



**Lisburn &
Castlereagh
City Council**

Development Plan

Position Paper 6: Telecommunications

Public Services & Utilities

October 2015

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Executive Summary

This Position Paper provides the Council with an overview of Telecommunications, Public Services and Utilities in the new Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area, to assist in identifying the key issues up to 2030.

Any future decision making will need to be made within the context of a Sustainability Appraisal under the provision of Planning (Northern Ireland) Act 2011. This paper is therefore intended to generate members' ideas on how planning can best meet future needs.

It is important to stress that in compiling the Position Paper the best information available has been used however it may need revised in light of the release of any new data.

The paper will provide a foundation on which work can commence on a Preferred Options Paper as part of introducing the new Plan Strategy for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council to replace that contained in the existing Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan.

The aims of the paper are:

- To build the capacity of members to make informed planning decisions, particularly within the plan making context;
- To provide baseline information which will inform Development Plan policy making at the local level;
- To assess the provision of Telecommunications, Public Services and Utilities in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area; and

- To link with important ongoing work in relation to the development of a Community Plan and other strategic work being undertaken by the Council.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to inform the Members of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council on the provision of Telecommunications, Public Services and Utilities across the council area in order to assess how it can be addressed in the future. It sets out the regional context and an examination of the existing baseline for their provision across the new Council area. It also provides an indication of how Telecommunications, Public Services and Utilities will cater for a growing population and to address issues. The paper allows members to commence consideration of how policy may be formulated within the context of the Regional Development Strategy and regional planning policy.

1.2 The position paper deals with the following Public Services and Utilities:
Utilities: Water; Sewerage; Cemeteries; Electricity; and Natural Gas; and Renewable Energy
Public Services: the Fire Authority; the Police Service of Northern Ireland; Military; Emergency Services; Health and Social Services and Education.
Waste disposal is dealt with in a separate position paper.

2.0 REGIONAL POLICY CONTEXT

2.1 The Regional Policy Context is provided by the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035 and regional planning policy statements. A summary of these documents as they relate to Telecommunications, Public Services and Utilities are provided in the following sections.

Regional Development Strategy

2.2 The RDS 2035 provides a framework for strong sustainable economic growth across the region and recognises that a growing regional economy needs a co-ordinated approach to the provision of services, jobs and infrastructure. It provides Regional Guidance to 'Ensure an adequate supply of land to

facilitate sustainable economic growth' (**RG 1**). Land should be accessible and located to make the best use of available services, for example water and sewerage infrastructure, whilst avoiding, where possible, areas at risk of flooding from rivers, the sea or surface water run-off.

Telecommunications

2.3 RG3: Implement a balanced approach to telecommunications infrastructure that will give a competitive advantage

Northern Ireland's core telecommunications network is world class, with 5 competing fully-fibre networks. However, the telecommunications market is fast moving and competitive advantage can be quickly eroded or lost if a region fails to continue to invest in its infrastructure. Working with industry and the Telecommunications Regulator, the key challenges for the Region will be to improve international and internal connectivity and to ensure that the opportunities provided by access to high quality telecommunications services are fully exploited.

- **Invest in infrastructure for higher broadband speeds.** The delivery of communications systems using alternative technologies including fibre optics, cable and wireless needs to be investigated. This will require an approach which balances the deployment of infrastructure and protection of the environment. It will also require realistic expectation about what can be delivered within available budgets and that solutions using particular technologies may be unaffordable or commercially unsustainable. The inclusion of telecommunication ducts as part of proposed civil works programmes can also significantly lower the costs of network deployments.

- **Improve telecom services in smaller rural areas to minimise the urban/rural divide.** In a fully privatised market network operators will decide where to deploy their infrastructure. Such decisions will typically be driven by evidence of demand. There is therefore a need to stimulate take-up of telecom services to demonstrate demand and examine ways to encourage further expansion of networks by operators.

- **Increase the usage of broadband.** Provide information to businesses on the opportunities available through broadband connections and the LOGON-NI business support programme.
- **Capitalise on direct international connectivity.** In March 2010 Northern Ireland's first direct international telecommunications link to North America was completed. This also improved existing links to Europe with high bandwidth. Connectivity supports foreign direct investment and offers a significant competitive edge for the benefit of the Region.

Public Services and Utilities

2.4 Policy RG5: Deliver a sustainable and secure energy supply

Northern Ireland needs a robust and sustainable energy infrastructure. This should deliver reliable and secure sources of energy to communities and businesses across the Region. New generation or distribution infrastructure must be carefully planned and assessed to avoid adverse environmental effects, particularly on or near protected sites.

At the plan or project level, this will require a Strategic Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Assessment and potentially a Habitats Regulation Assessment to identify likely effects and appropriate mitigation. Decision makers will have to balance impacts against the benefits from a secure renewable energy stream, and the potential for cleaner air and energy for industry and transportation. Objectives of this policy are to:

- **Increase the contribution that renewable energy can make to the overall energy mix:** There will need to be a significant increase in all types of renewable electricity installations and renewable heat installations, including a wide range of renewable resources for electricity generation both onshore and offshore to meet the Region's needs.
- **Strengthen the grid:** With an increasing number of renewable electricity installations as well as increasing numbers of renewable heat installations, the grid will need to be strengthened. It will be necessary to integrate heat and electricity infrastructure (e.g. district heating networks and new electricity grid) alongside new road infrastructure development at the planning stage. If electric transport becomes more widespread, there will need to be a reliable

recharging network. It also means increasing electricity interconnection capacity to strengthen the linkages between transmission and distribution networks.

- **Provide new gas infrastructure:** New gas infrastructure, including provision of natural gas to new areas of Northern Ireland would enhance diversity of energy supply. Gas storage provision would have a positive impact on the security and reliability of future gas supply. It would also have considerable environmental benefits as it is the least polluting fossil fuel.
- **Work with neighbours:** This will ensure a secure energy supply from competitive regional electricity and gas markets in the EU's Internal Market.
- **Develop "Smart Grid" Initiatives:** This will improve the responsiveness of the electricity grid to facilitate new forms of renewable generation, to improve reliability, productivity, and energy efficiency and empower customers to make a more informed choice in relation to their energy usage.

2.5 **RG9: Reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate mitigation and adaptation to climate change whilst improving air quality.**

Climate change is increasingly seen as one of the most serious problems facing the world. Air pollution from particulate matter is currently estimated to reduce the life expectancy of every person in the UK by an average of 7-8 months. The young and infirm are often particularly affected, as well as people living in deprived areas. In addition, emissions of sulphur (SO₂), nitrogen (NO_x) and ammonia (NH₃) can be deposited on land and water causing either acidification, or nutrient enrichment (eutrophication). Whilst action is required internationally, it is important that Northern Ireland plays its part by reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change. These include the effects on species and habitats and on health as a result of warmer temperatures, storms, floods and coastal erosion.

Consideration needs to be given on how to reduce energy consumption and the move to more sustainable methods of energy production. The use of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced by recycling waste and recovering energy from it.

2.6 The RDS identifies mitigation measures that can be deployed to lessen the effects of climate change, namely:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport
- Reduce noise and air pollution from transport
- Use more energy efficient forms of transport
- Improve the energy efficiency and adaptability of buildings
- Increase the use of renewable energies
- Utilise local production of heat and/or electricity from low or zero carbon energy sources
- Develop strong linkages between policies for managing air pollution and climate change
- Protect Air Quality Management Areas

2.7 **The RDS also identifies adaptation measures, namely;**

- Re-use land, buildings and materials
- Adopt grey water recycling
- Minimise development in areas at risk from flooding from rivers, the sea and surface water run-off
- Protect soils
- Protect and extend the ecosystems and habitats that can reduce or buffer the effects of climate change
- Identify key assets and areas that are at risk through climate change

2.8 **RG12: Promote a more sustainable approach to the provision of water and sewerage services and flood risk management.**

Changes in population distribution, household formation, urban development, and our lifestyles continue to put increased pressure on our water resources and drainage systems. Climate change will also have an impact on our water environment. Without action there are expected to be discrepancies between water demand and availability leading to the potential for water stress in some areas, more water quality problems in the natural environment and increased flood events from drainage systems, rivers, the sea and surface water run-off.

The planning for the provision of water and sewerage infrastructure and treatment facilities is both a practical and environmental necessity for regional development.

- **Integrate water and land-use planning.** Land-use planning should be informed by current water and sewerage infrastructure and future investment programmes. This will involve close cooperation between planning authorities and the water industry in the preparation of local development plans and long-term water strategies.
- **Manage future water demand.** Reducing water consumption by reducing waste can lead to a lower carbon footprint as less water will need to be abstracted, treated and pumped. There will also be significant economic benefits through reduced energy and chemical costs. To help manage future water demand in new developments, consideration should be given to including measures such as grey water recycling and rainwater harvesting.
- **Encourage sustainable surface water management.** Greater use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) should be encouraged, particularly as part of significant development proposals. SuDS provide a water quality benefit and if designed appropriately can help control flows into rivers and drains thereby reduce the risk of flooding. All new urban storm water drainage systems should incorporate measures to manage the flow of waters which exceed design standards (exceedance flows) in order to help protect vulnerable areas.

Regional Planning Policy Statements

- 2.9 Prevailing regional planning policy and supplementary guidance relating to Telecommunications, Public Services and Utilities are set out in the following paragraphs.

Telecommunications

2.10 PPS10 Telecommunications

The RDS is complemented by the DOE's Planning Policy Statements, the most relevant is PPS 10 Telecommunications which sets out the Department's planning policies, aiming for;

- A wide range of services from which to choose;
- Equitable access to the latest technologies as they become available; and
- More choice as to who provides telecommunications services.

2.11 This policy is supplemented by DCAN 14 Development Control Advice Note 14 (DCAN 14) – Siting and Design of Radio Telecommunications Equipment.

Draft Strategic Planning Policy Statement

2.12 The SPPS will eventually replace existing PPSs (once the Council has its Plan Strategy in place). Until then they will remain a material consideration. The draft SPPS was issued for consultation in February 2014 and the final draft completed in March 2015. The aim of the SPPS in relation to telecommunications is to facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunications in an efficient and effective manner whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum.

2.13 The policy objectives for telecommunications are to;

- ensure that where appropriate new telecommunications development is accommodated by mast and site sharing;
- ensure that the visual and environmental impact of telecommunications development is kept to a minimum;
- minimise, as far as practicable, undue interference that may be caused to terrestrial television broadcasting services by new development; and
- encourage appropriate provision for telecommunications systems in the design of other forms of development.

Role of the Local Development Plan

2.14 The SPPS states that during the preparation of the Local Development Plan (LDP), councils may discuss with telecommunications operators the anticipated extent of the network coverage required over the plan period. LDPs may in certain circumstances and, subject to technical limitations on

location and siting, allocate specific sites for major new telecommunications development. LDPs should bring forward policies which set out the detailed criteria for consideration of new telecommunications development in its area including siting, design and impact upon visual amenity. Policy may also set out additional requirements on operators, for example, to demonstrate the need for new development and existing network constraints.

Public Services and Utilities

- 2.15 There are no specific planning policy statements that deal with public services or utilities. The draft Strategic Planning Policy Statement states that LDPs should allocate sufficient land to meet the anticipated needs of the community, in terms of health, education and other public services, and should also zone land for known requirements for future expansion of ports and airports. Development adjacent to existing airport or port facilities which would seriously jeopardise their future expansion should not be permitted.
- 2.16 **Power Lines:** current Government policy is that exposures to power-line Electro Magnet Fields (EMFs) should comply with the 1998 International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) Guidelines. A voluntary Code of Practice (DECC, July 2013) has been agreed by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, the Department of Health, the Energy Networks Association, the Welsh Government, the Scottish Government, and the Northern Ireland Executive.
- 2.17 Proposals for the development of new power lines will be considered having regard to potential impact on amenity and should avoid areas of landscape sensitivity, including AONBs.
- 2.16 **PPS 18 Renewable Energy:** The policy objectives in PPS 18 are to ensure that the environmental, landscape, visual and amenity impacts associated with or arising from renewable energy development are adequately addressed; to ensure adequate protection of the Region's built and natural, and cultural heritage features; and to facilitate the integration of renewable

energy technology into the design, siting and layout of new development and promote greater application of the principles of Passive Solar Design.

2.17 **Draft Strategic Planning Policy Statement:** the draft SPPS reiterates the policy objectives set out in PPS 18 to:-

- Ensure that the environmental, landscape, visual and amenity impacts associated with or arising from renewable energy development are adequately addressed;
- Ensure adequate protection of the region's built, natural and cultural heritage features;
- Facilitate the integration of renewable energy technology into the design, siting and layout of new development and promote greater application of the principles of Passive Solar Design.

Role of the Local Development Plan

2.18 The SPPS reiterates that in plan making Councils should set out policies that support a diverse range of renewable energy development taking into account the above-mentioned policy objectives. Plans should clearly set out the factors that will be taken into account for decision-making – these factors will depend on the scale of the development and its local context but are likely to include matters such as: public safety, human health, residential amenity; visual amenity and landscape character; biodiversity, nature conservation, built heritage interests; local natural resources, such as air quality or water quality; public access to the countryside; cumulative impact; communications interference; and wider environmental, economic and social benefits.

3.0 EXISTING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (BMAP)

3.1 **The Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) 2015** is a development plan prepared under the provisions of Part 3 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 by the Department of the Environment (DOE). The Plan covers the City Council areas of Belfast and Lisburn and the Borough Council areas

of Carrickfergus, Castlereagh, Newtownabbey and North Down. The Plan was adopted on 9th September 2014.

- 3.2 Volume 3 and Volume 5 of BMAP 2015 sets out policies on the former Lisburn and Castlereagh Districts respectively (“District Proposals”). These policies have been developed in the context of the Plan Strategy and Framework contained in Volume 1 of the Plan and are in general conformity with the RDS
- 3.3 The Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) 2015 includes a Public Services and Utilities Strategy which facilitates the delivery of infrastructure requirements within the Plan Area and highlights any infrastructure constraints. Water and Sewerage infrastructure within the Council area are set out in **Section 4**.
- 3.4 Within the Lisburn District Proposals, BMAP acknowledges a planning approval for a **new cemetery** on land between no. 3- 5 Lisburn Road in Moira.
- 3.5 There are no other site specific telecommunication, utilities or public service proposals for Castlereagh within BMAP.

4.0 PROFILE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC SERVICES AND PUBLIC UTILITIES IN LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL AREA

- 4.1 This section provides an overview of Telecommunications, Public Service and Public Utilities in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area within the context of Northern Ireland as a whole, and examines the current state situation across the region.

Telecommunications

- 4.2 The NI Executive and the RDS (RG3) recognise the need for modern, efficient telecommunications infrastructure to give Northern Ireland a competitive advantage. The draft SPPS aims to facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunications in an efficient and effective manner whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum.
- 4.3 Northern Ireland's core communication network is of a high quality which is necessary for sustainable economic growth and investment. Access to high speed reliable digital infrastructure is seen to be one of the most important enabling infrastructures in terms of economic development and social uplift¹. The economic and social benefits of advanced telecommunications to Northern Ireland can only be achieved if the necessary infrastructure is developed, including the networks of base stations. However, rural deficiencies in both mobile infrastructure and broadband exist in some rural parts of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.
- 4.4 **Mobile Infrastructure:** Telecommunications has not been devolved to the Northern Ireland Executive but is controlled centrally by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in London. In October 2011 DCMS announced up to £150m funding to improve mobile coverage and quality across the UK – known as the Mobile Infrastructure Project (MIP). This funding was intended to improve mobile phone coverage for the 5-10% of consumers in areas of the UK where existing mobile network coverage is poor or non-existent through the construction of additional mobile phone masts in uncovered areas, whilst ensuring solutions are compatible with future technological developments.

¹ digitalNI2020.com

- 4.5 MIP is time-limited with delivery of sites needing to be completed before the end of the 2014-15 financial year. Of the 80,484 premises in the UK identified by Ofcom as having no coverage, around 15% of these are located in Northern Ireland. It is anticipated that 130 applications will be submitted across Northern Ireland.
- 4.6 **Broadband Infrastructure:** Now considered an important component of business infrastructure, broadband allows businesses to: have sufficient capacity to handle large amounts of business related data; allows for remote working; conference calls and other operations. These all factor into the success of the business in terms of the ability to respond to colleagues, suppliers and customers worldwide speedily, as well as impacting on the economic viability of the business by saving space and money on physical storage and saving on time and travel expenses.
- 4.7 Northern Ireland currently has the best fixed line broadband infrastructure in the UK, in terms of speed and access. However, there remain fixed broadband not-spots in rural areas.² This adversely impacts on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) which dominate the rural economy, and residential users. The provision of broadband to rural areas through a rural exchange can result in higher costs to the customer and slower access speeds (bandwidth), impacting on business functionality.
- 4.8 The rollout of Project Kevlin, has improved the international telecommunication infrastructure between Northern Ireland and North America and Europe and there are a number of Project Kevlin Hubs which can access speeds from 10meg to 10gig. Businesses can now avail of low latency, reliable and competitively priced communications to North America

² ICBAN –Central Border Strategic framework – Infrastructural Supporting Document

and Europe. This international link increases the potential of financial institutions, Internet-enabled businesses, academia, media companies and any other high-bandwidth entity coming into NI and conducting business.

4.9 The Northern Ireland Broadband Improvement Project is aimed at providing basic broadband in areas that have no service and to improve broadband service in certain areas where the choice is poor or broadband speeds are low. Some of these are in rural and remote parts of Northern Ireland. The scheme will lay new fibre optic telephone lines from existing exchanges to new small broadband exchanges in remote areas. This will improve telecommunications infrastructure provided by telephone lines. Rolled out between February 2014 and continuing to December 2015, work is planned in different towns and counties at different times.

4.10 Broadband improvement work has taken place in:

- Castlereagh
- Hillsborough
- Lisburn
- Maze
- Stoneyford
- Tullynacross

4.11 Improvement work is planned in the areas with the postcode ranges below. (Full postcodes are not given and end work dates are estimated, not exact.)

- BT17 9 - 30 June 2015

- BT27 4 - 30 September 2014
- BT27 5 - 30 June 2015
- BT28 1 - 30 September 2014
- BT67 0 - 31 December 2015

Source: NI Direct Website

Public Services & Utilities

- 4.12 A range of public services are provided through government funding to people living within the LCCC Area, either directly (through the public sector) or by financing the provision of services.

Water

- 4.13 The abstraction, treatment and supply of water is the responsibility of NI Water. The Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Area is supplied by a series of impounding reservoirs and treated at the water treatment plants. Below is a list of the Water Treatment Works/reservoirs in the Lisburn & Castlereagh area.

Table 1: Impounding Reservoirs and Water Treatment Works in the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Area

WTW Name	Address	Status
Boomer's Reservoir & WTW	Derrriaghy Road, Lisburn	Not In Use - Reserve
Forked Bridge WTW	Glenavy Road, Lisburn	In Use
Knockbrackan Open Reservoir	Saintfield Road, Belfast	Not In Use - Reserve
Leathemstown Reservoir	Hannahstown Road, Lisburn	In Use

Stoneyford	Stoneyford Road, Lisburn	In Use
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Source: BMAP Technical Supplement

Sewerage

- 4.14 The conveyance and treatment of sewage is the responsibility of NI Water, who are also responsible for further improvements/upgrade/refurbishment of these works. NI Water are to invest £4.1 million in a programme of work to upgrade Lisburn's sewerage system. When complete, the programme will protect the quality and appearance of one of the city's greatest natural assets, the River Lagan, to present-day standards, as well as catering for future housing and commercial development. More information is found at the following link: [Lisburn Sewerage Improvement Scheme](#)

Sewage Treatment

- 4.15 Below is a list of the Waste Water Treatment Works in the Lisburn & Castlereagh area.

Table 2: Waste Water Treatment Works serving the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Area

WWTW Name	Address
Annahilt	7 Ballycrune Road, Hillsborough
Ballynadolly	Tansy Road, Ballinderry Upper
Dromara	22 Hillsborough Road, Dromara
Drumbeg	221 Ballylesson Road, Drumbeg
Hillsborough	15 Culcavy Road, Hillsborough
Hooks Corner	20 Kesh Road, Lisburn
Moneyreagh	66 Hillsborough Road, Moneyreagh
New Holland	4 Tulnacross Road, Hilden
Poundburn	Magheraconluce Road, Lisburn

Ravernet	59 Ravernet Road, Lisburn
Stoneyford	Moss Road, Stoneyford

Source: BMAP Technical Supplement

- 4.16 No information has yet been received from NI Water in relation to the capacity of existing Waste Water Treatment Work (WWTW's) in the various settlements across the district. The information has been requested and will be used to update this paper once provided.

Waste

- 4.17 The collection and disposal of refuse is the responsibility of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council. The Council own 3 Household Recycling Centres (previously known as Civic Amenity Sites) at The Cutts (Derriaghy), Drumlough (Hillsborough) and Comber Road (Carryduff). The Council-owned landfill at Drumlough has not been operational as of July 2014 and any landfill now falls under the jurisdiction of Belfast City Council.

Cemeteries

- 4.18 The following is a list of cemeteries and burial grounds that are maintained by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council;
- Lisburn New Cemetery
 - Friends Burial Ground
 - Blaris Graveyard
 - Trummery Burial Ground
 - Lisburn Cemetery
 - Aghalee Burial Ground
 - Portmore Burial Ground
 - Templecormac Burial Ground
 - Knockbreda Cemetery

*Roselawn Crematorium in Crossnacreevy is maintained by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council in collaboration with Belfast City Council.

Electricity

4.19 There are several suppliers of electricity for domestic customers in Northern Ireland, including:

- SSE Airtricity
- Budget Energy Ltd
- Electric Ireland
- Power NI (formerly NIE Energy)

Power NI is also the Utility Regulator and Supplier.

An electricity supplier buys energy and sells it to customers. It is the company that issues your electricity bill and deals with any queries you have about your bill. Suppliers need a licence from the Utility Regulator to supply electricity to customers in Northern Ireland.

4.20 The transmission network has a 275/110kV-grid supply point at Manse Road, Castlereagh. The 110kV system includes underground, steel tower and wood pole circuits that carry power to the various substations/Bulk Supply Points or BSPs across the council area. Each BSP in turn transforms the voltage from 110,000V down to 33,000V and acts as a source for the 33kV network.

4.21 The 33kV network supplies 33kV/11kV substations (generally outside Belfast) known as primary distribution substations. These in turn supply the 11,000V infrastructure and finally the low voltage system which directly supplies customers.

4.22 The supply of the network is generally a response to new developments on greenfield sites and redevelopment of existing areas. It will also be driven by the need to replace assets due to age and condition.

Natural Gas

4.23 Phoenix Natural Gas Ltd owns and operates the gas distribution network in the Greater Belfast area, including Lisburn and Carryduff. Parties have the ability to have their own gas supplies transported through this distribution system to consumers.

Figure 2: Map Showing Phoenix Licensed Area in Northern Ireland



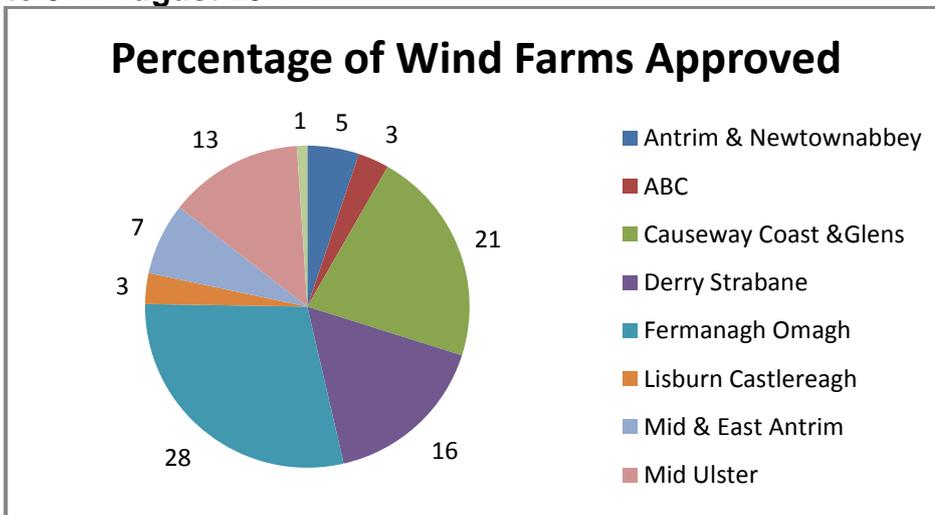
Source: Phoenix Natural Gas Website

Renewables

4.24 The RDS emphasizes the importance of cutting environmental costs generally, by reducing the consumption of natural resources and energy from non-renewable sources, such as oil, coal and gas.

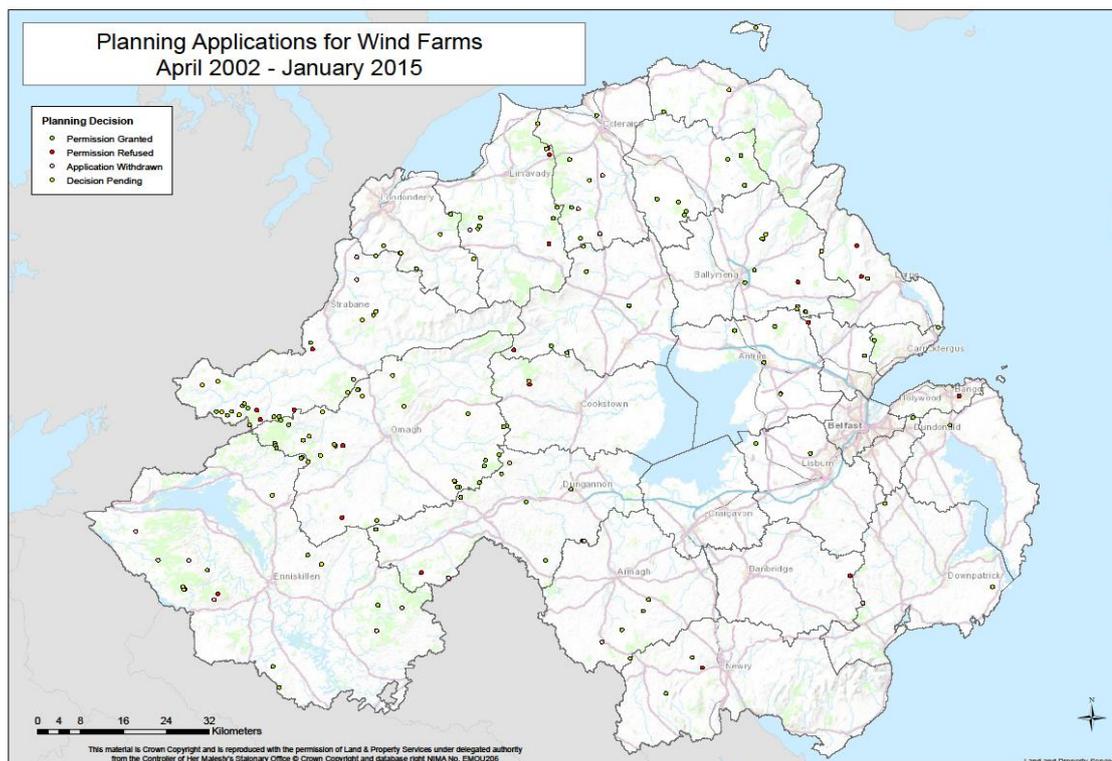
4.25 **Wind Farms:** Lisburn & Castlereagh Local Council area has a relatively low number of Wind Farms, as is shown in the figure below. Only 2 Wind Farms have been approved in the Lisburn and Castlereagh LGD (period from 2002-2014). However there are ongoing pressures for single wind turbines.

Figure 3: Proportion of wind farms approved in the period 1st April 2002 to 31st August 2014.



Source: DOE Renewable Statistics

Figure 4: Map of wind farm applications 1st April 2002 - 25th February 2015.



Source: DOE Website

4.26 **Solar Energy:** Solar energy is a growing industry, with developments for large scale ‘solar farms’ increasing in recent years. There have been recent approvals in the Council area for solar farms on the Ballinderry Road in Lisburn (and other applications are pending). The Council area has seen a rise in the number of solar panels in householder developments (most of which do not require planning permission provided certain permitted development criteria is met).

Fire

4.27 The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service occupies 3 sites in Lisburn and 1 in Carryduff:-

- 1 Prince William Way (wholetime and retained³).

³*Wholetime - a professional firefighter who may have full-time employment outside of the fire service but responds to emergency calls within their local area as and when required. Retained firefighters are therefore required to live or work near to the fire station they serve.

- Headquarters at 1 Seymour Street, Lisburn
- Property Services at 71 Antrim Street
- Carryduff, 7 Comber Road (retained)

(The Lisburn base falls within the Northern Area and the Carryduff station lies within the Southern Area.)

Police

4.28 The Police Service of Northern Ireland is responsible for the protection of citizens and has moved to an 11-Council setup, in line with the new local authorities. The stations within the Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD include;

- Carryduff (not open to the public)
- Dundonald (not open to the public)
- Lisburn City (opening hours: Monday to Friday 9am - 9pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am - 8pm)
- Lisburn Rural (Moira/Hillsborough – closing 30th September 2015)

4.29 The changes to policing in Northern Ireland will mean that Lisburn & Castlereagh have one Neighbourhood Policing Team based in Lisburn station. It will be mobile and sent to areas where it is most needed. The PSNI will be working closely with the local council, health trusts, schools and other key organisations to ensure that the very best service is provided to the community.

Military

4.30 The British Army ('Lisburn HIVE' an information centre available to all forces personnel and their families) is located at Thiepval Barracks. Lisburn also receives an outreach service from Holywood and Aldergrove HIVE.

Emergency Services

4.31 The Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Area has 3 bases for ambulances:

- Lisburn Ambulance Station, Lagan Valley Hospital, Lisburn, BT28 1JP
- Ulster Hospital, Dundonald, Belfast, BT16 1RH

- Derriaghy Ambulance Station, Unit 39, City Business Park, The Cutts, Derriaghy, BT17 9HU

Health and Social Services

4.32 The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety retains overall authority for health and social care services (provided by Health and Social Care Trusts). The following trusts cover the Council area:

Belfast – covering Belfast and part of Castlereagh

South Eastern – covering North Down, Lisburn and part of Castlereagh.

4.33 The Knockbracken Healthcare facility is a significant site within the Council area which provides care for those in institutional care.

4.34 In terms of hospital provision, the Council benefits from 2 major hospitals at:

- Lagan Valley Hospital
- Ulster Hospital, Dundonald

Education

4.35 The Department of Education (DE) and the Department of Employment and Learning (DEL) retain overall responsibility for education, policy and finance. Responsibility for the provision of primary and post-primary educational facilities along with library services in the Council area rests with the following providers:

- South Eastern Education and Library Board

4.36 The following table indicates the provision of education services in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area:

Table 2: Education Services in Council area

DEA	Nursery School	Primary School	High School	Grammar School	Special Needs School	Further Education College
Castlereagh East	2	4			1	

Castlereagh South	2	6	1			
Downshire East	1	3				
Downshire West	5	4			1	
Killultagh	5	5			1	
Lisburn North	7	9	1	2		1
Lisburn South	5	5	3		1	

4.37 The Northern Ireland Library Authority (Libraries NI) has the statutory responsibility for the provision of public library services in the Council area. The Council benefits from the following libraries in the Council area:

- Lisburn City Library, 23 Linenhall Street, Lisburn
- Moira Library, 21A Backwood Road, Moira
- Carryduff Library, Church Road, Carryduff
- Newtownbreda Library, Saintfield Road.

5.0 KEY FINDINGS

5.1 A summary of the key findings are as follows:-

- In relation to telecommunications, consideration should be given to where improvements are necessary, particularly in terms of broadband provision and how it can attract business/investment and support a growing economy (taking into account environmental or other constraints)
- In relation to the supply of key public utilities, such as water, sewerage, electricity, and gas, to liaise with the relevant statutory authorities to determine where future facilities or improvements are required to support the Council's growth strategy

- In relation to renewables, to consider whether any specific plan policies would benefit growth in this sector and the economy as a whole
- In relation to public services, such as health care and education to consider ways in which future needs should be taken into account based on findings from Community Plan process
- To consider the provision of other public services, such as cemeteries
- Identify any key priorities for future growth.

6.0 CONCLUSION

6.1 The purpose of this paper has been to provide baseline information on the Telecommunications, Public Services and Utilities profile within the new Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Area and to assist in identifying if there is a need for further facilities within the new Council area.

6.2 It is therefore recommended to Members that:

- (i) This report is considered and revised as necessary.
- (ii) Local and regional organisations representing groups under Section 75 are identified, included in the Statement of Community Involvement and consulted with as part of the process of formulating a new Local Development Plan.
- (iii) The needs identified are used as a working draft for the preparatory studies for the new Local Development Plan, and are taken into account when formulating both the aims and objectives of the plan and future policy.
- (iv) Consideration is given to the existing Telecommunications, Public Services and Utilities profile and Members' suggestions on

changes/future improvements will be subjected to a sustainability appraisal.