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| **Directorate Delivery Plan 2025/26** |
| **Environment & Regeneration** |
| **Derry City and Strabane District Council** |

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# **Environment & Regeneration**

# **Directorate Delivery Plan 2025/26**

# **Section One: Directorate Profile / Summary**

## **1.1 Purpose of Directorate**

The Environment & Regeneration Directorate plays a key role in the delivery of the inclusive Strategic Growth Plan. The teams lead in strategies that will lead to the outcomes that we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment and we connect people and opportunities through infrastructure.

The Directorate leads on the development of the Local Development Plan which will contribute to the development of sustainable communities and to meet housing need. The Directorate also leads on the design and management of green spaces, on encouraging stronger environmental stewardship and on valuing and enhancing our environment and our built and natural heritage assets.

The Directorate also leads on pulling stakeholders together to ensure that we have a secure and affordable energy supply, that we move towards a zero waste circular economy and that we have more integrated, sustainable and accessible transport.

## **1.2 Services Provided**

**1.3 Summary of Resources**

**Financial Resources**

The Directorate has a net budget of £31,934,710 representing 39.02% of the Council’s overall net expenditure budget of £81,850,422 for the 2025/26 year. A breakdown of these resources by service area is provided in the diagram below.

### **Staff and Other Resources**

* 373 Environment employees, including 51 casuals.
* Building Control & Energy – 26 including (1 agency worker, 1 casual worker)
* Director & Support – 2
* Planning – 39 including
* Regeneration - 4

# **Section Two: Achievements 2024/25**

**2.1 Highlights**

**Green Infrastructure**

**GI Regeneration**

* Completion of Northwest Greenways Projects with DCC, Sustrans and DFi to the value of E35m
* 4 Awards secured for Northwest Greenway/Pennyburn Bridge, namely (1) Construction Employers Federation- Transport Infrastructure project of the Year Award, below £10 M (2) the Institute of Civil Engineers Sustainability Award (3) CIHT Awards for Active travel project of the year and (4) NWGN infrastructure project of the year less than £5m – Bay Road Bridge
* £6.2m UKLUF Acorn Farm Gate lodge complete (£0.5m) and Urban Farm at St Columb’s Park progressing well on site
* Clooney Masterplan planning applications lodged and support Institute FC with their Clooney Stadium
* Secured £143k for the Allotments Car Park at St Columb’s Park from Dfc
* Completion of three new Rural Covid Recovery projects in Claudy Play, Learmount Footstick and Newtownstewart Walkway (at £1m)
* Stradowen Greenway complete with funding secured from UKLUF
* Ballynagaard Community Park progressed to site and progressing well and funding secured from UK Government
* Phase 1 of the Diamond, Castle Park and Derg Greenways complete for the Derg Active GI Projects namely funded by the UKLUF
* £3m secured for the REALM project in the Fountain/Bogside from TEO towards a phase 1 project cost of £6m
* 10 play areas designs completed in-house and extensive engagement with communities undertaken
* Planning approval secured for lighting project at Drumahoe, Bay Road and Foyle Valley pending
* Riverine Project in Lifford and Strabane awarded €16.7 Million from SEUPB Peace Plus with DCC Council inclusive of a. €660,000 engagement programme

**GI Climate Action & Biodiversity**

* UK Funded (£300,000) Net Zero Derry & Strabane Programme ongoing (Due for completion June 2025):
  + Derry & Strabane Sustainability & Climate Commission established (2 Additional cluster groups – Health/Community & Education) Vision & Roadmap complete
  + DCSDC Greenhouse Gas Emission Baseline and Mitigation Plan developed (Subject to committee approval)
  + DCSDC Responsible Procurement Strategy Developed (Subject to committee approval)
  + DCSDC Climate Screening Tool Developed
  + Community Climate Conversations underway (Support secured from Involve UK)
  + Green Investment Plan to be developed
* Creative Ireland funded (€50,000 funding) Blueprint project delivered and showcase events held
* Green Club (Peaceplus) programme funding secured £200,000 and project launched – to be delivered during 2025/6
* Lottery funded Artitude project secured further £1,099,320 of funding for stage II. Ongoing work as project partner with delivery during 2025/26.
* Ongoing work leading City Deal Environment & Climate Working Group Ongoing support for Community Resilience Planning throughout the City & District

* Secured (how Much?) Shared Island Funding:
  + Derg Valley Leisure Centre
  + Acorn Farm Solar
  + Sigersons GAA
* Shared Biodiversity Project – Donegal County Council Shared Island Funding – Funding secured (€11,000) Cross BorderSchools Project

**GI Services & Management**

* Brooke Park – secured Green Flag Heritage Award
* Retention of the Bronze Award from Sustainable food places for the City & District
* Ongoing Development of the Acorn Food Network, working in partnership with a wide range of public and private sector partners to further develop Council Area as a sustainable food place and continue to build the food movement within the city and district.
* Participation in NI Science Festival alongside Community Partners Acorn Farm programme ongoing partnership support and delivery of £1.7m funding from the Climate Action Fund Lottery Programme, in particular continuing to support the I Can Grow, I can Cook and Growing Challenges programmes
* Completion of Gatelodge Garden with £50,000 secured from Lottery for an educational demonstration garden

**Regeneration**

* £650k of SEUPB PEACE+ funding to design and deliver (a) historic cemeteries environmental improvement project (b) war memorials conservation-led maintenance project and associated cross-community heritage animation programmes
* 241 commercial facades painted across 8 rural settlements as part of the delivery of the £1.25m Covid Recovery Rural Settlements Programme funded by DfC/DAERA/DfC
* Regeneration masterplan commissioned for the former Strabane Grammar School site and multi-stakeholder steering group established
* Design concepts commissioned and completed in respect of a proposed environmental improvement streetscape scheme in Foyle Street
* Public consultation and stakeholder engagement exercises initiated in respect of the delivery phase of the Strabane Town Centre Public Realm Scheme
* Completion and launch of the Newtownstewart Town Centre Regeneration Framework document following community/stakeholder consultation and co-design process
* Completion of 2 built heritage audits and production of an interactive heritage map for Sion Mills and Newtownstewart
* Ongoing delivery of the Architectural Heritage Fund supported Walled City Heritage Development Trust Programme through technical support to lead partner Inner City Trust in the development of a pipeline of heritageled regeneration projects including restoration of 17-19 Magazine Street and proposals for the former Austins Department store
* Establishment and coordination of a dedicated Council-led task force designed to address dereliction in the Fountain estate

**Planning**

**Major/Strategic and Local Planning Permissions Granted**

Residential approvals include:

Residential development comprising 674 no. dwellings (33 no. detached; 473 no. semi-detached; and 168 no. apartments), including open space and landscaping; new equipped children’s play area; bus route; SuDS Pond; and all associated site and access arrangements at H30, Waterside, Derry.

Housing development comprising of 22 dwellings with associated access road in Plumbridge

26 dwellings with associated parking, landscaping and open space on Castlefin Road, Castlederg

31 No. dwellings at 8 Strabane Road Castlederg.

21 semi-independent living units (change of house type) at approved retirement village former Thornhill College Site Culmore

Residential development of 16 Dwelling Units at 8A & 10 Prehen Road.

38 dwellings at Keery road Magheramason.

Erection of four storey building consisting of 22 No. self-contained apartments and 1 No. commercial unit at 10 Bridge Street.

Residential development of 21 No. dwellings on lands to the South of 212 Learmount Road, Park.

Proposed residential (social housing) development comprising of 3 no. buildings containing 40no. units at 4 Letterkenny Road.

Commercial/Economic Approvals include:

* Approval and listed building consent for new porch extension, addition of 2nd floor glazed link extension, and upgrade of existing Clock Tower central porch entrance steps at The Ebrington Hotel,
* Proposed change of use of vacant retail units to new bar at Waterloo Street
* Extraction of sand and gravel  at Baronscourt Road, Newtownstewart
* Sand and Gravel, Quarry Castlewarren Road Donemana
* Erection of one IT service and data centre buildings, substation compounds, generators, switch gear and transformers, access roads, vehicular access, car parking, security perimeter fencing and gate houses, external site lighting, at Maydown, Derry.
* Proposed hardstanding yard to provide an external storage area for Foyle Port at lands at Strathfoyle, Derry.
* Retention of the sale of non-bulky goods and convenience goods by B&M without compliance with condition 7 of A/2003/0325/RM at Crescent Link, Derry
* Section 54 Application to Vary condition No. 2 of planning permission A/2004/0978/F to allow 5 additional waste streams to be accepted at the River ridge facility, Maydown, Derry.
* 1no. assembly line unit with car parking, administrative spaces for KES Strabane Business Park

Renewable /Energy approvals include:

3 single turbines approved



Community / Infrastruture Approvals include:

* Construction of a municipal cemetery to include: burial space for approximately 4,000 plots; repositories for ashes; memorial garden, conversion of existing dwelling to reception/office admin building; removal of existing outbuildings; memorial service building and associated car parking at Mullenan Road, Derry
* Listed building consent for the change of use of former military buildings 45/46 Ebrington Square, to provide a Maritime Museum and Archive,
* Installation of 41no. 5m high lighting columns along greenway and paths at Drumahoe District Park, Derry
* Installation of 31 no. 6m-high lighting columns along greenway and paths at Castle Park, Castlederg
* Installation of 90 No. 6 M. high lighting columns along greenway and paths at Bay Road
* Replacement community building in Springhill Park
* Provision of new 93 space surface level car park, amenity lighting and a new ramped access & steps to the Community Centre at for Leafair Community Centre and playing fields

**Local Development Plan (LDP)**

* The Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) had been considering the LDP Independent Examination (IE, held in Sept. and Oct. 2023) and on 10th May 2024, they passed the LDP IE Report to DfI Regional Planning. DfI considered the LDP IE Report and at end of November 2024, commenced the intensive 3-week fact-checking exercise with Council Officers. The formal Direction was received from DfI on 17th December 2024; it was a very positive report, finding the LDP Plan Strategy to be ‘sound’, subject to a limited number of Modifications.
* The Council has published the DfI Direction and PAC IE Reports, they were considered by Officers and Members, the final version of the LDP Plan Strategy has been prepared, implementation of its Planning policies has commenced, and training of Officers and Members is being undertaken.
* Four technical assessment documents have been produced – Habitats Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal, Equality EQIA and Rural Needs RNIA. All four were put out to public consultation in March 2025. Forty-three Supplementary Planning Guidance documents (SPG) have been reviewed and updated or new documents drafted, ongoing, for public consultation alongside the Adoption of the LDP Plan Strategy (in May or June 2025).
* The Housing Monitor 2023-24 surveys were done, figures are compiled and and report is near completion. A HMO Update report has been done for 2023-2024 and ongoing monthly monitoring tables done during 2024-2025. Urban Capacity study UC3 has been done. Economic Development Land Monitor was partially completed. Methodology documents have been prepared and work initiated for some of the key tasks of the LDP Local Policies Plan. Staff gave significant assistance to Development Management in processing Planning applications.
* Following the NIPSO Ombudsman report on the NI TPO System, a draft Council TPO Tree Strategy has been prepared, ready for Member approval. From April 2024 to end March 2025, 2 new Provisional TPOs were issued (& 3 requests were considered / refused), 9 Tree Works Consents were issued, 101 Tree Queries were managed and 1 Tree Works Refusal was successfully defended at PAC Appeal. Conservation Area meetings have been attended and advice has been issued on DM applications – as required.

**Environment & Building Control**

* Refuse Collection including Bulky Waste Collection services provided across the city and district to domestic and business users to include 3 million bin collections, 155,064 Assisted Bin Collections and 17,020 Bulky Waste jobs completed.

* Ongoing promotional activity across all service areas with regard to anti – litter and fly tipping promotions, waste and recycling etc
* Completed roll out of brown bin scheme across the rural area. Increased recycling rate to 51%
* Commenced the development of lands at Mullennan for the new Municipal Cemetery
* Ensured that Council properties and facilities remained in full compliance with statutory requirements e.g. EICR, Fire, Legionella Management etc with circa 1500 certificates tested and renewed to include 1600+ statutory compliance certificate renewals - EICR, Emergency Lighting, legionella, Fire alarms, Fire Fighting equipment, LOLER, Gas etc, 115+ ROSPA Inspections completed, 95+ Contractors managed through Control of Contractor Procedures. Bi-annual Internal Property Inspections completed for 160+ Premises, 6000+ maintenance Jobs managed / completed. 1800 monthly Planned Preventative Maintenance inspections completed.
* In house team completed the installation and removal of Festive Lighting at rural villages and settlements.
* Completed maintenance in excess of 250,000M² on roadside grasslands and on over 40 football pitches equating to 465,882.00 M² of groundworks. Maintained Synthetic pitches: 33 segments equating to 82, 389.39 M² Secured sponsorship and completed maintenance to 30 roundabouts in and around the City & District.
* Maintained over 41,000 M²  of land with our 10 active and 20 historical cemeteries, to include burial services.
* Regularly serviced 1032 litter bins and 800 dog waste bins throughout the City & District. Carried out litter and detritus removal from over 1,100,942 linear m of kerb line. Completed street cleansing operations within City and Town centres 7 days per week 52 weeks of the year. Completed clean up operations after all the major events throughout the year, such as St Patrick’s Day and Halloween.
* Processed 1467 requests for postal numbering and street naming, 430 number Land and Property Services queries dealt with, 176 residents consulted with as part of 4 bilingual street name requests processed, 151 new or replacement street signs erected, one number bus shelter refurbished and reallocated, 10 refurbished on site, 2 number repaired due to storm damage.
* Investigated 1939 incidents of fly tipping across the City and District, 42 Fixed Penalty Notices issued, $ prosecutions pending.
* Winner City Category – Ulster in Bloom, Best Kept Awards, Winner Employer of the Year NI Apprenticeship Scheme.
* Completed 3 number Invest to Save Energy Projects including installation of EV panels at Skeoge, installation of Heat Boss system in Guildhall., tender process complete with regard to regional EV Charge Point Scheme
* 3,136 Building Control Applications processed, 10,455 site inspections completed, 2,179 property Certificates Issued
* Over 1.17 million page views visited across 97,600 visitors to the recycling website, with the recycling centre page being the most visited, followed by bin collections with over 1000 users downloaded the recycling app.
* Circa 71,450 hits across Council’s social media channels to include Facebook, Instagram, X, You Tube and the newly set up TikTok Channels with a further 360,147 hits through shares, retweets etc.
* 16 repair cafes were hosted through Share and Repair Foyle, 124 small household items were repaired and 152 laptops were received through the laptop donation scheme. In total 338 items were worked on as part of the campaign.
* A total of 45 posts across Instagram, Facebook & TikTok were published with a strong radio campaign, which proved highly effective reaching a total of 335,000 listeners
* Approximately 1200 posts were published on Facebook garnering a reach of around 5.2M impressions for recycling/waste related messaging including updates.
* Approximately 300 pieces of content was shared across Instagram including a range of images, videos & reels accumulating in a post reach of 189,700 and story reach of around. 108 stories were shared gathering a reach of 48,154 views.
* Approximately 584 posts were shared on X .

**2.2 Progress Update**

See appendix 2 – Pentana Report.

**Section Three: Improvement Planning and Performance**

The Directorate has set a number of improvement objectives for 2025/26 which aim to bring about improvement in one or more of the following improvement criteria:

* Strategic effectiveness (SE)
* Service quality (SQ)
* Service availability (SA)
* Fairness (F)
* Sustainability (S)
* Efficiency (E)
* Innovation. (I)

These improvement objectives may relate to improving the quality of life of our citizens (**outcome improvements**) and/or **service improvements** that will help bring about the delivery of more effective, quality and customer focussed services.

An overview of these objectives and the work we will be undertaking in 2025/26 is set out in paragraphs 3.1 – 3.3 below, under the headings of:

## 2025/26 Directorate Improvement Objectives (Outcome Improvement Objective, and Other Service Improvement Objectives)

## Mainstreaming the Equality and Disability Duties, Rural Needs and Climate Change

Details of how we will deliver these commitments and monitor and measure progress/success are set out in paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5.

## **3.1 2025/26 Directorate Improvement Objectives**

An overview of the outcome and/or service improvement objectives and how they relate to the Community/Corporate Plan is set out in the table below.

\*\* Enter SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I, as appropriate

**Green Infrastructure**

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| **Community/Corporate Plan Objective** | **Directorate Outcome / Improvement Objective / Service Objective 2025/6** | **Link to Improvement Criteria \*\*** |
| Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live in sustainably protecting the environment | Complete the Acorn Farm £6.2m project | S,E |
| Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live in sustainably protecting the environment | Develop a GI Regeneration Masterplan for Top of the Hill | S,E,F |
| Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live in sustainably protecting the environment | Secure one number environmental Award for the Service | S, SQ, E |
| Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live in sustainably protecting the environment | Obtain a green flag award and a green heritage accreditation for Brooke Park | S, SQ |
| Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live in sustainably protecting the environment | Continue to facilitate the Derry & Strabane Sustainability & Climate Commission and associated action plans |  |
| Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live in sustainably protecting the environment | Deliver DCSDC Climate Change Strategy & Associated Action Plans (Adaptation & Mitigation, Responsible Procurement & Climate Screening) |  |
| Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live in sustainably protecting the environment | Review and Update City & District Green Infrastructure Plan |  |
| Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live in sustainably protecting the environment | Implement Invasive Species Management Plan |  |
| Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live in sustainably protecting the environment | Deliver All Ireland Pollinator Plan initiatives |  |

**Regeneration**

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| **Community/Corporate Plan Objective** | **Directorate Outcome / Improvement Objective / Service Objective 2025/6** | | **Link to Improvement Criteria \*\*** | |
| **RG1 -** Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment | | Develop heritage/conservation-led masterplans and other urban design frameworks eg District Heritage Plan; Newtownstewart Town Centre Regeneration Framework; Sion Mills Regeneration Masterplan; Strabane Grammar School Masterplan; Gransha Lands Masterplan etc | | SE, S | |
| **RG2 -** Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment | | Protect & promote our natural and built heritage assets | | SE, SQ, S, E, I | |
| **RG3** - Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment | | Progress the development of regionally/district-wide significant regeneration sites eg, Boom Hall, Walled City, Strabane Canal Basin/Town Centre | | SE, S, | |
| **RG4** - Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment | | Deliver area-based City/Town/Village centre regeneration projects including Revitalisation shopfront improvements; rural settlement commercial façade upgrades; streetscape environmental improvement schemes; public realm audits; retail/commercial vacancy audits | | SE, SQ, S, E | |
| **RG5** - Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment | | Continued coordination with urban and rural initiatives in the delivery of actions identified for the area working in partnership with key stakeholders | | SE, S, F | |

**Planning**

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| **Community/Corporate Plan Objective** | **Directorate Outcome / Improvement Objective / Service Objective 2025/26** | **Link to Improvement Criteria \*\*** |
| Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment | To meet the average processing times of local development management planning applications to meet Statutory KPI target of 15 weeks. Current processing time YTD 24/25 21.2 weeks.to meet target | SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I |
| Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment | To improve the average processing times of major planning applications to meet target in line with Statutory KPI target of 30 weeks. Current processing time YTD 24/25 is 55 weeks. | SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I |
| Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment | To reduce the number of ongoing major planning applications that exceed 12 months plus by 10%. | SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I |
| Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment | To reduce the number of planning applications not concluded within 12 months. Current YTD 24/25 statistic is 30.4% | SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I |
| Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment | To meet the Statutory KPI target of 70% of Enforcement Case closures within 39 weeks. Current processing time for 24/25 is 83% | SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I |
| Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment | To reduce the number of ongoing Enforcement Cases that exceed 24 months by 10%. Qtr. 3 2024/25 YTD statistic is 42.2% | SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I |
| Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment | To Adopt the LDP Plan Strategy (PS), following approval of the Council, in Q1 of year 2025-2026 | SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I |
| Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment | To formally commence LDP Local Policies Plan (LPP) and significantly progress LPP tasks, and do Monitoring | SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I |
| Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment | Manage Tree Preservation system & Conservation Areas | SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I |
| Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment | Implementation of current Planning Service Review | SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I |
| Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably, protecting and enhancing the environment | Implement & review Process for Quality of Submissions. | SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E, I |

**Environment & Building Control**

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| **Community/Corporate Plan Objective** | **Directorate Outcome / Improvement Objective / Service Objective 2024/25** | | **Link to Improvement Criteria \*\*** |
| EB1 | Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment | Increase the volume of waste recycled and composted further reducing the volumes of waste to landfill and increasing recycling rates. | SE, S, E |
| EB2 | Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment | Achieve one number environmental award and prepare the city and district | S, SQ, E |
| EB3 | Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment | Engage with communities to improve their local environments through community clean ups, litter picks, graffit removal | SQ, SA, S |
| EB4 | Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment | Continue with marketing and promotion of environment services, highlighting campaigns to encouarge positive behavioural change. | S, E, SQ |
| EB5 | Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment | Ensure that all Building Control applications are processing in accordance with performance standards providing high levels of customer service. | SE, SQ, SA, F, E |
| EB6 | Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment | Take forward a number of invest to save energy schemes reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions. | SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E |
| EB7 | Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment | Ensure that all Council properties and facilities remain in continuous compliance with statutory requirements and Councils 45001 Occupational Health and Safety System | SQ, E |
| EB8 | Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment | Ensure that Councils Property and Fleet services provide effective and efficient services to end users providing high levels of customer service | SE, SQ, SA, F, S, E |

## **3.2 Outcome Improvement Objective**

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| **Improvement Objective 2** | **To create a greener, cleaner more attractive district**  Sub Objectives   * To protect and promote our natural and built assets * To protect and enhance our environment |

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| **Lead Officer** | Director of Environment and Regeneration |

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| **Why we have selected this Improvement Objective and he supporting Objectives** |
| This improvement objective relates directly to the Strategic Growth Plan objective that we live sustainably – protecting the environment, under the theme of Physical and Environmental Regeneration. This was a key theme that emerged during the significant engagement process carried out as part of the development of the Strategic Growth Plan. The improvement objective will allow us to pull together the actions that will demonstrate that we are protecting and enhancing our local environment and the partnership approach that we have taken to maximise effect. |

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| **What benefits citizens will see: Target Outcomes for 2024/25** |
| * An enhanced public realm and built environment * Provision of additional greenways for active travel and modal shift * A reduction in the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill * An increase in the percentage of household waste recycled and composted |

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| **What actions are we taking to make a difference in 2024-25 2024/25** |
| * We will continue to implement the Green Infrastructure Action Plan * We will continue to implement the Council Pollinator Plan * We will progress delivery of regeneration plans * We will progress the development of a new strategic West Bank cemetery for Derry City * We will progress the construction of new greenways * We will progress the construction of new play areas * We will progress the construction of Acorn Farm * We will begin to implement the Regional Energy Strategy * We will begin to implement the Climate Adaptation Plan * We will improve average processing time Council received Major/Strategic planning applications and local applications * We will progress the implementation of the planning service review |

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| **How we will measure progress** | **2024/25 Target** |
| Total number of applications processed by Building Control | Demand Led |
| Percentage of household waste arisings sent for preparing for reuse and recycling (including composting) | 51% |
| Biodegradable local authority collected municipal waste sent to landfill – (tonnes) - reduce | 4,216 |
| Total amount of local authority collected waste which has been collected by a district council | 62,898 |
| Average processing time for local planning applications | 15 weeks |
| Average processing time for Council received Major/Strategic planning applications | 30 weeks |
| Percentage of enforcement cases processed within 39 weeks | 70% |
| Total number of local and major planning applications received | Demand led |

## **3.3 Mainstreaming the Equality and Disability Duties, Rural Need, and Climate Change**

### The Directorate is committed to embedding children’s rights by deliberately and systematically using children’s rights in the language it uses, staff training and development and integrating rights thinking into service development and delivery. The Directorate will protect Children’s Rights in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and locally work together with other children’s authorities and children’s services providers, adhering to the Children’s Service Cooperation Act (NI 2015), working together to improve the wellbeing of children and young people in manner that upholds and recognises their rights. The Directorate are actively encouraging the implementation of A Child Rights Based Approach (CRBA) in relation to how the Directorate and Council works with children and young people in future. There are seven principles to a Child Rights based approach with participation of children and young people at the centre of this approach.

The Directorate is committed to mainstreaming equality and its disability duties.

The Directorate is committed to fulfilling its Section 75 and Disability Duties and promoting equality of opportunity and good relations.

The Directorate is committed to ensuring that rural needs are considered and addressed.

The Directorate leads on the development and implementation of Council strategies and policies to tackle climate change.

## **3.4 Improvement Delivery Plan**

In order to deliver our Directorate outcome and/or service improvement objectives we have identified a number of key activities, as set out below. These actions represent part of the work that will be progressed by the Directorate during 2025/26.

**Green Infrastructure**

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| **Ref** | **Directorate Outcome/ Service Improvement Objective** | **Key Activities/Actions/Sub-actions/milestones** | **Target Date** | **Lead Officer** |
| GI1 | Secure Planning Permission for the Clooney Masterplan (Area 1 & 2) | Planning Permission secured x 2 | April 26 | CK |
| GI2 | The Realm –work with Design & Project Management to appoint a design team to progress design development. | ICT appointed | April 26 | CK |
| GI3 | Complete Acorn Farm £5.7m UKLUF Project | Project complete and open to the public | Oct 2025 | CK |
| GI4 | Complete Phase 2 of the Castle Derg Public Realm | Project complete and open to the public | April 26 | CK |
| GI5 | Submit Business Cases to Dfi Active Travel for 3 lighting schemes at Bay Road, Drumahoe and Foyle Valley. | Projects costed and applications lodges | June 25 | CK |
| GI6 | Masterplan Plan for Boomhall complete | Presented to Members for sign off at Committee and shared wider for feedback | Oct 25 | CK |
| GI7 | Creggan Burn Park (Phase 2) completion | Planning Application lodged | December 25 | CK |
| GI8 | Top of The Hill Masterplan | Present to Members for sign off at Committee and shared wider for feedback | March 26 | CK |
| GI9 | Strabane- Sion Greenway | Design Phase 1 up to RIBA 3, identify landowners and engage. | March 26 | CK |
| GI10 | Ballynagard Play Park | Project complete | Sept 25 | CK |
| GI11 | Strabane Urban Park | Issue tender and appoint design specialist to deliver concept design up to RIBA stage 3 | Oct 25 | CK |
| GI12 | Ballyfattan Project | Design & consult on the future use of the old pitch | Oct 25 | CK |
| GI13 | Progress with the design development of 10 play areas | Secure funding internally within Council through the CRG process | March 2026 | CK |
| GI14 | Adria site Play Park handover | Provide supervisory support for play park installation and handover to Council | Dec 25 | CK |
| GI15 | Brooke Park | Condition assessment 10 year celebration | Sept 25 | CK |
| GI16 | St Columbs Park – Car Park Resurface | Project Complete | May 25 | CK |
| GI17 | Brooke Park – Green Flag Award from Keep NI Beautiful | Secure Award | August  2025 | CK |
| GI18 | Appoint GI H&S and Compliance Officer | Officer in Post to look after GI H&S inclusive of Creggan Reservoir | Sept 25 | CK |
| GI19 | Bronze award from Sustainable Food places | Retention of Bronze Award | March 26 | CK |
| GI20 | Play Area Repair Programme for play areas | Complete works | March 2026 | CK |
| GI21 | Faughan View and Faughan Crescent Play Area removal and concept plans | Complete works and engagement | June 2025  & March 2026 | CK |
| GI22 | Revisit and modify community engagement and animation plan for Riverine Project | Agree revised plan with SEUPB | March 2026 | CK |
| GI23 | Develop an education programme for primary schools in Acorn Farm | Aim to engage with 30 schools throughout the city and district | March 2026 | CK |
| GI24 | Complete & Implement Climate Change Strategy | Draft document developed and subject to committee approval | June 25 | CK |
| GI25 | Complete & Implement Climate Mitigation Plan | Draft document developed and subject to committee approval | June 25 | CK |
| GI26 | Complete & Implement Climate Adaptation Plan | Current plan to be reviewed, updated and subject to committee approval | July 25 | CK |
| GI27 | Complete Responsible Procurement Strategy | Draft document developed and subject to committee approval | June 25 | CK |
| GI28 | Finalise Sustainability & Climate Commission Delivery Framework & Continue to facilitate governance and programme | Draft document produced  Commission Governance arrangements to be agreed  Officer in post | June 25 | CK |
| GI29 | Review & Update Invasive Special Management Plan | Review of plan underway | June 25 | CK |
| GI30 | Review and Update City & District Green Infrastructure Plan & Renew Stakeholder Group | Review document & liaise with stakeholders | Sept 25 | CK |
| GI31 | Implement All Ireland Pollinator Plan initiatives | Review current programme and update | June 25 | CK |

**Regeneration**

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| **Ref** | **Directorate Outcome/ Service Improvement Objective** | **Key Activities/Actions/Sub-actions/milestones** | **Target Date** | **Lead Officer** |
| **RG1** | Complete design & procurement phase (I) for historic cemeteries heritage-led restoration project | Initiate tender process for design team; prepare & issue tender documentation for capital phase (II) | March 2026 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG2** | Complete design & procurement phase (I) for war memorials conservation-led maintenance project and initiate community heritage animation programme | Initiate tender process for design team; prepare & issue tender documentation for capital phase (II); appoint service-provider to design & deliver community heritage animation programme | March 2026 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG3** | Secure funding to deliver design phase for derry city centre visitor/pedestrian way-funding project | Submit funding application; secure letter of offer; prepare & issue tender documentation for design team; appoint design team | March 2026 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG4** | Provide technical input to assist the delivery of the former Austins Department Store heritage-led regeneration project | representation on project delivery steering group; provide technical advice/input as required | March 2026 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG5** | Commission and complete a car parking capacity study for newtownstewart town centre | Confirm budget source; prepare & issue tender documentation; appoint consultancy team; stakeholder engagement | December 2025 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG6** | Scope the feasibility for the delivery of a streetscape environmental improvement scheme for Foyle Street | Scope & secure external funding sources; develop designs; establish multi-agency project steering group; stakeholder engagement | March 2026 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG7** | Complete the regeneration masterplan for the former Strabane Grammar School & consider site purchase options: | Confirm final agreed design concept; coordinate multi-partner stakeholder group; commission valuations; engagement with owner; present options to Council for consideration | October 2025 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG8** | Coordinate phase I design of the City Deals-funded Walled City Public Realm Scheme | Establish project governance arrangements (project board/project steering group); commission external consultants to prepare Phase I designs; stakeholder engagement; consider design options | March 2026 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG9** | Coordinate phase I design of the City Deals-funded Walled City feature lighting scheme | Establish project governance arrangements (project board/project steering group); commission external consultants to prepare Phase I designs; stakeholder engagement; consider design options | March 2026 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG10** | Coordinate phase I design of the City Deals-funded Strabane Town Centre Regeneration public realm & enabling works element: | Establish project governance arrangements (project board/project steering group); commission external consultants to prepare Phase I designs; stakeholder engagement; consider design options | March 2026 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG11** | Progress the design & delivery of the AHF-funded Walled City Heritage Development Trust Programme with lead partner Inner City Trust: | Representation on project delivery steering group; attend scheduled meetings; provide technical advice/input; progress project feasibility /technical scoping studies; stakeholder engagement | March 2026 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG12** | Support the Delivery Phase of the DfC-funded Strabane Public Realm Scheme: | Representation on project board; engagement with local stakeholders; convene/prepare information updates to local stakeholders | March 2026 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG13** | Manage & Coordinate the Following Council-led Task Forces (a) Austins Department Store (b) Glenowen Estate (c) Fountain Dereliction | Coordinate & organise meetings; coordinate and assign follow-up actions; engage with statutory and local stakeholders | March 2026 | Tony  Monaghan |
| **RG14** | Identify and scope actions arising from the Inner Waterside Public Realm Plan: | Completion of public realm plan; scope feasibility/funding options; engage with stakeholders; identify external funding sources | March 2026 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG15** | Scope and identify external funding sources to support Phase I design for the City Walls Cannon & Carriages Conservation Programme | Liaison with funders; preparation/submission of funding applications; commissioning of phase I design | March 2026 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG16** | Coordinate and support the delivery of the Newtownstewart Town Centre Regeneration Framework | Establish DCSDC/statutory agency delivery group; Coordinate local stakeholder group; Schedule meetings; Scope external funding opportunities to support delivery | March 2026 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG17** | Coordinate the District Built Heritage Stakeholder Group as a key output of the DCSDC Heritage Plan 2022-27 | Convene stakeholders quarterly as a key network and communications forum; identification of actions and follow-up with relevant partners | March 2026 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG18** | Design and deliver identified environmental improvements in Newtownstewart Town Centre (a) Newtownstewart Castle Lighting Scheme (b) Conservation Area Welcome Signs (c) Interpretative Panel (d) Highway Visitor Directional Signage (Brown Signs) on A5: | Secure funding; project design; stakeholder engagement; procurement of technical teams; stakeholder/statutory agency engagement | March 2026 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG19** | Coordinate & advance key corporate land & property transactions/disposals (i) Purchase of freehold title at former Visit Derry site (ii) Sale of Castlederg Cemetery House (iii) Lisahally Mart (iv) lease of Letterkenny Rd lands (Destined) | Engage with LPS & relevant statutory agencies; liaison with DCSDC solicitors and interested parties | March 2026 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG20** | Identify relevant funding sources to support the commissioning a conservation-led condition assessment and feasibility study for Former City Cemetery Mortuary Building | Secure/confirm funding source; procure conservation-led team to prepare commission; assess findings & next steps | March 2026 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG21** | Secure funding to support phase I design stage for a facade painting scheme in Derry’s Cathedral Quarter | Secure external funding; issue tender documentation for design team; complete specification of works & costs; engage with funder for Phase II capital element | December 2025 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG22** | Coordinate a technical stakeholder group to consider the future masterplanning/development of surplus lands on the Gransha Hospital estate | Convene meetings; engagement with relevant stakeholders; consideration of potential options | March 2026 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG23** | Complete design options for physically interpreting the missing city walls bastions within the city centre public realm | Complete design analysis; consider options; stakeholder engagement; scope funding options/sources for Phase II capital implementation | October 2025 | Tony Monaghan |
| **RG24** | Scope & identify funding options to assist in the delivery of the Derry City Centre Pedestrian/Visitor Way-Finding Strategy & Toolkit | Engagement with external funders; preparation/submission of funding applications | March 2026 | Tony Monaghan |

**Planning**

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| **Ref** | **Directorate Outcome/ Service Improvement Objective** | **Key Activities/Actions/Sub-actions/milestones** | **Target Date** | **Lead Officer** |
| **1** | To maintain the average processing times of local development management planning applications to meet Statutory KPI target of 15 weeks. Current processing time for YTD 2024/2025 21.2 weeks | Staff performance reports will be completed and reviewed on a weekly basis.  Staff Group Meetings to be held monthly with PPTO.  Management will review and manage staff caseloads. | March 2026 | Suzanne McCracken |
| **2** | To improve the average processing times of major planning applications by 10% in line with Statutory KPI target of 30 weeks. Current processing time for YTD 2024/25 is 55 weeks. | Weekly staff performance reports to be reviewed.  Staff will engage in monthly Group Staff Meetings with PPTO.  Management will review and manage staff caseloads with a focus on major applications 12 months plus. | March 2026 | Suzanne McCracken |
| **3** | To reduce the number of ongoing major planning applications that exceed 12 months plus by 10%. | Key timelines will be identified and managed to reduce processing times for major planning applications.  Focused review on managing staff caseloads that exceed 12 months. | March 2026 | Suzanne McCracken |
| **4** | To reduce the number of planning applications not concluded within 12 months. Qtr. 3 2024/25 YTD statistic is 37.2% | Planning applications exceeding 12 months will be identified and key timelines agreed.  Individual staff caseloads will be reviewed and managed. | March 2026 | Suzanne McCracken |
| **5** | To meet the Statutory KPI target of 70% of Enforcement Case closures within 39 weeks. Current processing time 2024/2025 YTD is 83 % | Staff will complete weekly performance reports.  Staff will continue to engage in monthly Group Meetings with PPTO.  Individual staff caseloads will be reviewed and monitored. | March 2026 | Suzanne McCracken |
| **6** | To reduce the number of ongoing Enforcement Cases that exceed 24 months by 10%. Qtr. 3 2024/25 YTD statistic is 42.2% | Enforcement Cases exceeding 24 months will be identified and key timelines agreed.  . | March 2026 | Suzanne McCracken |
| **7** | To Adopt the LDP Plan Strategy (PS), following approval of the Council, in Q1 of year 2025-2026 | Consider the consultation responses to 4 appraisals, finalise the reports and report / achieve Cttee & Council approval to Adopt LDP PS.  Complete logistics of PS Adoption, document publication and statutory notifications, etc.  Complete Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) documents, including public consultations.  Build capacity of Members, DM Officers and applicants / agents. Provide initial support to DM to assist implementation of LDP PS policies. | June 2025  June 2025  Sept 2025  Sept 2025 | Suzanne McCracken |
| **8** | To formally commence LDP Local Policies Plan (LPP) and significantly progress LPP tasks, and do Monitoring | Formal commencement of LDP Local Policies Plan – statutory tasks & organise the various inputs  Progress LPP sites identification & mapping – for Housing, Economic Development, Open Space, Heritage, Natural Environment, Transportation and Settlement Appraisals.  Set up & undertake the Monitoring System of Housing, Employment, Environment and other key LDP Indicators.  Review / Revise LDP Timetable & Planning’s Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) | June 2025  March 2026  March 2026  Sept 2025 | Suzanne McCracken |
| **9** | Manage Tree Preservation system & Conservation Areas | Timely management of TPO queries, requests for Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and Tree Works Requests, in line with agree TPO processes (post-NIPSO).  Timely management of Conservation Areas – consultations, meetings and initiatives.  Weekly / Monthly staff Performance Reports to be completed, plus LDP Team Meetings held. | March 2026 | Suzanne McCracken |
| **10** | Implementation of current Planning Service Review | Commence implementation during Q1 of 2025/2026 | March 2026 | Suzanne McCracken |
| **11** | Implement and Review Process for Quality of Submissions | Implement Quality Submission process and review at 6 month. Commence Implementation Q1 of 2025/2026.  Review validation process and targets | March 2026 | Suzanne McCracken |

**Environment & Building Control**

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| **Ref** | **Directorate Outcome/ Service Improvement Objective** | **Key Activities/Actions/Sub-actions/milestones** | | **Target Date** | | **Lead Officer** |
| EB125 | Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment | | Complete a number of energy reduction schemes across the Council estate to include retrofitting of LED lighting within buildings, heating control systems, installation of pool covers and smart motors with HAV systems | March 2026 | Conor Canning | |
| EB225 | Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment | | Draft and prepare for issue a tender with regard to the provision of EV charge points at Council properties across the City and District | March 2026 | Conor Canning | |
| EB325 | Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment | | Achieve at least 1 number environmental award across Streetscape services | March 2026 | Conor Canning | |
| EB425 | Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment | | Engage community organisations in a range of environmental projects to include community clean ups, litter picks etc | March 2026 | Conor Canning | |
| EB525 | Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment | | To respond to and investigate all incidents of indiscriminate dumping taking action as appropriate | March 2026 | Conor Canning | |
| EB625 | Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment | | Ensure that council properties and facilities remain in constant compliance with all statutort requirements and Councisl Occupational Health and Safety System - 45001 | March 2026 | Conor Canning | |
| EB725 | Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment | | Ensure that all Building Control applications are processed in a timely manner ensuring high levels of customer service. | March 2026 | Conor Canning | |
| EB825 | Physical & Environmental Regeneration – we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment | | Ensure that Councils Property and Fleet services provide effective and efficient service to service users ensuring high levels of customer service. | March 2026 | Conor Canning | |

## **3.5 Measures of Success and Performance**

During 2025/26 we will continue our work to establish baseline and benchmarking information in order to promote continuous improvement. The following performance indicators/measures and targets have been identified for 2025/26.

**Planning**

| **Outcome / Service Improvement Objective Reference** | **Performance Measure/Indicator** | **2021/22**  **Performance** | **2022/23**  **Performance** | **2023/24**  **Performance** | **2024/25**  **Performance** | **Target**  **2025/26** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Improve average processing time based on DFI Statutory target of 15 weeks | 15.6 | 21 | 23.4 | YTD 21.2\* | 15 |
|  | Improve average processing time of Major Planning Applications based on DFI Statutory target of 30 weeks | 51.3 | 78 | 68.6 | YTD 55\* | 30 |
|  | Improve conclusion times of enforcement cases by ensuring 70% of cases conclusded in 39 weeks | 77.9 | Not available due to portal migration | 75.0 | YTD 83\* | 70 |
|  | Total number of major and local applications received | 1065 | 802 | 756 | YTD 607\* | N/A |

* Based on most recent DFI statistical information as end of year stats not available until Apr 25.

**Environment & Building Control**

**Environment**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcome / Service Improvement Objective Reference** | **Performance Measure/Indicator** | **2020/21**  **Performance** | **2021/22**  **Performance** | **2022/23**  **Performance** | **2023/24**  **Performance** | **2024/25**  **Performance** |

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| **Building Control** | | | | | | |
| **BC1** | **Total number of applications processed by Building Control** | **3439** | **4195** | **4196** | **3897** | **3136** |
| **Energy** | | | | | | |
| EN1 | Energy Consumption (Kwhrs)  Energy Consumption (Value) | 19,000,000  N/A\*\*\* | 15,896,210  £972,610 | 18,828,343  £1,175,053 | 17,616,142 \*  £1,934,145\* | 17,522,00\*\*  £2,2m\*\* |
| **Waste** | | | | | | |
| ES 1 | Percentage of household waste arisings sent for preparing for reuse an recycling (including composting) | 46.1 | 46.9 | 46 | 48.2 | 51%\* |
| ES 2 | Biodegradable local authority collected municipal waste sent to landfill (tonnes) - reduce | 4,802 | 5,347 | 5,310 | 4,076 | 4,216\* |
| ES 3 | Total amount of local authority collected waste which has been collected by a district council | 83,989 | 83,540 | 79,114 | 8,027 | 62,898\* |

\* Q4 data not yet available \*\* Subject to verification

# **Section Four: Risk Management**

## **4.1 Risk Register**

## A summary of the Directorate’s Risk Register has been attached as Appendix 3.

# **Section Five – Contact Details**

## **5.1 Staff Contacts**

**Senior Management**

Karen Phillips, Director of Environment & Regeneration. Email: [karen.phillips@derrystrabane.com](mailto:karen.phillips@derrystrabane.com) Tel No. 028 71 253253.

Conor Canning, Head of Environment. Email: [conor.canning@derrystrabane.com](mailto:conor.canning@derrystrabane.com) Tel No. 028 71 253253.

Suzanne McCracken, Head of Planning. Email: [suzanne.mccracken@derrystrabane.com](mailto:suzanne.mccracken@derrystrabane.com) Tel No. 028 71 376580.

**Environment Section**

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Barney Robinson, Compliance Manager. Email [barney.robinson@derrystrabane.com](mailto:barney.robinson@derrystrabane.com) Tel 028 71 253 253

Niall Mc Laughlin, Refuse and Fleet Manager. Email [niall.mclaughlin@derrystrabane.com](mailto:niall.mclaughlin@derrystrabane.com) Tel 028 71 253 253

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Damian McMurray, Principal Building Control Officer.  Email: [damian.mcmurray@derrystrabane.com](mailto:damian.mcmurray@derrystrabane.com) Tel No. 028 71253253.

George Meenan, Principal Building Control Officer.  Email: [george.meenan@derrystrabane.com](mailto:george.meenan@derrystrabane.com) Tel No. 028 71253253.

Graham McCormick, Postal Numbering, Street Naming & Bus Shelters Manager. Email: [graham.mccormick@derrystrabane.com](mailto:graham.mccormick@derrystrabane.com) Tel No. 028 71253253.

**Planning**

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Proinsias McCaughey, Development Plan Principal Planning Officer. Email: [Proinsias.mccaughey@derrystrabane.com](mailto:Proinsias.mccaughey@derrystrabane.com). Tel No. 028 71 253253

Rosemarie McMenamin Local Development Management Principal Planning Officer. Email: [rosemarie.mcmenemin@derrystrabane.com](mailto:rosemarie.mcmenemin@derrystrabane.com)

**Regeneration**

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Shona McClenaghan – Regeneration Project Officer – [shona.mcclenaghan@derrystrabane.com](mailto:shona.mcclenaghan@derrystrabane.com) – 02871 253253

Jennifer Coyle – Regeneration Project Officer – [Jennifer.coyle@derrystrabane.com](mailto:Jennifer.coyle@derrystrabane.com) – 02871 253253

Anne Carlin – Regeneration Project Officer – [anne.carlin@derrystrabane.com](mailto:anne.carlin@derrystrabane.com) – 028 71253253

**Parks and Green Infrastructure**

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Cathy Burns, Green Infrastructure Team Lead – Climate & Biodiversity . Email [cathy.burns@derrystrabane.com](mailto:cathy.burns@derrystrabane.com) Tel No 02871 253253

Maura Fitzpatrick – Green Infrastructure Team Lead - Regeneration – [maura.fitzpatrick@derrystrabane.com](mailto:maura.fitzpatrick@derrystrabane.com) – 02871 253253

## **5.2 Facilities / Office Details**

Level 4 Strand Road Council Offices – Tel: 028 71253253.

Skeoge Depot – Tel: 028 71374107

Strahans Road – Tel: 028 71374107