

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

## **SA Non-Technical Summary (NTS)**

**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**

## Table of Contents

1.	Purpose and Context of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.....	1
2.	The Derry City and Strabane District Council Local Development Plan .....	1
3.	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping .....	3
	Characteristics of the Area .....	4
	What Might Happen Without the Local Development Plan .....	7
	Sustainability Objectives.....	7
4.	Appraisal of Preferred Options Paper.....	8
	The Appraisal of Strategic Alternatives .....	8
5.	Appraisal of Draft Plan Strategy .....	8
	Assessment of Alternative Options .....	8
	Limitations and Assumptions .....	17
	Habitats Regulations Assessment.....	17
6.	Outcome of Appraisal and Next Stages .....	17
	Outcome of Appraisal.....	17
	How has the SA influenced Plan Making .....	18
	Next Steps .....	19
	Monitoring .....	19

## List of Abbreviations

ACMD	Area(s) of Constraint on Minerals Development
GI Plan	Green Infrastructure Plan 2019-2032
LDP	Local Development Plan
LPP	Local Policies Plan
NI	Northern Ireland
POP	Preferred Options Paper
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
RDS	Regional Development Strategy (2035)
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems

## 1. Purpose and Context of the Sustainability Appraisal Report

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a statutory process incorporating the requirements of the European Union’s Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (the SEA Directive’). It provides the process for assessing potential effects of proposed plans or programmes, to ensure that potential significant environmental impacts are considered from the earliest opportunity and addressed in decision-making.

The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal Report is to:

- Identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the Local Development Plan (LDP) and its reasonable alternatives; and
- Provide an early and effective opportunity for statutory consultees, interested parties and the public to offer views on any aspect of the SA process which has been carried out to date.

The SA process aims to ensure that the policies and proposals in the LDP are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. It is presented in two main reports, the SA Scoping Report and the SA Report.

The first stage of the SA process is the SA Scoping Report. The SA Scoping Report identifies and describes relevant aspects of the current state of the environment in the Council area. It also identifies key sustainability issues for the District. The SA Scoping Report then establishes and describes the sustainability framework against which the plan is assessed and sets out the proposed approach to the appraisal of the LDP.

The Sustainability Appraisal Report contains:

- Section 1: An introduction to the SA process, the LDP and the Plan Area;
- Section 2: The relationship of the LDP with other plans, programmes and strategies and overview of the SA Framework;
- Section 3: Summary of the appraisal of options for the draft Plan Strategy, significant effects identified and account of how the SA influenced plan making;
- Section 4: Review of the cumulative impact of the draft Plan Strategy for the sustainability objectives;
- Section 5: A description of the measures envisaged to monitor delivery of a sustainable LDP.
- Appendices presenting detail in support of the sections above.

## 2. The Derry City and Strabane District Council Local Development Plan

The Local Development Plan is a spatial land use Plan which primarily is about place. It will guide future development and use of land in Derry City and Strabane District Council’s City, main town and local towns, villages, small settlements and rural areas by addressing the spatial implications of social, economic and environmental change.

The purpose of the LDP is to inform the public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested parties of how the District should develop in the years ahead. It will balance competing demands and aim to ensure that appropriate development occurs in the right place, at the right time. The policies and proposals of the LDP will be used to determine planning applications. A good LDP will lead to decisions that are consistent. This allows people to know what to expect in terms of change, and the locations where development will be encouraged.

The LDP comprises of two development plan documents:

- The Plan Strategy; and
- The Local Policies Plan.

The Plan Strategy is the second stage of the LDP, after the POP. It sets out how the Council considers the District will grow and develop up to 2032. It contains the following:

- The Plan Vision for Derry City and Strabane District Council;
- A set of strategic objectives to deliver the Plan Vision based upon the theme of sustainable development and interlinked with the District’s Community Plan – ‘the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan’ 2017-2032 Outcomes;
- The overall strategy setting out the approach to development across the District, indicating at a strategic level where growth will occur up to 2032 and setting out the spatial designations;
- Detailed operational policies which supplement the strategies, that will guide decisions in the development management process; and
- A series of Technical Supplements, which include details of how the Council intends to monitor the Objectives of the Plan to ensure the Council is delivering what it set out to achieve.

The Local Policies Plan forms the second stage of the plan making process. The Local Policies Plan will provide site specific policies and proposals, including settlement limits, land use zonings and environmental designations. The Local Policies Plan will not be brought forward until the Plan Strategy has been adopted.

In addition to the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, the Council may publish other documents such as planning guidance, advice notes and information to assist developers and applicants in the planning process.

The LDP must also take account of the regional policy context set by the NI Executive and central government Departments. The following regional or local strategies and plans are overarching and form a backdrop to the Local Development Plan. These were also considered in the preparation of the Sustainability Appraisal.

- The Sustainable Development Strategy
- Regional Development Strategy 2035
- Ireland 2040 - National Planning Framework
- Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future: A New Approach to Regional Transport
- Strategic Planning Policy Statement
- Planning Policy Statements
- A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (1993)
- Sustainable Water - A Long Term Water Strategy for NI (DfI 2015-40)
- UK Marine Policy Statement (2011)
- Draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland (2018)
- Other Strategies and Plans
  - Living Places - An Urban Stewardship and Design Guide (2014). It aims to clearly establish the key principles behind good place making;
  - The NI Waste Management Strategy “Delivering Resource Efficiency” (October 2013);
  - Building on Tradition - A Sustainable Design Guide for the NI Countryside (2012). The guide promotes quality and sustainable building design in the countryside;
  - Lifetime Opportunities - Government’s Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for Northern Ireland (November 2006);
  - Creating Places (2000) provides guidance to improve design, character and layout of new housing developments;
  - EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020; Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy 2020 (currently under review) and Council’s Local Biodiversity Action Plans.
  - Thinking Rural - The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing (March 2011);
  - Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment (1999);
  - Wind Energy Development in NI Landscapes (2010)

- Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (2019);
- Northern Ireland Regional Seascape Character Assessment 2014;
- Regional Transportation Strategy for NI (2002-2012);
- Changing Gear - A Bicycle Strategy for NI (2015);
- Exercise - Explore - Enjoy - A Strategic Plan for NI Greenways (2016)
- (draft) Ireland National Marine Planning Framework (2019)

LDP links with other Council Plans / Strategies, other Masterplans and Guidance Documents include:

- The Council's Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032 - Our Community Plan;
- The Council's Green Infrastructure Plan (GI Plan);
- North West Greenways Plan;
- The Council's Tourism Strategy 2018 - 2025;
- The One Plan (Derry City);
- Strabane Masterplan (Strabane Town);
- Foyle Valley Gateway Masterplan (draft published 2012);
- Strategic Riverside Masterplan (draft published 2011);
- Ebrington Development Framework (approved 2016);
- Fort George Development Framework (approved 2015);
- Designation Booklets, Baseline Audits and Design Guides for our five Conservation Areas.

Other linkages that were explored include those between LDP and the inclusive Strategic Growth Plan for Derry City and Strabane District 2017-2032, the Draft Programme for Government (PfG) and the Proposed Derry City Deal 2019.

The emerging and published LDPs of neighbouring Councils Fermanagh and Omagh District, Council, Mid Ulster District Council and Causeway Coast and Glens Borough in NI and Donegal County Council in ROI are also a key consideration.

A wide range of other plans, programmes, policies and strategies were also reviewed in the Sustainability Appraisal. These are documented in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

Derry City and Strabane District Council shares a land or water boundary with four neighbouring Councils, Fermanagh and Omagh District, Council, Mid Ulster District Council and Causeway Coast and Glens Borough in NI and Donegal County Council in the Republic of Ireland.

Derry City and Strabane District Council also shares a border with the marine area through its coastline, and is linked to it by its watercourses and river systems. Effects on the marine area must also be a consideration in developing the LDP.

In order for cross-boundary issues to be effectively addressed, Derry City and Strabane District Council will continue to coordinate with these neighbouring Councils and DAERA throughout the LDP process to address cross-cutting issues and identify how these can be best taken forward as part of the plan process. This is particularly important in relation to the delivery of key elements of the Regional Development Strategy and the Ireland 2014 National Planning Framework, to ensure a holistic approach to strategic matters is pursued and for policies in neighbouring Council areas to be aligned with each other. DCSDC has also considered and fed-into the Northern and Western Regional Assembly Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

### 3. Sustainability Appraisal Scoping

The SA Scoping Report was published for consultation in May 2017 alongside the Preferred Options Paper (POP). The information presented in the SA Scoping Report for the draft Plan Strategy has been updated to reflect the current evidence and also to take account of the representations received in the previous consultation.

## Characteristics of the Area

The social, economic and environmental features of the Plan area have been presented across 14 topics. For each topic the international, national, regional and strategic context is presented. This is followed by baseline information which presents the most up to date evidence for each topic. An assessment of what might happen if a new LDP is not brought forward is included. Finally, Key Sustainability Issues for the District are presented for each topic, some examples of which are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1. Examples of Key Sustainability Issues**

Topic	Examples of Key Sustainability Issues
<b>Health and Well-being</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Community (strengthen society)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ All new housing should aim to provide life time homes that are accessible and adaptable to all and meet modern standards.</li> <li>▪ 15 SOA's predominantly clustered around Derry City are within the top quintile for living deprivation in Northern Ireland.</li> <li>▪ Affordable housing is required for a variety of housing types and sizes.</li> </ul>
<b>Education and Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ Sharing facilities has been recognised as a way of promoting a more cohesive and tolerant society and assist a better use</li> </ul>

	<p>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.</p>
<b>Economy and Employment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There is no active landfill capacity within the Council.</li> <li>▪ The existing location of material assets should be a consideration when planning new developments to help ensure sustainable land management.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ There is an identified need for a new public Cemetery in the District.</li> </ul>
<b>Physical Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Existing mineral sites and reserves should be safeguarded from alternative uses and/or developments that may impede their accessibility.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ The compatibility of adjacent land uses is important to ensure the most sustainable land use management.</li> </ul>
<b>Transport and Accessibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ 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 &amp; rides, carpooling, taxi schemes).</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> </ul>

<b>Air</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There are four active Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within the District Council area and all four are for nitrogen dioxide from transport sources.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ Spatial planning should help to avoid development affecting 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.</li> <li>▪ 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 Green Infrastructure including SuDS.</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ 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 Water Framework Directive.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ The larger WWTWs generally have good capacity although there are constraints at some. There are significant constraints on WWTW provision for small settlements.</li> </ul>
<b>Natural Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Existing green spaces need to be connected together and protected from other types of development.</li> <li>▪ New developments and regeneration sites should include attractive design settings using functional green spaces that encourage people to reside.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Sperrin Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is the largest AONB in the country and is shared with other</li> </ul>

	<p>Councils, which presents opportunities for partnership working.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Protection is required from development that may affect the sense of tranquillity and wildness of areas.</li> <li>▪ Development pressure for airport works, waste management and commercial/industrial facilities exists around the mudflats and floodplains of Lough Foyle.</li> </ul>
<b>Historic Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ Risks are presented by inappropriate development, enhancement or design that does not demonstrate an informed understanding of heritage asset and their settings.</li> <li>▪ The innovative reuse of existing historic building stock should be promoted.</li> </ul>

## What Might Happen Without the Local Development Plan

It is necessary to describe the likely evolution of the baseline without the LDP. An assessment of what might happen if a new LDP is not brought forward is therefore included for each topic. As an overview, there are two current development or area plans that apply to the Borough. The Derry and Strabane Area Plans were adopted before the first version of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) was published in 2001 and also before the publication of any of the Planning Policy Statement (PPS) documents. Accordingly, these older plans are not based upon the principles of sustainable development which underpin the more recent regional direction. The extant plans cannot take account of changes in demography, patterns of employment and lifestyle. None of the current plans take account of the Council's Community Plan, the inclusive Strategic Growth Plan for Derry City and Strabane District 2017-2032.

In the absence of a new Plan, there is a risk that development will not reflect today's needs or support delivery of the Community Plan, the Council's Corporate Plan and other relevant Plans, Policies and Strategies. There may be a higher risk of inappropriate development occurring in parts of the District and opportunities may be missed to deliver more sustainable development and protect, conserve or enhance local sites of particular importance.

## Sustainability Objectives

The Sustainability Objectives for the Council area were developed through the scoping process and form the framework for sustainability appraisal. The rationale for each objective is summarised in Section 6.1 of the Scoping Report.

The Sustainability Objectives are:

1. To improve health and well-being;
2. To strengthen society;
3. To provide good quality, sustainable housing ;
4. To enable access to high quality education;
5. To enable sustainable economic growth;
6. To manage material assets sustainably;
7. To protect physical resources and use sustainably;

8. To encourage active and sustainable travel;
9. To improve air quality;
10. To reduce causes of and adapt to climate change;
11. To protect, manage and use water resources sustainably;
12. To protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity;
13. To maintain and enhance landscape character; and
14. To protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.

## 4. Appraisal of Preferred Options Paper

The first phase of the LDP process took place in May 2017 when the Council published a Preferred Options Paper (POP). The purpose of the POP was to:

- Provide the basis for consulting with the public and stakeholders on a series of options for dealing with the key issues in the Plan area
- Set out the Council's initial proposals and policy direction, aiming to stimulate public comment and help interested parties become involved in a more meaningful way at the earliest stage of Plan preparation.

The POP set out a series of options for dealing with key issues in the plan area, evidence to appraise the different issues and options and the council's preferred option and its justification.

The POP underwent Sustainability Appraisal and a SA Interim Report was published for consultation at the same time as the POP document. The consideration of POP representations has been part of the process of updating the evidence base that informed the draft Plan Strategy. Representations received in relation to the SA Interim Report were also considered in the SA Report published for the draft Plan Strategy.

### The Appraisal of Strategic Alternatives

Several of the strategic options and alternatives for policy were appraised in the SA Interim Report published alongside the POP, which helped to shape the draft Plan Strategy. Therefore, for many of the strategic policies in the draft Plan Strategy, it was not necessary to re-appraise reasonable alternatives. Strategic alternatives that were appraised for the draft Plan Strategy included the overall Growth Strategy and the designation of Green Belt Policy areas.

## 5. Appraisal of Draft Plan Strategy

### Assessment of Alternative Options

The 138 Operation Policies and associated Designations, the 26 Principles and six Objectives that are proposed for delivering the draft Plan Strategy were submitted for appraisal. In many cases, no reasonable alternative was identified for the policy option. This mainly occurred for the following reasons:

- The option is required to uphold the aims of current legislation, regulations, or directives, or
- The option is required to uphold the aims or policy approach of the RDS, SPPS or other regional or local plans or strategies.
- The POP Interim SA identified inclusion of specific policy in LDP as the only realistic option.

Each policy option was assessed against the sustainability framework to ensure consistency in the approach.

A summary of the potential effects of the draft Plan Strategy, presented by SA Objective, is provided in Section 4 of the SA Report and an overview of the total effects of the draft Plan Strategy is presented in Table 2. This also includes 'potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects' which describes how the objectives may support each other, for example providing good quality

housing contributes to health and well-being, and supports other plans such as the Community Plan – ‘the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan’ 2017-2032.

**Table 2. Cumulative Impacts of the Plan**

SA Objective	Effect of draft plan preferred options (total effects)	Potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects
<p><b>Improve health and well-being</b></p>	<p>The provision of new development which promotes accessibility and inclusivity and which incorporates good design and positive place-making, in conjunction with enhanced connectivity through walking and cycling, should help to provide high quality living environments that benefit health and well-being for the whole District.</p> <p>Improving utilities, telecommunications and infrastructure and encouraging investment and economic development whilst protecting the natural environment and human environment will also deliver positive effects on quality of life.</p> <p>The total effect of the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy is <b>significant positive</b>.</p>	<p>The overall strategy for growth in the District would be strengthened by the successful implementation of the proposed City Deal. It aims to bring more jobs to the region and enhance prosperity which can have positive effects on wellbeing. Growth in health and life sciences, precision medicine, medical sciences and the delivery of a new NI Graduate Entry Medical School are all included in the business case of the City Deal.</p> <p>The North West Strategic Growth Partnership promotes regional cooperation and cross border co-ordination of public services such as health and therefore the influence of Community Infrastructure may be regional rather than District level.</p> <p>Where feasible, the alignment of the LDP at LPP with the priorities and potential actions of the Green Infrastructure Plan 2019-32 will help to establish a green infrastructure network of connected green spaces (vegetated areas) and blue spaces (waterways), to provide recreational, health and wellbeing benefits for the public.</p> <p>The cumulative effect of the relevant policies working together, along with the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan - the Community Plan is to strengthen the effect of the <b>significant positive</b> impact.</p>
<p><b>Strengthen society</b></p>	<p>Defining and outlining settlements rather than enabling dispersed development throughout the District helps to give a place a local identity, it creates and identifies a community. Housing growth which is mainly centred on the city and towns enables a wide range of housing options to be delivered and aims to maximise positive outcomes for society. However, by also sustaining population in smaller settlements, local facilities and services are supported and vitality is maintained in villages and rural areas. Quality and well-designed residential developments and accessible environments will help to promote social inclusion.</p> <p>Encouraging economic development at appropriate scales throughout the settlement hierarchy and also facilitating appropriate economic development in the countryside acts positively on this objective by helping to make employment accessible and reducing the factors causing inequalities. Facilitating tourism development can enable opportunities for shared facilities which deliver community benefit.</p>	<p>Housing policies HOU 5 and HOU 25 support sustainable communities by making provision for affordable homes in main settlements and adjacent to or near a village or small settlement and will encourage people from different community and income backgrounds to live together.</p> <p>The LDP can support the aims of the One Plan to grow the local economy, deliver renewal and target regeneration towards the most deprived groups in our communities in Derry. It can also support the delivery of other masterplans which seek to achieve improvements to the public realm, such as the Strabane Town Centre Masterplan</p> <p>The cumulative effect of all of the relevant policies working together, along with the Council’s Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan - the Community Plan is to further strengthen the <b>significant positive</b> impact.</p>

SA Objective	Effect of draft plan preferred options (total effects)	Potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects
	<p>Publicly accessible areas of open space, play areas and sports facilities create shared spaces for community interaction.</p> <p>The total effect of the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy is <b>significant positive</b>.</p>	
<p><b>Provide good quality sustainable housing</b></p>	<p>The policies on homes and accommodation create the conditions for a variety of household types and sizes to be delivered, including a minimum proportion of affordable housing. The provision of high quality, attractive and sustainable homes, accommodation and facilities in settlements which meet the specific and locally-identified needs of the population and that are designed to be adaptable and accessible has a significant positive impact on this objective.</p> <p>Policy on quality in new residential development, creating an accessible environment and accessible housing will help to improve the local design of residential areas and will support the delivery of lifetime homes which will become increasingly important in the context of an ageing population.</p> <p>The total effect of the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy is <b>significant positive</b>.</p>	<p>There are synergies between new job creation associated with economic growth and new housing. One will follow the other.</p> <p>Policy which ensures that residential development makes appropriate provision for connections to green and blue infrastructure and which provides for a movement pattern that supports walking and cycling will have a synergistic effect on health and well-being and strengthen the effect of the positive impact.</p> <p>General development policy which encourages design that is energy efficient and to incorporate renewable and low carbon energy technology unless it is demonstrated that it is not feasible will also help to make new housing more sustainable and may reduce running costs and fuel poverty.</p> <p>The principles of place-making and design help to enhance the quality of housing on a wider basis, by making the District a more attractive place to live.</p> <p>All these aspects will work to strengthen the scale of the <b>significant positive</b> impact.</p>
<p><b>Enable access to high quality education</b></p>	<p>The overall growth and spatial strategy aims to sustain existing education facilities and also provide new opportunities for university and 3<sup>rd</sup> level provision.</p> <p>The strategic design policy for Derry seeks to achieve improved integration and connectivity between the university, college and city centre.</p> <p>While the LDP is not the main mechanism for delivering access to education, many of the policies make a positive contribution to this objective. Effects are largely indirect and delivered through linkages with employment or by improving the locational accessibility to education and skills training providers.</p> <p>The total effect of the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy is <b>negligible</b>.</p>	<p>The facilitation of Economic Development Areas that are attractively located in terms of their accessibility and infrastructure can attract investors which in turn can create demand for skills and enable new provisions to be made in nearby education and skills training facilities.</p> <p>Key aspects of the successful implementation of the City Deal will be investment in and growth of the Ulster University in Derry and the North West Regional College to enhance education, skills and employability levels in the District. There is potential for collaborative strategic work by Higher and Further Education Institutions in the North West including Letterkenny Institute of Technology and Donegal ETB via the North West Strategic Growth Partnership to deliver on skills needs.</p> <p>There are synergies between sustainable economic growth, health, transport and accessibility and a stronger society. These cumulative effects work together to raise the impact on the objective from negligible to <b>minor positive</b>.</p>

SA Objective	Effect of draft plan preferred options (total effects)	Potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects
<p><b>Enable sustainable economic growth</b></p>	<p>Providing the conditions for the creation of a range of job types that are accessible across the District, including to rural areas, has significant positive impacts on enabling sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>The strategic approach of focusing economic development opportunities centres or dedicated employment areas which are attractively located in areas with favourable infrastructure and rapid access to the strategic transport network, including the regional port and airport helps to attract investment and stimulates innovation and competitiveness. Protecting these areas from alternative uses ensures that the best use of location can be made. Facilitating the provision of utilities and infrastructure such as telecommunications and broadband will also support growth, as connectivity is a key aspect of attracting inward investment.</p> <p>Establishing a hierarchy of centres and encouraging people to live in centres supports vitality, vibrancy and growth in city and town centres but also helps to sustain villages and small settlements with appropriate opportunities. Consolidation and concentration of retail helps to attract visitors and generates footfall that benefits the wider area.</p> <p>Safeguarding our natural environment will contribute to economic activity based around tourism, leisure, landscape and recreation.</p> <p>The total effect of the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy is <b>significant positive</b>.</p>	<p>The adoption of a LDP which directs certain types of development to our centres or strategic employment locations which are attractively located in areas with favourable infrastructure and rapid access to the strategic transport network is a key aspect of delivering the RDS. There are significant crossborder interactions between the Letterkenny Derry and Strabane settlement network also identified in the Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework, reflecting Derry's role as a Regional Gateway in the RDS.</p> <p>Key aspects of the successful implementation of the City Deal are increasing competitiveness by investing and growing economic innovation assets whilst tackling major barriers to productivity and growth and the LDP can support these aims.</p> <p>The policies can also help to deliver on the aims and objectives of the Council's Tourism Strategy 2018 - 2025, including the main aim to double visitor spend to £100m by 2025 and enable the headline goal for the strategy - jobs. The LDP can also support the aims of the various Masterplans for individual settlements and assets to enhance their attractiveness.</p> <p>All policies in the draft Plan Strategy work together and cumulatively with wider regional strategies to strengthen the effect of the <b>significant positive</b> impact.</p>
<p><b>Manage material assets sustainably</b></p>	<p>Sustainable economic and housing growth has significant positive impacts through facilitating the location and provision of material assets (e.g. waste management, energy generation, telecommunications, etc.).</p> <p>Encouraging quality and sustainable residential environments in settlements, including the requirement for design-led concept masterplanning for larger residential developments, helps to deliver energy and resource efficiency. However, development in the countryside may have reduced choice in the provision of utilities.</p> <p>Natural heritage policy including landscape designations may slightly constrain some types of energy and renewable infrastructure development, however it should not preclude the delivery of essential assets. The overall impact will be influenced by future needs/targets for renewables.</p> <p>The total effect of the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy is <b>negligible</b>.</p>	<p>The adoption of a LDP which will spatially identify the areas where growth is projected and which manages growth sustainably will help to coordinate the provision of new infrastructure. It will also help to facilitate the delivery of waste facilities which meet the region's needs and contribute to economic and social development, identified through the NW Region Waste Management Plan.</p> <p>Encouraging all new development to adopt energy efficient design and to incorporate renewable and low carbon energy technologies where feasible may help to reduce or avoid the need for larger renewables developments and upgrades to infrastructure.</p> <p>Forward planning and coordination between service providers can help to reduce costs. This would help to strengthen the positive effects and raise the overall impact to <b>minor positive</b>.</p>
<p><b>Protect physical resources and use sustainably</b></p>	<p>Settlement growth will lead to an inevitable consumption of land which has a minor negative impact on the objective. Strategically focusing core growth where existing settlements are already</p>	<p>Strategic and operational policy encourages the reuse of existing buildings and the redevelopment of brownfield sites to reduce the uptake of greenfield land. An Urban</p>

SA Objective	Effect of draft plan preferred options (total effects)	Potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects
	<p>located enables a more efficient use of land and more sustainable patterns of development, however the positive impacts are constrained by the extent of land in the District that is already committed.</p> <p>The LDP will seek to protect areas of intrinsic landscape, amenity, scientific or heritage value (including natural and historic environment) via the establishment of ACMDs. It has also introduced stronger policy on restoration of mineral development sites. While this designation will spatially constrain some types of mineral development, it will also benefit the objective by protecting the semi-natural land resource.</p> <p>Facilitating sustainable minerals development and allowing potential for future extraction of regionally significant mineral deposits will support the objective.</p> <p>Policy to protect natural heritage will strongly benefit physical resources by safeguarding earth science features and protecting natural land and soil resources.</p> <p>The total effect of the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy is <b>mixed / uncertain</b>.</p>	<p>Capacity Study will help to inform the baseline for LPP. Key Site Requirements to support sustainability may be identified on urban capacity sites.</p> <p>Clustering development in the countryside and encouraging the retention of natural boundaries and mature vegetation helps to ensure that land is as efficient as it can be and that the development of greenfield land is kept to minimum levels, reducing uncertainty and helping to mitigate some of the negative effects.</p> <p>Policies which support sustainable minerals extraction can have an indirect positive impact on jobs and economic growth, including through the supply chain and equipment sectors.</p> <p>The strategic allocation and management of housing land in settlements seeks to deliver, where possible, compact urban forms and more sustainable patterns of development however it is acknowledged that the full benefit of this approach may not be able to be delivered until the next plan cycle. While the long term impact remains <b>mixed / uncertain</b> for this LDP cycle, it is hoped that by establishing these policies the establishment of a compact urban form in the settlements is accepted as normal practice during subsequent Plans.</p>
<p><b>Encourage active and sustainable travel</b></p>	<p>Spatial planning which establishes focal points or areas for similar land uses creates the conditions to allow more walking and cycling or public transport routes to be established between residential areas, employment areas and open space areas for leisure/recreation.</p> <p>Directing the majority of housing growth, residential accommodation and new community facilities to main towns and settlements where sustainable transport hubs and routes already exist also acts positively for this objective.</p> <p>General development policy to create an accessible local environment focusing on connectivity and safety and the place-making and design strategy in settlements which also encourages accessibility and connectivity; this strategic approach has a significant positive effect on the objective.</p> <p>The total effect of the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy is <b>significant positive</b>.</p>	<p>The adoption of a LDP which will identify the areas where housing and employment growth is projected helps to inform future Local and Regional Transport Plans / Strategies and enables service providers to plan for the future more effectively.</p> <p>In association with Derry's City Centre Parking Strategy, the establishment of sustainably located Park and Ride sites and associated services will also be an important contribution to the District's integrated transport. Such schemes will seek to persuade car users to change to public transport for the final part of their journey to the city centre thereby reducing the level of congestion and pollution in the centre. They should also contribute to the economic viability of the centre by avoiding the use of land at the centre for car parking which, for economic and environmental reasons, would be better put to other purposes.</p> <p>The draft Plan Strategy can support the GI Plan in its aims for the expansion of greenways to encourage more walking and cycling, active travel and increase modal shift.</p>

SA Objective	Effect of draft plan preferred options (total effects)	Potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects
		<p>This holistic approach to developing active travel networks across the District and integrating with sustainable transport schemes identified through the NW Transport Plan and its associated Local Transport Study could help to stimulate behavioural change to reduce reliance on cars as the preferred mode of transport and further strengthen the <b>significant positive</b> impact.</p>
<p><b>Improve air quality</b></p>	<p>Growth and new development, particularly housing and economic development, is likely to generate emissions and have indirect effects from an increase in associated transport emissions. While baseline conditions contribute to a negligible impact on air quality it is acknowledged that there is a high reliance on cars / private transport in the District and that behavioural change is required to reduce this dependence.</p> <p>Policy for residential and economic development in settlements encourages and supports accessing active and sustainable travel, potentially reducing reliance on the car. It also encourages energy efficiency and creates the best opportunities for accessing lower-emissions heating and power sources.</p> <p>Policy to protect open space and natural heritage will benefit the objective by protecting and maintaining undeveloped areas which can act as a natural buffer and diffuse local air pollution, particularly when trees are evident.</p> <p>The total effect of the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy is <b>negligible</b>.</p>	<p>All policies in the draft Plan Strategy work together to cumulatively reduce the scale of negative impacts and enhance positive impacts. This may lead to positive secondary effects on health and well-being, biodiversity and climate change.</p> <p>The draft Plan Strategy encourages the inclusion of measures in new development which could deliver improvements to air quality - the mainstream adoption of energy efficient design and incorporation of renewable and low carbon energy technologies in new development could make perceptible reductions in emissions from combustion for heat and energy.</p> <p>Behavioural change is required for modal shift in respect of transport, however other measures such as the GI Plan and Derry City Car Parking Strategy will work towards making alternative modes of transport more attractive.</p> <p>These measures should work together to raise the impact from negligible to <b>minor positive</b>.</p>
<p><b>Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change</b></p>	<p>Focusing the majority of housing growth in the top tier settlements and encouraging the reuse of old buildings and incorporation of energy efficiency / renewable measures in new development helps to deliver positive effects. It produces more compact and efficient development and in conjunction with urban design policies increases opportunities for accessing employment and services by active or sustainable travel and reducing reliance on the car.</p> <p>However, the plan also encourages and facilitates development - housing, roads, facilities/services and industry/business - which can increase greenhouse gas emissions and may have negative impacts. These could be avoided or offset through energy efficient design and incorporation of renewable and low carbon energy technologies in development, as required through GDPOL 1.</p> <p>Spatial planning which protects areas that function as buffers and avoids areas of potential risk will aid in the establishment of a multi-purpose green and blue infrastructure network which will help to increase resilience to the effects of climate change. The total effect of the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy is <b>uncertain</b>.</p>	<p>All policies in draft Plan Strategy work together to cumulatively reduce the scale of negative impacts and enhance positive impacts. The holistic approach taken by the draft Plan Strategy in creating accessible environments, encouraging movement patterns of walking and cycling and incorporating ease of access to public transport facilities in the layout of development, where appropriate, could help to stimulate behavioural change to reduce reliance on cars as the preferred mode of transport.</p> <p>Many of the policies within the draft Plan Strategy will aid in the delivery of the key actions to address climate change in the Green Infrastructure Plan. These include riparian buffers, parks and open spaces, urban tree planting and green corridors.</p> <p>The requirement for SuDS as the preferred method of drainage will also contribute to development that is more sustainable and resilient. This proactive approach to SuDS may encourage developers to include ‘soft’</p>

SA Objective	Effect of draft plan preferred options (total effects)	Potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects
		<p>SuDS as well as ‘hard’ SuDS in the design of new development. Should this practice become more mainstream it can deliver much wider secondary benefits, supporting the health and well-being, water resources, natural resources and landscape objectives.</p> <p>However, significant effects are reliant on developers being proactive in incorporating energy efficient measures and renewable or low carbon technologies into new development to deliver low or zero carbon buildings, using SuDS and on behavioural change. Consequently the long term impact remains <b>uncertain</b>.</p>
<p><b>Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably</b></p>	<p>Growth may place pressure on water resources through waste water and storm water discharges. Impermeable surfaces such as roofs and parking areas can contribute to increased runoff rates and influence flooding which is a key issue in many parts of the District. Foul waste water requires treatment prior to discharge.</p> <p>Directing new residential and economic development in accordance with the spatial strategy and settlement hierarchy will encourage development to be located in settlements where water and wastewater infrastructure is already present and is generally able to accommodate the new development, while meeting the required treatment standards. However there are known issues with waste water network and treatment capacity in some settlements, or parts of settlements in the District.</p> <p>Policy also requires the incorporation of SuDS in all new development to help control and manage runoff and surface water at source, unless it can be demonstrated that this is not feasible.</p> <p>Housing and non-residential development in the countryside has a greater tendency to be reliant on private treatment. While new development will not be permitted to proceed where it would create or add to a pollution problem, the long term operation / maintenance of private waste water treatment systems such as septic tanks is outside the scope of the LDP.</p> <p>The total effect of the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy is <b>mixed / uncertain</b>.</p>	<p>The adoption of a LDP which will identify the areas where growth is projected and which manages spatial growth sustainably will help to inform the investment in and co-ordination of waste water infrastructure upgrades (where necessary) and aid in the delivery of Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for NI.</p> <p>The Foyle catchment is a cross border catchment with a surface area of 2,919km<sup>2</sup>, 914km<sup>2</sup> of which is located within the Republic of Ireland. Potential cumulative effects may occur with development outside the District.</p> <p>The requirement for drainage assessment to be carried out for identified types of development under FLD 3 and the avoidance of culverting and canalisation under FLD 4 will help to ensure that source control is given greater consideration from the earliest stages of design and may encourage ‘soft’ SuDS to be more widely employed. These actions would support the aims of the North Western FRMP and RBMP, may reduce pressure on drainage networks and cumulatively may help to address some of the water quality issues in the receiving waters of Lough Foyle and benefit the wider marine area.</p> <p>The Green Infrastructure Plan seeks to deliver an integrated network of green and blue spaces that provide ecosystem services, for example, flood management and improving water quality. The LDP can support the delivery of this network through the LPP. Successful implementation of the GI Plan could deliver positive secondary effects for biodiversity and natural resources and health and well-being.</p> <p>These cumulative effects may remove some of the uncertainty for this objective leading to a <b>minor positive</b> effect.</p>

SA Objective	Effect of draft plan preferred options (total effects)	Potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects
<p><b>Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity</b></p>	<p>Spatial and population growth is likely to result in development pressure on greenfield sites and a degree of local biodiversity loss. Strategically directing the majority of new residential development and community development to within settlements and specifically inside defined settlement limits and zonings which take natural resources into consideration helps to support this objective. However, much of the undeveloped zoned land with existing commitments for housing or economic development is greenfield land and its eventual development is likely to result in net loss of biodiversity.</p> <p>Many of the designated sites for nature conservation in the District importance are aquatic, marine or otherwise water-dependent and effects from development may occur at a distance via downstream hydrological linkages.</p> <p>Policies NE 1-NE 3 have been developed in accordance with regional planning policy and statutory legislative requirements. The policies to protect the landscape, provide open space and protect / improve water quality will also work to support this objective.</p> <p>For rural development, policy for place-making and design in the countryside seeks to avoid the removal of mature native vegetation, promote biodiversity and contribute to the aims of raising current woodland cover / tree planting which will support the objective.</p> <p>The total effect of the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy is <b>mixed / uncertain</b>.</p>	<p>Policy to protect aquatic and coastal European and Ramsar Sites from significant effects will indirectly benefit the wider marine area. Where there is the potential for impacts on the marine area, consultation and liaison with DAERA and DHPLG should inform on whether there is a requirement for a Marine License or other permitting necessitating a joint authority approach.</p> <p>LLPA designations in settlements will be defined at LPP. These may protect areas of woodland or important tree groups, river banks and shorelines or may be used to create green wedges. The establishment of Key Site Requirements for zoned areas (which may be reviewed or defined at LPP). LLPAs and KSRs may complement or deliver the objectives of the NI Biodiversity Strategy, Council's Local Biodiversity Plans and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. These elements will work cumulatively to support the preservation and enhancement of local biodiversity.</p> <p>The draft Plan Strategy will support the Green Infrastructure Plan towards the establishment of a network of multi-functional open spaces and, where possible, the enhancement of the District's green and blue infrastructure network. LDP policies can help to deliver on potential GI Plan actions such as enabling access to natural green and blue spaces, protecting green infrastructure and developing an active &amp; sustainable transport network which will also benefit health and well-being.</p> <p>These cumulative effects may reduce the scale of negative effects, remove some of the uncertainty and reinforce the positive effects to deliver a <b>minor positive</b> impact.</p>
<p><b>Maintain and enhance landscape character</b></p>	<p>The strategic approach to confine the greatest proportion of growth to existing larger settlements will help to safeguard landscape character however there will be a certain proportion of new development in the countryside. Strategic designations for landscape accompanied by policy will help to direct certain types of development away from areas of particular landscape sensitivity and the most exceptional landscapes will receive the strongest protection.</p> <p>General development policy and more specific place-making and design policy seeks to ensure that consideration is given to the design and siting of all development and in particular that development in the countryside is integrated with its surroundings.</p> <p>Strategic Development Pressure Policy Areas, including Green Belt Areas have been established</p>	<p>Policies and legislation to protect natural resources and the historic environment also work cumulatively to support this objective.</p> <p>The spatial definition of Local Landscape Policy Areas using an evidence-based approach at LPP will strengthen the positive effects of the draft Plan Strategy at the local scale.</p> <p>Liaison with neighbouring Councils and aligning policies where they have potential cross-boundary influence also helps to reduce negative and reinforce positive effects. The Sperrin AONB is shared with Causeway Coast and Glens and there are four Councils in the wider Sperrins area. While there is no AONB Management Plan or single overseeing body, a 'Sperrins Statement of Common Ground'</p>

SA Objective	Effect of draft plan preferred options (total effects)	Potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects
	<p>in response to particular development pressure. These will protect the setting of urban areas, and avoid further marring and unrestricted urban sprawl.</p> <p>The total effect of the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy is <b>minor positive</b>.</p>	<p>has been agreed between all four Sperrins Councils which will benefit the objective.</p> <p>Green Belt policy areas will address the issue of urban-generated development pressure and will complement the similarly designated 'Areas Under Strong Urban Influence' that are across the border in Donegal.</p> <p>The Strategic Development Pressure Policy Areas will be reviewed at LPP stage, when the full extent of these policy areas will be confirmed and, if appropriate and necessary, additional Development Pressure Areas will be identified.</p> <p>These elements will work cumulatively to reinforce the positive effects and should strengthen the <b>minor positive</b> impact.</p>
<p><b>Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage</b></p>	<p>Development associated with population and economic growth has the potential to conflict with built and cultural heritage, including damage to or destruction of buried archaeology. The policies in the draft Plan Strategy are protective towards identified / designated assets, in accordance with statutory requirements and legislation. Policy will also help to ensure that where there is a risk of buried archaeology being damaged or disturbed by new development, this can be avoided through archaeological assessment and evaluation.</p> <p>General development policy and specific place-making and design objectives, principle and policies seek to encourage development that is not only integrated with its surroundings but that will enhance the quality of places and spaces and respond positively to aspects of local context and character that contribute towards local distinctiveness and sense of place.</p> <p>The policies in the draft Plan Strategy are also protective towards undesignated assets of heritage value, through encouraging development that is integrated with its surroundings and encouraging reuse of buildings in preference to demolition and redevelopment, this includes specific policy for the sensitive conversion and reuse of locally important unlisted / vernacular buildings.</p> <p>The total effect of the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy is <b>minor positive</b>.</p>	<p>Policies which protect landscape character and natural heritage work together to strengthen the protection towards the historic environment and the setting of historic features. Policies also strongly encourage high quality design that integrates all types of new development with its surroundings.</p> <p>The Council's Tourism Strategy 2018-2025 seeks to capitalise on the district's reputation as standout heritage destination and cultural hub. Investment in tourism could help to enhance access to and understanding of heritage assets and stimulate heritage-led property regeneration.</p> <p>The LDP has taken account of the Derry City Walls Conservation Plan and signposts to guidance for other Conservation Areas. It recognises that housing, economic and tourism growth is important, but that important assets must be protected from unnecessary, inappropriate or excessive development.</p> <p>The draft Plan Strategy can also facilitate the delivery of the various Town Centre and regeneration Masterplans and Development Frameworks which could enable the restoration of old buildings, enhance access and deliver new shared spaces for culture, arts and creative industries.</p> <p>These cumulative effects will help remove some of the uncertainty and help to strengthen the minor positive effects to <b>significant positive</b> effects.</p>

Many of the potential adverse impacts have been minimised through the cross-referencing of policies within the draft Plan Strategy and are capable of being mitigated. Therefore, no significant adverse effects are expected to arise as a result of the draft Plan Strategy. Measures have however been

presented in Section 3 of the SA Report to reduce minor negative effects and promote positive effects.

### Limitations and Assumptions

During the appraisal of each Option, where possible, effects were predicted. In some cases it was found that the effect will depend upon the type and scale of development and its location. Many of the proposals affect multiple locations, or locations for which boundaries have not been defined. This can make it difficult to determine at this stage whether overall effects are likely to be negative or positive. These effects may remain uncertain until detailed supplementary planning guidance and/or specific site proposals are known.

### Habitats Regulations Assessment

A draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been published for consultation with the Draft Plan Strategy. The draft HRA reports on the assessment of the proposals and policies in the draft Plan Strategy and its potential impacts on international sites.

‘International sites’ include Special Areas of Conservation, designated under the ‘Habitats Directive’ together with Special Protection Areas, designated under the ‘Birds Directive’. They also include Ramsar sites which are wetlands of international importance identified under the provisions of the Ramsar Convention. A total of 23 international sites that have the potential to be influenced by the Plan were identified and examined. Eleven sites are partly or wholly within the plan area or immediately adjacent to the plan area boundary.

All of the policies and proposals put forward in the draft Plan Strategy were reviewed in the context of the international sites in a process known as ‘screening’. The screening of the plan policies and proposals found that there is the potential for likely significant effects to arise from ten operational policies and one appendix. These policies were consequently screened in for more detailed assessment, known as ‘appropriate assessment’.

The appropriate assessments carried out have concluded the following: provided the recommended mitigation measures are all retained or accepted and the Plan is amended accordingly, the draft Plan Strategy will have no adverse effect on the integrity of any international sites and no further assessment is necessary.

Following public consultation and independent examination of the draft Plan Strategy the HRA will be finalised and adopted by the Council and published alongside the adopted Plan Strategy.

## 6. Outcome of Appraisal and Next Stages

### Outcome of Appraisal

The SA process has helped influence the content of the draft Plan Strategy by contributing to the critical review of the policies and policy options including their reasonable alternatives. Through the SA process, preferred options for implementing strategic and detailed operational policies were identified. In all cases the preferred option represented the most sustainable option.

Overall, significant positive sustainability effects are predicted to result from the draft Plan Strategy throughout the plan term and beyond, in relation to the sustainability objectives to:

- Improve health and wellbeing;
- Strengthen society;
- Provide good quality, sustainable housing ;
- Enable sustainable economic growth;
- Encourage active and sustainable travel; and
- Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.

It should be noted that in the case of protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage, the total effects have been raised from minor positive to significant positive through the cumulative impact of the plan.

Minor positive impacts are identified for:

- enabling access to high quality education
- managing material assets sustainably
- improving air quality
- protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably
- protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity
- maintaining and enhance landscape character

Again, the total effects on these sustainability objectives have been enhanced in a positive way through the cumulative impacts brought about by the plan.

Mixed / uncertain effects are identified for the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably.

The overall effect of the draft Plan Strategy on the objective to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change is also uncertain.

The cumulative impact of the plan on these objectives is to reduce the range and scale of the minor negative impacts and enhance some of the minor positive effects, but some uncertainties remain. This reflects that a plan for growth is unlikely to avoid greenfield land use or reduce greenhouse gas emissions, however it can aim to provide conditions to encourage efficiency and support wider initiatives to encourage behavioural change. The plan will identify and safeguard routes for strategic active and sustainable transport schemes but, the delivery of services and infrastructure by service providers is outside the scope of the LDP.

Measures which will help to reduce negative effects and enhance positive effects of the LDP include:

- Establishing Key Site Requirements at the Local Policies Plan stage;
- Review / Identification of Designation boundaries at the Local Policies Plan stage;
- Environmental Impact Assessment or more specific Impact Assessments for qualifying projects will help to identify impacts and will propose mitigation, where it is required;
- Where necessary, Habitats Regulation Assessment at the project level will ensure that new development does not, on its own or in combination with other development, have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of European and International sites;
- Use of Supplementary Planning Guidance and Supplementary Design Guidance;
- Potential for provision for developer contributions;
- Potential for provision of additional tree planting as per LDP PS General Principles; and
- Use of appropriate conditions / planning agreements.

### How has the SA influenced Plan Making

In addition to the iterative influence of the SA process, the evolution of the Plan Strategy is also influenced by the development parameters as contained within the key regional planning and locally relevant documents listed in Section 2 above. There is little scope for significant deviation, unless soundly evidenced.

In advance of the formal draft Plan Strategy SA, all the emerging draft chapters in the Plan Strategy were subject to a 'self SA' process at Officer level, prior to them being discussed with Members during our comprehensive programme of Member Discussion Meetings. This also involved consideration of feedback and discussions with statutory consultees. This enabled key SA issues to be highlighted in advance and fully explored as part of the Member / Officer discussions. This shaped the chapter /

policy evolution, particularly where Members questioned the scope for loosening or tightening certain specific policies.

The formal SA process was therefore undertaken on a final set of draft policies and proposals which by that stage had been through an extensive internal SA consideration. The formal SA process reiterated those emerging SA issues raised during the early preparation of the draft Plan Strategy and enabled the final policies and proposals to be further improved in terms of cross referencing and strengthened text. The fact that no major significant adverse effects were highlighted is reflective of the developed policies and proposals taking account of the RDS, SPPS and other relevant government strategies and the input of the relevant statutory consultees.

Any changes that occurred to the draft PS policies and proposals as a result of the formal SA process have been set out in the Evidence Bases for each Chapter that have been published alongside the draft Plan Strategy.

### Next Steps

The SA Scoping Report and SA Report have been published alongside the draft Plan Strategy for consultation. Representations received in response to the consultation may lead to the modification of the Plan Strategy. If these modifications are significant, this may lead to additional appraisal against the SA/SEA Framework.

### Monitoring

Preliminary indicators for monitoring effects of the LDP have been identified for the key sustainability issues and significant effects identified through the SA. These will be aligned where possible with LDP and Community Plan monitoring.

