages their integration to improve our security of energy supply, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, and lower our carbon emissions<sup>2</sup>.

The UK level Climate Change Risk Assessment Reports have already highlighted the importance of focusing more action and further research on flooding and coastal change; the health risks from higher temperatures, water shortages, natural capital, food trade; and new pests, diseases and invasive species. In NI's first Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP) the focus was on flooding, water, natural capital, agriculture and forestry. Flooding was identified as 'potentially one of the most significant and urgent risks' in NI<sup>3</sup>. Flooding has already affected people living within the Council area and in response DCSDC has produced, the first local-level based Climate Adaptation Plan in NI, aimed at developing climate change resilient communities<sup>4</sup>. In NI's second CCAP 2019-2024<sup>5</sup>, central government details how to address the current risks and opportunities to NI. Planning is referred to in the Plan's Executive Summary, as 'essential to managing the resilience of our society and natural environment to an uncertain future, as well as for the known current and projected impacts of a changing climate.'

The NI Executive's draft PfG<sup>6</sup> includes 14 strategic outcomes with 42 indicators of success. One of the outcomes is 'to live and work sustainably – protecting the environment'. There are nine indicators to help achieve progress on this outcome. These include increasing innovation in our economy, increasing use of public transport and active travel, increasing environmental sustainability (by measuring GHGs), increasing household waste recycling, and improving air quality. Action on all of these indicators, will help to combat the effects of climate change and deliver on sustainability.

The Council's Corporate Plan and Performance Improvement Plan 2019/20, supports delivery of the Council's Community Plan (Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan, 2017-2032); through its objectives, priorities and actions. The Corporate Plan's mission is to 'Deliver improved social, economic and environmental outcomes for everyone.' through four corporate objectives. Collectively these objectives aim to grow the Council and facilitate cultural development, protect the environment, and promote healthy communities, whilst providing effective cross-functional support services. All of the

---

<sup>1</sup> UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Synthesis Report 2016

<sup>2</sup> Department of Environment August (2009): Planning Policy Statement 18: Renewable Energy

<sup>3</sup> Department of Environment (2014): Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.derrystrobane.com/Council/News/Council-leading-the-way-on-tackling-climate-change>

<sup>5</sup> DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme

<sup>6</sup> Northern Ireland Executive: Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021

Corporate Objectives will be more achievable if the potential impacts of climate change on DCSDC are adequately considered.

DCSDC is already acting on the potential impacts of climate change on its economy, people and environment and has developed with stakeholders a Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan 2019-2032. The GI Plan places climate change as one of its four strategic themes, alongside biodiversity, economic prosperity, and people and place. Climate change mitigation and adaptation is listed as one of the potential benefits and functions of GI. The GI Plan will help to ensure delivery of a holistic approach to development where people and places are well connected with multifunctional GI. This holistic approach to land use should help to combat the effects of climate change by integrating GI that can help manage run off, act as floodplain, provide cooler areas and shade, as well as enable as many people as possible to opt for walking or cycling for their daily journeys. The Plan's approach to the integration of green spaces as functionally important land will also help to increase overall natural resilience within the natural and built environment. The Council has also produced the first Council level Climate Adaptation Plan<sup>1</sup> and has established a climate emergency working group<sup>2</sup> within the Council. Cumulatively these plans will help to futureproof the Council area to the effects of climate change.

### 5.10.2 Baseline Information

Relevant information can be found across multiple sources including the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS), The NI Environmental Statistics Report, and The NI Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Baseline information has also been presented within the Baseline Evidence papers for the LDP for the topics of Open Space and Recreation, Coastal Development, Natural Environment, Renewable Energy, Transport and Movement, and Public Utilities<sup>3</sup>. The Climate Change topic also overlaps with the Health and Wellbeing, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport and Accessibility, Air Quality, Water, Natural Resources, Landscape, and the Historic Environment sections of this report.

#### *International context*

In 1988, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was set up by the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Program. The IPCC's role is to provide Assessment Reports based on scientific and technical information, with response strategies – adaptation and mitigation - to the predicted impacts of human-induced climate change. The IPCC's first assessment report was in 1990 and helped create the international United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The IPCC delivers regular reports on climate change issues and its fourth in 2007, began to integrate climate change with sustainable development policies. The fifth Assessment Report (AR5) was released between 2013 and 2014. In it, levels of GHG are reported as the highest they have been since the pre-industrial era. Atmospheric concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O are the highest they have been in the last 800,000 years. Their effects are extremely likely to be the dominant cause of observed global warming since the 1950s. It reports that GHG emissions need to reduce by 40-70% by 2050 to have a likely chance of avoiding the 2°C increase.

In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, known as the Earth Summit, partially led to the UNFCCC - the Global Warming Convention. The UNFCCC led to countries committing to reduce their GHG emissions to help combat climate change under the Kyoto Protocol (1997). The Kyoto Protocol set internationally binding emission reductions. Heavier burdens were placed on developed nations, where the amount of GHG emissions was higher. The United Kingdom (UK) and Ireland were both signatories. Although the Protocol was adopted in the 1990s, the first commitment period did not start until 2008. We are now in the second commitment period, from 2013 to 2020, and an 18% reduction in GHG emissions on 1990 levels is expected<sup>4</sup>. The UNFCCC was

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.derrystrabane.com/Council/News/Council-leading-the-way-on-tackling-Climate-change>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.climateemergency.uk/blog/derry-city-strabane/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/LDP/Preferred-Options-Paper-\(POP\)/Baseline-Evidence](https://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/LDP/Preferred-Options-Paper-(POP)/Baseline-Evidence)

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Climate Change (UNCC) [The Paris Agreement](https://unfccc.int/) <https://unfccc.int/>

created to help reduce global warming and cope with its consequences and it remains the key international treaty to do this<sup>1</sup>. The UK is an independent signatory and remains committed to fulfil its international obligations.

In 2016, the UNFCCC met in Paris to discuss strengthening the global response to climate change. With the support of 196 countries, the Paris Agreement was made. It aims to pursue efforts to limit temperature increase to 1.5°C or less on pre-industrial levels. Ambitious GHG reductions from 2020 in Nationally Determined Contributions are requirements of this agreement. In total, 179 out of 197 countries have ratified the Paris Agreement, including the UK and Ireland<sup>2</sup>.

#### *UK Context*

The UK was the first country to have a legally binding commitment to reduce GHG emissions with the UK Climate Change Act 2008<sup>3</sup>. It led to the formation of the independent body, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), and the CCC's Adaptation Sub-Committee. These advise the UK and devolved administrations on carbon budgets and preparing for climate change. The devolved administrations of the United Kingdom (UK) are expected to contribute to the reductions stated in the Climate Change Act, which means by 2050 an 80% reduction of GHG emissions based on 1990 levels should be evident. The latest projections published by DAERA<sup>4</sup> in December 2017 indicate that GHG emissions will be 31.2% lower in 2030 than in 1990, which is close to the target. The 2008 Act also requires the UK to produce a report every five years on the risks and opportunities from climate change. The first Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) was produced in 2012.

The second CCRA Evidence Report 2017<sup>5</sup> highlighted the following six priority risk areas:

- flooding and coastal change
- health and well-being from high temperatures
- water shortages
- natural capital
- food production/trade, and
- new pests/diseases and non-natives

The most recent land and marine climate projections for the UK (UKCP18) were published in November 2018. Prior to the publication of UKCP18, the previous climate projections used were UKCP09, published in December 2009.

#### *NI Context*

In the UK's CCRA 2017, additional priority risks were identified for NI where more action and further research are needed<sup>6</sup>. How central government plans to address these risks and opportunities is in the second NI Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP) 2019-2024<sup>7</sup>. NI's initial Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2014, identified Councils as 'particularly well placed to raise awareness and provide leadership through their responsibilities', on climate change issues.

The aim of the NICCAP 2019-2024 is to build 'a resilient Northern Ireland which will take timely and well-informed decisions are taken to address the socio-economic and environmental impacts of climate change.'

It focuses on five key priority areas:

- natural capital – land/coast/marine/freshwater, ecosystems, soils and biodiversity
- infrastructure services

---

<sup>1</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) <http://www.ipcc.ch/index.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/status-of-ratification>

<sup>3</sup> Defra 2012: [A Climate Change Risk Assessment for Northern Ireland](#)

<sup>4</sup> DAERA Statistics and Analytical Services Branch [Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Projections Update](#) published 15/12/2016

<sup>5</sup> HM Government January (2017): The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme



- people and built environment
- disruption to business and supply chains
- food security/global food production

Of these five priorities, seven strategic outcomes have been identified for NI with associated risks and opportunities also identified. Cumulatively all of the strategic outcomes or ‘visions’ will increase the resilience of NI to the impacts of climate change including flooding and other extreme weather events. For example, in the UK, it has been estimated that approximately 2000 people die each year due to the effects of heat<sup>1</sup>, with this figure likely to increase with predicted temperature increases and more frequent exposure to the sun.

### *NI Climate Scenarios*

Climate change is one of the top four environmental concerns amongst the general public in NI, with 27% of households reporting it in 2017/18<sup>2</sup>. According to the UKCP18, by 2100, winters and summers will both be warmer; winters will have more precipitation and summers will have less. However, natural variations mean that some cold winters, some dry winters, some cool summers and some wet summers will still occur. Under a mid-range emissions scenario, sea level rise at Belfast will be 0.18 to 0.64 metres higher than the 1981-2000 average; and extreme weather events will be more likely<sup>3</sup>.

Queens University Belfast manages nine climate-monitoring stations across NI for temperature and precipitation<sup>4</sup>. Climate projections informed by this monitoring predict that average temperatures will increase and become progressively warmer toward the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Temperature increase will occur in all seasons, with inland areas showing a larger degree of warming than coastal areas. Summers will be drier and winters wetter but overall precipitation will fall slightly. In The NI Environmental Statistics Report 2019, an increasing average temperature has been recorded over the last 100 years. The top ten warmest years in the UK have been recorded since 1990<sup>5</sup>. All of these climate variations are likely to need to be factored into planning related decision-making.

### *Greenhouse Gas Emissions*

In 2017, NI accounted for 4.3% of UK GHG emissions. These were estimated to be equivalent to 20 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions accounted for 68% of all GHG emissions in Northern Ireland. It was the most common gas emitted from most sectors but not agriculture, or waste management. Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) was a more significant GHG from both of these sectors because of livestock and landfill. Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) was the other significant GHG emission from the agriculture sector. This is a difficult GHG to both measure and reduce. NI accounts for a much larger share of the UK’s emissions of these gases due to the economic importance of agriculture in NI<sup>6</sup>. Overall, there was a decrease in GHG emissions of 3% compared to 2016 and the longer-term trend showed a decrease of 18% compared to the 1990 baseline year<sup>7</sup>.

The largest sectors in terms of emissions in 2017 were agriculture (27%), transport (23%), energy supply (17%), residential (13%) and business (12%). GHG emissions from these sectors are by-products from farming practices, vehicle emissions and the general burning of fossil fuels for energy/electricity or heating. Most sectors have shown a decreasing trend in emissions since the base year. The largest decreases have been in the energy supply, residential and waste management sectors. These were driven by improvements in energy efficiency, fuel switching from coal to natural gas, which became available in the late 1990s, and the introduction of methane capture and oxidation

<sup>1</sup> UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017: Evidence Report - Summary for Northern Ireland – People and the Built Environment

<sup>2</sup> DAERA (May 2019): The Northern Ireland Environmental Statistic Annual Report 2019 Issue: 11 – Figure 1.7

<sup>3</sup> Department of Environment (2014): Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme

<sup>4</sup> Mullan et al (2012): Developing site-specific future temperature scenarios for Northern Ireland: addressing key issues employing a statistical downscaling approach. *International Journal of Climatology*, 32(13): 2007-2019; and presentation from Dr D. Mullan QUB

<sup>5</sup> *International Journal of Climatology: The State of the UK Climate 2017* Volume 38 Issue S2

<sup>6</sup> Defra 2012: [A Climate Change Risk Assessment for Northern Ireland](#)

<sup>7</sup> DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

systems in landfill management<sup>1</sup>. Between 2016 and 2017, GHG emissions decreased most from the energy supply sector (15.1%) but increases were evident from transport (+0.4%), agriculture (+1.2%), and land use change(+9.8%).

Figure 5.10.1: Greenhouse Gas Emissions in NI 2017 by gas

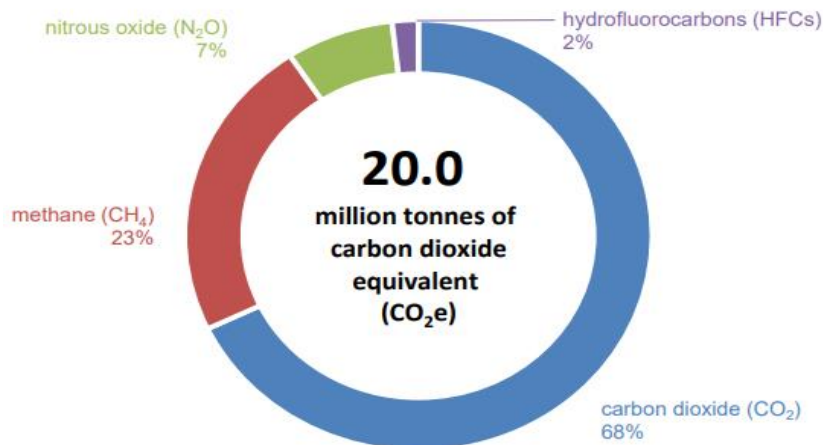
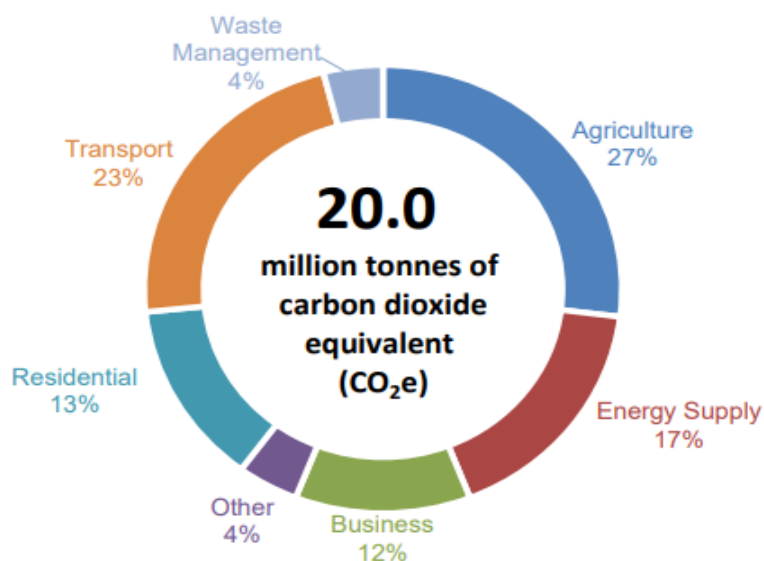


Figure 5.10.2: Greenhouse Gas Emissions in NI 2017 by sector



Source Figures 5.10.1&2: NI GHG 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin 2019

The transport and agriculture sectors both showed higher emissions in 2017 than in the baseline year with a 30.2% increase from the transport sector due to more vehicles on the road and a 2% increase from the agriculture sector due to more livestock. Four other sectors are also accountable for GHG emissions. These are industrial processes, land use change, public and waste management. Of these, the land use change sector has shown a 23% increase in emissions from the baseline year. This reflects conversions as well as losses from semi-natural land cover to developed land<sup>2</sup>.

The NI Executive's target to reduce GHG emissions on 1990 levels by at least 35% by 2025 is in place<sup>3</sup>. The draft PfG's outcome 'to live and work sustainably – protecting the environment' uses GHG emissions as an indicator of progress toward meeting this outcome. It uses NI's 2014 figure for

<sup>1</sup> DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

<sup>2</sup> DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

<sup>3</sup> [www.theccc.org.uk](http://www.theccc.org.uk)

MtCO<sub>2</sub>e and based on this, we are currently neither failing nor succeeding to meet that measure and outcome<sup>1</sup>.

### *Greenhouse Gas Emitting Sectors*

#### *Agriculture*

In 2017, the agriculture sector continued to be the largest contributor of GHG emissions in Northern Ireland, totalling 27% of all emissions and an increase of 2% on baseline levels. Livestock and nitrogen fertiliser are two sources and account for 92% and 8% of all ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) emissions<sup>2</sup>. The agriculture sector is also the main source of CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O, accounting for 85% and 90% of total emissions. Although the sector emits a relatively low amount of CO<sub>2</sub>, it emits N<sub>2</sub>O to a significant level. Farming is an important part of NI's economy so there is a responsibility to develop effective measures that will help reduce GHG emissions like N<sub>2</sub>O and NH<sub>3</sub> even if they are difficult to estimate.

According to NINIS, there are 1771 farms in the Council area and these include cattle, sheep, pig and poultry<sup>3</sup>. There are six other Council areas with a higher number of farms but in terms of area, DCSDC is in the middle with 97,080 hectares of land farmed. A significant proportion of this land is classified as very small farms or small, at nearly 88% but 12% is classified as medium or large. Cumulatively, there is a substantial amount of agricultural land within the DCSDC area with sheep and cattle farming the most popular but crops also prominent. Measures to reduce GHG emissions could include steps to improve soil management, avoid soil erosion, adopt organic farming methods and adopt new technologies. More information is in the Physical Resources section of this report.

#### *Transport*

In 2017, the transport sector accounted for 23% of all GHG emissions in NI and an increase of 30.2% on baseline levels. This reflects the reliance people have in NI for motorised vehicles. It is a significant contributor of CO<sub>2</sub> but also nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) emitted from the combustion of fossil fuels. NO<sub>2</sub> can cause respiratory issues and is partly why in the UK from 2040, all vehicles will be electric or hybrid, as diesel and petrol vehicles will be banned<sup>4</sup>. By 2050, all cars in the UK are likely to be ultra-low emission vehicles. New transport and residential developments need to be encouraged to consider future changes in the transport system. Likewise, the LDP should be used to help reduce GHG emissions from transport by providing accessible walking and cycling routes as well as adequate public transport options. Spatial planning of land use should provide the most effective local and regional level travel routes but help to reduce car dependency and increase use of sustainable and active travel. More information is in the Transport and Accessibility, and Air Quality sections of this report.

#### *Energy Supply*

The energy sector (energy generation and heat production) has been one of the main contributors to reductions in GHG emissions with a 35.7% reduction from 1990 to 2017<sup>5</sup>. The energy supply sector in NI has had the largest reduction in GHG emissions of all the sectors. This is due to the switch from coal and oil to natural gas, improved energy efficiency and the uptake in renewables<sup>6</sup>. There are currently two gas-fired power stations in NI - Ballylumford and Coolkeeragh<sup>7</sup>. A third is planned for the Belfast Harbour Estate<sup>8</sup>. Gas is less carbon intensive and more energy efficient than coal and oil, so preferred in terms of GHG emissions and efficiency. The transition from coal and oil has helped to reduce GHG emissions from the energy sector. As policy directs the energy market toward reduced GHG emissions and a low carbon future, changes in sources and production will have to occur. These include diversity of renewables, battery storage and carbon capture projects, and a grid that can

---

<sup>1</sup> DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

<sup>2</sup> DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report – 2019

<sup>3</sup> Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service: Agriculture & Environment - Farm Census (administrative geographies) 2018

<sup>4</sup> [www.climatenorthernireland.org](http://www.climatenorthernireland.org)

<sup>5</sup> DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

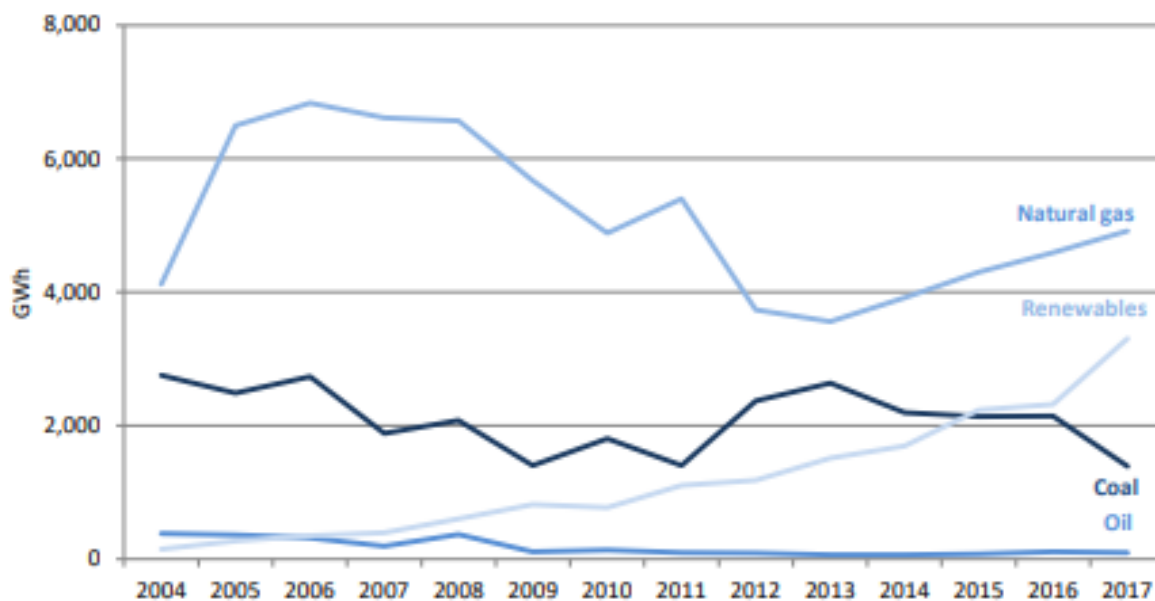
<sup>6</sup> DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016 Issue 8 March 2016

<sup>7</sup> Department for the Economy (June 2018): Energy in Northern Ireland 2018

<sup>8</sup> <https://evermoreenergy.com/belfastpowerstation/>

enable multiple renewable connections including for prosumers i.e. small-scale producers. More information is in the Material Assets section of this report.

**Figure 5.10.2: Electricity generated by Fuel Type in NI**



Source: DAERA, NI Carbon Intensity Indicators 2019 (Published 24 October 2019)

### Renewable Energy

Renewable energy is not reliant upon fossil fuel combustion and can help reduce GHG emissions from the energy sector because it uses natural energy with a low or zero carbon footprint. The NI Executive endorsed a target of 40% of electricity consumption to be from renewables by 2020 whilst the UK has a target to reduce GHG emissions from 1990 baseline levels by 80% by 2050 (UK Climate Change Act). In 2017/18, 36.4% of NI's electricity needs was from renewable sources - a significant increase in electricity generated from renewable sources since 2001/02<sup>1</sup>.

The main sources of renewable energy in NI are wind, solar, hydropower, heat (from air, ground, water) and biomass<sup>2</sup> with onshore windfarms the most established source of renewable electricity. In the DCSDC, there are 17 approved windfarms and 9 under consideration<sup>3</sup>. The Strabane legacy District Council area has historically had the highest number of renewable energy sites at 44 and generated the most renewable energy at 401,165 (MWh) within NI<sup>4</sup>. NINIS data shows that all of the above mentioned renewables are evident in the DCSDC area as well as anaerobic digestion and landfill gas but the annual approval rate for renewable projects tends to be well below the NI average<sup>5</sup>. This likely reflects the difficulty in protecting the environment and residential amenity from inappropriate development. More information is in the Material Assets and Physical Resources sections of this report.

### Residential

The residential sector remains a top contributor to GHG emissions within NI despite decreases in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since the base year in 1990<sup>6</sup>. NI remains dependent on fossil fuels for home heating but in recent years, there has been a transition away from coal and oil to gas. In the 2011 Census, nearly 70% of households in DCSDC were recorded as using oil and only 5.19% using gas<sup>7</sup>. Emissions from

<sup>1</sup> DAERA: Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report Issue 11 May 2019

<sup>2</sup> DCSDC LDP Baseline Evidence Paper – Public Service and Utilities December 2016

<sup>3</sup> DCSDC LDP Baseline Evidence Paper – Renewable Energy October 2016

<sup>4</sup> DCSDC LDP Baseline Evidence Paper – Renewable Energy October 2016

<sup>5</sup> NINIS: People & Places – Planning applications and decisions granted (administrative geographies) 2002-2018

<sup>6</sup> DAERA: Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report Issue 11 May 2019

<sup>7</sup> NINIS: Census 2011 – Central Heating: KS04NI (administrative geographies)

houses can be linked to not just their source of fuel heating but also their energy efficiency and their location to key services. The LDP could be used to help facilitate and encourage low carbon lifestyles and help to reduce GHG emissions from the residential sector, as well as better equip communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Measures to do this could include green building design, access to renewables, native planting schemes, integration of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and connection to walking and cycling routes.

### *Waste Management*

The waste management sector is responsible for 4% of GHG emissions and has seen a 56.8% decrease in GHG emissions from 1990 to 2017<sup>1</sup>. Methane is a powerful GHG and the dominant GHG emitted from the waste management sector due to landfilling practices<sup>2</sup>. There has been a decreasing trend in emissions from the sector since the 1990 baseline year due to the closure of landfills and methane capture.

There is no landfill capacity in the DCSDC area but there are 12 Civic Amenity Sites including a multi-million pound waste and recycling centre located in Strabane<sup>3</sup>. As a member of the Northwest Region Waste Management Group, the Council is committed to the Waste Management Hierarchy and the need to reduce reliance on landfill and promote recycling and energy recovery. In 2017, a rate of 46.03% was recorded for the reusing/recycling/composting of municipal waste<sup>4</sup>. This is below the NI average of 47.63%. More information is in the Material Assets section of this report.

### *Impacts of climate change*

#### *Flooding*

Increased incidences of flooding are one of the predicted impacts of climate change. This is expected due to increased levels of precipitation, as well as extreme weather events with surface and river flooding more likely<sup>5</sup>. Flooding has been identified as '*potentially one of the most significant and urgent risks*' to NI<sup>6</sup>. There are areas along the River Foyle including Derry and Strabane where coastal flooding is expected to exacerbate local flooding due to high tides<sup>7</sup>. The DCSDC has now developed its own Climate Adaptation Plan because of flooding events in 2017 and the negative impact this had on citizens<sup>8</sup>. The EU funded project aims to develop partnerships across the wider North West region to help protect communities from the effects of climate change including floods and extreme weather events.

It is becoming increasingly accepted that having fully functional wetland and coastal ecosystems will help to absorb excess water from flooding events and storm surges<sup>9</sup>. Development in flood risk areas not only places it at risk but can increase flood risk on adjacent sites and downstream, as well as increase pressure on natural floodplains. This places risk on both the natural and built environment. It has been reported that one in ten homes in the UK is in a flood risk area<sup>10</sup>.

The introduction of SuDS within the built environment is a key way to provide sustainable flood relief to homes affected by adverse weather conditions. SuDS not only enable surface water to be minimised whilst protecting the natural and built environment but can also add to local biodiversity and improve the quality of public realm. SuDS are more adaptable to changing environments and weather conditions when compared to regular underground drains<sup>11</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup>DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

<sup>2</sup>DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report – 2019

<sup>3</sup>DCSDC LDP Baseline Evidence Paper – Public Services and Utilities December 2016

<sup>4</sup>NINIS: Agriculture and Environment - [Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Recycling \(administrative geographies\)](#)

<sup>5</sup>DCSDC LDP Evidence Baseline Paper – Coastal Development December 2016

<sup>6</sup>DAERA Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2014

<sup>7</sup>DCSDC LDP Evidence Baseline Paper – Coastal Development December 2016

<sup>8</sup><https://www.derrystrabane.com/Council/News/Council-leading-the-way-on-tackling-Climate-change>

<sup>9</sup>SEPA (2016) Natural Flood Management Handbook

<sup>10</sup>[www.climatenorthernireland.org.uk](http://www.climatenorthernireland.org.uk)

<sup>11</sup>Ashley, RM, Walker, AL, D'Arcy, B et al. (5 more authors) (2015) UK sustainable drainage systems: past, present and future. Proceedings of ICE - Civil Engineering, 168 (3). pp. 125-130

One of the draft PfG outcomes is to '*connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure*' and this could be supported by avoiding development in or near to flood risk areas. More information on flooding is in the Water section of this report.

#### *Coastal flooding and erosion*

DCSDC has a number of key infrastructure projects located along its coast including the main railway line to Coleraine – Belfast - Dublin<sup>1</sup>. Other significant developments include the Coolkeeragh Power Station and the City of Derry Airport. The main settlements of the DCSDC are both located on the River Foyle. The low-lying coastal plains where these developments are located are likely to become increasingly vulnerable to rising sea levels, coastal flooding during storm events, and more prone to coastal erosion.

A 'Baseline Study and Gap Analysis of Coastal Erosion in Northern Ireland', which was jointly commissioned with the Department for Infrastructure was published in January 2019. Amongst the study's aims are to identify the operational needs of both government bodies and local authorities in terms of information required to inform coastal decision-making and identify key considerations to inform the development of policy on coastal erosion. It has included a high-level preliminary vulnerability assessment of coastal erosion along the NI coast.

#### *Biodiversity loss*

Climate change is expected to impact on local biodiversity, as changing climatic factors will cause habitats to alter and species to move<sup>2</sup>. For its size, NI is one of the most geologically diverse areas of the planet<sup>3</sup> so it is critical that the current level of biodiversity is protected, through conservation of its priority habitats and species. These changes could lead to habitat loss and in other areas, non-native species may be able to thrive and outcompete native species and habitats, which may attempt to relocate within their preferred climate. Buffer zones or GI around nature conservation sites and priority habitats could aid future movement of species due to climate change.

#### *Health*

The predicted effects of climate change include higher temperatures, milder winters, higher intensities of rainfall and increased frequency of storm events. All of these weather events bring with them potential risks to human health. With the increasing average temperatures and predicted increases in periods of hot weather, some people may become increasingly vulnerable to heat related illnesses. There is an opportunity with the LDP to develop policies that can facilitate and encourage integration of adaptation measures for climate change by encouraging environmentally sustainable design measures that may provide shade and cool areas, use passive solar design, store rainwater and integrate active travel routes. The SPPS 2035 reinforces how planning can help mitigate and adapt towards climate change, particularly through problems such as extreme heat, which can affect the public's health<sup>4</sup>.

#### *Green Infrastructure Plan*

DCSDC has produced a Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan 2019-2032 and places *climate change* as one of its four Key Strategic Themes. Existing GI has been reviewed and opportunities for new GI investigated. The importance of GI as a natural resource has been highlighted through the development of the GI Implementation Plan, as too has the need for partnership working both within and outside of DCSDC. The Plan promotes how GI, if 'planned, designed and managed' properly can deliver multiple functions. In total, there are 14 GI proposals that are proposed as able to deliver both

---

<sup>1</sup> DCSDC LDP Evidence Baseline Paper – Coastal Development December 2016

<sup>2</sup> Carroll, M.J., Williams, M.A. & Bradbury, R.B. (2015). The Nature of Climate Change: Europe's Wildlife at Risk. Research Report 55. RSPB Centre for Conservation Science, Sandy.

<sup>3</sup> UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report: Summary for Northern Ireland

<sup>4</sup> Department of the Environment: Strategic Planning Policy Statement for NI (SPPS) 2035 September 2015

mitigatory and adaptive benefits for climate change. These include urban tree planting, permeable surfaces, sustainable travel and greening of buildings<sup>1</sup>.

### 5.10.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a LDP, there are likely to be fewer opportunities to integrate sustainable development patterns that can help to reduce GHG emissions by facilitating and encouraging low carbon lifestyles. It could become increasingly difficult to integrate efficient public transport routes that effectively connect people and places, or to integrate walking and cycling routes that people can use for their daily journeys. Without up to date spatial information it could become increasingly difficult to locate appropriate renewable energy projects in the most sustainable locations in relation to both infrastructure and users. Likewise, there could be fewer opportunities to integrate measures that can develop more resilient communities to the impacts of climate change including floods, erosion, biodiversity loss, extreme heat, and water shortages.

### 5.10.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Climate Change

- The LDP should support a low-carbon future in anticipation of new energy and climate change policies as well as evolving energy technologies.
- Agriculture is a significant contributor to GHG emissions and opportunities to reduce emissions within the scope of the LDP should be considered.
- Increased provision of accessible sustainable and active travel routes should be considered for daily journeys to help reduce reliance on the car and GHG emissions from the transport sector.
- The LDP should support and facilitate the delivery of appropriate renewable energy developments that will help to increase the future diversity of renewable energy supplied across all of the DCSDC area.
- New measures to protect infrastructure on the coast, including DCSDC's only rail link, are likely to be needed to help avoid impacts from coastal flooding and erosion, and rising sea levels.
- Spatial planning should help to avoid priority habitats including wetlands and peatlands that can store water and carbon and help to maintain natural resilience and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- The LDP should facilitate and encourage integration of measures to enable adaptation to the effects of climate change such as green building design, native planting schemes, and integration of GI including SuDS.
- A cross-sectoral approach involving various stakeholders will be needed to further develop and deliver climate change action plans including the GI Plan 2019-2032 and DCSDC's Climate Adaptation Plan.

---

<sup>1</sup> DCSDC: Green Infrastructure Plan 2019-2032

## 5.11 Water

### 5.11.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

This topic encompasses water as a resource for ecological services, water supply and treatment. It also considers the management of water storage and flow, flood risk and measures to avoid or manage flood risk.

European Directives and regional legislation, plans and strategies seek to protect the quality and supply of water to maintain natural resources and protect human health. The 'Water Framework Directive' (2000/60/EC) requires waterbodies to be protected from deterioration and, where necessary and practicable, to be restored to 'good' status. The 'Groundwater Daughter Directive' (2006/118/EC) includes criteria for the assessment of 'good' chemical status and for identifying and reversing upward trends in pollution of groundwater. The Nitrate Directive (91/676/EEC) and Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive (96/61/EC) also require the implementation of standards for the control and prevention of pollution of water by nitrates from agricultural sources and phosphorus and other pollutants from agricultural, industrial and waste water sources.

The Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) (91/271/EEC) is designed to reduce the pollution of freshwater, estuarine and coastal waters by domestic sewage and industrial wastewater (collectively known as urban waste water). The Directive sets minimum standards for the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water. Minimum standards for the provision of sewerage systems and treatment of sewage are set by the Directive according to the population served by sewage treatment works, and the sensitivity of receiving waters. The 'Floods Directive' (2007/60/EC) requires flood risk to be assessed and mapped and management plans to be developed for the most significant flood risk areas.

At the NI level, each of these Directives has been transposed into local legislation in order to facilitate their implementation. These include regulations to prevent pollution, to control the use of water through either abstraction or impoundment and to protect water supplies. There are also a number of pieces of drainage legislation to control water levels and flows.

Three main River Basin Districts (RBD) have been identified in NI under the Water Framework Directive (WFD): the North Eastern (NE), the Neagh – Bann (NB) and the North Western (NW) RBDs. River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the WFD, taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile, as well as wetlands which are directly associated with ground or surface water. In 2013, separate EU Directives for the protection of waters supporting shellfish and freshwater fish and to control the discharge of certain polluting substances were subsumed into the WFD, to allow the legislation covering water quality to be streamlined.

Under the WFD, each member state must also create and maintain a register of protected areas. The register consists of an inventory of protected area sites representing the protected area categories outlined below:

- Waters used for the abstraction of drinking water (drinking water protected areas);
- Areas designated to protect economically significant aquatic species (these are areas designated under the former Freshwater Fish and Shellfish Directives);
- Recreational waters designated under the Bathing Water Quality Directive (2006/7/EC);
- Nutrient Sensitive Areas (comprising nitrate vulnerable zones designated under the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and areas designated as sensitive under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC); and



- Areas designated for the protection of habitats or species (Natura 2000 sites) under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). These also include Ramsar Sites (Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention).

The Water Framework Directive includes coastal waters; whilst the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and draft Marine Plan incorporates the marine area. As DCSD is connected to the marine area via its coastline and watercourses, protection of water quality on land and in coastal areas will also benefit the marine area. Marine policies are also considered under the 'Natural Environment' topic (Section 5.12) in this scoping report.

Every six years, DAERA in partnership with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) produces a River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for each RBD within NI. The second and current RBMP cycle extends from 2015 – 2021. The WFD requires action to meet good ecological and chemical status and prevent deterioration of our water bodies by 2027. Each RBMP therefore sets out the current state of our water environment and the measures to be put in place to achieve further improvements to the water environment over their six year period. Derry City and Strabane district falls within the North Western RBD and therefore the North Western RBMP is relevant.

It is essential that RBMPs are integrated with a wide range of strategies and initiatives impacting on the water environment in NI. This exploits commonality across regional, national and European wide requirements and directives, ensuring efficient and cost effective delivery. A Long Term Water Strategy has been developed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in partnership with NI Water (NIW), DAERA and the NI Environment Agency (NIEA). The Strategy aims to encourage a sustainable and integrated approach to managing the different water needs within a catchment, while promoting regional development without compromising the environment or increasing flood risk.

DAERA is working with the agricultural sector to promote good practice in nutrient management and safer, more effective slurry spreading. The Nitrates Action Programme has been a key element in providing safeguards for the water environment since 2007 and farmers' cooperation has been a key factor in the success of this scheme. The Nitrates Directive has been applied across all of NI using the total territory approach. This is the main tool for reducing diffuse pollution through the Nitrates Action Programme and Nutrient Management Plans. This has delivered significant improvements to water quality in the last 10-15 years, reducing water quality failures due to nutrients from around 60% to 40%. An equivalent reduction of a further 20% is required by 2021 to meet WFD requirements.

The 'Bathing Water Quality Directive' (2006/7/EC) complements the WFD by setting quality standards for a number of parameters to safeguard public health and protect the environment. The most important of these are the standards relating to the coliform and streptococcal groups of bacteria, which, in general, can be taken as an indication of the amount of sewage or other faecal contaminants present. In addition to monitoring the bathing waters, DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division monitors rivers which run into the sea at beaches. Pollution problems at beaches often arise from within river catchments.

The Floods Directive, transposed through The Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (NI) in 2009, has led to the identification of 20 Significant Flood Risk Areas (SFRA) in NI and the preparation of three Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP). The FRMPs have been developed to align with the six year cycle of the WFD and each FRMP corresponds to a RBD. Each FRMP highlights hazards and risks in the SFRAs from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. The FRMPs identify the measures that will be undertaken over their six year period to address flooding and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together with communities to reduce the flood risk. DCSDC is within the area covered by the North Western FRMP.

The fundamental policy message arising from the SPPS is that the most effective means of managing flood risk is to avoid the risk, by locating new buildings and infrastructure outside flood risk areas. The LDP should ensure that land identified as being at risk of flooding is not zoned for development. Such

development would be at an unacceptable risk of flooding, may cause flooding elsewhere and may impair the natural function of the floodplain in storing flood water. The Council should adopt a precautionary approach to the identification of land through the LDP process and the determination of development proposals, in those areas susceptible to flooding where there is a lack of precise information on present day flood risk or climate change flood risk.

The RDS encourages the implementation of protective measures for water such as:

- Adopt grey water recycling;
- Minimise development in areas at risk from flooding from rivers, the sea and surface water run-off;
- Promote a more sustainable approach to the provision of water and sewerage services and flood risk management;
- Integrate water and land-use planning;
- Manage future water demand; and
- Encourage sustainable surface water management.

The SPSS states that planning authorities *'should encourage developers to use sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) as the preferred drainage solution'*. The NIEA has also published *'A Strategy for Promoting the Use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) within Northern Ireland'*, which encourages the incorporation of measures to ameliorate the impacts of development on water quality and flow.

The Corporate Plan commits itself to protecting the environment and delivering physical regeneration. The sustainable use of water and the prevention of development in areas at risk from flooding will be essential to achieving this.

The Community Plan outcome which is most relevant to this topic relates to the Environment and Regeneration theme, which includes *'Our water is cleaner and more effectively managed'*. Key actions include to *'prioritise water investment, the promotion of urban sustainable drainage systems and protection from the risk of flooding'*. The Tourism Arts and Culture theme also includes the action to *'develop and promote the use of the District's waterways and in particular the River Foyle as a tourism attraction'*.

### 5.11.2 Baseline information

#### *River Basin Management Plans*

The WFD requires action to meet 'good' (or better) ecological and chemical status and prevent deterioration of our water bodies by 2027. 'Good' status is assessed using a broad range of parameters for water quality (such as nutrients and oxygen levels); aquatic biology (including plants, aquatic insects and fish) and physical environment (such as river flows and habitat). Classification of water bodies assists in planning what measures might be required for improvements. The WFD also recognises that some water bodies have been changed to such a degree that they can no longer be restored to their original condition without compromising their current use. These are called heavily modified (HMWBs) or artificial water bodies (AWBs). HMWBs and AWBs are classified according to their ecological potential rather than status, with the objective to achieve 'good ecological potential' (GEP) by 2027. The water quality status figures published at the conclusion of the first cycle of RBMP in 2015 showed that 37% of NI's water bodies met 'good' status<sup>1</sup>. Classification tools and standards, as well as water body boundaries have changed during the first River Basin Cycle, therefore it's not possible to make a direct comparison between 2009 and 2015 data.

Derry City and Strabane district is in the North Western RBD and is therefore covered by the North Western RBMP. The boundaries of the RBDs are shown in blue in Figure 5.11.1. The North Western

<sup>1</sup> A statistical report to update the position on water quality status since the start of the last cycle in 2015 was published on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018. However the spatial data to accompany these interim results was not yet available at the time of writing of this chapter and consequently these have not been used in reporting on the baseline.

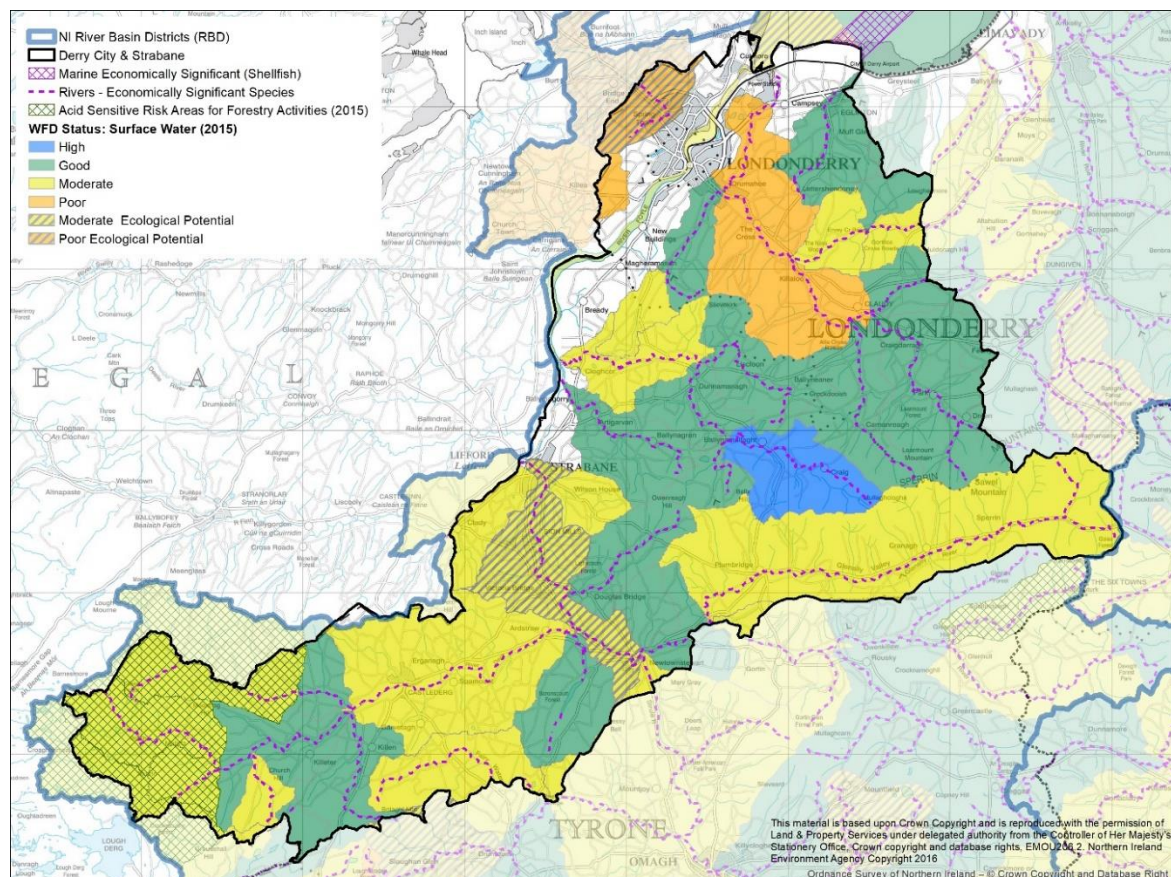
RBD is an international RBD, shared with Ireland, and therefore water management actions need to be coordinated between responsible bodies on both sides.

Within the district (shown outlined in black in Figure 5.11.1) the principal river systems are:

- The river Foyle and its tributaries, which include the Burn Dennet, Derg, Finn and Mourne rivers.
- The river Faughan and its tributaries, which include the Glenrandal and Burntollet rivers
- The Strule catchment, which is partially within the district and becomes the river Mourne at its confluence with the river Derg. Its main tributaries within the district include the Fairy Water, the Glenelly river and a small portion of the Owenkillew river.

All of the above catchments ultimately drain into Lough Foyle.

**Figure 5.11.1: Water Framework Directive overall classification, 2015**



Source: DAERA WMU Digital Dataset Downloads (Accessed 12/02/2019)

A small portion of the northwest of the district is in the Skeoge catchment, which drains to Lough Swilly and around 7km<sup>2</sup> in the southwest of the district drains to Lower Lough Erne. In total there are 45 river waterbodies (including artificial and heavily modified waterbodies) in the district. No lake waterbodies have been classified under the WFD in the district.

Figure 5.11.1 shows the overall ecological status classification of the river waterbodies within the district at the conclusion of the first WFD cycle in 2015. These results are also summarised in Table 5.11.1.

The 2015 RBMPs have identified eight river catchments in NI that are at risk of acidification from forestry activities. Five of these catchments are in our district, in the Derg catchment, west of

Castleberg. Relevant best practice for forestry is therefore necessary in these catchments, in accordance with published guidance on *'Managing Forests in Acid Sensitive Water Catchments'*<sup>1</sup>.

**Table 5.11.1: Summary of 2015 overall classification of river and lake water bodies**

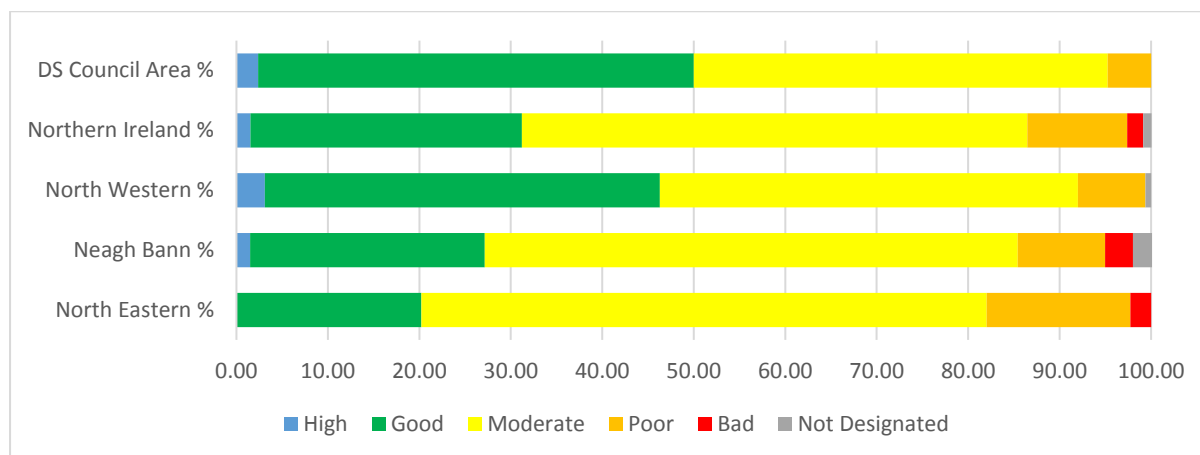
River Water Bodies		Heavily Modified Water Bodies*	
42	Total Number of RWB	4	Total Number of HMWB
1	High Eco. Status	0	Good Eco. Potential
20	Good Eco. Status	3	Moderate Eco. Potential
19	Moderate Eco. Status	1	Poor Eco. Potential
2	Poor Eco. Status	0	Bad Eco. Potential
0	Bad Eco. Status		
0	No data / unclassified		

\*includes river waterbodies and transitional waterbodies

Source: DAERA WMU Digital Dataset Downloads (Accessed 02/03/18)

Derry City and Strabane district had better river water quality in 2015 than the overall NI average (Figure 5.11.2). 'Good' status or better was achieved in 50% of river waterbodies, compared to 31.22% for all river water bodies in NI. One catchment in the district, the Burn Dennet River (Ballynamallaght) achieved 'high' status. 45% of river waterbodies in the district were classified as 'moderate' and just 2% as 'poor'. No waterbodies were classified as 'bad' status. The NW RBMP aims to increase the number of surface water bodies achieving good or better status to 85% by 2021. However, the interim statistics report published by DAERA in December 2018<sup>2</sup> indicates that the overall water quality in the NW RBD has not improved since 2015 and some waterbodies, including the Burn Dennet, have deteriorated in water quality.

**Figure 5.11.2: Water Framework Directive overall classification (% River Waterbodies), 2015**



Source: DAERA WMU Digital Datasets and NI Reported Water Body Status & Objective Figures 2015 (Published 07/11/2017)

There are three heavily modified river waterbodies in the district. There is also one transitional (estuarine) heavily modified waterbody, the Foyle Harbour and Faughan. None of the heavily modified water bodies have achieved 'good' status; three currently have "moderate ecological potential" and the Skeoge river has "poor ecological potential".

The district also adjoins one coastal waterbody and two transitional waterbodies. These are listed below in Table 5.11.2:

<sup>1</sup> Forestry Commission (2014) Practice Guide - Managing forests in acid sensitive water catchments

<sup>2</sup> DAERA Northern Ireland Water Framework Directive Statistics Report September 2018

**Table 5.11.2: Summary of 2015 overall classification of coastal and transitional water bodies**

Waterbody Name	Status (2015)	RBD
Foyle Harbour & Faughan (transitional, heavily modified - contains one designated Shellfish Area)	Moderate Eco. Potential	North Western
Upper Foyle (transitional)	Moderate	North Western
Lough Foyle (contains one designated Shellfish Area)	Moderate	North Western

The sole coastal waterbody connected to the district, Lough Foyle, contains one designated Shellfish Area) and has achieved 'good' status.

As part of the River Basin Planning process, a Programme of Measures (POMs)<sup>1</sup> has been established for each RBD to detail the improvements required to meet 'Good' status, the actions required and the delivery mechanisms. The POMs aims to address the key pressures by concentrating efforts on those pressures that pose the greatest threat to the water environment.

The RBMP indicates that significant sources of pressure preventing water bodies in the district from achieving 'good' status are diffuse pressures from agricultural sources and point source pressures from urban wastewater and development. Other pressures may include reductions in water quantity and flow, the physical condition of the water environment (in respect of man made changes to the natural habitat of rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters), the presence and spread of invasive alien species and any other factors that affect fish populations and habitat.

Nutrient enrichment has been identified in the NW RBD as a principal reason for failure in lake, transitional and coastal waterbodies as it is linked to failures in diatoms, macrophytes and soluble reactive phosphorus, which have occurred in many waterbodies either individually or in combination. DAERA has identified two significant sources of pressure preventing water bodies from achieving good status in the NW RBD. These are diffuse pressures from agricultural sources and point source pressures from urban wastewater and development.

At the NI level there has been a gradual trend towards fewer and less severe pollution incidents and improved compliance for private and trade discharge consents since 2001.

Three European funded (Interreg VA) projects which have the objective of improving water quality are in operation in the district.

- CatchmentCARE (Community Actions For Resilient Ecosystems) which aims to improve freshwater quality in cross-border river basins and acts in the Finn catchment.
- SWELL (Shared Waters Enhancement and Loughs Legacy) which involves a detailed investigation into the causes of water pollution on both sides of the border. Funding will be used in the upgrade and construction of wastewater treatment facilities within the Lough Foyle drainage basin with the aim of improving the quality of transitional and coastal waters.
- Source to Tap, in the Derg catchment, which aims to improve raw water quality and reduce treatment costs for drinking water by promoting good practice in land use management.

The Derry and Strabane Green Infrastructure Plan 2019-2032<sup>2</sup> aims to create planned and managed networks of multi-functional green and blue (water) spaces, which can deliver a range of environmental, economic and social benefits for local communities within the district. The Environment Fund 2019-22<sup>3</sup> is administered by DAERA to support projects, including river catchment projects, which will help deliver key environmental outcomes across NI. While these plans/funds have

<sup>1</sup> DAERA List of second cycle supporting documents for 2nd cycle River Basin Management Plans 2015. Date published: 03 August 2017. <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/list-second-cycle-supporting-documents-2nd-cycle-river-basin-management-plans-2015>

<sup>2</sup> Derry City and Strabane District Council – Council's Environmental and Biodiversity Projects (found at <http://www.derrystrabane.com/Services/Environment-and-Biodiversity/Council%E2%80%99s-Environmental-Projects> )

<sup>3</sup> DAERA Environment Fund 2019-2022 (found at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/environment-fund> )

not been established with the specific aim of improving water quality, they are likely to help meet objectives.

### Groundwater

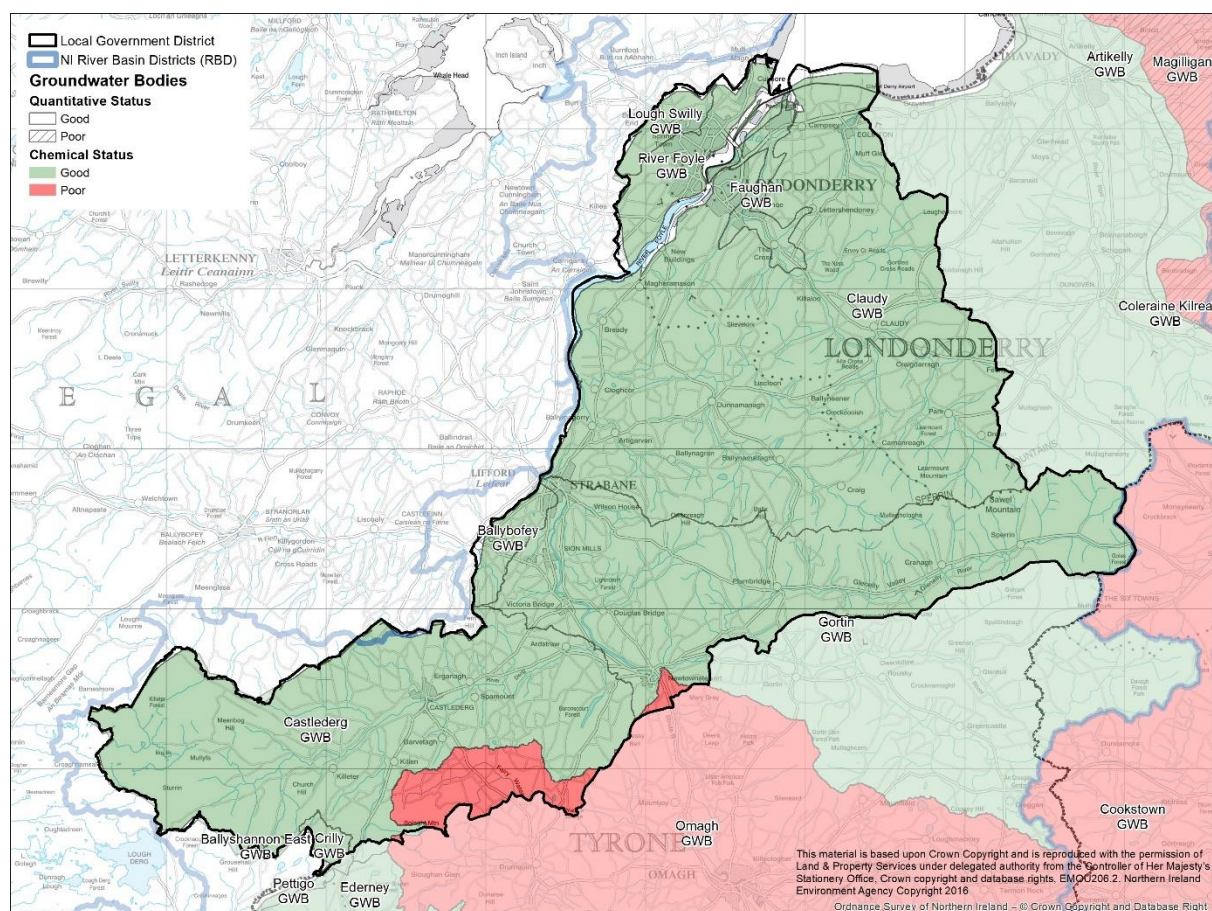
There are 14 groundwater bodies intersecting the district (Figure 5.11.3). Of these, 12 were classified as overall 'good' status in 2015 and two were classified as having 'poor' status. The main pressure in the groundwater bodies in the district is the lack of monitoring stations and hence the low confidence in the status assessment.

### Drinking Water Protected Areas

There are seven river catchments that are drinking water protected areas for surface water catchments. These are used for the abstraction of drinking water and supplying Water Treatment Works (WTW).

All groundwater bodies in the district are also on the Register of Protected Areas.

Figure 5.11.3: Groundwater Status, 2015



Source: DAERA WMU Digital Dataset Downloads (Accessed 02/03/18)

### Economically Significant Aquatic Species – Shellfish

There are two Shellfish Water Protected Areas in the district, shown on Figure 5.11.1. While the Loughs Agency oversees aquaculture and shellfisheries in Lough Foyle, ownership of the lough is disputed between the UK and Ireland. Consequently, there is no formal spatial regime for the licensing and regulation of aquaculture. However, regulation does occur in respect of food safety and quality sampling. Anecdotal reports suggest that the lack of regulation has resulted in significant

increases in oyster cultivation, with more than of 30,000<sup>1</sup> oyster trestles on the Lough bed in 2016, compared with 2,000 in 2014.

Shellfish Water Protected Areas have a guideline microbiological standard for shellfish flesh which is set in the Water Framework Directive (Priority Substances and Classification) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2015. This guideline standard requires that 75% of samples contain  $\leq 230$  E. coli per 100ml of shellfish flesh and intervalvular liquid. Monitoring for the microbiological shellfish classification is carried out by the Food Standards Agency in NI. Shellfish from the Longfield Bank and Balls Point Rock shellfish waters achieved the guideline standards in 2012 and 2013 but have not been able to achieve the required microbiological standards in any of the subsequent years to 2017<sup>2</sup>. Lough Foyle currently holds a microbiological classification of 'Class B'. This means that oysters harvested from there have to be purified, heat treated or transferred elsewhere for at least a month before human consumption.

A Pollution Reduction Programme<sup>3</sup> was published in 2015 for Lough Foyle. The main pollution sources in Lough Foyle come from direct sewage discharges into the lough and into the Rivers Foyle, Faughan and Roe and from non-point sources related to agricultural land use in the wider Foyle area. The largest discharges by volume come from Culmore WWTW. No improvements or upgrades by NI Water are currently planned for Culmore WWTW. Monitoring of all Combined Sewer Overflows within 2km of Shellfish Protected Areas is to be introduced by NI Water by 2021.

Higher annual rainfall with more intense episodes, which may occur more frequently in the future due to the effects of climate change (see section 5.10), may increase loads of diffuse pollutants from both urban and rural areas. This may increase loading of pollutants to the sea and increase the risk of the failure of microbiological standards in both shellfish and bathing waters.

#### *Economically Significant Aquatic Species – Freshwater Fish*

Derry and Strabane district has approximately 625km of rivers on the protected areas register for freshwater fish. These are shown in Figure 5.11.1 and include the Burn Dennet, Fairy Water, Faughan, Derg, Finn, Glenelly, Mourne Skeoge and Strule rivers. Only 28 out of the 53 (52%) river waterbodies in the NW RBD that are monitored for fish population or habitat achieved 'good' or 'high' status for this element over the first WFD planning cycle. Failures in fish ecology can indicate a wide range of pressures, such as from physical modifications or abstraction and flow regulation.

#### *Nutrient Sensitive Areas*

A total territory approach has been adopted in NI for the Nitrates Directives. There are three Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive sensitive areas in the district. These are the catchments of the rivers Faughan and Foyle, as well as the catchment area of Lough Erne, a small portion of which is also in the district.

There has been a trend toward significant reductions in mean nitrate concentrations in groundwater. Long-term trends show that average nitrate concentrations in rivers in NI are predominantly decreasing or stable over the 20-year period, 1992-2012, which may be attributed to the measures implemented through the Nitrates Action Programme so that levels are well within EU standards.

#### *Bathing Waters*

Derry and Strabane district currently has no beaches that are designated under the Bathing Water Quality Directive, nor are there any elsewhere in Lough Foyle<sup>4</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> BBC News "Lough Foyle oyster farms cashing in on political deadlock" published 8 December 2016 (found at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-38256155>)

<sup>2</sup> DAERA [NI environmental statistics report 2018](#)

<sup>3</sup> DAERA Pollution Reduction Programmes 2015 <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/pollution-reduction-programmes-2015>

<sup>4</sup> DAERA 'About bathing water quality' <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/bathing-water-quality>

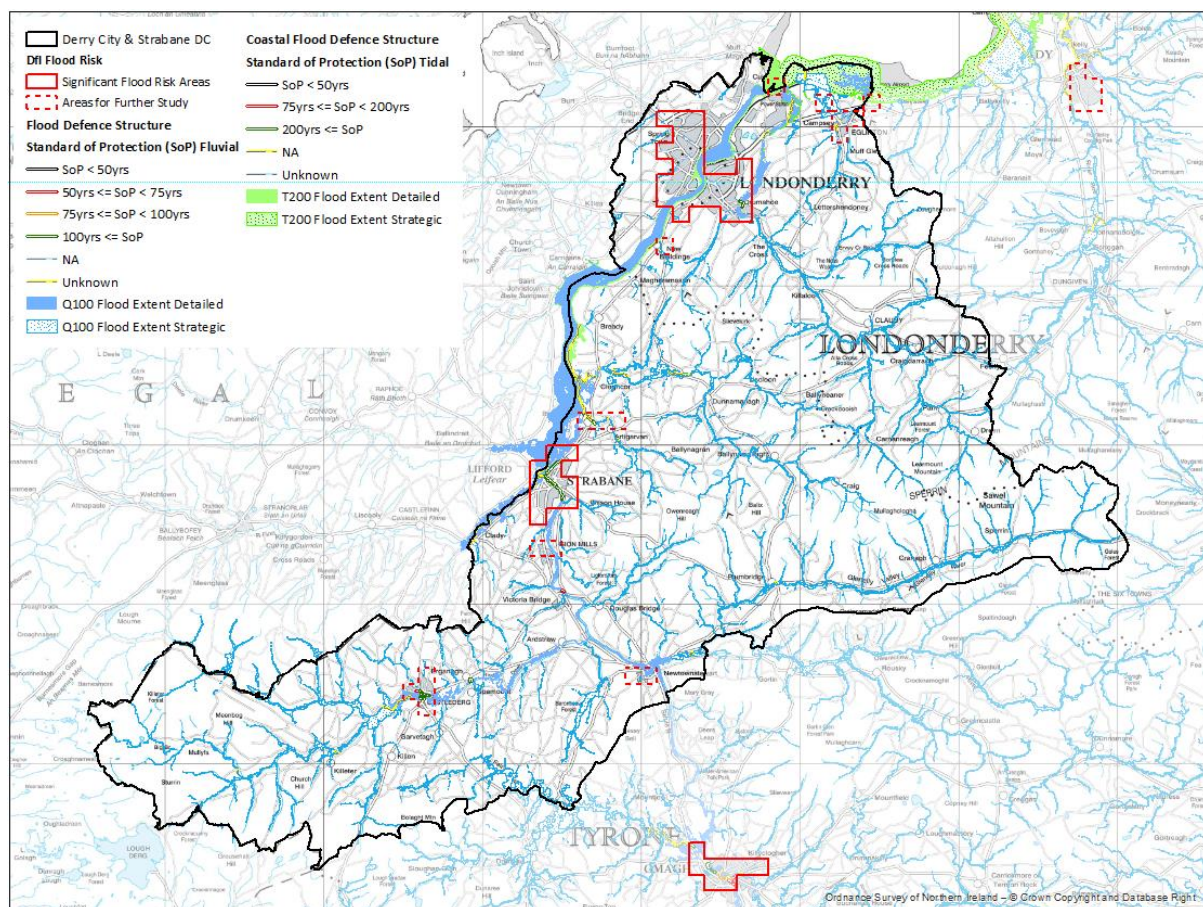
### Flood Risk

The implementation of the EU “Floods Directive” (2007/060/EC) has resulted in strategic flood risk assessment and mapping being carried out for all of NI and the publication of detailed Flood Hazard and Risk Maps<sup>1</sup> for the areas determined to be at potential significant flood risk. These maps are continuously updated and are accessible from the DfI website by searching for “Flood Maps NI”.

There are two settlements in the district which have been identified as SFRA (Figure 5.11.5). They are Derry/Londonderry and Strabane. Fluvial flood risk is further discussed in the Council’s Evidence Base Paper 15 ‘Public Utilities’ and coastal flood risk in Evidence Paper 17 Coastal Development.

Seven settlements, also shown in Figure 5.11.5, were identified in the PFRA as having a moderate risk of flooding and have been classified as Areas for Further Study. These are: Ballymagorry, Castlederg, Coolkeeragh, Eglinton, Newbuildings, Newtown Stewart and Sion Mills.

**Figure 5.11.4: Significant Flood Risk Areas and Areas for Further Study with River & Coastal Flood Plain**



Source Spatial NI | Department for Infrastructure (Rivers) - Flood Maps (NI) (accessed 14/02/2019)

The Floods Directive aims to manage flood risk by:

- **Prevention:** avoiding construction of houses and industries in flood-prone areas; by adapting future developments to the risk of flooding; and by promoting appropriate land-use, agricultural and forestry practices.
- **Protection:** taking measures, both structural and non-structural, to reduce the likelihood and impact of floods.
- **Preparedness:** informing the public about flood risk and what to do in the event of a flood.

<sup>1</sup> Flood Maps (NI) is accessible through the DfI Mapping Portal <http://dfi-ni.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>



The multi-layered strategic Flood Hazard and Risk Maps provide information on flood defences, historical flood events and predicted extreme flood events for river and coastal flooding as well as the potential for surface water flooding. Additional information is available in Flood Maps NI showing the indicative areas within the 1 per cent AEP<sup>1</sup> floodplain (0.5 percent for coastal), taking account of the impacts of climate change.

In August 2017 a significant rainfall event occurred in the North West, which caused flooding to approximately 400 homes and numerous businesses. It also impacted significant areas of agricultural land, in particular in the Glenelly valley where a very significant series of landslides occurred. Significant damage also occurred to infrastructure, with 210 roads either closed or impacted and 89 bridges requiring remedial action as a result of the flooding. Five bridges were completely destroyed. Existing flood defences suffered widespread impacts with a total of 2,900m damaged in numerous locations across the North West<sup>2</sup>.

Settlements within the district that currently have coastal and/or flood defences include: Castlederg, Clady, Eglinton, Newbuildings and Strabane.

The Capital works programme published in the NW FRMP includes one scheme planned for the current FRMP cycle in the district. This is pre-feasibility for flood alleviation in the Derry/Londonderry Significant Flood Risk Area and is due to commence in 2020/21.

In the next FRMP cycle, DfI Rivers has indicated that capital projects will be looked at in the Strabane Significant Flood Risk Area.

The second cycle of FRMPs will commence in 2021 and the Northern Ireland Flood Risk Assessment (NIFRA) 2018<sup>3</sup> has identified 12 Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk (APSFR) and a further nine 'Transitional Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk' (TAPSFR) in NI. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle FRMP, it is proposed that Derry - Londonderry will be identified as APSFR and that Strabane has been identified as a TAPSFR. Castlederg, Coolkeeragh, Eglinton and Newbuildings are identified as flood risk areas but is considered in the NIFRA 2018 to be beneath the threshold under which a flood risk area should be identified as 'significant' in the context of NI.

The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2012)<sup>4</sup> has noted that, based upon projected sea level rise, the frequency of coastal flooding events is expected to increase significantly. At Portrush, for example, a sea level with a current return period of 100 years (1% probability) will have a return period of less than 10 years if mean sea levels increase by 0.25m, which is approximately the Medium Emissions Scenario of the UK Climate Projections 2009 (UKCP09) for the 2080s.

The DfI Rivers has indicated that it is beginning a programme of modelling and updating the coastal flood risk mapping for NI to accommodate UKCP09 climate change sea level rise projections while noting that UKCP18 projections have also been published in November 2018. Further information on coastal erosion and associated issues due to rising sea levels and increased frequency of storm events in the Climate Change section of this report.

### *Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)*

Increasingly, reliance on traditional drainage systems is proving inadequate to address the issue of storm drainage. Alone, such systems may not cope with the demands made by new development, in addition to the more intense and increasingly unpredictable rainfall arising from climate change. The SPPS (para. 6.118) advocates SuDS as the preferred drainage solution for new development, noting that such systems '*have been shown to be more effective than traditional piped drainage in reducing surface water flooding as well as providing other environmental, economic and social benefits*'.

---

<sup>1</sup> AEP Annual Exceedance Probability – the 1% AEP floodplain outline for rivers has a 1 per cent or greater chance of flooding in any given year (also referred to as a 100 year flood event).

<sup>2</sup> DfI North West Flooding Review March 2018

<sup>3</sup> DfI (Rivers) Northern Ireland Flood Risk Assessment (NIFRA) 2018 (Date published: 21 December 2018)

<sup>4</sup> DEFRA [UK 2012 Climate Change Risk Assessment - A climate change risk assessment for Northern Ireland](#)

While planning policy encourages SuDS, it does not currently make it a requirement for new development and to date SuDS have rarely been used in NI<sup>1</sup>, although SuDS principles are included in the design of new road schemes. In January 2019 the Welsh Government made the inclusion of SuDS mandatory in new development. It has published information indicating that the capital costs of SuDS solutions on new developments are lower than the capital costs of comparable traditional piped drainage solutions. It also states that evidence shows that operational and maintenance costs also tend to be lower for SuDS<sup>2</sup>.

In consultation carried out for this Scoping Report, the NIEA has indicated that in the design of SuDS, surface water should be dealt with as close as possible to where it falls as rain (source control). The use of two or more SuDS components can be used for the optimal solution to:

- Manage rainfall to mimic natural drainage, by:
  - reducing runoff rates;
  - reducing additional runoff volumes and frequencies; and
  - encouraging natural groundwater recharge.
- Minimise impacts on quantity and quality of runoff, by:
  - reducing pollution and protecting the quality of receiving waters;
  - preventing direct discharge of spillage; and
  - reducing the volume of surface waste runoff to sewers.
- Maximise amenity and biodiversity opportunity, by:
  - contributing to the amenity and aesthetic value of the development; and
  - providing habitat for wildlife and biodiversity

Examples of localised source control measures include green roofs, permeable paving and soakaways, while larger passive treatment areas such as ponds and wetlands can be incorporated into wider green-blue infrastructure (see Section 5.8).

### Water Supply

Information on water supply, quantity and quality is not reported at Council level and must be extracted from regional data sets or trends described at a NI level. Some of this has been presented in the 'Public Utilities' Evidence Base Paper 15.

The provision of water supply in NI is the responsibility of NI Water. There are five water supply zones wholly or partially within the district:

- ZN0603 Carmoney Eglinton
- ZN0604 Caugh Hill Dungiven
- ZN0607 Corrody Derry
- ZN0701 Derg Strabane
- ZN0704 Lough Bradan Drumquin

Source : NI Water Annual Report on Water Quality. Appendix 3 Derry City and Strabane District Council (2017)

Two main Water Treatment Works (WTW) are located within the district, Carmoney WTW and Derg WTW. NI Water has indicated in correspondence sought for the updating of this Scoping Report<sup>3</sup> that it does not envisage any substantive issues that will impinge upon new development across the Council area. There are plans to reinforce the Strategic Links between Carmoney WTW (which supplies Derry) and Ballinrees WTW and Caugh Hill WTW. This will enable greater flexibility if there is an outage at any of the WTWs. This investment may be progressed during PC15 depending on available funding otherwise the investment will be deferred into PC21 (2021 to 2027).

Significant investment in water treatment works, service reservoirs and mains distribution has resulted in improvements in compliance across NI with the drinking water standards, from 99.22% in

<sup>1</sup> NI Assembly Research and Information Service Paper 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016 (found at <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/globalassets/documents/raise/publications/2016-2021/2016/infrastructure/3816.pdf>)

<sup>2</sup> Welsh Government Written Statement - Implementing sustainable drainage systems on new developments (found at <https://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2017/sustainable drainage/?lang=en>) Last updated 16 November 2017

<sup>3</sup> NI Water Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Update - DC&SDC LDP Plan Strategy, issued 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

2004 to 99.88% in 2017<sup>1</sup>. The most recent Drinking Water Annual Quality Report (2018) lists 21 Capital Works Programmes affecting the district. These include abstraction monitoring, rehabilitation works and works to improve resilience to pressures on supply.

In 2018 NI Water completed a £1.2 million programme of improvements at Bridge Street Wastewater Pumping Station in Strabane. The scheme will also improve the water quality in the local River Mourne, with additional screening installed to improve the quality of any flows that may discharge to the river.

NI Water and its partners / stakeholders the RSPB and the NIEA have developed a SCaMP (Sustainable Catchment Management Planning) NI strategy to improve the quality and reliability of the water received at NI Water's raw water abstraction points. In addition to improving water quality, SCaMP also focuses on protecting and enhancing the natural environment. The 'Source to Tap' project on the Derg catchment will be used to inform a SCaMP. This catchment management approach, adopted previously by water companies in England, has proven to be more sustainable and more cost effective than dealing with water quality issues at the treatment works.

### *Reservoirs*

There are four impoundments and reservoirs in the district, of which two (Creggan Lower, and Creggan Upper) are "controlled reservoirs" (i.e. an impoundment capable of holding  $\geq 10,000$  cubic metres). Most of these reservoirs are in, or close to, rural settlements. Flood risk mapping of controlled reservoirs for emergency planning purposes has been carried out by DfI (Rivers) and has been published online via the DfI Rivers Mapping Portal<sup>2</sup>.

### *Wastewater Treatment*

The provision of wastewater treatment works (WwTWs) in the Plan Area is also the responsibility of NI Water. NI Water has provided the Council with information on the capacity of its WwTWs serving the district as well as an estimate of future capacity based on applying a settlement growth factor of 10%. The capacity study carried out by NI Water highlighted that there are existing wastewater capacity issues in terms of treatment works serving villages and small settlements in the district. NI Water has also indicated in correspondence received as part of the Scoping Report update in 2019 that it will require business plan funding significantly above its current level to address existing and future wastewater capacity requirements in the Derry & Strabane Council area. Where capacity for new development to connect to an existing WwTWs is not available, consideration will need to be given to the use of wetland or biological systems for the treatment of sewage instead of, or in addition to septic tanks.

New development relying on non-mains sewerage may, individually or cumulatively, increase the risk of pollution. It is therefore important to protect water resources from the actual or potential polluting effects of onsite treatment plants. As such, the Council's preferred option for non-mains sewage is a package Sewage Treatment Plant, as this is considered to be a more effective system in treating sewage and thus reducing the risk of pollution. However, package plants would need to comply with NI Water standards and provide treatment to the required standards for a NIEA discharge consent as demonstrated by 12 months of monitoring data. NI Water has indicated in correspondence received as part of the Scoping Report update in 2019 that there are also issues with the potential effects of this policy with regard to its sustainability and impact upon NI Water's already constrained funding model, i.e. the potential addition of further small wastewater assets for management by NI Water.

Consideration will need to be given to the compatibility of new development in proximity to WwTW facilities. NI Water shall advise through planning consultation – both site assessments for the next phase of LDP and through day-to-day planning applications/Pre-Development Enquiries (PDEs) – whether a proposal lies within an Odour Consultation Zone. The purpose of this zone is to trigger a

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.niwater.com/drinking-water/> (accessed 25 February 2019)

<sup>2</sup> Reservoir Flood Mapping for Emergency Planning on DfI Mapping Portal <http://dfi-ni.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>

proportionate assessment of odour nuisance risk and may or may not involve dispersion modelling. NI Water will object to development proposals within Odour Consultation Zones unless an appropriate evidence based odour assessment determines low risk at critical receptors.

The Council will continue to work closely with NI Water in its LDP production as the location and capacity of planned and existing WWTWs may have an influence on the distribution of proposed development in towns and villages. NI Water operates a six year business plan called a Price Control. The current Price Control, known as PC15, spans the period 2015/16 to 2020/21. NI Water's business planning activities for the next Price Control, PC21 (2021/22 to 2026/27) will start during 2018/19.

#### 5.11.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without the LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. The Area Plans were however prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. They were not informed by the pressures on our environment that exist today.

In the absence of a new plan there will be less certainty about the need for supply or treatment of water, therefore infrastructure may not be developed in the most efficient manner. There is a risk that cumulative effects from development will counteract the goals of plans such as the 2015 River Basin Management Plans and the draft Marine Plan to achieve good ecological status and good environmental status. While planning policies address issues such as flood risk, the opportunity to take a more strategic approach would be missed. There is a risk that taking decisions in the absence of an up to date plan could result in development that does not make the most sustainable use of infrastructure or which subsequently requires further measures to address knock on effects.

The plan will enable space for surface water management to be identified when zoning land. LDP policy could require, either generally or for specific zonings, that measures to minimise surface water runoff at source are considered early in the design stage of any new development.

#### 5.11.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Water

- There were no water scarcity issues in Northern Ireland 2005 – 2015. Demand has decreased by almost 11% between 2009 and 2015.
- The lack of water supply is not considered likely to be a constraint to development in any of the settlements however measures to make more efficient use of water should be promoted.
- Constructed flood alleviation and defence measures are expensive and should be avoided.
- Development should be planned to avoid areas at significant risk from flooding, now or in the future, or where development may increase the flood risk elsewhere.
- There are benefits in retaining and restoring natural flood plains and natural watercourses as a form of flood alleviation.
- Climate change will increase the risk of flooding.
- Plan proposals should be compatible with the Flood Risk Management Plans published by Rivers Agency in December 2015.
- Two Significant Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs) are located in DCSDC, Derry/Londonderry SFRA and Strabane SFRA. Areas of Further Study for flood risk are Eglinton, New Buildings, Ballymagorry, Sion Mills, Newtownstewart and Castlederg as well as Coolkeeragh Power Station.
- A safety issue arises because certain legal provisions relating to impounded water have not yet been fully drafted into legislation. There are therefore considered to be risks in potential inundation zones below reservoirs.
- By comparison to the rest of Northern Ireland surface water quality is generally better than average, this is reflected in designations to protect freshwater species and habitats in much of the council area. However, there are significant pressures on achieving or maintaining “good status” for all waterbodies by 2027 under the WFD.
- Freshwater angling, in particular for salmon, brown, trout and sea trout, and sea angling are important in DCSDC.
- There are shellfish protected waters at Longfield Bank and Balls Point in Lough Foyle. Shellfish cultivated in these areas have failed to meet Water Framework Directive microbiological targets.
- Water quality in the Foyle Estuary is “moderate” under the WFD.
- Emissions from development can impact on water quality and quantity.
- Development may lead to contaminated runoff which may cause pollution; the rate of surface water runoff may change or the capacity of a receiving watercourse may be altered which in turn has the potential to increase flood risk.
- Where feasible, sustainable drainage (SuDS) measures to manage surface water runoff as close to source as possible should be included in new development and redevelopment or regeneration schemes and kept maintained.
- Waste water generates the need for treatment of dirty water.
- The larger WWTWs generally have good capacity although there are constraints at some. There are significant constraints on WwTW provision for small settlements.
- Developments without access to mains sewers can incorporate sewage treatment on site but it is important that there is capacity for safe disposal of treated discharges and for maintenance of the treatment system to ensure that it remains effective long term.
- Other wastes may also cause pollution at the point where they are disposed of or utilised. Wastes from livestock, food processing or primary treatment such as sewage or anaerobic digesters have the potential to cause pollution elsewhere.

## 5.12 Natural Resources

### 5.12.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Natural resources covers biodiversity, fauna, flora, green and blue infrastructure (G/BI) and ecosystems services (ES). It includes intertidal and coastal zones as well as the wider marine area. Natural resources are protected at a regional level through spatial planning policy which aims to conserve, protect and enhance our natural environment. It also aims to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate mitigation and adaptation to climate change whilst improving air quality.

The Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009 and the Marine Act (NI) 2013 require planning authorities to consider the UK MPS and the NI Marine Plan when preparing their Local Development Plans (LDPs). The Marine Plan for NI will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of our marine area through a strategic framework with spatial elements. It will consist of a series of policy statements covering cross-cutting marine planning issues that apply to all decision making in the marine area and to relevant sectors. It will not bring forward new policies governed by other departments but will align with and contribute to the policy objectives for key marine activities as set out in the UK MPS and will support and complement existing plans and policies. A draft Marine Plan for NI was consulted on during 2018.

The draft PFG recognises that we all benefit from the goods and services that our natural environment provides, including food, renewable energy, water purification, flood mitigation and places for recreation, education and inspiration. One of the outcomes of the draft PFG is that as a society *'we live and work sustainably - protecting the environment'*. Between the draft PFG and the SPPS, the benefits of protecting the natural environment for goods and services, and an improved quality of life, are clear.

Regional strategies and policy highlight the diversity of Northern Ireland's natural environment. They provide protection of designated sites, species, habitats and other natural features as assets and directly link these to economic, social and environmental benefits. Local Biodiversity Action Plans aim to protect the natural environment and its biodiversity value but they can also ensure provision of a recreational value.

One mechanism to help achieve future protection of our natural resources is the LDP. The Plan can help to protect the natural heritage resource of the Borough and promote ecological networks by integrating parks, street trees and waterways, to help connect open and green space across urban and rural areas. These measures can deliver regional policy by helping to protect the natural environment and ecosystem services, as well as helping to combat climate change. The Council also has a statutory duty to *'further the conservation of biodiversity in exercising any functions'* under The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011 ('the WANE Act').

In the Council's Corporate Plan 2019/2020 and Performance Improvement Plan 2019/2020, there are 4 key objectives to help the Council to deliver 'improved social, economic and environmental outcomes for everyone'. Two of these objectives include; 'protect our environment and deliver physical regeneration', and 'promote healthy communities'. The district's landscape includes a significant part of the Sperrin AONB and Areas of High Scenic Value along the Foyle and Faughan Valley. The purpose of these designations include to protect scenic quality and promote their enjoyment thus providing for both recreation and tourist appeal. Improvement objectives from the plan include to, 'protect and enhance the environment through creating and supporting a culture of environmental stewardship'. These objectives align with the well-being pillars of the Council's Community Plan.

The Strategic Growth Plan (Community Plan) outcomes which are most relevant to this topic relate to the Environmental Pillar – "We live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment" and are:

- We benefit from well designed and managed green space
- We value and enhance our environment

- We have stronger environmental stewardship

Consideration of the natural environment within the LDP process will be fundamental to achieving these outcomes.

### 5.12.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the evidence based papers for the Local Development Plan and include Natural Environment, Open Space and Recreation and Countryside and Landscape all of which can be found at: [www.derrystrabane.com/ldp](http://www.derrystrabane.com/ldp).

This topic overlaps with the Health and Wellbeing, Transport, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Air Quality, Climate Change, water and Landscape sections of this report.

#### *Nature and Landscape Conservation Sites*

The variety of natural environment, landscape and biodiversity assets across the Derry and Strabane District is recognised and protected by several sites of international and regional importance. The main designations (shown on figure 5.12.1 - Nature Conservation Designations) include; 'Lough Foyle' and 'Fairy Water Bogs' Ramsar Sites, 'Lough Foyle' Special Protection Area (SPA) and 5 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) at Moneygal Bog, Owenkillew River, Fairy Water Bogs, River Foyle and Tributaries and River Faughan and Tributaries. The intertidal mudflats of Lough Foyle SPA and Ramsar site provides for internationally and nationally important bird populations, consequently the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) currently manage a dedicated reserve at Lough Foyle.

As previously mentioned, a significant portion of the Sperrin AONB is located within the district and is shared with 3 neighbouring Councils. There are also 27 Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) within the Council. In recognition of their wide range of wildlife, habitats and geology, Ness and Ervy Wood are designated sites of National Nature Reserve (NNR). Killeter Nature Reserve (NR) comprises two areas of important peatland and sits within the wider Killeter Forest, Bogs and Lakes ASSI and adjacent to Essan Burn and Mullyfamore ASSI. Together this network of designations help to maintain green/blue infrastructure across the District and provide for amenity interests.

The Derry City and Strabane District Council Coastline may only stretch for approximately 7kms, nonetheless, the River Foyle's tidal reach extends for up to 16kms to Strabane. In that regard coastal consideration can apply to both the traditional shore line and sea interface as well as the tidal element associated with it. This has implications in terms of considering the marine environment in preparation of the LDP

There are 115 Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) in DCSDC that have been selected due to their substantial nature conservation value and/or their ability to support important species. These are largely located to the area east of Strabane and along the southern fringe of the district. Notably the larger sites, Owenreagh Hill, and Mullaghanimma also feature within the AONB. Bin Mountain (the largest LWS in the district) and surrounds are increasingly becoming the focus of wind turbine development. LWSs may have functional value as wildlife corridors, stepping stones or may complement adjacent designated sites of nature conservation interest.

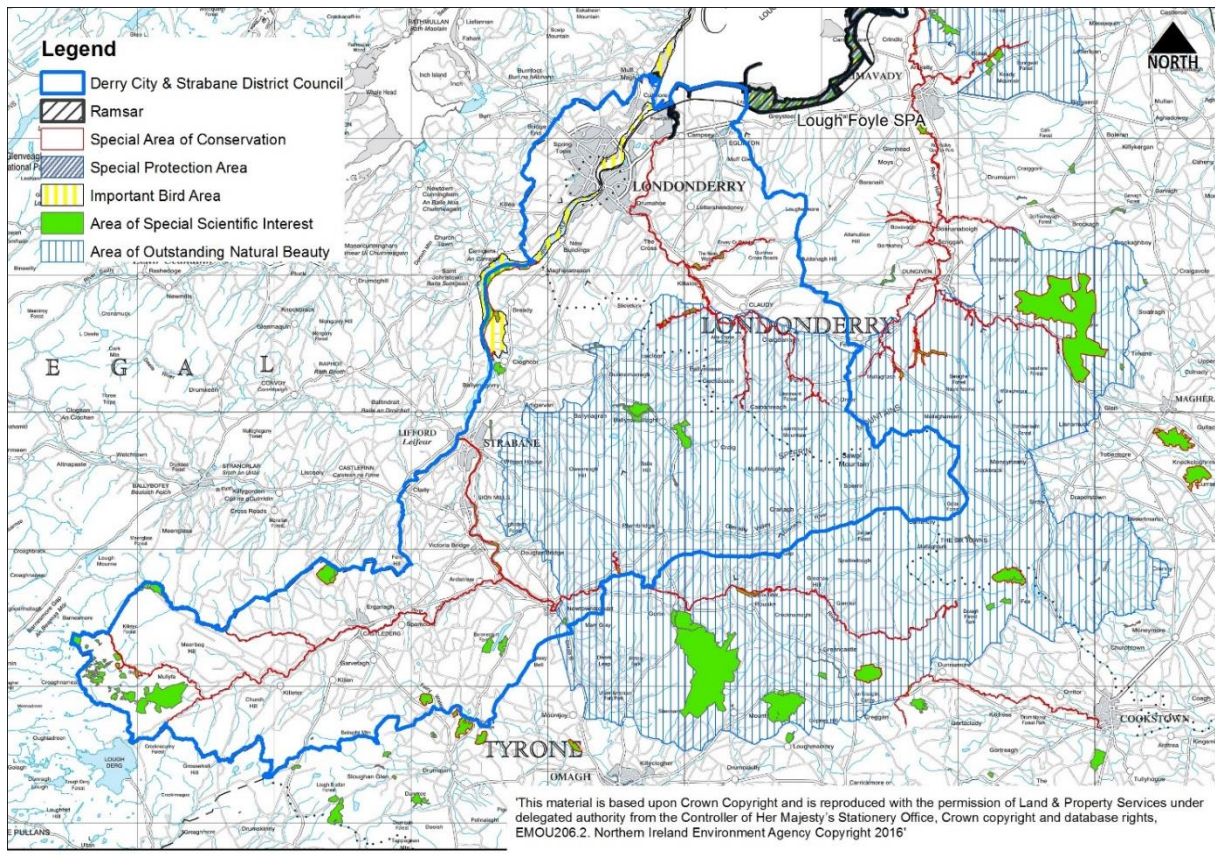
Ancient woodland habitat is still present within the council area and is managed by both Forest Service and the Woodland Trust. Faughan Valley Woods comprise four ancient woods which are also part of the Ness and Ervy Wood National Nature Reserve. Faughan Valley Woods are managed by the Woodland Trust, as is Prehen Wood on the east bank of the River Foyle which is one of the Trusts rarest ancient woods dating back to 1600. Northern Ireland is one of the least wooded countries in Europe, with just 8% woodland cover compared to the European average of 46%<sup>1</sup> Ancient woods only cover 0.08% of the Northern Ireland landscape. However they are often rich in rare and threatened species.

---

<sup>1</sup> [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

The number of people in the Council area that spend leisure time outdoors more than once a week is 64%. The comparative figure for Northern Ireland is 72%. The number of people that never spend any leisure time outdoors is 9% below the comparative figure for the country.

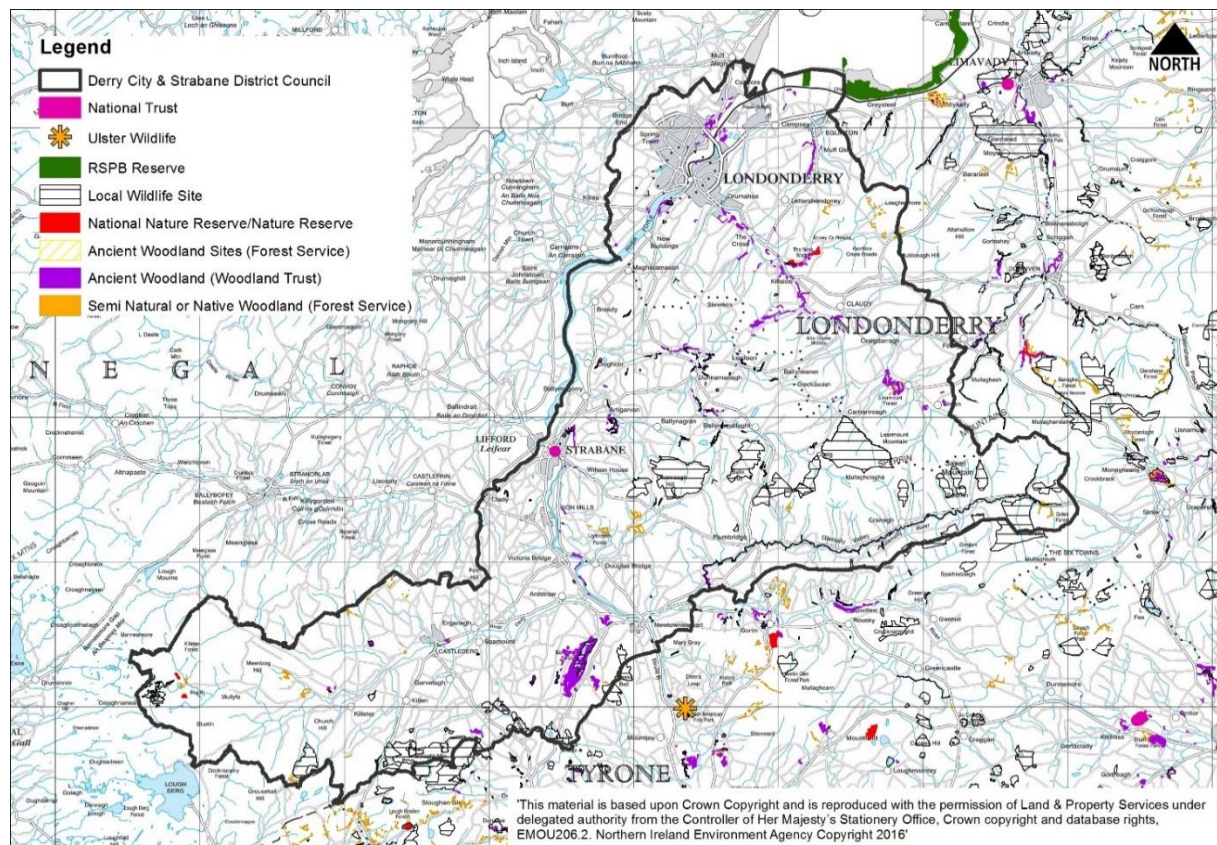
Figure 5.12.1: Nature Conservation Designations of International, National and Regional Importance



Source: Shared Environmental Service; (DAERA & Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)



Figure 5.12.2: Local Level Nature Conservation Sites and Ancient/Native Woodland



Source: Shared Environmental Service; DAERA, Forest Service, Woodland Trust

### Development Pressure

This Council area has experienced pressure for development from the energy, transport, agriculture and mining industries. There are also several significant developments located on the coast and any expansion or upgrades need to be appropriately considered in the context of the coastal nature conservation designations. Examples include the Coolkeeragh power station, the City of Derry Airport and the railway line to Coleraine.

### Biodiversity

The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) (2011)<sup>1</sup> places a statutory duty on public bodies to conserve biodiversity. DCSDC have prepared a Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan which builds upon the GI Framework previously produced by the Council. The plan provides a strategic approach for the improvement and protection of green and blue infrastructure and highlights the importance of enhancing biodiversity and safeguarding ecosystem services for the benefit of health and wellbeing. The GI Plan (Part 1) lists the districts green infrastructure assets which have been identified under the open space audit for the Local Development Plan, outlines the range of environmental, social and economic benefits biodiversity can provide and demonstrates the ways in which green infrastructure and traditional infrastructure coexist.

The key strategic priorities in the GI Plan are focused on the main threats to biodiversity which are identified and outlined as:

- habitat loss and fragmentation
- invasive alien species
- climate change

<sup>1</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk)

- pollution

The GI Plan identifies how pressure from, new transport infrastructure, intensive agricultural practices, drainage of bogs, wind turbine farms, peat cutting and changes in farming practice are all contributing to habitat loss and fragmentation but states biodiversity can exist alongside development through proper planning.

Part 2 of the GI Plan (expected in the forthcoming months) will identify local priority habitats and species under threat and prioritise actions to secure the future of the districts biodiversity. Riparian and estuarine habitats will be a key aspect of any biodiversity plan and marine habitats/species will most likely feature. The plan should also be considered alongside the Green Infrastructure Framework plan<sup>1</sup>.

### *Green/Blue Infrastructure*

In the SPPS, Local Development Plans are referred to as a means to plan for and integrate the natural environment into neighbourhoods. It encourages biodiversity to be considered as a feature of plans and designs<sup>2</sup>. All green and blue features can be classified as green/blue infrastructure which can connect natural habitats and open space together across landscapes. Features can range from green spaces (vegetated areas including woodlands, gardens, allotments and public parks) to blue spaces (water features, for example rivers, reservoirs, canals, lakes and including sustainable drainage systems) When protected and planned for, it can help maintain and enhance local biodiversity by conserving, creating or adding to wildlife corridors. The SPPS recognises this and the value it can bring to people's health and quality of life. Green and blue infrastructure sites are often multifunctional and given regard can offer a wide range of ecosystem service to help strengthen natural infrastructure. Benefits can extend to reducing the risk of flooding, support coastal defences, improve air quality and carbon storage and contribute to reduce the effects of 'urban heat islands'. Active travel routes can also often integrate into green and blue infrastructure spaces. (More information on walking and cycling routes and greenways is in the Transport and Accessibility section of this report, whilst coastal flooding and the GI Plan are referred to in the Climate Change section) In Derry city centre, there is a lack of green space with and existing green/open spaces lack connectivity<sup>3</sup>. In places, strategic arterial routes (road and rail) obstruct access to the Foyle and may affect potential plans for blue/green infrastructure. Greenways are very important to local people across communities and completion of the North West Greenway Network should bring social, economic and environmental benefits whilst contributing to green infrastructure at the local level. To aid Councils in the development of Green Infrastructure DAERA have issued guidance to provide clarity on the concept (see <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/development-plan-evidence-guide-documents>)

### *Access*

The most popular physical activity for adults in Northern Ireland is walking. Cycling is much lower however both activities can be counted as alternative transport modes to the car. The number of journeys made by walking/cycling or public transport within Derry City and Strabane is higher than the comparable average<sup>4</sup>. Various cycle routes are present within the district, walking and cycling can be promoted within green infrastructure planning and is expected as a consideration of future developments and projects under Local Development Plans.

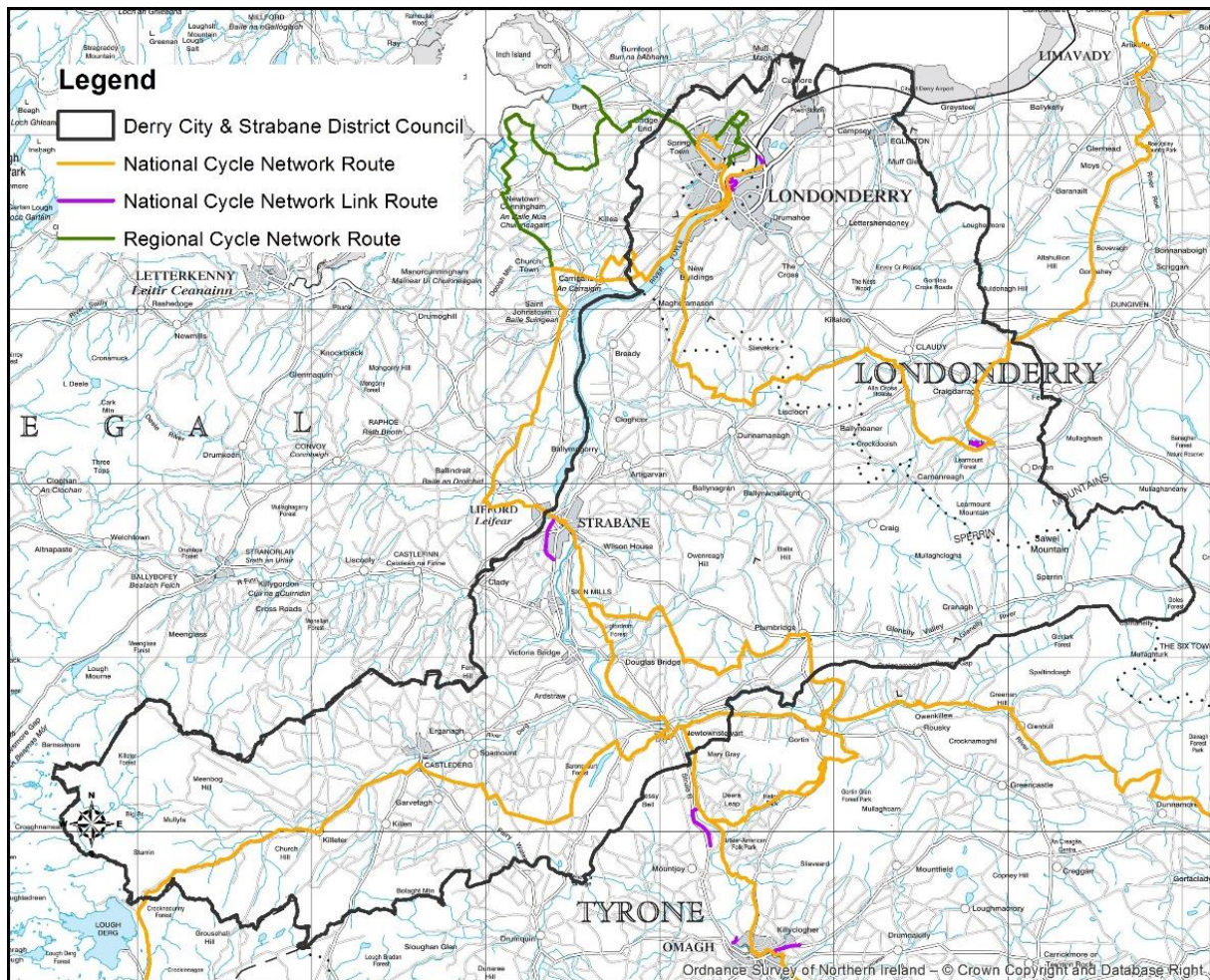
### **Figure 5.12.3: National Cycle Routes in Derry and Strabane District Council**

<sup>1</sup> [www.derrystrabane.com](http://www.derrystrabane.com)

<sup>2</sup> DoE (September 2015) Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) Planning for Sustainable Development

<sup>3</sup> Derry and Strabane District Council's Local Development Plan – Evidence Base Paper EVB 12 – Open Space and Recreation

<sup>4</sup> Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency – Travel and Transport

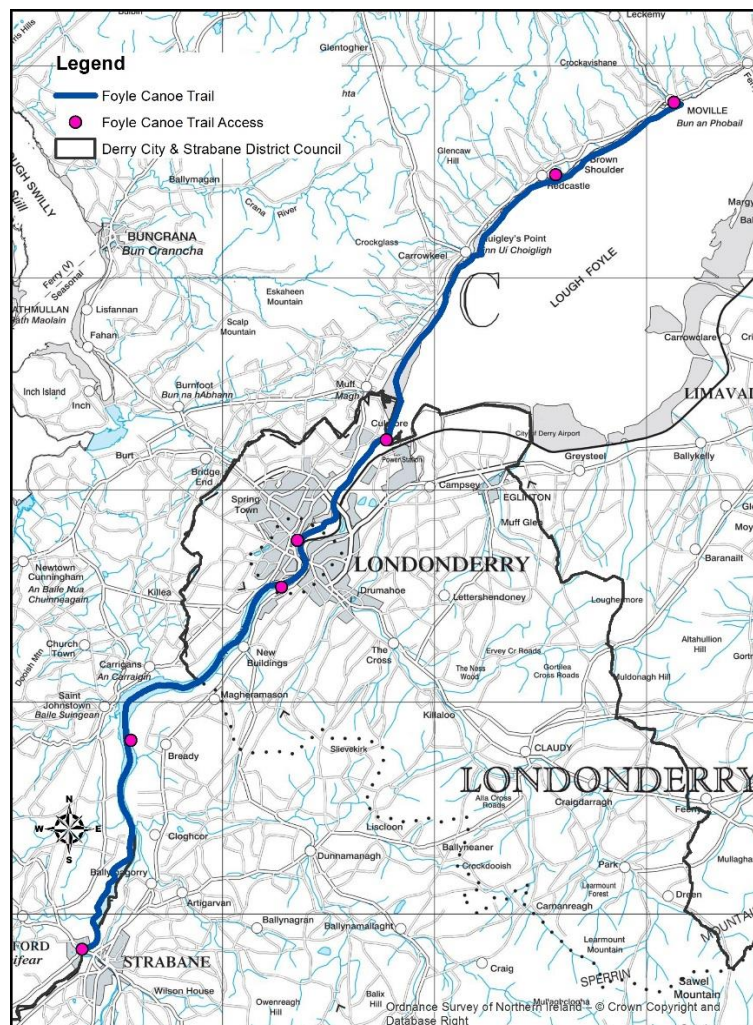


Source: Sustrans

### Canoe NI

Canoe NI is part of Outdoor Recreation NI and helps to ensure access to NI's canoe trails is safe and feasible. Although there is an absence of canals in the Derry and Strabane District Council, the Foyle Canoe Trail stretches over 53km from the start of the River Foyle to the Atlantic Ocean. The trail runs through rural countryside and the city of Londonderry, along Lough Foyle to Moville. A number of access points are available along the River Foyle. The trail is shown in Figure 5.12.4.

Figure 5.12.4: Accessible Canoe Trails within Derry and Strabane District Council



Source: Canoe NI

### Ecosystems Services

The natural environment has become increasingly recognised for the range of beneficial services that it provides to economic performance, health and well-being and quality of life. The provision of these benefits is 'ecosystem services' (ES). ES can be grouped into four main categories – provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting<sup>1</sup>. There are various definitions of ecosystems services but broadly the concept considers all of the benefits provided by ecosystems. These include providing food and materials, regulation for example through water and carbon storage, supporting processes such as the water cycle and meeting other needs for people such as recreation and enjoyment.

The SPSS highlights the importance of ecosystem services and recommends that ES be adequately considered in the preparation of Local Development Plans, as an integral part of sustainable development. The requirement to subject LDPs to a sustainability appraisal can assist in this process

### 5.12.3: Likely Evolution of the Baseline without a Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new LDP, there could be the risk of inappropriate development encroaching on areas of national heritage importance that may not yet be zoned. Green infrastructure links to sites of priority habitats and species could become vulnerable to development pressure and dated zonings could lead to development in areas sensitive to the adverse effects of environmental impact i.e. flooding.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/Global.html>

Without up to date spatial information, it is likely to become increasingly difficult to protect both designated and locally important nature conservation sites from habitat loss, degradation and pollution. With a new plan, a consistent approach to the spatial protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment as a key asset, would be more feasible.

#### 5.12.4: Key Sustainability Issues for Natural Resources

- There are a significant number of nature conservation sites and some of these are shared with other Councils, which presents opportunities for partnership working for effective management.
- Marine planning and its associated obligations need to be appropriately considered within the Local Development Plan particularly as previous plans and frameworks may not have referred to coastal or marine matters.
- Country Parks can provide recreational access to the local countryside but tend to be more popular with the local community than visitors to the area.
- Outdoor leisure pursuits and opportunities can promote healthy communities
- Development pressure on the natural heritage exists from industry (energy), transport, agriculture and mining.
- Much natural heritage is associated with wetland habitats (riparian, estuarine and coastal).
- The River Foyle is a salmonid river but salmon stocks are declining. River Foyle Tributaries (Derg & Finn) and Faughan are also important Salmon rivers.
- In the south west of the River Foyle there is a lack of access to the river.
- There are a significant number of ancient woodland, native forests and dense tree cover across the Council but these are disconnected.
- The Council's Green Infrastructure Plan encompasses the area's local biodiversity through a network of natural and semi-natural areas with multiple benefits for local communities as multifunctional land.
- Existing green spaces need to be connected together and protected from other types of development.
- New developments and regeneration sites should include attractive design settings using functional green spaces that encourage people to reside.
- Local level blue/green infrastructure projects should continue to be invested in.
- Public access to the coast should be protected and where possible enhanced.

## 5.13 Landscape

### 5.13.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

This topic overlaps with the Natural Resources and Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage sections of this report. Landscape protection in Northern Ireland is evident at the regional level with a key aim in the RDS to protect and enhance the environment for its own sake. The environment in Northern Ireland is seen as one of its greatest assets and regional policy encourages protection of natural heritage assets and landscape character.

The SPSS recognises the importance of the countryside as a significant asset. It aims to avoid inappropriate development and provide a high standard of landscape protection that also reflects regional and local differences. Protection of landscape as a consideration is evident within several subject policies including; development in the countryside, minerals, open space, sport and outdoor recreation, renewable energy, telecommunications and other utilities. The SPSS also recognises the importance of the coastline in terms of landscape value.

If areas of unique landscape or amenity value, the new LDP can designate policy areas such as Special Countryside Areas (SCAs) or Areas of High Scenic Value (AoHSV) to conserve landscape character at a local level. This is in keeping with the aims of the European Landscape Convention (ELC), also known as the Florence Convention, which encourages countries to consider protection of everyday landscapes. The convention aims are to protect, manage and plan landscapes, including everyday or degraded settings. The ELC also aims to help reconnect people with place<sup>1</sup>.

Much of what is valued in a landscape is a blend of natural features and social and cultural history. It is the viewer's perception that provides an intrinsic value. This can help to define a region and provide a sense of place. Landscape is increasingly being realised in economic terms as an asset for tourism or as a motivator to encourage people to purchase a home or to invest in a new location.

In the Executive's draft PfG 2016-2021, a strategic outcome aims for society to live and work sustainably whilst protecting the environment. One of the draft PfG indicators to measure success of its outcomes includes improving the attractiveness of the country as a destination. In turn, this is measured by total spend by external visitors and directly links to tourism. Fundamental to the attractiveness of the country will be the preservation of the landscape for people to enjoy.

The outcomes of DCSDC Strategic Growth Plan (Community Plan) which are most relevant to this topic relate to the Environmental Pillar - 'We live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment', and are:

- We benefit from well designed and managed green space
- We value and enhance our environment
- We have stronger environmental stewardship

Appropriate consideration of landscape within the LDP process will be fundamental to achieving these outcomes.

### 5.13.2 Baseline Information

Evidence paper EVB9 – Natural Environment & Countryside and Landscape provides detailed information on the Councils position in relation to this topic (see [www.derrystroabane.com/ldp](http://www.derrystroabane.com/ldp)).

#### Overview

History and landscape have shaped Derry City and Strabane District. Derry has its hills, rivers and defensive walls and Strabane has also been shaped by its rivers and its former canal heritage. Both Derry city and Strabane town benefit from spectacular views, both into the settlements and out to

---

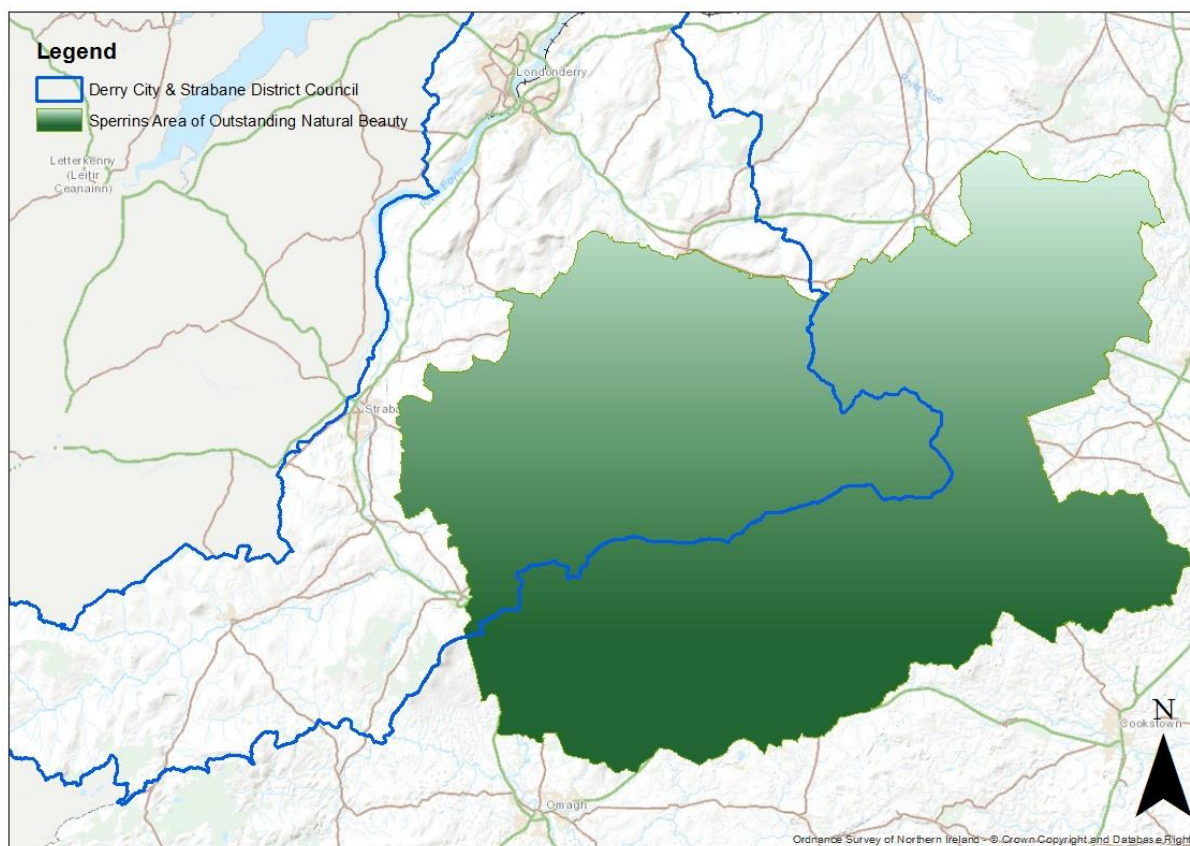
<sup>1</sup><https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/policy/13732-2/>

the surrounding countryside including the backdrops of the Sperrins and Donegal Hills. Many of the districts settlements are distinctive in their landscape setting.

#### *Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty*

AONBs are designated for their high landscape quality, wildlife importance and rich cultural and architectural heritage<sup>1</sup>. The Sperrin AONB includes a large mountainous area of great geological complexity and is the largest of eight AONBs in Northern Ireland. The Sperrin AONB covers an area of 118,206 hectares and stretches from the Strule Valley in the west, to the perimeter of Lough Neagh lowlands in the east. The purpose of the designation is to protect and conserve the scenic qualities of the area and promote their enjoyment. The Sperrin AONB extends across 4 Councils areas with the largest portion of the designation covering a substantial area of the centre and east of the District council.

**Figure 5.13.1: Sperrin Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**



Source: Shared Environmental Service; DAERA

#### *Landscape Character*

There are 130 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) identified by the Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 2000 (NILCA). The assessments are based on local conditions including landform, land use, geology, cultural and ecological features, as well as the wildlife and natural resources of the area. DCSDC has a unique combination of landscapes that include mountain, moorland, valley, rolling farmland, lough, river, estuary and woodland. There are 14 Landscape Character Areas either part or in whole within the Derry City and Strabane District Council.

#### *Regional Landscape Character*

The Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA) subdivides the NI countryside into 26 distinct character areas (RLCA's) and provides a strategic overview of landscape

<sup>1</sup> Planning Policy Statement 2 'Natural Heritage'

character. There are 5 Regional Landscape Character Areas in the District council. From north to south, these are, the Lough Foyle Coast and Dunes, North Sperrin Hills and Valleys, Sperrins, Foyle Valley and West Tyrone Hills and Valleys.

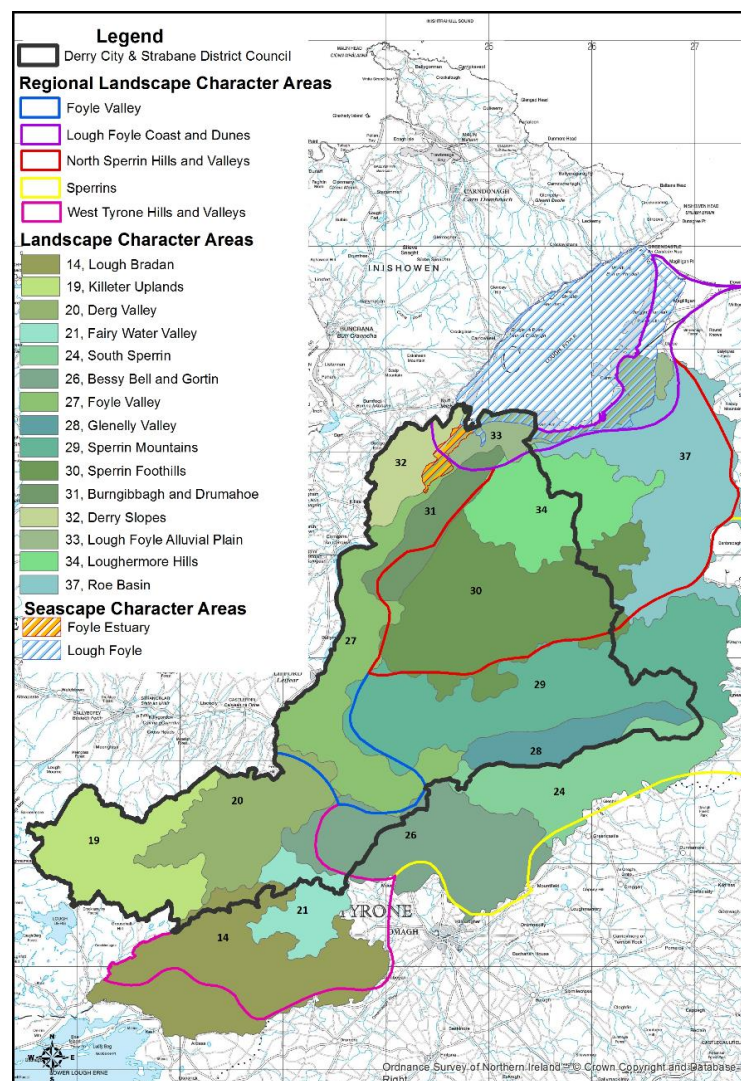
The conservation of areas identified by the NILCA assessments, for distinctive landscape quality, should be given particular consideration in the preparation of the LDP. Further information can be found at [www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/landscape-character-northern-ireland](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/landscape-character-northern-ireland)

The NILCA assessment also identifies Areas of Scenic Quality (ASQ) at Bessy Bell Mountain and the Sperrin Foothills by virtue of their important, distinctive landscape features. ASQs are considered to be of regional significance and represent a second tier below AONBs

### Regional Seascape Character

The 2014 Northern Ireland Regional Seascape Character Assessment (SCA) identifies 24 areas around the coast of Northern Ireland and describes the key features and characteristics of each area and its neighbouring terrestrial landscape setting. Foyle Estuary and Lough Foyle are the 2 SCA's that sit within the Derry City and Strabane District. Any decisions taken by Council that may affect the marine area must be in accordance with the UK Marine Policy Statement 2011. This means any local development must now be considered for its impacts on the marine area. The NIRSCA can provide as an evidence tool to assist in response to marine related projects and obligations.

Figure 5.13.2: Landscape Character Areas



Source: DAERA Digital Datasets



### *Development Pressure*

Local development pressure on landscape varies across the District Council but can be categorised into; rural development (including forestry), housing, industry, transport and energy. Pressures are specific to local landscapes and vary in scale. The impact from development can include loss of landscape features or landscape character but may also include perception of inappropriate rural design.

Northern Ireland is under mounting pressure for wind farm development, as it has a good wind resource and government policy favours the development and use of renewable energy. The best winds speeds are found in the west of Northern Ireland, for instance in the Sperrins. Derry City and Strabane District Council has received significant pressure for wind energy development, highly likely due to the enabling geography of the district. Over 20 Wind Farms have received approval within the District

Development pressure for single dwellings within the District has been higher in the area north of Strabane town along the A5 and east into the foothills of the Sperrins towards Donemana. Generally pressure from single dwellings and wind energy has been less occurring within areas designated for nature conservation importance, some pressure has encroached into the AONB which warrants consideration on the potential adverse impact on the designation. Eglisk Mountain Wind Farm and Owenreagh Wind Farm both being located within the AONB.

In planning for any future wind farms, it will be important to consider the cumulative impacts of these development on the landscape. Other environmental factors to consider include the overall scale and character of the local landscape, its relative remoteness, the character of local skylines, and site-specific factors such as distinctive landscape features.

There are also several significant developments located on the coast and any expansion or upgrades need to be appropriately considered in the context of the coastal nature conservation designations. Examples include the Coolkeeragh power station, the City of Derry Airport and the railway line to Coleraine.

#### 5.13.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new LDP, there could be an increased risk of losing or degrading landscapes from over development or inappropriate siting of structures.

#### 5.13.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Landscape

- The Sperrin Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is the largest AONB in the country and is shared with other Councils, which presents opportunities for partnership working.
- The Sperrins AONB is vulnerable in the absence of a dedicated AONB Management body or plan.
- The Sperrins with their elevated position are a key feature for many of the views from lower hills across the area.
- There is a need to work in partnership with other jurisdictions as sites are very often linked to each other through either perception or boundary.
- Hedgerow and stonewall boundaries are a feature of some low-lying areas and valleys.
- Forested areas and open moorland are typical of some of the valleys and higher areas.
- Development pressure from conifer plantations exists in the upland moorland areas of the north Sperrin Hills.
- Development pressure for housing exists in the low-lying areas of the valley floors.
- Development pressure for airport works, waste management and commercial/industrial facilities exists around the mudflats and floodplains of Lough Foyle.
- Development pressure from wind turbine development, commercial forestry and mining/quarrying exists in the West Tyrone Hills.
- Development pressure exists from transport along the river valley of the Foyle.

- Protection is required from development that may affect the sense of tranquillity and wildness of areas.
- Protection is required from development that may affect the dark sky resource.
- The Council may need to consider detailed local level landscape studies to complement previous regional level studies and in light of development occurring in the intervening period.

## 5.14 Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

### 5.14.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe 1992 and the European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe 1987 (known respectively as the 'Valetta Convention' and the 'Granada Convention') place responsibility on member states to consider the conservation of archaeological resources and to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. The Xi'an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas (2005) aims to contribute through legislation, policies, planning processes and management to better protect and conserve the world's heritage structures, sites and areas in their settings. In the regional context, PPS 6: Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage, along with its addendum, sets out planning policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and built heritage features. Supplementary planning guidance in the form of booklets incorporating local policies, design guides and baseline audits are published for Conservation Areas.

The SPPS provides policy relating to this objective in Chapter 6, paragraphs 6.1 - 6.30. The regional strategic objectives in the SPPS are to:

- Secure the protection, conservation, and, where possible, the enhancement of our built and archaeological heritage.
- Promote sustainable development and environmental stewardship with regard to our built and archaeological heritage.
- Encourage the link between conservation and economic prosperity.

Specific policy on the implementation of new LDPs is set out in items 6.28 and 6.29 of the SPPS. These link directly with the aims of the above-mentioned European Conventions.

The overarching policy recognises that townscape, built heritage, archaeology and cultural heritage form an important part of the character and appearance of our cities, towns, villages, small settlements and countryside. They are also part of our culture and can contribute to our quality of life. The historic environment has the potential to benefit our community and our economy in terms of tourism and regeneration. They contribute to the sense of place in our towns, villages and smaller settlements and are part of what is unique about places in the Borough.

Regional guidance recognises that quality natural assets, interesting architecture, and built heritage can contribute to a feeling of being somewhere unique, which contributes to the tourism offer. Reuse of both listed and locally important buildings can contribute to urban and rural renaissance, which can help vitality and footfall in settlement centres, supporting the local economy.

The Corporate Plan 2018-19 includes '*grow our business and facilitate cultural development*' as one of its objectives. One of the achievements of the Corporate Plan is the appointment of the Council's first District-wide Built Heritage Officer as part of the joint heritage development 3-year pilot initiative between Council and DfC Historic Environment Division.

The 2017-32 Community Plan recognises that '*we have a remarkable and rich history, culture and heritage packaged together in a stunning landscape*' and notes that '*once lost, heritage assets are gone forever and it is important that we develop sustainable futures for these buildings*'. A key outcome of the Community Plan is that '*we live in the cultural destination of choice*'. Among the Key actions are to '*Develop and promote our heritage assets - in particular managing the Walled City to realise its full potential to the standard of a world heritage site*' and to '*develop a maritime museum and archive at Ebrington*'.

Derry has benefited from Townscape Heritage Initiative investment led by the Walled City Partnership established in 2002. The Derry City Walls Conservation Plan<sup>1</sup> recognises that there are a number of stakeholders involved in the maintenance and care of the City Walls and that there may be conflicting demands upon this structure. This Plan sets out a series of recommended policies which it aims ‘*will form an essential reference point for future decision makers*’. Derry’s establishment as the first UK City of Culture in 2013 has raised the profile of the district in terms of its history and cultural heritage. The continuous household surveys 2011-2013 recorded that 90% of the district’s population have ‘engaged in culture arts and leisure’ over the preceding year and 48% ‘visited a museum or science centre’<sup>2</sup>. In 2017, Derry’s Walls and Guildhall were respectively the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> most visited attractions in NI<sup>3</sup>.

#### 5.14.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the LDP Environmental Baseline Paper EVB 10 Historic Environment. The Historic Environment Division (HED) of the Department for Communities (DfC) has also published its digital datasets of the historic environment online<sup>4</sup> and has created a Historic Environment Web Map Viewer<sup>5</sup>. It has also published Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Historic Environment<sup>6</sup> and Guidance on Setting and the Historic Environment<sup>7</sup>. This topic overlaps with the Economy, Transport, Employment and Landscape topics.

##### Overview

The Council has a rich and diverse historic environment. Derry has its hills, rivers and defensive walls, whilst the Peace Bridge and the Riverside walks on both sides of the city have opened up the River Foyle. Historically, Strabane developed as both an industrial centre and strong market town. It has also been shaped by its rivers and its former canal heritage, however this heritage may be threatened by increasing vulnerability to flooding, which may be associated with climate change (see also Chapter 5.11). There are many elements of our historic environment, from the remains of remote ancient settlements and castles, ritual sites and tombs, and the many buildings of architectural importance in our District.

##### Listed Buildings

There are a total of approximately 677 Listed Buildings in the district, 20 of which have been assigned Grade A status. These include the former Austins department store and Guildhall in Derry City, Baronscourt in Newtownstewart, Banagher Presbyterian Church near Claudy and bridges at Castlederg and Clady. A further 85 (approx.) buildings are listed, but are ‘record only’ or have not yet been allocated a grade.

##### Buildings at Risk

The Ulster Architecture and Heritage Society in conjunction with the Department for Communities (DfC), has compiled an online list of Built Heritage at Risk in NI (BHARNI)<sup>8</sup>. The BHARNI register contains a selection of listed buildings, scheduled monuments and other historic structures, ranging from dwellings to large industrial complexes, which are may not have a sustainable future without intervention. It highlights the vulnerability of the historic built environment and will act as a catalyst for its restoration and reuse. Within the district there are a total of 63 ‘buildings at risk’, of which 55 are also listed buildings. Some of the ‘buildings at risk’ have been saved and put back into use, but a

---

<sup>1</sup> [Derry City Walls Conservation Plan \(2nd Edition, November 2015\)](#) (DOE, 2015)

<sup>2</sup> NISRA – People and Places - Engagement in Culture, Arts and Leisure by adults (administrative geographies) (2011-13)

<sup>3</sup> NISRA [Visitor attraction survey publications](#) (Date published: 07 June 2018)

<sup>4</sup> DfC [Historic Environment Digital Datasets](#) (Date published: 25th January 2019)

<sup>5</sup> DfC [Historic Environment Map Viewer](#) (found at <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/historic-environment-map-viewer>)

<sup>6</sup> [Department for Communities Historic Environment Division - Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Historic Environment](#) (Date published: 03 July 2018)

<sup>7</sup> [Department for Communities Historic Environment Division - Guidance on Setting and the Historic Environment](#) (Date published: 12 February 2018)

<sup>8</sup> [Department for Communities Buildings at Risk Register for Northern Ireland](#) (accessed 04/02/2019)

number remain at a 'critical' level of risk. Some examples of buildings at risk include former mills such as Herdman's Mill in Sion Mills and Miller's Corn Mill in Artigarvan, the tower at the Waterside Railway Terminus and three former schools. The Council has established an Empty / Dilapidated Buildings Working Group which aims to bring such properties back into a state of use and ensure they no longer pose a risk to a health and safety or detrimental to the character of a neighbourhood. The Urban Development Grant programme has also contributed significantly to the restoration of buildings in Derry.

The former Waterside Train Station in the City, a Grade B listed building, served as one of the city's main stations for a century before closing in 1980. The Tower and adjoining gable at the Station is currently registered as 'at risk'. However, refurbishment of the Train Station has recently taken place to provide the New North-West Transport Hub. The project is delivered by Translink along with funding from the EU and investment by the Department for Infrastructure, Department for Transport, Tourism and Sport in the Republic of Ireland, along with Derry City and Strabane District Council. The refurbishment sees the landmark building restored and repurposed as an important gateway to the north-west thereby securing its position for the future .

#### *Sites and Monuments Record*

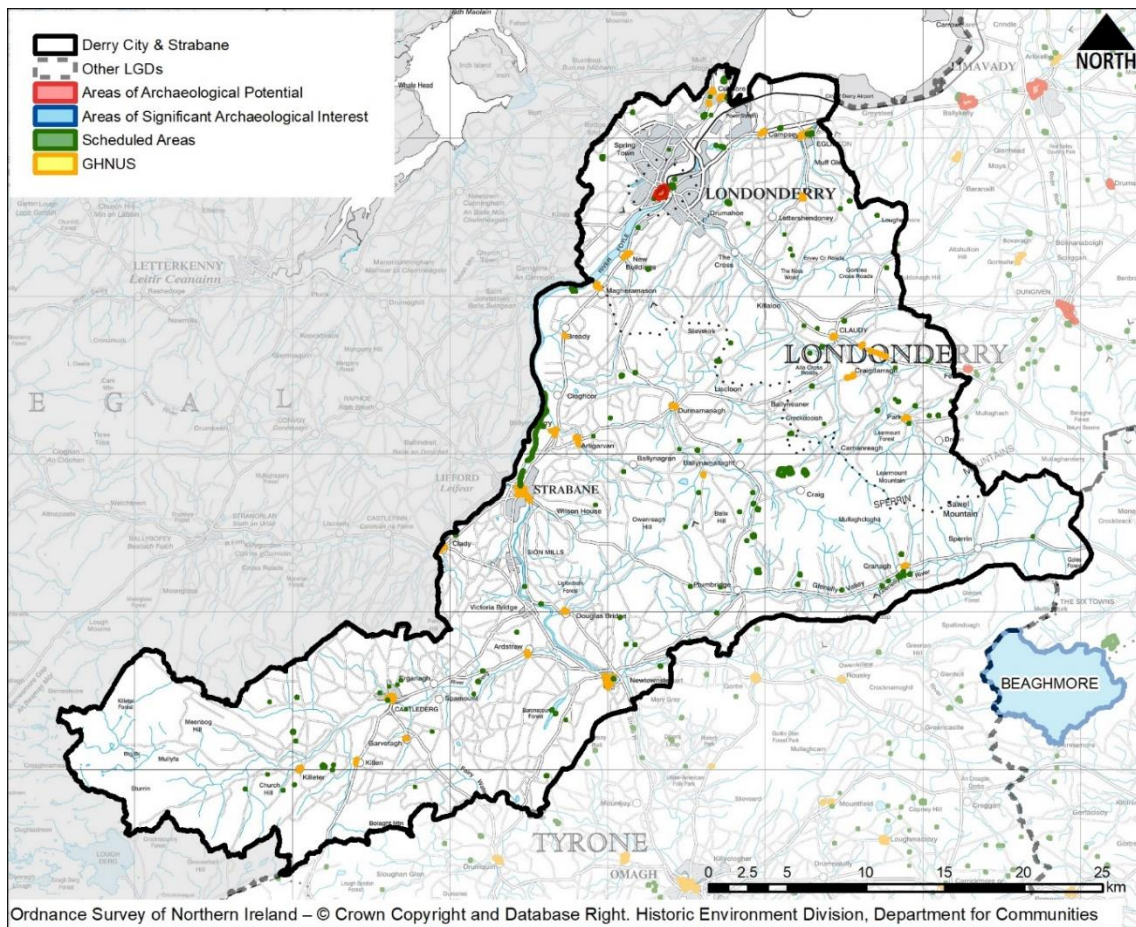
Derry City and Strabane district has a rich record of archaeological sites and historic monuments. Scheduled Zones are archaeological and historic sites and monuments that are afforded protection under Article 3 of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 and there are 128<sup>1</sup> such Scheduled zones in the district (Figure 5.14.1). The NI Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) maintained by the Historic Environment Division (HED) of the DfC lists a further 731<sup>2</sup> unscheduled Sites and Monuments located across the district. The Record includes assets such as prehistoric cairns and tombs, stone alignments and circles, medieval battle sites, castles and churches, the post-medieval City Walls in Derry and more modern features such as World War II anti-aircraft batteries. More sites may potentially be discovered through archaeological work, during development operations or through agricultural activity.

---

<sup>1</sup> DfC [Historic Environment Digital Datasets](#) – Scheduled Historic Monument Areas (Date published: 25th January 2019)

<sup>2</sup> DfC [Historic Environment Digital Datasets](#) – Listed Buildings (Date published: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019)

Figure 5.14.1: Historic Environment: ASAI, AAP, Scheduled Zones and GHNUS



Source: DfC Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 25 January 2019)

The district has 28 Monuments in State Care<sup>1</sup>. These include the iconic City Walls - the largest monument in State Care in NI. The State Care monument includes not only the City Walls, but also the adjoining land and property and associated below-ground archaeology which forms its setting. March 2019 will mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the Walls and the Council has planned a programme of events throughout the year to mark the occasion. Other notable scheduled monuments are the 14<sup>th</sup> Century Harry Avery's Castle (Newtownstewart) and the 15<sup>th</sup> Century Derg Castle (Castlederg), Tombs located at Balix Lower, Churchtown, Ervey, Glenknock and Lisky and a group of 16 monuments found within the Ballygroll Prehistoric Landscape.

#### *Areas of Special Archaeological Interest*

Areas of Special Archaeological Interest are non-statutory designations, but are included in the extant LDPs. The preservation of an archaeological site or monument and its setting is a material consideration in determining planning applications. There are currently no Areas of Special Archaeological Interest (ASAI) identified in the district; the nearest is around 3km outside the district, at Beaghmore in Mid Ulster District Council (Figure 5.14.1).

The settings of ASAI within the landscape forms an important part of their character and heritage value. Two new candidate ASAs, at Greencastle and at Slieve Gullion, have been identified by HED and are currently under consideration for designation.

<sup>1</sup> DfC [Historic Environment Digital Datasets](#) - NI Sites and Monuments Record (Date published: 25th January 2019)

### *Area of Archaeological Potential*

Derry City is currently the only settlement in Derry and Strabane district with an identified Area of Archaeological Potential (AAP)<sup>1</sup> which surrounds the City Walls. There is no general policy on AAPs (or ASAs) within the Derry Area Plan 2011 however there is specific policy relating to the City Walls which links them to the AAP.

The Gazetteer of Historic Nucleated Settlements (GHNUS) is the result of a program of work within the DfC to identify historic settlement centres and from these, in some cases, identify new AAP or modify existing AAP. The Gazetteer includes 26 entries within the district<sup>2</sup>, of which only one (Derry) has an existing AAP associated. These include areas of Claudy, Castleterg, Newtownstewart and Strabane. The new LDP will consider the designation of new ASAI and AAP through consultation with the DfC.

### *Marine Historic Environment*

Derry City and Strabane district has a relatively short coastline, spanning approximately 7km along the shore of Lough Foyle. The River Foyle is tidal along its 16km length to Strabane and the lower 4km of the River Faughan is also tidal. Although short, the coastline has high densities of documented marine losses (see Figure 5.14.2) in particular at the Rover Foyle. Around 10 historic shipwrecks are known to be located within 2km of the coastline including the tidal portions of the Foyle, however around one hundred documented shipwrecks remain unlocated. Historic shipwrecks may receive protected status the Protection of Wrecks Act (1973) while the wreckage of military aircraft and designated military vessels may be protected via the Protection of Military Remains Act (1986). Wrecks may also be designated as a Scheduled Historic Monument under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order (1995). As yet, none of the wrecks in the waters offshore from Derry City and Strabane district have received protected status.

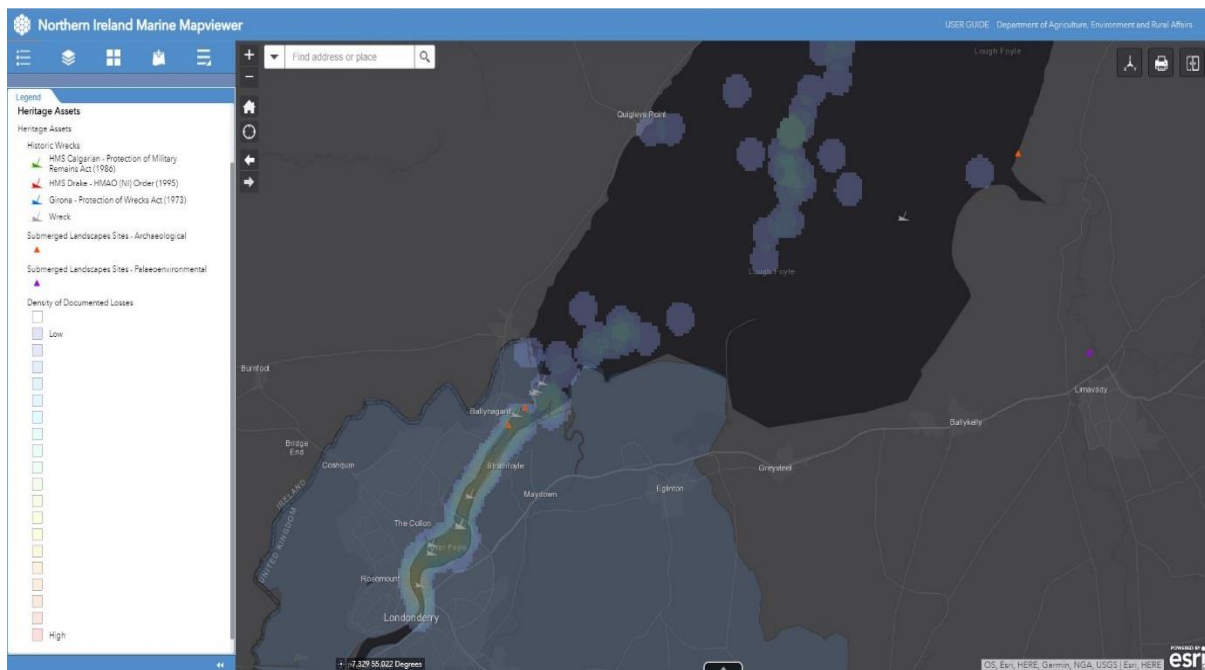
Two archaeological Submerged Landscape Sites have been discovered in the district, both of which were at the mouth of the Foyle River (see Figure 5.14.2). These were collections of finds dating from the Mesolithic period (8,000-4,000 years before present). DAERA also maintains a database record of palaeoenvironmental Submerged Landscape Sites which are evidence of submerged, intertidal or buried palaeo-landscape in NI, however no such sites have been discovered to date in the district. Intertidal or offshore development, such as harbour and bridge excavations, undersea cable trenching or tidal/wave energy arrays, have the potential to discover new evidence of the marine historic environment.

---

<sup>1</sup> DfC [Historic Environment Digital Datasets](#) - Areas of Archaeological Potential (Date published: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019)

<sup>2</sup> DfC [Historic Environment Digital Datasets](#) - Gazetteer of Historic Nucleated Urban Settlement (Date published: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019)

Figure 5.14.2: Marine Historic Environment – Shipwrecks and Submerged Archaeology



Source: DAERA Northern Ireland Marine Map Viewer

### Industrial Heritage

The district also contains a wealth of remains from the industrial past, which are reminders of the economic as well as the social development of the area. Sites of industrial heritage can be found not only in the city and main towns, but also in rural locations. They include many remnants of the former flax, linen and shirt-making industries, numerous corn mills and corn kilns, tanneries and slate quarries.

There are numerous bridges, tunnels and other engineering features remaining from the many former railways and tramways that served the district. These include:

- Belfast and Northern Counties Railway (BNCR) Main Line, Belfast - Londonderry
- Great Northern Railway (GNR) Branch Line, Portadown - Londonderry
- Londonderry & Lough Swilly Narrow Gauge Railway
- Narrow Gauge Castlederg & Victoria Bridge Tramway
- Strabane - Killybegs Narrow Gauge Railway
- Strabane - Letterkenny Narrow Gauge Railway
- Strabane - Londonderry Narrow Gauge Railway

The Strabane or Foyle Canal was built in 1796 and extends for four miles from Strabane to the navigable reaches of the River Foyle. The route of the canal remains intact, although parts are dry and have become overgrown. Although some restoration work took place in 2006-7, it is not maintained and is not formally accessible to the public<sup>1</sup>. Three reaches of the canal including bridges and locks have been designated as a Scheduled Monument and are protected under Article 3 of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995. As discussed in section 5.8, parts of these former railway and canal routes could be included when considering the development of new greenways.

<sup>1</sup> Derry Journal "Time to regenerate the 'Foyle's' forgotten canals" published 03 October 2017 (accessible at <https://www.derryjournal.com/news/time-to-regenerate-the-foyle-s-forgotten-canals-1-8178722> )



Ballynameen Bridge, Claudy, a five-span masonry arch bridge on the industrial heritage register, was washed away during the flooding event of 22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017. The bridge suffered significant damage and has since undergone major reconstruction and renovation.

### Defence Heritage

Derry City and Strabane district contains many defence heritage assets, largely associated with World War II. These are focused mainly on Eglinton, Derry City and the entrance to the River Foyle. However a handful of observation posts and one radar station are located elsewhere in the district. Defence heritage assets include former airfields and camps, anti-aircraft batteries, other air force infrastructure, pillboxes and observation posts. Around a fifth of the assets in the district that are listed on the defence heritage record are in poor condition or have already been destroyed<sup>1</sup>.

### Historic Parks and Gardens

Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes reflect planned and managed landscape enhancement carried out since the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. The district has a total of eight Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes on the Register of Parks, Gardens and Demesnes of Special Historic Interest <sup>2</sup> which are considered to be of exceptional importance within NI. These include 594 hectares (ha) at Barons Court, 79 ha at Holy Hill House and 60 ha at Brook Hall. A further 13 supplementary sites have also been identified as having a high level of interest and are included as an appendix to the main Register.

**Table 5.14.1: Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes Register for DCSDC**

Register		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ashbrook</li> <li>▪ Barons Court</li> <li>▪ Beech Hill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Brook Hall</li> <li>▪ Brook park</li> <li>▪ Holy Hill or Holly Hill House</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Moyle House</li> <li>▪ St. Columbs</li> </ul>
Supplementary		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aberfoyle</li> <li>▪ Ardmore</li> <li>▪ Ballyarnet</li> <li>▪ Belmont House</li> <li>▪ Boom Hall</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enagh House</li> <li>▪ Glengalliagh Hall</li> <li>▪ Government House</li> <li>▪ Learmount</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Molenan House</li> <li>▪ Templemoyle (Muff Glen)</li> <li>▪ The Oaks</li> <li>▪ Thornhill</li> </ul>

Source: DfC Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019)

### Conservation Areas

A Conservation Area is an area deemed to be of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve and enhance, as designated under Article 50 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991. The district has a total of five Conservation Areas. They are:

- Historic City (designated 1977, reviewed / extended 2006)
- Clarendon Street designated 1978 reviewed / extended 2006)
- Newtownstewart (designated 1993)
- Magee (designated 2006).
- Sion Mills (designated 1977)

Great importance is attached to the preservation of the existing character and appearance of such areas, allied to the promotion of their economic well-being. Each of these five Conservation Areas has its own design guide which provides information on the planning context, character appraisal and historic development of the designation. These can be found at:

[https://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/planning\\_statements\\_and\\_supplementary\\_planning\\_guidance/conservation.htm](https://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/planning_statements_and_supplementary_planning_guidance/conservation.htm)

### Areas of Townscape Character

Areas of Townscape and Village Character are designated by the Council through the local development plan with accompanying local policies for the control of development within these

<sup>1</sup> DfC [Historic Environment Digital Datasets](#) – Defence Heritage Record (Date published: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019)

<sup>2</sup> DfC [Historic Environment Digital Datasets](#) – Historic Parks & Gardens (Date published: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019)

areas. There are currently four Areas of Townscape Character (ATC) identified in the Derry Area Plan 2011. These are Victoria Park, Bond's Hill, Eglinton and Culmore. This designation was not available at the time of the Strabane Area Plan in 1991. There are currently no designated Areas of Village Character (AVC) in the district. As part of the LDP preparation process, all existing ATC designations will be reviewed and any additional ATCs or Areas of Village Character will be identified.

#### *Local Landscape Policy Areas*

Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) are defined in the SPPS as consisting '*of those features and areas within and adjoining settlements considered to be of greatest amenity value, landscape quality or local significance and therefore worthy of protection from undesirable or damaging development*'. As part of the LDP preparation process, the identification and designation of LLPAs will be given due consideration.

#### 5.14.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without the LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, extant Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied. HED would continue to enhance the monuments and buildings record to include new sites and information, and to recognise new assets or changes in the designated status of existing assets. Stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. However, in the absence of a new plan, opportunities to consider the historical and cultural assets in future growth plans and place-shaping may be missed.

There are a large number of strategic heritage assets in the district, dating from Prehistoric periods through to World War II. Without a new LDP in place, opportunities to designate new Areas of Special Archaeological Interest and Areas of Archaeological Potential in the LDP would also be missed. Opportunities might also be missed to take advantage of the potential that archaeological, industrial, and defence heritage assets have as part of the tourism and visitor offer, leading to reduced economic benefit for local communities. The protection, conservation and regeneration of historic places can contribute to well-being in society through providing people with enjoyment, inspiration, learning opportunities, mental and physical health benefits, and a sense of place and identity.

There is also a risk of incremental erosion of landscape or townscape character or quality. Development might have a significant impact on the historic environment and/or people's enjoyment of it. In the absence of a LDP the 'setting' of historic assets or places, which may extend far beyond the boundary or curtilage of the site, may not be taken into consideration. A new LDP is an opportunity to consider the reasons for these issues and identify the positive role that planning can play.

#### 5.14.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

- Derry City and Strabane District Council has a wealth of Historic and Cultural Heritage assets, including listed buildings, state monuments, historic gardens and demesnes, industrial and archaeological heritage. These assets contribute to the high quality environment that creates attractive places to live, invest in and visit.
- The district contains settlements which each have a unique sense of place, and character. Protecting this sense of place aspect has benefits for people and their pride in their community.
- Heritage assets are at risk from neglect, decay, development pressure and vacancy.
- 'Buildings at Risk' should continue to be identified and efforts made by the relevant authority to maintain their regular use and/or support their restoration.
- The innovative reuse of existing historic building stock should be promoted.
- Heritage crime is an issue in this Council area.
- Risks are presented by inappropriate development, enhancement or design that does not demonstrate an informed understanding of heritage asset and their settings.
- Traffic pollution, air quality and noise pollution may contribute to adverse effects on the historic environment.

- Appreciating the value of built heritage should also apply to new buildings, through understanding how new development will affect the setting of existing historic environment assets.
- The Historic City of Derry is considered an Area of Archaeological Potential and contains many listed buildings and sites/monuments. Derry City's historic walls and the site at Ebrington Barracks to the east are scheduled zones and contain a number of state sites/monuments.
- Within all ATCs and Conservation Areas, new development must preserve or enhance the character and appearance of these areas.
- The Council area has a rich industrial heritage in its main settlements and also in rural locations.
- The Council area also has a rich defence heritage associated with World War II.
- There is evidence of incremental erosion of historical/architectural character and appearance within some of the designated Conservation Areas.
- There is an ongoing loss of non-designated heritage assets such as historic farmsteads and rural buildings as well as industrial and defence heritage, and historic shopfronts in spite of their heritage value and role in conserving settings.
- Around half of respondents to the continuous household survey from DCSDC area stated that they had visited a museum or science centre in the last year
- Undesignated marine Heritage Assets such as Shipwrecks and Submerged Landscape Sites, whilst not statutorily protected, must be given appropriate evaluation and consideration.
- Further opportunities could be explored to link heritage assets with tourism and to encourage use / reuse of resources for community / education activities.
- Appreciating the value of built heritage should also apply to new buildings.
- Climate change (e.g. extremes of wetting or drying) has the potential to cause long term impacts on the historic environment.
- There may be opportunities to maintain or reflect historic routeways and townland boundaries during the Plan period. .

## 6. THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

Sustainability objectives have been identified through consideration of intentional, national, regional and local policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives; baseline information at regional and, where available, at local level and apparent trends.

The following Sustainability Objectives are informed by the topic review and key sustainability issues identified in Chapter 5. The rationale for selecting each is outlined. The prompts used to assess plan options against the Sustainability Objectives are presented in Appendix 5.

### 6.1 The Sustainability Objectives

Sustainability objectives have been identified through consideration of international, national, regional and local policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives; baseline information at regional and, where available, at local level and apparent trends. The objectives follow with a short rationale and description of what each seeks to achieve. There are several overlaps between objectives which support each other.

The objectives for sustainable development in Derry City & Strabane District Council are to...

#### 1...improve health and well-being.

Public policy seeks to increase healthy life expectancy, reduce preventable deaths, improve mental health and reduce health inequalities. Evidence shows that there is a need to address obesity, increase physical activity and reduce inequalities in health. It is also necessary to provide for the needs of an aging population and minimize the detrimental impacts of noise. This can be achieved by creating an environment that is clean and attractive; encourages healthy lifestyles; protects tranquil and quiet areas and enables access to health care facilities for all.

#### 2...strengthen society.

Regional policy is directed towards improving community relations and creating a safe society which is more united. Success will be represented by places which are inclusive, respect culture and identity, promote social integration and create a sense of pride. They will also be designed to feel safe and to reduce opportunity for crime or anti-social behaviour.

#### 3...provide good quality, sustainable housing.

The population is growing and therefore there is ongoing need for new housing in locations that meet regional policy, are accessible and balance the needs of society and the environment. The make-up of households is changing therefore design needs to meet long term requirements with good quality build to be sustainable. This objective should reduce homelessness and ensure decent, affordable homes with a mix of types.

#### 4...enable access to high quality education.

Good education improves opportunities for employment and also contributes to avoidance of poverty and healthier lifestyles. The provision of suitable accommodation for educational establishments in appropriate, accessible locations should play a part in making schools more sustainable and reducing inequalities in education.

#### 5...enable sustainable economic growth.

Regional policy seeks to develop a strong, competitive and regionally balanced economy. It is necessary to provide suitable locations for employment, with flexibility where necessary, to reflect current and future distribution of jobs across sectors, encourage new business start-ups, facilitate innovation, regenerate areas, attract investment and make employment as accessible as possible for all. This will reduce unemployment and poverty by helping more people to earn a living and increase their income.

### 6...manage material assets sustainably.

Material assets such as infrastructure and sources of energy production are essential for society and the economy but need careful planning to ensure that they are designed for efficiency and to minimize adverse impacts. The concept of circular economy treats waste as resource which should be managed sustainably to reduce production and increase recovery, recycling and composting rates; new or adapted facilities may be required.

### 7...protect physical resources and use sustainably.

Land, minerals, geothermal energy and soil are resources which require protection from degradation and safeguarding for future use. Sustainable agriculture, tourism and sustainable use of minerals and geothermal energy can help to support the economy.

### 8...encourage active and sustainable travel.

There is a common goal to reduce traffic emissions and congestion which means reducing car use and increasing other forms of transport. Better access to public transport and opportunities for active travel make travel more affordable with added health benefits and also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Measures that help reduce car use and improve accessibility to encourage a shift to travel by public transport, walking and cycling will contribute to this goal.

### 9... improve air quality

Air pollution has serious impacts on human health as well as degrading the natural environment. This objective can be achieved through reducing sources of air pollution. Where air pollution cannot be totally excluded careful siting of development should avoid impacts on sensitive receptors.

### 10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.

International commitments require greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced to lessen their effects on climate. Measures that help reduce energy consumption and enable renewable energy helps lessen greenhouse gas emissions however adaption is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change.

### 11...protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.

This objective encompasses reducing levels of water pollution, sustainable use of water resources, improving the physical state of the water environment and reducing the risk of flooding now and in the future. It meets the requirements of Northern Ireland legislation, strategies and plans in support of the Water Framework Directive and other Directives that relate to water and it takes account of the future impacts of climate change.

### 12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.

International obligations which are adopted in Northern Ireland legislation and policies require the protection of biodiversity including flora, fauna and habitats. This is for their intrinsic value and for the wider services that they provide to people, the economy and the environment for example as carbon stores which lessen the effects of climate change. This objective includes protecting and enhancing biodiversity as well as protection of green and blue infrastructure to enhance the services that natural resources provide.

### 13... maintain and enhance landscape character.

International and national policies seek to conserve the natural character and landscape of the coast and countryside and protect them from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development. This objective seeks to maintain the character and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes and seascapes and to protect and enhance open spaces and the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors.

#### 14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.

The historic environment and cultural heritage are resources that inform our history and bring character and sense of place. They also attract visitors and contribute to the economy and bring vibrancy to the places where we live, work and relax. This can be achieved by protecting and enhancing Conservation Areas, townscapes and other sites of historic and cultural value including their setting.

### 1.9 Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives

A comparison has been drawn between all of the Sustainability Objectives to identify any conflicts between them and is presented in Appendix 3. No Sustainability Objectives were considered to be incompatible with the rest of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. In some cases, however the effect is uncertain. The Sustainability Objectives will therefore be reviewed at the next stage and the rationale updated to address this uncertainty.

### 1.10 Next Steps

This scoping report provides the Sustainability Appraisal Framework that has been used to appraise the Preferred Options Paper and prepare the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report. The Scoping Report will be reviewed and updated at each subsequent step of plan preparation to reflect new context and baseline information.

### 1.11 Difficulties Encountered in Compiling the Scoping Report

With the establishment of the Council in 2015 and the new statutory Community Planning duty there has been a great deal of data collection for a variety of purposes including the draft Community Plan which is being published alongside the POP. It has not always been possible to align all of the evidence used for this scoping report with other evidence as timeframes and purpose for which data was collected may differ. Evidence papers for the LDP have also been updated prior to publication and it has not always been possible to reflect these however they will inform future updates to this report. The scoping report evidence will be reviewed and updated where necessary before publication of the draft Sustainability Report at Plan Strategy.

Predicting effects and trends always involves an element of uncertainty or a need for assumptions to be made. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by gaps in the baseline and understanding of future trends. In some cases information is either not available at council level or there is not a series of data to inform trends.

## APPENDIX 1: COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Schedule 2 of the The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 lists the following information required for environmental reports, according to Regulation 11(3), (4). The location in this Scoping Report or the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report is identified.

Requirement	Location
<b>1. An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.</b>	<p>An introduction to the Derry City and Strabane District Council LDP is presented in Section 1 of the SA Report and Section 1 of the SA Scoping Report.</p> <p>The key plans, policies, programmes and strategies that have been considered in the SA are described at the introduction to each topic in Chapter 5 of the SA Scoping Report. A full list is included in Appendix 4 of the SA Scoping Report.</p>
<b>2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.</b>	<p>Baseline information is presented in Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report, under topic sections. Each section highlights the likely evolution of the baseline without the LDP.</p> <p>The Key Sustainability Issues are summarised at the end of each topic in Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report.</p>
<b>3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.</b>	<p>The environmental characteristics of the District are presented in Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report, in baseline information and as Key Sustainability Issues.</p>
<b>4. Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including. In particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</b>	<p>Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report identifies environmental problems.</p> <p>A draft Habitats Regulations Assessment for the draft Plan Strategy has been published for consultation alongside the draft Plan Strategy.</p> <p>A summary of the HRA is included in Section 1.4.3 of the SA Report.</p>
<b>5. The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.</b>	<p>Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report outlines the main policy themes in the introduction to each topic.</p> <p>Appendix 4 of the SA Scoping Report outlines the relationship of the LDP with other plans, programmes and policies.</p>

Requirement	Location
<p><b>6. The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) biodiversity;</li> <li>(ii) population;</li> <li>(iii) human health;</li> <li>(iv) fauna;</li> <li>(v) flora;</li> <li>(vi) soil;</li> <li>(vii) water;</li> <li>(viii) air;</li> <li>(ix) climatic factors;</li> <li>(x) material assets;</li> <li>(xi) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;</li> <li>(xii) landscape, and</li> <li>(xiii) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub paragraphs (i) to (xii).</li> </ul>	<p>Likely significant effects are described in Sections 3 and 4 of the SA Report. They are reported in the context of the sustainability appraisal framework included in Appendix 5 of the SA Scoping Report.</p> <p>Interrelationships are discussed in Section 4 of the SA Report and Appendix 3 of the SA Scoping Report.</p>
<p><b>7. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.</b></p>	<p>Measures are reported in Section 3 of the SA Report and also in the matrices presented in Appendix 4 of the SA Report.</p>
<p><b>8. 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.</b></p>	<p>Section 2 of the SA Report considers this in general. Section 3 and Appendix 4 of the SA Report provide more detail on the options appraised and any assumptions and limitations encountered in the appraisal.</p>
<p><b>9. A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 16.</b></p>	<p>A preliminary framework for potential monitoring has been included in Section 5 of the SA Report.</p>
<p><b>10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.</b></p>	<p>A non-technical summary is provided as a separate document to accompany the SA Report and the SA Scoping Report.</p>



## APPENDIX 2: SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AND RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) TOPICS

The objectives for sustainable development are to...	SEA Directive Topic
1...improve health and well-being.	Population Human Health
2 strengthen society.	Cultural Heritage including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage Population
3...provide good quality, sustainable housing.	Population Human Health
4...enable access to high quality education.	Population
5...enable sustainable economic growth.	Population Human Health
6 manage material assets sustainably.	Material Assets
7...protect physical resources and use sustainably.	Material Assets Soil
8...encourage active and sustainable travel.	Human Health Population Climatic Factors
9...improve air quality	Air
10...reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	Climatic Factors
11...protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	Water
12...protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	Biodiversity Flora, Fauna
13...maintain and enhance landscape character.	Landscape
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	Cultural Heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage Landscape

## APPENDIX 3: COMPATIBILITY OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

Sustainability Objectives	1 Improve health and well-being.	2 Strengthen society.	3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4 Enable access to high quality education.	5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	6 Manage material assets sustainably.	7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	9 Improve air quality.	10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.
1 Improve health and well-being.														
2 Strengthen society.	✓													
3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	✓	✓												
4 Enable access to high quality education.	✓	✓	✓											
5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	✓	✓	✓	✓										
6 Manage material assets sustainably.	✓	0	0	0	✓									
7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓								
8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0							
9 Improve air quality.	✓	✓	✓	0	?	✓	✓	✓						
10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	✓	✓	✓	0	?	✓	✓	✓	✓					
11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	✓	0	?	0	?	✓	✓	0	✓	✓				
12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	✓	✓	?	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	✓	✓	?	0	✓	?	?	0	✓	✓	✓	✓		
14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	0	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Compatible	✓	No relationship	0	Uncertain relationship	?	Incompatible	✘
------------	---	-----------------	---	------------------------	---	--------------	---

## APPENDIX 4: REVIEW OF POLICIES, PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES

### Introduction

This is a list of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies that have been considered in scoping the Sustainability Appraisal. It will be updated at each stage of plan preparation. Some additional documents, including local plans, may be referred to in the LDP evidence papers or the body of the SA Scoping Report and these will also be incorporated in this table.

A number of cross cutting publications are presented first. Following that the publications are listed according to the most relevant topic however some may apply to two or more topics. Year is the year of publication and scale indicates the spatial area it applies to. The lead is the department or organisation currently responsible for the publication and was not necessarily the one responsible for preparation of the publication.

For each publication a summary of the key objectives, requirements or advice is given with emphasis on what is most relevant to the Local Development Plan (LDP). A short comment is included on the implications of these for the LDP and/or how they will be addressed in plan preparation.

Acknowledgement is given to work carried out by Mid Ulster District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and the Strategic Planning Division of the Department for Infrastructure, which formed part of the source information for this review of plans, policies, programmes and strategies.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Sustainable Development	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	2015	International	UN	Seeks to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. It also aims to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities. Expressed through 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets.	Through the influence of the sustainability appraisal the LDP seeks to contribute to these goals where they are within the scope of development planning.
Sustainable Development	Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Cohesion Policy 2014-2020	2014	Europe	EC	Almost 70% of the EU population lives in an urban area, and these areas generate more than two thirds of the EU's GDP. However, they are also the places where persistent problems such as unemployment, segregation and poverty, as well as severe environmental pressures, are concentrated. Measures concerning physical urban renewal should be combined with measures promoting education, economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection.	The policy sets out principles for integrated sustainable urban development.
Sustainable Development	General Union Environmental Action Plan (2020)	2013	Europe	EC	This will guide European environment policy until 2020 but has a longer term vision: "In 2050, we live well, within the planet's ecological limits. Our prosperity and healthy environment stem from an innovative, circular economy where nothing is wasted and where natural resources are managed sustainably, and biodiversity is protected, valued and restored in ways that enhance our society's resilience. Our low-carbon growth has long been decoupled from resource use, setting the pace for a safe and sustainable global society." It identifies three key objectives: to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital; to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy; to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing.	The LDP should support the four key areas of work set out in the EAP.
Sustainable Development	The Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)	2004	Europe	EC	The Environmental Liability Directive (ELD) has the objective of making operators of activities which cause environmental damage financially liable for that damage (the 'polluter pays' principle). It imposes duties on operators of economic activities to take immediate steps to prevent damage if there is an imminent threat, and to control damage which is occurring so as to limit its effects.	The LDP will take account of this Directive and local relevant legislation.
Sustainable Development	Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment	2001	Europe	EC	Provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.	The LDP will take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive at the national level. Requirements of the Directive will be addressed through the Sustainability Appraisals.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Sustainable Development	A Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development	2001	Europe	EC	A framework for a long-term vision of sustainability in which economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection go hand in hand and are mutually supporting. Particular environmental protection objectives include increasing the use of clean energy and natural resources to combat climate change, reducing noise and air pollution through promotion of sustainable transport, and conserving and managing the overall use of water and air.	This Strategy aligns with many of the objectives of the LDP including those related to transport and natural heritage, as well as renewable energy. In applying the policy requirements of the SPPS the LDP will also contribute to the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.
Sustainable Development	Securing the Future - delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy	2005	UK	Four Nations (DAERA)	The Strategy takes account of developments since the 1999 Strategy, both domestically and internationally; the changed structure of government in the UK with devolution to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; greater emphasis on delivery at regional level and the new relationship between government and local authorities. The five guiding principles are: living within environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance and using sound science responsibly. Four agreed priorities are sustainable consumption and production, climate change, natural resource protection and sustainable communities.	The SPPS has a strong sustainable development theme, which aligns with the priorities of this Strategy, most notably in terms of climate change, renewable energy, sustainable consumption, waste management etc. In complying with the SPPS and carrying out sustainability appraisal the LDP will support this.
Sustainable Development	Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 Establishing a Framework for Maritime Spatial Planning	2014	NI	Council of Europe	Competition for maritime space – for renewable energy equipment, aquaculture and other uses – has highlighted the need to manage our waters more coherently. Aims include: Reduce conflicts between sectors and create synergies between different activities. Encourage investment – by creating predictability, transparency and clearer rules. Increase cross-border cooperation – between EU countries to develop energy grids, shipping lanes, pipelines, submarine cables and other activities, but also to develop coherent networks of protected areas. Protect the environment – through early identification of impact and opportunities for multiple use of space.	Identification of potential conflict areas and considering developments that have potential for connectivity with the marine area will contribute to this. Also relevant to the topic of Natural Resources.
Sustainable Development	Everyone's Involved – Sustainable Development Strategy (May 2010)	2010	NI	DAERA	Everyone's Involved – Sustainable Development Strategy, aims to put in place economic, social and environmental measures to ensure that we can continue to grow our economy, improve our society and communities and utilise our natural resources in an environmentally sustainable manner. The Strategy also intends to strengthen the framework to address global issues such as climate change and sets out the following six principles: living within environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy, just and equal society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; using sound science responsibly; and promoting opportunity and innovation.	Plan objectives largely support the strategy and the sustainability appraisal will help shape proposals to be sustainable.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Sustainable Development	Regional Development Strategy 2035	2012	NI	Dfi	This document provides an overarching strategic planning framework influencing spatial development for the Region up to 2035, facilitating and guiding the public and private sectors. Taken into account are key drivers such as population growth and movement, demographic change, increasing number of households, transportation needs etc. It addresses economic, social and environmental issues aimed at achieving sustainable development and social cohesion. The eight aims of the RDS are to: Support strong, sustainable growth for the benefit of all parts of NI; Strengthen Belfast as the regional economic driver and Derry/Londonderry as the principal city of the North West; Support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential; Promote development which improves the health and well-being of communities; Improve connectivity to enhance the movement of people, goods, energy and information between places; Protect and enhance the environment for its own sake; Take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaption to climate change; and Strengthen links between north and south, east and west, with Europe and the rest of the world. The RDS contains a Spatial Framework and Strategic guidelines.	The LDP will support the RDS as part of the wider Government policy framework and should therefore be closely aligned with its objectives.
Sustainable Development	Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework	2019	National	DHPLG	The National Planning Framework is a planning framework to guide development and investment over the coming years. It does not provide every detail for every part of the country; rather it empowers each region to lead in the planning and development of their communities, containing a set of national objectives and key principles from which more detailed and refined plans will follow. The plan changes how investment is made in public infrastructure in Ireland, moving away from the approach of the past, which saw public investment spread too thinly and investment decisions that didn't align with a well-thought-out and defined strategy. Alongside the development of physical infrastructure, Project Ireland 2040 supports business and communities across all of Ireland in realising their potential.	The council shares a boundary with Ireland, therefore the LDP has the potential to impact on this framework. There are significant cross-border interactions focused on key settlement networks, specifically Letterkenny-Derry in the context of the North-West Growth Partnership and Drogheda-Dundalk-Newry in the context of the Dublin-Belfast economic corridor. The growth potential associated with these interrelated networks is also important for regional development. Cross border dependencies between Donegal and Derry/Strabane include employment, education, healthcare and retail activity.
Sustainable Development	Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021	2016	NI	NI Executive	The PfG contains 14 strategic outcomes which touch on every aspect of government, including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and confident and peaceful communities. The outcomes are supported by 48 indicators which will show how the Executive is performing in relation to the outcomes and will provide a basis to monitor progress. In due course, the Programme for Government will provide the strategic context for other key Executive strategy documents, including the Investment Strategy, the Economic Strategy and a Social Strategy.	The LDP is required to support delivery of the Programme for Government. How it achieves this will be assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Sustainable Development	Focus on the Future -Sustainable Development Implementation Plan	2011	NI	NI Executive	While this implementation plan has expired some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. DHSSPS committed to liaise with DOE Planners on the benefits of Health Impact Assessments and their potential to assist in encouraging the development of Healthy Urban Environments. DOE proposed to make legislation to enable the designation of National Parks by 2012.	The health impact assessment approach is not a statutory requirement but will be considered if there is development on this during plan preparation. Health and well-being is considered through sustainability appraisal.
Sustainable Development	Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006	2006	NI	NI Executive	Requires departments and district councils to exercise their functions in the manner they consider best calculated to promote the achievement of sustainable development.	Implementing sustainability appraisal throughout plan preparation will help achieve this requirement.
Other Cross-Cutting	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982)	1982	International	United Nations	Lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources. It enshrines the notion that all problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be addressed as a whole. The Law of the Sea Convention defines the rights and responsibilities of nations with respect to their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources.	Public authorities must consider shipping activity and freedom of navigation through decision making processes, and must not authorise proposals that would interfere or impede with navigational safety.
Other Cross-Cutting	European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)	1999	Europe	EC	Economic and social cohesion across the community. Conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage. Balanced competitiveness between different tiers of government.	Through the influence of the sustainability appraisal the LDP should make a contribution towards fulfilling the goals of the ESDP.
Other Cross-Cutting	Aarhus Convention - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 1998	1998	Europe	UNECE	The Aarhus Convention and its Protocol empower people with the rights to access easily information, participate effectively in decision-making in environmental matters and to seek justice if their rights were violated. They protect every person's right to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being. Ratified in UK in 2005. Established a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment. Local authorities should provide for: The right of everyone to receive environmental information; The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision making; The right to challenge in a court of law public decisions that have been made without respecting the two rights above or environmental law in general.	The plan will achieve this through the consultation process, as outlined in the Statement of Community Involvement. Ensure that public are involved and consulted at all relevant stages of SA production. This should be reflected in the Statement of the Community Involvement. Also relevant to the Health and Wellbeing topic.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Other Cross-Cutting	Our Passion, Our Place - Northern Ireland Environment Agency Strategic Priorities 2012 to 2022	2012	NI	DAERA	The plan outlines the strategic direction for NIEA. Four priority areas: healthy natural environment, people and places, sustainable economic growth and using resources well with a series of strategic goals. In respect of development planning NIEA will make sure planning decisions and business practices are guided by sound environmental principles and apply a risk based approach to its regulatory activities. Provide timely and authoritative input to strategic planning and development projects. Adopt an ecosystems approach in the advice it provides.	The majority of the sustainability appraisal objectives can be linked to the strategic aims of this document. NIEA advice and evidence will be used to inform plan preparation.
Other Cross-Cutting	The Environmental Liability (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (as amended)	2009	NI	DAERA	Implements the Environmental Liability Directive in Northern Ireland and introduces financial liability on the 'polluter pays' principle for environmental damage which has significant adverse effects on reaching or maintaining favourable conservation status of species and natural habitats protected under EC legislation; damage that significantly adversely affects the ecological, chemical and/or quantitative status and/or ecological potential of waters falling within the scope of the water framework directive; land contamination that creates a significant risk of human health being adversely affected as a result of direct or indirect introduction in, on or under land of substances, preparations, organisms and micro-organisms. Note subject to amendments.	Development arising from the LDP will be subject to these regulations with the operator being responsible for liability should damage within the terms of these regulations occur.
Other Cross-Cutting	Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2018	2018	NI	DEARA	Report on a range of environmental indicators and provide links to government strategies.	Regionally significant provides strategic clarity on climate change issues.
Other Cross-Cutting	DOE Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS): Planning for Sustainable Development	2015	NI	Dfi	Sets out the Department's regional strategic policies for securing the orderly and consistent development of land in Northern Ireland. Planning authorities should pursue social and economic priorities alongside the careful management of our built and natural environments in order to achieve sustainable development. The SPPS sets out five core planning principles: Improving health and well-being; Creating and enhancing shared space; Supporting sustainable economic growth; Supporting good design and positive place making; and Preserving and improving the built and natural environment.	The provisions of the SPPS must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans, and are also material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals. Also relevant to Sustainable Development.
Other Cross-Cutting	Framework for Co-operation Spatial Strategies of Northern Ireland & the Republic of Ireland	2010	NI & RoI	Dfi	This document examines the key planning challenges faced by both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland and discusses the potential for co-operation in spatial planning. It sets out a framework for cooperation at different levels within the public sector which should result in mutual benefits. These benefits can be at the local border area level and at the wider level. Four priority areas for cooperation are: Enhancing Competitiveness, Competitive Places (i.e. linked cross-border cities), Environmental Quality and Spatial Analysis.	At the local level it will be important that the guidance in the RDS and [Irish] NSS is incorporated into regional planning guidelines, development plans, community plans and regeneration schemes and that there is support for cross border projects and initiatives for both urban and rural areas. Integrated planning processes at the local level, where agencies and authorities in both jurisdictions work together on a cross border basis, are essential in enhancing the potential and quality of strategic places on the island, that straddle such cross-border locations.



	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Other Cross-Cutting	Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011	2011	NI	NI Executive	Part 2 of the act details the requirements of local development plans and Section 5 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires those who exercise any function in relation to local development plans to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development. Sections 8(6) and 9(7) of the 2011 Act requires an appraisal of sustainability to be carried out for the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, respectively.	The LDP will take account of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. This scoping report forms part of the SA process.
Other Cross-Cutting	Building a Better Future: The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011-2021 (ISNI)	2011	NI	NI Executive	The Investment Strategy sets out the forward programme for investment in public infrastructure. It identifies priority areas for investment in sustainable 21st century infrastructure and is intended to assist government and private sector partners to plan ahead. The 'Procurement Pipeline' identifies 197 infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.	The 'Procurement Pipeline' available on the home page identifies infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured. Also relevant to the Health and Wellbeing, Strengthening Society, Housing, Education, Material Assets, Transport, and Water topics.
Other Cross-Cutting	Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, Equality of opportunity	1998	NI	NI Executive	Section 75 promotes 'equality of opportunity' which means that everyone in society should be able to compete on equal terms. All government departments, agencies and councils must also give the nine key groups consideration when creating a policy. These are people with different religious belief, people of political opinion, people of different racial groups, people of different ages, people of different marital status, people of different sexual orientation, men and women generally, people with a disability and people without, people with dependants and people without	The council is required to ensure that their local development plans are prepared in accordance with Section 75 statutory obligations. Consequently, a council will have to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) to determine if there will be any potential impacts upon Section 75 groups as a result of the policies and proposals contained in their local development plans.
Other Cross-Cutting	Border Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022	2010	RoI	NWRA	The Guidelines are prescriptive in setting out a long term planning framework for the proper planning and development of the Region, and have been closely aligned with the National Spatial Strategy and National Development Plan in Ireland, and the Regional Development Strategy in Northern Ireland. The key aim of the Guidelines is to provide a good quality of life for the Region's population, through ensuring high quality residential, recreational and working environments, and improving water quality.	This applies to all the border counties in Ireland. There is potential for both synergies and conflicts between the LDP and this document as well as the potential for complementing each other.
Health & Well-being	Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise (the Environmental Noise Directive (END))	2002	Europe	Council of Europe	The END is the main EU instrument to identify noise pollution levels and to trigger the necessary action both at Member State and at EU level. It focuses on three action areas: (1) the determination of exposure to environmental noise (2) ensuring that information on environmental noise and its effects is made available to the public (3) preventing and reducing environmental noise where necessary and preserving environmental noise quality where it is good	The Directive applies to noise to which humans are exposed, particularly in built-up areas, in public parks or other quiet areas in an agglomeration, in quiet areas in open country, near schools, hospitals and other noise-sensitive buildings and areas. It does not apply to noise that is caused by the exposed person himself, noise from domestic activities, noise created by neighbours, noise at work places or noise inside means of transport or due to military activities in military areas.
Health & Well-being	Noise Policy Statement for Northern Ireland	2014	NI	DAERA	Through the effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise the Noise Policy aims to: (1.) Avoid or mitigate significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life; (2.) Mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and (3.) Where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life.	These LDP can help with applying the shared principles that underpin the Executive's Sustainable Development Strategy: Living within environmental limits - Ensuring a strong, healthy, just and equal society - Achieving a sustainable economy - Using sound science responsibly - Promoting opportunity and innovation - Promoting good governance.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Health & Well-being	Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Recreation, 2009-2019	2009	NI	DfC	The Strategy's vision of "a culture of lifelong enjoyment and quality, quantity and access to places for sport" is a key input to the two primary development outcomes of increased participation in sport and physical recreation and improved sporting performances. In particular, the Strategy will ensure that every person in Northern Ireland has access to a range of new, improved and shared world-class and locally available sports facilities. The Strategy outlines a broad Government commitment to sport and physical recreation. It sets key strategic priorities for sports and physical recreation over the 10 year period; informing future investment by all stakeholders across the public, private and community/voluntary sectors underpinning three areas: 'Participation', 'Performance' and 'Places'. The successful delivery of the Strategy requires stakeholders to reflect the Strategy in their business and development plans.	This is supported by the inclusion of Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation in the Subject Policies list for the SPPS, which must be taken into account in the LDP.
Health & Well-being	Design and Access Statements - A guide for Northern Ireland	2015	NI	Dfi	Planning applications meeting certain criteria must be accompanied by a design and access statement. These include: An application which is a major development, or where any part of the development is in a designated area; and development consisting of – (i) the provision of one or more dwelling houses, or (ii) the provision of a building or buildings where the floor space created by the development is 100m <sup>2</sup> or more.	Provides for early consideration of the need and provision for open space, access and landscaping and addressing external factors such as noise and traffic safety. Also relevant to the topics of Housing and Transport.
Health & Well-being	The Planning (Hazardous Substances) (No.2 ) Regulations (NI) 2015	2015	NI	Dfi	The Regulations transpose Directive 2012/18/EU (The 'Seveso III Directive') on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances in respect of land-use planning in Northern Ireland.	The LDP must take account of the aims of the Directive in planning policies and decisions, including maintaining appropriate safety distances between major hazard sites (referred to as establishments") and other development and protecting areas of natural sensitivity.
Health & Well-being	Northern Ireland's Road Safety Strategy to 2020	2011	NI	Dfi	Sets out the vision and presents measures for improving road safety in Northern Ireland up to 2020, including targets for reductions in deaths and serious injuries to be achieved over that period. Key Challenges include:	The LDP may have scope to contribute to addressing the challenges in its transport, infrastructure and rural development policies.
Health & Well-being	Planning Policy Statement 8 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (DOE 2004)	2004	NI	Dfi	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection of open space, in association with residential development and the use of land for sport and outdoor recreation, and advises on the treatment of these issues in development plans.	Six policies are incorporated in SPPS. Incorporation of the policies will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Health & Well-being	A fitter future for all - Outcomes framework 2015 - 2019	2015	NI	DoH	Following a review of the first years of the plan an updated framework has been published for 2015-2019.	Creating a safe environment to encourage and promote increased physical activity.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Health & Well-being	Making Life Better: A Whole Strategic Framework for Public Health 2013-2023 Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (June 2014)	2013	NI	DoH	The strategic framework for public health designed to provide direction for policies and actions to improve the health and well-being of people in Northern Ireland and to reduce health inequalities. The framework is not just about actions and programmes at government level, but also provides direction for work at both regional and local levels with public agencies, including local government, local communities and others, working in partnership. Through strength of coordination and partnership, the framework will seek to create the conditions for individuals and communities to take control of their own lives, and move towards a vision for Northern Ireland where all people are enabled and supported in achieving their full health and well-being potential.	Many aspects are directly relevant for example promoting age friendly environments and Quiet Areas.
Health & Well-being	Connected Health Economy	2013	NI	DoH	Developing a connected health economy: the economy and jobs initiative included a number of measures to help support economic growth, including a commitment to establish a Task and Finish Group under the remit of the Connected Health and Prosperity Board, to exploit the economic opportunities from the health and social care (HSC) sector.	This may inform future economic investment in the health and social care sector.
Health & Well-being	A Fitter Future For All: Framework for Preventing and Addressing Overweight and Obesity in Northern Ireland	2012	NI	DoH	Fitter Future for All is a framework to help reduce the harm related to overweight and obesity. This framework aims to: empower the population of Northern Ireland to make health choices, reduce the risk of overweight and obesity related diseases and improve health and wellbeing, by creating an environment that supports and promotes a physically active lifestyle and a healthy diet. New outcomes to aid implementation of the framework over the 2015-19 period have been developed.	Creating a safe environment to encourage and promote increased physical activity.
Health & Well-being	Transforming Your Care Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety	2011	NI	DoH	Twelve major principles for change including: providing the right care in the right place at the right time; population-based planning of services; ensuring sustainability of service provision; incentivising innovation at a local level. 99 separate proposals for change across the range of health and social care services. There is a Strategic Implementation Plan and Population Plan for each Health Care Trust.	Can inform where facilities may be required to improve access to and quality of health services.
Health & Well-being	Transforming your Care: Strategic Implementation Plan	2013	NI	HSCNI	This Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) describes a planned approach for the delivery of the TYC proposals over the next 3 to 5 years (starting from 2011/12 baseline). Section 4.2 sets out the key commitments and the major changes which will drive service transformation. Main themes for each of the Programmes of Care over the next 3 to 5 years across the 5 Local Commissioning Group (LCG) areas are presented in section 4.4. At the heart of this are the 5 local Population Plans, which provide the building blocks for this SIP. These set out in detail the service transformation initiatives for delivery of the TYC proposals for each of these local areas. There will be continuing focus on reducing delayed discharge from hospital with investment in community infrastructure.	Identifies need for health infrastructure, including for community care.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Health & Well-being	The Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006	2006	NI	NI Executive	Transposes into NI legislation the requirements of the European Noise Directive (END). The three main actions that the END requires of Member States are to: (1) determine the noise exposure of the population through noise mapping (2) make information on environmental noise and its effects available to the public (3) establish Action Plans based on the mapping results. The END requires that noise mapping and action planning be completed every five years. The END also requires Member States to 'preserve environmental noise quality where it is good' through the identification and protection of designated Quiet Areas within agglomerations (urban areas with a minimum population density).	Existing 'quiet areas' must be preserved. Further areas could be identified and designated. Zoning of residential areas should have regard for existing noise generators such as roads, rail, airports and industry.
Health & Well-being	Western Health and Social Care Trust Population Plan	2013	Regional	WHST	This sets out in detail the service transformation initiatives for delivery of the TYC proposals for this trust area. It includes the capital implications and requirements over the 3 year planning period. There will be continuing focus on reducing delayed discharge from hospital with investment in community infrastructure.	Although expired may inform unmet infrastructure requirements.
Health & Well-being	An Outdoor Recreation Plan for the Sperrins	2013	Local	Sport NI	A framework for the sustainable development, management and promotion of future outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities within the Sperrins region, accommodating both the needs of the local community and those visiting the area.	Can inform where new development or improvements may be required to improve access to and quality of recreation activities in Sperrins.
Strengthening Society	Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016	2016	NI	DAERA	The Act received Royal Assent in May 2016 and once commenced in 2017 will place a duty on public authorities, including district councils, to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans and designing and delivering public services. It also requires public authorities to provide information to DAERA on how they have fulfilled this duty on an annual basis to be published in a monitoring report to be laid before the Assembly.	Rural needs have been fully considered in plan preparation, assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal and appropriate provisions are or will be included in the plan.
Strengthening Society	Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing	2015	NI	DAERA	The objective is to ensure robust consideration and integration of rural issues at the outset of the policy making process. It should help to ensure fair and equitable treatment for rural areas through the development of policies which are proportionate to need.	The LDP can support the objective to provide for vital and vibrant rural communities whilst protecting the countryside in which they live, by accommodating sustainable growth within the countryside proportionate to the extent of existing rural communities.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Strengthening Society	Rural White Paper Action Plan	2012	NI	DAERA	This document sets out the vision for NI's rural areas and the actions which Departments will take in support of achieving that vision and to help ensure the future sustainability of rural areas. The vision includes vibrant and strong rural communities; improved infrastructure, transport and key services; strong community infrastructure which can avail of economic, social and cultural opportunities; and better linkages between rural and urban areas.	Policies are proposed in relation to sustainable development in the countryside, transport and land use. Planning policy will promote sustainable development, well-being and economic development which are aligned with the vision for rural areas. There does seem to be a focus on town centres and city centre vitality, which could take attention away from rural issues. The LDP objectives support this. It sets out to support vibrant rural communities, facilitate development of new, accessible, community facilities, and improve connectivity between/within settlements in terms of telecommunications and transport infrastructure in particular. The Plan will promote sustainable development, well-being and economic development which are aligned with the vision for rural areas. Also relevant to the Transport topic.
Strengthening Society	Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation	2012	NI	DAERA	This framework sets out the goals, objectives, priority action areas and outcomes for the Programme for Government commitment to bring forward a package of measures to help target the root causes of social isolation and help those in poverty in rural areas. In addition it aims to provide the necessary tools to identify the needs of vulnerable people/groups in rural areas, develop programmes/interventions to help alleviate poverty/social isolation and complement/add value to existing government strategies intended to tackle these issues.	Plan preparation includes consideration of the needs of those living in small settlements and the countryside to ensure that they have access to suitable and affordable housing as well as facilities. The Sustainability Appraisal incorporates Rural Proofing.
Strengthening Society	Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework	2013	NI	DfC	This Policy Framework sets out the Department's policy objectives for urban regeneration and community development in Northern Ireland for at least the next decade. It will provide a clear strategic direction for the Department and inform its partners in central and local government and in the voluntary and community sector. The Framework sets out four Policy Objectives that will form the basis of any future policy or programme development in urban regeneration and community development: 1. To tackle area-based deprivation. 2. To strengthen the competitiveness of our towns and cities. 3. To improve linkages between areas of need and areas of opportunity. 4. To develop more cohesive and engaged communities. It also contains a set of four Supporting Actions: 1. We will maximise the potential of regeneration and community development by supporting an evidence-based policy environment. 2. We will maximise the resources available to regeneration and community development by supporting an innovative financial environment. 3. We will support the development of skilled and knowledgeable practitioners in regeneration and community development. 4. We will promote an effective and efficient voluntary and community sector	This Policy Framework is wide-reaching in terms of the subjects it covers, for example Policy Objective 3 contains key actions relating to environmental improvement, protection and improvement of (historic) buildings and open spaces and developing an integrated transport network, whilst other Objective actions include development of commercial sites. LDP objectives may align with this framework, in particular strengthening the hubs, improving connectivity and facilitating community development. The LDP can indirectly support aims of the policy by, for example, accommodating development for disadvantaged groups, such as the elderly and disabled, with emphasis on 'sustainable growth', facilitating new community facilities and promoting 'shared spaces'. Also relevant to the Economy topic.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Strengthening Society	Planning Policy Statement 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside	2010	NI	Dfi	PPS 21 sets out planning policies for development in the countryside. For the purpose of this document the countryside is defined as land lying outside of settlement limits as identified in development plans. The provisions of this document apply to all areas of Northern Ireland's countryside.	A series of 16 policies which allow for development in the countryside in tightly defined circumstances. Many of these are carried forward through the SPPS. The LDP will have to comply with these and other regional policy in any variation of these policies. Also relevant to the topic of Housing.
Strengthening Society	A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland	1993	NI	Dfi	In seeking to protect the environment and encourage sustainable development the PSRNI set out policies to meet the development needs of the rural area. The majority have been superseded by PPSs and SPPS however Strategic Policies 2, 3, 4 and 18 still apply relating to Towns, Villages, Regeneration of Rural Settlements and Design in Towns and Villages.	The remaining provisions of 'A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland' will be cancelled when all eleven councils have adopted a new Plan Strategy for the whole of their council area. However, to ensure that there is continuity in planning policy for taking planning decisions whilst councils bring forward operational policies tailored to local circumstances within new LDPs, transitional arrangements shall apply. A cross-cutting strategy also relevant to Economy, Physical Resources, Transport, Landscape and the Historic Environment.
Strengthening Society	Community Safety Action Plan 2015 to 2017	2015	NI	DoJ	The action plan includes an action for the DOE and councils: to support a sense of pride and ownership within neighbourhoods, to address the disorder (graffiti, litter, vandalism) that acts as a signal for ASB by contributing to the development of legislative framework to deal with the growing amenity problems associated with dilapidated or unsightly buildings and neglected sites.	The LDP may have scope to contribute to addressing this through place shaping.
Strengthening Society	Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities: A Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012-2017	2012	NI	DoJ	Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities' sets the direction for reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime in Northern Ireland over the next five years. It builds on the positive progress made in recent years in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, both by continuing to focus on what works, as well as a stronger emphasis on the guiding principle that prevention is better than cure. This Strategy provides the overall direction for community safety in Northern Ireland, and will help guide the work of a range of stakeholders including the Executive, local government, the voluntary and community sector and local communities.	The LDP will take account of this Strategy. It can help support objectives to accommodate cultural differences between Catholic and Protestant communities whilst promoting "shared spaces" to bring people together with equality and opportunity.
Strengthening Society	The Child Poverty Strategy	2016	NI	EO	The four high-level outcomes are, that: Families experience economic well-being; Children in poverty learn and achieve; Children in poverty are healthy; and Children in poverty live in safe, secure and stable environments. Indicators of success against these outcomes include those relating to employment levels in households with children, levels of obesity, hospital admissions for accidents at home or on the road and number of homeless families. Some of the most relevant actions to spatial planning are: Create jobs; Upskill the workforce and support young people and their family members into higher skilled, more secure and better paid employment; Reduce living costs; Ensure childcare is accessible and affordable; Promote health and well-being; Promote child, road, home and community safety.	Promotion of employment opportunities, provision for housing, increasing accessibility and creating safer environments will contribute to the objectives of this strategy.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Strengthening Society	Together: Building a United Community 2016/17 Update Report	2016	NI	EO	The Strategy outlines how we in Government, in communities and as individuals will work together to build a united community and facilitate change in the key priorities of: Our children and young people; Our shared community; Our safe community; and Our cultural expression.	By creating and shaping places spaces that are accessible and welcoming to all the plan will support this strategy. In some areas there will be specific requirements to address Interface Barriers.
Strengthening Society	Together: Building a United Community	2013	NI	EO	The strategy outlines how government, community and individuals will work together to build a united community and achieve change against the following key priorities: our children and young people; our shared community; our safe community; and our cultural expression. Its vision is 'a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance'. Includes a commitment to Create a 10-year Programme to reduce, and remove by 2023, all interface barriers including an Interface Barrier Support Package	By creating and shaping places spaces that are accessible and welcoming to all the plan will support this strategy. In some areas there will be specific requirements to address Interface Barriers.
Strengthening Society	Delivering Social Change Framework	2012	NI	EO	The DSC framework was established to deliver a sustained reduction in poverty and associated issues across all ages and to improve children and young people's health, well-being and life opportunities. A Delivering Social Change Fund was established to support The Social Investment Fund; The Delivering Social Change Signature Programmes; Childcare. The six initial Signature Programmes included support for Family Support Hubs; Nurture Units, Social Enterprise Hubs. Three new Signature Programmes announced in 2014 include support for people with dementia and their families and carers; early intervention services for young families and expansion of shared education, supporting schools to share resources and people. The Social Investment Fund is under a separate entry in this register.	The programme has resulted in some new and proposed community facilities that should be considered in plan preparation. It may identify needs for new facilities. The Social Investment Fund is under a separate entry in this register. Also relevant to the topics of Education and Economy.
Strengthening Society	Social Investment Fund	2011	NI	EO	The Social Investment Fund (SIF) was set up to deliver social change. It aims to make life better for people living in targeted areas by reducing poverty, unemployment and physical deterioration. The fund will run until March 2020 and all funding has been committed to projects prioritised by local Steering Groups. Some funding will capital support to enhance or create community and employment facilities.	Will however inform existing and proposed facilities that should be considered in plan preparation.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Strengthening Society	Lifetime Opportunities – Government’s Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for Northern Ireland	2006	NI	EO	As part of the Northern Ireland Executive’s commitment to tackling poverty and social exclusion this document outlined what would be done by the Northern Ireland departments and the Northern Ireland Office in working towards its overall objectives of: working towards the elimination of poverty and social exclusion in Northern Ireland by 2020; and halving child poverty by 2010 on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020. The strategy is structured into four key life stages – Early Years (0 – 4), Children and Young People (5 – 16), Working Age Adults and Older Citizens. Each of the life stages is expressed in terms of an overarching goal followed by a series of long-term targets that will work towards achieving the goal. This strategy overlaps with some more recent strategies but continues to be reported on.	Identifies the conditions for bringing people out of poverty including fuel, employment, older people and those in the rural community and for promotion inclusion for all. LDPs proposals and policies consider these needs and support delivery against them.
Strengthening Society	NIHE Good Relations Plan	2007	NI	NIHE	The Housing Executive commits to Respond quickly and effectively to the needs of people in danger as a result of community conflict; Work in partnership with others to address the complex housing needs of a divided society; Respect the rights of people who choose to live where they wish; Facilitate and encourage mixed housing as far as this is practicable, desirable and safe.	The LDP can help to promote and encourage mixed housing and shared spaces, to help bring people from different communities together.
Strengthening Society	NIHE - Race Relations Policy	2006	NI	NIHE	The five Race Relations Policy themes can be summarised as follows; Mainstreaming black and minority ethnic issues in policy development; Racial harassment and intimidation; Promoting black and minority ethnic social inclusion; Community participation and development; and Migrant worker issues.	The LDP can help to promote and encourage social inclusion.
Strengthening Society	Derry City and Strabane District’s Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032: Our Community Plan	2017	Council	DCSDC	Plan aims to drive inclusive, sustainable growth and prosperity across our City and entire District. Commitment to enhancing our skills, retaining our talent base, addressing poverty, social exclusion and patterns of deprivation. Also recognises importance of built and natural heritage and sustainably enhancing our environment to develop a connected and vibrant City, Town Centres and rural areas.	This strategic plan will complement the LDP and the two plans will work in tandem towards the same vision. Also relevant to the topics of Health and Wellbeing, Education and Economy.
Housing	Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland Action Plan Update September 2015	2015	NI	DfC	This is a midterm update on the progress in delivering the ‘Facing the Future’ Housing Strategy. The strategy is centred on a vision that everyone should have the opportunity to access good quality housing at a reasonable cost. This update shows that, despite a challenging economic environment, the majority of the actions are on track for delivery by 2017.	The LDP can help to support many of the actions identified in the action plan, such as: introducing developer contributions, developing work on energy efficiency, increasing the availability of smaller social housing units and other initiatives for encouraging town and city centre regeneration such as living over shops.
Housing	Northern Ireland Empty Homes Strategy and Action Plan 2013 – 2018	2013	NI	DfC	The Empty Homes Strategy is to ensure that the number of empty properties is kept to a minimum and to identify new opportunities to encourage owners to bring them back into use.	The LDP can help to support these objectives.



	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Housing	Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 -2017	2012	NI	Dfc	This Housing Strategy identifies four roles for government and five themes to help meet housing needs while supporting the most vulnerable. The themes are: 1. Ensuring access to decent, affordable, sustainable homes across all tenures; 2. Meeting housing needs and supporting the most vulnerable; 3. Housing and Welfare Reform; 4. Driving regeneration & sustaining communities through housing; and 5. Getting the structures right. This strategy sets out how the government intends to fulfil the objectives over the next five years. The strategy also envisages housing playing a role in driving regeneration within communities, particularly those suffering from blight and population decline.	These themes align with a number of aspects of the LDP and sustainability appraisal, namely sustainable development, economic development, quality residential environments, etc. The strategy may complement a number of aspects of the proposed LDP, such as the provision of new homes which meets the needs of various groups, such as families, the elderly, and disabled. The strategy may put pressure on the environmental aspects of the LDP such as natural heritage, archaeology, flood risk, etc. A balance will need to be found through considered planning decisions.
Housing	Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland Action Plan	2012	NI	Dfc	The action plan for the 'Facing the Future' Housing Strategy follows on from the consultation on the draft strategy in 2012. It identifies a new, fifth role for government and sets out the 33 actions that will work towards achievement of each theme. The plan aims help the department to work towards five high-level outcomes: 1. Better housing management, with a more efficient and targeted use of resources; 2. Better regulation, with an increased focus on the interests of tenants and citizens, and reduced red tape; 3. Greater flexibility and responsiveness, as circumstances and market conditions change; 4. Continued fairness for citizens, regardless of tenure and consistent with the need to support those who are most vulnerable; and 5. Implementing new structures that can support the above outcomes.	The LDP can help to support many of the actions identified in the action plan, such as: introducing developer contributions, developing work on energy efficiency, increasing the availability of smaller social housing units and other initiatives for encouraging town and city centre regeneration such as living over shops.
Housing	Planning Policy Statement 7 (Addendum): Safeguarding the Character of Established Residential Areas	2010	NI	Dfl	This document is a second addendum to PPS 7 'Quality Residential Environments' and must be read in conjunction with the policies contained within this PPS and within the previous addendum – 'Residential Extensions and Alterations' (published in March 2008). The addendum provides additional planning policies on the protection of local character, environmental quality and residential amenity within established residential areas, villages and smaller settlements. It also sets out regional policy on the conversion of existing buildings to flats or apartments. In addition, the addendum contains policy to promote greater use of permeable paving within new residential developments to reduce the risk of flooding from surface water run-off.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Housing	Planning Policy Statement 7 (Addendum): Residential Extensions and Alterations	2008	NI	Dfl	This document is a further Addendum to PPS 7 'Quality Residential Environments' and must be read in conjunction with the policies contained within that PPS. The Addendum provides an additional planning policy for the extension and/or alteration of a dwelling house or flat, including those in multiple occupancy. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development and the Quality Initiative. However, it should be noted that unlike the other policies of PPS 7, the policy contained in this Addendum will apply to all dwelling houses or flats throughout the Region, including single dwellings in the countryside.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Housing	Planning Policy Statement 12 Housing in Settlements	2005	NI	DfI	PPS 12: Housing in Settlements Planning Policy Statement 12 'Housing in Settlements' has been prepared to assist in the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy to guide the future pattern on housing by managing future housing growth and distribution, support urban renaissance and achieve balanced communities. Development management policy for affordable housing is still contained within Planning Policy Statement 12 'Housing in Settlements' (PPS 12), published in July 2005. Under transitional arrangements, until a Plan Strategy is adopted, PPS 12 is still a material consideration for deciding planning applications. PPS 12 contains a development management policy, Policy HS 2, which "will be applied where a need for social housing is established through a local housing needs assessment and the development plan for the area has not provided for it."	The LDP will take into consideration the policy provisions of those documents retained under the transitional arrangements. PPS policies that have not been consolidated into the SPPS will cease to be a material consideration in assessing planning applications for LGDs once each Council adopts their new LDP Plan Strategy. It is therefore necessary that any existing PPS policies the Council wish to continue to apply once the Plan Strategy is in place will need to be replaced through the inclusion of relevant, locally tailored policies within the new Plan Strategy.
Housing	PPS 7: Quality Residential Environments	2001	NI	DfI	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for achieving quality in new residential development and advises on the treatment of this issue in development plans with a requirement for a Concept Master Plan for large developments.	This requires that all residential development is of good quality and sustainable and does result in unacceptable damage to the local character, environmental quality or residential amenity of these areas. The process of sustainability appraisal will help ensure this.
Housing	Creating Places: Achieving Quality in Residential Developments incorporating guidance on layout and access	2000	NI	DfI	Aims to promote: More sustainable patterns of living, working and travelling, more effective integration between land-use planning and transport, the creation of attractive places in which people are happy to live, work and take their leisure.	Supplementary planning guidance - the creation of attractive residential environments with a genuine sense of place is a prerequisite to achieving sustainability.
Housing	Delivering Sustainable Healthy Homes in Northern Ireland, NIHE, TPCA, Belfast Healthy Cities (March 2016)	2016	NI	NIHE	Guidance and good practice on how planning, health, housing and energy professionals can use new planning powers and responsibilities for community planning to support integrated local approaches to sustainable homes and communities, for energy and health and wellbeing.	This guidance will be taken into account in the preparation of the LDP.
Housing	Social Housing Development Programme, Unmet Social Housing Need Prospectus	2016	NI	NIHE	The prospectus provides information for housing associations and developers in respect of locations where there is unmet social housing need or shortages of development sites contained in the published SHDP. These are locations where the Housing Executive would consider suitable proposals/schemes.	This assessment informs potential requirements for social housing which can in turn inform the LDP.
Housing	NIHE Social housing Development Programme (SHDP) - 2015/16 – 2017/18	2015	NI	NIHE	5. Getting the structures right. This strategy sets out how the government intends to fulfil the objectives over the next five years. The strategy also envisages housing playing a fourth role in driving regeneration within communities, particularly those suffering from blight and population decline.	The LDP will take account of ongoing annual reporting and the prospectus will inform social housing zonings within the plan area.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Housing	Housing Executive Environmental Policy	2015	NI	NIHE	Includes commitments to prevent pollution of air, land and water; support initiatives to develop sustainable local communities; and enhance and protect biodiversity across all Housing Executive landholdings.	The LDP can help to support these commitments.
Housing	Housing Executive Corporate Plan - Regional Services	2015	NI	NIHE	Objective 1 Identification of housing requirements across Northern Ireland; Objective 2 Investing in homes and neighbourhoods; Objective 3 Improving People's Homes; Objective 4 Transforming people's lives; Objective 5 Enabling sustainable neighbourhoods.	The LDP can help to support these objectives.
Housing	Housing Executive Community Involvement Strategy	2015	NI	NIHE	This strategy includes the vision "to give residents a real say in making their neighbourhoods better places in which to live".	The LDP can support this strategy by providing an opportunity to cooperate in place shaping.
Housing	Housing Executive Corporate Plan - Landlord Services	2015	NI	NIHE	Objective 1 Delivering quality services; Objective 2 Delivering better homes; Objective 3 Fostering vibrant communities	The LDP can help to support these objectives.
Housing	Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 - 2017	2012	NI	NIHE	In response to the statutory duty (the Housing (NI) Order 1988 as amended) to produce a homelessness strategy, our strategic approach remains focused on addressing the issues that lead to homelessness as well as meeting the temporary and permanent accommodation needs of those who present as homeless.	In enabling housing need to be addressed, the LDP will contribute to delivery of the objectives of this strategy.
Housing	Housing Investment Plan 2015-2019	2015	Council	NIHE	NIHE has prepared four year Housing Investment Plans for each Council to provide a long term, holistic, cross tenure look at local housing markets. The Housing Investment Plans set out ten outcomes under five themes, which performance can be measured against. The themes are Identify and meet housing need and demand; Improving People's homes; Transforming people's lives; Enabling sustainable neighbourhoods; Delivering quality services.	The HIP is an important evidence base for the LDP and will help facilitate discussion on housing issues within each district. In addition, a purpose of the HIP is to inform Councils on the various programmes and initiatives the Housing Executive and Housing Associations are developing to meet local housing needs.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Housing	Northern Ireland Housing Market Areas	2010	Council	NIHE	This report commissioned by NIHE presents the findings of a study into the structure of housing market areas (HMA) across Northern Ireland. A housing market area is defined as a geographical area where most people both live and work and where most people moving home (without changing job) seek a house. HMA can overlap, and often do not marry well with local authority boundaries. Moreover, they are dynamic and HMA boundaries can change over time. 11 major HMAs were identified as operating across Northern Ireland: Belfast, Craigavon, Newry, Ballymena, Coleraine, Derry, Strabane, Omagh, Mid-Ulster, Dungannon and Enniskillen.	Movement patterns to work can help to inform housing need. Reports for each HMA were prepared in 2011-2013 and are available on the home page.
Education	Department of Education Annual Business Plan 2016/2017	2016	NI	DE	This Plan contains a number of goals including 'Improving the Well-Being of Children and Young People' – includes rights, play and participation, 'Raising Standards for All – includes early years and childcare, 'Closing the Performance Gap, Increasing Access and Equality' – includes Special Education Needs; youth work and sustainable schools, and 'Improving the learning environment'. The plan aims to make sure that strategic investment supports the delivery of the area plans; that the premises in which young people grow and learn are safe, fit for purpose and conducive to learning; and that the environment provides opportunities for sharing and for building a more cohesive society. The Plan supports a number of indicators in the draft PfG for education.	This is a short term plan that is relevant to the facilities required for e.g. childcare, early years, primary and secondary school, special educational needs and youth. There is no current Corporate Plan for the Department. Regional education policies, programmes, strategies and action plans may be influenced and supported by spatial planning. Also relevant to the Strengthening Society topic.
Education	Every school a good school - a policy for school improvement	2009	NI	DE	Mainly focused on delivery of quality education meeting needs of pupils. Recognises that school premises are a resource that could be better used by local communities and that providing for increased community use of school premises can be an effective way of building links between schools and their local communities. Legislation already provides for schools to make their premises available to outside groups and the Department wants to encourage more community use of school premises. Commits to identifying and disseminating good practice with a particular focus on community use of schools to help schools in building stronger links with their parents and local communities.	Creates the conditions for increased use of schools for community benefit which should be considered in planning for communities.
Education	Schools for the Future: A Policy for Sustainable Schools	2009	NI	DE	The policy has as its vision an estate of educationally sustainable schools planned on an area basis, with focus on sharing and collaboration. It provides a framework for early consideration of emerging problems and possible remedial action to address questions of viability. The primary objective of the policy is to ensure that all children get a first class education in fit for purpose facilities, regardless of background or where they live. The policy sets out six criteria to be considered in assessing a school's educational viability, as follows: quality educational experience; stable enrolment trends; sound financial position; strong leadership and management; accessibility; strong links with the community.	The LDP should enable development/expansion of school facilities where required to meet the needs of the policy.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Education	Development Control Advice Note 13: Crèches, Day Nurseries and Pre-School Play Groups	1993	NI	Dfi	The purpose of this Advice Note is to give general guidance to intending developers, their professional advisors and agents. It is designed to provide advice on the Planning criteria to be applied when an application for this form of development is being considered. It is not a specific statement of Departmental policy but rather one of advice and guidance.	If this is the most up to date advice on the topic it should be considered in LDP preparation however noting that there may be changes in the sector that also need to be taken into account.
Education	Education Authority Interim Strategic Plan 2017-2027	2018	NI	EA	The interim Strategic Plan 2017-2027 outlines what EA will do over the next decade to achieve key goals, deliver consistently high-quality services to the community across Northern Ireland and produce positive outcomes for all children and young people. It will be supported by a three-year Corporate Plan and annual business plans which will enable EA to incorporate new priorities and respond to new challenges as they arise. The Strategic Plan has five main objectives 1) Meeting the learning needs of our children and young people 2) Providing excellent education support services 3) Developing all our people to carry out their jobs successfully 4) Managing our resources effectively and efficiently 5) Nurturing leadership across the EA to give clear direction in a dynamic and complex environment.	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies. The LDP should enable development /expansion of education facilities where required.
Education	Providing Pathways - Strategic Area Plan for Schools 2017-2020	2017	NI	Education Authority	The plan identifies the challenges for the education system throughout each Local Government District (LGD) area. The challenges include reducing or increasing the number of available places in schools, matching provision to population trends, addressing school provision which is not sustainable and improving the quality of provision. In some areas of Northern Ireland there are too many school places for the size of the population, while in other areas, there are not enough places. Area planning aims to establish a network of viable schools that are of the right type, the right size, located in the right place, and have a focus on raising standards. Therefore, the aim of area planning is to ensure that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum in sustainable, fit-for-purpose schools.	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies.
Education	Education Authority Annual Action Plan 2017-2018	2017	NI	Education Authority	The Education Authority Action Plans will provide details of the proposed actions to be taken to address key strategic issues in local areas and at local schools, all of which will be subject to detailed consultation. This Annual Action Plan covers the period April 2017 to March 2018 and identifies those schools for which developments are proposed. The Annual Action Plan includes schools where sustainability is now an issue but, also, includes some schools that are sustainable, as it is these schools who may form part of the solution to sustainability issues in other schools or areas.	The Action Plans can help inform the LDP on the areas where sustainability of schools is an issue and areas where there are insufficient places available to accommodate the local population.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Economy & Employment	Blue Growth	2012	Europe	EC	Blue Growth is the long term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors as a whole. Seas and oceans are drivers for the European economy and have great potential for innovation and growth. It is the maritime contribution to achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The 'blue' economy represents roughly 5.4 million jobs and generates a gross added value of almost €500 billion a year. However, further growth is possible in a number of areas which are highlighted within the strategy. The EC considers that by, for example, supporting innovative SMEs, and encouraging innovative products and solutions, Europe can unlock the untapped potential for growth in its blue economy while safeguarding biodiversity and protecting the environment through traditional sectors such as maritime transport and maritime and coastal tourism as well as growing and emerging sectors, such as ocean renewable energy and blue biotechnology.	This may inform LDP policies relating to economy and energy but has the potential to conflict with sustainable use of natural resources. Also relevant to the Natural Resource topic.
Economy & Employment	Europe 2020 Economic Strategy	2010	Europe	EC	Europe 2020 is the European Union's ten-year jobs and growth strategy. It was launched in 2010 to create the conditions for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Five headline targets have been agreed for the EU to achieve by the end of 2020. These cover employment; research and development; climate/energy; education; social inclusion and poverty reduction and targets are set for each for example on energy efficiency.	LDP objectives and supporting policies are likely to support delivery of this strategy.
Economy & Employment	Going for Growth - a strategic action plan	2014	NI	DAERA	In May 2012, DARD and DETI appointed the industry led Agri-Food Strategy Board (AFSB) to make recommendations in respect of the growth targets, strategic priorities and actions to be included in that Plan. The report, Going for Growth, includes more than 100 recommendations aimed at accelerating the growth of farming, fishing and food and drink processing in Northern Ireland to 2020 and beyond. In response the NI Executive has agreed an action plan, outlining actions to be progressed across relevant Departments and Agencies.	This action plan committed to centralised and more streamlined processing for poultry house planning applications while DOE was the planning authority. The 'Commitment to supporting Sustainable Use of Poultry Litter' loan scheme may address some of the environmental effects of pig and poultry production and also lead to new development.
Economy & Employment	Economy 2030: an Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland [DRAFT]	2017	NI	DfE	This strategy sets out a plan to turn Northern Ireland into one of the world's most innovative and competitive small advanced economies. "Our ambition to build a globally competitive economy will be based around the following five priority pillars for growth: Accelerating Innovation and Research; Enhancing Education, Skills and Employability; Driving Inclusive, Sustainable Growth; Succeeding in Global Markets; Building the Best Economic Infrastructure.	The LDP can help support opportunities that are most likely to lead to strong and sustained economic growth

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Economy & Employment	DETI (2010) Draft Northern Ireland Tourism Strategy	2010	NI	DfE	The original 2010 draft is not available. The vision was to: create the new NI experience; get it on everyone's destination wish list; and double the income earned from tourism by 2020. The draft strategy, had the aim of providing the strategic direction for the development of NI's tourism experience to the year 2020 and a targeted Action Plan to deliver it. At the core of the strategy was the intention to grow income from visitor numbers with tourist revenue increased from £536 million in 2010 to £1 billion by 2020. An updated draft strategy, is currently being developed by The Department for the Economy and was due for consultation by the end of 2016, however the absence of Ministers has delayed public consultation on, and therefore finalisation of, the draft Strategy within the original timescale.	By encouraging sustainable development, the LDP may also indirectly support development that enables tourism e.g. visitor centres, attractions, services, transport etc. As with any development, environmental considerations will need to be considered.
Economy & Employment	A Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020	2010	NI	DfE	Aims to provide strategic direction and targets for the development of NI's tourism experience to the year 2020 and a targeted Action Plan to deliver it. At the core of the strategy was the intention to grow income from visitor numbers with tourist revenue increased from £536 million in 2010 to £1 billion by 2020.	The Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 identified nine key tourism destinations. The LDP can indirectly support development that enables tourism.
Economy & Employment	Planning Policy Statement 16 Tourism	2013	NI	DfI	Policies in relation to tourism and safeguarding tourism assets.	Retention of some or all of these policies will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Economy & Employment	Planning Policy Statement 4 – Planning and Economic Development (DOE 2010)	2010	NI	DfI	Policies for sustainable economic development and stipulates how these can be brought forward in development plans.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Economy & Employment	Northern Ireland Economic Strategy: Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity. Building a better Future	2012	NI	NI Executive	Sets out how the Executive plans to grow a prosperous local economy over the short, medium and longer term to 2030. The economic vision for 2030 is: 'An economy characterised by a sustainable and growing private sector, where a greater number of firms compete in global markets and there is growing employment and prosperity for all'. There is an emphasis on redressing a dependency on the public sector through the following: stimulate innovation, R&D and creativity so that we widen and deepen our export base; improve the skills and employability of the entire workforce so that people can progress up the skills ladder, thereby delivering higher productivity and increased social inclusion; compete effectively within the global economy and be internationally regarded as a good place to live and do business; encourage business growth and increase the potential of our local companies, including within the social and rural economies; and develop a modern and sustainable economic infrastructure that supports economic growth.	The LDP can support this strategy by enabling economic growth and shaping an environment with sustainable infrastructure that attracts investment and supports innovation.
Economy & Employment	Economic Strategy Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity - Building a better Future	2012	NI	NI Executive	The overarching goal of this Strategy is to improve the economic competitiveness of the Northern Ireland economy. In order to achieve this, we are committed to strengthening our competitiveness through a focus on export led economic growth. This means we are prioritising the need to deepen and diversify our export base in order to increase employment and wealth across Northern Ireland. The key drivers of this will be innovation, R&D and the skills of our workforce.	The LDP can support this strategy by enabling economic growth and shaping an environment with sustainable infrastructure that attracts investment and supports innovation. Also relevant to the Education topic.
Economy & Employment	Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 - 2024.	2014	NI	Outdoor NI	This strategy aims to generate approximately £25 Million to the local economy per annum as a direct result of mountain biking by 2024.	Informs on a potential source of outdoor recreational activity and tourism opportunity. Also relevant to the Health and Wellbeing topic.
Material Assets	Renewable energy Directive 2009 EC2009/28/EC2	2009	Europe	EC	The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU to limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and promote cleaner transport. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets. All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020.	The LDP will take account of the Directive.



	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Material Assets	Directive 2008/98/EC on waste	2008	Europe	EC	Establishes the five tier hierarchy of waste. This waste hierarchy aims to encourage the management of waste materials in order to reduce the amount of waste materials produced, and to recover maximum value from the wastes that are produced. It encourages the prevention of waste, followed by the reuse and refurbishment of goods, then value recovery through recycling and composting. Waste disposal should only be used when no option further up the hierarchy is possible. Prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness. The recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation. Recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without using processes that could harm the environment.	The LDP will reflect the Waste Hierarchy approach to Waste management. The LDP will provide for appropriate waste management facilities. The LDP will bring forward policies in regards of renewable energy including biomass. The LDP should make appropriate actions reflecting the need to manage wastes according to this directive.
Material Assets	Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste	1999	Europe	EC	Prevent or reduce negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills. The objective of the Directive is to prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment, in particular on surface water, groundwater, soil, air, and on human health from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills. The Landfill Directive defines the different categories of waste (municipal waste, hazardous waste, non-hazardous waste and inert waste) and applies to all landfills, defined as waste disposal sites for the deposit of waste onto or into land. Landfills are divided into three classes: landfills for hazardous waste; landfills for non-hazardous waste; landfills for inert waste.	The LDP will take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies contained in the SPPS.
Material Assets	Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste	1994	Europe	EC	Harmonise the packaging waste system of Member States. Reduce the environmental impact of packaging waste.	The LDP will take account of the Directive.
Material Assets	National Renewable Energy Action Plan for the United Kingdom	2010	UK	BEIS	Aims to provide a framework which enables the land based and rural sectors to realise the potential opportunities in the development of renewable energy. Focus is on assisting meeting targets for renewable energy production at a regional, national and EU level in a balanced and sustainable way. Other key objectives of the development include energy security, emissions reductions and wider economic advantages.	Policies relating to renewable energy are proposed, helping to meet the objectives of this plan. Design and sustainable development policies should also encourage renewable energy as part of these developments. Planning decisions will have to balance need for renewables with environmental concerns and it may be that the need for renewable developments is outweighed by environmental protection.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Material Assets	The UK Renewable Energy Strategy	2009	UK	BEIS	This UK Roadmap shows where we are now; analysis of how deployment may evolve by 2020, together with separate estimates of the market's view of the potential; and the actions required to set us on the path to achieve the deployment levels anticipated in our analysis. While renewable deployment across all technologies will be important, the Roadmap focuses in particular on the technologies that have either the greatest potential to help the UK meet the 2020 target in a cost effective and sustainable way, or offer great potential for the decades that follow. These are Onshore wind, Offshore wind, Marine energy, Biomass electricity, Biomass heat, Ground source and air source heat pumps and Renewable transport.	The LDP should take into account evidence that informs future energy needs and renewable provision.
Material Assets	The revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy "Delivering Resource Efficiency"	2013	NI	DAERA	The revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy sets the policy framework for the management of waste in Northern Ireland, and contains actions and targets to meet EU Directive requirements and the Department's Programme for Government commitments. It builds on and retains the core principles of the 2006 Strategy, and places a renewed emphasis on the Waste Hierarchy. The new Strategy moves the emphasis of waste management in Northern Ireland from resource management, with landfill diversion as the key driver, to resource efficiency i.e. using resources in the most effective way while minimising the impact of their use on the environment.	The SPPS supports this strategy, namely with development making sustainable use of available resources and having a sustainable approach to waste designed in. Waste management is one of the Subject Policies. The economic considerations of the SPPS will support 'green jobs' and ensure that the economy will benefit from planning decisions. Improved waste management will be good for the environment. The LDP is therefore likely to support this strategy, namely with development making sustainable use of available resources and having a sustainable approach to waste designed in. The economic considerations of the LDP will support employment and ensure that the economy will benefit from planning decisions. Improved waste management will be good for the environment.
Material Assets	Renewable Energy in the Land Based Sector A way forward. Interim Renewable Energy Action Plan 2013/14	2013	NI	DAERA	Follow up to the Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010. Strategic aim to Promote sustainable farming and forestry practices to deliver greater resource efficiency and reduced environmental impact, by supporting the sector to make a contribution to and benefit from renewable energy opportunities. Focus on enabling the land based and rural sectors to realise the potential opportunities in the development of renewable energy through capacity building, research and promotion of opportunities.	LDP preparation will have to balance need for renewables with environmental concerns and it may be that the need for renewable developments is outweighed by environmental protection.
Material Assets	Ireland's second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan	2014	RoI	DCCA	Ireland's third National Energy Efficiency Action Plan to 2020. The Department has reviewed, updated and replaced certain actions from the first Plan as appropriate to ensure it remains on track to meet national and EU targets, Sets a clear vision for each of the six areas covered by the Action Plan: Public Sector, Residential, Business, Transport, Energy Supply, and Cross Sectoral.	The Single Electricity Market for the island of Ireland means that delivery of renewable energy in Ireland will benefit Northern Ireland and vice versa.
Material Assets	Strategy for Renewable Energy: 2012-2020	2012	RoI	DCCA	The strategy outlines how it is planned that sustainable power, when developed, is maximised as it is returned to the State. Five strategic goals are set out in the document, these include increasing on and offshore wind, building a sustainable bioenergy sector, fostering R&D in renewables, growing sustainable transport and building out robust and efficient networks.	There is little information on whether renewable energy generation and networks will focus on use within NI or whether cross-border outcomes will also be sought.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Material Assets	Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPA) for Ireland	2010	RoI	DCCAIE	The OREDPA identifies the opportunity for the sustainable development of Ireland's offshore renewable energy resources and sets out key principles, policy actions and enablers for delivery of Ireland's significant potential in this area. Three high level goals have been identified for the OREDPA: Ireland harnesses the market opportunities presented by offshore renewable energy to achieve economic development, growth and jobs; Increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing offshore renewable energy; Offshore renewable energy developments do not adversely impact our rich marine environment and its living and non-living resources.	This plan will not affect or be affected by the LDP directly. However, developments arising under the LDP could have an impact on the capacity available in Ireland. Developments in Ireland could also affect NI resources, particularly marine or coastal environments.
Material Assets	A Resource Opportunity: Waste Management Policy in Ireland	2012	RoI	DECLG	This policy document sets out the measure through which Ireland will make the further progress necessary to become a recycling society, with a clear focus on resource efficiency and the virtual elimination of landfilling of municipal waste.	There may be cross border implications for e.g. recycling facilities.
Material Assets	Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015 - 2030	2015	RoI	DfE	The White Paper is a complete energy policy update, which sets out a framework to guide policy between now and 2030. Its objective is to guide a transition to a low carbon energy system, which provides secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy. It does not set out detailed proposals, which can be found in specific work programmes that are either in place or under development. It places great value on the relationship with Northern Ireland and will continue close cooperation on a range of energy matters including the regulation of the all-island single electricity market (SEM) (in which Northern Ireland and Ireland are equal partners) the development of the Integrated-Single Electricity Market (I-SEM), energy transmission and the proposed North-South transmission line.	Will influence the overall energy production requirement and may necessitate cross border distribution infrastructure. Also relevant to the Climate Change topic.
Material Assets	Envisioning the Future: Considering Energy in Northern Ireland to 2050	2015	NI	DfE	A vision of what might happen by 2050: the outcomes are neither a prediction nor a plan and the study does not, therefore, propose a strategy. Instead, the vision is intended to guide thinking on what can be achieved in 2050 and what early decisions and activities may be needed to support development towards 2050.	Evidence that informs future energy needs and provision.
Material Assets	Draft Onshore Renewable Electricity Action Plan	2013	NI	DfE	The aim of the Action Plan is to maximise the amount of renewable electricity generated from onshore renewable sources in order to enhance diversity and security of supply, reduce carbon emissions, contribute to the 40% renewable electricity target by 2020 and beyond and develop business and employment opportunities for Northern Ireland companies.	Provision in the LDP to support delivery of this will need to align with the renewable energy subject policy of the SPPS, though it could conflict with the natural heritage and other environmental policies.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Material Assets	Offshore Renewable Energy Strategic Action Plan 2012-2020	2012	NI	DfE	The overall aim of the ORESAP is; to optimise the amount of renewable electricity sustainably generated from offshore wind and marine renewable resources in Northern Ireland's waters in order to enhance diversity and security of supply, reduce carbon emissions, contribute to the 40% renewable electricity target by 2020 and beyond and develop business and employment opportunities for NI companies. The associated development opportunity is for up to 900 MW of offshore wind and 300 MW from tidal resources in Northern Ireland waters by 2020.	Provision in the LDP to support delivery of this will need to align with the renewable energy subject policy of the SPPS, though it could conflict with the natural heritage and other environmental policies.
Material Assets	DETI (2012) Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-2015	2012	NI	DfE	The Action Plan aims to assist with the implementation of the Strategic Energy Framework (2010-2020). DETI set out numerous "main actions for the future" regarding renewables and other aspects of sustainable energy. Of particular relevance are the commitments to: Contribute to the growth of the NI sustainable energy sector (through Invest NI) to 8.9% of NI GVA by 2015: Work with DOE, developers, planners and those responsible for environmental consents to ensure that the need for renewable energy to address the environmental impacts of climate change is recognised, that good quality applications are made and that clear, consistent and proportionate procedures are in place for the consenting of renewable installations; Undertake "capacity studies" (including landscape capacity study, ecological study and bird migration study, with DOE and others) in order to determine with more accuracy how much development could be accommodated in different locations across Northern Ireland before significant cumulative effects start to emerge; Develop a continuous monitoring framework (with DOE and others) where the key potential cumulative effects identified from the assessment are reviewed on a regular basis in response to growth of the onshore wind industry. There are also a number of socio-economic commitments, such as supporting construction of electricity network or refurbishing schools with renewable technologies for example.	A number of socio-economic objectives are included in the Action Plan requiring the development of facilities and service infrastructure, as well as proposing funding for additional development such as renewables or farm diversification.
Material Assets	DETI (2010) Energy: A Strategic Framework for Northern Ireland	2010	NI	DfE	Contains goals and targets, but does not include the detail of how targets could be achieved. It does aim to ensure future access to secure, competitively priced and sustainable energy supplies for all of NI. Also it provides a direction for NI energy policy over the next ten years concentrating on key areas of electricity, natural gas and renewable energy sources. Under review in 2016.	Renewable and sustainable development policies will indirectly accord with this framework, by providing for renewable development. There may be a conflict between this framework and environmental policies (natural heritage, cultural heritage, flood risk etc.) when it comes to developing gas facilities and electrical networks.
Material Assets	Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009)	2009	NI	Dfi	Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 18 sets out the planning policy for development that generates energy from renewable resources. The PPS aims to facilitate the siting of renewable energy generating facilities in appropriate locations within the built and natural environments.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Material Assets	Planning Policy Statement 10 Telecommunications	2002	NI	Dfi	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for telecommunications development. It embodies the Government's commitment to facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunications systems whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum. The PPS also addresses health issues associated with telecommunications development.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Material Assets	Planning Policy Statement 11 Planning and Waste Management (DOE 2002)	2002	NI	Dfi	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the development of waste management facilities. It seeks to promote the highest environmental standards in development proposals for waste management facilities and includes guidance on the issues likely to be considered in the determination of planning applications. In addition, it explains the relationship between the planning system and authorities responsible for the regulation and management of waste.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Material Assets	The Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997	1997	NI	NI Executive	Implements the European Commission (EC) Framework on Waste in NI. The Order makes a number of provisions such as: transfer of responsibility for waste regulation from the district councils to the Department of Environment (DOE), focused within the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) introduction of measures designed to increase control over the processing and handling of waste including Waste Management Licensing, Duty of Care, Registration of Carriers, Special Waste and Producer Responsibility introduction of measures relating to the identification of contaminated land, designation of special sites, duties of enforcing authorities to require remediation, determination of appropriate persons to bear responsibility for remediation, liability of contaminating substances which escape to other land and contaminated land registers.	The Contaminated Land regime which is set out in Part 3 of the Waste Management and Contaminated Land Order (Northern Ireland) 1997, has been enacted but is not yet in force. Also relevant to the Physical Resources topic.
Material Assets	North Western Region Partnership 'Review of waste management plan 2006-2020'	2015	Regional	NWRWMG	To develop a waste management system that meets the region's needs and contributes to economic and sustainable development. This plan sets out arrangements for waste management and covers the period from 2012 to 2020.	There is a need to facilitate waste management with a focus on waste prevention and minimisation, recycling, composting, residual waste treatment and energy recovery with landfill as the option of last resort.
Physical Resources	The Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection	2006	Europe	Council of Europe	In September 2006 the Commission adopted a Soil Thematic Strategy including a proposal for a Soil Framework Directive. This originated from the need to ensure a sustainable use of soils and protect their function in a comprehensive manner in a context of increasing pressure and degradation of soils across the EU.	The commitment to sustainable soil use is in line with the Seventh Environment Action Programme, (7th EAP) which provides that by 2020 "land is managed sustainably in the Union, soil is adequately protected and the remediation of contaminated sites is well underway" and commits the EU and its Member States to "increasing efforts to reduce soil erosion and increase organic matter, to remediate contaminated sites and to enhance the integration of land use aspects into coordinated decision-making involving all relevant levels of government, supported by the adoption of targets on soil and on land as a resource, and land planning objectives".

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Physical Resources	UK Geodiversity Action Plan	2011	UK	Natural England	The UKGAP sets out a framework for geodiversity action across the UK. It encompasses six themes: 1. Furthering our understanding of geodiversity, 2. Influencing planning policy, legislation and development design, 3. Gathering and maintaining information on our geodiversity, 4. Conserving and managing our geodiversity, 5. Inspiring people to value and care for our geodiversity, 6. Sustaining resources for our geodiversity.	Geodiversity can play a role in planning for and mitigating the effects of climate change, coastal erosion and flooding. It can also help support Ecosystem Services such as soil formation, flood management, pollution control, mineral resources and the enjoyment of our environment. The LDP should recognise that geodiversity is cross-cutting across several themes including transport, housing, mineral extraction and waste. It should also recognise the sustainable socio-economic benefits that geodiversity brings for people and the cultural services it provides across a range of sectors and social agenda (for example, contributing to sense of place and a healthy lifestyle). Geodiversity information can help to support the delivery of wider environmental and landscape initiatives (including landscape characterisation and delivery of the European Landscape Convention).
Physical Resources	Delivering our Future, Valuing our Soils: A Sustainable Agricultural Land Management Strategy for Northern Ireland	2016	NI	independent Expert Working Group on Sustainable Land Management	Improving the health of Northern Ireland's agricultural soils is the central focus of this strategy. Healthier soils will deliver better yields of crops and grass which are higher in quality. This will provide the raw material necessary for the increased productivity and profitability envisaged by 'Going for Growth' and will also deliver environmental improvement simultaneously.	This strategy document is mainly targeted at agricultural practitioners adopting more sustainable land use practices. It contains some information on best practice for sustainable land management which may be translatable to the use of public lands, e.g. blue/green infrastructure and enhancement of biodiversity. This is also a cross-cutting policy.
Physical Resources	Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter Action Plan	2017-2020	NI	Joint initiative	The Northern Ireland Geodiversity Charter recognises that geodiversity is an integral and vital part of our environment, economy, heritage and future sustainable development. It is necessary that our geodiversity is safeguarded and managed appropriately for current and future generations	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies. Also relevant to the Natural Resources and Landscape topics.
Transport	Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways	2016	NI	DfI	Sets out the plans for a network of greenways, connecting towns and cities to the villages and countryside from east to west and north to south across all eleven councils. Objectives include: improving health and wellbeing, increasing access to greenways, improving safety, improving social inclusion, economic development.	Greenways can produce both environmental and social benefits, because they are easily accessible and can bring nature and people together. The development of traffic free infrastructure, particularly greenways, can also have a positive impact on social inclusion and encouraging new and harder to reach groups to take up cycling and walking. The LDP can help to support these objectives. Also relevant to the topics of Health and Wellbeing, Natural Resources and Landscape.
Transport	Strategic Park & Ride Delivery Programme 2016-2020 (Draft)	2016	NI	DfI	Department is currently developing a Strategic Park & Ride Delivery Programme for the next four years which will deliver additional Park & Ride and Park & Share spaces	May inform policies relating to provision of park and ride facilities and connectivity between transport modes.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Transport	Department for Infrastructure Strategic Plan for Greenways	2016	NI	Dfi	This is the base report for 'Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic plan for Greenways'. It presents a strategic approach and overview to the development of a shared greenway network which is planned at a regional level and allows people to link to places locally, regionally and nationally by active modes of travel.	Greenways can produce both environmental and social benefits, because they are easily accessible and can bring nature and people together. The development of traffic free infrastructure, particularly greenways, can also have a positive impact on social inclusion and encouraging new and harder to reach groups to take up cycling and walking. The LDP can help to support these objectives. Also relevant to the topics of Health and Wellbeing, Natural Resources and Landscape.
Transport	Northern Ireland Changing Gear: A Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland	2015	NI	Dfi	The Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland is the first step in achieving the Minister's vision for cycling. It aims to set out progressively how we can transform Northern Ireland into a place where travelling by bicycle is a healthy, every day activity. It will be supported by a Bicycle Strategy Delivery Plan which will outline specific time bound actions to realise this vision. It takes a 3 pillar approach: 'Build' [a comprehensive network for the bicycle], 'Support' [People who choose to travel by bicycle] and 'Promote' [The bicycle as a mode of transport for everyday journeys].	This strategy is closely linked with 'Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways'. The LDP can help to support the objectives of the strategy by supporting the establishment of new or improved cycle routes and cycling infrastructure.
Transport	Railway Investment Prioritisation Strategy May 2014	2015	NI	Dfi	The Strategy sets out the strategic direction for future railway investment over the next 20 years and the high level initiatives that need to be delivered to support the Strategy. Objectives include: maintain and improve passenger capacity, remove bottlenecks and assist development along TEN-T (Trans European) core network corridor; enhance or extend TEN-T comprehensive network. The Strategy will also look at new halts and opportunities to develop out-of-town rail-based park and ride at new halts.	The LDP can support aspects of the Strategy, such as the aim to build additional park and ride facilities and station upgrades/ refurbishment which include enhancing accessibility and safety features.
Transport	Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future - A New Approach to Regional Transportation.	2011	NI	Dfi	How the Department will develop regional transportation beyond 2015, when the current transport plans reach their conclusion. The new approach to regional transportation complements the Regional Development Strategy and aims to achieve the transportation vision: "to have a modern, sustainable, safe transportation system which benefits society, the economy and the environment and which actively contributes to social inclusion and everyone's quality of life." The new approach starts with the assumption that the decision to travel has been made. It seeks to provide the infrastructure and services that will ensure that travel and transport are as sustainable as possible.	The SPPS includes seven Subject Policies specific to transport and others that address the 'High Level Transport Aims' and 'Strategic Objectives of Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future', so in meeting the requirements of the SPPS the requirements of this strategy will also be met. Planning to enable people to live and work near the services and facilities they require and policies that allow more people to work from home will support this strategy and the LDP will also need to consider any requirement for new or improved transport infrastructure. The LDP will support this Plan. The need for new or improved infrastructure will need to be assessed against environmental policies, though following good design and sustainable development should achieve the best possible solutions to the need.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Transport	Sub-Regional Transport Plan (SRTP)	2007	NI	Dfi	While this implementation plan has expired, some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. The Sub-Regional Transport Plan deals with the transport needs of the whole of Northern Ireland with the exception of the Belfast Metropolitan Area and the rail and trunk road networks which are covered in earlier transport plans. The purpose of the SRTP is to study the needs of the designated areas in detail and to confirm a package of transport schemes, consistent with the general principles and indicative levels of spend in the RTS. This package of schemes and initiatives must aim to service the future transport demands taking account of financial allocation, planned developments and any changes in Government policy.	Although expired, the STRP may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.
Transport	Planning Policy Statement 3 – Access, Movement and Parking (2005) & PPS3 clarification (DOE 2006)	2005	NI	Dfi	Policies for vehicular and pedestrian access, transport assessments, the protection of transport routes and parking. Provides for a sustainable transport system which promotes road safety.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Transport	Planning Policy Statement 13 Transportation and Land Use	2005	NI	Dfi	Assists in bringing forward the integration of transportation and land use as per the RDS.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Transport	Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan 2015	2004	NI	Dfi	While this implementation plan has expired, some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. The RSTN of Northern Ireland comprises the complete rail network, five Key Transport Corridors (KTCs), four Link Corridors, the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Corridors and the remainder of the trunk road network. The Plan consists of proposals for the maintenance, management and development of this transport network up to the end of 2015.	Although expired, the RTSN may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.
Transport	Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) for Northern Ireland 2002-2012	2002	NI	Dfi	The Regional Transport Strategy for Northern Ireland 2002-2012 for identifies strategic transportation investment priorities and considers potential funding sources and affordability of planned initiatives over the strategy period.	Although expired, and replaced by 'Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future', the RTS may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.



	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Transport	Translink Strategy 'Get on Board' 2016-2021	2016	NI	Translink	Translink's plan to transform public transport and support the growth and prosperity of Northern Ireland. 'Get on Board' has been developed in the context of the Regional Development Strategy 2035 and The New Approach to Regional Transportation. It aims to deliver a transformation in public transport, providing integrated services which connect people, enhance the economy and improve the environment, enabling a thriving Northern Ireland" Incorporates a number of key goals including: Making services inclusive and accessible to all; Working with all stakeholders to support social inclusion in local communities; Support modal shift toward sustainable transport; and Forging partnerships to deliver cost effective and integrated travel solutions to rural communities.	The LDP will support this strategy and will consider measures to make public transport services and sustainable transport more accessible and more integrated with other transport modes.
Transport	Network Utilisation Strategy, Translink NI Railways, (Published October 2015)	2015	NI	Translink	The Network Utilisation Strategy (NUS) seeks to find a balance between supply and demand. It sets out a long Term vision for rail in Northern Ireland for the next 30 years. It provides the evidence base to support targeted investment in infrastructure, rolling stock and services such that the network is fit for the purpose of supporting the growth of the Northern Ireland economy.	Indicates potential future investment in railway infrastructure.
Air Quality	The UK Clean Air Strategy	2019	UK	DEFRA	The Clean Air Strategy 2019 aims to tackle all sources of air pollution to support a healthier environment and productive economy. The strategy details how devolved administrations will contribute to emissions reductions and complements three other strategies – the Industrial Strategy, the Clean Growth Strategy, and the 25 Year Environment Plan. The strategy adds to the commitments made to reduce emissions of 5 of the most damaging air pollutants by proposing new goals to cut exposure to particulate matter pollution.	The LDP should consider the Strategy and its potential implications for transport, industry and residential related developments, plans or projects.
Air Quality	Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)	2010	Europe	EC	The IED aims to achieve a high level of protection of human health and the environment taken as a whole by reducing harmful industrial emissions across the EU, in particular through better application of Best Available Techniques (BAT). Installations undertaking the industrial activities listed in Annex I of the IED are required to operate in accordance with a permit (granted by the authorities in the Member States). The integrated approach means that the permits must take into account the whole environmental performance of the plant, covering e.g. emissions to air, water and land, generation of waste, use of raw materials, energy efficiency, noise, prevention of accidents, and restoration of the site upon closure. For certain activities, i.e. large combustion plants, waste incineration and co-incineration plants, solvent using activities and titanium dioxide production, the IED also sets EU wide emission limit values for selected pollutants.	Location of land for industrial use should be considered in relation to people and sensitive environmental receptors.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Air Quality	Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe	2008	Europe	EC	This Directive merged most of existing legislation into a single directive with no change to existing air quality objectives and added new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles). Establishes the need to reduce pollution to levels which minimise harmful effects on human health, paying particular attention to sensitive populations, and the environment as a whole, to improve the monitoring and assessment of air quality including the deposition of pollutants and to provide information to the public. Emissions of harmful air pollutants should be avoided, prevented or reduced.	The LDP should consider the implications of new development on air pollution and take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies contained in the SPPS.
Air Quality	Defra, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and DOE (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	2007	UK	Four Nations (DAERA)	This updated strategy sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues; sets out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved; introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles and identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives. It includes the requirement, under the local air quality management, for every local authority to regularly review and assess air quality in their area which is a statutory requirement under the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002. If national objectives are not met, or at risk of not being met, the local authority concerned must declare an air quality management area and prepare an air quality action plan. This identifies measures that will be introduced in pursuit of the objectives and can have implications for planning.	Local Plans can affect air quality in a number of ways, including through what development is proposed and where, and the encouragement given to sustainable transport. Therefore in plan making, it is important to take into account air quality management areas and other areas where there could be specific requirements or limitations on new development because of air quality. Drawing on the review of air quality carried out for the local air quality management regime, the LDP needs to consider the potential cumulative impact of a number of smaller developments on air quality as well as the effect of more substantial developments; the impact of point sources of air pollution (pollution that originates from one place); and ways in which new development would be appropriate in locations where air quality is or likely to be a concern and not give rise to unacceptable risks from pollution.
Climate Change	The Paris Agreement	2015	International	UN	The Paris agreement which entered into force in November 2016 provides an international framework to hold the increase in global temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to keep the more stringent target of below 1.5 degrees in sight. The agreement provides a broad framework for countries to work together, share information and build experience to increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience. It aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change. To reach these ambitious goals, appropriate financial flows, a new technology framework and an enhanced capacity building framework will be put in place, thus supporting action by developing countries and the most vulnerable countries, in line with their own national objectives. The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through "nationally determined contributions" (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. This includes requirements that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Climate Change	The Kyoto Protocol Adopted 1997, came into force in 2005.	2005	International	UN	The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which commits its Parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets. Recognizing that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity, the Protocol places a heavier burden on developed nations under the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities." The protocol looks at limiting the emission of harmful greenhouse gases. Parties committed to reduce GHG emissions by at least 18 percent below 1990 levels in the eight-year period from 2013 to 2020. It was updated by the Doha Amendment in 2012.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
Climate Change	The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	1994	International	UN	The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994 and has near-universal membership. The UNFCCC is a "Rio Convention", one of three adopted at the "Rio Earth Summit" in 1992. Its sister Rio Conventions are the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification. It now also incorporates the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Preventing "dangerous" human interference with the climate system is the ultimate aim of the UNFCCC.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
Climate Change	2030 Framework for climate and energy	2014	Europe	EC	EU-wide targets aim to help the EU achieve a more competitive, secure and sustainable energy system and to meet its long-term 2050 greenhouse gas reductions target. The strategy sends a strong signal to the market, encouraging private investment in new pipelines, electricity networks, and low-carbon technology. Targets for 2030 are a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels; at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption; at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.	Local Plans can affect air quality in a number of ways, including through what development is proposed and where, incorporation of energy efficiency, enabling renewable energy and encouraging sustainable transport. Also relevant to Material Assets and Air Quality topics.
Climate Change	The EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change	2013	Europe	EC	The EU Adaptation Strategy encourages all Member States to adopt comprehensive adaptation strategies. It 'Climate-proofs' action at EU level by promoting adaptation actions which include mainstreaming of climate change (mitigation and adaptation) into EU sector policies and funds, including marine and inland water issues, forestry, agriculture, biodiversity, infrastructure and buildings, but also migration and social issues. It supports better informed decision-making through Climate-ADAPT a platform which provides several useful resources to support adaptation policy and decision making, such as a toolset for adaptation planning and promotion of green infrastructure and ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation. Comprises a series of documents on adaptation in different situations such as coastal and marine, infrastructure and rural development.	This Strategy aligns with the climate change focus of the SPPS. Adaptation to climate change should be considered for LDP proposals.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Climate Change	Directive 2012 on the energy efficiency 2012/27/EU	2012	Europe	EC	Under the Energy Efficiency Directive EU countries make energy efficient renovations to at least 3% of buildings owned and occupied by central government; EU governments should only purchase buildings which are highly energy efficient; EU countries must draw-up long-term national building renovation strategies which can be included in their National Energy Efficiency Action Plans.	The need for energy efficiency will influence the design of new and renovated buildings.
Climate Change	Directive 2010 on the energy performance of buildings 2010/31/EU	2010	Europe	EC	Under the existing Energy Performance of Buildings Directive energy performance certificates are to be included in all advertisements for the sale or rental of buildings; EU countries must establish inspection schemes for heating and air conditioning systems or put in place measures with equivalent effect; all new buildings must be nearly zero energy buildings by 31 December 2020 (public buildings by 31 December 2018); EU countries must set minimum energy performance requirements for new buildings, for the major renovation of buildings and for the replacement or retrofit of building elements (heating and cooling systems, roofs, walls, etc.); EU countries have to draw up lists of national financial measures to improve the energy efficiency of buildings. In 2016 the Commission proposed an update to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive to help promote the use of smart technology in buildings and to streamline the existing rules.	The need for energy efficiency will influence the design of new and renovated buildings.
Climate Change	Industrial Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency Roadmaps	2015	UK	BEIS	Reports that set out potential pathways for the eight most heat-intensive industrial sectors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency. The cross-sectoral report suggests clustering as a long term strategy to deliver energy savings and more efficient use of waste and by-products.	Zoning and enabling infrastructure investments (in roads, ports, pipelines, etc.) would strengthen existing clusters and enable new ones to develop.
Climate Change	The State of the UK Climate 2017	2017	UK	RMET	The report provides a 10-year “snapshot” of the most recent experience of the UK’s climate and how that compares to historical records. This means differences between 2008–2017 and the baseline reference averages may reflect shorter-term decadal variations as well as long-term trends. These data are presented to show what has happened in recent years, not necessarily what is expected to happen in a changing climate.	Informative because of National Significance

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Climate Change	Climate Change Act 2008	2008	UK	UK Gov.	Covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland established a legislative framework to enable the reduction of UK GHG emissions by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050 and by 34% by 2020. It also introduced legally binding five-year carbon budgets, which set a ceiling on the levels of GHGs the UK can emit on course to the longer-term target. The Climate Change Act 2008 covers all of the UK with targets set at the UK level. Climate Change Risk Assessment is a statutory requirement of the Act. The Act also makes it a requirement for the UK Government to produce a Climate Change Risk Assessment every 5 years. NI Departments are required to produce an Adaptation Programme to address the identified risks and opportunities to NI.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
Climate Change	UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report, Summary for Northern Ireland	2017	NI	CCC	The objective of the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) is to inform adaptation policy by assessing the current and future risks and opportunities posed by the impacts of climate for NI to the year 2100. The main finding is that extreme weather is still predominant among potential risks related to climate change but that other risks, such as water scarcity are becoming increasingly important. Highlights need for more strategic planning for increased water scarcity in vulnerable locations, including re-evaluation of land use options and if necessary investment in storage infrastructure to maximise use of surplus winter rainfall. Notes that land use planning is mainly based upon protecting prime agricultural land from development, on the assumption that prime land will remain in current locations into the future which may not be the case. Advises that more action is needed to manage current risks to people from cold temperatures through addressing fuel poverty. Highlights that there have been requests for new sea defence structures around the coast. There will need to be a system in place to decide which areas must be protected and where realignment is more appropriate however no shoreline management plans or other policies that assess and plan for changes to coastal communities have been developed for Northern Ireland.	The SPPS states that no development should take place in areas known to be at risk from coastal erosion. The SPPS promotes and encourages developers to use SuDS and also indicates that Councils should continue to promote the use of SuDS through their Local Development Plans. The SPPS recognises the importance of peatlands to Northern Ireland for biodiversity, water and carbon storage. The LDP will need to consider areas at risk from coastal erosion and vulnerable to flooding and to promote use of SuDS and protect peatlands. Measures that help to reduce fuel poverty can help address some social impacts of cold temperatures. Some infrastructure such as clean and waste water treatment may be vulnerable to flooding and therefore may need to be modified or relocated.
Climate Change	The appropriateness of a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act – December 2015 Update	2015	NI	CCC	In October 2015 the Northern Ireland Executive Minister asked the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) to provide an update on a CCC report produced in 2011 on 'The appropriateness of a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act' to inform the case for bringing forward Northern Ireland climate change legislation in the next Assembly term. The Committee concluded that the range of circumstances that are unique to Northern Ireland suggest local legislation is appropriate. However, the benefits of specific legislation only outweigh the costs if it is possible to pass local legislation without adding undue additional costs on to the Northern Ireland Executive, ministries or the wider economy.	None at present but a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act (Bill) could influence future plans.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Climate Change	Planning in the Coastal Area: A developer's guide to planning considerations and environmental responsibilities	2017	NI	DAERA	This guidance document aims to explain how some onshore development may impact on the marine environment. It also describes the legislative and regulatory framework within which we manage our marine area. This document aims to outline how development along our coast can be managed in an integrated manner and how potential impacts of onshore development on the marine environment can be avoided or mitigated through early engagement and collaborative working.	This document has been produced to assist planning authorities, applicants and agents in their understanding of land and sea interactions. In addition, as planning legislation extends to the mean low water mark, there is an area of overlapping responsibilities in the intertidal area. The LDP should aim to align with legislation on the marine environment to achieve an integrated approach to the management of the intertidal area along the coastline.
Climate Change	Discussion Paper – Proposals for Taking Forward NI Climate Change Legislation - DOE on 1 December 2015	2015	NI	DAERA	The aim of a NI Climate Change Bill which is still in development is to establish a long-term framework for future action on climate change to drive greater efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and so help ensure that Northern Ireland is better prepared to adapt to the impacts of unavoidable climate change. Proposals include: setting a long term target of 80% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050 (compared to 1990 baseline levels); setting interim targets that are consistent with achieving the 2050 targets; placing a duty to set limits in 5-year carbon budgets on the total amounts of GHG emissions that can be emitted in NI.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
Climate Change	Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP). 2014-2019	2014	NI	DAERA	Contains the Northern Ireland Executive's response to the risks and opportunities identified in the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) for Northern Ireland, which was published in January 2012, as part of the overall UK CCRA. The Adaptation Programme provides the strategic objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, the proposals and policies by which each department will meet these objectives, and the timescales associated with the proposals and policies identified in the period up to 2019. The priority areas are flooding, natural environment, water and agriculture and forestry.	The LDP will need to consider areas at risk from coastal erosion and vulnerable to flooding. It may consider indirect measures to reduce flood risk such as the use of SuDS and protecting peatlands. Some infrastructure such as clean and waste water treatment will be more vulnerable to flooding therefore may need to be modified or relocated.
Climate Change	2 <sup>nd</sup> Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP). 2019-2024	2019-2024	NI	DAERA	Contains Northern Ireland response to the risks and opportunities identified in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) 2017 Evidence Report for Northern Ireland. The 2 <sup>nd</sup> NI CCAP provides strategic objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change. The priority areas are natural capital, people, infrastructure, disruption to business, and food security. The 2 <sup>nd</sup> NICCAP, 'seeks to mitigate the risks while utilising opportunities caused by the consequences of climate change.'	The LDP will need to consider areas at risk from the effects of climate change including areas that flood, or are vulnerable to erosion or subsidence. Indirect measures to reduce flood risk such as the use of SuDS and protecting peatlands could be considered. Some infrastructure such as clean and wastewater treatment, transport routes and hubs, may be more vulnerable particularly along the coast, and may need to be modified or relocated.
Climate Change	Climate Adaptation Plan	2018	DCSDC	DCSDC	The Climate Adaptation Plan established by DCSDC was in response to recent flooding episodes and is aimed at developing climate resilient communities across the DCSDC area. It is part of an EU funded project called Climate. The Plan should help find solutions for people worst affected by flooding. The Council will lead but work with communities to ensure resilience to flooding as well as heat and extreme weather events.	The LDP will need to consider protection and enhancement of natural resilience within the local environment but also encourage and facilitate opportunities to integrate new measures that will add to and increase natural resilience to the effects of climate change.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Climate Change	Efficient Farming Cuts Greenhouse Gases Implementation Plan 2016-2020	2013	NI	DAERA	The plan is focused on encouraging the implementation of a series of on-farm efficiency measures which can improve farm performance and reduce the carbon intensity of local food production and signposts the support available to facilitate this.	Aspects of relevant to planning are promotion of renewable energy, nutrient management including anaerobic digestion, energy efficiency and ventilation in livestock building.
Climate Change	Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action Plan (revised 2016/17 Mitigation Plan)	2012	NI	DAERA	This document sets out a Cross-Departmental Action Plan to tackle the established strategies together, including how Northern Ireland is and will continue to reduce its carbon footprint. Specifically how the Programme for Government target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by 2025 will be delivered. Status is not clear as not available on any departmental website. Plan has been updated with a Mitigation Action Plan in 2016/17	Encouraging sustainable development, good standards of design, renewable energy and overall sustainability will contribute to this action plan. Though a push on economic development could inhibit a reduction in greenhouse gases, the application of sustainability principles in development will lead to more efficient infrastructure. Scope for protection of or increase of carbon sinks in soil and trees.
Climate Change	National Adaptation Framework: Planning for a Climate Resilient Ireland	2012	RoI	DCCA	Ireland's first statutory National Adaptation Framework sets out a pathway to achieving a more resilient economy and society which is capable of dealing with the enormous challenges climate change is likely to present. This Framework, and its constituent Sectoral Adaptation Plans, will inform the significant capital investment in flood adaptation measures to be made over the lifetime of the Ten-Year Capital Plan.	Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI plans will support this. This will result in due course to the development of sectoral and local government Adaptation Strategies in Ireland which will also need to be taken into account to ensure that development in Northern Ireland does not conflict. A National Climate Change Adaptation Framework to build on and supersede this framework is being developed for publication by December 2017 and this will also need to be considered.
Climate Change	Local Authority Adaptation Strategy Development Guidelines Ireland	2016	RoI	EPA	The purpose of this guideline is to support local authorities in the development of a local climate change adaptation strategy. In its structure and content, the guideline draws heavily on the 2013 Guidelines on Developing Adaptation Strategies provided to European Union Member States by the European Commission (SWD(2013) 134 final), with the aim of fostering coherence between strategies developed at local and national scale.	This will result in due course to the development of Adaptation Strategies in local authorities in Ireland which will also need to be taken into account to ensure that development in Northern Ireland does not conflict. May inform any approach that the council may wish to take form climate change adaptation.
Climate Change	The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015	2015	RoI	Irish Parliament	Ireland's national policy in response to climate change is determined, in part, by legislation. In particular, Ireland's first-ever dedicated climate change law, the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, provides for the making of: five-yearly National Mitigation Plans to specify the policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and a National Adaptation Framework to specify the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change.	While the legislation is for Ireland measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI policy and strategies will also support the objectives of this legislation.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Climate Change	Climate Action and Low-Carbon Development - National Policy Position Ireland	2014	RoI	Irish Parliament	The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050. Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.	Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI plans will also support this.
Water Resources	Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources	2012	Europe	EC	The "Blueprint" outlines actions that concentrate on better implementation of current water legislation, integration of water policy objectives into other policies, and filling the gaps in particular as regards water quantity and efficiency. The objective is to ensure that a sufficient quantity of good quality water is available for people's needs, the economy and the environment throughout the EU.	The Blueprint is expected to drive EU water policy over the long term. It is reflected in Sustainable Water.
Water Resources	Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks	2007	Europe	EC	Directive aims is to reduce and manage risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity and applies to inland waters as well as all coastal waters across the whole territory of the EU. It required identifying the relevant river basins and associated coastal areas at risk of flooding, drawing up flood maps and establishing flood risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness between 2011 and 2015. This has been coordinated with Water Framework Directive River Basin Planning.	Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive. Integrating flood risk management into development planning will contribute to compliance with this directive.
Water Resources	Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC	2006	Europe	EC	The directive requires each country to identify its most popular bathing waters for regular testing. In Northern Ireland 26 sites are formally identified. It requires Members States to monitor and assess the bathing water for at least two parameters and to inform the public about bathing water quality and beach management, through bathing water profiles.	Designated bathing waters will be taken into account in plan preparation. These sites represent assets for health and well-being and tourism.
Water Resources	The Water Framework Directive - EU Directive 2000/60/EC (the Water Framework Directive)	2000	Europe	EC	Introduces 'good status', a more rigorous water quality standard. The Directive requires 'River Basin Management Plans' which should influence Development Plans and be influenced by them.	Contribute, wherever possible and appropriate, to achievement of water targets. Plan policies on the design, location of development & sustainable water management to ensure that the LDP does not create adverse pressures on the aquatic environment.
Water Resources	Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption	1998	Europe	EC	Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.	This is reflected in 'Sustainable Water' (see below).



	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Water Resources	Directive 91/676/EEC on nitrates from agricultural sources.	1991	Europe	EC	The Directive seeks to reduce the level of water pollution caused by the run off of nitrates into waterways/ground water from agricultural sources. In particular, it is about promoting better management of animal manures, chemical nitrogen fertilisers and other nitrogen-containing materials spread onto the land.	The LDP will take account of the Directive. The SEA will consider the likely significant effect of the plan on the aquatic environment.
Water Resources	Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment	1991	Europe	EC	Protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.	This is reflected in 'Sustainable Water' (see below).
Water Resources	Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015-2040)	2016	NI	Dfi	The Strategy presents a framework for action which will facilitate implementation of a range of initiatives aimed at delivering the long term vision to have a sustainable water sector in Northern Ireland. The following four high level aims have been developed by government to cover the key water needs within a catchment and they form the chapters of the Long-Term Water Strategy: provide high quality sustainable supplies of drinking water to households, industry and agriculture; manage flood risk and drainage in a sustainable manner; achieve the environmental requirements of the Water Framework Directive in a sustainable manner; provide sustainable reliable water and sewerage services that meet customers' needs. A strategy implementation action plan will now be prepared containing actions aimed at delivering the high level proposed measures in the Strategy.	The strategy will inform the provision of infrastructure for water supply and treatment and approaches to flood risk management and environmental protection which will all inform the spatial capacity for development. The plan will need to enable development of infrastructure for example by accommodating investment in power, water and sewerage infrastructure in the interests of public health and to support measures relating to flood risk management and environmental protection.
Water Resources	Planning Policy Statement 15 (Revised) – Planning and Flood Risk	2014	NI	Dfi	Planning policies to minimise and manage flood risk to people, property and the environment.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Water Resources	Social and environmental guidance for Water and Sewerage Services (2015-2021)	2014	NI	Dfi	The purpose of this document is to provide the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation with guidance on the key environmental and social policies the Minister for Regional Development expects it to contribute to in carrying out its role in regulating the water industry during the 2015-21 period. Sets out how NI Water should deliver to meet International, National and Local legislative and strategic commitments.	The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Water Resources	Flood Maps (NI)	2011	NI	Dfi - Rivers Agency	Flood Maps highlights the areas throughout Northern Ireland that are prone to flooding and its potential adverse impacts. The map is designed to: help Rivers Agency and others to plan and manage our work to reduce flood risk; encourage people living and working in areas prone to flooding to find out more and take appropriate action; inform anyone applying for planning permission if flooding is likely to be an important consideration.	Provides information on vulnerability to flooding throughout Northern Ireland which informs constraints on development,
Water Resources	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for NI	2011	NI	Dfi - Rivers Agency	A key objective of the PFRA was to identify areas of potentially significant flood risk for which detailed flood maps would be produced. On the basis of the PFRA, it was determined that detailed flood maps should be produced for 20 Significant Flood Risk Areas and 49 Areas for Further Study and this work was completed as required by the EU Directive in December 2013.	Identifies areas of potentially significant flood risk which informs constraints on development.
Water Resources	Northern Ireland Message on Water	2011	NI	Dfi, DAERA	In 2011 the UKCIP (formerly UK Climate Impacts Programme) decided to create a number of messages which could be used to engage with policy makers across the UK. NI Water, NIEA and Rivers Agency worked together to help prepare a headline message for Northern Ireland focused on Water and climate impacts. This describes the potential impacts of climate change on flood risk and stormwater capacity and identifies the need for investment to provide capacity to store and transfer surface water. This includes measures to deal with surface water runoff such as sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). It also considers potential effects on water quality and supply which may require the construction of more impounding reservoirs and raw water transfer pipelines.	Highlights potential long term problems and relating to water supply and flow including flooding investment needs to mitigate these.
Water Resources	North Western and Neagh Bann International River Basin Districts River Basin Management Plan	TBC	RoI	EPA	For the 2nd Cycle of the WFD, in the North Western and Neagh Bann International River Basin Districts a single administrative area will be established in the Republic of Ireland portion of these two IRBDs for the purpose of coordinating their management with authorities in Northern Ireland. The WFD's aims are: 1. Protect/enhance all waters (surface, ground and coastal waters) 2. Achieve "good status" for all waters by December 2015 3. Manage water bodies based on river basins or catchments 4. Involve the public.	The plan will be published during preparation of the LDP and therefore will need to be taken into account once available. Measures to protect water quality, quantity and ecological resources will support the plan objectives which derive from the Water Framework Directive.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Water Resources	Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016	2016	NI	NI Executive	The Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 confers a power on NI Water to require the construction of sustainable drainage systems as a condition of agreeing to adopt a drain or sewer. The Act also introduces new restrictions to the right to connect surface water sewers to the public sewer network. NI Water is able to take account of upstream sustainable drainage systems and is also able to refuse connection to the public sewer network if other suitable alternative means of dealing with surface water exist or could reasonably be provided. Suitable alternative means of dealing with surface water can include natural features or other arrangements known as soft sustainable drainage systems.	The overall aim of the Act is to make sustainable drainage the preferred option for dealing with surface water in all new developments, where possible. This aim should be reflected in all Local Development Plans.
Water Resources	Reservoirs Act (Northern Ireland) 2015	2015	NI	NI Executive	The Reservoirs Act aims to ensure that reservoirs are managed and operated to minimise any risk of flooding due to an uncontrolled release of water resulting from dam failure and therefore protecting people, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. The legislation will apply to reservoirs that are capable of holding 10,000 cubic metres or more of water above the natural level of the surrounding land. These reservoirs will be known as 'controlled reservoirs'.	Reservoirs falling under this Act may require to be identified in the LDP.
Water Resources	PC 15 NIW's draft expenditure plan 2015-2021	2015	NI	NIW	This sets out NI Water's long term strategy for providing water and wastewater services customers throughout Northern Ireland. Over the 6-year PC15 period investment will include 9 water treatment works schemes and upgrades to 19 large wastewater treatment works and 45 small works.	The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.
Water Resources	Our Strategy for NI Water	2014	NI	NIW	Sets out NI Water's long term strategy for providing water and wastewater services to customers in Northern Ireland. Its goal is 'to provide a range of essential services and associated contact channels which meet the rising expectations of our customers.' The strategy outlines the key challenges and opportunities facing the Northern Ireland water industry in the years to come. It outlines aspirations for customers in 2040 and priorities to 2020/21. Some of the priorities Invest available funding to minimise constraints in development caused by lack of capacity at wastewater treatment works and in sewerage networks. Prioritise investment to address issues in the sewerage system which lead to flooding from sewers. Increase the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). Invest in key water and wastewater treatment works and other critical sites to improve flood resilience. Expand use of sustainable wastewater treatment solutions which protect the environment, improve carbon efficiency and reduce operating costs. Undertake a focused programme of repair and renewal in relation to gravity sewers, CSO structures, pumping stations and syphons. Invest to improve our ability to transfer water from one area to another, remove bottlenecks and increase storage capacity.	The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Water Resources	NI Water Resources Management Plan 2012	2012	NI	NIW	The Water Resources Management Plan explains how NIW intends to meet the drinking water needs of the population of Northern Ireland over the period 2010 to 2035. The WRMP takes into account expected demands from forecast changes in population, housing and water usage and incorporates any predicted changes to our climate. The WRMP will be complemented by the company's Drought Plan (not published) that will set out the short-term operational steps that the company will take if a drought develops which increases the risk to security of supplies and whether capital investment is needed to mitigate such events. It provides a strategic plan for managing water resources by setting the framework at the Water Resource Zone level within which investment decisions should be taken. Investment at smaller spatial scales will still need to be justified through other more local studies, such as trunk main studies, detailed zonal studies and targeted leakage initiatives. Preparation of a Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan is currently under way.	The LDP may need to accommodate water supply infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply.
Water Resources	Guidelines for Planning Authorities 20: The Planning System and Flood Risk Management	2009	RoI	OPW	Reducing inappropriate and illegal road user behaviours; and	There are a small number of catchments where transboundary impacts may need to be considered.
Water Resources	North Western River Basin Management Plan 2015 -2021	2015	Regional	DAERA	River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD), taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile. This plan aims to: Provide at least good status for all water bodies; Prevent deterioration in status; Promote sustainable development; Achieve specific standards for protected areas. The north western river basin district (NW RBD) covers an area of around 4900km <sup>2</sup> . It takes in large parts of Counties Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone. The principal river systems are the Foyle (whose tributaries are the Mourne, Derg, Strule and Finn Rivers) and the River Erne which drains the uplands of Cavan, Fermanagh and Monaghan. Lough Foyle is the main coastal water and Upper and Lower Lough Erne, Lough Melvin and Lough MacNeane the main lakes.	The objectives will be taken into account in LDP preparation so that development does not adversely affect its delivery. The siting and extent of development and measures to prevent pollution can help support delivery of the River Basin Management Plan objectives. Good water quality and aquatic habitats contribute to health and well-being and the economy.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Water Resources	Pollution Reduction Programme - Longfield Bank & Balls Point (Lough Foyle)	2015	Regional	DAERA	Pollution Reduction Programmes were established under the Shellfish Waters in order to reduce pollution in designated shellfish waters. As the Shellfish Waters Directive has been repealed and subsumed into the Water Framework Directive, the Programme will be reviewed in 2018, in line with the midterm of the second River Basin Cycle under Water Framework Directive (WFD). All Shellfish Water Protected Areas must be managed to ensure that they meet their objectives under WFD and meet at least Class B status under the EU Hygiene Regulations, whilst making progress towards the WFD guideline standard.	Consider any designated shellfish waters and actions required for the pollution reduction programme.
Water Resources	North Western River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan 2015 DARD	2015	Regional	Dfi - Rivers Agency	The Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) is aimed at reducing the potential adverse consequences of significant floods on human health, economic activity, cultural heritage and the environment. There are three FRMPs which together highlight the flood hazards and risks in the 20 most significant flood risk areas in Northern Ireland from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. The plans identify the measures that will be undertaken over the next 6 years and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together and with communities to reduce the flood risks.	One of the aims of the FRMP is to inform the development planning process to ensure, as far as possible, that new zonings within local development plans are located outside flood risk areas. Northern Ireland's planning policies, informed by PPS15 and the SPPS adopt a precautionary approach to development that aims to prevent future development that may be at risk of flooding or which may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. This will be reflected in the LDP.
Natural Resources	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Commission Precautionary Approach Agreement	1982	International	NASCO	NASCO and its Contracting Parties agree to adopt and apply a Precautionary Approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of salmon in order to protect the resource and preserve the environments in which it lives. Accordingly, NASCO and its Contracting Parties should be more cautious when information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate. The absence of adequate scientific information should not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures.	The LDP will take account of this. Increased fisheries resource will result in increased angling opportunities in the council area with the economic and social benefits this will bring.
Natural Resources	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Commission Convention For The Conservation Of Salmon In The North Atlantic Ocean	1982	International	NASCO	Aims to promote the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean through international co-operation.	The LDP will take account of this. DAERA is the lead authority in NI to take this forward and reports annually to the commission as to status of populations and actions taken to maintain and enhance them. Increased fisheries resource will result in increased angling opportunities in the council area with the economic and social benefits this will bring.
Natural Resources	The Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2024	2016	International	Ramsar Convention	The Fourth Ramsar Strategic plan lays out a new vision under the Convention mission, with four overall goals and 19 specific targets which are designed to support the efforts of Parties, partners and other stakeholders in preventing, stopping and reversing the global decline of wetlands. The strategic goals are Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss And Degradation; Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network; Wisely Using All Wetlands; Enhancing Implementation.	These objectives are reflected in NI strategies and plans.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Natural Resources	The Ramsar Convention. The convention of Wetland of International Importance (1971 and amendments)	1971	International	Ramsar Convention	Seeks to protect and conserve wetlands, particularly those established as a habitat for waterfowl. The Convention uses a broad definition of wetlands which includes all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, estuaries, tidal flats, and all human-made sites such as artificial coastal lagoons.	The LDP must reflect the Ramsar designations, and the need to protect and conserve them. Many Ramsar designated sites are also SACs or SPAs.
Natural Resources	Action Plan for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic Area	2013	Europe	EC	The strategy for the Atlantic covers coastal, territorial and jurisdictional waters of five EU Member States and focuses on: Managing human activities that must deliver a healthy and productive ecosystem, through developing fisheries and aquaculture but also forecasting future change in oceanic circulation and climate; Reducing Europe's carbon footprint through climate change mitigation, for example expansion of offshore wind farms and tidal technology in the Atlantic, but also changes in maritime transport will contribute to carbon reduction; Developing the sustainable exploitation of the Atlantic's seafloor natural resources; and Prepare for threats and emergencies in the Atlantic whether caused by accidents, natural disasters or criminal activity such as oil spills. It promotes the implementation of climate change mitigation and seeks economic and social progress in conjunction with a healthy environment.	There is potential for the LDP to support the objectives of this plan through its own coastal, marine, industrial or natural heritage policies. However, due to the interconnectivity of marine habitats, it is possible for developments or proposals arising under the LDP to have negative impacts on the wider European marine resource, its species and dependent businesses or individuals.
Natural Resources	EU Biodiversity Strategy	2011	Europe	EC	The EU Biodiversity Strategy aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU and help stop global biodiversity loss by 2020. It reflects the commitments taken by the EU in 2010, within the international Convention on Biological Diversity. The six targets to address the main drivers of biodiversity loss, and reduce the main pressures on nature and ecosystem services include protect species and habitats, maintain and restore ecosystems and combat invasive alien species. The strategy promotes the increased use of green infrastructure. A 2015 European Parliament Resolution on the mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 'notes that the 2020 targets will not be achieved without additional, substantial and continuous efforts' and among many statements 'Stresses that habitat destruction is the most important factor driving biodiversity loss and is a particular priority when it comes to addressing this loss' and 'Deplores the fact that, in Europe, around a quarter of wild species are at risk of extinction and many ecosystems are degraded, giving rise to severe social and economic damage for the EU.'	Natural heritage policies which will afford some protection from inappropriate development are included in the SPPS which informs the context for the LDP.
Natural Resources	Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (Codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended)	2009	Europe	EC	The Directive provides a framework for the conservation and management of, and human interactions with, wild birds in Europe. It sets broad objectives for a wide range of activities, although the precise legal mechanisms for their achievement are at the discretion of each Member State. In Northern Ireland, the provisions of the Birds Directive are implemented through the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, and The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & etc.) Regulations 1995.	Any development project or plan likely to have a significant effect (either directly or indirectly) on a Natura 2000 site must be subject to assessment. This will be taken into account through consideration of all SPAs and by Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Natural Resources	European Eel Regulation 2007 (EC) No 1100/2007	2007	Europe	EC	Aims to establish measures for the recovery of the stock of European Eel and requires member states to prepare and implement eel management plans. As a result, eel fisheries are now managed under long-term plans drawn up by the EU countries at river-basin level.	The LDP will take account of any plan arising from the Regulations
Natural Resources	Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	1992	Europe	EC	The main aim of the Habitats Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species listed on the Annexes to the Directive at a favourable conservation status, introducing robust protection for those habitats and species of European importance. The Directive creates a network of sites in Europe for the conservation of biodiversity. In applying these measures Member States are required to take account of economic, social and cultural requirements, as well as regional and local characteristics. These sites are designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (collectively known as 'Natura 2000' sites).	Any development project or plan likely to have a significant effect (either directly or indirectly) on a Natura 2000 site must be subject to assessment. This will be taken into account through consideration of all SACs and by Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP.
Natural Resources	UK Marine Policy Statement	2011	UK	Four Nations (DAERA)	The MPS will facilitate and support the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives and thereby: Promote sustainable economic development; Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects; Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and our heritage assets; and Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues	Any development arising from the LDP will need to be in conformity with the MPS and NI Marine Plan, once the latter is adopted, in order to protect the marine environment, inclusive of the historic environment and heritage assets. Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 states that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise".
Natural Resources	Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA)	2009	UK	UK Govt.	The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 provides the legal mechanism to help ensure clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas by putting in place a new system for improved management and protection of the marine and coastal environment.	Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 states that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise".
Natural Resources	(draft) Marine Plan for Northern Ireland	2018	NI	DAERA	The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of the NI marine area. The Plan contains policies that reflect, clarify and signpost current legislation, policy measures and practices from the UK MPS and across NI and UK Government Departments and Agencies. Its policies will be used by public authorities in taking decisions which affect or might affect the marine area. The draft Marine Plan was published for consultation in May 2018.	Public authorities taking authorisation or enforcement decisions, which affect or might affect the marine area, must do so in line with marine policy documents, such as Marine Plans and the Marine Policy Statement (MPS), unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise. A public authority must explain any decision not made in line with an adopted marine plan or the MPS. Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 states that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise".

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Natural Resources	Draft National Marine Planning Framework	2019	ROI	DHPLG	The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) will set out, over a 20 year horizon, how we want to use, protect and enjoy our seas. When adopted the NMPF will sit at the top of the hierarchy of plans and sectoral policies for the marine area.	As Lough Foyle is shared with the Republic of Ireland, the draft Ireland National Marine Planning Framework (Consultation Draft, published November 2019) is also of relevance. It will be important that the NMPF mutually recognises the importance of integration and co-ordination with the land planning regime at national, regional and local levels. In future it will be equally important in turn that national, regional and local terrestrial plans are consistent with the National Marine Planning Framework. Many activities and uses that take place on land or in the sea can have impacts on both the land and the maritime area. The MSP Directive requires that these interactions are considered.
Natural Resources	Marine Act (Northern Ireland)	2013	NI	DAERA	The Marine Act sets out a new framework for Northern Ireland's seas based on: a system of marine planning that will balance conservation, energy and resource needs; improved management for marine nature conservation and the streamlining of marine licensing for some electricity projects. The Marine Act applies to the Northern Ireland inshore region comprising of the territorial sea out to twelve nautical miles. This area includes all the tidal rivers and sea loughs (including Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough).	Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 states that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise".
Natural Resources	Valuing Nature - A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020	2015	NI	DAERA	A strategy for Northern Ireland to meet its international obligations and local targets to protect biodiversity and ensure that the environment can continue to support our people and economy. Contains 57 actions to impact positively on the loss of biodiversity up to 2020.	Actions include: Restoring ancient woodland and encouraging peatland and wetland habitat restoration with emphasis on an ecosystems approach. LDP proposals and policies should support delivery of actions where appropriate.
Natural Resources	Strategy for Marine Protected Areas in the Northern Ireland Inshore Region	2014	NI	DAERA	Aims to help protect and improve ecosystems in the Northern Ireland inshore region (i.e. within 12 nautical miles) and fulfil international and national legal obligations through a network of Marine Protected Areas (SACs, SPAs, ASSIs, Ramsar sites and Marine Conservation Zones). The Department will develop, in consultation with stakeholders, recommendations for management actions and measures necessary to deliver the conservation objectives for MCZ features.	Public authorities have a duty, when carrying out their functions and when permitting others to carry out regulated activities in relation to MCZs, to ensure that such activities are undertaken in a way that furthers the conservation objectives of a site, or where this is not possible least hinders the achievement of these objectives. This will be taken into account in preparing LDP proposals.
Natural Resources	DOE (2013) Northern Ireland Invasive Species Strategy	2013	NI	DAERA	In response to the threats posed by invasive alien species the Department of Environment published 'An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Northern Ireland'. The aim of the Strategy is to minimise the risk posed, and reduce the negative impacts caused, by invasive alien species in Northern Ireland.	Invasive species may be a constraint for some sites and consideration will need to be given to measures to minimise the risks caused by invasive species.



	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Natural Resources	Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000	2013	NI	DAERA	The Prioritised Action Framework sets out the prioritised actions for managing the Natura 2000 network to be taken to address unfavourable conservation status of habitats in Annex I and species in Annex II of the Habitats Directive and Annex 1 of the Birds Directive. These are intended to help achieve the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2000. Priorities include measures such as agri-environmental schemes and an ecosystems approach. It states that the Department will publish guidance ...to advise developers and other key stakeholders ..., especially those who regulate development, to encourage them to minimise adverse impacts on habitats and species and to provide for biodiversity where possible.	This will be taken into account through Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP and planning proposals carried out under it which may have a significant effect on site selection features of European sites. Any advice from the Department will be taken into account.
Natural Resources	An Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006 – 2026	2006	NI	DAERA	Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) aims to establish sustainable levels of economic and social activity in coastal areas while protecting the coastal environment. ICZM seeks to reconcile the different policies that have an effect on the coast and to establish a framework that facilitates the integration of the interests and responsibilities of those involved in the development, management and use of the coast.	LDP proposals and policies may directly support natural and cultural heritage aspects of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy, or have an indirect relationship, for example regarding outdoor recreation, access, transportation and sustainable development.
Natural Resources	Ireland's Marine Strategy Framework Directive Article 19 Report Initial Assessment, GES and Targets and Indicators	2013	RoI	DECLG, MI	The first step in the implementation of the MSFD in Ireland was an Initial Assessment of Ireland's marine waters and establishment of a comprehensive set of environmental targets and associated indicators for the marine waters so as to guide progress towards achieving Good Environmental Status. Each state is required to ensure they take appropriate action by 2020 to maintain or achieve Good Environmental Status.	Should an LDP have specific proposals for its coastline, including facilitating developments that utilise the marine environment, these could be either supportive or in conflict with the objectives of the Directive.
Natural Resources	Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter: safeguarding our rocks and landscape	2017	NI	DfE	Guidance document that sets out a clear ambition to recognise geodiversity as a vital and integral part of the economy, environment heritage and future sustainable development. This is necessary to safeguard and manage geodiversity for both current and future generations.	May inform decision making and support policy at strategic level for the conservation management of geodiversity.
Natural Resources	Green Infrastructure Framework	2018	DCSDC	DCSDC	The GI Framework outlines the key elements that will comprise an effective plan for the understanding, improvement and protection of blue and green infrastructure within the district.	GI is an interconnected network of natural and semi-natural areas throughout urban and rural landscapes. The framework is to be used as a strategic guide to help create and manage a network of multi-functional green and blue spaces that can deliver a range of environmental, economic and social benefits for local communities. Cross cutting Plan also relevant to the Health and Wellbeing, Strengthening Society, Housing, Physical Resources, Transport, Air Quality, Climate Change, Water and Landscape topics.
Natural Resources	Green Infrastructure Plan	2019-2032	DCSDC	DCSDC	A GI Plan for the Council that highlights the multifunctionality of GI as a natural asset. There are four Key Strategic Themes – People & Place, Economic Prosperity, Biodiversity and Climate Change.	GI is an interconnected network of natural and semi-natural areas throughout urban and rural landscapes. Cross cutting Plan also relevant to the Health and Wellbeing, Strengthening Society, Housing, Physical Resources, Transport, Air Quality, Climate Change, Water and Landscape topics.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Natural Resources	Planning Policy Statement 2 – Planning and Nature Conservation	2013	NI	Dfi	Policies for the conservation of natural heritage.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Natural Resources	Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth - An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland	2012	RoI	MCG	The vision for this plan is 'Our ocean wealth will be a key element of our economic recovery and sustainable growth, generating benefits for all our citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.' It includes an action: Continue to foster a North/South and East/West approach in developing/enabling the marine sector (e.g. grid/all-island energy strategy, marine tourism and leisure) through existing structures and bodies.	Should an LDP have specific proposals for its coastline, including facilitating developments that utilise the marine environment, these could be either supportive or in conflict with this plan.
Natural Resources	Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016 - Ireland's National Biodiversity Action Plan	2011	RoI	NPWS	This plan outlines the measures Ireland will take in preparing for pressures and losses in the level of biodiversity, and they are presented as 102 actions under a series of 7 strategic objectives. The objectives cover the conservation of biodiversity in the wider countryside and in the marine environment (within and outside protected areas), mainstreaming of biodiversity across the decision making process, the strengthening of the knowledge base on biodiversity, and increasing public awareness and participation.	Biodiversity is a cross-border objective. Developments either side of the border will have cross-border impacts. In addition, nature conservation species, in particular, will not necessarily respect this border. Therefore, the LDP may have an impact on the implementation of this plan. This may be positive or negative depending on how the LDP is implemented locally and the nature of any developments consented under relevant policy.
Natural Resources	Forest Service - West Tyrone Plan 2013	2013	Regional	DAERA	Forest Management plans set out the management objectives for the forests and woodlands Forest Service looks after. Plans are currently prepared for Down, Armagh, Sperrin, West Tyrone, East Fermanagh and East Tyrone.	Relevant plans may inform land use, landscape and recreational use of forests in the plan area. Also relevant to the Landscape topic.
Natural Resources	Forest Service - West Tyrone and Kesh Forests Planning Review 2013	2013	Regional	DAERA	Forest Management plans set out the management objectives for the forests and woodlands Forest Service looks after. Plans are currently prepared for Down, Armagh, Sperrin, West Tyrone, East Fermanagh and East Tyrone.	Relevant plans may inform land use, landscape and recreational use of forests in the plan area. Also relevant to the Landscape topic.
Natural Resources	Forest Service - Sperrin Forest Plan 2012	2012	Regional	DAERA	Forest Management plans set out the management objectives for the forests and woodlands Forest Service looks after. Plans are currently prepared for Down, Armagh, Sperrin, West Tyrone, East Fermanagh and East Tyrone.	Relevant plans may inform land use, landscape and recreational use of forests in the plan area. Also relevant to the Landscape topic.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Natural Resources	Eel management plan: North Western International River Basin District	2010	Regional	DAERA	Measures to be carried out for the recovery of the stock of European eel including mitigation of hydropower and other barriers to passage.	May inform policies relating to hydropower and in river works. Also relevant to the Water topic.
Landscape	European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)	2000	Europe	COE	The European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues. It covers all landscapes, including natural, managed, urban and peri-urban areas, and special, everyday and also degraded landscape. Articles 5 and 6 commit signatory states to a number of actions which include the need to recognise landscapes in law, to establish policies aimed at landscape planning, protection and management and the integration of landscape into other policy areas.	The LDP should support the aims of the convention, seeking to protect, manage and enhance the landscape.
Landscape	A National Landscape Strategy for Ireland	2015	RoI	AHRRGA	The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing it while positively managing its change. It is a high level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape. There are six high level objectives with associated actions: the three most relevant to the LDP being: to recognise landscapes in law; to develop a National Landscape Character Assessment, to develop landscape policies. Following completion of the National Landscape Character Assessment, statutory guidelines on local Landscape Character Assessments will be prepared for Planning Authorities. These regional and local landscape character assessments will inform and guide landscape policy, action plans and local authority development plans.	The council shares a boundary with Ireland therefore the LDP has the potential to impact on this strategy. The strategy and the national and local Landscape Character Assessments will be taken into account as they become available.
Landscape	Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment	2016	NI	DAERA	The purpose of the Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA) is to provide an evidence base which can be used equally by planners, developers and the public. It describes forces for change through climate change, land use, agriculture, energy and invasive species and outlines the types of ecosystem services provided in each region. The assessment provides a strategic overview of the landscape and subdivides the countryside into 26 Regional Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) based upon information on people and place and the combinations of nature, culture and perception which make each part of Northern Ireland unique. This evidence base can be used to enable informed decisions to be made about the future protection, management and sustainable development of Northern Ireland's landscapes and can be complemented by more detailed local studies.	The RLCA is not policy, but it provides analysis of all of Northern Ireland Landscapes at a regional level which provides further evidence to inform the LDP. It helps to indicate the linkages between the landscape and other assets, such as the historic environment and natural resources. Also relevant to the Natural Resources topic.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Landscape	Northern Ireland Seascape Character Assessment	2014	NI	DAERA	Twenty-four different regional seascape character areas have been identified round the coast of Northern Ireland. The Seascape Character Assessment describes these areas, their key characteristics and the different influences that mould each as a unique part of the coastline.	This can inform planning of development in the coastal zone. The description and mapping of regional seascape character can provide evidence to assist in responding to the increasing demands being placed upon the related marine and terrestrial environments. This can also help to inform the planning, design and management of a range of projects taking place on and around the coastline.
Landscape	Northern Ireland's Landscape Charter	2014	NI	DAERA	Invites organisations and individuals to sign the charter and commit to delivering its vision by approaches including the following: adopt and promote best practice to ensure all development works with and enhances sense of place; ensure sense of place is central to all decision making about landscape and empower people locally to be involved.	This requires consideration of all landscapes to enhance them, respect sense of place and promote sympathetic design.
Landscape	Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment	2000	NI	DAERA	The Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment subdivided the countryside into 130 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), each based upon local patterns of geology, landform, land use, cultural and ecological features. For each LCA, the key characteristics were described and an analysis of landscape condition and its sensitivity to change was made. While the original assessment was published in 2000 many landscape character areas have been updated more recently.	This is not policy but it provides a comprehensive analysis of all of Northern Ireland Landscapes, including their vulnerability and sensitivity to change which informs the state of the landscape, capacity for development and areas meriting protection. Also relevant to the Natural Resources topic.
Landscape	Building on Tradition: A sustainable Design Guide for the NI Countryside	2012	NI	Dfi	Building on Tradition: A Sustainable Design Guide for the Northern Ireland Countryside' provides assistance to all those involved with sustainable development in the Northern Ireland countryside to understand the requirements of PPS21. The guide promotes quality and sustainable building design in Northern Ireland's countryside.	This can be used to inform siting and design standards for development in the countryside to achieve better landscape integration.
Landscape	Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Supplementary Planning Guidance Wind Energy Development in Northern Ireland's Landscapes.	2010	NI	Dfi	The SPG provides broad, strategic guidance in relation to the visual and landscape impacts of wind energy development. The guidance is based on the sensitivity of Northern Ireland's landscapes to wind energy development and contains an assessment of each of the 130 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) in Northern Ireland by referencing the characteristics and values associated with each LCA.	Informs the relative capacity for wind energy in respect of landscape. Also relevant to the Material Assets topic.
Landscape	Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Anaerobic Digestion	2010	NI	Dfi	The SPG provides additional advice and guidance specific to Anaerobic Digestion (AD) to complement the background information already set out in the Best Practice Guidance to PPS 18. AD proposals raise a number of planning issues including visual and landscape impacts arising from industrial scale plant/buildings; potential odour impacts, air emissions, noise impacts, and traffic impacts.	LDP policies in respect of development in the countryside, waste and landscape may influence the future development of these facilities. Also relevant to the Landscape topic.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Historic Environment	Xi'an Declaration On The Conservation Of The Setting Of Heritage Structures, Sites And Areas	2005	International	ICMOS	To contribute through legislation, policies, planning processes and management to better protect and conserve the world's heritage structures, sites and areas in their settings.	LDP can assist with implementing the measures outlined in the agreement: Acknowledging the contribution of setting to the significance of heritage monuments, sites and areas; Understanding, documenting and interpreting the settings in diverse contexts; Developing planning tools and practices to conserve and manage settings; Monitoring and managing change affecting setting; Working with local, interdisciplinary and international communities for co-operation and awareness in conserving and managing setting.
Historic Environment	UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)	2001	International	UNESCO	The Convention sets out basic principles for the protection of underwater cultural heritage. Amongst its main principles are an obligation to preserve underwater cultural heritage, with in situ preservation as first option, and a ban on its inappropriate commercial exploitation. While the UK has not ratified the Convention, it publicly supports the majority of its articles and has publicly recognised the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for archaeology	The Local Plan will recognise the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for underwater archaeology.
Historic Environment	Rules annexed to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)	2001	International	UNESCO	The Annex to the 2001 Convention contains detailed practical guidelines entitled "Rules concerning activities directed at underwater cultural heritage. They are highly useful and widely recognised and applied by underwater archaeologists. The Rules contain regulations as to: how a project is to be designed; the competence and the qualifications required for persons undertaking interventions; planning the funding of excavation projects; documentation of archaeological excavations under water; and methodologies on conservation and site management.	The Local Plan will recognise the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for underwater archaeology.
Historic Environment	The Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)	1972	International	UNESCO	The most significant feature of the 1972 World Heritage Convention is that it links together in a single document the concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties. The Convention recognises the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two. The programme catalogues, names, and conserves sites of outstanding cultural or natural importance to the common culture and heritage of humanity. To be selected, a World Heritage Site must be an already classified landmark, unique in some respect as a geographically and historically identifiable place having special cultural or physical significance (such as an ancient ruin or historical structure, building, city, complex, desert, forest, island, lake, monument, mountain, or wilderness area). It may signify a remarkable accomplishment of humanity, and serve as evidence of our intellectual history on the planet.	This convention is the mechanism for the identification and establishment of World Heritage Sites. There is currently one WHS in NI. The LDP may recognise sites which are of sufficient national or global importance to merit their inclusion on the Tentative List for World Heritage Sites. The LDP may help support the actions required for sites to receive nomination to the Tentative List by preserving or enhancing their cultural heritage or natural heritage value.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Historic Environment	European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992)	1992	Europe	COE	The new text (revision of the 1985 Granada Convention) makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. It is concerned in particular with arrangements to be made for co-operation among archaeologists and town and regional planners in order to ensure optimum conservation of archaeological heritage. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. Protection of the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be investigated archaeologically both on land and underwater. Creation of archaeological reserves and conservation of excavated sites.	Consideration should be given to conservation of archaeological resources including potential archaeological reserves. Article 5 seeks the integrated conservation of archaeological heritage through its consideration in the preparation of local development plans and the creation of planning policies designed to ensure well balanced strategies for the protection, conservation and enhancement of sites of archaeological interest; and highlights the need of devising plans to avoid adverse impact.
Historic Environment	The European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention)	1987	Europe	COE	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.	Consideration should be given to conservation of architectural resources. Article 10 states the protection of architectural heritage as an essential town and country planning objective and ensure that this requirement is taken into account at all stages, both in the drawing up of development plans and in the procedures for authorising work.
Historic Environment	Protection of Military Remains Act 1986	1986	UK	UK Gov.	Under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 all aircraft that have crashed whilst in military service are automatically protected. Maritime vessels (e.g. ships and boats) lost during military service are not automatically protected. The MoD can, however, designate wrecks lost within the last 200 years, whose position is known, as 'controlled sites', and can designate named vessels lost on or after 4th August 1914 (Britain's entry into World War I), whose location is unknown, as 'protected places'. It is not necessary to demonstrate the presence of human remains for wrecks to be designated as either 'controlled sites' or 'protected places'. It also covers vessels of a foreign state e.g., German U-Boats	This may apply to military shipwrecks and aircraft discovered in the nearshore area and the larger freshwater lakes of NI.
Historic Environment	Protection of Wrecks Act 1973	1973	UK	DCMS/ DfC	The Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 (c.33) is an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom which provides protection for designated shipwrecks. Section 1 of the act provides for wrecks to be designated because of historical, archaeological or artistic value. Section 2 provides for designation of dangerous sites. Wreck sites must have a known location in order to be designated.	Wrecks and wreckage assessed to be of historical, archaeological or artistic importance can be protected by way of site specific designation. It is an offence to carry out certain activities within a defined area surrounding a designated wreck, unless a licence for those activities has been obtained through DfC HED. The Local Plan should take into account any current or future designated historic shipwrecks.
Historic Environment	Historic Buildings of Local Importance: A guide to their Identification and Protection	2017	NI	DfC	This good practice guide aims to assist councils achieve a consistent approach when identifying and protecting Historic Buildings of Local Importance.	One way to protect unlisted historic buildings of local importance is to include a policy in the Local Development Plan.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Historic Environment	Regeneration: The Value of our Built Heritage. Position Paper 2017	2017	NI	DfC	This paper sets out the potential value of effective architectural regeneration throughout our villages, towns and cities. It highlights Northern Ireland's unique architectural heritage as well as the social and economic value of older building stock, and the added qualities it can bring to our communities.	Paper recommends that heritage buildings are incorporated and made a priority in new council community planning. The protection and promotion of Heritage should be integrated into community plans and new planning policy. Policy needs to be integrated and support building users.
Historic Environment	Protocol for the Care of the Government Historic Estate Northern Ireland Guidance February 2012	2012	NI	DfC	A document set out by the Executive explaining how departments and agencies will put their commitment into practice for caring and protecting historic estates. Includes protecting heritage assets through regular condition surveys, maintenance and renovation using appropriately experienced practitioners and working to keep buildings in active use.	This document is recommended as good practice for councils to adopt.
Historic Environment	Study of the economic value of Northern Ireland's historic environment	2012	NI	DfC	The purpose of this study is to help make the case for investment in the Northern Ireland historic environment. The four objectives of the study are to: (1.) Determine the current value of economic activity generated by Northern Ireland's historic environment and its distribution; (2.) Gauge the level of historic environment-related employment in Northern Ireland, including indirect employment, the distribution of this employment, and its relative importance compared with other sectors; (3.) Conduct a credible analysis of the wider community benefits that Northern Ireland's historical environment provides to the economy using a series of case studies, and (4.) Make an assessment of the potential for the use of Northern Ireland's historic environment to aid sustainable growth of the economy and make recommendations as to how this could be realised.	This document can help to inform the LDP and identify areas where links can be made between the Historic Environment and other themes, e.g. community, economic development, tourism, etc.
Historic Environment	Planning Policy Statement 23 – Enabling Development	2014	NI	DfI	PPS23 sets out planning policy for assessing proposals for Enabling Development in support of the re-use, restoration or refurbishment of heritage assets such as historic buildings, scheduled monuments, industrial heritage and historic parks, gardens and demesnes. It provides a policy to maintain and enhance the standard of a wide range of community facilities in Northern Ireland including cultural, educational, social, health, built heritage and leisure facilities and the restoration and creation of wildlife habitat.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Historic Environment	Living Places - An Urban Stewardship and Design Guide for NI	2014	NI	DfI	Aims to establish the key principles behind good place making to inform those involved in the process of managing (stewardship) and making (design) urban places, with a view to raising standards across Northern Ireland. The focus of the guide is urban areas, by which is meant all of our cities, towns, villages and neighbourhoods. It recognises the wider economic, cultural and community benefits of achieving excellence in the stewardship and design of these important places, be they existing or newly proposed.	Principles inform spatial, design and policy measures that can be incorporated in the LDP to maximise contribution to strengthening society, protecting cultural heritage, promoting well-being, enhancing access and creating economic growth.

	TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Historic Environment	Planning Policy Statement 6 – Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage (and Addendum ATC)	1999	NI	Dfi	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and features of the built heritage.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Historic Environment	Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995	1995	NI	NI Executive	Article 3 of this Order provides for the scheduling of monuments for protection. Monuments are selected for scheduling on the basis of published criteria, which are found in Annex B of Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS 6): Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage (1999).	There is a requirement for Scheduled Monument Consent for works within Scheduled Monument designated areas. This would be a consideration in zoning ground including or immediate to scheduled areas.
Area Plans	Northern Area Plan 2016	2015	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	CCGBC	The Northern Area Plan 2016 is led by the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and covers the area formerly managed by Ballymoney Borough, Coleraine Borough, Limavady Borough and Moyle District Council. The Plan provides planning policy on settlement, housing, economic development, retailing and town centres, tourism, environment and conservation; education, health, community and cultural facilities; open space, sport and outdoor recreation; public services and utilities, minerals, transportation, countryside and coast. The Plan supersedes several previous Area Plans and is applicable until the Council adopts its own Local Development Plan.	The Plan supersedes all previous Area Plans from within the NAP area. As a recent Plan, it is likely to provide useful and relevant spatial information.
Area Plans	Magherafelt Area Plan 2015	2011	Legacy Magherafelt District Council area	Mid-Ulster District Council	The Magherafelt Area Plan 2015 applies to the legacy Magherafelt District Council Area. The Plan provides planning policy on environment and conservation, settlement, housing, industry, education and community uses, and minerals, and countryside. The purpose of the Plan is to guide development decisions within the Magherafelt District Council area. The Plan will be superseded when Mid-Ulster District Council adopts its own Local Development Plan.	The LDP should consider the Magherafelt Area Plan as it is likely to provide useful and relevant spatial information for part of the area to be encompassed under Mid-Ulster's LDP.
Area Plans	Omagh Area Plan 1987-2002	1992	Legacy Omagh District Council Area	Fermanagh & Omagh District Council	The Omagh Area Plan was adopted in 1992 and provided development guidance for the legacy Omagh District Council area.	The LDP for Fermanagh-Omagh District Council should consider previous Area Plans to ensure all relevant information will be encompassed to the new LDP.
Area Plans	County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024	2018	County Donegal	Donegal County Council	Sets out the Planning Policy for County Donegal	May assist LDP in identifying cross-border opportunities and constraints.



## APPENDIX 5: SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL GUIDE FOR DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL DRAFT PLAN STRATEGY

### Key Issues and Appraisal Prompts

1. The objective for sustainable development is to improve health and well-being.	
<b>Rationale</b>	
Public policy seeks to increase healthy life expectancy, reduce preventable deaths, improve mental health and reduce health inequalities. Evidence shows that there is a need to address obesity, increase physical activity and reduce inequalities in health. It is also necessary to provide for the needs of an aging population and minimize the detrimental impacts of noise. This can be achieved by creating an environment that is clean and attractive; encourages healthy lifestyles; protects tranquil and quiet areas and enables access to health care facilities for all.	
<b>Key Sustainability Issues for Health and Well-being</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to section 5.1.4</li> </ul>	
<b>Appraisal Prompts</b>	
<b>Positive Effects</b>	<b>Negative Effects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Improve access to health care</li> <li>b) Reduce response times for the emergency services</li> <li>c) Provide opportunities for and encourage health lifestyles and physical activity for all ages</li> <li>d) Increase social contact and intergenerational contact (including family cohesion)</li> <li>e) Support those providing care</li> <li>f) Provide suitable accommodation for those with long term health problems or disability</li> <li>g) Maintain good air quality</li> <li>h) Avoid or reduce noise impacts that may affect health</li> <li>i) Reduce the risk of traffic accidents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>j) Reduce access to health care</li> <li>k) Increase response times for the emergency services</li> <li>l) Discourage healthy lifestyles and physical activity</li> <li>m) Decrease social contact and intergenerational contact</li> <li>n) Lack of support for carers</li> <li>o) Shortage of suitable accommodation for those with long term health problems or disability</li> <li>p) Decrease in air quality</li> <li>q) Increase noise impacts that may affect health</li> <li>r) Increase the risk of traffic accidents</li> </ul>

2. The objective for sustainable development is to strengthen society	
<b>Rationale</b>	
Regional policy is directed towards improving community relations and creating a safe society which is more united. Success will be represented by places which are inclusive, respect culture and identity, promote social integration and create a sense of pride. They will also be designed to feel safe and to reduce opportunity for crime or anti-social behaviour.	
<b>Key Sustainability Issues for Community</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to section 5.2.4</li> </ul>	
<b>Appraisal Prompts</b>	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Promote inclusion of all groups b) Retain, create, or enhance welcoming, shared space c) Increase access to shared space d) Provide appropriate access to facilities and services for rural communities e) Meet identified needs that will reduce inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities f) Promote equality of opportunity	g) Inhibit inclusion of all groups h) Shared space reduced or deteriorates i) Rural communities less access to facilities and services j) Exacerbate the factors causing inequalities k) Maintains or increases inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities l) Increase inequality of opportunity

3. The objective for sustainable development is to provide good quality, sustainable housing.	
<b>Rationale</b>	
The population is growing and therefore there is ongoing need for new housing in locations that meet regional policy, are accessible and balance the needs of society and the environment. The make-up of households is changing therefore design needs to meet long term requirements with good quality build to be sustainable. This objective should reduce homelessness and ensure decent, affordable homes with a mix of types.	
<b>Key Sustainability Issues for Housing</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to section 5.3.4</li> </ul>	
<b>Appraisal Prompts</b>	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Provide housing which meets locally identified needs (in terms of type, tenure and size) b) Meet the needs of specific groups e.g. single people, families, retired people, ethnic minorities, disabled c) Encourage low carbon homes d) Encourage the building of life-time homes with potential for adaptability, such as wheelchair access e) Encourage affordable housing f) Reduce homelessness g) Reduce the number of unfit homes	h) Does not meet local need for housing type/quantity i) Does not meet the needs of specific groups e.g. single people, families, retired people, ethnic minorities, disabled j) Decrease energy efficiency k) Homes not suited for lifetime use l) Reduced affordable housing m) Increase homelessness n) Reduces the quality of homes to unfit standards

<b>4. The objective for sustainable development is to enable access to high quality education.</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	
Good education improves opportunities for employment and also contributes to avoidance of poverty and healthier lifestyles. The provision of suitable accommodation for educational establishments in appropriate, accessible locations should play a part in making schools more sustainable and reducing inequalities in education.	
<b>Key Sustainability Issues for Education and Skills</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Refer to section 5.4.4</li> </ul>	
<b>Appraisal Prompts for Education and Skills</b>	
<b>Positive Effects</b>	<b>Negative Effects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Improve education level and employability of the population</li> <li>b) Promote access to education for all</li> <li>c) Promote access to skills training</li> <li>d) Help rural communities access education and skills training</li> <li>e) Improve opportunities for multiple use of facilities</li> <li>f) Help educational establishments to provide modern sustainable accommodation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>g) Does not help improve education level and employability of the population</li> <li>h) Decrease access to education and skills training</li> <li>i) Makes access to education and skills training harder for rural communities</li> <li>j) Under use of public facilities</li> <li>k) Inhibit provision of suitable educational facilities</li> </ul>

<b>5. The objective for sustainable development is to enable sustainable economic growth.</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	
Regional policy seeks to develop a strong, competitive and regionally balanced economy. It is necessary to provide suitable locations for employment, with flexibility where necessary, to reflect current and future distribution of jobs across sectors, encourage new business startups, facilitate innovation, regenerate areas, attract investment and make employment as accessible as possible for all. This will reduce unemployment and poverty by helping more people to earn a living and increase their income.	
<b>Key Sustainability Issues for Economy and Employment</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Refer to section 5.5.4</li> </ul>	
<b>Appraisal Prompts for Economy and Employment</b>	
<b>Positive Effects</b>	<b>Negative Effects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Support innovation and competitiveness within the local economy</li> <li>b) Ensure sufficient land supply in appropriate locations for economic growth</li> <li>c) Support creation of a range of job types that are accessible especially to areas of greatest deprivation</li> <li>d) Support enhancement of the skills base.</li> <li>e) Help make DCSDC area a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest</li> <li>f) Make the best use of Derry's location as a regional and international gateway.</li> <li>g) Make the best use of Strabane's location as a main hub.</li> <li>h) Ensure the vitality and vibrancy of city and town centres can be improved</li> <li>i) Increase the number of people coming to the DCSDC area to work</li> <li>j) Maximise economic benefits of sustainable tourism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>k) Does not promote innovation and competitiveness within the local economy</li> <li>l) Does not support creation of a range of job types that are accessible especially to areas of greatest deprivation</li> <li>m) Does not support enhancement of the skills base.</li> <li>n) Does not help make the DCSDC area a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest</li> <li>o) Does not make the best use of Derry's location as a regional and international gateway.</li> <li>p) Does not make the best use of Strabane's location as a main hub.</li> <li>q) Vitality and vibrancy of city and town centres may decline.</li> <li>r) Does not increase the number of people coming to the DCSDC area to work</li> <li>s) Does not enable use of tourism assets.</li> </ul>

<b>6. The objective for sustainable development is to manage material assets sustainably.</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	
Material assets such as infrastructure and sources of energy production are essential for society and the economy but need careful planning to ensure that they are designed for efficiency and to minimize adverse impacts. The concept of circular economy treats waste as resource which should be managed sustainably to reduce production and increase recovery, recycling and composting rates; new or adapted facilities may be required.	
<b>Key Sustainability Issues for Material Assets</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Refer to section 5.6.4</li> </ul>	
<b>Appraisal Prompts</b>	
<b>Positive Effects</b>	<b>Negative Effects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Sufficient telecommunications</li> <li>b) Sufficient transmission/distribution lines</li> <li>c) Infrastructure is fit for purpose</li> <li>d) Enables renewable energy production</li> <li>e) Encourages diversity of renewables</li> <li>f) Proportion of waste to landfill decreases</li> <li>g) Makes recycling easier</li> <li>h) Recycling rates likely to increase</li> <li>i) Composting rates likely to increase</li> <li>j) Reuses contaminated /derelict land</li> <li>k) Safeguards land for material assets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>l) Insufficient telecommunications</li> <li>m) Insufficient electrical infrastructure</li> <li>n) Renewable energy not supported/enabled</li> <li>o) Recycling rates do not increase</li> <li>p) Waste to landfill does not decrease</li> <li>q) Composting rates do not increase</li> <li>r) Vacant/derelict/contaminated land persists</li> <li>s) Does not consider/retain appropriate land for material assets</li> </ul>

7. The objective for sustainable development is to protect physical resources and use sustainably.	
Rationale	
Earth science sites, minerals, geothermal energy, land use/cover and soil are resources that require protection from degradation and safeguarding for future use. Sustainable agriculture, tourism and sustainable use of minerals and geothermal energy can help to support the economy.	
Key Sustainability Issues for Physical Resources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Refer to section 5.7.4</li> </ul>	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Earth science sites remain protected</li> <li>b) Enable the minerals industry to operate sustainably</li> <li>c) Enables materials to be locally sourced where available</li> <li>d) Retain potential future use of mineral sites after restoration</li> <li>e) Allow for the future development of geothermal energy</li> <li>f) Minimises loss of greenfield sites</li> <li>g) Retain semi natural land cover/biodiversity</li> <li>h) Avoid loss of land</li> <li>i) Avoid soil erosion/pollution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>j) Earth science features not protected</li> <li>k) Reduce ability of minerals industry to sustainably operate</li> <li>l) Does not protect potential future use/benefit of physical resources</li> <li>m) Inhibits future development of geothermal energy</li> <li>n) Reduces semi natural land cover/local biodiversity</li> <li>o) Causes soil erosion/pollution</li> </ul>

<b>8. The objective for sustainable development is to encourage active and sustainable travel.</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	
There is a common goal to reduce traffic emissions and congestion which means reducing single occupancy car use and increasing other forms of transport, especially at peak times. The location of housing and key services can facilitate better access to public transport. Opportunities for active travel make travel more affordable and may bring added health benefits, while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Measures to manage car demand, such as parking and re-allocation of roadspace which encourage a shift from car to public transport, walking and cycling will contribute to this goal.	
<b>Key Sustainability Issues for Transport and Accessibility</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Refer to section 5.8.4</li> </ul>	
<b>Appraisal Prompts</b>	
<b>Positive Effects</b>	<b>Negative Effects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Encourage modal shift to active travel</li> <li>b) Enhance access to and efficiency of public transport</li> <li>c) Benefit those without access to cars</li> <li>d) Retain, create, or enhance walking and cycle routes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e) Does not promote modal shift to active travel</li> <li>f) Does not enhance access to and efficiency of public transport</li> <li>g) Does not benefit those without access to cars</li> <li>h) Does not retain, create, or enhance walking and cycle routes</li> </ul>

9. The objective for sustainable development is to improve air quality.	
<b>Rationale</b>	
Air pollution has serious impacts on human health as well as degrading the natural environment. This objective can be achieved through reducing sources of air pollution. Where air pollution cannot be totally excluded careful siting of development should avoid impacts on sensitive receptors.	
<b>Key Sustainability Issues for Air Quality</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Refer to section 5.9.4</li> </ul>	
<b>Appraisal Prompts</b>	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Improve air quality</li> <li>b) Help achieve the objectives of any Air Quality Management Area</li> <li>c) Reduce emissions of key pollutants</li> <li>d) Reduce transport emissions</li> <li>e) Encourage other modes of transport than the car – walking, cycling, public transport</li> <li>f) Encourage behavioural shift</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>g) Reduce air quality</li> <li>h) Risk achieving the objectives of any Air Quality Management Area</li> <li>i) Increase emissions of key pollutants</li> <li>j) Increase transport emissions</li> <li>k) Risk integration of active travel options</li> <li>l) Maintain/increase car use</li> </ul>

10. The objective for sustainable development is to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	
<b>Rationale</b>	
International commitments require greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced to lessen their effects on climate. Measures that help reduce energy consumption and enable renewable energy helps lessen greenhouse gas emissions however adaption is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change.	
<b>Key Sustainability Issues for Climate Change</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Refer to section 5.10.4</li> </ul>	
<b>Appraisal Prompts</b>	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Manage/consider coastal flooding/erosion</li> <li>b) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>c) Reduce energy consumption</li> <li>d) Increase the production of renewable energy</li> <li>e) Incorporate measures to adapt to climate change</li> <li>f) Protect or enhance habitats that capture carbon</li> <li>g) Protect or enhance floodplains</li> <li>h) Increase/encourage other forms of transport than the car – public transport, cycling/walking</li> <li>i) Reduce car/vehicle journey times/frequency</li> <li>j) Encourage behavioural shift</li> <li>k) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>l) Does not consider marine issues</li> <li>m) Increases greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>n) Increases energy consumption</li> <li>o) Does not encourage renewable energy</li> <li>p) Damage/loss to habitats that capture carbon/water</li> <li>q) Reduces the extent/ holding capacity of floodplains</li> <li>r) Discourages active travel</li> <li>s) Increases polluting forms of transport</li> <li>t) Does not allow for adaptation to climate change</li> </ul>



<b>11. The objective for sustainable development is to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	
This objective encompasses reducing levels of water pollution, sustainable use of water resources, improving the physical state of the water environment and reducing the risk of flooding now and in the future. It meets the requirements of Northern Ireland legislation, strategies and plans in support of the Water Framework Directive and other Directives that relate to water and it takes account of the future impacts of climate change.	
<b>Key Sustainability Issues for Water</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Refer to section 5.11.4</li> </ul>	
<b>Appraisal Prompts</b>	
<b>Positive Effects</b>	<b>Negative Effects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Improve the quality of surface and ground water to meet objectives</li> <li>b) Lead to more efficient use of water</li> <li>c) Minimise risks from flooding</li> <li>d) Avoid the need for flood defence</li> <li>e) Protect or enhance floodplains</li> <li>f) Maintain water flows for good ecological quality</li> <li>g) Protect aquatic food resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>h) Reduce quality of surface and ground water</li> <li>i) Fail to meet water quality objectives</li> <li>j) Lead to waste of water</li> <li>k) Increase risks from flooding (now or in future)</li> <li>l) Risk creating a need for flood defence</li> <li>m) Reduce the extent or holding capacity of floodplains</li> <li>n) Water flows/temperature not suitable for good ecological quality.</li> <li>o) Unsustainable impacts on aquatic food resources</li> </ul>

<b>12. The objective for sustainable development is to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	
International obligations which are adopted in Northern Ireland legislation and policies require the protection of biodiversity including flora, fauna and habitats. This is for their intrinsic value and for the wider services that they provide to people, the economy and the environment for example as carbon stores which lessen the effects of climate change. This objective includes protecting and enhancing biodiversity as well as protection of green and blue infrastructure to enhance the services that natural resources provide.	
<b>Key Sustainability Issues for Natural Resources</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Refer to section 5.12.4</li> </ul>	
<b>Appraisal Prompts</b>	
<b>Positive Effects</b>	<b>Negative Effects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Protect or enhance local biodiversity</li> <li>b) Protect or enhance existing or potential wildlife corridors</li> <li>c) Protect or enhance designated sites and their buffers</li> <li>d) Enable ecological connectivity between habitats</li> <li>e) Locally important sites and buffers are protected</li> <li>f) Protect/enhance/integrate blue/green infrastructure</li> <li>g) Protect or enhance open space</li> <li>h) Attract visitors/tourists to the country park</li> <li>i) Create attractive town setting for people to reside</li> <li>j) Support/provide ecosystem services</li> <li>k) Coastal erosion / marine issues are able to be managed/considered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>l) Loss of local biodiversity</li> <li>m) Damage/interrupt existing or potential wildlife corridors</li> <li>n) Damage designated site and their buffers</li> <li>o) Locally important sites and buffers damaged</li> <li>p) Remove or damage blue/green infrastructure</li> <li>q) Block or remove access to B/GI or open space</li> <li>r) Reduce ecosystem services</li> <li>s) Lack of consideration of coastal/marine issues</li> </ul>

<b>13. The objective for sustainable development is to maintain and enhance landscape character.</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	
International and national policies seek to conserve the natural character and landscape of the coast and countryside and protect them from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development. This objective seeks to maintain the character and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes and seascapes and to protect and enhance open spaces and the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors.	
<b>Key Sustainability Issues for Landscape</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Refer to section 5.13.4</li> </ul>	
<b>Appraisal Prompts</b>	
<b>Positive Effects</b>	<b>Negative Effects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Minimise visual intrusion within the AONB</li> <li>b) Avoid visual intrusion of views to the AONB</li> <li>c) Protect the typical landscape features/settings of each area (LCAs, RLCAs)</li> <li>d) Protect the sense of tranquillity</li> <li>e) Protect the dark sky resource</li> <li>f) Consider the impacts of development (transport, agriculture, renewables) on local landscape</li> <li>g) Integrate new development with measures to protect and enhance local distinctiveness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>h) Increases visual intrusion of the AONB</li> <li>i) Detracts from the setting of prominent features and settlements</li> <li>j) Reduces protection of areas designated for landscape</li> <li>k) Reduces protection of the dark sky resource</li> <li>l) Detracts from views to the coast</li> <li>m) New development not integrated to protect and enhance local distinctiveness</li> </ul>

<b>14. The objective for sustainable development is to protect, conserve and enhance historic environment and cultural heritage.</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	
The historic environment and cultural heritage are resources that inform our history and bring character and sense of place. They also attract visitors and contribute to the economy and bring vibrancy to the places where we live, work and relax. This can be achieved by protecting and enhancing Conservation Areas, townscapes and other sites of historic and cultural value including their setting.	
<b>Key Sustainability Issues for Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to section 5.14.4</li> </ul>	
<b>Appraisal Prompts</b>	
<b>Positive Effects</b>	<b>Negative Effects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Protect and conserve the historic environment and cultural heritage</li> <li>b) Enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage</li> <li>c) Allow 'sense of place' to be conserved in townscape and rural settings</li> <li>d) Protect and enhance local distinctiveness</li> <li>e) Allow archaeological features to be assessed, recorded and preserved</li> <li>f) Preserve and enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets</li> <li>g) Support access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment</li> <li>h) Enable assessment of impacts of development on complex and extensive archaeological sites adjacent to settlements</li> <li>i) Provide opportunities for cultural activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>j) Loss of the historic environment and cultural heritage</li> <li>k) Lose 'sense of place' in townscape and rural settings</li> <li>l) Reduce local distinctiveness</li> <li>m) Archaeological features not assessed, recorded and preserved</li> <li>n) Damage the setting of cultural heritage assets</li> <li>o) Reduce access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment</li> <li>p) Impacts of development on complex and extensive archaeological sites adjacent to settlements not understood</li> <li>q) Decrease opportunities for cultural activities</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX 6: CONSULTATION BODY COMMENTS ON THE SA SCOPING REPORT AT DRAFT PLAN STRATEGY AND POP STAGE

SA Topic	Date	Comments	Action
DAERA: Scoping Report Update – DCSDC LDP Plan Strategy  Air Quality	26/11/20 18	<p><b>Ammonia</b></p> <p>See below links to recent ammonia documents on the DAERA website.</p> <p>"Making Ammonia Visible" Working Group Report:  <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/Ammonia%20Annex-%20Expert%20Working%20Group%2028final%29.pdf">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/Ammonia%20Annex-%20Expert%20Working%20Group%2028final%29.pdf</a></p> <p>DAERA position on recommendations of "Making Ammonia Visible":  <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/DAERA%20Response%20to%20EWG%20Ammonia%20Annex%20May%202018.pdf">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/DAERA%20Response%20to%20EWG%20Ammonia%20Annex%20May%202018.pdf</a></p>	<p>Link provided directs reader to several DAERA references.</p> <p>Reference added to air quality section of the SA Scoping Report.</p>
Physical Resources		<p><b>Geodiversity</b></p> <p>Something that may be of use to the councils in the future is the NI Geodiversity Charter &amp; Action Plan, which links in with the UK Geodiversity Action Plan - see links below.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bgs.ac.uk/qsni/pdf/GeodiversityCharterNI_web.pdf">https://www.bgs.ac.uk/qsni/pdf/GeodiversityCharterNI_web.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.bgs.ac.uk/gsni/pdf/GeodiversityActionPlan_web.pdf">https://www.bgs.ac.uk/gsni/pdf/GeodiversityActionPlan_web.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.ukgap.org.uk/">http://www.ukgap.org.uk/</a></p>	<p>The Physical Resources topic has been significantly updated since the POP stage in 2017 and reference to NI's Geodiversity Charter is in the Review section of the topic. The UK Geodiversity Action Plan and the NI Geodiversity Charter Action Plan are both included in the PPP section of the SA Scoping Report.</p>
Natural Resources		<p><b>Green and Blue Infrastructure Guidance</b></p> <p>A link to Green Infrastructure Guidance can be found at:</p> <p><a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/Green%20Infrastructure%20advice%20note%20final%20version%2011%20July%202017.pdf">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/Green%20Infrastructure%20advice%20note%20final%20version%2011%20July%202017.pdf</a></p>	<p>Reference has been added to the Green/blue Infrastructure section of the Natural Resources topic in the SA Scoping Report.</p>
Landscape		<p><b>Landscape Character Assessment</b></p> <p>There has been a substantial phase of building and other forms of development in both urban and rural areas of Northern Ireland since the publication of the Northern Ireland</p>	<p>The Landscape topic has been significantly updated since the POP stage in 2017 and reference to the NI Regional Landscape Character Assessment, Seascape Character Areas and Local Landscape Policy Areas</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	Action
		<p>Landscape Character Assessment Series (NILCA Series) in 1999 which has affected many landscapes and some of the comments and recommendations within these documents may no longer apply.</p> <p>DAERA would encourage the Council to undertake a detailed Local Landscape Character Assessment for their Plan area using recognised methodology based on "an Approach to Landscape Character Assessment " by Christine Tudor, Natural England, published October 2014. This would be under the umbrella of and informed by the Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA). It would provide an up-to-date local evidence base to Inform decisions about designations, policies etc., assist in assessing the sensitivity and capacity of the landscape and monitoring change over time, ensure consistency of approach across the different Council areas and assist in meeting the soundness tests. Useful information can be found on the DAERA website in respect of Landscape Character Assessments and Local Landscape Policy areas:  <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/final-lca-guidance-with-template.pdf">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/final-lca-guidance-with-template.pdf</a>   <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/local-landscape-policy-area-11pa-advice-note.pdf">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/local-landscape-policy-area-11pa-advice-note.pdf</a></p>	<p>(LLPAs) is now evident in addition to the information provided on LCAs.</p>
Air Quality		<p>The Plan should contain incentives to encourage the public to prioritise active travel and public transport over car travel including consideration given to the proximity of access to active travel and public transport services to current and future housing stock.</p> <p>Page 65 states that: "Some measures to achieve this are directly linked to transport and include reducing emissions from transport, improving energy efficiency and <b>protecting</b> Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAS)."  Note that the priority should be to</p>	<p>All proposed policy options have been appraised against the sustainability objective for Transport &amp; Accessibility which aims to encourage active and sustainable travel.</p> <p>Typo. Text now corrected to refer to revoking of AQMAS.</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	Action
		<p>improve air quality and meet air quality objectives in order to <b>revoke</b> AQMA's not 'protect' them.</p> <p>Page 69 &amp; page 71 states: "There are six Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the Council." Note there are currently 8 AQMA's in the council;  <a href="http://www.airqualityni.co.uk/laqm/aqma?id=452">http://www.airqualityni.co.uk/laqm/aqma?id=452</a> is the link to the locations of AQMAs</p> <p>Page 69 - please note particulate matter is also generated from vehicles on roads.</p>	<p>The data in the SA Scoping Report is continuously updated to reflect current conditions and <b>4</b> AQMAs are currently active as <b>4</b> were revoked in October 2018.</p> <p>Examples of particulate sources were given and these included road traffic. The Air Quality topic has been updated and now refers to traffic emissions as one of the top sources of air pollution.</p>
Marine Issues - Natural Resources		<p><b>Marine issues</b></p> <p>The Marine Plan Team welcomes the opportunity to provide further comments on the Derry City and Strabane Scoping Report.</p> <p>It is noted that our previous comments dated 6 February 2017, 21 July 2017, 10 August 2017 and our more recent correspondence dated 24 April 2018 have not been included to date. It is also noted that you have given assurances in your covering letter that these will be taken into account. However, to convey their importance and your statutory obligations the following comments will reiterate issues that have previous been raised.</p> <p>The Scoping Report includes a number of topics that are common to the environmental, social and economic considerations contained within the UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS) and this is welcomed. However, the focus upon the interaction and integration between the marine and terrestrial planning systems needs to be strengthened, given Derry City and Strabane is a coastal council whose policies and proposals contained within your forthcoming Local Development Plan (LOP) will affect the marine area.</p> <p>To improve integration between the planning systems it is strongly suggested that the Strategic Context of the Scoping Report includes narrative on the UK MPS and the Council's legal obligations under Section 8 and Section 58 of the</p>	<p>Marine issues can be considered under the Natural Resources topic. In addition, every proposed policy option from DCSDC has been appraised against a Natural Resources objective – to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>Since the POP stage, the SA Scoping report has been significantly updated and now includes reference to the UK MPS and the NI Marine Plan in Section 3. These have also been added to the</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	Action
		<p>Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 (MANI) and the Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCM) 2009 respectively. In particular, attention should be drawn to the physical overlap of the terrestrial and marine planning boundaries and the need to harmonise your LDP with the UK MPS and any appropriate marine plan(s). This will facilitate more effective interaction and integration with the marine planning system, particularly on the land/ sea interface along the coast.</p> <p>We welcome the inclusion of "intertidal and coastal zones as well as marine" within the Natural Resources topic and the statement that this topic overlaps with other topic areas. However, there is still concern that the full extent of effects/impacts on the marine area (not just the "marine environment") will not be assessed, as not all relevant topic areas have been listed and assumptions have been made with statements such as 'marine habitats/species most likely will feature'. It is strongly suggested that the marine considerations {economic, environmental and social) currently contained within the UK MPS are drawn out in all the relevant topic areas of all the Sustainability Appraisal reports, including this Scoping Report. It would be preferable if the marine impacts would be considered separately in their own topic.</p> <p>We are pleased, for example, to see that the Key Sustainability Issues for Natural Resources includes the following text "Marine planning and its associated obligations need to be appropriately considered within the Local Development Plan particularly as previous plans and frameworks may not have referred to coastal or marine matters." We think this can be strengthened by amending it to "The UK MPS, any appropriate marine plan(s) and legislative requirements need to be appropriately considered ... ". It is strongly advised that this is also included in all of the Key Sustainability Issues in the relevant topic areas, taking account of the UK MPS considerations.</p>	<p>PPP along with The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.</p> <p>Consideration of impacts on the marine environment remain under the Natural Resources topic.</p> <p>The Key Sustainability Issues (KSIs) are concisely written so that they encompass as much information as possible. Every proposed policy option will have been considered against the KSI referring to, 'Marine planning and its associated obligations...' because all policy options are appraised against all fourteen sustainability objectives. Specific appraisal prompts referring to coastal/ marine issues are also used.</p>



SA Topic	Date	Comments	Action
Marine Issues - Landscape		In terms of the landscape topic, we are pleased that "seascape" is acknowledged. However, there are several references to "may affect the marine environment" and "impacts on the marine environment" in the Landscape topic and these should be amended to "the marine area" to align more accurately with the legislation requirements of MANI and the MCAA.	Since the POP stage, the Landscape topic of the SA Scoping Report has been updated. It now presents more information on Seascape Character Areas. References to the 'marine environment' have been replaced with references to the 'marine area'.
Marine Issues - Water		We welcome the references to "water quality", "water pollution" and "coastal and transitional water" in the Water topic. However, impacts on water quality and the linkages to transitional and coastal waters needs to be more explicit. Impacts on marine waters also need to be considered. In addition, references to "good environmental quality" need to be amended to refer to the achievement of "good environmental status" and "good ecological status" to reflect the language of the Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.	Since the POP stage, the Water topic has been significantly updated. Marine waters are referred to and previous references to 'good environmental quality' have been updated to reflect environmental or ecological status.
Marine Issues - Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies		<p>It is noted that Appendix 4 includes legislation. Consequently, marine legislation, such as MANI, MCAA and the EU Directive 2014/89/EU establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning should be incorporated.</p> <p>Due to our concerns regarding the inclusion of marine impacts within the Natural Resources topic, and given the sustainable development objectives of the marine legislation and policy and the listing of the Regional Development Strategy and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement we would prefer these marine documents to also be included under the Sustainable Development heading of Appendix 4. In addition, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive which requires Member States to maintain or achieve 'Good Environmental Status' in the marine environment should be included under the Water and Natural Resources topics. As the marine policy position has progressed, it is suggested that the reference to the <b>draft Marine Position Paper</b> is removed.</p>	<p>The PPP is continuously updated and any previously omitted PPP has now been added including the EU Directive 2014/89/EU, MANI and the MCAA.</p> <p>EU Directive 2014/89/EU has been added to Appendix 4 under the Sustainable Development heading and the Marine Strategy is recorded under the Natural Resources heading. Reference to the draft NI Marine Position Paper in Appendix 4 has been removed as superseded by the Marine Plan for NI.</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	Action
		<p>It is also suggested that the Implications for the LDP with respect to the UK MPS and the draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland are amended to align with the legal requirements set out in Section 8 and Section 58 of MANI and the MCAA. In relation to the objective/requirements of the Draft Marine Plan the text should be amended to "The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of the Northern Ireland marine area. The Plan contains policies that reflect, clarify and signpost current legislation, policy measures and practices from the UK MPS and across NI and UK Government Departments and Agencies. Its policies will be used by public authorities in taking decisions which affect or might affect the marine area. The draft Marine Plan was published for consultation in May 2018."</p> <p>The principle of these comments also applies to the development of your LDP. We hope they will assist you in strengthening the interaction and integration of your Plan with the marine planning system and in particular the UK Marine Policy Statement at this time.</p> <p>Marine Conservation and Reporting Team are largely content that the marine environment has been considered in section 6.12, in particular designated sites. We wish to add, that in addition to designated sites, some marine animals are protected throughout their range. The species which are afforded protection are listed in the schedules to the following nature conservation legislation:</p> <p>The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended); and The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended).</p>	<p>Text referring to Section 8 and Section 58 of MANI and the MCAA have been added to the Implications section of Appendix 4 against the UK MPS, the draft Marine Plan for NI, the MCAA and the MANI.</p> <p>A separate Habitats Regulations Assessment has been provided with the draft Plan Strategy, the SA Scoping and SA Reports.</p>
Marine Issues - Water		<p><b>Marine Strategy and Licensing Team</b> Cognisance should be paid to Shellfish Water Protected Areas and the sustainability of the aquaculture versus</p>	<p>Appendix 4 refers to the repeal of the Shellfish Waters Directive into the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the need for management of Shellfish</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	Action
		<p>potential pollution from development. Under Bathing Water Directive it should be noted that there are now <b>26</b> identified bathing water sites across NI. The Food Standards Agency Annual Classification of Shellfish should be included.</p>	<p>Water Protected Areas to meet the objectives of the WFD. Appendix 4 has been updated from <b>23</b> to <b>26</b> identified bathing waters under the EU Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC. Reference to the Food Standards Agency has been added to the Water topic and a section on Shellfish.</p>
DAERA: NIEA	21/08/20 17	<p><b>Sustainability Appraisal - Scoping Report (May 2017)</b></p> <p>On page 90, 6.12.4, it is stated in the bullet points that the River Foyle is a 'salmonid' river in respect of key sustainability issues for Natural Resources and that salmon stocks are declining. It should also be noted that the River Foyle Tributaries (e.g. the Derg and Finn) and that the River Faughan are also a rivers within the Council area that are important for Salmon.</p> <p>The key sustainability issues on page 90 do not highlight the importance of peat in the District, especially in terms of importance for biodiversity and as a carbon sink.</p> <p>On page 99, Sustainability Objectives, 'reduce causes of and adapt to climate change', there is no reference to the importance of peat and woodland as important carbon sinks and their need for protection and enhancement, although 'carbon capture' is referenced elsewhere in the Report (page 171).</p> <p>Appendix 3, page 104, Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives The matrix highlights that the provision of housing has no relationship with the protection of water, natural resources or enhancement of landscape character. It could be argued that badly sited housing and the proliferation of associated septic tanks in the countryside have the potential to have a negative or uncertain impact on these sustainability objectives.</p> <p>Appendix 4, pages 105 - 159, Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes, and Strategies should acknowledge the Local</p>	<p>The SA Scoping Report has been significantly updated since the POP stage. The Key Sustainability Issues should refer to the Baseline Evidence available and presented for each topic. Salmon related information has been presented in the Water topic and any overlap between topics has been presented in the first paragraph of the Baseline Information. Check either update KSI or transfer to Water if discussed there.</p> <p>Designated sites were presented in the Natural Resources topic in Figure 6.12.1 but site selection features were not detailed. At that time, a new biodiversity Plan and a Green Infrastructure Plan were in development but not available. Carbon storage was referred to under Ecosystems Services.</p> <p>To date this heading has not been updated however the appraisal prompts under the topic of climate change that are used during the SA of proposed policy options do refer to the protection or enhancement of habitats that capture carbon.</p> <p>Appendix 3 has been updated to reflect the uncertain relationship that could exist between housing the sustainability objectives for water, natural resources and landscape character.</p> <p>Appendix 4 is continuously updated and includes reference to the Green</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	Action
		<p>Biodiversity Action Document Wildlife Action in Derry- Londonderry 2008 - 2013 and the Strabane District Council Biodiversity Awareness Survey Baseline Report 2011.</p> <p>Appendix 5, Sustainability Appraisal Guide, page 163, Objective 3 'to provide good quality sustainable housing' should reflect the comments above that housing, if badly sited, may have negative effects on water resource, the landscape and biodiversity and similarly for Objective 5, page 165 for economic growth.</p> <p>On page 170, Objective 9 to improve air quality, note tree planting and protection of existing trees as a positive mitigation measure</p> <p>On page 171 'Adopt to Climate Change', at the second bullet point, add "or managed retreat".</p> <p>The importance of protecting peatlands and trees from development or damage should be a key sustainability issue in the maintenance of carbon sinks and adaption to climate change.</p>	<p>Infrastructure Framework 2018, which supersedes any previous Biodiversity Action Plans. (Links to LBAPs no longer work on the DCSDC website.)</p> <p>To date this heading has not been updated but any potential negative issues on sustainability objectives should be highlighted through the SA process.</p> <p>To date this heading has not been updated however the appraisal prompts under the topic of air quality that are used during the SA of proposed policy options refer to improving air quality as well as helping to achieve air quality objectives which could all be linked to protection or planting of trees.</p> <p>Could not locate the information.</p> <p>The Climate Change topic has been significantly updated since the POP stage. A Key Sustainability Issue (bullet point 10) did refer to protection of carbon/water stores but these have been updated to reflect the comment.</p>
		<p><b>Air Quality</b></p> <p>Please ensure that you seek comments from the Environmental Health Department of your council regarding assessment of potential impacts on air quality (and noise, if appropriate) of any of the options</p> <p>P64 (Material assets) and P68 (Climate Change): Biomass is cited as a component of potential renewable energy mix (away from wind). Please note that biomass has the potential to have adverse impacts on air quality.</p> <p><b>Scoping Report</b></p>	<p>The Air Quality topic has been significantly updated since the POP stage.</p> <p>DCSDC reconsulted on the SA Scoping Report in November 2018 and Environmental Health responded.</p> <p>Any renewable energy related policies were appraised against the SA objective for air quality.</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	Action
		<p>Overall, good coverage of air quality issues</p> <p>S6.9.1 - Should be '... levels of certain substances such as nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, or.. .'.</p> <p>S6.9.2 - Note the annual monitoring reports on Black Carbon and on PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), for insight on emissions from residential heating (burning of solid fuels):</p> <p>PAH report: <a href="https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/reports/cat05/1611011541_Defra_PAH_2015_annual_report.pdf">https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/reports/cat05/1611011541_Defra_PAH_2015_annual_report.pdf</a></p> <p>Black Carbon report: <a href="https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/reports/cat13/1611011539_2015_Black_Carbon_Network_Annual_Report_Final_18082016.pdf">https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/reports/cat13/1611011539_2015_Black_Carbon_Network_Annual_Report_Final_18082016.pdf</a></p> <p>Note that Particulate Matter emissions can also come from residential burning of solid fuels, which is likely to be a significant factor in the Strabane area.</p> <p>P70 - Emissions: Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'This indicates other sources of emissions' should be This indicates the greater contribution of other emissions sources, for example, cattle manure management. in comparison with emissions from fertilisers.'</li> <li>Note that ammonia can also have negative impacts on human health through the generation of secondary particulate matter.</li> </ul> <p>S6.9.4 - Key sustainability issues (and also summary table on P170)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include also solid fuel burning (and link to fuel poverty). There is evidence of substantial levels of solid fuel burning in the Strabane area (see link to Black Carbon report, above).</li> <li>Include also ammonia emissions from agriculture.</li> </ul>	<p>The SA Scoping Report has been updated since the POP stage.</p> <p>Air Quality topic updated to reflect this information on particulate matter - linked to smoke control areas and human health.</p> <p>Air Quality topic and section on Agricultural Emissions has been updated.</p> <p>Updated 2 KSIs to better reflect the comments regarding solid fuel burning and ammonia emissions.</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	Action
		<p><b>Water Quality</b> Water Management Unit note Sustainability Objective 11 to ...protect, manage and use water resources sustainably encompasses reducing levels of water pollution, sustainable use of water resources, improving the physical state of the water environment and reducing the risk of flooding now and in the future. WMU is of the opinion that this SA Objective should be split to form 2 separate objectives. One focused on water quality and water as a resource. The second should focus on flooding. These are 2 separate and important topics, incorporating them within the same SA Objective makes it difficult to assess the objective against the preferred options.</p> <p><b>Climate</b> Scoping Report - Climate Mitigation comments</p> <p>6.10Climatic Factors 6.10.1Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies The following text should be removed:</p> <p>'To help meet the 2050 target, the Northern Ireland Executive has set a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on 1990 levels by at least 35% by 2025. The Cross Departmental Working Group for Climate Change (CDWGCC) has produced annual reports detailing progress toward meeting this target. The fifth report in 2016 suggests GHG emissions (excluding the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry sector) will be 34.1% lower in 2025 than in 1990 which is close to the target.'</p> <p>And replaced with the text below:</p> <p>"Progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions is reported annually in the greenhouse gas inventory. The latest NI greenhouse inventory was published in June 2017 and notes a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 17.8% (20.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) from 1990 to 2015. The most recent projections (based on 2014 inventory) estimate that NI greenhouse</p>	<p>Flooding has been retained within the Water topic. The SA Framework is based on Development Plan Practice Note 04 Annex 5. The 21 sustainability objectives have been reduced down to 14 to improve the efficiency of the SA. The 14 objectives still encompass all of the 21 objectives.</p> <p>The Climate Change topic has been significantly updated since the POP stage.</p> <p>Title changed to Climate Change. Please note the Review section is a snapshot of the most relevant policies, plans, programmes and strategies to that topic. The full suite of applicable PPP is presented in Appendix 4.</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	Action
		<p>gas emissions will reduce by 31.2% by 2030." The 2nd Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP) (2018-2023) will provide local level evidence with targeted local adaptation information.</p> <p>The following text should be removed:</p> <p>"In 2015/16, the CDWGCC agreed 37 actions in an Action Plan to address climate change. Twelve actions were taken forward and a future action plan was proposed to be agreed in 2017."</p> <p><b>Northern Ireland Context</b></p> <p>The following text should be removed:</p> <p>"This is high relative to the contribution made to gross domestic product (2.1%) and the proportion of the UK population (2.8%). Estimated GHG emissions were 22.4 million tonnes of CO2 and had decreased by 16% compared to baseline levels in 1990. In contrast, the UK as a whole reduced emissions by 30%."</p> <p>Add in the sentence "In contrast, the UK as a whole reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 38% in 2015" to the end of the following paragraph: Northern Ireland accounted for a much larger share of the UK's emissions of these gases due to the importance of agriculture in the Northern Ireland economy. In contrast, the UK as a whole reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 38% in 2015.</p> <p>In the next paragraph remove the sentence "There is a government target to reduce GHG emissions by 35% on 1990 levels by 2025."</p> <p><b>6.10.2 Baseline Information</b></p> <p>Figure 6.10.1: Main Greenhouse Gas Emitting Sectors in Northern Ireland. Remove Figure 6.10.1: Main Greenhouse Gas Emitting Sectors in Northern Ireland and following wording:</p> <p>Remove the following wording: "A set of Carbon Intensity Indicators has been developed to help government track carbon reduction policies. These</p>	<p>The Climate Change topic has been significantly updated since the POP stage.</p> <p>Data from the Greenhouse Gas Inventory is now referred to throughout the Climate change topic and all previous references to the Carbon Intensity Indicators have been removed.</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	Action
		<p>indicators show a reduction in GHG emissions in terms of intensity, as opposed to absolute figures. Emissions intensity demonstrates the amount of carbon dioxide generated per unit of output. Note that most of the trends, which cover the power (energy), buildings (housing), industry, transport, agriculture and waste sectors, are positive i.e. declining emissions. Although population growth and economic growth are the two main drivers of climate change, the Carbon Intensity Indicators show that in Northern Ireland, greenhouse gas emissions decreased by 16% from 1990 to 2013 whilst the population increased by 15% and the economy also increased."</p> <p>Remove Figure 6.10.2: Greenhouse gas Emissions per Capita Insert figures from the NI GHG inventory instead. It should be noted that for recording progress against emissions reduction the only statistics used and recognised at NI, UK, EU and internationally are those in the greenhouse gas inventory completed in accordance with IPCC guidelines.</p> <p>The latest GHG inventory can be viewed at: <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-greenhouse-gas-inventory-1990-2015-statistical-bulletin">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-greenhouse-gas-inventory-1990-2015-statistical-bulletin</a></p> <p>Pg. 77 Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture make a "significant" change to "the largest" contribution to total emissions in Northern Ireland and the Council.</p> <p>Page 72 The 2nd Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP) (change "2018- 2023" to "2019-2024") will provide local level evidence with targeted local adaptation information</p> <p>Page 73 <b>UK Context</b> Change the following wording from: "The second Climate Change Risk Assessment Evidence Report is due to be presented to Parliament in 2017. The</p>	<p>The most up to date GHG inventory has been accessed.</p> <p>Text has been updated to reflect the comments.</p> <p>Dates updated for 2<sup>nd</sup> NICCAP 2019-2024.</p> <p>The Climate Change topic has been significantly updated since the POP stage.</p>



SA Topic	Date	Comments	Action
		<p>Adaptation Sub Committee has prepared the independent evidence report which sets out the latest risks and opportunities to the UK from climate change. An interim report has been published entitled The UK Synthesis Report 2017."</p> <p>To: "The second UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) was laid in Parliament in January 2017. This Assessment consisted of an Independent Evidence report prepared by The Adaptation Sub Committee has prepared and the Government's response to this report. The CCRA sets out the latest risks and opportunities to the UK from climate change. "</p> <p><b>Northern Ireland Context</b> The following text should be inserted: "The latest CCRA also has an NI Summary, which identifies the most urgent regional risks and opportunities facing NI. The next NI Climate Change Adaptation Programme, due in 2019, will aim to address the impact of these risks and opportunities."</p> <p><b>Page 138 Table</b> The following text should be removed from Objectives/Requirements column against UK CCRA row. This relates to separate policy doc (SPPS): "SPPS states that no development should take place in areas known to be at risk from coastal erosion. SPPS promotes and encourages developers to use SUDS and also indicates that council's should continue to promote the use of SUDS through their Local Development Plans. SPPS recognises the importance of peatlands to Northern Ireland for biodiversity, water and carbon storage".</p> <p><b>Page 142 Table</b> The following text should be inserted under Objectives/Requirements column against Climate Change Act 2008: "The Act also makes it a requirement for the UK Government to produce a climate change risk assessment every 5 years. NI Departments are required to produce an Adaptation Programme to</p>	<p>The Climate Change topic has been significantly updated since the POP stage.</p> <p>Appendix 4 has been updated to reflect the comments.</p> <p>Appendix 4 has been updated to reflect the comments.</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	Action
		<p>address the identified risk and opportunities to NI':</p> <p><b>Marine/Coastal</b> The Marine Plan team, acknowledges that the marine area has been considered in your Scoping and Interim Report.</p> <p>It is good to see that the need to integrate with Water Framework Directive requirements is highlighted, in addition to the linkages with the UK Marine policy Statement and the proposed Northern Ireland Marine Plan.</p> <p>The INTERREG V Catchment Care project is referenced in the documentation. The Council may wish to note that there are other INTERREG projects in the area that will assist in meeting environmental objectives. A further item under INTERREG VA is the Shared Waters Enhancement and Laughs Legacy or SWELL project.</p> <p>This project has been awarded up to €3,098,722 with a total project cost of €3,645,614.20. The project will improve the water quality status of Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle. The cross-border project involves a detailed investigation into the causes of water pollution and the most effective ways to prevent it. It will, for the first time, bring together key state owned water companies from Northern Ireland and Ireland as it will be delivered by both NI Water and Irish Water. The funding awarded also has the potential to unlock an additional €31.7m worth of support under the INTERREG VA Programme to improve wastewater treatment assets that will benefit 10,000 people on a cross-border basis.</p> <p>Project Partners: Northern Ireland Water, Irish Water and East Border Region.</p> <p>As a general observation you may wish to consider in greater detail the benefits and potential benefits from the councils maritime resource under the policy provisions of the UK Marine Policy Statement.</p>	<p>Marine/Coastal issues are listed under Natural Resources but water quality and wastewater treatment are covered under the Water topic.</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	Action
		<p>With respect to the preparation of your Local Development Plan, you should note that Section 58 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA) and Section 8 of the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, require a public authority to have regard to the appropriate marine policy documents, when taking any decision which relates to any function capable of affecting (or might affect) the marine area, which is not an authorisation or enforcement decision. Specific comments in relation to the reports are outlined below:</p> <p><b>Scoping Report</b></p> <p>4.2 - Included within the 'amongst others' you must have regard to the UK Marine Policy Statement.</p> <p>5.3 - You should ensure that regard is given to the UK Marine Policy Statement.</p> <p>6.5- You should ensure that regard is given to the UK Marine Policy Statement, particularly noting sections 2.5.2 - 2.5.7 and Chapter 3, including, but not limited to, section 3.11 - tourism and recreation.</p> <p>6.6-You should ensure that regard is given to the UK Marine Policy Statement, particularly noting sections 3.3 insofar as it relates to supporting terrestrial infrastructure for any potential offshore energy developments.</p> <p>6.7- You should ensure that regard is given to the UK Marine Policy Statement, particularly noting sections 3.3 &amp; 3.5 insofar as it relates to supporting terrestrial infrastructure for any potential offshore energy developments.</p> <p>6.11- You should ensure that regard is given to the UK Marine Policy Statement, particularly noting sections 2.6.4 &amp; 3.1o.</p> <p>6.12- You should ensure that regard is given to the UK Marine Policy</p>	<p>A section has been added to the SA Scoping Report (4.3.6) to reflect the comments on Section 8 and 58 of the MANI and the MCAA.</p> <p>Text has been updated.</p> <p>Section 5.3 refers to Housing.</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	Action
		<p>Statement, particularly noting sections 2.6.1</p> <p>6.13- You should ensure that regard is given to the UK Marine Policy Statement, particularly noting sections 2.6.5</p> <p>6.14- You should ensure that regard is given to the UK Marine Policy Statement. particularly noting sections 2.6.6</p>	