



24th February 2020

Mr. Proinsias McCaughey,
Principal Planning Officer,
Development Planning,
Derry City & Strabane District Council,
98 Strand Road,
Derry,
Northern Ireland.
BT48 7NN

Dear Proinsias,

**Re: Derry City & Strabane District Council Draft Local Development
Plan Strategy**

Strategic Approach

Donegal County Council (DCC) welcomes the continued engagement between both of our Authorities in the preparation of the Draft Local Development Plan Strategy (DLDPS).

DCC particularly welcomes the strategic outlook contained in the DLDPS, and the identification of the need for a comprehensive understanding of the physical, social and environmental systems that are transboundary in nature and that influence growth in the North-West region. DCC also acknowledges the continued recognition of the North-West City Region concept, and its underpinning by the establishment of the North-West Strategic Growth Partnership [the NWSGP], as an effective strategic approach to the management of these transboundary issues of mutual interest. The various commitments throughout the document to continued support for this strategy (for example at Sections 2.57, 4.4(b)(vii) and 5.15) is also acknowledged.

A critical objective of the NWSGP strategy is to secure delivery of strategic transport infrastructure projects of critical importance to the effective and sustainable movement of people in the North-West. DCC acknowledges the continued support in the document for these projects, including the A5 upgrade.

Detailed Comments

With reference to the analysis of the housing sector at Section 2.13-2.17, it would be useful to acknowledge that Derry City has an influence on the housing sector/market that extends into County Donegal, and that this would

merit assessment on a collaborative basis where the impact of demand and supply trends can be assessed to inform effective policy responses in both jurisdictions.

As noted above, there are various references throughout the document to key transport corridors. It may be useful to incorporate data on the nature and volume of cross-border traffic?

The schedule of Evidence Base paper listed in Section 2.38 could perhaps also reference regional and cross-border linkages at the 6th bullet where dealing with 'transport networks'.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Donegal County Council welcomes the important milestone of publication of the Draft Local Development Strategy, and looks forward to continued engagement around the City-region concept.

Yours sincerely,



Eunan Quinn,
Senior Planner,
Planning,
Directorate of Community Development and Planning Services.