

Have your say

Making a Representation to the draft Plan Strategy

The draft Plan Strategy provides the strategic direction for the Council area over a 15 year period, which will be reviewed following adoption of the Local Policies Plan.

Regulation 16 of the Local Development Plan (LDP) Regulations 2015 states that any person may make representations about the draft Plan Strategy document. The Council is conducting a 13 week period of consultation on the draft Plan Strategy from 11 October 2019 - 10 January 2020. Whilst the formal (statutory) period for consultation is eight weeks, the council is adding an additional week to allow for the Christmas period.

Formal Consultation

The draft Plan Strategy will be published for formal consultation on Friday 8th November 2019 closing at 5pm on Friday 10th January 2020. Please note that representations received after the closing date on 10th January 2020 will not be considered.

The Department for Infrastructure Development Plan Practice Note 09 'Submission and Handling of Representations', sets out the following requirements for the submission of any representation to the draft Plan Strategy.

In accordance with best practice, your representation:

- must be submitted in full during the public consultation period
- should demonstrate why the draft Plan Strategy is not sound and/or justify how any proposed changes make the draft Plan Strategy more sound
- should demonstrate how any proposed change(s) meet the requirements of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and is more appropriate in terms of meeting the sustainability objectives of the draft Plan Strategy.

The main test for the Plan Strategy is **soundness** which is assessed at Independent Examination (see the Department for Infrastructure's Development Plan Practice Note 06 Soundness). It involves testing the principles, content and preparation process of the draft Plan Strategy against a list of key criteria.

When telling us of any changes that should be made to the Plan Strategy to make it more sound, you must take into account the tests of **soundness**. Please indicate if you would like your representation to be dealt with at Independent Examination as a written or oral representation.

You can make a representation in the following ways:

Online:

- the online survey to the draft Plan Strategy and online survey to the Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment, Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment, Section 75 Equality Impact Screening Report and Rural Needs Impact Assessment are available on the Council's website at www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk following commencement of the formal consultation period.

By email:

- the above forms are also available on the Council's website which can be returned by email to LDP@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk following commencement of the formal consultation period.

By mail:

Write to us at: Local Development Plan Team
Civic Headquarters, Lagan Valley Island,
Lisburn, BT27 4RL

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List of Abbreviations

LDP	Local Development Plan
POP	Preferred Options Paper
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SP	Strategic Policy

1. Purpose and Context of the Sustainability Appraisal Report

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

The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal Report is to:

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

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

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

The Sustainability Appraisal Report contains:

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

2. The Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council district Council Local Development Plan

The Local Development Plan (LDP) is a spatial land use Plan which primarily is about place. It will guide future development and use of land in Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council’s city, towns, villages, small settlements and rural areas by addressing the spatial implications of social, economic and environmental change.

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

The LDP comprises of two development plan documents:

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

The Plan Strategy is the first stage of the LDP. It sets out how the Council considers the district will grow and develop up to 2032. It contains the following:

- The Plan Vision for Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council;
- A set of Plan Objectives to deliver the Plan Vision based which are aligned with the Community Plan and seek to create a balance between improving quality of life, economic prosperity for all, the protection of the Council’s environmental assets, and to ensure that development is sustainable in the interests of future generations.
- A spatial strategy setting out the approach to development across the district and indicating at a strategic level where growth will occur up to 2032;
- Strategic policies and Strategic Mixed Use policies to implement the Plan’s strategic objectives;
- Operational Policies which supplement the Strategic Policies, that together will guide decisions in the development management process; and
- 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.

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

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

The LDP must also take account of the regional policy context set by the NI Executive and central government Departments. The regional or local strategies and plans listed below are overarching and form a backdrop to the Local Development Plan. A review of plans, policies, programmes and strategies was separately carried out to inform the SA and the development of the SA Framework.

- Sustainable Development Strategy 2010
- Regional Development Strategy 2035
- Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future - A New Approach to Regional Transportation
- Sustainable Water - A Long- Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland 2015-2040
- Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS)
- Existing Planning Policy Statements (PPSs)
- Guidance
- Council Masterplans and Strategies
- Transport Plans
- Delivering Resource Efficiency - NI Waste Management Strategy 2015
- Draft Programme for Government (PfG)
- Lifetime Opportunities - Government’s Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for NI 2010
- A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (The Rural Strategy)
- Belfast Region City Deal 2018
- The Council’s Corporate Plan 2018/2022 and Beyond
- The Council’s Community Plan 2017-2032
- Other Local Development Plans

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

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council shares a land or water boundary with five neighbouring Councils Belfast City Council; Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council; Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council; Ards and North Down Borough Council; and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. It is also acknowledged that Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council has indirect

connectivity to the marine area via its watercourses and river systems. The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2013 and the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, require a public authority to have regard to the appropriate marine policy documents and effects on the marine area must also be a consideration in developing the LDP.

In order for cross-boundary issues to be effectively addressed, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council will continue to liaise with these neighbouring Councils and DAERA throughout the LDP process to address cross cutting issues and identify how these can be best taken forward as part of the plan process. This is particularly important in relation to the delivery of key elements of the Regional Development Strategy to ensure a holistic approach to strategic matters is pursued and for policies to be complementary.

3. Sustainability Appraisal Scoping

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

Characteristics of the Area

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

Table 1. Examples of Key Sustainability Issues

Topic	Examples of Key Sustainability Issues
1. Health and Well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trends indicate an aging population (number of people over 65 years is growing and is expected to reach 23% of the total population in L&CCC by 2032 (NISRA 2016-based population projections). Many older people have to live on reduced incomes, have disabilities and reduced mobility. ▪ Levels of physical activity are relatively high in L&CCC however much lower than recommended levels. ▪ There is a need to promote physical activity through provision of and ensuring good accessibility to sports facilities, open space, green infrastructure and walking and cycling routes. ▪ Good spatial planning can reduce health inequalities by providing a high standard of design and place making, open space, capacity for any additional services required and accessibility.
2. Community (strengthen society)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some areas have seen substantial growth over the last five years, there is a need to ensure that facilities meet the needs of the population. ▪ People may be more likely to stay in a home long term if it meets their changing needs and facilities and amenities that they wish to use are as accessible as possible through their lives. ▪ There is a need to provide appropriate shared space and apply place making to make areas inclusive for all backgrounds and income levels. ▪ There will continue to be a need for childcare facilities, nursery, primary and secondary schools as well as accessibility to community and leisure facilities particularly in the short term.

Topic	Examples of Key Sustainability Issues
3. Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A changing demography has created a high demand within social housing for housing designed for small adult households and single elderly people. ▪ A greater proportion of older people will increase the need for suitable housing that is accessible for those who may not drive and enables support to be provided. ▪ All new housing should aim to provide life time homes that are accessible and adaptable to all and meet modern standards.
4. Education and Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In some areas of the Council area, a decline in pupil numbers will have implications for the sustainability of existing schools. ▪ Sharing facilities has been recognised as a way of promoting a more cohesive and tolerant society and assist a better use of the resources available to education. ▪ Although the Council area has a high level of educational achievement at all levels, this is not consistent between DEAs.
5. Economic Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identifying and zoning appropriate land is a vital part of creating the conditions to sustain economic development that meets employment needs and supports economic growth. This is recognised in the Regional Development Framework. ▪ Need to ensure that the Council area is attractive to investors, and higher skilled people – by supporting the vitality and vibrancy of the City Centre, towns and villages and facilitating a high quality local environment through appropriate land use, design and layout. ▪ Potential exists to grow the retail offer and create high quality office offer through the creation of employment in business services.
6. Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is important to assess the Council’s growth strategy with existing energy infrastructure and telecommunications and make sure any gaps in supply and potential future demand are highlighted. ▪ There is a need in some rural areas of the Council to improve telecommunications provision so that rural investment and quality of life for residents is not affected. ▪ There is a need to continue to move away from landfill as a waste disposal route and adopt a variety of alternative waste management strategies in accordance with the principles of the waste management hierarchy aiming to avoid, minimise, reuse, recycle and/or recover.
7. Physical Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mineral resources in the Council should be safeguarded from inappropriate development and future accessibility protected. ▪ The feasibility of integrating geothermal energy to the future energy mix of the Council area should be considered. ▪ Soil quality across the Council area should be protected using effective conservation measures particularly due to a lack of specific legislative protection for soils at a UK or local level
8. Transport and Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable travel options are required across the Council area to encourage people to use other transport options than the car or van. ▪ The Council is strategically located with several key road and rail transport routes passing through it.
9. Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is an AQMA in Dundonald for NO₂, which is linked to traffic pollution. ▪ Air quality should be a consideration within spatial planning to avoid incompatible adjacent land uses, particularly when residential areas may be affected. ▪ Measures to help reduce ammonia emissions from the agriculture sector could help to improve air quality in some rural areas.

Topic	Examples of Key Sustainability Issues
10. Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is a need to encourage and enable sustainable development patterns that can reduce GHG emissions from the top emitting sectors. ▪ There is a need to encourage appropriate renewable energy projects to increase the diversity of the renewable energy supply. ▪ There is a need to ensure protection and conservation of local biodiversity including wetlands and green/blue infrastructure to maintain natural resilience to the impacts of climate change.
11. Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ River water quality is significantly lower than the NI average in L&CCC. No river waterbodies in the Council area met ‘high’ or ‘good’ water quality status, the NI average is 31.2% ▪ Development should be planned to avoid areas at significant risk from flooding, now or in the future, or where development may increase the flood risk elsewhere. ▪ Sustainable drainage (SuDS) measures could be incorporated and maintained in new development and redevelopment or regeneration schemes.
12. Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lough Neagh and Portmore Lough, and Lagan Valley Regional Park are designated nature conservation sites that are shared with other Councils and present unique opportunities for partnership working. ▪ Green spaces accessible by walking and cycling are wanted by communities as a natural resource to help with health and well-being.
13. Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is a wide variety of landscape types across the Council that make it unique in its own right including an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), 23 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) and 3 Regional Landscape Character Areas (RLCAs), . 122 Local Landscape Policy Areas and 6 areas of High Scenic Value. ▪ There is the on-going risk of over development across the rural area from industry, agriculture, rural housing, renewable energy and the expansion of settlements and transport networks.
14. Historic Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage plays a role in maintaining and enhancing the sense of place in our settlements and rural locations which can be supported by building design recognising historic environment evidence in both urban and rural locations. L&CCC has a rich industrial and defence heritage. ▪ Heritage assets are at risk from neglect, decay, development pressures and vacancy. ‘Buildings at Risk’ should continue to be identified and efforts made by the relevant authority to maintain their regular use and/or support their restoration.

What Might Happen Without the Local Development Plan

It is necessary to describe the likely evolution of the baseline without the LDP. An assessment of what might happen if a new LDP is not brought forward is therefore included for each topic in the SA Scoping Report. As an overview, there are several area plans that apply to the Council area. The Belfast Urban Area Plan 2001 and Lisburn Area Plan 2001 were adopted before the first version of the RDS was published in 2001 and are past their notional end dates. Accordingly, these older plans are not based upon the principles of sustainable development which underpin the more recent regional direction. The extant plans cannot take account of changes in demography, patterns of employment and lifestyle. None of the current plans take account of the Council’s Community Plan.

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

Sustainability Objectives

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

The Sustainability Objectives are:

1. To improve health and well-being;
2. To strengthen society;
3. To provide good quality, sustainable housing ;
4. To enable access to high quality education;
5. To enable sustainable economic growth;
6. To manage material assets sustainably;
7. To protect physical resources and use sustainably;
8. To encourage active and sustainable travel;
9. To improve air quality;
10. To reduce causes of and adapt to climate change;
11. To protect, manage and use water resources sustainably;
12. To protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity;
13. To maintain and enhance landscape character; and
14. To protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.

4. Appraisal of Preferred Options Paper

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

- Promote debate on issues of strategic importance that will influence the shape of future development in our district up to 2032;
- Set out a number of planning issues that we wanted to engage with the public on; and
- Provide possible options for the strategic direction that our new Local Development Plan might take.

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

The Appraisal of Strategic Alternatives

Several of the strategic options and alternatives for policy were appraised in the SA Interim Report published alongside the POP, which helped to shape the draft Plan Strategy. Therefore, for the strategic policies in the draft Plan Strategy, it was not necessary to re-appraise reasonable alternatives.

5. Appraisal of Draft Plan Strategy

Assessment of Alternative Options

The 27 Strategic (SP) and Strategic Mixed Use (SMU) policies and 114 Operational policies proposed for delivering the draft Plan Strategy underwent further appraisal. In all cases, no reasonable alternative was identified for the policy option. This mainly occurred for the following reasons:

- The option is required to uphold the aims of current legislation, regulations, or directives, or
- The option is required to uphold the aims or policy approach of the RDS, SPPS or other regional or local plans or strategies.

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

A summary of the potential effects of the draft Plan Strategy, presented by SA Objective, is provided in Section 4 of the SA Report and an overview of the total effects of the draft Plan Strategy is presented in Table 2. This also includes ‘potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects’ which describes how the objectives may support each other, for example providing good quality housing contributes to health and well-being, and supports other plans such as the Community Plan.

Table 2. Cumulative Impacts of the Plan

SA Objective	Effect of draft plan preferred options (total effects)	Potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects
Improve health and well-being	The provision of new development which promotes accessibility and inclusivity and which incorporates good design and positive place-making, in conjunction with enhanced connectivity through walking and cycling, should help to provide high quality living environments that benefit health and well-being for the whole district. Improving utilities, telecommunications and infrastructure and encouraging investment and economic development whilst protecting the natural environment and human environment will also deliver positive effects on quality of life.	The cumulative effect of the relevant policies working together, along with the Community Plan is to strengthen the effect of the significant positive impact.
Strengthen society	Housing growth which is mainly centred on the city and towns enables a wide range of housing options to be delivered and aims to maximise positive outcomes for society. However, by also sustaining population in smaller settlements, local services are supported and vitality is maintained in villages and rural areas. Encouraging economic development at appropriate scales throughout the settlement hierarchy and also facilitating appropriate economic development in the countryside acts positively on this objective by helping to make employment accessible and reducing the factors causing inequalities. Publicly accessible areas of open space help to meet identified needs that will reduce inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities.	Housing policies HOU10 and COU5 make provision for affordable homes in main settlements and in villages and small settlements and will encourage people from different community and income backgrounds to live together and should help to support sustainable communities. The cumulative effect of all of the relevant policies working together, along with the Community Plan is to strengthen the effect of the significant positive impact.
Provide good quality sustainable housing	The policies on homes and accommodation create the conditions for a variety of household types and sizes to be delivered, including a proportion of affordable housing. The provision of high quality, attractive and sustainable homes, accommodation and facilities in settlements which meet the specific and locally-identified needs of the	These policies have a synergistic effect on health and well-being and strengthen the effect of the positive impact. The principles of placemaking and good design help to enhance the quality of housing on a wider basis, by making the district a more

SA Objective	Effect of draft plan preferred options (total effects)	Potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects
	<p>population and that are designed to be adaptable and accessible has a significant positive impact on this objective.</p> <p>Policy to create accessible environments will help to improve the local design of residential areas and will support the delivery of lifetime homes. Policy which ensures that residential development incorporates linkages to nearby walking, cycling and sustainable transport routes and which encourages the integration of renewables will also help to make housing more sustainable.</p>	<p>attractive place to live. This will strengthen the positive effect to significant positive.</p>
Enable access to high quality education	<p>The Strategic Housing Allocation aims to maintain sustainable populations for schools in both urban and rural settlements.</p> <p>While the LDP is not the main mechanism for delivering access to education, many of the policies make a positive contribution to this objective. Effects are largely indirect and delivered through linkages with employment or by improving the locational accessibility to education and skills training providers.</p>	<p>There are synergies between sustainable economic growth, health, transport and accessibility and a stronger society. These cumulative effects work together to raise the effect on the objective from negligible to minor positive.</p>
Enable sustainable economic growth	<p>Providing the conditions for the creation of a range of job types that are accessible across the district, including to rural areas, has significant positive impacts on enabling sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>The ‘city and town centre first’ approach encourages vitality and vibrancy and growth in city and town centres. Consolidation and concentration of retail helps to attract visitors / enhance effects.</p> <p>Safeguarding our natural environment will contribute to economic activity based around tourism, leisure, landscape and recreation.</p>	<p>The adoption of a LDP which directs certain types of development to our centres or strategic employment locations which are attractively located in areas with favourable infrastructure and rapid access to the strategic transport network is a key aspect of delivering the RDS. This overall approach helps to attract investment and stimulates innovation and competitiveness. Protecting these areas from alternative uses ensures that the best use of location can be made.</p> <p>The policies can also help to deliver on the aims and objectives of the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Tourism Strategy 2018 and diversify our economic base to achieve growth in overnight visitors and revenue spend.</p> <p>All policies in the draft Plan Strategy work together to cumulatively strengthen the effect of the significant positive impact.</p>
Manage material assets sustainably	<p>Sustainable economic and housing growth has significant positive impacts through facilitating the location and provision of material assets (e.g. waste management, energy generation, telecommunications, etc.).</p> <p>Encouraging quality and sustainable residential environments in settlements, including the requirement for design-led concept masterplanning for larger residential developments, helps to deliver energy and resource efficiency. However, development in the countryside may have reduced choice in the provision of utilities.</p> <p>Natural heritage policy may slightly inhibit some types of infrastructure development however it should not preclude the delivery of essential assets.</p>	<p>The adoption of a LDP which will spatially identify the areas where growth is projected and which manages growth sustainably will help to coordinate the provision of new infrastructure.</p> <p>Encouraging the integration of measures to make more efficient use of energy, water and other resources in new development can help to reduce or avoid the need for upgrades to infrastructure.</p> <p>Forward planning and coordination between service providers can help to reduce costs. This would help to strengthen the positive effects and raise the overall effect to minor positive.</p>

SA Objective	Effect of draft plan preferred options (total effects)	Potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects
Protect physical resources and use sustainably	<p>Settlement growth will lead to an inevitable consumption of land which has a minor negative impact on the objective.</p> <p>Facilitating sustainable minerals development and allowing potential for future extraction of regionally significant mineral deposits has a significant positive impact on physical resources.</p> <p>Policy to protect natural heritage will strongly benefit physical resources by safeguarding earth science features and protecting natural land and soil resources.</p>	<p>Strategic and operational policy encourages phased growth in settlements to deliver compact urban forms and more sustainable patterns of development. Clustering development in the countryside and encouraging the retention of natural boundaries and mature vegetation helps to ensure that the most efficient use of land is made and that the development of greenfield land is kept to minimum levels, reducing uncertainty and helping to mitigate the negative effects.</p> <p>Policies which support sustainable minerals extraction can have an indirect positive impact on jobs and economic growth, including through the supply chain and equipment sectors. The cumulative impact of the policies is minor positive.</p>
Encourage active and sustainable travel	<p>Directing the majority of housing growth, residential accommodation and new community facilities to main towns and settlements where sustainable transport hubs and routes already exist acts positively for this objective. The design-led approach for residential development enables people to be connected to existing routes where possible and facilitates choice and opportunity for people to use active and sustainable transport for commuting or other journeys, delivering significant positive effects.</p>	<p>The adoption of a LDP which will identify the areas where housing and employment growth is projected helps to inform future local and regional Transport Plans and enables service providers to plan for the future more effectively.</p> <p>The location of development should integrate with public transport, walking and cycling, providing better linkages and opportunities for sharing greenways and waterways.</p> <p>The concept masterplan for the Strategic Mixed Use site at West Lisburn/Blaris aims to deliver a key employment area which is highly accessible from surrounding housing areas which will include a proposed strategic greenway and integrated public transport hub. This holistic approach to developing active travel networks across the district and integrating with sustainable transport schemes identified through the Belfast Metropolitan Area Transport Plan could help to stimulate behavioural change to reduce reliance on cars as the preferred mode of transport and strengthen the minor positive effects to significant positive.</p>
Improve air quality	<p>Growth and new development, particularly housing and economic development, is likely to generate emissions and have indirect effects from an increase in associated transport emissions.</p> <p>Policy for residential and economic development in settlements encourages and supports accessing active and sustainable travel, potentially reducing reliance on the car. It also encourages energy efficiency and creates the best opportunities for accessing lower-emissions heating and power sources.</p> <p>Policy to protect open space and natural heritage will benefit the objective by protecting and maintaining undeveloped areas which can act as a natural buffer and diffuse local air pollution, particularly when trees are evident.</p>	<p>All policies in the draft Plan Strategy work together to cumulatively reduce the scale of negative impacts and enhance positive impacts. This may lead to positive secondary effects on health and well-being, biodiversity and climate change.</p> <p>While the LDP may help to create conditions which could deliver improvements to air quality, significant effects are reliant on the mainstream adoption of alternative methods for power, heat and transport and behavioural change, and consequently the long term impact remains uncertain.</p>

SA Objective	Effect of draft plan preferred options (total effects)	Potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects
Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change	<p>Focusing the majority of housing growth in the top tier settlements and encouraging the reuse of old buildings and incorporation of energy efficiency / renewable measures in new development helps to deliver positive effects. It produces more compact and efficient development and in conjunction with urban design policies increases opportunities for accessing employment and services by active or sustainable travel and reducing reliance on the car. However, the plan also encourages and facilitates development - housing, roads, facilities/services and industry/business - which can increase greenhouse gas emissions and may have negative impacts. These could be avoided or offset through the incorporation of renewable technologies, as encouraged through ED9, HOU4 and RE2.</p> <p>Spatial planning which protects areas that function as buffers and avoids areas of potential risk will aid in the establishment of a multi-purpose green and blue infrastructure network which will help to increase resilience to the effects of climate change.</p>	<p>All policies in draft Plan Strategy work together to cumulatively reduce the scale of negative impacts and enhance positive impacts.</p> <p>The holistic approach taken by the draft Plan Strategy in ensuring that new development is accessible by active or sustainable travel, could help to stimulate behavioural change to reduce reliance on cars as the preferred mode of transport.</p> <p>However, significant effects are reliant on developers being proactive in incorporating renewables into new development to deliver low or zero carbon buildings and behavioural change, and consequently the long term impact remains uncertain.</p>
Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably	<p>New housing and economic development can place pressure on water quality. Impermeable surfaces such as roofs and parking areas can contribute to increased runoff rates and influence flooding. Foul waste water requires treatment prior to discharge. Directing new residential and economic development in accordance with the spatial strategy and settlement hierarchy will encourage development to be located in settlements where water and wastewater infrastructure is already present and is generally able to accommodate the new development, while meeting the required treatment standards.</p> <p>Policy also encourages the incorporation of SuDS to help control and manage runoff and surface water at source.</p> <p>Housing and non-residential development in the countryside has a greater tendency to be reliant on private treatment. While new development should not proceed unless it can be demonstrated that there will be no detrimental impact on water quality, the long term operation / maintenance of private waste water treatment systems such as septic tanks is outside the scope of the LDP.</p>	<p>The adoption of a LDP which will identify the areas where growth is projected and which manages spatial growth sustainably will help to enable the co-ordination of waste water infrastructure upgrades (where necessary) and aid in the delivery of Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for NI and, in the Lagan catchment, the Living with Water Programme.</p> <p>The requirement for drainage assessment to be carried out for identified types of development under FLD3 and the avoidance of culverting and canalisation under FLD4 will help to ensure that source control is given greater consideration in design and may encourage SuDS to be more widely employed.</p> <p>Together with the LDP these may help to address some of the water quality issues in the receiving waters of Lough Neagh, Belfast Lough and Strangford Lough. These aspects may also deliver positive secondary effects on biodiversity and natural resources and health and well-being. These cumulative effects may remove some of the uncertainty for this objective leading to a minor positive effect.</p>
Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity	<p>Spatial and population growth can place pressure on natural heritage. Strategically directing the majority of new residential development and community development to within settlements and specifically inside defined settlement limits and zonings which take natural resources into consideration helps to support this objective.</p> <p>Strategic Policy 19 and Operational policies NH1-NH6 have been developed in accordance with regional planning policy and statutory legislative requirements.</p> <p>For rural development, Policy COU15 seeks to avoid the removal of mature native vegetation with</p>	<p>The policies to protect the landscape, provide open space and protect / improve water quality also work to support this objective. The establishment or safeguarding of large areas of parkland and forest in two of our SMU sites will also contribute positively.</p> <p>The LDP seeks to build on existing green and blue infrastructure which contributes to the enhancement of biodiversity.</p> <p>The LDP will complement the Lisburn & Castlereagh Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) Local Biodiversity Action Plan to protect,</p>

SA Objective	Effect of draft plan preferred options (total effects)	Potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects
	the aim of reducing loss of biodiversity and will also require supplementary landscaping using appropriate locally characteristic or indigenous species which will support the objective.	maintain, enhance, restore and educate on biodiversity issues. These cumulative effects may remove some of the uncertainty and help to reinforce the minor positive impacts.
Maintain and enhance landscape character	Strategically directing the majority of new residential development and community development to within defined settlement limits and away from areas of high landscape quality supports this objective. The LDP recognises that development in the countryside may place pressure on rural landscape. Operational policies which promote good design and integration with surroundings will help to deliver a minor positive impact. The identification of Areas of High Scenic Value (AoHSV) helps to protect the setting of urban areas and provides areas of particular landscape merit. The Lagan Valley AONB is safeguarded to ensure its natural beauty and character is retained.	The policies to protect natural resources and our historic environment also work to support this objective. The LDP should complement the Lagan Valley Regional Park Management Plan to achieve its objective to conserve the landscape, visual attractiveness, quality and features of the Regional Park. There will be an opportunity to review existing and potential future Areas of High Scenic Value, Local Landscape Policy Areas, LLPAs and Landscape Wedges as part of the Local Policies Plan. Liaison with neighbouring Councils and aligning policies where they have potential cross-boundary influence also helps to reinforce the minor positive impacts.
Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	New development has the potential to conflict with the historic environment. Strategic and operational policies are protective towards identified / designated assets, in accordance with statutory requirements and legislation. Policy will also help to ensure that where there is a risk of buried archaeology being damaged or disturbed by new development, this can be avoided through archaeological assessment and evaluation. Operational policies are also protective towards undesignated assets of heritage value, through encouraging development that is integrated with its surroundings and encouraging the protection and restoration of locally important or vernacular buildings.	Policies which protect landscape character and natural heritage work together to strengthen the protection towards the historic environment and the setting of historic features. Policies also strongly encourage design that integrates new development with its surroundings. The LDP can help to deliver on the aims of the Lisburn Historic Quarter Development Strategy 2011-2021 in terms of enabling access and facilitating tourism, culture, arts and creative industries. These cumulative effects will help remove some of the uncertainty and help to strengthen the minor positive effects.

Many of the potential adverse impacts have been minimised through the cross-referencing of policies within the draft Plan Strategy and are capable of being mitigated. Specific mitigation has been included for SP09 Housing in the Countryside, which received a significant negative score in the SA for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel as rural households are disproportionately reliant on cars. This mitigation, along with operational policy, will help to reduce the scale of the impact to minor.

Therefore, no significant adverse effects are expected to arise as a result of the draft Plan Strategy. Additional measures which will help to reduce minor negative effects and promote positive effects have been presented in Section 3 of the SA Report.

Limitations and Assumptions

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

Habitats Regulations Assessment

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

‘International sites’ include Special Areas of Conservation, designated under the ‘Habitats Directive’ together with Special Protection Areas, designated under the ‘Birds Directive’. They also include Ramsar sites which are wetlands of international importance identified under the provisions of the Ramsar Convention. A total of 15 international sites that have the potential to be influenced by the Plan were identified and examined.

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

As a consequence of the appropriate assessment, mitigation measures were identified to strengthen the protection afforded to international sites by these policies. These took the form of amendments to the policies and clarification in the justification and amplification.

The appropriate assessments concluded the following: provided the recommended mitigation measures are all accepted and the Plan is amended accordingly, the LDP will have no adverse effect on the integrity of any international sites.

The HRA will be added to and finalised following public consultation and independent examination of the draft Plan Strategy, then published alongside the adopted Plan Strategy.

6. Outcome of Appraisal and Next Stages

Outcome of Appraisal

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

Overall, when potential secondary, synergistic or cumulative effects have been taken into consideration, significant positive sustainability effects are predicted to result from the draft Plan Strategy throughout the plan term and beyond, in relation to the sustainability objectives to:

- Improve health and well-being;
- Strengthen society;
- Provide good quality, sustainable housing;
- Enable sustainable economic growth; and
- Encourage active and sustainable travel.

It should be noted that in the case of the housing and active and sustainable travel objectives, the total effects have been raised from minor positive to significant positive through the cumulative impact of the plan.

Minor positive effects are identified for the objectives to enable access to high quality education, to manage material assets sustainably, to protect physical resources and use sustainably, to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably, to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity, to maintain and enhance landscape character and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment. Again, the total effects on many of these sustainability objectives have been enhanced in a positive way through the cumulative impacts brought about by the plan.

Uncertain effects remain for two objectives. These are the objectives to improve air quality and to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.

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

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

- Establishing Key Site Requirements at the Local Policies Plan stage;
- Supplementary design guidance;
- Supplementary planning guidance;
- Collaborative working with service providers; and
- Requesting relevant Impact Assessments for new development, where required.

How has the SA influenced Plan Making

The SA process is undertaken from the outset and parallel to the preparation of the Local Development Plan (LDP). Identifying how the SA has influenced the social, economic and environmental impacts of the LDP and assessment of reasonable alternatives, is a key element of the plan-making process and shows how policies both strategic and operational have been influenced and evolved as a result.

The process of policy evolution that the draft Plan Strategy has undergone is set out in Appendix 5 of the SA Report. Alterations, amendments and any clarification of policies are recorded. New policies which have evolved through consultation have been added and reasons for their inclusion are noted and clarified.

The draft Plan Strategy and the strategic and operational policies contained within it, have been influenced by regional policy, and reflected in the vision and Plan Objectives. Economic, social and environmental considerations are the sustainability pillars upon which the entire draft Plan Strategy is founded.

Next Steps

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

Monitoring

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