

# Local Development Plan | 2030

Draft Plan Strategy

**SUPERSEDED**

## Local Development Plan 2030

Soundness Report  
March 2021

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## Executive Summary

- This Soundness Report is part of the submission of documents to the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to cause an Independent Examination (IE) into the Local Development Plan (LDP), Draft Plan Strategy (DPS)<sup>1</sup>.
- This Soundness Report has been prepared following the consultation phase of the Council's DPS and should be read alongside the published documentation submitted to the DfI for the purposes of causing an IE.
- Our Soundness Report (**DPS-S-007A**) is supported by six (6) appendices (**DPS-S-007B-G**) and should be read in conjunction with these. Appendix 1 (**DPS-S-007B**) provides an inventory list detailing all soundness-related evidence including signposts to where this is available to view, either:
  - (i) Within **Sections 1-9** of the Council's DfI Submission Section; or
  - (i) Within **Appendices 2-6** of **Section 4** of the Council's DfI Submission Section which contains the evidence base for all other soundness-related evidence used to demonstrate soundness for each stage of the Local Development Plan process.
- The Council has provided examples of evidence in relation to the relevant tests to demonstrate how the Council has complied with soundness. For ease of reference, each piece of evidence used throughout this report and its appendices have been referenced with a prefix (i.e. SCI, PREPOP, POP and DPS) to represent the relevant stage of the LDP process (references are also highlighted in the following chapters, again for ease of reference). These Appendices should be read alongside each reference in the Soundness Report for specific examples of how the Council complied with the relevant requirements.

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<sup>1</sup> All documentation is available to view on the Council's website at [www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk) or by contacting the Planning Section or by inspection by appointment only at Mossley Mill and the Antrim Civic Centre.

- This self-assessment focuses on the legal compliance and soundness carried out by the Council in the preparation of its LDP. It is not a legal requirement to produce a self-assessment statement, however the Council considers that it is good practice to do so to show to all interested parties how the Plan was soundly prepared. This document also sets out the Council's statutory compliance with their Statement of Community Involvement.
- After undertaking a thorough self-assessment of our LDP, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (ANBC) considers that its LDP document is sound and hereby submits its DPS and supporting documents to the DfI for examination of soundness under Section 10 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and Regulation 20 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.



## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) STATEMENT – SOUNDNESS**

In light of the on-going Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, the Council has reviewed its DPS and accompanying documentation and is of the opinion that the current situation has no fundamental impact on the DPS as published. This statement confirms that the Council considers the DPS document and overall supporting evidence base and assessments as previously prepared as still relevant and sound. The Council considers that the long term economic outcome of the pandemic is yet unknown. It is also the opinion of the Council that the DPS will support sustainable growth in the Borough and is vital in ensuring that the Council continues its commitment to promote the Borough as a smart and prosperous place and ensuring that we deliver development that meets our economic and social needs without compromising the quality of our environment. The need for sustained growth is as relevant now as it is in a post Coronavirus (COVID-19) society and therefore the Council is content to proceed with its DPS into IE.

The Council has however taken the opportunity to update its evidence base in relation to housing in response to issues raised following the public consultation on the DPS. Please refer to Topic Papers 1 and 2 for further information. These papers can be accessed on the Council's website at [www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk) or are available to view by request by contacting the Planning Section.

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council has submitted its Draft Plan Strategy (DPS) to the Department of Infrastructure (DfI) in March 2021 (to cause an Independent Examination (IE) to be held by the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) (or other appointed person) under Section 10 of the Planning Act 2011. The Council is of the opinion that the Local Development Plan (LDP) DPS document is ready for IE.
- 1.2 The purpose of IE as set out in Section 10 (6) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 is to determine in respect of the LDP whether it satisfies the requirements relating to its preparation and whether it is sound. Legal compliance and soundness are overlapping concepts.
- 1.3 The Council has prepared this Soundness Report for the purposes of self-assessment in order to demonstrate that the Plan has been soundly prepared. The self-assessment is based upon the [Department of Infrastructure's Development Plan Practice Note 6 \(DPPN 6\) "Soundness" Version 2](#) and takes into account the [Planning Appeals Commission's \(PAC\) Local Development Plan Procedures for Independent Examination of Local Development Plans Version 2](#).
- 1.4 This self-assessment focuses on the legal compliance and soundness carried out by the Council in the preparation of its LDP. It is not a legal requirement to produce a self-assessment, however the Council considers that it is good practice to do so, to demonstrate to all interested parties how the Plan was soundly prepared. The Soundness Report should be read alongside all documentation submitted to the DfI for the purposes of causing an IE. Please refer to our website for full details of how to view all information ([www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk)).
- 1.5 DPPN 6 advises that whilst the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 does not provide a statutory definition for 'soundness' it is, however, understood in this context as "showing good judgment" and "able to be trusted" and within the context of fulfilling the expectations of legislation. DPPN 6 also states that it is a matter for a council to decide the most appropriate evidence to demonstrate how it has met each test of soundness. In carrying out the IE, the PAC advises that the appointed Commissioner/s will apply DPPN 6 and that the soundness tests will be considered in the round, taking into account the supporting text in DPPN 06 to form an overall judgment.

1.6 Soundness requires our LPD to be tested in terms of its content, conformity and the process by which it is produced. The tests of soundness are based upon three categories. They are as follows and summarised in paragraph 1.7 for ease of reference:

- Procedural tests;
- Consistency tests; and
- Coherence and effectiveness.

1.7 These categories relate to how our LDP was produced, the alignment of the LPD with central government regional plans, policy and guidance, and the coherence, consistency and effectiveness of the content of the LPD. There are 12 tests of soundness set out within DPPN 6. These tests aim to provide a framework to assess the soundness of the LDP, whilst taking account of all relevant procedural, legislative and policy considerations and include: -

#### **Procedural tests**

- P1. Has the Plan been prepared in accordance with the council's timetable and the Statement of Community Involvement?
- P2. Has the council prepared its Preferred Options Paper and taken into account any representations made?
- P3. Has the Plan been subject to sustainability appraisal including Strategic Environmental Assessment?
- P4. Did the council comply with the regulations on the form and content of its Plan and procedure for preparing the Plan?

#### **Consistency tests**

- C1. Did the council take account of the Regional Development Strategy?
- C2. Did the council take account of its Community Plan?
- C3. Did the council take account of policy and guidance issued by the Department?
- C4. Has the Plan had regard to other relevant plans, policies and strategies relating to the council's district or to any adjoining Council's district?

#### **Coherence and effectiveness tests**

- CE1. The Plan sets out a coherent strategy from which its policies and allocations logically flow and where cross boundary issues are relevant it is not in conflict with the plans of neighbouring councils.
- CE2. The strategy, policies and allocations are realistic and appropriate having considered the relevant alternatives and are



founded on a robust evidence base.

CE3. There are clear mechanisms for implementation and monitoring.

CE4. The Plan is reasonably flexible to enable it to deal with changing circumstances.

- 1.8 The Soundness Report sets out the relevant soundness tests and provides a high-level summary of how the Council addressed the 12 tests in the preparation of the LDP (please see Chapter 2 of this Report). There are also a number of chapters and appendices which set out in greater detail how the Council complied with legislation and key stages of the LDP process including Timetable, Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), pre-Preferred Options Paper (Pre-POP), Preferred Options Paper (POP) and DPS.
- 1.9 For ease of reference [Table 1](#) below provides an overview of where details of each of the tests can be found throughout our Soundness Report.

**Table 1: Easy Reference Guide to our Soundness Report**

Soundness Test		Page No.	Relevant Chapter / Appendix to read alongside Soundness Test
<b>Procedural Tests</b>	<b><a href="#">P1</a> Test</b>	12 48-79 80-95	<a href="#">Chapter 2</a> (Soundness Compliance) <a href="#">Chapter 3</a> (SCI Compliance) <a href="#">Chapter 4</a> (Timetable Compliance)
	<b><a href="#">P2</a> Test</b>	13-16 96-101	<a href="#">Chapter 2</a> (Soundness Compliance) <a href="#">Chapter 5</a> (POP Compliance)
	<b><a href="#">P3</a> Test</b>	16 123-134	<a href="#">Chapter 2</a> (Soundness Compliance) <a href="#">Chapter 7</a> (Sustainability Appraisal Compliance)

	<b><a href="#">P4</a> Test</b>	16 102-122	<a href="#">Chapter 2</a> (Soundness Compliance) <a href="#">Chapter 6</a> ( Draft Plan Strategy Compliance)
<b>Consistency Tests</b>	<b><a href="#">C1</a> Test</b>	16-23	<a href="#">Chapter 2</a> (Soundness Compliance)
	<b><a href="#">C2</a> Test</b>	23-25	<a href="#">Chapter 2</a> (Soundness Compliance)
	<b><a href="#">C3</a> Test</b>	25-26	<a href="#">Chapter 2</a> (Soundness Compliance)
	<b><a href="#">C4</a> Test</b>	26-27	<a href="#">Chapter 2</a> (Soundness Compliance)
<b>Coherence &amp; Effectiveness Tests</b>	<b><a href="#">CE1</a> Test</b>	27-42	<a href="#">Chapter 2</a> (Soundness Compliance)
	<b><a href="#">CE2</a> Test</b>	42-44	<a href="#">Chapter 2</a> (Soundness Compliance)
	<b><a href="#">CE3</a> Test</b>	45-46	<a href="#">Chapter 2</a> (Soundness Compliance)
	<b><a href="#">CE4</a> Test</b>	46-47	<a href="#">Chapter 2</a> (Soundness Compliance)

## 2 Soundness Compliance

- 2.1 This chapter provides a high-level summary of how the Council addressed the 12 tests of soundness in the preparation of the LDP (please see [Table 2](#) below). Table 2 also references a number of chapters and appendices in the Report which set out in greater detail how the Council complied with legislation and key stages of the LDP process including Timetable, SCI, POP and DPS.
- 2.2 Our Soundness Report ([DPS-S-007A](#)) is also supported by six (6) appendices ([DPS-S-007B-G](#)) and should be read in conjunction with these. Appendix 1 ([DPS-S-007B](#)) provides an inventory list detailing all soundness-related evidence including signposts to where this is available to view, either within:
- (i) **Sections 1-9** of the Council's DfI Submission Section; or
  - (ii) **Appendices 2-6** of **Section 4** of the Council's DfI Submission Section which contains the evidence base for all other soundness-related evidence used to demonstrate soundness for each stage of the Local Development Plan process.
- 2.3 The Council has provided examples of evidence in relation to the relevant tests to demonstrate how the Council has complied with soundness. For ease of reference, each piece of evidence used throughout our report has been referenced with a prefix (i.e. SCI, PREPOP, POP and DPS) to represent the relevant stage of the LDP process (references are also highlighted in the following chapters, again for ease of reference). These Appendices should be read alongside each reference in the Soundness Report for specific examples of how the Council complied with the relevant requirements.

**Table 2: Soundness Compliance**

Soundness Test		Evidence
Procedural Tests		
P1	Has the DPD been prepared in accordance with the council's timetable and the Statement of Community Involvement?	<p><b>Yes:</b></p> <p><b>Timetable</b> (T-SND-001, T-SND-003 &amp; T 001)</p> <p>As set out under Part 2 Section 7 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 and prescribed at Part 2 (Regulations 5-8) of The Planning (LDP) Regulations (NI) 2015 (as amended), the Council published its first LDP Timetable in January 2016. A revised Timetable was published in July 2018 and October 2020. All the Timetables set out indicative dates for the main stages of the LDP process.</p> <p>For legislative compliance in relation to the Timetable please refer to <a href="#">Table 5</a> of <a href="#">Chapter 4</a> of this report. For compliance with published Timetables please refer to <a href="#">Table 6</a>, <a href="#">Table 7</a> and <a href="#">Table 8</a> of <a href="#">Chapter 4</a> of this report.</p> <p><b><u>Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)</u></b> (SCI 001 &amp; SCI-SND-001)</p> <p>As required under Part 2 Section 4 of the Planning Act and as prescribed in The Planning (Statement of Community Involvement) Regulations (NI) 2015, the Council published its SCI in January 2016. A draft SCI was published in September 2015 to engage with the general public and stakeholders before publication of the final version in 2016. It was considered good practice to engage on this matter.</p> <p>The Council's SCI sets out how the Council proposes to engage with the community and stakeholders in the preparation of the new LDP and its Sustainability Appraisal (SA). It also includes commitments to publish statutory notices, undertake a public launch, public exhibitions and events that provide an opportunity for members of the public to comment on the LDP.</p> <p>For legislative compliance regarding the preparation of the SCI please refer to <a href="#">Table 3</a> of <a href="#">Chapter 3</a> of this report. As per Regulation 20 (2) (c) of the Planning (LDP) Regulations (NI) 2015 (as amended), the Council has evidenced how it has complied with its SCI in <a href="#">Table 4</a> of <a href="#">Chapter 3</a> of this report.</p>

P2	<p><b>Has the council prepared its Preferred Options Paper and taken into account any representations made?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes:</b></p> <p><b>Publication of Preferred Options Paper (POP)</b></p> <p>On 18 January 2017 the POP (POP 001) was published at a launch event at Mossley Mill in tandem with the publication of the Council's draft Community Plan "Love Living Here" (POP-SND-033). Supporting POP documents were also made available. These included four evidence papers: Meeting the Needs of Society Evidence Paper (January 2017) (POP 003); Facilitating Economic Development Evidence Paper (January 2017) (POP 004); Shaping Our Environment Evidence Paper (January 2017) (POP 005); Review of Operational Planning Policy Evidence Paper (POP 006). These papers set out the social, economic and environmental baseline data for the Borough that was used to inform the Council's POP along with the approach to planning policy. In addition, the Council published the 2015 Housing Monitor (POP 007).</p> <p>A Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (POP 008) and Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment (POP 009) were also published which assessed alternatives and options of the Council's emerging Preferred Options Paper. In addition, the Council carried out an Equality Screening Assessment Interim Progress Report (POP 010) to give an indication of any equality impacts of the Council's emerging Preferred Options Paper<sup>2</sup>. A POP Summary Booklet was also published for information purposes. (POP 011).</p> <p>The POP was subject to a 12-week public consultation, which ran from 18 January 2017 to 12 April 2017 during which time a total of 149 comments were received from statutory and non-statutory consultees, members of the public and planning agents (POP-SND-001).</p> <p><b>Preparation of the Preferred Options Paper</b></p> <p><u>Evidence Papers</u></p> <p>The preparation of the POP is underpinned by an extensive evidence base combined with engagement which was undertaken in 2015 and 2016 during our Pre-POP stage. The Council collated data from a range of sources and published a series of themed evidence papers based upon key planning topics which informed the publication of the POP (details set above).</p>
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<sup>2</sup> The Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 did not come into operation for district councils until 01 June 2017. Therefore, a rural needs assessment was not required to be undertaken at the time when the Equality Screening Assessment Interim Progress Report (POP 010) was prepared by the Council.

	<p><u>Pre-POP Engagement</u></p> <p>Extensive engagement also took place with Elected Members, the public, key stakeholders and key consultees. Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (ANBC) is committed to engagement with interested parties in the LDP process, as set out in its SCI. As such, the Council made a commitment to pre-POP engagement in order to consider the main strategic issues and options to be considered in the publication.</p> <p><u>Launch of LDP</u></p> <p>In January 2016, the Council launched the start of the LDP process as part of the Council's 'Planning Our Place' event which also included the publication of the Council's 2016 Timetable and SCI (T-SND-001, SCI 001, SCI-SND-012). The purpose of the event was to highlight the stages of the LDP, to establish key strategic priorities and issues that needed to be addressed in the POP, and to notify participants of future community engagement events. All Elected Members and key stakeholders from a wide cross sector were invited to the launch. The Council also issued a 'Towards Preferred Options' publication (PrePOP 001), which provided an easy-to-read guide for those wishing to engage in the Plan preparation process. This document explained the new system, was widely advertised/circulated and advised communities that the Council wanted to hear their views on the key priorities that needed to be addressed in the LDP.</p> <p><u>Pre-POP Public Engagement</u></p> <p>Public engagement took many forms in an effort to reach all communities and stakeholders within the Borough. The Council ensured alternative formats of all published documents relating to LDP were available on request, such as in large print, audio format, or in minority languages to meet the needs of those for whom English is not their first language. Methods of engagement included public engagement events (DEA drop in sessions (PrePOP-SND-005, PrePOP-SND-006 &amp; PrePOP-SND-007), press announcements and advertisements in the local newspapers (PrePOP-SND-004, PrePOP-SND-016, PrePOP-SND-012 &amp; SCI-SND-012), public display exhibitions in our principal planning offices (SCI-SND-013) and web-based consultation (online-questionnaire - PrePOP-SND-028). These methods were used to engage with the community and stakeholders at a very early stage in the LDP process.</p> <p>In addition, during this period the Council engaged extensively with the community including Section 75 groups (PrePOP-SND-025), attending public meetings arranged with other Council business areas e.g. GROW, the Council's Rural Development Programme and notifying those organisations registered on Council databases such as local community groups.</p> <p><u>Statutory Consultee Engagement</u></p> <p>The Council engaged at an early stage of the Plan making process by writing to statutory consultees (including neighbouring councils) prior to the publication of the POP for the purposes of generating options and gathering evidence to inform the POP (PrePOP-SND-010 &amp; PrePOP-SND-011). Further information is set out in Section 2.18 (g) of <a href="#">Table 4</a> (Chapter 5).</p>
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	<p>A project management team in the form of a working group was set up comprising of Elected Member Party representatives, senior council officers and representatives from the key statutory/government departments. The purpose of the team was to ensure key consultees were able to contribute to and co-operate in the plan making process (<a href="#">PrePOP-SND-019</a>) and responses received were taken into account in the development of the LDP.</p> <p><u>Elected Member Engagement</u></p> <p>Direct engagement was undertaken with the Elected Members of the Council throughout the plan making process who are well placed to provide local insight into the issues that matter most to our residents. This has helped inform and shape our POP document. Elected Members were invited to a number of DEA Workshop Events held in September 2015 (<a href="#">Pre-POP-SND-029</a> – Item 3.17), as well as a series of Member Engagement Workshops in 2016 (<a href="#">PrePOP-SND-031</a>). Elected Members also ratified and agreed the POP as published (<a href="#">PrePOP-SND-030</a> &amp; <a href="#">PrePOP-SND-034</a> - Item 3.1).</p> <p><u>Antrim and Newtownabbey Community Plan “Love Living Here”</u></p> <p>The Council’s draft Community Plan “Love Living Here” (<a href="#">POP-SND-033</a>) was published in tandem with the POP for public consultation. It was developed after a comprehensive engagement exercise with communities, partners and other stakeholders. This engagement process led to the development of five priority areas described as ‘Outcomes’ through which the Council and its strategic partners will focus on the delivery of services over the lifetime of the Community Plan to 2030.</p> <p>There has been a joint approach to engagement and sharing key research and evidence between the Council’s Community Plan Team and Forward Plan Team. This collaboration has enabled a sound understanding of the key priorities for the Borough to be established and appropriate responses developed. Planning officers were also involved in the Community Planning officers working group which was attended by statutory community planning partners and the Council’s Community Planning Section in order to bring forward the Council’s first Community Plan.</p> <p>The final Community Plan was published in June 2017 (<a href="#">DPS-S-008</a>). For further information on how the Council took account of its Community Plan in the preparation of the LDP please refer to the <a href="#">C2</a> test in this report.</p> <p><b><u>Representations to POP Public Consultation</u></b></p> <p>Following the publication of the POP for public consultation, the Council published an Interim POP Consultation Report in August 2017 (<a href="#">POP-SND-002</a>). This Interim Report was prepared at an early stage in order to provide a high-level summary of the main issues raised to inform Elected Members, stakeholders and the general public of the issues received. The report was made available online, and statutory consultees and interested parties notified (<a href="#">POP-SND-003</a>). The interim report was <b>superseded</b> in June 2019 when the Council published its full POP Public Consultation Report (<a href="#">POP 002</a>) which set out how the Council took account of POP representations in the preparation of the LDP. The report was made</p>
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		<p>available online in June 2019 (<a href="#">POP-SND-010</a>). The POP Public Consultation Report was presented to and approved by the ANBC Full Council on 29 April 2019 (<a href="#">POP-SND-006</a> - Item 11.10).</p> <p>Legislative compliance in relation to the preparation and publication of the POP is set out in <a href="#">Table 9</a> of <a href="#">Chapter 5</a> of this report.</p>
<b>P3</b>	<b>Has the DPD been subject to sustainability appraisal including Strategic Environmental Assessment?</b>	<p><b>Yes:</b></p> <p><b>1. Preferred Options Paper stage</b></p> <p>The Council has undertaken a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (SA) Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report for the POP (<a href="#">POP 009</a> and <a href="#">POP 008</a>). These reports were published in January 2017.</p> <p><b>2. Draft Plan Strategy stage</b></p> <p>The Council has undertaken an SA incorporating SEA Report, SA Non-Technical Summary (NTS) and Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (<a href="#">DPS 002</a>, <a href="#">DPS 003</a> and <a href="#">DPS 004</a>). These reports were published in June 2019.</p> <p>Please refer to <a href="#">Table 12</a> of Chapter 7 of this report for further information on how the Development Plan document (DPD) has met the legislative requirements in relation to the SA including SEA.</p>
<b>P4</b>	<b>Did the council comply with the regulations on the form and content of its DPD and procedure for preparing the DPD?</b>	<p><b>Yes:</b></p> <p>Sections 8 and 9 of The Planning Act (NI) 2011 (as amended) set out the requirements for the content of the Plan Strategy and LPP and provide for the making of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 (as amended). The Regulations Part 4 set out the form and content of the DPD. The Regulations Part 5 set out the DPD procedure.</p> <p><a href="#">Chapter 6</a> of this report sets out how the Council complied with the Planning Act and the Local Development Plan Regulations in relation to the form and content of its LDP and the procedure for preparing it. In relation to the Regulations the period covered is Regulation 15-20 i.e. in so far as it relates to the current stage of the LDP, the DPS.</p>
Consistency Tests		
<b>C1</b>	<b>Did the council take account of the Regional Development Strategy?</b>	<p><b>Yes:</b></p> <p>The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035 sets the context in which to make policy and development decisions in order to achieve sustainable development throughout the region and sets out a framework for the spatial development of the Region up to 2035.</p> <p>Under Section 8 (5) in preparing a plan strategy, the Council must take account of a number of matters including the RDS. Section 9 requires the same at the LPP Stage.</p>

	<p>The RDS sets out a vision for the region as well as eight clear aims. It sets out a Spatial Framework to enable strategic choices to be made in relation to development and infrastructure. The components of the Framework are: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Belfast Metropolitan Area (BMUA) centred on Belfast. The BMUA is defined as the continuous built up area centres which on Belfast with an arc from Jordantown to Knocknagoney, and therefore includes the Newtownabbey Metropolitan Area';</li> <li>• A North West Region centred on Londonderry;</li> <li>• Hubs and Clusters of Hubs – Main and Local Hubs which have the greatest potential for growth and which provide a range of services to the surrounding areas are identified including Antrim;</li> <li>• Clusters of cities and towns including Ballymena, Larne and Antrim;</li> <li>• The rural area where the need to sustain rural communities living in smaller towns, villages and the open countryside requires new development and employment opportunities which respects local, social and environmental circumstances; and</li> <li>• Gateway and corridors including Belfast International Airport.</li> </ul> <p>The RDS also identifies economic corridors based on the Regional Strategic Transport Network (RSTN) which includes the ANBC area. In addition to the above the RDS also specifically identifies Global Point as a major employment location in the BMUA.</p> <p>The RDS contains strategic guidance in the form of Regional Guidance (RG) which applies to everywhere in the region and Spatial Framework Guidance (SFG) which is tailored to each of the 5 elements of the Spatial Framework.</p> <p>The RDS is supported by a number of frameworks that are important in plan development including the Hierarchy of Settlements and Related Infrastructure Wheel; the Employment Land Evaluation Framework; Housing Evaluation Framework and Housing Growth Indicators etc. (which are published separately from the RDS).</p> <p>The following section sets out how the Council took account of the RDS in its plan making process and in particular at the current stage i.e. the Plan Strategy. It is important to note that the RDS is one of a range of factors taken into account in the preparation of the LDP. Further information and all considerations are set out in the published documentation.</p> <p><b><u>LDP Preparation</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Preferred Options Paper</u></b></p> <p>The Council published its POP in order to inform its DPS.</p> <p>The POP (<b>POP 001</b>) was developed in the context of the RDS and set out at an early stage of the plan process how the RDS was taken account of in the preparation of its LDP.</p> <p>Part 2 "Setting the Context" of the POP sets out the regional context in which the POP was prepared including the RDS. Part 4 of the POP's Growth Strategy sets out the overarching strategy for the Plan as well as the main factors that were</p>
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	<p>taken into account in developing our Spatial Growth Strategy (SGS) including the RDS (Paragraph 4.5). Paragraphs 4.6 to 4.8 sets out further detail on how the RDS was taken account of in developing the proposed strategy.</p> <p>The POP also sets out a number of strategic planning options which take into account the RDS, including the proposed Spatial Growth Strategy (SGS) (in accordance with the RDS), the proposed Hierarchy of Settlements for the Borough (which reflects the status of our settlements in line with the components of the RDS Spatial Framework), the Hierarchy of Centres (in alignment with the RDS), Strategic Employment Locations (SEL) (reflecting the importance of our key strategic lands including Global Point as well as exploiting our economic corridors through Strategic Employment Locations at Belfast International Airport and Nutts Corner) and the Allocation and Distribution of Housing (taking into account published Housing Growth Indicators (HGI)s, etc.).</p> <p>Many of the options were also informed by a number of studies required by the RDS including the Employment Land Evaluation Framework and Housing Evaluation Framework. These studies, including how the RDS was also taken into account, are set out in the POP's accompanying evidence papers (POP 003 – POP 006). In addition, the RDS was also taken account of in the preparation of the accompanying sustainability appraisal including strategic environmental assessment as referenced in both the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment (POP 009) and Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (POP 008).</p> <p>The Council also published a POP Consultation Report (POP 002) which shows how the Council took into account the representations to the POP and provides further clarity on how the RDS was taken into account in bringing forward the next stage of the Plan i.e. the DPS.</p> <p><b><u>Draft Plan Strategy</u></b></p> <p>Following on from the POP, the Council has published its DPS (DPS 001), which has also taken account of the RDS 2035 in its preparation.</p> <p>The purpose of the Antrim and Newtownabbey LDP, comprising the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, is to inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will implement the strategic objectives of the Regional Development Strategy and guide development decisions within ANBC up to 2030.</p> <p>At the heart of the LDP is the furthering of sustainable development which is the key purpose of the RDS. The LDP has also been subject to a number of assessments to ensure that sustainable development is achieved. The DPS and documentation also takes into account a number of other key strategic documents that seek to support and complement the RDS. The RDS complements, for example, the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) and informs the spatial aspects of the strategies of all Government Departments. The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) is also in general conformity with the RDS and has been taken into account in the preparation of the LDP.</p> <p>The DPS itself sets out a Plan Vision which reflects the vision of the RDS, for the Borough to be:</p>
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"An outward-looking, dynamic and liveable Region with a strong sense of its place in the wider world; a Region of opportunity where people enjoy living and working in a healthy environment which enhances the quality of their lives and where diversity is a source of strength rather than division".

In addition, the DPS sets out 14 Strategic Objectives which describe the social, economic and environmental needs of the Borough, reflecting the sustainable development ethos of the RDS.

Section 2 of the DPS sets out the strategic context in which the Plan was prepared, including the RDS. In particular, paragraphs 2.9 – 2.15 set out how the RDS relates to the Borough. The Council's Spatial Growth Strategy reflects the spatial framework in the RDS – concentrating growth in the larger settlements in line with the RDS Settlements and Hierarchy Wheel, promoting the larger tier towns including Metropolitan Newtownabbey (part of the BMUA) and the Hub Town of Antrim as areas for key growth, and supporting sustainable growth in the rural area in our towns, villages, hamlets and countryside. Furthermore, the DPS seeks to support the gateway of Belfast International Airport and exploit the economic corridors of the RSTN.

The Growth Strategy is supported by a number of Strategic Policies to implement our Strategic Objectives and Detailed Management policies which supplement the Strategic Policies that together will guide decisions in the development management process. The Strategic Policies set out the approach to be taken on strategic planning matters and contain a section entitled "Why we have taken this approach". These sections set out under each policy topic how the RDS was taken into account in the preparation of the Plan Strategy.

Further information on how the Council took account of the RDS is contained within the accompanying published evidence papers (DPS 007 – 027). In addition, the published sustainability appraisals including strategic environmental assessment and scoping report (DPS 002 - 004) also take account of the RDS. In particular, this is in relation to setting the context in which the Plan is prepared, as well as explaining what the reasonable alternatives are in relation to policy options. In addition, the Habitat Assessment (DPS 005), the Equality Screening and Rural Needs Assessment impact (DPS 012) also assesses the Plan in terms of its impact on society and important habitats in the environment which are key themes of the RDS.

The table below illustrates how the RDS RGs and SFGs are being delivered through the LDP process at the DPS stage: -

Policy		DPS
<b>Economy</b>		
RG1	Ensure sustainable supply of land to facilitate sustainable economic growth	SP 1 Sustainable Development; SP 2 Employment and associated DMs;
RG2	Deliver a balanced approach to transport infrastructure	SP 1 Sustainable Development; SP 2 Employment and associated DMs; SP 3 Transportation and Infrastructure

			and associated DMs.	
		RG3	Implement a balanced approach to telecommunications infrastructure that will give it a competitive advantage	SP 1 Sustainable Development; SP 3 Transportation and Infrastructure and associated DMs.
		RG4	Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of tourism infrastructure	SP 1 Sustainable Development; SP 2 Employment; SP 6 Placemaking and Good Design; SP 7 Historic Environment; SP 10 Environmental Resilience & Protection; and associated DMs.
		RG5	Deliver a sustainable and secure energy supply	SP 1 Sustainable Development SP 3 Transportation and Infrastructure; SP 9 Natural Resources and associated DMs.
		<b>Society</b>		
		RG6	Strengthen community cohesion	SP 1 Sustainable Development; SP 4 Homes; SP 5 Community Infrastructure; SP 6 Placemaking and Good Design; and associated DMs.
		RG7	Support urban and rural renaissance	SP 1 Sustainable Development; SP 2 Employment; SP 3 Transportation and Infrastructure; SP 4 Homes; SP 5 Community Infrastructure; SP 6 Placemaking and Good Design; SP 7 Historic Environment; SP 8 Natural Heritage; SP 10 Environmental Resilience and Protection; and associated DMs;
		RG8	Manage housing growth to achieve sustainable	SP 1 Sustainable Development; SP 4 Homes; SP 6 Placemaking and Good Design;



			patterns of residential development	and associated DMs.	
			<b>Environment</b>		
		RG9	Reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate mitigation and adaptation to climate change whilst improving air quality	SP 1 Sustainable Development; SP 3 Transportation and Infrastructure SP 4 Homes; SP 5 Community Infrastructure; SP 6 Placemaking and Good Design; SP 8 Natural Heritage; SP 9 Natural Resources; SP 10 Environmental Resilience and Protection; and associated DMs.	
		RG10	Manage our waste sustainably	SP 1 Sustainable Development; SP 10 Environmental Resilience and Protection and associated DMs.	
		RG11	Conserve, protect and, where possible, enhance our built heritage and our natural environment	SP 1 Sustainable Development SP 5 Community Infrastructure; SP 7 Historic Environment; SP 6 Placemaking and Good Design; SP 8 Natural Heritage; SP 9 Natural Resources; SP 10 Environmental Resilience and Protection; and associated DMs.	
		RG12	Promote a more sustainable approach to the provision of water and sewerage services and flood risk management	SP 1 Sustainable Development; SP 3 Transportation and Infrastructure; SP 4 Homes; SP 10 Environmental Resilience and Protection; and associated DMs.	
			<b>The Metropolitan Area Centred on Belfast</b>		
		SFG1	Promote urban economic development at key locations throughout	SP 1 Sustainable Development; SP 2 Employment; and associated DMs.	

			the BMUA and ensure sufficient land is available for jobs		
		SFG4	Manage the movement of people and goods within the BMUA	SP 1 Sustainable Development; SP 2 Employment; SP 3 Transportation and Infrastructure; and associated DMs.	
		SFG5	Protect and enhance the quality of the setting of the BMUA and its environmental assets	SP 1 Sustainable Development; SP 4 Homes; SP 5 Community Infrastructure; SP 8 Natural Heritage; and associate DMs.	
		<b>Hubs and Clusters of Hubs</b>			
		SFG10	Identify and consolidate the roles and functions of settlements within the clusters	SP 1 Sustainable Development SP 2 Employment; SP4 Homes; and associated DMs;	
		SFG11	Promote economic development opportunities at Hubs	SP 1 Sustainable Development SP 2 Employment and associated DMs	
		SFG12	Grow the population in the Hubs	SP 1 Sustainable Development SP 4 Homes and associated DMs.	
		<b>The Rural Area</b>			
		SFG13	Sustain rural communities living in smaller settlements and the open countryside	SP 1 Sustainable Development; SP 2 Employment; SP 3 Transportation and Infrastructure; SP4 Homes; and associated DMs.	
		SFG14	Improve accessibility for rural communities	SP1 Sustainable Development; SP3 Transportation and Infrastructure; SP4 Homes; and associated DMs.	

		<b>Gateways and Corridors</b>	
		SFG15 Strengthen the Gateways for regional competitiveness	SP1 Sustainable Development SP2 Employment SP3 Transportation and Infrastructure and associated DMs.
		<p>The findings from the Council's SA and SEA undertaken at POP and DPS stages (<b>POP 008</b>, <b>POP 009</b>, <b>DPS 002 - DPS 004</b>) also take account of the RDS and it was a key consideration in the appraisal of reasonable alternatives for both the POP and DPS.</p>	
<b>C2</b>	<b>Did the council take account of its Community Plan?</b>	<p><b>Yes:</b></p> <p>The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 introduces a statutory link between the community plan and a council's LDP. Section 77 (2) of the Act requires a council to take account of its 'current community plan' and it amends Section 8 and 9 of the 2011 Planning Act to reflect this requirement. Under Section 8 (5) in preparing a plan strategy, the Council must take account of a number of matters including the council's community plan. Section 9 requires the same at the LPP Stage.</p> <p><b><u>Plan Preparation and Emerging Draft Community Plan</u></b></p> <p>The first stage of the plan preparation was the publication of its Towards Preferred Options Paper (<b>PrePOP 001</b>), SCI (<b>SCI 001</b>) and Timetable (<b>T-SND-001</b>) in January 2016. This information was widely distributed and community groups on the Council's community group data base and Section 75 database were notified in order to engage the wider community (<b>PrePOP-SND-025</b>).</p> <p>At the early stage of plan preparation, work also commenced on the Council's draft Community Plan (<b>POP-SND-032</b>) and the POP (<b>POP 001</b>). The Council's draft Community Plan was published in tandem (<b>POP-SND-014</b>) with the Council's POP in January 2017.</p> <p>The draft Community Plan was prepared following extensive engagement with stakeholders. This included workshops, surveys with citizens and conferences. This helped the Community Plan Team prioritise the key issues to be addressed through the Community Plan. A draft community plan framework established four outcomes for the Plan and a range of enablers which were important to support the delivery of the Community Plan and achieve outcomes, including matters relating to planning.</p> <p>In preparing the POP and the draft Community Plan, the Planning Team and Community Planning officer worked in close liaison sharing information including the preparation of a social, economic and environmental evidence base. The Planning Team was also involved in Community Planning events and other Council initiatives/events including GROW and LEAN. The Planning Team was also represented on the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Community</p>	

	<p>Plan Community Officers working group which was involved in the preparation of the draft Community Plan and provided opportunities for the LDP and Community Plan to link up. The Community Plan group was made up of a wide range of partners including health, housing, and other services. Both teams were also involved in the drafting of their respective plans, commenting and inputting into the drafts before public consultation to ensure further linkages.</p> <p>By publishing both documents in tandem, the Council sought to bring forward a collaborative approach to public engagement, with the LDP taking forward any spatial aspects of the Community Plan. The POP (POP 001) was designed to inform the preparation of the new LDP. It was designed to promote debate on the important issues which will influence future development in the Borough. Paragraphs 2.21-2.23 of the POP set out the relationship between the LDP and the Community Plan. Paragraph 1.22 details how the POP evolved alongside the Community Plan with the Forward Planning Team attending planning events and through attendance at events associated with the Council's emerging Community Plan.</p> <p>The emerging Community Plan was also referenced as a consideration in the POP Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report and Scoping Report (POP 009 &amp; POP 008). The POP was also subject to an equality screening assessment (POP 010) which provided an extra layer of consideration of the community plan through ensuring that the impact of our Plan upon disadvantaged groups was a consideration.</p> <p>Together, the POP and draft Community Plan set out to shape and drive the development of infrastructure and services for the benefit of all citizens within the Borough. Both documents describe how the Council can continue to improve the quality of life for citizens through considered development and a focus on wellbeing. They also present an opportunity to shape Antrim and Newtownabbey. A series of joint public events were held across the Borough in each DEA to ensure a joined-up approach to these consultations (POP-SND-009 &amp; POP-SND-016).</p> <p><b><u>Community Plan and Local Development Plan – first stage Draft Plan Strategy</u></b></p> <p>The final Community Plan “Love Living Here “(DPS-S-008) was published in June 2018.</p> <p>The final Community Plan confirmed the Council's four outcomes and one wildly important goal. These are: 1. Our citizens enjoy good health and well-being; 2. Our citizens live in connected safe, clean and vibrant places; 3. Our citizens benefit from economic prosperity; and 4. Our citizens achieve their full potential and the wildly important goal which states ‘our vulnerable people are supported’. The Community Plan also confirmed the vision for the Borough “Antrim and Newtownabbey is a resilient, socially responsible community where citizens enjoy a high quality of life”.</p> <p>The Plan Team considered the final outcomes and priorities in the preparation of the DPS as set out below. In addition, following the draft Community Plan Consultation, a number of comments were received that related to the LDP. These comments were considered in the preparation of the Plan and are set out in paragraph 12.3 of the POP Consultation Report (POP 002).</p> <p>Paragraphs 2.27 and 2.28 of the DPS (DPS 001) set out how the Community Plan has been taken into account in the preparation of this stage of the LDP. The LDP's Strategic Objectives are aligned to the Community Plan's Outcomes and will seek to deliver upon the spatial aspects of the Community Plan. The Community Plan Outcomes and Priorities are detailed on pages 36 and 37 of the DPS, along with the wildly important goal. The DPS and all its policies flow from its Strategic Objectives, which seek to reflect the spatial aspirations of the Community Plan. Each Strategic Policy (SP) within</p>
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		<p>the DPS contains a heading 'Where we want to be'; this sets out the relevant Strategic Objectives identified to deliver the Council's Plan Vision up to the year 2030 and interlinks them with the Outcomes and Priorities established in the Council's Community Plan.</p> <p>In addition, the findings from the Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment and Scoping Report (<b>DPS 002</b> &amp; <b>DPS 004</b>) also consider the Community Plan and it was a key consideration in the appraisal of reasonable alternatives in the DPS.</p> <p>Finally, the DPS was subject to an equality screening and rural needs assessment (<b>DPS 006</b>). Vulnerable groups, which are a key component of the Community Plan, are considered in the development of the DPS. This provided an extra layer of deliverability of the community plan through ensuring that the impact of our Plan upon disadvantaged groups was considered and therefore offered further support to the delivery of the Community Plan outcomes.</p>
<b>C3</b>	<b>Did the council take account of policy and guidance issued by the Department?</b>	<p><b>Yes:</b></p> <p>In order to secure the orderly and consistent development of land and the planning of the development, the Department must issue policy in general conformity with the RDS and exercise its functions with the objective of furthering sustainable development. Policy and advice contained in guidance issued by the Department aims to provide a more detailed framework to set the context and ensure a consistency of approach for the preparation of a council's LDP. As such, sections 8(5)(b) and 9(6)(b) of the 2011 Planning Act requires a council to take account of any policy or advice contained in guidance issued by the Department in the preparation of the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, respectively. In addition, Section 20 also requires a council to have regard to any guidance issued by the Department and the Executive Office in exercising any function under Part 2 Local Development Plans.</p> <p>At the regional level, the DPS (<b>DPS 001</b>) has been prepared taking into account the RDS and SPPS. Publications by the Executive Office have also been taken into account. This is reflected in the DPS itself as set out in Section 2 of the Plan. Each Strategic Policy contains a section entitled "Why we have taken this approach" which sets out the reasoned justification for the approach taken, including consideration of regional policy. In addition, the accompanying evidence papers at the DPS stage as well as accompanying assessments, have also taken account of these documents, where relevant.</p> <p>In addition, the Council's POP (which informed the LDP) and accompanying assessments/evidence papers were also prepared taking account of policy and guidance issued by the Department and Executive Office.</p> <p>Furthermore, the DPS has taken account of prevailing regional planning policies contained in the extant Planning Policy Statements and remaining provisions of the Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland, as well as legacy plan provisions. As stated in the Council's POP (<b>POP 001</b> Para 6.25, pg.102), the broad thrust and direction of the majority of Departmental policies were regarded as acceptable and working effectively. The LDP has also been prepared taking account of plan preparation guidance produced by the Department. In addition, DfI was formally consulted in relation to the Council's POP and DPS. The Executive Office was also consulted as one of the statutory consultees listed in The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. The Council took all responses into consideration</p>

		as set out in the Council's published POP Public Consultation Report ( <a href="#">POP 002</a> ) and DPS Public Consultation Report ( <a href="#">DPS-S-001</a> ).
<b>C4</b>	<b>Has the plan had regard to other relevant plans, policies and strategies relating to the council's district or to any adjoining council's district?</b>	<p><b>Yes:</b></p> <p>In the preparation of the LDP Sections 8(5) (c) and 9(6) (c) of the 2011 Planning Act requires a council to take account of any such matters as the Department may prescribe or in a particular case, direct. In addition, councils are to have regard to such other information and considerations as appear to be relevant.</p> <p>The preparation of the DPS has given due regard to relevant plans and strategies relating to ANBC area as well as that of adjoining council areas.</p> <p>The DPS recognises that the Council does not sit in isolation and adjoins the boundaries of five neighbouring councils both by land and water, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council;</li> <li>- Belfast City Council;</li> <li>- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council;</li> <li>- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council; and</li> <li>- Mid Ulster District Council.</li> </ul> <p>The DPS sets out in Section 2 "Setting the Context" the main documents which were taken into consideration in the preparation of the Plan. These were categorised into regional and local context. The regional context sets out a number of high level strategies, such as the Programme for Government, while the local context sets out the relevant documents to the Council area including our Corporate Plan (<a href="#">DPS-S-013</a>) and Community Plan (<a href="#">DPS-S-008</a>), as well as legacy plans and our relationship with neighbouring Councils. There are a number of documents within this section that are cross boundary related. These include the RDS 2035 and legacy development plans. These are therefore considerations for both the ANBC area and our neighbouring councils.</p> <p>Consideration of plans, policies and strategies relating to the Council's district and adjoining council's districts are also evidenced in the DPS accompanying evidence papers (<a href="#">DPS 007</a> – <a href="#">DPS 027</a>) and accompanying appraisals (<a href="#">DPS 002</a> - <a href="#">DPS 006</a>).</p> <p>The Council has responded to the public consultations of neighbouring councils on their LDPs and POPs and considered the implication of these documents on its emerging LDP (<a href="#">POP-SND-023</a> – <a href="#">POP-SND-029</a>). Neighbouring councils have also responded to ANBC POP (<a href="#">POP-SND-018</a> – <a href="#">POP-SND-022</a>) and DPS public consultations (<a href="#">DPS-SND-031</a> – <a href="#">DPS-SND-034</a>). The Council has considered all responses received as set out in its POP Consultation Report (<a href="#">POP 002</a>) and DPS Public Consultation Report (<a href="#">DPS-S-001</a>).</p>



		<p>Furthermore, the Council has engaged with adjoining councils through other platforms and mechanisms, including various steering groups, such as the Belfast Metropolitan Area Spatial Working Group. Further information on cross boundary engagement is set out under the <a href="#">CE 1</a> Tests of this report.</p> <table><tr><th>Council</th><th>POP publication date</th><th>DPS publication date</th><th>Date DPS submitted to the Department (Dept. for Infrastructure)</th></tr><tr><td>Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey Borough Council</td><td>18 January 2017</td><td>26 June 2019</td><td>March 2021</td></tr><tr><td>Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon BC</td><td>28 March 2018</td><td>Not yet published</td><td><a href="#">Refer to ABCBC's website for current position.</a></td></tr><tr><td>Belfast City Council</td><td>26 Jan 2017</td><td>20 September 2018</td><td>30 August 2019</td></tr><tr><td>Lisburn, Castlereagh City Council</td><td>30 March 2017</td><td>08 November 2019</td><td><a href="#">Refer to LCCC's website for current position.</a></td></tr><tr><td>Mid and East Antrim Borough Council</td><td>14 June 2017</td><td>16 October 2019</td><td><a href="#">Refer to MEABC's website for current position.</a></td></tr><tr><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td><td>07 November 2016</td><td>February 2019</td><td><a href="#">Refer to MUDC's website for current position.</a></td></tr></table>	Council	POP publication date	DPS publication date	Date DPS submitted to the Department (Dept. for Infrastructure)	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council	18 January 2017	26 June 2019	March 2021	Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon BC	28 March 2018	Not yet published	<a href="#">Refer to ABCBC's website for current position.</a>	Belfast City Council	26 Jan 2017	20 September 2018	30 August 2019	Lisburn, Castlereagh City Council	30 March 2017	08 November 2019	<a href="#">Refer to LCCC's website for current position.</a>	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council	14 June 2017	16 October 2019	<a href="#">Refer to MEABC's website for current position.</a>	Mid Ulster District Council	07 November 2016	February 2019	<a href="#">Refer to MUDC's website for current position.</a>
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CE1	<p>The DPD sets out a coherent strategy from which its policies and allocations logically flow and where cross boundary issues are relevant it is not in conflict with</p>	<p><b>Yes:</b></p> <p><b>Coherent Strategy</b></p> <p>Section 3 of the DPS (<b>DPS 001</b>) sets out the Plan Vision and Strategic Objectives for the LDP, which forms the basis of a coherent strategy from which the policies and allocations logically flow.</p> <p>The Plan Strategy sets out a clear Vision on page 54 of the DPS as to what Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough should look like by 2030. The Vision will be delivered by a set of Strategic Objectives, supported by a range of Strategic Policies and Detailed Management Policies that will be used in decision making and that will also inform the detailed zonings and designations to be brought forward in the second stage of the Plan, the Local Policies Plan.</p> <p>The Council agreed the Plan including its Vision at the Council meeting of 29 April 2019 (<b>DPS-SND-035</b> - Item 11.10). The Council considers the Vision to be ambitious but realistic, reflecting the challenges and key priorities for the Borough</p>																												

<p><b>the DPDs of neighbouring councils</b></p>	<p>following extensive engagement and consideration of the regional and local context that the plan was prepared in (as set out in Chapter 2 of the DPS as well as legislative requirements). The justification for the Council's Vision is set out in Section 3 of the DPS and is supported by preceding chapters which set out how the plan was developed and the matters that were taken into consideration.</p> <p>In order to support and help achieve the Plan Vision, a series of Strategic Objectives have been developed. Again, the Council has considered these carefully in light of engagement to date and the context in which the Plan is being prepared, including the Community Plan. The Strategic Objectives are set out on pages 58 and 59 of the DPS and seek to implement the Council's Vision. Section 3, paragraphs 3.3 – 3.15, provide a summary of the analysis of the Borough and the key priorities for the LDP, which have shaped the Council's Strategic Objectives. The supporting text in the DPS alongside its accompanying evidence papers/assessments, set out further information on the matters that were taken into account in bringing forward the LDP. As such, the objectives are integrated with and add value to and assist in the delivery of national, regional and local policies and strategies.</p> <p>The Strategic Objectives also form the link between the Plan Vision and the Strategic and Detailed Management Policies that will be used in decision making and will also inform the detailed zonings and designations to be brought forward in the Local Policies Plan. The Strategic and Detailed Management Policies help deliver the Plan Vision, Strategic Objectives and the Spatial Growth Strategy needed to manage and facilitate growth. SP 1 provides the overarching policy for the plan and sets out the SGS for the Borough, from which the remaining Strategic Policies and Detailed Policies flow. Its supporting text also sets out how the Council will deliver and implement its LDP. Through this Strategic Policy, the Council has set out its fundamental approach to enable sustainable development across the Borough to deliver the LDP Plan Vision and Strategic Objectives in support of the Core Planning Principles of the SPPS.</p> <p>The structure of the DPS seeks to show how the policies and proposals stem from the LDP's Strategic Objectives to implement and deliver its Vision. It is clear how policies and proposals relate to LDP Objectives and reasoned justification is readily distinguishable. Strategic Policies set out relevant Strategic Objectives under "Where we want to be" and reasoned justification has been provided under "Why we have taken this approach". The Introduction of the DPS sets out information on what the LDP is, an explanation of the DPS structure as well as a key diagram (Figure 1) (DPS-SND-036) which illustrates the overall LDP strategy. Information is also included to on how the parts of the plan relate to each other and how to use the document (pages 10 – 13 of the DPS).</p> <p><b>Cross boundary</b></p> <p>CE1 also requires that where cross boundary issues are relevant it is not in conflict with the LDPs of neighbouring councils. Cross boundary councils in relation to ANBC's plan preparation include: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council;</li> </ol>
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	<p>2. Belfast City Council;</p> <p>3. Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council;</p> <p>4. Mid Ulster District Council; and</p> <p>5. Mid and East Antrim Borough Council.</p> <p>It is important to note that it is also a statutory requirement for the Council to consult neighbouring councils at key stages of the plan making process.</p> <p>The Council has undertaken a number of steps throughout the plan making process for the purposes of cross boundary consideration to ensure that where a cross boundary issue is relevant it is not in conflict with the plan of a neighbouring council. Details are set out below. In addition to the Council's own steps to ensure that cross boundary issues were considered and that there was no conflict with neighbouring councils' plans, the POP and DPS have been brought forward through engagement with statutory consultees and through public consultation, allowing the opportunity for cross boundary issues to be raised by others.</p> <p><u>LDP Preparation</u></p> <p>Soundness Test <a href="#">C4</a> sets out how the Council considered relevant plans, policies and strategies relating to adjoining Council's districts. This helped the Council determine if there were any relevant cross boundary issues in its emerging LDP that conflicted with the LDPs of neighbouring councils. The LDP has also been prepared with a robust evidence base which has taken into account cross boundary considerations such as the regional and local context in which the LDP has been prepared.</p> <p><u>Cross Boundary Consultation and Engagement</u></p> <p>The Council has fully participated with neighbouring councils in the LDP process and actively engaged with neighbouring councils to identify relevant cross boundary issues where there may be a conflict through the following methods:</p> <p><u>Pre-POP engagement</u></p> <p>The Council undertook engagement with all neighbouring councils at an early stage of the Plan preparation by contacting councils to establish at an early stage to identify and discuss any cross-boundary issues.</p> <p>The Council held an event 'Planning Our Place' on 28 January 2016 and invited neighbouring councils to attend (<a href="#">PrePOP-SND-002</a>). The publication 'Towards Preferred Options' (<a href="#">PrePOP 001</a>) launched at that event was used as a basis for discussion to encourage input on planning issues from all interested parties including neighbouring councils. The Council also wrote to neighbouring councils prior to the publication of its POP for the purposes of generating options and alternatives (<a href="#">PrePOP-SND-022</a>).</p>
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		<p><u>Preferred Options Paper (POP) Stage</u></p> <p>The Council published its POP in January 2017 for the purposes of public engagement. The POP publication was accompanied by a number of assessments which were also issued for public consultation. A launch event was held and neighbouring Councils were invited to attend (please refer to Appendix 1 of <a href="#">POP 002</a>). All neighbouring councils were also formally consulted (<a href="#">POP-SND-031</a>).</p> <p>The POP was a public consultation document that was designed to stimulate discussion among stakeholders on key planning issues within the Borough. The POP was an opportunity for neighbouring councils to put forward their views on the direction of the new LDP from the outset. All neighbouring councils responded: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council – 28 March 2017 (<a href="#">POP-SND-018</a>);</li> <li>• Belfast City Council – 05 April 2017 (<a href="#">POP-SND-019</a>);</li> <li>• Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council – 10 April 2017 (<a href="#">POP-SND-020</a>);</li> <li>• Mid and East Antrim Borough Council – 06 April 2017 (<a href="#">POP-SND-021</a>); and</li> <li>• Mid Ulster District Council – 10 April 2017 (<a href="#">POP-SND-022</a>).</li> </ul> <p>In addition, to ensure that any cross-boundary issues were fully considered, neighbouring councils consulted Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council on their POP and the Council duly responded: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council – 25 January 2018 &amp; 16 May 2018 (<a href="#">POP-SND-023</a> &amp; <a href="#">POP-SND-024</a>);</li> <li>• Belfast City Council – 29 March 2017 (<a href="#">POP-SND-025</a>);</li> <li>• Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council – 03 March 2017 &amp; 23 May 2017 (<a href="#">POP-SND-026</a> &amp; <a href="#">POP-SND-027</a>);</li> <li>• Mid and East Antrim Borough Council – 06 September 2017 (<a href="#">POP-SND-028</a>); and</li> <li>• Mid Ulster District Council – 27 January 2017 (<a href="#">POP-SND-029</a>).</li> </ul> <p>Responses noted the need for continued joint working to consider overall policy approaches and cross boundary issues. POP responses allowed cross boundary issues and conflict to be considered. How the Council took these responses into consideration in the preparation of the LDP is set out in the Council's published POP Consultation Report (<a href="#">POP 002</a>).</p> <p><u>Draft Plan Strategy Stage</u></p> <p>The Council published its DPS in June 2019 for public consultation, with the formal eight week period beginning on 26 July 2019 and ending on 20 September 2019. All neighbouring councils were consulted.</p>
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	<p>The following responses were received in relation to the Council's DPS publication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council – 04 September 2019 (DPS-SND-026);</li> <li>• Belfast City Council – 19 September 2019 (DPS-SND-027);</li> <li>• Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council – 17 September 2019 (DPS-SND-028);</li> <li>• Mid and East Antrim Borough Council – 12 September 2019 (DPS-SND-029); and</li> <li>• Mid Ulster District Council – 11 September 2019 (DPS-SND-030).</li> </ul> <p>How the Council considered the main issues raised is set out in the published DPS Public Consultation Report (DPS-S-001) and within its accompanying reports (Representations by Issues Report (DPS-S-002), Representations by Respondent Report (DPS-S-003), Counter Representations Report (DPS-S-004) and Topic Paper 1: Housing Growth (DPS-S-005) &amp; Topic Paper 2: Affordable Housing (DPS-S-006).</p> <p>Similarly, the Council fully participated in neighbouring council's DPS consultation processes by providing robust responses on a range of cross boundary planning topics considered as relevant. The Council has responded to the following neighbouring council's DPS consultations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belfast City Council – 08 November 2018 (DPS-SND-031);</li> <li>• Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council – 19 December 2019 (DPS-SND-032);</li> <li>• Mid and East Antrim Borough Council – 05 December 2019 (DPS-SND-033); and</li> <li>• Mid Ulster District Council – 01 April 2019 (DPS-SND-034).</li> </ul> <p>Responses noted the need for continued joint working to consider overall policy approaches and cross boundary issues.</p> <p><u>Cross Boundary Working Groups</u></p> <p>As well as engaging and responding to respective plan publications, ANBC representatives were also involved in a number of cross-boundary working groups and project boards which as part of their remit were to discuss common issues. A range of common planning topics have been discussed through various mechanisms. A summary of these is set out below:</p> <p><u>The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE) meetings</u></p> <p>SOLACE NI is the leading members' network for local government and public sector professionals throughout Northern Ireland. SOLACE NI has facilitated joined up working and innovative solutions across a range of key functions including; community planning, planning, performance management, economic development and waste management.</p>
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Since its formation, the Council's Chief Executive regularly attends the monthly meetings hosted by SOLACE NI, and cross boundary LDP issues feature regularly. These meetings remain ongoing at the time of this report, and the Chief Executive currently chairs the group.

*Heads of Planning Working Group and Local Development Plan Principal Planning Officers Working Group*

The Council's Head of Planning and Principal Planning Officer regularly attend two separate working groups which provide a platform for discussing common planning issues. This includes common approaches to areas of planning work as well as opportunities to engage on how plans can progress in terms of any common issues. These working groups help to highlight any implications which relevant plans, policies and strategies may have for the preparation of a council's LDP and also help to assist in the discussion of cross boundary matters as Council's bring forward their own LDPs. These meetings commenced in 2015, take place every two to three months and remain ongoing at the time of this report.

*Metropolitan Area Spatial Working Group (MASWG)*

Belfast City Council established the Metropolitan Area Spatial Working Group (MASWG) in September 2017 to bring together Members and officers from the five councils (Belfast, Lisburn and Castlereagh, Antrim and Newtownabbey, Ards and North Down and Mid and East Antrim) with representatives from a number of government Departments. MASWG meetings, which take place on a quarterly basis, provide a forum for discussions with neighbouring councils and help to identify opportunities for cross boundary working, information exchange, progress reviews and to identify, where feasible, consensus on issues.

Significant progress has been made to date and the group continues to meet as each council progresses with its Local Development Plan.

The group's terms of reference are enclosed ([POP-SND-030](#)).

A summary of MASWG meetings and matters discussed is provided as follows:

Date of Meeting	Matters discussed/agenda
04 September 2017  Venue: ANBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms of Reference;</li> <li>• Timetables;</li> <li>• Shared Priorities &amp; Potential Synergies;</li> <li>• Transport;</li> <li>• Strategic Housing Market;</li> <li>• Environment;</li> <li>• Retail Hierarchy;</li> <li>• Information Exchange/Engagement; and</li> <li>• Future Meeting Approach.</li> </ul>



		01 November 2017 Venue: BCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population &amp; Housing Growth</li> <li>Housing Needs</li> <li>Urban Capacity Study</li> <li>Overspill/de-zoning</li> <li>Affordable housing</li> <li>Design</li> </ul> </li> <li>Transport:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan</li> <li>Regional/Belfast Infrastructure Plan</li> <li>Accessibility Analysis</li> <li>BRT</li> <li>Belfast Bicycle Network Plan</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
		26 January 2018 Venue: LCCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transport Strategy;</li> <li>BMTP Programme;</li> <li>Accessibility Analysis;</li> <li>Countryside;</li> <li>Retailing;</li> <li>Employment/economy;</li> <li>Housing;</li> <li>Transport;</li> <li>BMAP;</li> <li>Soundness;</li> <li>SPPPS; and</li> <li>Project Management Team Role - Clarification.</li> </ul>	
		13 April 2018 Venue: ANBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing;</li> <li>Employment; and</li> <li>Transport.</li> </ul>	
		17 September 2018 Venue: MEABC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updates on LDP progress from councils;</li> <li>Statutory Consultee Updates;</li> <li>Emerging BMTS; and</li> <li>Presentation on BCC Plan Strategy.</li> </ul>	
		03 December 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on LDP progress from councils;</li> </ul>	

		Venue: ANBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update from Consultees;</li> <li>• Role of Group;</li> <li>• Transport Plans;</li> <li>• Affordable Housing Policy;</li> <li>• Distribution of Housing Growth;</li> <li>• Timetables;</li> <li>• Employment Land review; and</li> <li>• Sprucefield Regional Centre Update.</li> </ul>	
		11 March 2019 Venue: BCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update from councils/ consultees;</li> <li>• Role of the group;</li> <li>• Transport Plans; and</li> <li>• Timetables.</li> </ul>	
		12 June 2019 Venue: LCCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update from councils/ consultees (DfI, DFI TPMU, NIHE &amp; INVEST NI);</li> <li>• LCCC Consultation and Engagement Strategy with Neighbouring Councils.</li> </ul>	
		09 September 2019 Venue: ANBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update from councils/consultees;</li> <li>• ANBC DPS overview;</li> <li>• Transport Studies;</li> <li>• Timetables.</li> </ul>	
		10 December 2019 Venue: MEABC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in group format;</li> <li>• Schemes of Delegation in regard to LDP matters;</li> <li>• Update from councils/consultees (SES, NIHE, INVEST NI &amp; NIEA); and</li> <li>• MEABC &amp; LCCC DPS overview/presentation</li> </ul>	
		11 March 2020 Venue: BCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Revised Terms of Reference;</li> <li>• Update from councils/consultees;</li> <li>• Belfast Supplementary Planning Guidance;</li> </ul>	

08 July 2020  Venue: ANBC (Virtual)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda 08 July 2020 meeting (DPS-SND-038)</li> <li>• draft TOR;</li> <li>• Housing &amp; Transportation</li> <li>• Update from councils</li> <li>• Update from consultees</li> </ul>
03 November 2020  Venue: ANBC (Virtual)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update from councils;</li> <li>• Update from consultees;</li> </ul>
12 February 2021  Venue: LCCC (Virtual)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes of previous meeting of 03-11-2020 &amp; action points arising;</li> <li>• Topic Based Discussion – Transportation – Update on BMTS (DfI);</li> <li>• Update from consultees (DfI Strategic Planning, DfI Transport Planning &amp; Modelling Unit, NIHE, DfE, Translink).</li> </ul>

The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Belfast Metropolitan Area Transport Plan Project Board

The Project Board initiated in August 2018 meets on a regular basis and is continuing to provide strategic guidance and direction on the development of the Department's full suite of new transport plans. The Project Board is made up of Government officials and representatives from the councils within the Metropolitan area feed into the development of the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan.

The requirement for a new suite of transport plans is driven by the need to guide the Department's long term management and future infrastructure investment in line with the draft Programme for Government 2016, the Councils' Community Plans and LDPs. The intention of the Department is to develop a new suite of Transport Plans for which it has lead responsibility to develop within the LDP process. It is envisaged that it will be a two stage process consisting of a Transport Strategy and a number of Transport Plans. The objective is to have a sound foundation to develop a full suite of transport plans. The platform provides a structure through which to integrate the transport needs of the Metropolitan area in tandem with the LDPs, thereby bringing cross boundary issues forward together.

The group's terms of reference are enclosed (POP-SND-017).

A summary of the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan Project Board meetings and matters discussed is provided as follows:

Date of Meeting		Matters discussed/agenda
28 August 2018	Venue: Clarence Court, Belfast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms of Reference;</li> <li>• Project initiation document;</li> <li>• Methodology;</li> <li>• Risks and issues; and</li> <li>• Project Plan.</li> </ul>
02 May 2019		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed minutes of previous meeting;</li> <li>• BMTS Processes and Proposals – Presentation and discussion; and</li> <li>• Presentation on the NI Strategic Transport Model.</li> </ul>
11 June 2019		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed minutes of previous meeting;</li> <li>• Presentation on the results of various measures tested using the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Model;</li> <li>• Proposed future transport networks to be tested;</li> <li>• Presentation on Atkins modelling reports and proposed contents of the BMTS;</li> <li>• Local Transport Studies – ANBC update on their draft transport study; and Revised Programme document update.</li> </ul>
13 August 2019		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed minutes of previous meeting;</li> <li>• BMTS update – summary of the technical report provided to councils in August 2018 – including results and conclusions;</li> <li>• Presentation given on Atkins modelling report; and</li> <li>• Review of programme plan and delivery of draft of BMTP.</li> </ul>
12 September 2019		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed minutes of previous meeting;</li> <li>• Discussion on BMTS draft report; and</li> <li>• Discussion on programme delivery.</li> </ul>

Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Forum

In March 2017, Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) wrote to the Chief Executives of all councils with a shared interest in Lough Neagh and Lough Beg inviting representation from councils to take part in a joint forum to discuss the cross boundary issues of Lough Neagh and Lough Beg in the context of LDP preparation.

A summary of the Lough Neagh Forum meetings and matters discussed is provided as follows:

Date of Meeting	Matters discussed/agenda
27 April 2017  Venue: MUDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointment of Chair;</li> <li>• Discussions around Importance of Lough Neagh Lough Beg;</li> <li>• Existing Environmental designations, protection of natural heritage – proposed Special Countryside Area; and</li> <li>• Minerals Development, Sustainable Development and Flooding.</li> </ul>
20 September 2017  Venue: ANBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback on MUDC Lough Neagh Position paper;</li> <li>• Feedback from Consultees/Councillors on Position Paper;</li> <li>• Delivery stage of Lough Neagh Plan Options; and</li> <li>• Additional Lough Neagh issues including Lough renewables, river corridor protection areas, island development.</li> </ul>
08 November 2017  Venue: MEABC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mineral Policy Options – Lough Neagh;</li> <li>• Environmental Designations &amp; Protection of Natural Heritage;</li> <li>• Minerals Development;</li> <li>• Renewable Energy Development;</li> <li>• Tourism Development;</li> <li>• Flooding; and</li> <li>• Action Points.</li> </ul>

22 March 2018  Venue: MUDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NIEA Peat &amp; Planning Presentation;</li><li>• Landscape Assessments – Cross Boundary;</li><li>• Shared baseline of information for Lough Neagh;</li><li>• Environmental Designations and Protection;</li><li>• Minerals development including Lough Neagh sand extraction;</li><li>• Renewable Energy Development;</li><li>• Sustainable Development;</li><li>• Flooding; and</li><li>• Action Points.</li></ul>
06 June 2018  Venue: ANBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion on the Draft Statement of Common Ground;</li><li>• Discussion on the consultee responses to MUDC position paper on Strategic issues on Lough Neagh circulated in September 2017.</li></ul>

Department for Economy (DfE), Regional Minerals Working Group

The aim of the Regional Minerals Working Group is as set out in the Group's Terms of Reference (**DPS-SND-025**).

A summary of the Minerals Working Group meetings and matters discussed is provided as follows:

Date of Meeting	Matters discussed/agenda
14 June 2018  Venue: CCGBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Terms of Reference Agreed;</li><li>• Overview of NI's Geology;</li><li>• Experience of the Regional Aggregate Working Parties (RAWPS) in England and Wales;</li><li>• Update on Data Collection; and</li><li>• Wider issues of concern for Councils.</li></ul>
26 Sept 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Previous meeting minutes agreed;</li><li>• Discussion on a geosciences report by GSNI;</li></ul>

Venue: ANBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on the annual mineral statement data;</li> <li>• Update on quarry permissions data; and</li> <li>• Agreement of Terms of Reference.</li> </ul>
20 March 2020  Venue: Bangor Castle (Town Hall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreement of minutes of previous meeting and update on actions;</li> <li>• Review of Minerals and Petroleum Licensing;</li> <li>• Update on 2018 Annual Minerals Statement.</li> </ul>

The Department for Infrastructure/The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DfI/DAERA) Coastal Forum, Coastal Form Working Group, Coastal Planning Working Group

The aim of the Coastal Forum is to work collaboratively to progress coastal management issues within the existing policy and legislation framework. This includes a collaborative approach to working with other coastal councils (to include: Ards and North Down Borough Council, Belfast City Council, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Derry City and Strabane District Council and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council).

The Coastal Forum meets bi-annually.

A summary of the meetings and matters discussed is provided as follows:

Coastal Forum

Date of Meeting	Matters discussed/agenda
02 May 2019  Venue, Parliament Buildings (Belfast)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amey Presentation on Baseline Study and Gap Analysis Report;</li> <li>• Local Government/National Trust Feedback on Baseline Study and Gap Analysis Report;</li> <li>• Updates/Work in Progress; and</li> <li>• Next Steps/Areas for further consideration: Coastal Forum/Collaborative Working, Policy and Strategy, Funding Requirements.</li> </ul>
19 November 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation from Christian Wilson on EMFF Project;</li> <li>• Update on Guidance for Planners;</li> </ul>

		<div>Venue: National Trust Mount Stewart House, Newtownards</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update on Coastal Forum Working Group/Progress on work plan; and</li><li>• Coastal Forum/Working Group Terms of Reference.</li></ul></div>									
		<div><u>Coastal Forum Working Group</u></div> <div>A key action point from the Coastal Forum was to set up a Coastal Forum Working Group involving representatives from Central Government, Local Government and the National Trust to take forward actions from the Coastal Forum and to develop a draft work programme for consideration by the Coastal Forum to maintain momentum.</div> <div>A summary of the meetings and matters discussed is provided as follows:</div> <table><tr><th>Date of Meeting</th><th>Matters discussed/agenda</th></tr><tr><td>28 August 2019  Venue: DfI, Clarence Court (Belfast)</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Draft Terms of Reference;</li><li>• Development of Work Programme.</li></ul></td></tr><tr><td>23 October 2019  Venue: DfI Clarence Court (Belfast)</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation on EMMF Project by Christian Wilson;</li><li>• Minutes &amp; Actions from meeting on 28 August 2019; and</li><li>• Draft Coastal Forum Work programme.</li></ul></td></tr><tr><td>28 January 2020  Venue: DfI Clarence Court (Belfast)</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minutes/Actions of 23 October 2019;</li><li>• Coastal Forum Meeting update;</li><li>• Draft Coastal Forum work programme;</li><li>• Improve Coastal Management Baseline (LIDAR Surveying/Peace Plus funding);</li><li>• Develop Coastal Management Policy Options Workshop;</li><li>• Education/Awareness on Coastal Management (National Trust Training Package).</li></ul></td></tr></table>	Date of Meeting	Matters discussed/agenda	28 August 2019  Venue: DfI, Clarence Court (Belfast)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Draft Terms of Reference;</li><li>• Development of Work Programme.</li></ul>	23 October 2019  Venue: DfI Clarence Court (Belfast)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation on EMMF Project by Christian Wilson;</li><li>• Minutes &amp; Actions from meeting on 28 August 2019; and</li><li>• Draft Coastal Forum Work programme.</li></ul>	28 January 2020  Venue: DfI Clarence Court (Belfast)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minutes/Actions of 23 October 2019;</li><li>• Coastal Forum Meeting update;</li><li>• Draft Coastal Forum work programme;</li><li>• Improve Coastal Management Baseline (LIDAR Surveying/Peace Plus funding);</li><li>• Develop Coastal Management Policy Options Workshop;</li><li>• Education/Awareness on Coastal Management (National Trust Training Package).</li></ul>	
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Coastal Planning Working Group

A key issue that arose at the Coastal Forum was the need for councils to receive advice in relation to coastal management issues in the preparation of Local Development Plans. It was agreed that any policy direction would be a matter for Ministers but as an interim measure to assist councils, the Coastal Forum recommended the development "Best Practice Guidance" for consideration by councils and the establishment of a LDP Coastal Focus Group.

A summary of the meetings and matters discussed is provided as follows:

Date of Meeting	Matters discussed/agenda
14 August 2019  Venue: NMDDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion and Next Steps on DAERA/DfI 'Draft Best Practice Guidance to Facilitate Coastal Planning Decisions';</li><li>• Presentation GSNI Dept. for Economy – Geological Survey of NI and Coastal Management Data.</li></ul>
23 October 2019 Venue: Belmont Clock Tower, National Trust (Belfast)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation on EMMF Project by Christian Wilson;</li><li>• Minutes &amp; Actions of Meeting on 28 August 2019; and</li></ul>

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23 January 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion on previous meetings action points;</li><li>• Discussion on DAERA/DfI Draft Guidance Document – Coastal Change Position Paper.</li></ul>							
Venue: MEABC								
		<p><u>Strategic Planning Group: Sub Group on Affordable Housing</u></p> <p>In an effort to help Councils across Northern Ireland address issues arising in meeting housing need through their LDPs, the DfI Strategic Planning Group set up a Housing and Planning Sub-Group chaired by the Chief Planner in DfI to include representatives from the Department for Communities (DfC), the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) as well as the Heads of Planning from several councils. This is seeking to consider how the planning system in Northern Ireland can more effectively address the issue of delivery of affordable housing with a particular emphasis on the role of LDPs. The first meeting of this Sub-Group took place in October 2020 where a range of issues to be addressed were identified. These included the following: consideration of the need for regional policy and guidance potentially involving both DfI and DfC; addressing viability issues in the development management process; and seeking practical solutions to address issues and delays arising. This SGP takes place on a quarterly basis.</p> <p><u>Strategic Planning Group: Sub Group on Reservoirs</u></p> <p>Following agreement with the Heads of Planning and Strategic Planning Group, a Sub Group on Reservoirs was set up in 2017 to discuss the application of reservoir planning policy across Northern Ireland. This Sub Group is chaired by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and is attended by the Councils, DfI Planning Policy Division and DfI Rivers on a quarterly basis.</p>						
CE2	<b>The strategy, policies and allocations are realistic and appropriate having considered the relevant alternatives and are founded on a</b>	<p><b>Yes:</b></p> <p>The Council considers its LDP as realistic and appropriate and is supported by a robust evidence base, including national regional and local policy context and a range of Evidence Papers prepared by the Council and independent consultants on a range of key subjects. Relevant alternatives considered through the SA incorporating SEA have been based on extensive engagement with statutory stakeholders and public consultation. The SA process, which from the outset and in parallel with the LDP, is a key source of evidence in demonstrating 'soundness' and the identification of realistic and appropriate alternatives. In addition, the Towards Preferred Options Publication, Pre-POP engagement and public consultation on Preferred Options and the DPS itself, helped shape the LDP in terms of options and the robustness of the approach taken.</p>						

	<b>robust evidence base</b>	<p><b>Preferred Options Paper</b></p> <p>The Council's POP (<a href="#">POP 001</a>) was published in January 2017 for public consultation and was informed by an extensive pre-consultation for the purpose of identifying the key strategic issues to be addressed and to consider options. It was accompanied by a number of evidence papers and assessments. The Council has built up an extensive and wide-ranging evidence base following the commencement of the Plan process in April 2015. This has been used to provide the context for a range of topics in the Borough and has thus evolved in support of both the POP and DPS. In support of the POP, three topic-based evidence papers were published in January 2017: Meeting the Needs of Society (<a href="#">POP 003</a>); Facilitating Economic Development (<a href="#">POP 004</a>); and Shaping our Environment (<a href="#">POP 005</a>). A further evidence paper was published on the Review of Operational Planning Policy (<a href="#">POP 006</a>).</p> <p>A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report (<a href="#">POP 008</a>) and a SA Interim Report incorporating SEA and a Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening (<a href="#">POP 009</a>) were carried out as part of the POP preparation.</p> <p>The Scoping Report detailed the proposed approach to Sustainability Appraisal and provided an overview of plan preparation. The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was to identify other policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives of relevance to the LDP; collect relevant baseline information about the environmental, social and economic conditions in Antrim and Newtownabbey and consider how these might change in the future; identify sustainability issues and challenges which could affect or be addressed by the LDP; develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework, consisting of sustainability objectives and appraisal prompts, which will form the basis for assessment of the LDP; and invite comment on the scope and method of the SA.</p> <p>The SA Interim Report documented the appraisal of options and reasonable alternatives against the Sustainability Framework consisting of fourteen Sustainability Objectives. This helped the Council to assess the preferred options presented in the POP.</p> <p>In addition, the POP was subject to an interim equality assessment (<a href="#">POP 010</a>) which provided an indication as to whether or not the LDP would have any negative impacts upon Section 75 groups.</p> <p>Following the launch of the POP and its supporting information, a 12-week public consultation period took place which raised a wide range of issues from interested parties, including the public, planning agents and statutory consultees. The Council subsequently undertook an assessment of the comments received and a Preferred Options Public Consultation Report was published (<a href="#">POP 002</a>). This report provided a summary of the main issues raised and how these issues were taken account of in the preparation of the DPS. Comments on the appraisal were given due consideration in the next stage of the plan preparation.</p> <p><b>Draft Plan Strategy</b></p> <p>The Council's DPS was published in June 2019. The evidence base for the LDP was reviewed and updated. 21 topic-based evidence papers (<a href="#">DPS 007</a> to <a href="#">DPS 027</a>) were published alongside the DPS in support of the strategies, policies and allocations contained within it. The regional and local context in which the plan was prepared was reviewed, updated</p>
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	<p>and taken into account. Engagement with Elected Members and consultees also took place. This helped shape realistic and appropriate policies contained within the DPS.</p> <p>The SA Scoping Report (<a href="#">DPS 004</a>) and SA (incorporating SEA) Report (<a href="#">DPS 002</a>) of the DPS, accompanied by their Non-Technical Summary (<a href="#">DPS 003</a>), were published with the DPS in June 2019. These reports were the second formal output of the SA process and updated and built upon those prepared alongside the POP. The SA Scoping Report evidence base was reviewed and updated. The SA Report updated the Interim SA prepared alongside the POP. It documented the appraisal of options and reasonable alternatives against the Sustainability Framework and helped to shape the strategies, policies and allocations as identified within the DPS. In terms of reasonable alternatives, the Report sets out what reasonable alternatives were considered, taking into account higher level plans and policies such as the RDS and SPPS, the Corporate Plan, the Community Plan and legislative requirements. Section 2.4.4 of the SA Report sets out how Reasonable Alternatives were considered. Strategic Policies and Development Management policies were examined, and consideration was given to whether any reasonable alternatives to deliver the policy objective were available. Guidance used to evaluate reasonable alternatives included <a href="#">DPPN Note 04</a>, the <a href="#">RTPI Practice Advice on SEA</a> and '<a href="#">Developing and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment</a>'. An explanation of whether a reasonable alternative was identified or was being scoped out is included for each policy in Section 3 of the SA Report.</p> <p>These SA documents consequently offer a clear and transparent insight into the decision-making process and help to explain how the Council reached decisions around the content of its DPS.</p> <p>The DPS was also subject to an equality screening and rural needs assessment (<a href="#">DPS 006</a>) to allow the Council the opportunity to consider if any alternatives or amendments were needed to the policy due to their potential impact on these communities.</p> <p>The DPS was subject to public consultation with a total of 122 representations received to the DPS consultation stage and a further 26 representations were received in response to the DPS counter representation consultation stage. A number of responses were received in relation to the SA/SEA documentation. A summary of these and the Council's position on the issues raised is set out in the DPS Public Consultation Report (<a href="#">DPS-S-001</a>), Representations by Issues Report (<a href="#">DPS-S-002</a>), Representations by Respondent Report (<a href="#">DPS-S-003</a>) and the Counter Representations Report (<a href="#">DPS-S-004</a>) which set out further detail on the representations to the public consultation. Two topic papers (<a href="#">DPS-S-005</a> &amp; <a href="#">DPS-S-006</a>) on housing and affordable housing have also been prepared. Each of these reports outlines the nature of comments received, the key issues raised and the Council's response to these.</p> <p>Therefore, throughout the whole process of LDP preparation, the Council has ensured its evidence base is robust and has considered reasonable alternatives to ensure that the LDP is realistic and appropriate.</p>
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CE3	<b>There are clear mechanisms for implementation and monitoring</b>	<p><b>Yes:</b></p> <p>Section 21 of the 2011 Act requires a council to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) which must contain information on the extent to which the objectives of the LDP are being achieved. Part 6 of the LDP Regulations sets out further detail on monitoring including the minimum standards and more detailed requirements regarding the AMR.</p> <p>The DPS (<b>DPS 001</b>) sets out how the Strategic Objectives of the LDP will be implemented through Strategic Policies that will be supplemented by Detailed Management Policies. The DPS sets out how the LDP will be delivered including the application of policy, zoning of land, defining of settlement limits, local policy designations and bringing forward of supplementary guidance together with advice notes etc.</p> <p>Once the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan are adopted, the LDP will be monitored annually to determine if it is meeting its objectives. Chapter 14 of the DPS sets out the details for the Monitoring of the LDP, including an Indicative Monitoring Framework. It acknowledges the importance of monitoring as a critical element in assessing delivery of the LDP once it is adopted. The Council will regularly update data, review land use decisions and work with its partners in order to identify how the LDP is meeting its Strategic Objectives and what issues or new opportunities are emerging within the Borough.</p> <p>Whilst delivery of much of the LDP will rely on development undertaken on foot of planning applications, the Council recognises that it cannot deliver the objectives of the Plan alone. Many of the key functions associated with physical development such as transport, water, sewerage infrastructure and regeneration powers rest with other statutory authorities and service providers. The Council will therefore engage with its partners to ensure elements of the Plan outside of its control are effectively reviewed, monitored and implemented. The DPS also sets out in its Strategic Policies the ongoing commitment of the Council to work with its partners in the delivery of key policies in the Plan, in order to deliver and implement the LDP. The Council will also work with key partners, through its Community Planning role to help ensure that work undertaken supports and implements delivery of the LDP and contributes to the delivery of the Plan Vision and Strategic Objectives for the Borough.</p> <p>The main mechanism for reporting on the performance of the plan will be the LDP's AMR which will provide a summary of the information collected by the Council each financial year in relation to a number of indicators. The AMR is required to be submitted following the adoption of the LDP. Therefore, the DPS sets out an Indicative Monitoring Framework which will continue to develop as progress is made on the LDP and will be completed to accompany publication of the LPP.</p> <p>In addition to the monitoring of the LDP, the Council will also undertake monitoring requirements as part of the SA and EQIA/Rural Proofing of its LDP. The SA (incorporating SEA) which supports the DPS, sets out a preliminary framework for monitoring – SA Monitoring Framework (pages 104-107 of <b>DPS 002</b>). This has been developed from the key sustainability</p>
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		<p>issues and significant effects identified through the SA. The SA will also be updated at the next stage of the LDP, the LPP. The LDP will also be subject to further Section 75 and Rural Needs screening during the preparation of the draft LPP.</p> <p>The LDP will be subject to review at least every five years. This will allow continued monitoring of the policies in the LDP and their effectiveness and potential impacts. As stated in Section 14.4 of the DPS, the Council will continue to engage with stakeholders, through its Community Planning role, to help ensure that the work undertaken supports and complements the delivery of the LDP and contributes to delivery of the Plan Vision and Strategic Objectives for the Borough. In addition, the Council will also bring forward, as appropriate, a range of supplementary guidance documents to support the implementation of the LDP, together with advice notes and information to assist applicants in the planning process.</p>
<b>CE4</b>	<b>It is reasonably flexible to enable it to deal with changing circumstances</b>	<p><b>Yes:</b></p> <p>The preparation of the DPS has sought to reflect the need for flexibility and to provide a framework which is able to respond as appropriate to changes in circumstances.</p> <p>The DPS (<b>DPS 001</b>) was prepared in the context of regional and local policy and is supported by a robust evidence base. It provides a clear framework for future growth and development in the Borough, balancing regional policy and local circumstances. It is considered realistic and has been informed by the consideration of reasonable alternatives. The Plan was preceded with the publication of the POP and has also been subject to public consultation and informed by engagement with a variety of stakeholders. These measures provide a source of evidence to demonstrate that the Council has considered the implications of policies, including where there is a need for flexibility.</p> <p>The Plan has built in flexibility in its planning policies. The principle of decision making is set out in SP 1 Sustainable Development. Planning applications that accord with the provision of the LDP will be approved unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In assessing proposals all relevant policies will be considered. Where there are no policies relevant to the application, the Council will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise taking into account provisions in the SPPS.</p> <p>In addition, the SGS will be supported by the allocation of sites in the LPP. Development will also be supported outside of zoned land subject to certain criteria to allow a greater degree of flexibility in the planning process. The LDP's Strategic Policies and Development Management Policies also seek to support flexibility where considered reasonable.</p> <p>The DPS also contains measures to future proof the LDP. The AMR and 5-year reviews of the LDP as required under planning legislation will ensure that it is effectively monitored on an ongoing basis and that it can be updated due to changing circumstances. Monitoring and review are essential in establishing how the objectives in the LDP are being achieved and whether any changes are required. As required under Section 21 of the Planning (Northern) Act (NI) 2011, the LDP contains a set of key indicators to measure the success of the plan. The AMR can set out why a policy is not</p>

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		being implemented; including a statement of the reason why that policy is not being implemented and the steps that the Council will take to address this. This can include a revision of the LDP to replace or amend the policy at any time. This will allow the LDP to respond effectively to changing circumstances.
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### 3 Statement of Community Involvement Legislative & General Compliance

#### Introduction

- 3.1 As required under Section 4 of the 2011 Planning Act, the Council published its SCI in January 2016. The Council's SCI sets out how the Council proposes to engage with the community and stakeholders in the preparation of the new LDP and its SA, as well as engagement in the Development Management and Enforcement processes.
- 3.2 The relevant test of soundness (P1) asks if the Council's LDP has been prepared in accordance with the Council's published SCI. There are considered to be a number of aspects in relation to this test, firstly the legislative test which is dealt with in [Table 3](#) below and secondly in relation to whether the Council complied with the contents of the published SCI, which is examined in [Table 4](#) below.

**Table 3: SCI Legislative Compliance**

Document	Section/ Regulation	Requirement	Evidence
Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011	Part 2 Section 4 Paragraph 1 – 6	<p><b>STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT</b></p> <p>(1) A council must prepare a statement of community involvement.</p> <p>(2) The statement of community involvement is a statement of the council's policy as to the involvement in the exercise of the council's functions under this Part and Part 3 of persons who appear to the council to have an interest in matters relating to development in its district.</p> <p>(3) The council and the Department must attempt to agree the terms of the statement of community involvement.</p> <p>(4) But to the extent that the council and the Department cannot agree the terms of the statement of community involvement the Department may direct that the statement must be in the terms specified in the direction.</p>	<p>(1) – (3)</p> <p>ANBC prepared and published a SCI on 28 January 2016 (<b>SCI 001</b>).</p> <p>The purpose of the Council's SCI is to define how the Council will engage with the community in the delivery of its planning functions, namely the production of the LDP, determining planning applications and planning enforcement.</p> <p>The terms of the SCI were agreed with the Department on 23 December 2015 (<b>SCI-SND-009</b>).</p> <p>(4) – (5) N/A</p>



		<p>(5) The council must comply with the direction.</p> <p>(6) The Department may prescribe-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the procedure in respect of the preparation of the statement of community involvement;</li> <li>(b) the form and content of the statement;</li> <li>(c) publicity about the statement;</li> <li>(d) making the statement available for inspection by the public;</li> <li>(e) the manner in which- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) representations may be made in relation to any matter to be included in the statement; and</li> <li>(ii) those representations are to be considered;</li> </ul> </li> <li>(f) circumstances in which the requirements of the statement need not be complied with.</li> </ul>	<p>(6) The requirement for the preparation and advertising of the SCI is prescribed under The Planning (Statement of Community Involvement) Regulations (NI) 2015. Please see below for compliance.</p>
	Part 2 Section 8 Paragraph 4	A plan strategy must be prepared in accordance with- (b) the council's statement of community involvement.	The DPS has been prepared in accordance with the SCI. This is demonstrated under the <a href="#">P1</a> Test and <a href="#">Table 4</a> of this report.
The Planning (Statement of Community Involvement) Regulations (NI) 2015	Regulation 4	<p><b>FORM AND CONTENT OF THE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT</b></p> <p>The statement of community involvement must include within it the following matters-</p> <p>(a) the principles of how the council will involve the community in exercising its local development plan functions under Part 2 of the 2011 Act;</p> <p>(b) the timing of, and the method by which—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) participation will occur at each stage of the local development plan procedure, and</li> </ul>	<p>(4)</p> <p>a) Chapter 2 of the SCI (<b>SCI 001</b>) sets out how the Council will involve the community in exercising its LDP functions, as well as the standards that the Council will endeavour to meet in terms of community involvement.</p> <p>b)</p> <p>i. Each stage is identified in the SCI document along with the actions that we take to involve the community. These</p>

		<p>(ii) the council will respond to the participation process referred to in sub-paragraph (i);</p> <p>(c) details of how the council will use those responses at each stage in developing the content of its local development plan.</p>	<p>actions fulfil, and in some cases exceed, the statutory requirements on public consultation.</p> <p>ii. The SCI sets out how the Council will respond to responses at each key stage of the LDP.</p> <p>(c) This includes participation details for each stage of the plan preparation process and how the Council will use those responses submitted for each participation stage of the process. A POP Public Consultation Report (<b>POP 002</b>) and a DPS Public Consultation Report (<b>DPS-S-001</b>) were prepared by the Council to address all the main issues raised in relation to the POP and DPS public consultation (including its assessments and accompanying evidence papers). Two topic papers (<b>DPS-S-005</b> &amp; <b>DPS-S-006</b>) on housing and, affordable housing have also been prepared. Each of these reports outlines the nature of comments received, the key issues raised and the Council's response to these.</p>
	Regulation 5	<p><b>STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CONSULTATION</b></p> <p>(1) Before preparing a statement of community involvement, a council must also consider whether it is appropriate to invite representations from persons who have an interest in development in its area.</p> <p>(2) If a council decides that it is appropriate to invite representations under paragraph (1), it must make such arrangements for the purposes of inviting representations from such persons of the descriptions in paragraph (1) as it thinks appropriate.</p> <p>(3) In preparing the statement of community involvement, the council must take into account any representations</p>	<p>5 (1) -(3)</p> <p>The Council prepared a draft SCI (<b>SCI-SND-001</b>) in order to engage with interested parties. It was subject to a 4-week period of consultation commencing the 7 September 2015 and closing on 6 October 2015.</p> <p>Notification of the public consultation was advertised in the local press on 10 September 2015 (<b>SCI-SND-002</b>) and was made widely available through the Council's webpage and via social media. Key stakeholders were also notified including those on the Council's Section 75 database (<b>SCI-SND-003</b>) and statutory planning consultees (<b>SCI-SND-004</b> &amp; <b>SCI-SND-005</b>). Notice was also issued to a number of local community groups registered on the Council's Community Plan group list.</p>

		made to it in response to invitations under paragraph (1) or (2).	Public drop-in sessions were also held across the DEAs allowing members of the public to discuss the draft SCI. These were held from the 15-29 September 2015 ( <a href="#">SCI-SND-002</a> ).  A total of 10 responses were received and were considered in the Draft SCI Public Consultation Response Document ( <a href="#">SCI-SND-011</a> ) which helped shape and inform the final version of the SCI ( <a href="#">SCI 001</a> ).
	Regulation 6	<p><b>AGREEMENT OF THE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT</b></p> <p>(1) The statement of community involvement (prepared in accordance with regulation 4) must-</p> <p>(a) be approved by resolution of the council prior to submission to the Department for its agreement, and</p> <p>(b) be submitted to the Department for its agreement.</p> <p>(2) The Department must respond within four weeks of receipt of the statement of community involvement unless it has, before the expiry of that period, notified the council in writing that it requires more time to consider the document.</p> <p>(3) If before the end of the period mentioned in paragraph (2), the Department has failed to respond to the receipt by it of the statement of community involvement, its agreement will be deemed to have been given at the end of that period.</p> <p>(4) Subject to paragraph (3) until such time as the Department agrees the statement of community involvement, the council must not take any steps under regulation 7 to advertise its proposals.</p> <p>(5) The council must keep the statement of community involvement under regular review and any revision must comply with the requirements of these Regulations.</p>	<p>(6)</p> <p>(1) – (5)</p> <p>The final version of the SCI (<a href="#">SCI 001</a>) was presented to the Council's Planning Committee on 16 November 2015 (Item 3.21 of <a href="#">SCI-SND-006</a>) and Full Council on 30 November 2015 (Item 8 (b) of <a href="#">SCI-SND-007</a>) for approval and was fully ratified.</p> <p>The Council then consulted the Department on 8 December 2015 seeking approval on the SCI (<a href="#">SCI-SND-008</a>).</p> <p>The Department responded in writing on 23 December 2015 within the four-week period as specified and approved the SCI (<a href="#">SCI-SND-009</a>).</p>

	Regulation 7	<p><b>AVAILABILITY OF STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT</b></p> <p>(1) Where a statement of community involvement or a revision of a statement of community involvement is agreed or deemed to be agreed, the council must-</p> <p>(a) make a copy of the agreed statement of community involvement available for inspection at its principal offices during normal office hours;</p> <p>(b) give notice by local advertisement-</p> <p>(i) that the statement is available for inspection,</p> <p>(ii) the place and times at which it can be inspected; and</p> <p>(c) publish the statement on its website.</p>	<p>7 (1)</p> <p>The SCI was launched on 28 January 2016 as part of the Council's 'Planning Our Place' event which marked the commencement of the Local Development Plan process (SCI-SND-012). A public display (SCI-SND-013) was set up in the public reception areas at the Council's two principal offices, Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre for the SCI for public inspection between 01 February 2016 to 31 March 2016 during normal office hours. A press notice (SCI-SND-014) was placed in the Antrim Guardian and Newtownabbey Times for the weeks commencing 14 January 2016 and 21 January 2016. A further press notice was placed in these papers on the 04 February 2016. The press notice outlined the location and times when the SCI could be inspected. The SCI was published on the Council's webpage (SCI-SND-010).</p>
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**Table 4: SCI Compliance in relation to LDP Preparation**

Paragraph within our SCI	What we said we would do	Did We Do This? Yes/No	Evidence
<b>Chapter 1: What is the Statement of Community Involvement</b>			
1.1	<u>Purpose</u>  This includes bringing forward a Local Development Plan for the Borough.	Yes	As part of the first stage of the LDP process, the Council has prepared and published its first new DPD document called the DPS ( <b>DPS 001</b> ), including associated documents. Once the Plan Strategy is adopted, the Council will prepare a LPP.
1.7	<u>Our Vision of Participation</u>  This sets out our vision of how we will engage including a proactive and timely approach to community engagement through a process of providing clear information and encouraging participation during the preparation of our Local Development Plan. The process must therefore be informative, user friendly, as inclusive as possible and conducted in an open and transparent way. Every effort will be made to engage the community, record views and provide feedback.	Yes	The Council is and continues to be committed to engaging with all sections of the local community. The Council has undertaken extensive consultation and engagement during the course of the preparation of our LDP (please refer to the <a href="#">P2</a> test for further information).
1.8 Bullet point 4	<u>Principles of Community Involvement</u>  This sets out the Council's Commitment to uphold the principles of community involvement and includes:- Open, Transparent, Inclusive and Fit for Purpose Methods of engagement will be tailored to the experience and needs of the community, and	Yes	The Council is and continues to be committed to engaging with all sections of the local community . The Council has undertaken extensive consultation and engagement during the course of the preparation of our LDP.  Methods of consultation included public engagement events, advertisements and web-based consultation. A varied approach to

	to the type of Local Development Plan document or planning application being considered, but realistic in terms of terms of available resources. We are also keen to consider creative and innovative new ways of engaging with the community.		<p>engagement was taken to ensure that the consultation was widely accessible. This included:</p> <p>Launch events;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertisements in the local press and Borough Life Magazine;</li> <li>• Display Exhibitions;</li> <li>• Posters and Summary Booklets;</li> <li>• Public Engagement Events;</li> <li>• Written Correspondence to relevant stakeholders;</li> <li>• Internal Communications;</li> <li>• Social Media</li> <li>• Web based Consultation;</li> </ul> <p>The public consultations took many forms in an effort to reach all communities within the Borough.</p>
1.8 Bullet point 5	<p><u>Principles of Community Involvement</u></p> <p>Clarity</p> <p>The planning process and the Timetable for producing or reviewing Local Development Plan documents will be clear to ensure that the community can avail of the opportunity to participate in a timely and effective manner. We will consider views at any stage of the process, and will endeavour to use plain English in our publications and avoid jargon whenever possible.</p>	Yes	<p>The overall LDP process and how the public can engage is set out in our published SCI, which was widely advertised and is available on our website. A draft SCI was prepared to give the public the opportunity to shape the final SCI. This was considered good practice to allow the community the opportunity to shape how the Council would engage with them.</p> <p>The Council has published its Timetable which sets out indicative dates for each stage of the LDP process. The Timetable was published in the local press and on our website.</p> <p>The Council also carried out extensive consultation during the Plan making process and methods of consultation throughout the LDP process included public engagement events, advertisements and web-based consultation. A varied approach to engagement was taken to ensure that the consultation was widely accessible. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertisements in the local press and Borough Life Magazine;</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Display Exhibitions;</li> <li>• Posters and Summary Booklets;</li> <li>• Public Engagement Events;</li> <li>• Written Correspondence to relevant stakeholders;</li> <li>• Internal Communications;</li> <li>• Social Media; and</li> <li>• Web based Consultation.</li> </ul> <p>At each stage of consultation, it was made clear to the public how they could get involved, the time period for doing so and how to respond.</p> <p>The public consultations took many forms in an effort to reach all communities within the Borough. The Council ensured alternative formats of all its LDP related documents were available on request, such as in large print, audio format, or in minority languages to meet the needs of those for whom English was not their first language.</p>
<b>Chapter 2: Community Involvement in the Preparation of our Local Development Plan</b>			
2.2	Our new LDP will be prepared in the context of the Council's Corporate Plan and will co-ordinate with the Council's Community Planning process to enable use to plan positively for the future of our Borough. The policies and proposals defined in our Local Development Plan will be a vital tool in facilitating the implementation of any related objectives contained in our Community Plan. The LDP will work within this broader framework to provide a vision of what places should be like in the future. It will also ensure that lands are appropriately zoned and that our infrastructure is enhanced to develop the Borough for future generations.	Yes	<p>Section 3 (pgs.53-59 of our DPS) lays out our overarching Plan Vision and Strategic Objectives for the Borough (<a href="#">DPS 001</a>). The DPS takes account of the relationship between the LDP and the Council's corporate objectives for the Borough expressed in its <a href="#">Corporate Plan (DPS-S-013)</a> as well as its relationship to the Council's Community Plan – Love Living Here (<a href="#">DPS-S-008</a>), given the statutory link between both documents provided for in the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014. Further information on how we took the Community Plan into account is set out under the relevant soundness test <a href="#">C2</a> in this report.</p> <p>In order to support and help achieve the Plan Vision, fourteen Strategic Objectives have been developed based upon the theme of sustainable development and interlinked with the Community Plan Outcomes. The Strategic Objectives are grouped under the following themes:</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Place of Economic Opportunity;</li> <li>• A Vibrant and Liveable Place; and</li> <li>• A Place with a Sustainable Future.</li> </ul> <p>These Strategic Objectives form the link between the Plan Vision and the Strategic and Detailed Management Policies that will be used in decision making and that will also inform the detailed zonings and designations to be brought forward in the LPP.</p>
2.3	The LDP must take account of the regional policy context set by the Northern Ireland Executive and Central Government Departments.	Yes	<p>Section 2 of the DPS sets out the regional policy context taken into account by the Council in the preparation of its LDP. This includes the policy context of the Northern Ireland Executive and Central Government Departments and includes the Programme for Government, the SDS, the RDS, the SPPS and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) etc.</p> <p>Further information is also included in our published evidence papers and appraisal documents. The Council's POP was also shaped by the regional policy context.</p>
2.4	The LDP will be produced in two stages and will comprise two separate documents that will shape development in our Borough in the period to 2030. The first new development plan document will be a Plan Strategy which will be followed by a Local Policies Plan.	Yes	<p>As part of the first stage of the LDP process, the Council has prepared its first new DPD called the DPS (<b>DPS 001</b>). Once the Plan Strategy is adopted, the Council will prepare a LPP.</p>
2.5	Before the new Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan are prepared we will engage with the local community, identify key planning issues and define a range of options for addressing these issues. This will culminate in the publication of a Preferred Options Paper.	Yes	<p>After a period of pre POP public engagement (see paragraph 2.9 below) the Council's POP (POP) was published in January 2017, which was the first formal stage in gathering stakeholder's views on key planning issues within the Borough (<b>POP 001</b>).</p> <p>The POP was a public consultation document that was designed to stimulate discussion among stakeholders on key strategic planning issues within the Borough. It presented varying strategic options on how to address these planning issues and outlined the Council's Preferred Options for the LDP approach and the reasoning for this position. The POP</p>



			<p>was supported by the publication of supplementary documents, comprising:</p> <p>POP Summary Report (POP 011):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report incorporating Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) for Preferred Options Paper (POP 008);</li> <li>• Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Interim Report incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). &amp; Habitats Regulations Assessment for Preferred Options Paper (January 2017) (POP 009);</li> <li>• Equality Screening Assessment Interim Progress Report on Preferred Options Paper (POP 010);</li> <li>• 4 evidence papers – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Meeting the Needs of Society Evidence Paper (January 2017) (POP 003);</li> <li>– Facilitating Economic Development Evidence Paper (January 2017) (POP 004);</li> <li>– Shaping Our Environment Evidence Paper (January 2017) (POP 005);</li> <li>– Review of Operational Planning Policy Evidence Paper (POP 006); and</li> <li>– Annual Housing Monitor for 2015 (January 2017) (POP 007).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2.6	The Plan Strategy will define strategic objectives for the future development of the Borough and will include a range of strategic policies and a spatial strategy that indicates in broad strategic terms the locations where different types of development will be promoted.	Yes	<p>In order to support and help achieve the Plan Vision, the DPS (DPS 001) (Section 3) sets out fourteen Strategic Objectives which have been developed based upon the theme of sustainable development and interlinked with the Community Plan Outcomes. The Strategic Objectives are grouped under the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A Place of Economic Opportunity;</li> <li>– A Vibrant and Liveable Place; and</li> <li>– A Place with a Sustainable Future.</li> </ul>

			<p>These Strategic Objectives form the link between the Plan Vision and the Strategic and Detailed Management Policies that will be used in decision making and that will also inform the detailed zonings and designations to be brought forward in the LPP.</p> <p>To take forward the Plan Vision and Strategic Objectives of the LDP, the Council has agreed a SGS (SP 1.6-1.12) which sets out how growth will be accommodated within the Borough.</p> <p>The DPS also contains ten Strategic Policies (Section 4 - 13) to implement our Strategic Objectives. The Strategic Policies are supplemented by 54 Detailed Management Policies (Section 5-13).</p> <p>The Strategic and Detailed Management Policies contained in the DPS set out the main policy considerations that the Council will take into account in its assessment of planning applications.</p>
2.7	Once the Plan Strategy is adopted, we will prepare a Local Policies Plan. This will include the site-specific proposals, local policy designations and reasoned proposals for uses of land that will be required to deliver our vision, objectives, spatial strategy and strategic policies that will be defined in our agreed Plan Strategy.	Not yet at this stage of the process	Not relevant for this stage in the LDP.
2.8	We will undertake an ongoing process of Sustainability Appraisal which will run parallel to the preparation of the Preferred Options Paper, the Plan Strategy and the Local Policies Plan. This appraisal process aims to ensure that the policies and proposals in the LDP are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. Relevant reports will be published at each of the key stages of the plan making process. This	Yes	<p><b>Preferred Options Paper stage</b></p> <p>At POP stage the Council published a Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment (<b>POP 009</b>). A Sustainability Scoping Report was also published (<b>POP 008</b>).</p>

	will include consultation on the scope of the appraisal at the Preferred Options Paper stage.		<b>Draft Plan Strategy stage</b>  The Council prepared a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment Report ( <a href="#">DPS 002</a> ), Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report ( <a href="#">DPS 004</a> ) and Sustainability Appraisal Non-Technical Summary (NTS) ( <a href="#">DPS 003</a> ).
2.9 – 2.11	<p>We want to involve the whole community at an early stage in the plan making process, and anyone who wishes to participate is encouraged to do so at the opportunities provided. In particular, and in addition to Elected Members, we will seek to engage with the following groups of people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People living or working within our Borough;</li> <li>• Community Groups / Umbrella Organisations;</li> <li>• Environmental Groups;</li> <li>• Residents Groups;</li> <li>• Voluntary Groups;</li> <li>• Businesses;</li> <li>• MPs / MLAs; and</li> <li>• Developers / Landowners / Investors.</li> </ul> <p>This list is not intended to be exhaustive, and is not intended to restrict any individual, group, or organisation from participating in the plan making process.</p> <p>Elected representatives. Community groups and residents groups provide a voice for the local community. Other voluntary and interest groups also bring special knowledge and can help to ensure that important local planning</p>	Yes	The Council's early engagement is set out under the <a href="#">P2</a> Test section of this Soundness Report.

	<p>related opportunities and concerns are addressed.</p> <p>We will also recognise that the actions of the business community and in particular developers are fundamental to implementing the policies and proposals which will shape development within our Borough.</p>		
2.13	The Council will meet its statutory requirement under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.	Yes	<p>To meet the Council's statutory requirements under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998, Section 75 groups have been engaged with throughout the plan process. All Section 75 groups were consulted in relation to our SCI, Timetable, POP and DPS. They were also notified throughout the process from an early stage including the publication of the Council's "Towards Preferred Options" paper in 2015 (<a href="#">PrePOP 001</a>).</p> <p><b><u>Preferred Options Paper stage</u></b></p> <p>An Equality Screening Assessment Interim Progress report was prepared at POP stage (<a href="#">POP 010</a>). The report concluded that the POP would have no adverse impact with regards to equality. Therefore, it has been screened out and does not require an Equality Impact Assessment.</p> <p><b><u>Draft Plan Strategy</u></b></p> <p>The Council undertook an Equality (Section 75) Screening which was published in our combined Equality (Section 75) Screening and Rural Needs Assessment Report (<a href="#">DPS 006</a>) alongside the DPS in June 2019. Throughout the development of the Plan to date, the Council has notified all those listed on its Section 75 database of key events and stages of the plan preparation, in order to allow all Section 75 groups listed the opportunity to fully engage in the plan-making process.</p>
2.14	All documents associated with the preparation of the LDP will be made available in different formats upon request, including large print, audio format, DAISY or Braille. A telephone number and a text phone number will be	Yes	The Council ensured alternative formats of all documents associated with the preparation of the LDP were made available on request, such as in large print, audio format, or in minority languages to meet the needs of those for whom English was not their first language. Text phone has been

	stated on each document for people with hearing or speech impairments. If for any reason, a request for a document in a particular alternative format cannot be met, other possible solutions will be explored.		replaced by Text Relay which is publicly available for those with hearing or speech impairments.
<b>How and when the community be involved?</b>			
2.15	The formulation of a Local Development Plan involves a number of key stages, each presenting opportunities for community involvement. Each stage is identified in our Plan Timetable and outlined in detail in the SCI, along with actions that we will take to involve the community. These actions will fulfil and in some cases exceed the statutory requirements on public consultation as specified in the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.	Yes	This SCI Compliance sets out how we complied with this.
<b>Starting a New Plan and Developing an Evidence Base</b>			
2.16	We will set out the key stages of the plan making process in a Timetable so that everyone is informed about the preparation of the Plan and the broad timing of each stage.	Yes	These matters were set out in the original Timetable January 2016 (Pg.7 – Figure 1 of <a href="#">T-SND-001</a> ), and the revised Timetable July 2018 (Pg.9 – Appendix 1 of <a href="#">T-SND-003</a> ) and the revised Timetable October 2020 (Pg.9 – Appendix 1 of <a href="#">T 001</a> ).
2.17	We will collect data and analyse information to establish an evidence base to inform our decision making. This will be undertaken using a topic-based approach around each of the key planning issues to help inform future place making. The compilation of evidence will also involve engaging with Elected Members, the public, key stakeholders, and key consultees. The initial findings from our evidence gathering	Yes	The POP is underpinned by an extensive evidence base combined with community engagement which was undertaken in 2015 and 2016 during our Pre-POP stage. The Council collated data from a range of sources and published a series of themed evidence papers based upon key planning topics which informed the publication of the POP (details set out below). Extensive engagement took place with Elected Members, the public, key stakeholders, and key consultees (Please refer to Soundness Test <a href="#">P2</a> for further information).

	will inform the preparation of our Preferred Options Paper.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report incorporating Strategic Environment Assessment for POP (POP 008);</li> <li>• Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Interim Report incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment &amp; Habitats Regulations Assessment for Preferred Options Paper (January 2017) (POP 009);</li> <li>• Equality Screening Assessment Interim Progress Report on Preferred Options Paper (POP 010);</li> <li>• Meeting the Needs of Society Evidence Paper (January 2017) (POP 003);</li> <li>• Facilitating Economic Development Evidence Paper (January 2017) (POP 004);</li> <li>• Shaping Our Environment Evidence Paper (January 2017) (POP 005);</li> <li>• Review of Operational Planning Policy Evidence Paper (POP 006); and</li> <li>• Annual Housing Monitor for 2015 (January 2017) (POP 007).</li> </ul>
<b>Starting a New Plan and Developing an Evidence Base: What we will do:</b>			
2.18	At the same time as we are preparing the Preferred Options Paper we will undertake a Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment), undertaking screening for equality impact and other necessary assessments and appraisals	Yes	At POP stage the Council published a Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment (POP 009). A Sustainability Scoping Report was also published (POP 008). An Equality Screening Assessment Interim Progress report was also prepared at POP stage (POP 010).
2.18 a.	We will hold a launch event and exhibition, publish our Timetable, and invite initial views about the Borough's strategic planning issues;	Yes	A launch event was held at our Council offices in Mossley Mill on 28 January 2016 as part of the Council's 'Planning Our Place' event to mark the commencement of the LDP process. This event also marked the launch of the Council's 2016 Timetable and SCI (T-SND-001, SCI 001 and SCI-SND-012). The purpose of the event was to highlight the stages of the LDP, to establish key strategic priorities that needed to be addressed in the POP, and to notify participants of future community engagement
2.18 b	We will disseminate appropriate information, make contact with and meet local groups and consider new ways of engaging with the local		

	community (for example, continuing our 'Planning my Place' events for schools);		<p>events. All Elected Members and key stakeholders from wide cross sector were invited to the launch.</p> <p>At this launch event, the Council also issued a 'Towards Preferred Options' publication (<a href="#">PrePOP 001</a>), which provided an easy-to-read guide for those wishing to engage in the plan preparation process. This document explained the new system, was widely advertised/circulated and advised communities that the Council wanted to hear their views on the key priorities that needed to be addressed in the LDP. The Council also announced a series of public engagement events in each of the DEAs which all Elected Members were invited to attend (<a href="#">PrePOP-SND-005</a>).</p> <p>The purpose of these events was to engage proactively with the Borough's residents about the key stages of the new Plan process and how they could get involved. The events were organised to gather community views on the key strategic planning issues affecting the Borough and how these could be addressed in the Plan Strategy document. An on-line questionnaire also formed part of the community engagement to maximise the opportunity for people to give their views at this stage of the LDP process. Further information on this stage is set out under Soundness Test <a href="#">P2</a>.</p>
2.18 c.	We will set up a Steering Group comprising nominated members of the Planning Committee, the Chief Executive, the Director of Community Planning and Regeneration, the Head of Planning and the Head of Community Planning. This is the high-level co-ordinating body that will ensure oversight and strategic input on behalf of the whole community, as well as from planning professionals;	Yes	A high level Steering Group was established in 2016 which meets on a quarterly basis to ensure the oversight and strategic input into the local development plan process. This Steering Group comprises of the Chief Executive of the Council, the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Planning Committee, the Director of Community Planning and the Head of Planning. The Steering Group is a high level co-ordinating body that ensures overview and strategic input on behalf of the whole community. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of previous Planning Committees were also invited to attend for consistency purposes in the development of the LDP ( <a href="#">PrePOP-SND-014</a> ).
2.18 d.	We will set up a Project Management Team comprising Senior Council Officers and invite	Yes	A project management team, in the form of a working group, was set up comprising of Elected Member Party representatives, senior council

	representatives from the key statutory stakeholders / government departments to participate. The purpose of the team will be to ensure key consultees engage in the plan making process. The Project Management team will be consulted on and act as the screening and scoping group for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Plan;		officers and representatives from the key statutory/government departments. The purpose of the team was to ensure key consultees were able to contribute to and co-operate in the plan making process ( <a href="#">PrePOP-SND-019</a> ). On the advice of the SES, the Project Management Board was not used for the screening of the SA. Key consultees were used to inform the scoping report. The Team meets when required.
2.18 e.	<p>We will issue a public notice to confirm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. commencement of work on our new Local Development Plan;</li> <li>II. publication of our Timetable;</li> <li>III. how to view or obtain copies of our Timetable;</li> <li>IV. and the dates and locations of any public exhibitions and events.</li> </ul> <p>This public notice will be placed on our website and appear in the Antrim Guardian, and Newtownabbey Times;</p>	Yes	<p>(i) A public notice (was placed in the Antrim Guardian and Newtownabbey Times on 04 February 2016 confirming that the Council had commenced works on its new LDP (<a href="#">PrePOP-SND-012</a>).</p> <p>ii-iv. A public notice confirming the publication of our initial Timetable on 28 January 2016 (including details of how to view and obtain copies was placed in the Antrim Guardian and Newtownabbey Times on 14 January 2016 (<a href="#">PrePOP-SND-013</a>).</p> <p>All information was made available on our website (<a href="#">T-SND-016</a>).</p>
2.18 f.	We will encourage anyone with an interest in planning in the Borough to become involved in the Local Development Plan. The Planning Section has set up a Community Involvement data base and we will add those who have expressed an interest in being informed about the key stages of its preparation to this data base upon request. This is to ensure that those who have expressed an interest in planning in the Borough are kept informed about the plan making process;	Yes	The Council has developed a Community Involvement database in order to keep a register of those persons who wish to be kept informed about key stages or events regarding the LDP in the Borough ( <a href="#">PrePOP-SND-003</a> & <a href="#">PrePOP-SND-020</a> ).



2.18 g.	We will issue written invitations to key consultees (see Appendix 1 of the SCI) requesting them to participate in the plan making process by providing information on the key strategic issues that the Local Development Plan should address;	Yes	<p>In August 2015 at the early stage of the plan process, the Council wrote to the main statutory stakeholders advising them that the plan making process was commencing and to establish contact (<a href="#">PrePOP-SND-021</a>).</p> <p>In Jan 2016 we invited a number statutory consultees to attend our launch for the Towards Preferred Options Paper, which marked the start of the plan making process and we asked people to engage in identifying the key strategic issues that should be taken into account in preparing the POP (<a href="#">PrePOP-SND-002</a>).</p> <p>In January 2016 we wrote to the main statutory consultees asking them if there were any strategic issues that needed to be taken into account in the preparation of the plan (<a href="#">PrePOP-SND-022</a>).</p> <p>The Council continued to engage with consultees as the Plan progressed.</p>
2.18 h	We will invite under-represented (Section 75) groups to identify whether there are any types of planning policies which are likely to have a significant impact on the groups they represent. They will also be provided with the opportunity to identify any particular issues or needs which they feel the LDP should address. Where requested, this can be done through a face to face meeting with our Planning Officers. Any comments received will be taken into account when screening for equality impact;	Yes	<p>The Council issued correspondence in February 2016 to Section 75 groups as identified through the Council's Communications and Customer Service Team's database advising them of the Towards Preferred Options Paper and the upcoming engagement events. The purpose was to provide them the opportunity to identify any particular needs that they felt should be addressed in the LDP (<a href="#">PrePOP-SND-025</a>).</p>
2.18 i.	We will send the draft Scoping Report of the Sustainability Appraisal to the Department of the Environment;	Yes	<p>A copy of our draft Scoping Report of the SA was sent to the Department in October 2016 (<a href="#">PrePOP-SND-023</a>).</p>

2.18 j.	We will publish completed evidence papers on our website;	Yes	<p><b><u>Preferred Options Stage</u></b></p> <p>At POP stage (January 2017), 4 evidence papers were published on the Council's website (<b>POP-SND-005</b>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting the Needs of Society Evidence Paper (January 2017) (<b>POP 003</b>);</li> <li>- Facilitating Economic Development Evidence Paper (January 2017) (<b>POP 004</b>);</li> <li>- Shaping Our Environment Evidence Paper (January 2017) (<b>POP 005</b>);</li> <li>- Review of Operational Planning Policy Evidence Paper (January 2017) (<b>POP 006</b>);</li> <li>- Annual Housing Monitor for 2015 (January 2017) (<b>POP 007</b>).</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Draft Plan Strategy Stage</u></b></p> <p>At DPS stage (June 2019) the Council published 21 evidence papers on the Council's website (<b>DPS-SND-006</b>).</p>
2.18 k.	We will notify all those on our community involvement database of the commencement of formal preparations for our new Local Development Plan.	Yes	All those persons registered on our community involvement database were notified in February 2016 ( <b>PrePOP-SND-024</b> ) informing them of the commencement of formal preparations for our new LDP. Persons were notified by either email or letter or both.
<b>Preferred Options Paper</b>			
2.19	The POP will set out the key planning issues in the Borough, identify a range of options available to address them and define our preferred options. It will promote debate on issues of strategic significance which are likely to influence the shape of future	Yes	<p>Further information relating to the POP is set out under Test <a href="#">P2</a> of this report.</p> <p>The Council's POP Consultation Paper (<b>POP 002</b>) sets out how responses were taken into account.</p>

	<p>development. The POP will be subject to a period of public consultation and engagement which will seek to stimulate a wide-ranging, yet focused, debate and encourage feedback from a wide variety of interests.</p> <p>Any representations or views received as a consequence of its publication will be considered while formulating our DPS.</p>		
2.20	A Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report, consisting of a Scoping Report and assessment of alternatives, will be published alongside the POP.	Yes	A Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment for POP (POP 008) and SA Interim Report incorporating SEA and HRA for POP (POP 009) were published in January 2017 alongside the POP. This documented the appraisal of POP options and alternatives against a sustainability framework.
<b>Preferred Options Paper: What we will do</b>			
2.20 a.	We will hold a launch event to announce the publication of our Preferred Options Paper and its period for public consultation;	Yes	The formal launch of the POP took place on the morning of 18 January 2017 in Mossley Mill (Appendix 1 of POP 002).
2.20 b.	We will issue a press release highlighting our preferred options;	Yes	A press release was launched on the 19 January 2017 on the Council's website. This press release included quotes from the Mayor's launch event address, a brief introduction to the POP and Community Plan and links to further information. (Appendix 2 of POP 002).
2.20 c.	We will hold public engagement events and exhibitions with drop-in sessions at locations throughout the Borough where our Planning Officers will be available to answer questions;	Yes	The Council held seven drop-in sessions in seven different locations across the Borough (Appendix 2 of POP 002). These events were arranged at varied times aiming to facilitate a wide range of residents. Planning Officers were on hand to explain the display boards and answer questions, and there was free consultation summary material and hardcopies of the POP available to take away.

2.20 d.	We will write to all key consultees and Elected Members providing them with a copy of the POP; invite them to attend the launch; request that they provide comments within the specified consultation period; and inform them of the public engagement events, exhibitions and drop-in sessions;	Yes	A formal invite was issued to all elected Members of ANBC, and key consultees inviting them to attend Mossley Mill for the formal launch of the POP on the morning of 18 January 2017. There they heard an address from the Mayor, were provided with a hard copy of the POP and were free to ask Planning Officers any initial questions that they had. We also wrote to key consultees and Elected Members advising them of the formal consultation and how to obtain a copy of the POP (POP-SND-007 & POP-SND-008). Information regarding the events and exhibitions was available on our website which was referred to in our correspondence (POP-SND-010 & POP 002).
2.20 e.	We will contact local community groups and under-represented (Section 75) groups advising them how to obtain a copy of the POP and inviting them to comment within the specified consultation period, attend the public engagement events, exhibitions, and drop-in sessions, and offering the opportunity of a meeting with planning officers to record their views;	Yes	The Council issued correspondence to Section 75 groups as identified through the Council's Communications and Customer Service Team's database (POP-SND-003). In addition, an email issued to all those on the Council's community group database.
2.20 f.	<p>We will issue a public notice to confirm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Publication of the Preferred Options Paper and invite comment within the specified consultation period<sup>4</sup>;</li> <li>ii. Details of public engagement events, exhibitions and drop-in information sessions during the consultation period<sup>3</sup>; and</li> <li>iii. Publication of the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report; screening</li> </ul>	Yes	(i - iii) A public notice was placed in the Antrim Guardian and Newtownabbey Times (POP-SND-004) on 19 and 26 January 2017. This notice included an invite to comment within the 12-week public consultation period, details of all public engagement events and also highlighted that a number of other planning documents had been published (Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report, Equality Screening Assessment Interim Progress Report and other associated documents). Additional adverts were also placed alongside the weekly planning list to encourage the public to respond (Appendix 2 of POP 002). The information contained in points (i – iii) within the public notice was placed on the Council's webpage (POP-SND-005).

<sup>3</sup> Regulation 11(3) of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 states that, in relation to a Preferred Options Paper; this "must be a period of not less than 8 weeks or more than 12 weeks".

	<p>reports for Equality Impact Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment;</p> <p>This public notice will be placed on our website and appear in the Antrim Guardian, and Newtownabbey Times;</p>		
2.20 g.	<p>We will make the evidence base available on our website and make hard copies available, on request, at a specified price;</p>	Yes	<p>At POP stage (January 2017) the Council published 4 evidence papers and made them available on our website (<a href="#">POP-SND-005</a>), with hard copies available upon request at a specified price.</p> <p>The following evidence papers were published on the Council's website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Meeting the Needs of Society Evidence Paper (January 2017) (<a href="#">POP 003</a>);</li> <li>– Facilitating Economic Development Evidence Paper (January 2017) (<a href="#">POP 004</a>);</li> <li>– Shaping Our Environment Evidence Paper (January 2017) (<a href="#">POP 005</a>);</li> <li>– Review of Operational Planning Policy Evidence Paper (<a href="#">POP 006</a>);</li> <li>– Annual Housing Monitor for 2015 (January 2017) (<a href="#">POP 007</a>).</li> </ul> <p>Relevant assessments were also made available (<a href="#">POP 008 - 010</a>).</p>
2.20 h.	<p>We will present a public Consultation Report to Elected Members following the end of the consultation period. This will contain a summary of representations and Planning Officer comment. A written record will be taken of where Elected Members take a differing view to that recommended by Officers in the report, along with the rationale for that view. This will be taken into account whilst formulating the DPS;</p>	Yes	<p>Following the publication of the Council's POP and its public consultation period, a Preferred Options Interim Consultation Report was published in August 2017 (<a href="#">POP-SND-001</a>). This provided a brief summary of the main issues that had arisen from the POP public consultation. Although this was not a legislative requirement, the Council considered publishing an interim report to be good practice, providing interested parties with an early indication of the main issues raised as part of the POP public consultation.</p>

			A final POP Consultation Report was published in June 2019 ( <a href="#">POP 002</a> ). This superseded the interim report. The final report was presented to Elected Members in April 2019 ( <a href="#">POP-SND-006</a> ).
2.20 i.	We will provide the opportunity to the Project Management Team to comment on emerging policy for inclusion in the DPS. The participation of this Team will also form an integral part of testing emerging policy through the Sustainability Appraisal;	Yes	A project management team in the form of a working group was set up comprising of Elected Member Party representatives, Senior Council Officers and representatives from the key statutory/government departments. The purpose of the team was to ensure key consultees were able to contribute to and co-operate in the plan making process ( <a href="#">PrePOP-SND-019</a> ). On the advice of the SES, the Project Management Board was not used for the screening of the SA. Key consultees were used to inform the scoping report.
2.20 j.	We will notify all those on our community involvement database of the release of the Preferred Options Paper.	Yes	The Council issued correspondence on 18 January 2017 to all persons registered on our Community Involvement database giving notice of the release of the POP ( <a href="#">POP-SND-009</a> ). Persons were notified by either email or letter or both.
<b>Plan Strategy</b>			
2.21	Our Plan Strategy will define the strategic objectives for the future development of the Borough. It will include a range of strategic policies to facilitate and manage development and a spatial strategy that indicates in broad strategic terms the locations where different types of development will be promoted.	Yes	<p>Strategic Objectives – Section 3 within our DPS (pgs.58-59 of <a href="#">DPS 001</a>).</p> <p>In order to support and help achieve the Plan Vision, fourteen Strategic Objectives have been developed based upon the theme of sustainable development and interlinked with the Community Plan Outcomes. The Strategic Objectives are grouped under the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A Place of Economic Opportunity;</li> <li>– A Vibrant and Liveable Place; and</li> <li>– A Place with a Sustainable Future.</li> </ul> <p>These Strategic Objectives form the link between the Plan Vision and the Strategic and Detailed Management Policies that will be used in decision making and that will also inform the detailed zonings and designations to be brought forward in the Local Policies Plan.</p>

		<p>To take forward the Plan Vision and Strategic Objectives of the LDP, the Council has agreed a Spatial Growth Strategy (SP 1.6 - 1.12) which sets out how growth of housing and employment will be accommodated within the Borough. The SGS has been informed by and has taken account of the RDS including its Spatial Framework Guidance summarised in Table 2 on Pg.69 of the DPS (DPS 001).</p> <p><b><u>Strategic Policies</u> - Sections 4-13 within our DPS (pgs.61-307) (DPS 001)</b></p> <p>The DPS contains ten Strategic Policies (SP) to implement our Strategic Objectives. Each SP is broken down by a series of headings phrased as statements: 'Introduction', 'Where we want to be', 'How we are going to get there' (this is where the Strategic Policies are set out), 'Why we have taken this approach'; and 'What it will look like' (where relevant to provide illustrations).</p> <p>To take forward the Plan Vision and Strategic Objectives of the LDP, the Council has agreed a SGS (SP 1.6-1.12) which sets out how the growth of housing and employment will be accommodated within the Borough. The SGS has been informed by and has taken account of the RDS including its Spatial Framework Guidance summarised in Table 2 on Pg.69 of the DPS.</p> <p><b><u>Detailed Management Policies</u> – Section 4 – 13 within our DPS (pgs. 88-307) (DPS 001).</b></p> <p>The SPs are supplemented by 54 Detailed Management Policies which start with the prefix 'DM' and are broken down by the following headings: (a) Why we have this Policy; (b) The Policy itself; and (c) Amplification (where this is deemed necessary).</p> <p>The Strategic and Detailed Management Policies contained in the DPS set out the main policy considerations that the Council will take into account in its assessment of planning applications.</p>
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Plan Strategy – Publication of Consultation Draft			
2.22	<p>The DPS will provide an indication of our intentions regarding the future development of the Borough.</p> <p>It will be issued for public consultation as a key part of the community involvement and public participation process.</p>	Yes	<p>Our DPS sets out how the Council considers our Borough will grow and develop up to 2030 (DPS 001). It provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Plan Vision for Antrim and Newtownabbey;</li> <li>• A set of Strategic Objectives to deliver the Plan Vision based upon the theme of sustainable development and interlinked with the Community Plan Outcomes;</li> <li>• A Spatial Growth Strategy setting out the approach to development across our Borough and indicating at a strategic level where growth will occur up to 2030;</li> <li>• Strategic Policies, to implement our Strategic Objectives;</li> <li>• Detailed Management Policies which supplement the Strategic Policies that together will guide decisions in the development management process; and</li> <li>• Details of how the Council intends to monitor the Strategic Objectives of the Plan to ensure the Council is delivering what it set out to achieve.</li> </ul> <p>Our DPS was published for a 4 week pre-consultation period (28 June to 25 July 2019) to provide additional time for the public and interested parties to consider the documents in advance of an 8 week period of formal consultation, which ran from Friday 26 July 2019 to Friday 20 September 2019 (DPS-SND-005). Counter representations were invited over an 8-week period, beginning on 11 October 2019 and ending on 06 December 2019 (DPS-SND-018).</p>



<b>Plan Strategy – Publication of Consultation Draft: What we will do:</b>			
2.22 a.	We will hold a launch event to announce the publication of the DPS and indicate the period for public consultation;	Yes	<p>The formal launch of the DPS took place on the morning of Friday 28 June 2019 in Mossley Mill.</p> <p>Elected Members of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, key consultees, special guests and Council Officers were invited to Mossley Mill. There they heard an address from the Mayor, were provided with a hard copy of the DPS and were free to ask Planning Officers any initial questions that they had. They were also informed that the DPS would be available to view online and in person from 28 June 2019 until 20 September 2019 with residents, community groups, developers and statutory partners able to share their feedback from 26 July 2019.</p> <p>To allow everyone time to read and understand the DPS and all its associated documents, they were advised that the Council had published all documentation in relation to the DPS in advance of the formal 8 week period of consultation. They were advised that this period of pre-consultation would run from Friday 28 June to Thursday 25 July 2019 and that no representations should be made during this period. (DPS-SND-010 &amp; DPS-SND-011).</p>
2.22 b.	We will issue a press release highlighting the key elements of the Plan Strategy;	Yes	<p>A press release was issued on the 28 June 2019. This press release included quotes from the Mayor's launch event address, a brief introduction to the DPS and links to further information (DPS-SND-019).</p>
2.22 c.	We will hold public engagement events and exhibitions with drop-in sessions at locations throughout the Borough where our Planning Officers will be available to answer questions;	Yes	<p>The Council held a series of Public Meetings and Drop-In Events across the Borough.</p> <p><u>Public Meetings:</u></p> <p>Four public meetings we held in three different locations across the Borough (please refer to DPS-SND-005 for further details). These meetings</p>

			<p>were arranged between 6-9 pm. The meetings consisted of a short presentation by Senior Planning Officers from the Council outlining the DPS followed by questions and answers.</p> <p><u>Drop-in sessions:</u></p> <p>Fourteen drop-in sessions were organised in eight different locations across the Borough (please refer to <a href="#">DPS-SND-005</a> for further details). These events were arranged at varied times aiming to facilitate a wide range of residents. Planning Officers were on hand to explain the DPS and answer questions in an informal setting, and there was free consultation summary material and hardcopies of the DPS available to take away.</p>
2.22 d.	We will write to key consultees and Elected Members informing them of the publication of the DPS and providing them with a copy; the dates of the public exhibitions; confirmation of the 8 week period for public consultation <sup>[2]</sup> , and the closing date for receipt of representations;	Yes	<p><u>Key Consultees</u></p> <p>Key consultees were notified by letter (24 June 2019) and also by email (26 June 2019) advising them of the publication of the DPS (<a href="#">DPS-SND-020</a>). Hard copies of the DPS were provided to key consultees and elected members on the day of the launch (26 June 2019).</p> <p><u>Elected Members</u></p> <p>Elected Members were notified by email (26 June 2019) (<a href="#">DPS-SND-009</a>). This correspondence also included an information leaflet (<a href="#">DPS-SND-041</a>) and launch agenda (<a href="#">DPS-SND-042</a>) which detailed the dates of the public exhibitions, confirmation of the 8 week period for public consultation and the closing date for receipt of representations.</p>
2.22 e.	We will contact those who submitted representations with regard to the Preferred Options Paper to inform them of the publication of the DPS and accompanying documents (including the public Consultation Report), details of how to view the documents or obtain copies, the dates of	Yes	<p>A letter dated 24 June 2019 was issued to all those persons who submitted representations with regards to the POP informing them of the publication of the DPS and accompanying documents (including the public Consultation Report), details of how to view the documents or obtain copies, the dates of public exhibitions, confirmation of the 8 week period for public consultation, and the closing date for receipt of representations (<a href="#">DPS-SND-021</a>).</p>

	public exhibitions, confirmation of the 8 week period for public consultation, and the closing date for receipt of representations;		
2.22 f.	<p>We will issue a public notice to confirm:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Publication of the DPS and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating any Environmental Report and Equality Report), and how to view or obtain copies;</li> <li>II. The dates and locations of public engagement events, exhibitions and drop-in information sessions;</li> <li>III. The 8 week period and closing date for receipt of representations to the DPS and accompanying Environmental Report; and</li> <li>IV. That representations received after the end of the 8 week period of public consultation cannot be accepted.</li> </ol> <p>This public notice will be placed on our website and appear in the Antrim Guardian, Newtownabbey Times, and Belfast Gazette.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>(i – iv) An advanced publication notice was placed in local press (<a href="#">DPS-SND-005</a>) on the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Antrim Guardian, and Newtownabbey Times: 27 June 2019, and 04 July 2019; and</li> <li>– Belfast Gazette - 05 and 12 July 2019;</li> </ul> <p>This notice advised of the 4 week pre-consultation period (28 June to 25 July 2019) to provide additional time for the public and interested parties to consider the documents in advance of the period of formal consultation (Friday 26 July 2019 to Friday 20 September 2019).</p> <p>A public notice was placed in each of these papers (<a href="#">DPS-SND-005</a>) on the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Antrim Guardian, and Newtownabbey Times: 25 July 2019, and 01 August 2019; and</li> <li>– Belfast Gazette: 26 July 2019 and 02 August 2019.</li> </ul> <p>This notice marked the start of the formal consultation period and included an invite to comment within the formal consultation period (an 8-week public consultation period 26 July 2019 - 5pm on 20 September 2019), details of all public engagement events and also highlighted that a number of other planning documents had been published alongside the DPS. These documents included: SA (incorporating the SEA) Report, SA Non-Technical Summary, SA Scoping Report, Draft HRA, Equality (Section 75) Screening and Rural Needs Impact Assessment Report and 21 Evidence Papers.</p> <p>A public notice (<a href="#">DPS-SND-002</a>) was placed on our website (<a href="#">DPS-SND-006</a>) and in the Antrim Guardian, Newtownabbey Times and Belfast Gazette (<a href="#">DPS-SND-005</a>).</p>

2.22 g.	We will make the DPS, the Sustainability Appraisal, and the public Consultation Report available on our website, in our offices at Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey, and Antrim Civic Centre and provide hard copies upon request at a specified price;	Yes	<p>The Council published our DPS and the following documents on our website on 28 June 2019 (<a href="#">DPS 010</a>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SA (incorporating SEA) Report;</li> <li>• SA Non-Technical Summary;</li> <li>• SA Scoping Report; and</li> <li>• Public Consultation Report.</li> </ul> <p>Hard copies of the DPS and all other documents were made available upon request.</p> <p><u>DPS display exhibitions</u></p> <p>DPS display exhibitions were set up in prominent places in the public reception areas at the Council's two principal offices, Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre for the duration of the public consultation event (<a href="#">DPS-SND-003</a>). These displays made available hard copies of the DPS, 21 Evidence Papers, Consultation response forms, summary booklets along with all other relevant POP documentation. Planning Officers were on hand to answer any queries.</p>
2.22 h.	We will report representations to the Elected Members;	Yes	<p>Details of the number of representations and a summary of the main issues received to the DPS were reported to Elected Members on 21 October 2019 (Item 3.9 of <a href="#">DPS-SND-008</a>).</p>
2.22 i.	We will notify all those on our community involvement database about the publication of the DPS.	Yes	<p>All those persons registered on our community involvement database were notified by email on 24 June 2019 informing them of the publication of the DPS and accompanying documents (including the public Consultation Report), details of how to view the documents or obtain copies, the dates of public exhibitions, confirmation of the 8 week period for public consultation, and the closing date for receipt of representations (<a href="#">DPS-SND-015</a>).</p>

Plan Strategy – Public Inspection of Representations			
2.23	All representations made to the DPS will be made available for public inspection as part of the public consultation process. A representation that seeks to add, alter or delete a site identified for a particular use is known as a site specific policy representation. Any person may make a counter-representation about a site specific policy representation. Both representations and counter-representations will be considered at the Independent Examination.	Yes	In accordance with Regulation 17 of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations 2015 (as amended), all representations made to the DPS were made available for public inspection in both of the Council's principal offices, Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre for an 8 week period for counter representations between 11 October 2019 and 06 December 2019 (DPS-SND-013 & DPS-SND-018). Public Displays exhibitions were set up in the public reception areas at the Council's two principal offices, Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre for the duration of this consultation period. These displays made available hard copies of the representations received in response to the formal public consultation (undertaken from 26 July to 30 September 2019) on the Council's LDP, DPS.
Plan Strategy – Public Inspection of Representations: What we will do:			
2.23 a.	We will make copies of all representations available for inspection on our website and in our offices at Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey, and Antrim Civic Centre;	Yes	In line with Regulation 17, copies of all representations were made available on our website (DPS-SND-013) and in our offices at Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre for an 8 week period between 11 October 2019 and 06 December 2019.
2.23 b.	We will write to key consultees and Elected Members informing them that representations are available for inspection and the places and times at which they can be inspected.	Yes	Elected Members were notified in October 2019 (DPS-SND-022) informing them that representations had been made available for inspection and the places and times at which they could be inspected. Consultees were also written to in October 2019 (DPS-SND-017) advising them of the same.
2.23 c.	We will issue a public notice to confirm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The availability of all representations for inspection; and</li> <li>ii. The 8 week period for public consultation, and the closing date for receipt of counter-representations.</li> </ul>	Yes	(i -ii) A Regulation 17 Notice (DPS-SND-012) (in line with the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (NI) 2015 (as amended)) was placed on our website (DPS-SND-013) and in the Antrim Guardian, Newtownabbey Times and Belfast Gazette (DPS-SND-018).

	This public notice will be placed on our website and appear in the Antrim Guardian, Newtownabbey Times, and Belfast Gazette.		
<b>Plan Strategy – Public Inspection of Representations: What we will do:</b>			
2.24 a.	We will make copies of all counter-representations available for inspection on our website and in our offices at Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey, and Antrim Civic Centre;	Yes	In line with Regulation 19 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (NI) 2015 (as amended), copies of all counter representations were made available on our website ( <a href="#">DPS-SND-014</a> ) and at offices at Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre from 27 January 2020.
2.24 b.	We will report counter-representations to the Elected Members.	Yes	Details of the counter representations received to the DPS were reported to Elected Members on 20 January 2020 (Item 3.6) ( <a href="#">DPS-SND-016</a> ).
	Plan Strategy – Independent Examination 2.25 – Next Steps 2.35	Yes	The Council submitted the DPS to DfI in March 2021. Further information is available on our website <a href="http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk">www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk</a> .
<b>Community Involvement in Other Forward Planning Matters: Supplementary Planning Guidance</b>			
3.1	We may also prepare non-statutory policy and planning guidance, particularly to support our Local Development Plan. Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) includes, for example, design guides and advice notes. Consultation on SPG will take place in a proportionate manner where we believe it will be beneficial to give additional regard to the opinions of stakeholders and the local community. The Council's Planning Committee will be consulted on	The DPS sets out the supplementary planning guidance to accompany the LDP. This work will be brought forward in due course.	To be brought forward.

	development of the guidance, including any comments received. It is not a statutory requirement for SPG to be considered through the public examination process.		
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[\[1\]](#) Regulation 11(3) of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 states that, in relation to a POP; this "must be a period of not less than 8 weeks or more than 12 weeks".

[\[2\]](#) Regulation 16(2)(a) of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 states that, in relation to a Development Plan Document, "representations must be made within a period of 8 weeks".

## 4 Timetable Legislative and Plan Preparation Compliance

- 4.1 This chapter sets out how the Council met the legislative tests and general compliance in relation to its Timetable. The Council is required to prepare a timetable under Part 2, Section 7 of The Planning Act 2011. The requirement for the preparation of the Timetable is set out under Part 2, Regulations 5-8 of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. The Council published its first Timetable in January 2016 (T-SND-001) and revised its Timetable in July 2018<sup>4</sup> (T-SND-003) and in October 2020 (T 001).
- 4.2 The relevant test of soundness asks if the Council's LDP has been prepared in accordance with the Council's published Timetable. There are considered to be a number of aspects in relation to this test. Firstly, the legislative test which is dealt with in [Table 5](#) below which sets out the need, requirements for the preparation, form and content, agreement and availability of the Timetable. Secondly in relation to whether the Council's LDP was prepared in accordance with its published Timetable, these aspects are examined below in [Table 6](#) (first Timetable), [Table 7](#) (revised Timetable 2018) and [Table 8](#) (revised Timetable 2020).
- 4.3 It is important to note that legislation states that the Timetable is indicative (Planning Act 2011) and that soundness is considered in the round ([Planning Appeals Commission, Procedures for Independent Examination of Local Development Plans \(Version 2 December 2019\)](#) and [Department of Infrastructure's Development Plan Practice Note 6 \(DPPN 6\) "Soundness" Version 2 May 2017](#)).

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<sup>4</sup> The 2018 and 2020 Timetables follow the financial year, which runs from 1st April one year to 31st March the following year.



**Table 5: Timetable Legislative Compliance**

Document	Section/ Regulation	Requirement	Evidence
Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011	Part 2 Section 7 Paragraph 1 - 5	<p><b>PREPERATION OF TIMETABLE</b></p> <p>(1) A council must prepare, and keep under review a timetable for the preparation and adoption of the council's local development plan.</p> <p>(2) The council and the Department must attempt to agree the terms of the timetable mentioned in subsection (1).</p> <p>(3) But to the extent that the Department and the council cannot agree the terms the Department may direct that the timetable must be in the terms specified in the direction.</p> <p>(4) The council must comply with the direction.</p> <p>(5) The Department may prescribe-</p> <p>(a) the procedure in respect of the preparation of the timetable mentioned in subsection (1);</p> <p>(b) the form and content of the timetable;</p> <p>(c) the time at which any step in the preparation of the timetable must be taken;</p>	<p><b>Original Timetable 2016</b></p> <p>(1) - (4) ANBC prepared and published its original Timetable in January 2016 (T-SND-001). The terms of the original Timetable were agreed with the then Department of Environment (DoE) in November 2015 (T-SND-011).</p> <p><b>Revised Timetable 2018</b></p> <p>The terms of the revised Timetable were agreed with DfI on 26 June 2018 (T-SND-015) and subsequently published on 02 July 2018 (T-SND-003).</p> <p><b>Revised Timetable 2020</b></p> <p>The terms of the revised Timetable were agreed with DfI on 21 September 2020 (T-SND-024) and subsequently published on 26 October 2020 (T 001).</p> <p>(5) The procedure for the preparation of the timetable is prescribed in Part 2 Regulations 5 – 8 of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. This is set out overleaf.</p>

		<p>(d) publicity about the timetable;</p> <p>(e) making the timetable available for inspection by the public;</p> <p>(f) circumstances in which the requirements of the timetable need not be complied with.</p>	
	Part 2 Section 8 Paragraph 8 (4)	<p>(4) A plan strategy must be prepared in accordance with–</p> <p>(a) the timetable set out in section 7(1);</p>	<p><b>Original Timetable 2016</b> – For information on Plan Strategy please refer to Revised 2018 Timetable.</p> <p><b>Revised Timetable 2018</b></p> <p>The 2018 Timetable stated that the Council's DPS was to be published 4th Quarter 2018/2019. The Council's DPS was published for public consultation in June 2019, which based upon the Chief Planner's Update 4, is considered acceptable. Therefore, the Council's DPS was published within its revised Timetable timeframe, taking into account the Chief Planner's Update 4.</p> <p><b>Revised Timetable 2020</b></p> <p>The 2020 Timetable stated that the Council's DPS was to be subject to Soundness Based Examination during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020/2021 – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2021/2022. The Council submitted its DPS to DfI during this period and the process is ongoing. The Timetable will be kept under review.</p>
The Planning (LDP) Regulations (NI) 2015	Part 2 Regulation 5	<p><b>PREPARATION OF TIMETABLE</b></p> <p>The council must, in the preparation of the timetable, consult the planning appeals commission and such of the consultation bodies as the council considers appropriate.</p>	<p>(5)</p> <p><b>Original Timetable 2016</b></p> <p>The PAC was consulted in October 2015 (T-SND-004) and January 2016 (T-SND-005) regarding the preparation of the Council's timetable. The PAC confirmed receipt of the original Timetable 2016 on 16 November 2015 (T-SND-011).</p>

			<p><b>Revised Timetable 2018</b></p> <p>A copy of the draft revised Timetable 2018 was forwarded to the PAC on 06 April 2018 for consideration (T-SND-006). The PAC confirmed receipt of the revised Timetable 2018 on 11 April 2018 (T-SND-007).</p> <p><b>Revised Timetable 2020</b></p> <p>A copy of the draft revised Timetable 2020 was forwarded to PAC on 27 August 2020 for consideration (T-SND-021). The PAC confirmed receipt of the revised Timetable 2020 on 04 September 2020 (T-SND-022).</p>
	<p>Part 2 Regulation 6 Paragraph 1 - 2</p>	<p><b>CONTENT OF THE TIMETABLE</b></p> <p>(1) This paragraph applies where the council proposes to prepare a local development plan.</p> <p>(2) The timetable must include indicative dates for-</p> <p>(a) each stage of the preparation of the local development plan including indicative dates for-</p> <p>(i) publication of the preferred options paper,</p> <p>(ii) publication of the plan strategy and publication of the local policies plan, and</p> <p>(iii) adoption of the plan strategy and adoption of the local policies plan; and</p> <p>(b) the carrying out of the appraisal under sections 8(6) (a) and 9(7) (a) and the preparation of the report on the findings of the appraisal under sections 8(6) (b) and 9(7) (b).</p>	<p><b>Original Timetable 2016</b></p> <p>(1) - (2) Figure 1 of the original Timetable 2016 provided indicative dates for the key stages of the production of the LDP, these included the publication of the SCI, the POP, the DPS, the LPP and their Subsequent adoption and the IE process (T-SND-001).</p> <p>Figure 1 also set out the dates for the carrying out of the SA incorporating SEA of the DPS and LPP and their associated published reports.</p> <p><b>Revised Timetable 2018</b></p> <p>Appendix 1 of the revised Timetable 2018 (T-SND-003) provides indicative dates for a number of key stages in the production of the LDP 2030. These stages include the publication of the POP (which has been completed), the publication of the DPS, the LPP and their subsequent adoption and finally IE.</p> <p>Appendix 1 also sets out dates for the carrying out of the SA incorporating SEA of the DPS and LPP and their associated published reports.</p>

			<p><b>Revised Timetable 2020</b></p> <p>Appendix 1 of the revised Timetable 2020 (T-001) provides indicative dates for the remaining key stages in the production of the LDP 2030. These stages include the publication of the DPS, the LPP and their subsequent adoption and finally IE.</p>
	<p>Part 2 Regulation 7 Paragraph 1 - 5</p>	<p><b>AGREEMENT OF THE TIMETABLE</b></p> <p>(1) The timetable must be-</p> <p>(a) approved by resolution of the council prior to submission to the Department for its agreement, and</p> <p>(b) submitted to the Department.</p> <p>(2) The Department must respond within four weeks of receipt of the timetable, unless it has, before the expiry of that period, notified the council that it requires more time to consider the timetable.</p> <p>(3) If, before the end of the period specified in paragraph (2), the Department has failed to respond to the receipt by it of the timetable, it will be deemed to be agreed at the end of that period.</p> <p>(4) Subject to paragraph (3) until such time as the Department agrees the timetable the council must not, in the preparation of a local development plan, take any steps under regulation 10 to advertise its preferred options paper.</p> <p>(5) Paragraphs (1) to (4) apply to the revision of a timetable as they apply to its preparation.</p>	<p>(1) – (5)</p> <p><b>Original Timetable 2016</b></p> <p>The original Timetable was presented to the Council's Planning Committee on 21 September 2015 (Item 3.16 of T-SND-008) and Full Council on 28 September 2015 (Item 9 (b) of T-SND-009) for approval and was fully ratified.</p> <p>The Council consulted the Department on 12 October 2015 seeking approval of the original Timetable (T-SND-010).</p> <p>The Department responded in writing on 16 November 2015 within the four-week period as specified and approved the original Timetable (T-SND-011).</p> <p><b>Revised Timetable 2018</b></p> <p>The revised Timetable was presented to the Council's Planning Committee on 20 March 2018 (Item 3.16 of T-SND-012) and to the Full Council on 25 March 2019 (Item 8 (b) of T-SND-013) for approval and was fully ratified.</p> <p>The Council consulted the Department on 02 May 2018 seeking approval of the revised Timetable (T-SND-014).</p> <p>The Department responded in writing on 26 June 2018 and approved the revised amended Timetable (T-SND-015).</p>

			<p><b>Revised Timetable 2020</b></p> <p>The revised Timetable was presented to the Council's Planning Committee on 21 September 2020 (Item 3.4 of <a href="#">T-SND-027</a>) and to the Full Council on 28 September 2020 (Items 8 (b) &amp; 11.7 of <a href="#">T-SND-028</a> for approval and was fully ratified.</p> <p>The Council consulted the Department on 04 September 2020 seeking approval of the revised Timetable (<a href="#">T-SND-023</a>).</p> <p>The Department responded in writing on 21 September 2020 within the four-week period as specified and approved the revised Timetable (<a href="#">T-SND-024</a>).</p>
	<p>Part 2 Regulation 8 Paragraph 1</p>	<p><b>AVAILABILITY OF THE TIMETABLE</b></p> <p>(1) Where a timetable is agreed or deemed to be agreed under regulation 7, the council must-</p> <p>(a) make a copy of the agreed timetable available for inspection during normal office hours at-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) its principal offices, and</li> <li>(ii) such other places within its district as it considers appropriate;</li> </ul> <p>(b) give notice by local advertisement of the following-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) that the timetable is available for inspection,</li> <li>(ii) the place and times at which it can be inspected;</li> </ul> <p>and</p> <p>(c) publish the timetable on its website.</p>	<p>(1)</p> <p><b>Original Timetable 2016</b></p> <p>The original Timetable was launched on 28 January 2016 as part of the Council's 'Planning Our Place' event which marked the commencement of the LDP process.</p> <p>A public display was set up in the public receptions area at the Council's two principal offices, Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre for the public inspection of the timetable between 01 February 2016 to 31 March 2016, during normal office hours.</p> <p>A press notice was placed in the Antrim Guardian and Newtownabbey Times for the weeks commencing 14 January 2016 and 21 January 2016. Then again on the 4 February 2016. The press notice outlined the places and times where the original Timetable could be inspected (<a href="#">SCI-SND-014</a>).</p> <p>The Original Timetable was published on the Council's webpage (<a href="#">T-SND-016</a>).</p>

			<p><b>Revised Timetable 2018</b></p> <p>The revised Timetable was published on 02 July 2018.</p> <p>A press notice was placed in the Antrim Guardian and Newtownabbey Times for week commencing 02 July 2018. The press notice outlined the places and times where the revised timetable could be inspected (T-SND-017).</p> <p>The revised timetable was also published on the Council's webpage (T-SND-018).</p> <p><b>Revised Timetable 2020</b></p> <p>The revised Timetable was published on 26 October 2020.</p> <p>A press notice was placed in the Antrim Guardian and Newtownabbey Times for week commencing 26 October 2020. The press notice outlined the places and times where the revised timetable could be inspected (T-SND-025).</p> <p>The revised timetable was also published on the Council's webpage (T-SND-026).</p>
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**Table 6: Original Timetable (Published January 2016) Compliance**

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROCESS KEY STAGES	SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL AND OTHER ASSESSMENTS	ESTIMATED TIMESCALES	ACTUAL	COUNCIL RESPONSE
<b>Statement of Community Involvement</b> Informal Community Engagement (4 weeks)		Sep 2015	Draft SCI consultation ran from 07 Sept 2015 to 06 Oct 2015.	Complied with original Timetable
<b>Publication of Plan Timetable and Statement of Community Involvement</b>		Jan 2016	Jan 2016	Complied with original Timetable
Statutory Stakeholder engagement Informal Public and Member engagement on key issues	Invite comments from Consultation Body (NIEA) on draft Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating SEA) Scoping Report	First quarter 2016	Oct 2016	Generally complied with the Timetable*
<b>Publication of Preferred Options Paper (POP)</b> Statutory Public Consultation (8 – 12 weeks)	(1) Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report comprising Scoping Report and appraisal of alternatives. (2) Screening for HRA and EQIA	Summer 2016	(1) & (2) Jan 2017	Generally complied with the Timetable*

<b>Publication of draft Plan Strategy (PS)</b>				
Statutory Public Consultation (8 weeks: Representations) (8 weeks: Counter-representations)	(1) Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Report (incorporating SEA)  (2) Publication of draft HRA & EQIA where relevant	First quarter 2017	(1) & (2) See Revised Timetable (published 2018)	See Revised Timetable (published 2018)
<b>Independent Examination</b>		Mid-year 2017	See Revised Timetable (published 2020)	See Revised Timetable (published 2020)
<b>Adoption of Plan Strategy</b>	(1) Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Report (incorporating SEA)  (2) Publication of Habitats Regulation Assessment and EQIA where relevant	End year 2017	(1) & (2) See Revised Timetable (published 2020)	See Revised Timetable (published 2020)
Statutory Stakeholder engagement Informal Public and Member engagement on key issues	(1) Invite comments from Consultation Body (NIEA) on draft Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating SEA) Scoping Report  (2) Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report comprising Scoping Report and appraisal of alternatives  Screening for HRA and EQIA	First quarter 2018	(1) & (2) See Revised Timetable (published 2020)	See Revised Timetable (published 2020)
<b>Publication of draft Local Policies Plan</b>				
Statutory Public Consultation (8 weeks: Representations) (8 weeks: Counter-representations)	(1) Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Report (incorporating SEA)  (2) Publication of draft HRA & EQIA where relevant	Spring 2018	(1) & (2) See Revised Timetable (published 2020)	See Revised Timetable (published 2020)



<b>Independent Examination</b>		Summer 2018	<i>See Revised Timetable (published 2020)</i>	<i>See Revised Timetable (published 2020)</i>
<b>Adoption of Local Policies Plan</b>	(1) Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Report (incorporating SEA) (2) Publication of Habitats Regulation Assessment and EQIA where relevant	Early 2019	<i>(1) &amp; (2) See Revised Timetable (published 2020)</i>	<i>See Revised Timetable (published 2020)</i>
<b>Monitoring and Review of LDP incorporating Public Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Monitor</li> <li>• 5 &amp; 10 Year Review</li> </ul>	Monitoring of Sustainability Appraisal and other Assessments	On going	<i>See Revised Timetable (published 2020)</i>	<i>See Revised Timetable (published 2020)</i>

**\* Compliance with the 2016 Timetable:**

As detailed in Table 6 above, the Council has complied with the legislative requirements with regards to its preparation, content, its review and availability of its original Timetable as required by Section 7 of the 2011 Act and Regulations 5 to 8 of the LDP Regulations.

The Planning Act 2011 requires both the Plan Strategy and LPP to be published in accordance with the Timetable.

The Council's first Timetable (2016) was published in the context of the new emerging plan process in NI. In this context, the Council had estimated that the timeframe for publication of the POP was summer 2016 and the publication date was January 2017. The Council subsequently published a new Timetable in 2018.

The Council's original Timetable was based upon Departmental published guidance and suggested timeframes as set out in DPPN 1 Introduction: Context for Local Development Plans (April 2015), DPPN 3 Timetable and SPPS (Diagram 2, page 30). This guidance was relied upon by the Council in the context of the new development plan process and central government advice.

In September 2017, after the Council had published its first Timetable, the Chief Planner, Fiona McCandless, issued a letter to all councils (Chief Planner Update 2 – T-SND-002) which emphasised that the timescales indicated in the Department's guidance was produced for *illustrative* purposes only. The letter outlined that the actual timeframe is "*wholly indicative*", as the actual timeframe would ultimately depend on the specific circumstances and context of each plan and council area.

Following clarification from DfI regarding timescales and considering a number of factors in the emerging new plan process a revised Timetable was presented to the Council's Planning Committee and Council in March 2018 (T-SND-012), advising members of the need to revise the Council's original timescale and detailing the reasons for any slippages and implications for the subsequent stages of the plan preparation.

**Table 7: Revised Timetable (Published July 2018)**

KEY STAGES IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROCESS	ASSESSMENTS	ESTIMATED TIMESCALES	ACTUAL	COUNCIL RESPONSE
<b>Publication of Plan Timetable and Statement of Community Involvement</b>		Complete	Jan 2016	Complied with revised Timetable
<b>Publication of Preferred Options Paper (POP) for public consultation</b>	Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report (incorporating SEA & HRA) comprising Scoping Report and appraisal of alternatives plus publication of Equality Screening Assessment Interim Progress Report.	Complete	Jan 2017	Complied with revised Timetable
<b>Publication of draft Plan Strategy (PS)</b>	Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Report incorporating SEA, HRA & Rural Proofing.	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2018/2019	June 2019	Complied with revised Timetable - falls within 3 month degree of flexibility period**
PUBLIC CONSULTATION (8 WKS: REPRESENTATIONS) (8 WKS: COUNTER-REPRESENTATIONS)	Publication of draft EQIA if relevant.			
<b>Soundness Based Independent Examination</b> Followed by Advisory Report to Central Government Central Government issues Binding Report to Council Changes made to finalise Plan		4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2019/2020	<i>Not at this stage of the process.</i>	Timetable will be monitored
<b>Adoption of Plan Strategy</b>	Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Report (inc. SEA, HRA & Rural Proofing) & publication of final EQIA where required.	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020/2021	<i>Not at this stage of the process.</i>	<i>Timetable will be monitored</i>
Statutory Stakeholder Engagement; Member engagement on key issues and public consultation where required.	Invite comments from Consultation Body on draft Sustainability Appraisal (inc. SEA, HRA & Rural Proofing) and updating of Scoping Report.	Mid 2021	<i>Not at this stage of the process.</i>	<i>Timetable will be monitored</i>

<b>Publication of draft Local Policies Plan</b>	Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Report incorporating SEA, HRA & Rural Proofing.	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2021/2022	<i>Not at this stage of the process.</i>	<i>Timetable will be monitored</i>
PUBLIC CONSULTATION (8 WKS: REPRESENTATIONS) (8 WKS: COUNTER-REPRESENTATIONS)	Publication of draft EQIA if relevant		<i>Not at this stage of the process.</i>	<i>Timetable will be monitored</i>
<b>Soundness Based Independent Examination</b> Followed by Advisory Report to Central Government Central Government issues Binding Report to Council Changes made to finalise Plan		4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2022/2023	<i>Not at this stage of the process.</i>	<i>Timetable will be monitored</i>
<b>Adoption of Local Policies Plan</b>	Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Report (inc. SEA, HRA, EQIA)	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2023/2024	<i>Not at this stage of the process.</i>	<i>Timetable will be monitored</i>
Monitoring and Review of Local Development Plan incorporating Public Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Review</li> <li>• 5 &amp; 10 Year Review</li> <li>• Commence Preparation of new Local Development Plan</li> </ul>	Monitoring of Sustainability Appraisal (inc. SEA, HRA, EQIA)	On going	<i>Not at this stage of the process.</i>	<i>Timetable will be monitored</i>

\*\* See Page 95 for further details of Compliance with 2018 and 2020 Timetables.

**Table 8: Revised Timetable 2020 (Published October 2020)****Revised Indicative LDP Timetable**

KEY STAGES IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROCESS	ASSESSMENTS	ESTIMATED TIMESCALES	ACTUAL	COUNCIL RESPONSE
<b>Publication of Plan Timetable and Statement of Community Involvement</b>		Complete	Jan 2016	Complied with revised Timetable
<b>Publication of Preferred Options Paper (POP) for public consultation</b>	Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report (incorporating SEA & HRA) comprising Scoping Report and appraisal of alternatives plus publication of Equality Screening Assessment Interim Progress Report.	Complete	Jan 2017	Complied with revised Timetable
<b>Publication of draft Plan Strategy (PS)</b> PUBLIC CONSULTATION* (8 WKS: REPRESENTATIONS) (8 WKS: COUNTER-REPRESENTATIONS)	Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Report incorporating SEA, HRA & Rural Proofing. Publication of draft EQIA if relevant.	Complete	June 2019	Complied with revised Timetable - falls within 3 month degree of flexibility period**
<b>Soundness Based Independent Examination</b> Submission of Plan to DfI – Hearing Sessions – Followed by Advisory Report to Central Government – Central Government issues Binding Report to Council – Changes made to finalise Plan		3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020/2021 – 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2021/2022	<b>March 2021</b>	Complied with revised Timetable
<b>Adoption of Plan Strategy</b>	Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Report (inc. SEA, HRA & Rural Proofing) & publication of final EQIA where required.	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2021/2022	<i>Not at this stage of the process.</i>	<i>Timetable will be monitored</i>

Statutory Stakeholder Engagement; Member engagement on key issues and public consultation where required.	Invite comments from Consultation Body on draft Sustainability Appraisal (inc. SEA, HRA & Rural Proofing) and updating of Scoping Report.	Early - mid 2022	<i>Not at this stage of the process.</i>	<i>Timetable will be monitored</i>
<b>Publication of draft Local Policies Plan</b>	Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Report incorporating SEA, HRA & Rural Proofing.	Late 2022	<i>Not at this stage of the process.</i>	<i>Timetable will be monitored</i>
PUBLIC CONSULTATION (8 WKS: REPRESENTATIONS) (8 WKS: COUNTER-REPRESENTATIONS)	Publication of draft EQIA if relevant		<i>Not at this stage of the process.</i>	<i>Timetable will be monitored</i>
<b>Soundness Based Independent Examination</b> Followed by Advisory Report to Central Government Central Government issues Binding Report to Council Changes made to finalise Plan		2023	<i>Not at this stage of the process.</i>	<i>Timetable will be monitored</i>
<b>Adoption of Local Policies Plan</b>	Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Report (inc. SEA, HRA and EQIA where required)	2024	<i>Not at this stage of the process.</i>	<i>Timetable will be monitored</i>
Monitoring and Review of Local Development Plan incorporating Public Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Review</li> <li>5 &amp; 10 Year Review</li> <li>Commence Preparation of new Local Development Plan</li> </ul>	Monitoring of Sustainability Appraisal (inc. SEA, HRA, EQIA)	On going	<i>Not at this stage of the process.</i>	<i>Timetable will be monitored</i>

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\*Included 4 weeks pre-consultation

\*\* See Page 95 for further details of Compliance with 2018 & 2020 Timetables.

**\*\* Compliance with 2018 & 2020 Timetables**

In November 2019, the Chief Planner's Update 4 was published (T-SND-019). This stated that in line with DPPN 3, the LDP timetable should set out a council's programme for the production of its LDP, including indicative dates for each stage of the process. The Chief Planner advised that indicative dates allow for a degree of flexibility to enable a council to effectively manage the LDP preparation process while reducing the potential for constant review and/or revision of the timetable. In terms of flexibility, the Chief Planner stated that, "Building in a small amount of flexibility before triggering the need for a formal change in the agreed timetable is considered to be reasonable. However, it is not expected that the degree of flexibility would normally exceed three months".

The 2018 Timetable stated that the Council's DPS was to be published 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2018/2019 (Jan 2019 – March 2019). The Council's DPS was published for public consultation in June 2019, which based upon the Chief Planner's Update 4, is considered acceptable. Therefore, the Council's DPS was published within its revised Timetable and taking into account the Chief Planner's Update 4.

On 1 May 2020, the Chief Planner issued Update 6 (T-SND-020). In this update, the Chief Planner advised that due to Coronavirus (COVID 19), the Department would allow greater flexibility to existing agreed LDP timetables providing a further three months flexibility from that already permitted in their letter of November 2019, allowing a maximum of six months until such times that a council is in a position to formally revise their Timetables. Taking account of the Chief Planner's Update 6, the Council considered it was necessary to update the 2018 Timetable due to the ongoing impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in relation to staffing and service delivery. The 2020 Timetable states that the Soundness Based Independent Examination will take place during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2020/2021 – 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2021/2222. The Council has submitted its DPS to DfI in March 2021 for the purposes of causing an IE and therefore is of the view that it has delivered its revised Timetable taking into account the Chief Planner's Update 6.

## 5 Preferred Options Paper Legislative Compliance

5.1 This chapter sets out how the Council met the legislative requirements in relation to the POP. The POP provided the basis for consulting with the public and stakeholders on a series of options for dealing with key issues in the plan area. It aimed to stimulate public comment and help interested parties to become involved in a more meaningful way at this earliest stage of plan preparation. The main legislative tests for the preparation of the POP are set out under the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and The Planning (LDP) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 Part 3 Regulations 9-11.

**Table 9: Preferred Options (Legislative Compliance)**

Document	Section/ Regulation	Requirement	Evidence
Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011	3	<b>SURVEY OF DISTRICT</b> (1) A council must keep under review the matters which may be expected to affect the development of its district or the planning of that development. (2) Those matters include— (a) the principal physical, economic, social and environmental characteristics of the council's district; (b) the principal purposes for which land is used in the district; (c) the size, composition and distribution of the population of the district; (d) the communications, transport system and traffic of the district;	(1) – (3) The POP is supported by a comprehensive evidence base which has been prepared and reviewed throughout the preparation of the Preferred Options. This included the preparation of social, economic and environmental baseline data in the Borough (POP 003 to POP 005) and a number of appraisals, including SA Scoping Report (POP 008), a SA Interim Report incorporating SEA and HRA (POP 009) and an Equality Screening Interim Assessment Report (POP 010). These papers and assessments were used to inform the Council's POP along with the approach to planning policy. In addition, the Council published the 2015 Housing Monitor (POP 007). The accompanying interim SA report also provides a baseline of data and assesses the impact of the POP on climate change.



		<p>(e) any other considerations which may be expected to affect those matters;</p> <p>(f) such other matters as may be prescribed or as the Department (in a particular case) may direct.</p> <p>(3) The matters also include—</p> <p>(a) the potential impact of climate change;</p> <p>(b) any changes which the council thinks may occur in relation to any other matter;</p> <p>(c) the effect such changes are likely to have on the development of the council's district or on the planning of such development.</p> <p>(4) A council may also keep under review and examine the matters mentioned in subsections (2) and (3) in relation to any neighbouring district to the extent that those matters may be expected to affect the district of the council.</p> <p>(5) In exercising a function under subsection (4) a council must consult with the council for the neighbouring district in question.</p>	<p>(3) – (5) Our proposed Plan Vision in our POP (<b>POP 001</b>), POP evidence papers (<b>POP 003</b> to <b>POP 005</b>) and supporting assessments undertaken for the POP (<b>POP 008</b> to <b>POP 009</b>) set out a sustainable approach towards development which aims to address the ongoing challenges of climate change.</p>
The Planning (LDP) Regulations (NI) 2015	Part 3 Regulation 9 Paragraph 1-2	<p><b>PREPARATION OF THE PREFERRED OPTIONS PAPER</b></p> <p>1) Before a council complies with regulation 11, it must, for the purpose of generating alternative strategies and options, engage the consultation bodies.</p> <p>(2) In preparing the preferred options paper the council must take into account any representation received from the consultation bodies.</p>	<p>(1)- (2)</p> <p><u>Pre-POP engagement</u></p> <p>Before the Council published its POP, it engaged with the statutory consultees (<b>PrePOP-SND-021</b>). All statutory consultees were notified at an early stage of the plan making process that the Council was preparing its LDP (<b>PrePOP-SND-027</b>). In January 2016, the Council formally commenced work on its LDP and published its Towards</p>

			<p>Preferred Options document (<a href="#">POP 001</a>), along with its first Timetable (<a href="#">T-SND-001</a>) and SCI (<a href="#">SCI 001</a>) at an event called "Planning our Place" (<a href="#">PrePOP-SND-001</a>). A workshop was also held at this event to engage further with consultees on the key strategic planning issues for the Borough. The Towards Preferred Options document was widely advertised and circulated.</p> <p>Under Regulation 9, statutory consultees were notified of the commencement of the Local Development Plan and asked to consider whether any of their policies, plans and priorities could impact upon our Borough and if there are any matters the plan should take into account (<a href="#">PrePOP-SND-022</a>, <a href="#">PrePOP-SND-019</a>, <a href="#">PrePOP-SND-033</a>). The purpose of this early engagement with consultees was to establish what their views were on the key issues which needed to be addressed in the LDP and for the Council to consider this information in the development of its POP, i.e. alternative strategies and options.</p> <p><u>Draft POP document</u></p> <p>Following engagement with Elected Members, statutory consultees and the public/other stakeholders, a draft POP document was prepared along with a number of evidence papers. A working group was established, and the inaugural meeting was held on 14 November 2016 in Mossley Mill where Working Group Members, comprising of Elected Members (nominated party representatives) and statutory consultees, were in attendance (<a href="#">PrePOP-SND-008</a> &amp; <a href="#">PrePOP-SND-009</a>).</p> <p>On the day, Council officers presented to the Working Group on a range of matters, including a presentation and discussion of options for the POP. Further to this, SES gave an overview of the SA Scoping Report. The statutory consultees were encouraged to discuss the proposed options and to highlight any gaps or issues to aid discussion on alternative options and strategies. Those who were unable to attend were asked to submit their comments in writing. Following the event, the Council considered the responses received and these were</p>
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			taken into account in the preparation of our POP (POP 001) and supporting documents (POP 003 – POP 011).
	Part 3 Regulation 10 Paragraph A-E	<p><b>AVAILABILITY OF THE PREFERRED OPTIONS PAPER</b></p> <p>Before a council prepares a development plan document it must-</p> <p>(a) make the following documents available for inspection during normal office hours at the places referred to in paragraph (b)-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) a copy of the preferred options paper,</li> <li>(ii) such supporting documents as in the opinion of the council are relevant to that paper,</li> <li>(iii) a document containing a statement indicating the period specified by the council under regulation 11(2) as the period within which representations on the preferred options paper may be made,</li> <li>(iv) notice of the address to which representations are to be sent.</li> </ul> <p>(b) the places referred to in paragraph (a) are-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the council's principal offices, and</li> <li>(ii) such other places within the council district as the council considers appropriate;</li> </ul> <p>(c) send to the consultation bodies the information set out at paragraph (a);</p>	<p>(a) &amp; (b)</p> <p>Following the formal launch of the POP on 17 January 2017, POP display exhibitions were set up in prominent places in the public reception areas at the Council's two principal offices, Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre for the duration of the public consultation event (POP-SND-012).</p> <p>These displays made available hard copies of the POP (POP 001), SA Interim Report (POP 009), SA Interim Scoping Report (POP 008), Equality Screening Assessment Interim Progress Report (POP 010), and summary booklet (POP 011) along with all other relevant POP documentation (POP 003 – POP 007).</p> <p>A public notice (POP-SND-015) advising of the period of publication consultation and details of where representations should be made to was placed in the display. As per para. (b) (ii), copies of the POP were also made available for display in 8 no. local libraries across the Borough (Antrim Library, Ballyclare Library, Cloughfern Library, Crumlin Library, Glengormley Library, Greystone Library, Randalstown Library and Rathcoole Library).</p> <p>(c)</p> <p>The Council wrote to all consultation bodies on 18 January 2017 (POP-SND-013) advising them of the publication of the POP and its associated documents. The letter also provided a web-link to our website where this information could be downloaded from, with hard copies available upon request at a specified price.</p>

		<p>(d)give notice by local advertisement of the following-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i)the title of the local development plan,</li> <li>(ii)a statement of the fact that the preferred options paper is available for inspection and the places and times at which it can be inspected,</li> <li>(iii)a brief description of the content and purpose of the preferred options paper, and</li> <li>(iv)details of how further information on the preferred options paper may be obtained; and</li> </ul> <p>(e)publish on its website-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i)the preferred options paper,</li> <li>(ii)such supporting documents as in the opinion of the council are relevant to the preferred options paper, and</li> <li>(iii) the document mentioned in paragraph (a) (iii) and notice mentioned in paragraph (a) (iv).</li> </ul>	<p>(d)</p> <p>A public notice was placed in the Antrim Guardian and Newtownabbey Times (POP-SND-004) on 19 and 26 January 2017. This notice included the title of the POP and its associated documents, a brief description of the content and purpose of the POP, where and when it could be inspected and obtained, an invite to comment within the 12-week public consultation period (18 January to 4.30pm on 12 April 2017), details of all public engagement events and also highlighted that a number of other planning documents had been published (SA Interim Report, Equality Screening Assessment Interim Progress Report and other associated documents). Additional adverts were also placed alongside the weekly planning list to encourage the public to respond (POP 002 Appendix 2).</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>The Council published the POP (POP 001) and the following documents on our website on 18 January 2017 (POP 017):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SA Interim Report (POP 009);</li> <li>• SA Scoping Report (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) (POP 008);</li> <li>• Equality Screening Assessment Interim Progress Report (POP 010);</li> <li>• Meeting the Needs of Society Evidence Paper (POP 003);</li> <li>• Facilitating Economic Development Evidence Paper (POP 004);</li> <li>• Review of Operational Planning Policy Evidence Paper (POP 006).</li> </ul> <p>Hard copies of the POP and all other documents were made available upon request.</p>
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	<p>Part 3 Regulation 11 Paragraph 1-4</p>	<p><b>PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE PREFERRED OPTIONS PAPER</b></p> <p>(1) Any person may make representations about a council's preferred options paper.</p> <p>(2) Any such representations must be—</p> <p>(a) made within a period which the council specifies, and</p> <p>(b) sent to the address specified pursuant to Regulation 10 (a) (iv).</p> <p>(3) The period referred to in paragraph (2)(a) must be a period of not less than 8 weeks or more than 12 weeks starting on the day on which the council complies with regulation 10(a).</p> <p>(4) A council must take account of any representations made in accordance with paragraph (2) before it prepares a development plan document.</p>	<p>(1) – (2)</p> <p>Notification of the Council's public engagement took many forms in an effort to reach all communities within the Borough (POP 002). Stakeholders were also offered a variety of methods to submit their written comments, including an online consultation portal, downloading or requesting hard copies of the response form, or simply by submitting a letter or email to the specified address. During the public consultation period, a total of 23 responses were generated from consultees, and 126 responses from members of the public and agents.</p> <p>(3) The 12-week public consultation period ran from the date the POP was launched and documents were made available for public inspection, from 18 January to 4.30pm on 12 April 2017.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>The Council prepared and published for public inspection a POP Public Consultation Report (POP 002) in June 2019. This report superseded the Council's POP Interim Consultation Report (POP-SND-001) which was published in August 2017 to provide an initial brief high-level summary of issues raised during the POP public consultation event. The POP Public Consultation report summarised the main comments received during the public consultation period. Explanation was given as to how the issues raised were considered when preparing the Council's DPS.</p>
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## 6 Draft Plan Strategy Legislative Compliance

- 6.1 This chapter sets out how the Council met the P4 soundness test regarding the form and content of its DPD and the procedure for preparing the DPD at the DPS stage. DPPN 6 Soundness (Version 2) states the relevant legislation is Sections 8(2) and 9(2) of the 2011 Planning Act; Part 4 of the LDP Regulations (Regulations 12 – 14); Part 5 of the LDP Regulations (Regulations 15-23) and Schedule 2 of the EAPP (NI) Regulations 2004. Therefore, these issues are set out below in so far as they relate to the current stage of the LDP i.e. up to the DPS Stage.
- 6.2 In relation to Regulations 21 “Availability of submission documents” and 22 “Publicity of the Independent Examination” of the LDP Regulations, the Council will provide the majority of this information on its webpage ([www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk)) at the relevant stage of the plan process.
- 6.3 The Council has also complied with the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended), The Northern Ireland Act 1998 and the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 as evidenced within the draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (DPS 005) and the Rural Needs Assessment (DPS 006).
- 6.4 The Council has also complied with all legislation in relation to sustainable development as demonstrated under the P3 Test and Table 12 (Chapter 7) of this report, including Schedule 2 of the EAPP (NI) Regulations 2004 and Section 25 of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006.
- 6.5 The Council has also complied with the legislative tests as set out in the LDP Regulations in relation to the POP. This is demonstrated under the P2 Test of this report. It has also complied with the relevant legislation for the preparation and publication of its Timetable and SCI as set out under the Planning Act 2011, the LDP Regulations and The Planning (Statement of Community Involvement) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. This is demonstrated under the P1 Test of this report.
- 6.6 For ease of reference, the Council has also included Table 10 below, which provides the reader with an easy to read breakdown of how it has complied with Part 5, Regulations 15 of the LDP Regulations in relation to the availability of its DPD. A more detailed analysis of how the Council complied with the legislative requirements under the Planning Act 2011 Section 8 (3) – (7) and the Planning (LDP) Regulations 2015 (Regulations 15 – 20) is provided in Table 11.

**Table 10: Breakdown of Part 5 LDP Regulations 2015 Compliance – Availability of the development plan document.**

No	Part 5: Development Plan Document Procedure: Availability of a development plan document	Y/N	Reg.	Comments	Dates made available	Evidence Base
<b>Draft Plan Strategy</b>						
1.	Availability of DPD, SA Report & relevant supporting documents for inspection	<b>Yes</b>	15	Made publicly available for inspection at our 2 principal Council offices at Mossley Mill & Antrim Civic Centre during normal working hours.	28 June to 25 July 2019 (pre-consultation period). 26 July to 20 Sept 2019 (formal consultation period).	DPS-SND-003
2.	Public Notice	<b>Yes</b>	15	Public Notice was also on display at our principal planning offices which detailed the period for which counter representations could be submitted as well as the address to which they should be sent.	28 June to 20 Sept 2019.	DPS-SND-003
3.	Website	<b>Yes</b>	15	Published on ANBC website.	28 June 2019.	DPS-SND-006
4.	Notice in Belfast Gazette and local press	<b>Yes</b>	15	Belfast Gazette.	05 and 12 July 2019.	DPS-SND-005
				Newtownabbey Times.	27 June 2019 and 04 July 2019.	
				Antrim Guardian.	27 June 2019 and 04 July 2019.	

Representations (assoc. with DPD)						
5.	Statement indicating the period within which representations on the DPD may be made and notice of the address available for inspection?	Yes	15	<p>Pre-consultation period.</p> <p>Formal consultation period.</p> <p>DPS 005: EAPP Regulations Public Notice DPS 006: LDP Regulations Public Notice DPS 007: Display Stands June - Sept 2019 DPS 009: DPS Press Adverts June - Oct 2019</p>	<p>28 June to 25 July 2019 (pre-consultation period).</p> <p>26 July to 20 Sept 2019 (formal consultation period).</p>	<p>DPS-SND-001 DPS-SND-002 DPS-SND-003 DPS-SND-005</p>
6.	Public Consultation	Yes	16	Representations to the DPS & associated documents were formally invited.	26 July to 20 Sept 2019.	<p>DPS-SND-001 DPS-SND-002</p>
7.	Availability	Yes	17	Representations to the DPS & associated documents were made publicly available for inspection at our principal Council buildings (Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey and Antrim Civic Centre, Antrim.	11 October 2019.	<p>DPS-SND-003 DPS-SND-006</p>
8.	Notification of those persons who made representations to DPS	Yes	17	Persons who made representations were notified.	07 October 2019.	DPS-SND-024
9.	Public Notice	Yes	17	Public Notice was also on display at our principal planning offices which detailed the period for which counter representations could be submitted as well as the address to which they should be sent.	11 October 2019.	DPS-SND-012
10.	Website	Yes	17	Published on ANBC website.	11 October 2019.	DPS-SND-012
11.	Notice in	Yes	17	Belfast Gazette.	11 and 18 October 2019.	DPS-SND-018



	Belfast Gazette and local press			Newtownabbey Times.	10 and 17 October 2019.	
				Antrim Guardian.	10 and 17 October 2019.	
12.	Notification of consultation bodies re: availability of reps	Yes	17	Notified about availability of reps for viewing (inc. location & times of which they could be inspected).	07 October 2019.	DPS-SND-017
<b>Public Consultation on site specific policy representations</b>						
13.	Counter Reps	Yes	18	Invited over an 8 week period.	11 October 2019 to 06 December 2019.	DPS-SND-018
<b>Availability of Representations on site specific policy representations</b>						
14.	Availability of Hard copies	Yes	19	Made available for inspection at principal Council buildings (Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey & Antrim Civic Centre, Antrim).	27 January 2020.	/
15.	Website	Yes	19	Published on ANBC website.	27 January 2020.	DPS-SND-014
<b>Submission of Documents for Independent Examination</b>						
Please refer to IE Submission Inventory (DPS-SLI) on ANBC website ( <a href="http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk">www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk</a> ) for full details						
	<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Y/N</b>	<b>Regulation</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Evidence</b>	
16.	Consideration of Reps made under Regs 16 & 18	Yes	20 (1)	Representations and Counter Representations were considered in the following reports: DPS Public Consultation Report; Representations by Issue Report; Representations by Respondent Report; Counter Representations Report; Topic Paper 1: Housing Growth; & Topic Paper 2: Affordable Housing.	DPS-S-001 DPS-S-002 DPS-S-003 DPS-S-004 DPS-S-005 DPS-S-006	
17.	Report under Section 8(6)(b)	Yes	20 (2)(a)	Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Report; Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Non-Technical Summary (NTS); and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report.	DPS 002 DPS 003 DPS 004	
18.	Copy of Statement of Community Involvement	Yes	20 (2)(b)	Statement of Community Involvement.	SCI 001	

19.	Compliance with Statement of Community Involvement	Yes	20 (2)(b)	Refer to <a href="#">Chapter 3</a> & <a href="#">P1</a> Test of Soundness Report.	DPS-S-007A & DPS-S-007G
20.	Copies of Reg 10, 15 & 17 Notices	Yes	20 (2)(c)	Reg 10 Notice (POP).	POP-SND-004
				Reg 15 Notice (DPS).	DPS-SND-002
				Reg 17 Notice (Counter Reps).	DPS-SND-005
21.	Timetable	Yes	20 (2)(e)	LDP Revised Timetable 2020.	T 001
				Revised Timetable 2018.	T-SND-003
				Original Timetable 2016.	T-SND-001
22.	Statement setting out:- 1. Summary of main issues made in reps under regulation 11(2) and How taken into account	Yes	20 (2)(f)	POP Public Consultation Report June 2019.	POP 002
23.	Statement setting out: 1. Summary of main issues raised in Reps; 2. How main issues have been taken into account in the preparation of DPD.	Yes	20 (2)(g)	DPS Public Consultation Report; Representations by Issue Report; Representations by Respondent Report; Counter Representations Report; Topic Paper 1: Housing Growth; & Topic Paper 2: Affordable Housing.	DPS-S-001 DPS-S-002 DPS-S-003 DPS-S-004 DPS-S-005 DPS-S-006
24.	Copies of Reps made to DPD and any other associated documents relevant to the preparation of the DPD.	Yes	20 (2)(h)	DPS Representations (LA03/DPS/001 - 0122).	LA03/DPS/001 - 0122
				DPS Representations to Supporting Assessments: - (LA03/DPS/032, LA03/DPS/0046, LA03/DPS/0102).	LA03/DPS/032, LA03/DPS/0046, LA03/DPS/0102
				DPS Representations received in response to the DPS Counter Representation Consultation Stage: (LA03/DPS/CR/0123 – 0148).	LA03/DPS/CR/0123 – 0148

25.	Copies of supporting documents relevant to the preparation of the development plan document. <sup>5</sup>	Yes	20(2) (i)	Draft Habitat Regulations Assessment June 2019.	DPS 005
				Equality (Section 75) Screening & Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) June 2019.	DPS 006
				Evidence Paper 1: Population	DPS 007
				Evidence Paper 2: Settlement Evaluation	DPS 008
				Evidence Paper 3: Economic Growth	DPS 009
				Evidence Paper 4: Retail and Commercial-Leisure Study	DPS 010
				Evidence Paper 5: Tourism	DPS 011
				Evidence Paper 6: Housing	DPS 012
				Evidence Paper 7: Historic Environment	DPS 013
				Evidence Paper 8: Community Facilities	DPS 014
				Evidence Paper 9: Open Space, Sport & Recreation	DPS 015
				Evidence Paper 10: Transportation	DPS 016
				Evidence Paper 11: Public Utilities	DPS 017
				Evidence Paper 12: Minerals	DPS 018
				Evidence Paper 13: Renewables	DPS 019
				Evidence Paper 14: Flooding	DPS 020
				Evidence Paper 15: Waste	DPS 021
				Evidence Paper 16: Landscape Character Assessment	DPS 022
				Evidence Paper 17: Natural Heritage	DPS 023
				Evidence Paper 18: Rural Pressure Analysis	DPS 024
				Evidence Paper 19: Coast	DPS 025
				Evidence Paper 20: Loughs	DPS 026
				Evidence Paper 21: Placemaking and Good-Design	DPS 027
				POP Meeting the Needs of Society Evidence Paper	POP 003
				POP Facilitating Economic Development Evidence Paper	POP 004
				POP Shaping Our Environment Evidence Paper	POP 005
				A Review of Operational Planning Policy Evidence Paper	POP 006
				Antrim and Newtownabbey Housing Monitor 2015	POP 007

<sup>5</sup> In addition to the documents listed above

				POP Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	POP 008
				POP Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report inc. SEA & HRA.	POP 009
				POP Equality Screening Assessment Interim Progress Report.	POP 010
				POP Summary Booklet.	POP 011
				Soundness Report and Appendices 1-6	DPS-S-007A - G
				Timetable(s).	T 001 T-SND-003 T-SND-001
				ANBC Community Plan 'Love Living Here'.	DPS-S-008
				ANBC Housing Needs Assessment (Sept 2018).	DPS-S-009
				Supporting Statement: ANBC Car Parking Strategy February 2021.	DPS-S-010
				ANBC Economic Strategy 2018 – 2023.	DPS-S-011
				ANBC Tourism Strategy 2017 – 2022.	DPS-S-012
				ANBC Corporate Plan 2019 – 2030.	DPS-S-013
		NIHE Housing Market Analysis Update 2018 for ANBC.	DPS-S-014		
26.	Copy of DPD to the Department	Yes	20 (3) (a)	A copy of the Draft Plan Strategy was included in ANBC's formal submission of documents to DfI (letter sent March 2021)	DPS 001 DPS-SL1

**Table 11: DPS Legislative Compliance**

Document	Section/ Regulation	Requirement	Evidence
Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011	Part 2 Section 8 (as amended by the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014) Paragraph 1 - 7	<p>(1) A council must prepare a plan for its district (to be known as a plan strategy).</p> <p>(2) A plan strategy must set out-</p> <p>(a) the council's objectives in relation to the development and use of land in its district;</p> <p>(b) its strategic policies for the implementation of those objectives; and</p> <p>(c) such other matters as may be prescribed.</p> <p>(3) Regulations under this section may prescribe the form and content of the plan strategy.</p> <p>(4) A plan strategy must be prepared in accordance with-</p> <p>(a) the timetable set out in section 7(1);</p>	<p>(1) The Council has prepared a DPS (DPS) for the district, which was published on 28 June 2019 (<a href="#">DPS 001</a>).</p> <p>(2) (a) The DPS provides a Plan Vision of what the district should look like by the year 2030 (Page 54, Section 3 of the DPS (<a href="#">DPS 001</a>)). In order to help achieve this vision, it is supported by 14 no. interlinked Strategic Objectives, based upon the theme of sustainable development and interlinked with the Community Plan outcomes (as set out on pages 58 and 59 of the DPS).</p> <p>(b) &amp; (c) Paragraph 1.8 of the DPS (<a href="#">DPS 001</a>) sets out the structure of the Plan Strategy, including SPs to implement the Strategic Objectives. It also includes DM Policies which supplement the SPs that together will guide decisions in the development management process. Pages 10 -11 of the DPS set out detail on how to use the DPS document in the structure of the document and a guide to strategic policies and detailed management policies. An easy guide listing all the relevant SPs and DMs is set out on pages 12-13 of the DPS. Sections 4 -13 of the DPS then set out the detail of the SPs and associated Detailed Management Policies for the implementation of the Strategy Objectives.</p> <p>(3) How the Council complied with The Planning (LDP) Regulations (NI) 2015 (as amended) in terms of its form and content is set out below.</p> <p>(4)(a) How the Council prepared its Plan Strategy in accordance with its Timetable is demonstrated under the <a href="#">P1</a> Test of this report.</p> <p>(b) How the Council prepared its Plan Strategy in accordance with its SCI is demonstrated under the <a href="#">P1</a> Test of this report.</p>

		<p>(b) the council's statement of community involvement.</p> <p>(5) In preparing a plan strategy, the council must take account of-</p> <p>(a) the regional development strategy;</p> <p>(b) the council's current community plan;</p> <p>(c) any policy or advice contained in guidance issued by the Department;</p> <p>(d) such other matters as the Department may prescribe or, in a particular case, direct, and may have regard to such other information and considerations as appear to the council to be relevant.</p> <p>(6) The council must also-</p> <p>(a) carry out an appraisal of the sustainability of the plan strategy;</p> <p>(b) prepare a report of the findings of the appraisal.</p> <p>(7) A plan strategy is a plan strategy only if it is-</p> <p>(a) adopted by resolution of the council; or</p> <p>(b) approved by the Department in accordance with section 16(6).</p>	<p>(5) (a) How the Council prepared its Plan Strategy taking account of the RDS is demonstrated under the <a href="#">C1</a> Test of this report.</p> <p>(b) How the Council prepared its Plan Strategy taking account of its current Community Plan is demonstrated under the <a href="#">C2</a> Test of this report.</p> <p>(c) How the Council prepared its Plan Strategy taking account of any policy or advice contained in guidance issued by the Department is demonstrated under the <a href="#">C3</a> Test of this report.</p> <p>(d) The Council prepared an evidence base to inform its LDP, considered the regional and local context, carried out a number of assessments and has also subjected documents to public consultation.</p> <p>(6) (a) &amp; (b) details of the Council's SA is demonstrated under the <a href="#">P3</a> Test of this report.</p> <p>(7) (a) &amp; (b) not applicable at this stage.</p>
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<b>PART 4 FORM AND CONTENT OF A DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT</b>			
The Planning (LDP) Regulations (NI) 2015 <sup>6</sup>	Part 4 Regulation 12 Paragraph 1-3	<b>FORM AND CONTENT OF A DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT</b>  (1) A development plan document must contain-  (a) a title which must give the name of the council district for which the development plan document is prepared and indicate whether it is a plan strategy or a local policies plan, and  (b) a sub-title which must indicate the date of the adoption of the development plan document.  (2) A development plan document must contain a reasoned justification of the policies contained in it.  (3) Those parts of a development plan document which comprise the policies of the development plan document and those parts which comprise the reasoned justification required by paragraph (2) must be readily distinguishable	(1) (a) the front cover of the DPS document as published states "Local Development Plan 2030 – DPS – Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council" (DPS 001).  (b) The Plan has not yet been adopted and therefore no adoption date has been finalised. The adoption date will be added as a sub-title upon its adoption.  (2) Under the title headings 'Why we have taken this approach' and 'Why we have this policy', the DPS contains a reasoned justification for the policies which are contained within each section. This is explained in writing on page 11 of the DPS.  (3) The DPS includes a section called "How to use this document" (pgs.10-11) which provides the reader with a brief synopsis of the layout of the plan. The policies within the DPS are clear and easily distinguishable, with each highlighted under a policy heading. A policy/policy title reference index called "Policy – Easy Guide" (pgs.12 -13 of DPS 001) has been provided to direct the reader quickly to the relevant section of the document that they wish to read.

<sup>6</sup> As revised

			<p>Each of the 10 no. strategic policies have been colour-coded throughout the DPS for ease of reference and broken down by a series of headings phased as statements: 'Introduction', 'Where we want to be', 'How are we going to get there' (this is where the strategic policies are set out), 'Why we have taken this approach', and 'What it will look like' (where relevant illustrations have been provided). The 'Why we have taken this approach' is the reasoned justification and rationale for the approach we have taken in the Strategic Policy.</p> <p>Each of the 54 no. detailed management policies have also been colour-coded and are broken down into a series of headings 'Why we have this policy'; 'The policy itself' and 'Amplification where it is deemed necessary'. The 'Why we have this policy' section is the justification and rationale for the approach taken in the DM policy.</p>
	<p>Part 4 Regulation 13 Paragraph 1-3</p>	<p><b>PROPOSALS MAP</b></p> <p>(1) A development plan document must contain a map or maps, (to be known as "the proposals map"), describing the policies and proposals set out in the development plan document so far as practicable to illustrate such policies or proposals spatially.</p> <p>(2) The proposals map is to be sufficiently detailed so as to enable the location of proposals for the development and use of land to be identified.</p> <p>(3) In the case of any contradiction between the written statement and any other document forming part of a local development plan, the written statement shall prevail.</p>	<p>(1) – (3) The DPS deals with strategic matters, and as such, it contains a number of proposals maps, where relevant, under the heading 'What it will look like'. In the main, these maps identify the indicative location of the relevant designation. In these cases, the associated text indicates that the detailed precise boundaries of such designations will be shown on maps at Local Policies Plan stage. Other maps, for example, those relating to the Historic Environment and Natural Heritage, show particular assets for information purposes, where the precise boundaries and locations can be viewed via online Departmental map viewers where appropriate.</p>



	Regulation 14	<p><b>ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT</b></p> <p>(1) The other matters that the council must take into account in preparing a local development plan are</p> <p>(a) the objectives of preventing major accidents and limiting the consequence of such accidents,</p> <p>(b) the need—</p> <p>(i) in the long term to maintain appropriate distances between establishments covered by the Directive and residential areas, buildings and areas of public use, major transport routes as far as possible, recreational areas and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest, and</p> <p>(ii) in the case of existing establishments, for additional technical measures in accordance with Article 5 of the Directive so as not to increase the risks to people.</p> <p>(2) In this regulation—</p> <p>(a) the Directive means Council Directive 96/82/EC on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances, and</p>	<p>(1) &amp; (2) The Council liaised with HSENI in relation to the Control of Major Accident Sites (COMAHs) and the Northern Ireland Gas Pipeline operator in the development of the DPS.</p> <p>The DPS contains Policy DM 51: Major Hazards (including Major Hazard Sites and Major Accident Hazard Pipelines as well as Mineral Sites) (Page 299 of the <b>DPS 001</b>). At present, there are no COMAH sites located within the Borough, but this could change over the Plan period.</p> <p>The Council will continue to consult with the Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland (HSENI) and any other relevant authorities on all development proposed in close proximity to these facilities and sites; and in the preparation of the LPP.</p>

		(b) expressions used in paragraph (1) and in the Directive have the same meaning in that paragraph as in the Directive.	
<b>PART 5 DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT PROCEDURE</b>			
Part 5 Regulation 15 Paragraph A-E	<b>AVAILABILITY OF A DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT</b>	<p>Before submitting a development plan document to the Department under section 10 the council must-</p> <p>(a) make the following documents available for inspection during normal office hours at the places referred to in paragraph (b)-</p> <p>(i) a copy of the development plan document,</p> <p>(ii) a copy of the sustainability appraisal report under section 8(6)(b) or 9(7)(b), as the case may be,</p> <p>(iii) such supporting documents as in the opinion of the council are relevant to the preparation of the local development plan,</p> <p>(iv) a document containing a statement indicating the period within which representations on the development plan document may be made, and</p>	<p>(a)(i) – (iii) The Council's DPS, SA and other supporting documents were made publicly available for inspection at our two principal council offices at Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre (<b>DPS-SND-003</b>) for a 4 week pre-consultation period (28 June to Friday 25 July 2019) and for the formal consultation period (Friday 26 July 2019 to Friday 20 September 2019).</p> <p>(iv) <b><u>Pre-consultation Period</u></b></p> <p>An advanced publication notice (<b>DPS-SND-001</b> &amp; <b>DPS-SND-002</b>) for the duration of the pre-consultation period were placed on display at Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre (<b>DPS-SND-003</b>).</p> <p>These notices were placed in the local press (<b>DPS-SND-005</b>) on the following dates:</p>

		<p>(v)notice of the address to which representations can be sent;</p> <p>(b)the places referred to in paragraph (a) are—</p> <p>(i)the council's principal offices, and</p> <p>(ii)such other places within the council district as the council considers appropriate;</p> <p>(c)send to the consultation bodies a copy of the documents set out in paragraph (a);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Antrim Guardian, and Newtownabbey Times: 27 June 2019, and 04 July 2019; and</li> <li>- Belfast Gazette - 05 and 12 July 2019;</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Formal consultation period</u></b></p> <p>Public notices (DPS-SND-001 &amp; DPS-SND-002) for the formal consultation period were placed on display at Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre (DPS-SND-003) in the local press (DPS-SND-005) on the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Antrim Guardian, and Newtownabbey Times: 25 July 2019, and 01 August 2019; and</li> <li>- Belfast Gazette: 26 July 2019 and 02 August 2019.</li> </ul> <p>(v) Each public notice (DPS-SND-001 &amp; DPS-SND-002) contained a statement indicating the period within which representations on the DPS could be made and the address to send them to. Public Notices (DPS-SND-001 &amp; DPS-SND-002) relating to the pre and formal consultation periods and the address to which representations were placed on display at both our principal Council offices (DPS-SND-003).</p> <p>(b) Please see above.</p> <p>(c) Consultation bodies were notified by letter (DPS-SND-004) on 24 June 2019 of the formal publication of our DPS. Given the volume of documentation associated with the DPS, consultation bodies were directed to the Council's website where they could download them. Hard copies were made available upon request.</p>
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		<p>(d) give notice in the Belfast Gazette and by local advertisement of the following-</p> <p>(i) the title of the development plan document, and</p> <p>(ii) a statement of the fact that the development plan document is available for inspection and the places and times at which it can be inspected; and</p> <p>(e) publish on its website-</p> <p>(i) the development plan document,</p> <p>(ii) such of the supporting documents as in the opinion of the council are relevant, and</p> <p>(iii) the notice mentioned in paragraph (a) (iv).</p>	<p>(d) Please see above.</p> <p>(e) (i – iii) The DPS and all associated documents were also made available to view and download on the Council's website: <a href="http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk">www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk</a>. The public notice relating to the publication of the DPS and SA/SEA was also available to view on the website (DPS-SND-006).</p>
	<p>Part 5 Regulation 16 Paragraph 1 - 2</p>	<p><b>PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON A DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT</b></p> <p>(1) Any person may make representations about a development plan document.</p> <p>(2) Any such representations must be—</p> <p>(a) made within a period of 8 weeks starting on the day the council complies with regulation 15(d), and</p>	<p>(1) &amp; (2)</p> <p>(a) &amp; (b) Representations to the DPS and associated documents were formally invited over an 8 week period, commencing on 26 July 2019 and ending on 20 September 2019. The Council published notices stating the duration of the consultation period and address to which representations should be sent (DPS-SND-001 &amp; DPS-SND-002). These notices were also placed in the local press (DPS-SND-005).</p>

		(b) sent to the address specified pursuant to regulation 15(a) (v).	
	Part 5 Regulation 17 Paragraph 1 - 2	<p><b>AVAILABILITY OF REPRESENTATIONS ON A DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT</b></p> <p>(1) As soon as reasonably practicable after the expiry of the period referred to in regulation 16 (2)(a) the council must-</p> <p>(a)make the following documents available for inspection at the places referred to in paragraph (b)-</p> <p>(i)a copy of the representations,</p> <p>(ii)a document containing a statement indicating the time within which counter representations may be made, and</p> <p>(iii)notice of the address to which counter representations can be sent;</p> <p>(b)the places referred to in paragraph (a) are-</p> <p>(i)the council's principal offices,</p>	<p>(1) (a) – (b) Those representations which were received with regards to the DPS and associated documents were made publicly available for inspection from Friday 11 October 2019 at our principal Council buildings at Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey and Antrim Civic Centre, Antrim. A public notice (<a href="#">DPS-SND-012</a>) was also on display at our principal offices which detailed the period for which counter-representations could be submitted, as well as the address to which they should be sent.</p>

		<p>(ii) such other places within the district of the council as the council considers appropriate;</p> <p>(c) publish the representations on its website;</p> <p>(d) give notice in the Belfast Gazette and by local advertisement of the fact that representations are available for inspection and the places and times at which they can be inspected;</p> <p>(e) notify the consultation bodies of the fact that representations are available for inspection and the places and times at which they can be inspected; and</p> <p>(f) notify any person who has made (and not withdrawn) a representation in accordance with regulation 16(2) of those matters.</p> <p>(2) A council need not comply with paragraph (1) if the representation is made after the period specified in regulation 16.</p>	<p>(c) The public notice (DPS-SND-012) and all representations were published on the Council's website (DPS-SND-013).</p> <p>(d) The public notice (DPS-SND-012) was placed in the Belfast Gazette (11 and 18 October 2019), Newtownabbey Times (10 and 17 October 2019) and the Antrim Guardian (10 and 17 October 2019) (DPS-SND-018) advertising the availability of the representations for viewing, including locations and times at which they could be inspected.</p> <p>(e) Consultation bodies were notified on 07 October 2019 (DPS-SND-017) of the availability of representations for viewing, including locations and times at which they could be inspected.</p> <p>(f) Persons who made representations were notified on 7 October 2019 (DPS-SND-024).</p> <p>(2) N/A - No representations were received after the public consultation period had expired.</p>
	<p>Part 5 Regulation 18 Paragraph 1 - 3</p>	<p><b>PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON SITE SPECIFIC POLICY REPRESENTATIONS</b></p> <p>(1) Any person may make representations about a site specific policy representation (in regulations</p>	<p>(1) – (3) Following the publication of representations regarding the DPS and associated documents, counter-objections were invited on site specific policy representations.</p> <p>Counter representations were invited over an 8-week period, beginning on 11 October 2019 and ending on 06 December 2019. A public notice (DPS-SND-012) was published</p>

		<p>17, 19 and this regulation referred to as "counter representations").</p> <p>(2) Counter representations must be—</p> <p>(a) made within a period of 8 weeks starting on the day the council complies with regulation 17(1)(a), and</p> <p>(b) sent to the address specified in regulation 17(1) (a) (iii).</p> <p>(3) Counter representations must not propose any changes to the development plan document.</p>	<p>indicating the address to which the counter representations should be sent. This public notice was placed on our website (<a href="#">DPS-SND-014</a>) and in the local press (<a href="#">DPS-SND-018</a>). The Council stipulated in its public notice and on its website that counter representations must not propose any changes to the development plan document (i.e. DPS).</p>
	<p>Part 5 Regulation 19 Paragraph 1 - 2</p>	<p><b>AVAILABILITY OF REPRESENTATIONS ON SITE SPECIFIC POLICY REPRESENTATIONS</b></p> <p>(1) As soon as reasonably practicable after the expiry of the period referred to in regulation 18(2)(a) the council must-</p> <p>(a) make a copy of the counter representations available for inspection during normal office hours at-</p> <p>(i) its principal offices, and</p> <p>(ii) such other places within the district of the council as the</p>	<p>(1) (a) &amp; (b) Hard copies of those representations which were received in response to the DPS counter representation consultation stage were made available for inspection at the principal Council buildings of Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey and Antrim Civic Centre, Antrim on Monday 27 January 2020. Electronic copies were also made available to view on the Council's website (<a href="#">DPS-SND-014</a>).</p>

		<p>council considers appropriate; and</p> <p>(b) publish this information on its website.</p> <p>(2) The council need not comply with paragraph (1) if the counter representation is made after the period specified in regulation 18(2)(a).</p>	<p>(2) N/A - No counter-representations were received after the public consultation period had expired.</p>
	<p>Part 5 Regulation 20 Paragraph 1 - 3</p>	<p><b>SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS FOR INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION</b></p> <p>(1) Before a council submits a development plan document to the Department under section 10, it must consider representations made under regulation 16 and, as the case may be, regulation 18.</p> <p>(2) The documents prescribed for the purposes of section 10(3) are—</p> <p>(a) the report under section 8(6)(b) or, as the case may be, section 9(7)(b),</p> <p>(b) the statement of community involvement,</p>	<p>(1) The Council has considered both representations and counter-representations received during the relevant public consultation periods. The Council has prepared a DPS Public Consultation Report (<b>DPS-S-001</b>) which includes two reports (Representations by Issues Report (<b>DPS-S-002</b>), Representations by Respondent Report (<b>DPS-S-003</b>) and the Counter Representations Report (<b>DPS-S-004</b>) which set out further detail on the representations to the public consultation. Two topic papers (<b>DPS-S-005</b> &amp; <b>DPS-S-006</b>) on housing and affordable housing have also been prepared. Each of these reports outlines the nature of comments received, the key issues raised and the Council's response to these.</p> <p>(2) The Council has submitted its documentation to DfI. Full details are available on the Council's webpage (<a href="http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk">www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk</a>). This included a range of documents to DfI for submission of IE, comprising of;</p> <p>(a) The SA Report findings for the POP (<b>POP 008</b> &amp; <b>POP 009</b>) and the DPS (<b>DPS 002</b>, <b>DPS 003</b> &amp; <b>DPS 004</b>).</p> <p>(b - c) The Council's SCI (<b>SCI 001</b>) and evidence which shows how this was complied with is set out under the <a href="#">P1</a> Test and <a href="#">Chapter 3</a> of this report.</p>



		<p>(c)evidence that the council has complied with its statement of community involvement,</p> <p>(d)copies of the notices referred to in regulation 10(a)(iv), 15(a)(iv), and 17(1)(a)(iii),</p> <p>(e)the timetable,</p> <p>(f)a statement setting out-</p> <p>(i)a summary of the main issues raised in representations made in accordance with regulation 11(2), and</p> <p>(ii)how those main issues have been taken into account in the preparation of the development plan document;</p> <p>(g)a statement setting out-</p> <p>(i)if representations were made in accordance with regulation 16(2) or 18(2), the number of representations made and a summary of the main issues raised in those representations, or</p> <p>(ii)that no such representations were made;</p>	<p>(d) The notices relating to regulation 10 (a) (iv), 15 (a) (iv) and 17 (1) (a) (iii). These notices relate to the address which POP representations needed to be sent to (<b>POP-SND-004</b>), the period within which representations on the DPS where to be made (<b>DPS-SND-002</b>) and the address which the Counter-Representations where to be sent to (<b>DPS-SND-012</b>). Please refer to <b>DPS-SND-005</b> for further details.</p> <p>(e) The LDP Timetable 2020 (<b>T 001</b>).</p> <p>(f) A statement in the form of a report entitled 'POP Consultation Report' (<b>POP 002</b>) which summarised the main issues raised during the POP consultation process. The report also details how these have been taken into account in preparing the DPS.</p> <p>(g) A DPS Public Consultation Report (<b>DPS-S-001</b>) was prepared which indicates the number of representations and counter-representations received, including the main issues raised in those representations. The DPS Public Consultation Report includes two reports (Representations by Issues Report (<b>DPS-S-002</b>) &amp; Representations by Respondent Report (DPS 068) which set out further detail on the representations to the public consultation. Two topic papers (<b>DPS-S-005</b>, <b>DPS-S-006</b>) on housing and affordable housing have also been prepared. Each of these reports outlines the nature of comments received, the key issues raised and the Council's response to these.</p>
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		<p>(h) copies of any representations made in accordance with regulation 16(2) or 18(2), and</p> <p>(i) such supporting documents as in the opinion of the council are relevant to the preparation of the development plan document.</p> <p>(3) The council must also send to the Department-</p> <p>(a) where the development plan document is a plan strategy, a copy of that plan strategy, or</p> <p>(b) where the development plan document is a local policies plan-</p> <p>(i) a copy of that local policies plan, and</p> <p>(ii) a copy of the adopted plan strategy.</p>	<p>(h) The Council has provided copies of the representations and counter-representations including supporting documents which the Council has deemed relevant. Full details are available on our website.</p> <p>(3) (a) A hard copy of the DPS (DPS 001) was included in the Council's formal submission of documents to the Department in March 2021 (DPS-SL1).</p> <p>(b) N/A – Not relevant to this stage.</p>
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## 7 Sustainability Appraisal Compliance

7.1 This section sets out how the Council has met all the legislative requirements and soundness tests (P3) regarding the SA incorporating SEA.

**Table 12: Sustainability Appraisal Compliance**

Sustainability Appraisal			
LEGISLATION	Section / Regulation	LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	Evidence
Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011	Section 5	<p>(1) Any person who exercises any function under this Part must exercise that function with the objective of furthering sustainable development.</p> <p>(2) For the purposes of subsection (1) the person must take account of—</p> <p>(a) policies and guidance issued by—</p> <p>(i) the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister; the Department</p> <p>(ii) the Department for Regional Development</p>	<p>The Council prepared its LDP in the context of furthering sustainable development as demonstrated below.</p> <p>(1)- (2) (a) &amp; (b)</p> <p>The Council took account of published guidance from the Office of the First and deputy First Minister (OFMDFM), the Department (now DfI) and the Department for Regional Development - DRD (now DfI) in preparation of the Plan including the Programme for Government 2016-2021, the SDS, the RDS 2030 and the SPPS. In addition, the Council took account of a range of guidance produced, including that relating to LDP preparation such as the Development Plan Practice Notes.</p> <p>The Council also prepared a social, economic and environmental evidence base to inform our POP and updated this evidence in the preparation of our DPS (POP 003 - POP 005; DPS 007 – DPS 027).</p> <p>The Council also undertook a number of appraisals in the preparation of the Plan with the objective of furthering sustainable development. In preparing its POP the Council published a SA Scoping Report (POP 008) and a SA Interim Report incorporating SEA and HRA (POP 009). At the DPS stage, the Council undertook a SA incorporating SEA and published a SA Report (DPS 002), a SA Non-Technical Summary (DPS 003) and a SA Scoping Report (DPS 004). The SA role is to promote</p>

		<p>(b) any matters which appear to that person to be relevant.</p>	<p>sustainable development and therefore both documents were assessed against the three pillars of sustainable development in terms of social, economic and environmental impact, taking into account OFMDFM's document entitled "Sustainable Development – Statutory Duty – A Guide for Public Authorities" (OFMDFM, May 2013).</p> <p>Section 2.4.10 of the SA Report summarises the compatibility of Sustainability Objectives with the LDP objectives. An assessment of the Vision and Objectives has been presented in the SA Report (Appendix 2) (DPS 002) to help establish whether the approach to the LDP is in accordance with the principles of sustainability. Appendix 4 of the SA Scoping Report (DPS 004) sets out the strategies and guidance relating to sustainable development that have been considered in scoping the sustainability appraisal.</p> <p>Section 2.2 (Strategic Context – pgs.8-12) and Section 2.3 (Other Development Plans – pg.13) of the SA Scoping Report (DPS 002) sets out the main regional and local strategies and plans which were considered in the preparation of the SA framework for the LDP. The key plans, policies, programmes and strategies that have been considered in the SA are also described in the introduction to each topic in Chapter 4 of the SA Scoping Report (DPS 004). A full list is contained within Appendix 4 of the SA Scoping Report. Appendix 4 of the SA Scoping Report (DPS 004) sets out the guidance relating to sustainable development that has been considered in scoping the sustainability appraisal.</p> <p>The LDP itself also seeks to further sustainable development through a number of policies and strategies, including through its overarching planning vision and suite of strategic objectives which help to deliver the LDP and support the Core Planning Principles of the SPPS. Sustainable development is also promoted through the overarching Strategic Development Policy 1: Sustainable Development (SP1) (DPS 001) which is the primacy policy for sustainable development. This policy supports the presumption in favour of sustainable development and the plan-led system. It also sets out the precautionary principle.</p> <p>Sustainable development is further promoted through the SGS which sets out the Council's sustainable approach to growth across its Borough and through the</p>
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			<p>strategic policies and development management policies in the plan which balance the social and economic priorities of our Borough alongside the careful management of our historic environment and natural heritage. The SGS has been informed by and has taken account of the RDS including its Spatial Framework Guidance which is summarised in Table 2 (pg.69 of the DPS) (DPS 001).</p> <p>The LPP will also seek to deliver sustainable development.</p> <p>The Council also undertook work where relevant to the promotion of sustainable development including additional screenings in relation to habitats (DPS 005), rural needs and Section 75 matters (DPS 006) which also shaped the plan in terms of sustainable development. In addition, the Council also took account of a wide range of documentation in the preparation of its LDP, including that of other Government Departments, neighbouring councils and the Council's own publications and studies, as well as general guidance on plan preparation.</p>
	Section 8 (6) of the 2011 Act	<p>Draft Plan Strategy</p> <p>8 (6) The council must also—</p> <p>(a) carry out an appraisal of the sustainability of the plan strategy;</p> <p>(b) prepare a report of the findings of the appraisal.</p>	<p>8 (6) (a) &amp; (b)</p> <p><b>Preferred Options Paper:</b></p> <p>In the preparation of its POP, the Council prepared a SA Interim Report Incorporating SEA and HRA Screening (POP 009) and a SA Scoping Report (POP 008).</p> <p><b>Draft Plan Strategy Stage:</b></p> <p>At the DPS stage, the Council undertook a SA incorporating a SEA of the DPS (DPS 002). The Council also published a SA Scoping (DPS 004) and a Non-Technical Summary (DPS 003).</p>
European Directive 2001/42/EC		Must comply with the requirements of this legislation on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (SEA Directive).	European Directive 2001/42/EC is the legislative requirement to ensure that any significant environmental impacts from proposed plans or programmes are considered from the earliest opportunity and addressed in the decision-making process. In Northern Ireland the Directive's requirements are taken forward through The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (EAPP) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004. The EAPP (NI) Regulations set out more detailed

			requirements for the process and content of the environmental assessment of plans and development. A record of how these regulations are being complied with is set out below.
Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (NI) 2004 <sup>7</sup>	Reg 11 (1) – (6)	<p><b>Preparation of environmental report</b></p> <p>11 (1) Where an environmental assessment is required by any provision of Part II, the responsible authority shall prepare, or secure the preparation of, an environmental report in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).</p> <p>11 (2) The report shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of –</p>	<p>11(1) – 11(2)</p> <p><b>Preferred Options Stage:</b></p> <p>The Council produced a SA Scoping Report (POP 008) and a SA Interim Report incorporating SEA and HRA Screening for the POP (POP 009). The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects were considered in the 14 sustainability objectives in the SA Scoping Report Chapter 6, against which all of the policy approaches were assessed and in Section 3 and Appendix vi of the SA Interim Report (POP 009). No significant negative effects were identified for any of the Options put forward in the POP and therefore no mitigation/reasonable alternatives were required.</p> <p><b>Draft Plan Strategy:</b></p> <p>At the DPS stage, the Council undertook a SA incorporating SEA which has been documented by a SA Report (DPS 002), a Non-Technical Summary (DPS 003) and a SA Scoping Report (DPS 004). A draft HRA of the DPS was also undertaken (DPS 011). The effects of the implementation of the Draft Plan on the environment and the assessment of reasonable alternatives are set out in Section 3 and Appendix 4 of the SA Report (DPS 002). The secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects of the draft Plan Strategy were considered and are described in Chapter 4 of the SA Report.</p>

<sup>7</sup> In so far as it relates to the preparation of the Local Development Plan up to the publication of the draft Plan Strategy stage. Please note transboundary consultation is not applicable.

	<p>11 (3) The report shall include such of the information referred to in Schedule 2 that may reasonably be required, taking account of –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) current knowledge and methods of assessment;</li> <li>(b) the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme;</li> <li>(c) the stage of the plan or programme in the decision-making process; and</li> <li>(d) the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment.</li> </ul> <p>(4) Information referred to in Schedule 2 may be provided by reference to relevant information obtained at other levels of decision-making or through other Community legislation.</p> <p>(5) When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation body.</p>	<p>11 (3) &amp; (4) Please see section below for Schedule 2 compliance.</p>          <p>11 (5)</p> <p>In April 2016, before the Council published its POP, it undertook a pre-consultation with the consultation body (NIEA) seeking advice on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the environmental report (<a href="#">PrePOP-SND-015</a>). NIEA responded to the Council on May 2016 providing information relating to scoping requirements (<a href="#">PrePOP-SND-018</a>). In October 2016, the Council formally consulted the consultation body on the scope and content of the report (<a href="#">PrePOP-SND-023</a>). The consultation body replied in November 2016</p>
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		<p>(6) Where the consultation body wishes to respond to a consultation under paragraph (5), it shall do so within the period of 5 weeks beginning with the date on which it receives the responsible authority's invitation to engage in the consultation.</p>	<p>(PrePOP-SND-026). In October 2018, prior to the publication of the DPS, the Council asked the consultation body for an update (DPS-SND-007 &amp; DPS-SND-040).</p> <p>11 (6) – see above.</p>
	Reg 12 (1) – (6)	<p><b>Consultation Processes</b></p> <p><b>12.(1)</b> Every draft plan or programme for which an environmental report has been prepared in accordance with regulation 11 and its accompanying environmental report ("the relevant documents") shall be made available to the consultation body and to the public in accordance with the following provisions of this regulation.</p> <p>(2) As soon as reasonably practicable after their preparation, the responsible authority shall send a copy of the relevant documents to the consultation body and invite it to express its opinion on the relevant documents within a specified period.</p>	<p>12 (1) &amp; (2)</p> <p><b>Preferred Options Stage:</b></p> <p>Following the formal launch of the POP on 18 January 2017, a copy of the POP and our SA Scoping Report (POP 008) and SA Interim Report incorporating SEA and HRA for the POP (POP 009) were sent to the consultation body on 27 January 2017 (POP-SND-011) seeking comment on these documents as per Regulation 12. Documents were also made publicly available (POP-SND-004), (POP-SND-010) &amp; (POP-SND-012).</p> <p><b>Draft Plan Strategy:</b></p> <p>Following the formal launch of the DPS on 28 June 2019, a copy of the DPS and our SA Scoping Report (DPS 002), SA Report (DPS 004) and SA Non-Technical Summary (DPS 003) were sent to the consultation body seeking comment on these documents (DPS-SND-023 &amp; DPS-SND-039). Documents were also made publicly available for comment (DPS-SND-005).</p>



		<p>(3) The responsible authority shall also –</p> <p>(a) within 14 days of the preparation of the relevant documents, publish in accordance with paragraph (5), or secure the publication of, a notice –</p> <p>(i) stating the title of the plan, programme or modification;</p> <p>(ii) stating the address (which may include a website) at which a copy of the relevant documents may be inspected or from which a copy may be obtained;</p> <p>(iii) inviting expressions of opinion on the relevant documents;</p> <p>(iv) stating the address to which, and the period within which, opinions must be sent; and</p> <p>(b) keep a copy of the relevant documents available at its principal office for inspection by the public at all reasonable times and free of charge; and</p> <p>(c) publish a copy of the relevant documents on the authority's website.</p>	<p>12 (3)</p> <p><b>Preferred Options Stage:</b></p> <p>A public notice was placed in the Antrim Guardian and Newtownabbey Times on 19 and 26 January 2017 (POP-SND-004). This notice stated the title of the POP and associated documents, including an invite to comment within the 12-week public consultation period, details of all public engagement events. The notice also highlighted that the POP and a number of other planning documents had been published including evidence papers and a number of assessments, including the Scoping Report and Interim Report for the SA incorporating SEA. Additional adverts were also placed alongside the weekly planning list to encourage the public to respond (Appendix 2 of POP 002).</p> <p>The information contained in points (3 – 5) within the public notice was placed on the Council's webpage (POP-SND-005).</p> <p>POP display exhibitions were set up in prominent places in the public reception area at the Council's two principal offices, Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre for the duration of the public consultation period (POP-SND-012). These displays made available hard copies of the POP, SA Interim Report, SA Interim Scoping Report, Equality Screening Assessment Interim Progress Report, summary booklets along with all other relevant POP documentation. Planning Officers were on hand to answer any queries.</p> <p><b>Draft Plan Strategy Stage</b></p> <p>A public notice was placed in the Antrim Guardian, Newtownabbey Times (27 June 2019 and 04 July 2019) and Belfast Gazette (05 &amp; 12 July 2019) (DPS 009). This notice stated the title of the DPS and associated documents, advising of the 4 week pre-consultation period (28 June 2019 to 25 July 2019) to provide additional time for the public and interested parties to consider all the documents in advance of the period of formal consultation (Friday 26 July 2019 to Friday 20 September 2019).</p>
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		<p>(4) The periods referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3) (a) (iv) must be of such length as will ensure that those to whom the invitation is extended are given an early and effective opportunity to express their opinion on the relevant documents.</p> <p>(5) Publication of a notice under paragraph (3)(a) shall be by such means as will ensure that the contents of the notice are likely to come to the attention of the public affected by, or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the draft plan or the programme.</p> <p>(6) Nothing in paragraph (3) (a) (ii) shall require the responsible authority to provide a copy of the documents concerned free of charge; but where a charge is made, it shall be of a reasonable amount.</p>	<p>A public notice advertising the SA Report, and its supporting documents and inviting expressions of opinion was placed in each of these papers (DPS-SND-005) on the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Antrim Guardian &amp; Newtownabbey Times: 25 July 2019 and 01 August 2019; and</li> <li>- Belfast Gazette: 26 July 2019 and 02 August 2019. The adverts also stated the title of the Plan, the address to which to make a response, the Council's website address and the period within which opinions should be sent.</li> </ul> <p>Display exhibitions (DPS-SND-003) were set up in prominent places in the public reception areas at the Council's two principal offices, Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre for the duration of the public consultation period. These displays made available hard copies of the DPS, our SA Report Incorporating SEA (DPS 002), SA Scoping Report (DPS 004), SA Non-Technical Summary (DPS 003), Evidence Papers (DPS 007 – 027), along with all other relevant POP documentation. Planning Officers were on hand to answer any queries.</p> <p>The information contained in points (3 – 5) within the public notice was placed on the Council's webpage (DPS-SND-006).</p>
		<p><u>Schedule 2</u> Information for Environmental Reports</p> <p>1. An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its</p>	<p><b>Preferred Options Stage:</b></p> <p>A record of how Schedule 2 was complied with is set out in Appendix 1 of the SA Interim Report (Pgs. 36-37) (POP 009) and the SA Scoping Report (Pgs.108-109) (POP 008).</p>

		<p>relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.</li> <li>3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.</li> <li>4. Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive <a href="#">79/409/EEC</a> on the conservation of wild birds<sup>(1)</sup> and the Habitats Directive.</li> <li>5. The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.</li> <li>6. The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and</li> </ol>	<p><b>Draft Plan Strategy Stage:</b></p> <p>A record of how Schedule 2 was complied with is set out in Appendix 1 of the SA Report (Pgs. 108-110) (<b>DPS 002</b>) and the SA Scoping Report (Pgs.132-133) (<b>DPS 004</b>).</p>
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		<p>temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) biodiversity;</li> <li>(ii) population;</li> <li>(iii) human health;</li> <li>(iv) fauna;</li> <li>(v) flora;</li> <li>(vi) soil;</li> <li>(vii) water;</li> <li>(viii) air;</li> <li>(ix) climatic factors;</li> <li>(x) material assets;</li> <li>(xi) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;</li> <li>(xii) landscape, and</li> <li>(xiii) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub paragraphs (i) to (xii).</li> </ul> <p>7. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.</p> <p>8. An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such</p>	
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		<p>as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.</p> <p>9. A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 16.</p> <p>10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.</p>	
<p>The Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006</p>	<p>Section 25</p>	<p>Sustainable development</p> <p>(1) A public authority must, in exercising its functions, act in the way it considers best calculated to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in Northern Ireland, except to the extent that it considers that any such action is not reasonably practicable in all the circumstances of the case.</p> <p>(2) For this purpose—</p> <p>(a) a public authority must have regard to any strategy or guidance relating to sustainable development issued by the [Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs] , and</p>	<p>(1) Please refer to <a href="#">Section 5</a> of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 text above.</p>

		<p>(b) a public authority other than a Northern Ireland department must have regard to any guidance relating to sustainable development issued by a Northern Ireland department other than the [Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs].</p> <p>(3)In this section “public authority” means—</p> <p>(a)a Northern Ireland department,</p> <p>(b)a district council in Northern Ireland, and</p> <p>(c) any other person designated for the purposes of this section by order made by the [F2Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs].</p> <p>(4)The power to make an order under subsection (3) (c) is exercisable by statutory rule for the purposes of the Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/1573 (N.I. 12)).</p> <p>(5)Such an order may not be made unless a draft of the order has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Northern Ireland Assembly.</p>	
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## 8 Conclusion

- 8.1 In conclusion, after undertaking a thorough self-assessment of our LDP, the Council considers that it is sound.
- 8.2 This document demonstrates that the DPS has been prepared in accordance with the procedural requirements set out in the relevant legislation. The DPS has taken account of the RDS, SPPS and the Council's Corporate Plan and other relevant plans and strategies, including those of adjoining council areas. It sets out a clear and coherent strategy and details policies, having considered alternatives through the SA/SEA process. It also sets out a comprehensive monitoring framework and review process to ensure the effectiveness of its delivery.
- 8.3 On the basis of the above, the Council considers that its DPS is ready for submission for IE and hereby submits its DPS and supporting documents to DfI for examination of soundness under Section 10 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and Regulation 20 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.



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