

Local Development Plan 2032 Draft Sustainability Appraisal

October 2019

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

ACMD	Area of Constraint on Minerals Development
AoHSV	Area of High Scenic Value
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest
BMAP	Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan
BMTF	Belfast Metropolitan [Area] Travel Plan
BRCF	Belfast Region City Deal
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DCAN	Development Control Advice Note
DfC	Department for Communities
DfI	Department for Infrastructure
DOE	Department of the Environment
dPS	Draft Plan Strategy
EAPP	Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes
HGI	Housing Growth Indicator
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle(s)
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
KSR	Key Site Requirement(s)
LAP	Local Area Plan
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LDP	Local Development Plan
LLPA	Local Landscape Policy Area
LPP	Local Policies Plan
MCAA	Marine and Coastal Access Act
MPS	Marine Policy Statement
NI	Northern Ireland
PfG	Programme for Government
POP	Preferred Options Paper
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
PSRNI	Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland
RA	Reasonable Alternative(s)
RDS	Regional Development Strategy
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SMU	Strategic Mixed Use
SP	Strategic Policy/Policies
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPPS	Strategic Planning Policy Statement
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
UK	United Kingdom

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal Report

This Sustainability Appraisal Report is part of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process for the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Local Development Plan (LDP). It documents the appraisal of options and alternatives against a sustainability framework consisting of fourteen objectives. These objectives relate to social, economic and environmental themes, and have helped to determine our preferred options. The process identifies where a preferred option may have significant effects and, where these are negative effects, identifies how they may be mitigated.

The SA Scoping Report which has been published alongside this SA Report documents the first stage in undertaking SA / SEA. It sets out the evidence base and framework of Sustainability Objectives against which the social, economic and environmental effects of implementing the draft Plan Strategy have been appraised.

1.2 The Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Local Development Plan

For a full description of the LDP process, please refer to Chapter 1 of the Draft Plan Strategy.

The purpose of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council 's LDP is to inform the public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested parties of the policy framework and land use proposals that will implement the strategic objectives of the Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS) and will guide development decisions within Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council up to 2032.

The new LDP will be prepared within the context of the Council's Corporate Plan 2018/2022 and beyond and will take account of the Council's Community Plan 2017-2032, to enable us to plan positively for the future of the district. It will ensure that lands are appropriately zoned and that infrastructure is enhanced to develop the district for future generations.

The draft Plan Strategy for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council LDP sets out how the area will change and grow over the period up to 2032. It:

- Sets out the strategic objectives of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council in relation to accommodating growth in the form of new homes and economic development activities to improve the quality of life and meet the needs of our growing population, whilst also protecting the environment;
- Informs the general public, statutory authorities and developers of the policy framework against which all proposals will be assessed;
- Provides certainty for developers by indicating what sort of development will (and will not) conform with the Plan; and
- Provides information on how the Council will monitor the Plan objectives to ensure that they are being achieved.

The LDP for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council supports and spatially represents our Community Plan vision of: *"An empowered, prosperous, healthy, safe and inclusive community"*.

This will be achieved by delivering against the following outcomes:

- Our children and young people have the best start in life.
- Everyone benefits from a vibrant economy.
- We live healthy, fulfilling and long lives.
- We live and work in attractive, resilient and environmentally-friendly places.
- We live in empowered, harmonious, safe and welcoming communities.

The Plan Strategy is the first stage of a two stage LDP for the district. The LDP will also consist of the Local Policies Plan (LPP), which is 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 LDP must also take account of the regional policy context set by the Northern Ireland Executive and Central Government Departments. This includes, amongst others, the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS), the Regional Development Strategy (RDS), the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). The new LDP will replace the following Plans, all of which were prepared prior to April 2015:

- Belfast Urban Area Plan (BUAP) 2001
- Lisburn Area Plan (LAP) 2001
- Carryduff Local Plan 1988-1993
- Ballymacoss Local Plan
- Lisburn Town Centre Plan
- Lagan Valley Regional Park Local Plan 2005.

The Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) was intended to be the Development Plan on its adoption in September 2014. This Plan was subsequently declared unlawful following a successful legal challenge and therefore remains in its entirety unadopted.

The UK Marine Policy Statement (UK MPS), the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA) and the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 provide the policy and legislative framework for the management of the marine area in Northern Ireland. The UK vision for the marine environment, set out in the UK MPS, is the attainment of “*clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas*”.

The MCAA is a UK-wide Act which includes a number of provisions for the management of the UK’s marine area. For Northern Ireland, key provisions within this Act include a licensing system for management of development within the marine area from the mean high water spring tide out to 12 nautical miles (the inshore region).

The Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 includes duties to protect and enhance the marine area. This includes provisions to prepare and adopt a Marine Plan for the Northern Ireland inshore region; and provision to improve marine conservation and protection. The draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland was consulted on for an eight week period beginning 18 April 2018. Once adopted, it will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of the marine area through a strategic framework with spatial elements.

Section 58 of the MCAA and Section 8 of the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, require a public authority to have regard to the appropriate marine policy documents. This means that Councils are legislatively required to have regard to the UK MPS and, when published, the Marine Plan for NI in the preparation of the LDP and all associated documents. This includes Councils that do not share a boundary with the marine area, as they may still have hydrological links to the marine area.

1.2.1. Preparation - the Process and Progress

The draft Plan Strategy is underpinned by an extensive evidence base combined with community engagement undertaken as part of the Preferred Options Paper (POP) consultation process. The LDP Preferred Options Paper was published in March 2017 and was subject to 8 weeks of public consultation. Consideration and analysis of the representations received to the POP are set out in the Local Development Plan Preferred Options Paper Public Consultation Report, published in September 2017. In light of the consultation process, revisions have been made to the approach to some of the preferred options contained in the POP. In addition, further studies to inform the Plan Strategy have provided further supporting evidence and, where appropriate, Preparatory Papers have been updated and Technical Supplements published.

The LDP is informed by the iterative SA which runs parallel to the preparation of the Preferred Options Paper, Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which examines the environmental effects of the LDP proposals is an integral part of SA.

1.2.2. Spatial Scope and Profile of the Plan Area

The Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area stretches from the shores of Lough Neagh in the west to the Castlereagh Hills rising above Dundonald in the east and from the Belfast Hills in the north to the source of the Lagan in the south. The Council covers an area of almost 200 square miles (520 square km).

From a regional perspective, the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) recognises that the Council is strategically located at the junction of two key transport corridors running East-West across Northern Ireland and along the major North-South, Belfast to Dublin economic corridor. There are also easily accessible links to the two major airports and ferry ports.

Due to its geographical location Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council is at the centre of five neighbouring council areas, consisting of 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.

The Council area has a diverse mix of both urban and rural areas with the main centre being Lisburn City, located at the heart of the Council's urban area. The landscape is diverse in nature ranging from the lowlands of the Lagan Valley Regional Park to its uplands to the north and south of the district.

The population within the Council area continues to grow and age, which is a pattern consistent with all Council areas across Northern Ireland. In 2017 the population of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council was estimated at 142,640¹.

In terms of population projections, data from NISRA estimate that the population of the Council area is expected to grow to 159,847 by 2032², a projected population increase of 12%. It is also projected that the percentage of the population within the Council area aged 65 and over will increase by 9%. In contrast, children under 16 as a proportion of the overall population will slightly decrease to 18% of the population in 2032.

Approximately 85% of the total population live within existing settlements. This consists of Lisburn & Castlereagh City and the Greater Urban Areas of Lisburn and Castlereagh; followed by the towns of Carryduff, Hillsborough & Culcavy and Moira; thirteen villages; and thirty-three small settlements. The remainder of approximately 15% reside outside settlements in the rural area³.

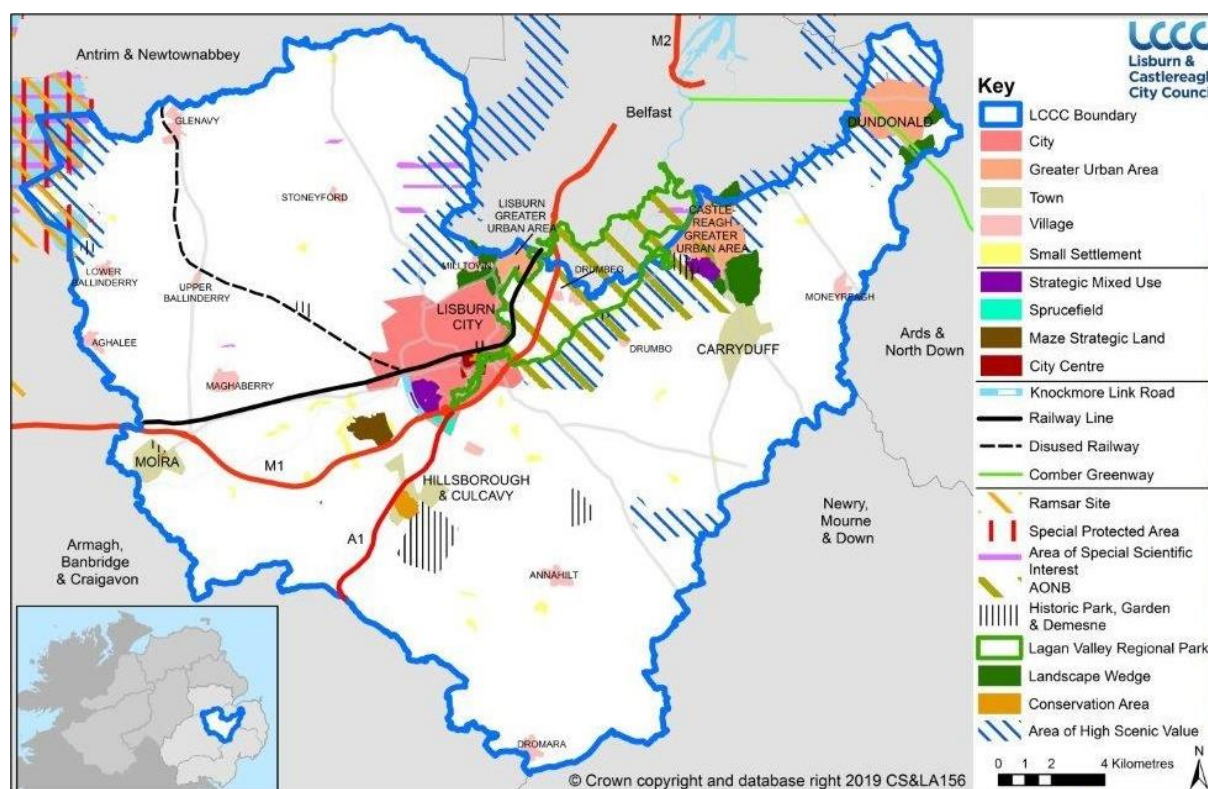
A summary of the key characteristics of the district is included in Chapter 2 of the draft Plan Strategy, arranged under the themes of Community, Housing, Economy, Infrastructure and Environment.

¹ NISRA 2017 mid-year population estimates for Northern Ireland published 28th June 2018

² NISRA 2016 Based Population Projections for Areas within Northern Ireland published 26th April 2018

³ NISRA Headcount & Household Estimates for Settlements, published March 2015, based on 2011 Census Figures

Figure 1: Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council LDP Area



1.3 Sustainability Appraisal Context

1.3.1. Strategic Environmental Assessment

SEA is a systematic process for assessing potential effects of proposed plans or programmes to ensure that significant environmental impacts are considered from the earliest opportunity and addressed in decision making. It was introduced by the European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (known as 'the SEA Directive'). 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 included in Appendix 1.

1.3.2. Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

Section 25 of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 requires that all NI Departments and Councils, in exercising their functions, act in the way they consider best calculated to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

Section 5 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the 2011 Act) requires those who exercise any function in relation to local development plans to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development. In addition, Sections 8(6) and 9(7) of the 2011 Act requires an appraisal of sustainability to be carried out for the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan respectively.

The approach in this report is informed by Development Plan Practice Note 04: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (DOE, 2015)⁴. SA therefore refers to an

⁴ Department of the Environment (2015) Development Plan Practice Note 04: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment

integrated approach which fully incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment and fulfils the requirements for both SA and SEA.

1.3.3. Habitats Regulations Assessment

Habitats Regulations Assessment is a provision of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended). The regulations require assessment of possible adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas) as a result of plans and policies in the LDP. An assessment is also carried out for Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance identified under the provisions of the Ramsar Convention).

A draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been published for consultation with the Draft Plan Strategy.

The draft HRA records the assessment of the proposals and policies in the draft Plan Strategy and its potential impacts on international sites. A total of 15 international sites that have a theoretical connection to the plan area were identified:

- Belfast Lough Open Water SPA
- Belfast Lough Ramsar
- Belfast Lough SPA
- Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Ramsar
- Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA
- Rea's Wood and Farr's Bay SAC
- Strangford Lough Ramsar
- Strangford Lough SPA
- Strangford Lough SAC
- East Coast (Northern Ireland) Marine pSPA
- Montiaghs Moss SAC
- Aughnadarragh Lough SAC
- Outer Ards Ramsar
- Outer Ards SPA
- Eastern Mourne SAC

On further review it was found that 13 of these sites might be affected by the draft Plan Strategy. There are only two international sites partly within the council area, Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA and Ramsar site. Sites beyond the Council area with an ecological connection were also included, for example Belfast Lough SPA and Ramsar site which is connected via the River Lagan.

All of the Plan Strategy proposals were reviewed, from the Vision and Plan Objectives and the Strategic Policies and Spatial Strategy in Part 1, to the Operational Policies in Part 2. Following the screening of plan proposals it was found that there is potential for likely significant effects to arise from ten operational policies: ED5 Major Economic Development in the Countryside; MD3 to MD5 Minerals Development policies; TOU2 to TOU7 Tourism policies; UT1 Utilities; and these were screened in for appropriate assessment.

Those policies screened in were assessed under four groups: Major Economic Development in the Countryside; Minerals Development; Tourism; and Utilities. Mitigation measures were identified to strengthen the protection afforded to international sites by these policies through amendments to the policies and clarification in the Justification and Amplification.

Findings of draft HRA for draft Plan Strategy

Assuming that the recommended mitigation measures are all accepted, and the plan amended accordingly, it is possible to ascertain that the draft Plan Strategy will have no adverse effect on the integrity of any international sites. Following public consultation and independent examination of the draft Plan Strategy the HRA will be finalised and adopted by the Council and published alongside the adopted Plan Strategy.

1.3.4. Rural Needs Assessment

The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, which applies to NI Government Departments and Councils and came into operation on 1 June 2017, states that '*A public authority must have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and*

plans. Public authorities must report annually on how they have implemented this requirement. Further information on rural needs is contained within the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (DAERA) document entitled, '*A Guide to Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 for Public Authorities (Revised).*'

The approach to considering rural needs is called 'rural proofing' and DAERA has provided advice on carrying it out in '*Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing*⁵'. Rural proofing is the process by which all major policies and strategies are assessed to determine whether they have a differential impact on rural areas and, where appropriate, adjustments are made to take account of particular rural circumstances. The Council has reported on rural proofing in their Rural Needs Impact Assessment of the draft Plan Strategy, which has been published alongside the draft Plan Strategy.

The SA Scoping Report considers rural populations and how the LDP could affect them in the evidence base for the community topic. Data on rural populations, where available, is also included under other topics, for example health, education and infrastructure. Key Sustainability Issues for the district include some that are specific to rural communities and the appraisal prompts include questions about how a proposal will meet the needs of rural populations or potentially have a disproportionate impact.

1.3.5. Sustainability Appraisal Report Structure

Section 2 of this report presents our approach to carrying out and documenting the SA of the draft Plan Strategy, including how we assessed the significance of effects and any limitations and difficulties that were encountered. Section 3 summarises the appraisal findings and Section 4 describes the cumulative impact of the preferred options and summarises the outcome and the next steps for the appraisal process for the LDP. The detailed record of the SA is included under Appendix 4.

⁵ Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (2015) *Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide To Rural Proofing*.

2 Sustainability Appraisal: The Approach

2.1 Introduction

This Section describes the approach taken to carry out SA for the draft Plan Strategy. The Strategic Context for SA and the preparation of LDPs is discussed in Section 2 below. Additional detail is included in Section 2 of the SA Scoping Report.

2.2 Strategic Context

The regional or local strategies and plans listed below in sections 2.2.1 - 2.2.15 are overarching and form a backdrop to the Local Development Plan. Relevant guidance and Council Masterplans and Strategies are also listed. Relevant policy context has also been outlined in the Plan at the introduction of each Strategic Policy, where appropriate. A review of plans, policies, programmes and strategies was separately carried out to inform the SA and the development of the SA Framework. The plans, policies, programmes and strategies that have been considered in the SA, along with their key objectives and implications for the LDP are described at the introduction to each topic in Chapter 5 of the SA Scoping Report. A full list is included in the Appendices of the SA Scoping Report.

2.2.1. Sustainable Development Strategy 2010

The Northern Ireland Executive's 'Everyone's Involved - Sustainable Development Strategy' published in May 2010 puts in place measures to deliver economic prosperity, social cohesion and environmental protection whilst meeting national and international responsibilities. The six guiding principles supported through the Strategy are:

- Living within environmental limits
- Ensuring a strong, healthy, just and equal society
- Achieving a sustainable economy
- Using sound science responsibly
- Promoting opportunity and innovation
- Promoting good governance.

2.2.2. Regional Development Strategy 2035

The RDS "Building a Better Future" published in March 2012 is the spatial strategy of the Executive and provides the overarching strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide the public and private sectors. The RDS helps to shape:

- The Programme for Government (PfG)
- The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland (ISNI)
- Departments' investments
- Council's decisions and investments
- Investment by the private sector.

The RDS has a statutory basis and influences the future distribution of development throughout Northern Ireland. It extends beyond land use, addressing economic, social and environmental issues aimed at achieving sustainable development.

2.2.3. Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future - A New Approach to Regional Transportation

Regional Transportation is addressed through 'Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future (ESTF) - A New Approach to Regional Transportation' which was published in June 2011. It complements the RDS and sets out how regional transportation will be developed and guide investment decisions beyond 2015. Its aim is to provide a transportation network that supports economic growth while meeting the needs of society and reducing environmental impacts.

2.2.4. Sustainable Water - A Long- Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland 2015-2040

The Sustainable Water Strategy published in March 2016 presents a framework to facilitate implementation of a range of initiatives aimed at delivering its long term vision to have a sustainable water sector in Northern Ireland. It sets out four high level aims which cover the key water needs and is accompanied by a strategy implementation action plan. Actions are a mix of short, medium and long term to cover the Strategy's twenty-five year outlook. The Strategy sets out ways in which the amount of energy needed to move and treat both drinking water and wastewater can be reduced. It also encourages cross-departmental working to develop the water and sewerage industry; to meet environmental commitments by improving the quality of inland and coastal waters and reducing pollution; to be affordable in the current economic climate; and to deliver reliable high quality services to the public

2.2.5. Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS)

The SPPS published in September 2015 sets out strategic planning policy and provides the core planning principles underpinning delivery of the two-tier planning system.

In preparing the new Local Development Plan, planning authorities must balance and integrate a variety of complex social, economic, environmental and other matters that are in the long-term public interest. In so doing, the following five core planning principles are outlined in the SPPS:

- Improving health and well-being
- Creating and enhancing shared space
- Supporting sustainable economic growth
- Supporting good design and positive place-making
- Preserving and improving the built and natural environment.

2.2.6. Existing Planning Policy Statements (PPSs)

The SPPS states that a transitional period will operate until such times as a Plan Strategy for the whole of the Council area has been adopted. During the transitional period planning authorities will apply existing policy contained within the existing suite of PPSs (except for PPS1, 5 and 9 which were cancelled by the SPPS) together with the SPPS. Any relevant supplementary and best practice guidance will also continue to apply.

When a council adopts its Plan Strategy, existing policy retained under the transitional arrangements shall cease to have effect in the district of that council and shall not be material from that date, whether the planning application has been received before or after that date.

A policy review of existing Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) was carried out by the Council as part of preparing this Plan Strategy. Details of all operational policies which will replace those PPSs are provided in Part 2 of the Plan Strategy.

2.2.7. Guidance

A range of regional guidance prepared by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) is retained and will continue to be applied to support the Plan Strategy including:

- Living Places - An Urban Stewardship and Design Guide (September 2014);
- Building on Tradition - A Sustainable Design Guide for the Northern Ireland Countryside (May 2012);
- Creating Places (May 2000); and
- a suite of Development Control Advice Notes (DCANs).

Local guidance in respect of the Council's three Conservation Areas is also retained consisting of:

- Moira Conservation Area guide (May 1983);
- Hillsborough Conservation Area guide (June 1976); and
- Lisburn City Centre Conservation Area guide (April 1992).

Subject to resources, these will be reviewed at the Local Policies Plan stage.

In addition Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) has been prepared to accompany the Plan Strategy, which includes relevant guidance relating to the various topic areas transcribed from the existing suite of PPSs. This is provided in a separate document and supports the Operational Policies contained in Part 2 of the Plan Strategy.

2.2.8. Council Masterplans and Strategies

The Council has produced a range of non-statutory Masterplans and Strategies including:

- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council 'Connect, Invest, Transform' - 10 Year Investment Plan Proposition, 2019
- Lisburn City Centre Masterplan Review, 2019 (Draft)
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Car Park Strategy, 2019 (Draft)
- West Lisburn Development Framework Review, 2018 (Draft)
- Castlereagh Urban Integrated Development Framework, 2014
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Open Space Strategy, 2019 (Draft)
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Tourism Strategy, 2018
- Laganbank Quarter Comprehensive Development Scheme 2015
- Lisburn's Lagan Corridor, 2003
- These documents have informed the preparation of the Plan Strategy.

The following plans and strategies have not been referenced in Part 1 of the draft Plan Strategy but have been taken into consideration during the SA.

2.2.9. Transport Plans

The Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (2004), Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan (2005) and Sub Regional Transport Plan (2007) currently apply to our district.

The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) has confirmed through consultation with the Council that the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BMTP) will be reviewed as part of the next stage of the Local Development Plan process.

The BMTP outlines a number of key proposals building on the RDS which are of particular strategic significance for the next stage of Plan preparation. A brief summary is provided as follows:

Rapid Transit Schemes

- Glider (formerly EWAY55) - which runs east to west and has a terminus in Dundonald Park & Ride.

Railways

- West Lisburn/Knockmore Halt, replacing the existing halt at Knockmore, with associated Park & Ride.

Park & Ride Sites

- Cairnshill
- Sprucefield
- West Lisburn at proposed new halt

Strategic Road Schemes

- M1 to A1 Link - This scheme involves the widening of the M1 between Blacks Road and Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre with improved connection between the M1 and A1.

2.2.10. Delivering Resource Efficiency - NI Waste Management Strategy 2015

The key aim of the WMS is to achieve fully sustainable waste management through the controlled reduction in landfill, waste minimisation and a significant increase in waste recycling and recovery. The Waste Hierarchy is a core principle of the WMS. The primary purpose of the hierarchy is to minimise adverse environmental effects from waste and to increase resource efficiency in waste management and policy.

2.2.11. The Council's Corporate Plan 2018/2022 and Beyond

The Corporate Plan guides the work of the council and our staff. The Council's Corporate Plan 2018-2022 sets out a clear purpose for the Council of '*Working together to deliver better lives for all*'. Its vision up to 2022 and beyond for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council is to be a connected, growing place and recognised locally and regionally as a progressive, dynamic and inclusive Council working in partnership to develop our community and improve the quality of people's lives.

The Council's priorities have been developed taking account of the Programme for Government; the Regional Development Strategy; the Community Plan 2017-2032; and the Local Development Plan 2017-2032.

2.2.12. The Council's Community Plan 2017-2032

The draft Plan Strategy is the spatial representation of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's Community Plan 2017-2032. The Community Plan themes and outcomes are linked to the objectives of the Plan Strategy which are found in section 0 and Appendix 2. The draft Plan Strategy is informed and guided in its physical development ambitions by the Community Plan vision of: "*An empowered, prosperous, healthy, safe and inclusive community*". This vision places individual and community engagement with decisions that affect their lives as central to well-being. This is reflected in the engagement and consultation that has been integral to the development of the draft Plan Strategy.

It is also reflected in the partnership approach, central to the delivery of the outcomes agreed by members of the Community Planning Partnership. This plan and the actions it will generate depend on the full involvement of citizens, community groups and businesses.

Inclusiveness not only applies to public engagement in decisions that impact them but also to the prosperity, economic growth and social benefit envisaged both within the Community Plan and the draft plan Strategy. In placing value on reducing inequalities and supporting people across Lisburn and Castlereagh to lead active and fulfilling lives based on physical and mental health, the Community Plan draws on the vital role of the historic and natural environment.

With partnership working central to delivering a sense and perception of safety, the draft Plan Strategy has a critical role to play in making everyday activities safe for everyone that live or work in Lisburn and Castlereagh, as well as visitors.

A shared vibrant sense of community and belonging drives the draft Plan Strategy. From the streets, schools and shops, to places of work and leisure, fostering a connection with both our built and green spaces is complimented by connections based on shared interests such as the arts and sports. Cooperation, collaboration as well as creativity and innovation are some of the defining features of the approaches and relationships required to overcome the social, economic and environmental challenges across Lisburn and Castlereagh.

In addition to the sharing of this vision, the draft Plan Strategy also aims to reflect the three core principles of sustainable development, equality and participation that underpin the Community Plan.

Meeting the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, accepting that inequality undermines the well-being of people, our communities, our economy and our environment and valuing the full involvement of citizens, community groups and businesses, is central to the draft plan Strategy.

2.2.13. Draft Programme for Government (PfG)

The draft Programme for Government Framework (PfG Framework) 2016-2021 is a new approach, which focuses on the major societal outcomes that the NI Executive wants to achieve. It provides a basis for all sectors to contribute to the development of plans and actions. The draft PfG Framework has 14 strategic outcomes, which are supported by 42 indicators. The outcomes show the direction of travel for what the Executive understands are the needs of our society. The indicators show the change that is needed to bring about these outcomes. The delivery of many of the outcomes and indicators will be the responsibility of Central Government; however, the Local Development Plan (LDP) may have a supporting role in this process. Any specific responsibilities for the LDP will be borne out of discussions with Central Government Departments.

2.2.14. Lifetime Opportunities - Government's Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for NI 2010

This Strategy is a commitment by Government to tackle poverty issues in Northern Ireland. Lifetime Opportunities is structured around a number of general challenges which become the priorities for future policy and action including eliminating poverty, social exclusion, tackling area based deprivation, eliminating poverty from rural areas, shared futures, inequality in the labour market, health inequalities and cycles of deprivation.

2.2.15. A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (The Rural Strategy)

A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland provided a compendium of planning policies that have gradually been replaced by PPSs and the subsequent SPPS. However, a small number of its provisions, such as planning policy for overhead cables, are still in operation. As with PPSs these remnant policy provisions will cease to have effect when the Council's Plan Strategy is adopted.

2.3 Other Local Development Plans

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.

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.

2.4 Belfast Region City Deal 2018

The Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) signals a new approach to collaborative working. Six Councils are part of the BRCD: Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Ards and North Down Borough Council, Belfast City Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. The BRCD Councils will work in partnership with Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University, the Further Education colleges across the Belfast Region, the Northern Ireland Departments and the private sector.

The BRCD Councils have agreed an integrated set of projects to transform the Region's economy. The agreed programme seeks to address a number of key barriers to growth by taking measures to improve productivity, invest in innovation, tackle economic inactivity and deprivation, address skills gaps and inequalities, invest in additional world-class visitor experiences and develop the physical and digital infrastructure.

The Council will be working very closely with its partners: the Department for Communities, the Department for Infrastructure, South Eastern Regional College (SERC), Historic Royal Palaces and the Department for the Economy to finalise the business cases for projects with a focus on its two primary projects. These are the Hillsborough Tourism Master Plan, which will build upon planned investments at Hillsborough Castle to create a really world class heritage attraction; and the e-SERC Centre for Excellence in Innovation and Entrepreneurship. These projects will be supported by a significant digital infrastructure investment fund and a programme of employability and skills for the Lisburn Castlereagh area. These projects will boost tourism, enhance local infrastructure and improve the skills and knowledge of the local workforce in this digital era⁶.

2.5 Sustainability Appraisal and the LDP

The SEA Directive requires assessment of the likely significant effects of implementing the plan, and 'Reasonable Alternatives'. Developing Options and Alternatives is an important part of both the plan-making and SA process. For the draft Plan Strategy the Reasonable Alternatives are the different options put forward during the preparation of the Strategic, Spatial and Operational Policies. The process for identifying these is discussed further in Section 0.

2.5.1. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

The purpose of the SA Framework is to provide a means of ensuring that the social, environmental and economic needs of the area are considered in plan preparation. It enables the effects of plan proposals to be described, analysed and compared. It also helps identify measures to minimise negative effects and enhance positive effects.

The SA Framework consists of Sustainability Objectives with prompts which are used to assess plan proposals against the baseline. The SA Framework is presented in Section 6 and Appendix 5 of the SA Scoping Report. All stages of plan-making will be assessed using the Framework, which may be reviewed and updated at each stage as further information becomes available.

2.5.2. The Sustainability Objectives

A total of fourteen social, economic and environmental Sustainability Objectives have been identified in the SA Scoping Report. These have been informed by the strategic and policy context, a review of baseline information for the Council and any evidence of trends and issues.

The objectives for sustainable development for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council are to:

1...improve health and well-being.

Public policy seeks to increase healthy life expectancy, reduce preventable deaths, improve mental health and reduce health inequalities. Evidence shows that there is a need to address obesity, increase physical activity and reduce inequalities in health. It is also necessary to provide for the needs of an aging population and minimise the detrimental impacts of noise. This can be achieved by creating an environment that is clean and attractive; encourages healthy lifestyles; protects tranquil and quiet areas and enables access to health care facilities for all.

2...strengthen society.

Regional policy is directed towards improving community relations and creating a safe society which is more united. Success will be represented by places which are inclusive, respect culture and identity, promote social integration and create a sense of pride. They will also be designed to feel safe and to reduce opportunity for crime or anti-social behaviour.

3...provide good quality, sustainable housing.

The population is growing and therefore there is ongoing need for new housing in locations that meet regional policy, are accessible and balance the needs of society and the environment. The make-up of

⁶ Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council | News "Lisburn & Castlereagh Secures its Share of the City Deal" published October 29, 2018 (found at <https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/news/lisburn-castlereagh-secures-its-share-of-the-city-deal>)

households is changing therefore design needs to meet long term requirements with good quality build to be sustainable. This objective should reduce homelessness and ensure decent, affordable homes with a mix of types.

4...enable access to high quality education.

Good education improves opportunities for employment and also contributes to avoidance of poverty and healthier lifestyles. The provision of suitable accommodation for educational establishments in appropriate, accessible locations should play a part in making schools more sustainable and reducing inequalities in education.

5...enable sustainable economic growth.

Regional policy seeks to develop a strong, competitive and regionally balanced economy. It is necessary to provide suitable locations for employment, with flexibility where necessary, to reflect current and future distribution of jobs across sectors, encourage new business start-ups, facilitate innovation, regenerate areas, attract investment and make employment as accessible as possible for all. This will reduce unemployment and poverty by helping more people to earn a living and increase their income.

6...manage material assets sustainably.

Material assets such as infrastructure and sources of energy production are essential for society and the economy but need careful planning to ensure that they are designed for efficiency and to minimise adverse impacts. The concept of circular economy treats waste as resource which should be managed sustainably to reduce production and increase recovery, recycling and composting rates; new or adapted facilities may be required.

7...protect physical resources and use sustainably.

Land, minerals, geothermal energy and soil are resources which require protection from degradation and safeguarding for future use. Sustainable agriculture, tourism and sustainable use of minerals and geothermal energy can help to support the economy.

8...encourage active and sustainable travel.

There is a common goal to reduce traffic emissions and congestion which means reducing single-occupancy car use and increasing other forms of transport, especially at peak times. The location of housing and key services can facilitate better access to public transport. Opportunities for active travel makes travel more affordable and may bring added health benefits while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Measures to manage car demand, such as parking and re-allocation of roadspace, which encourage a shift from car to public transport, walking and cycling will contribute to this goal.

9...improve air quality

Air pollution has serious impacts on human health as well as degrading the natural environment. This objective can be achieved through reducing sources of air pollution. Where air pollution cannot be totally excluded careful siting of development should avoid impacts on sensitive receptors.

10...reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.

International commitments require greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced to lessen their effects on climate. Measures that help reduce energy consumption and enable renewable energy helps mitigate greenhouse gas emissions however adaption is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change.

11...protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.

This objective encompasses reducing levels of water pollution, sustainable use of water resources, improving the physical state of the water environment and reducing the risk of flooding now and in the future. It meets the requirements of Northern Ireland legislation, strategies and plans in support of the Water Framework Directive and other Directives that relate to water and it takes account of the future impacts of climate change.

12...protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.

International obligations which are adopted in Northern Ireland legislation and policies require the protection of biodiversity including flora, fauna and habitats, including the marine environment. This is for their intrinsic value and for the wider services that they provide to people, the economy and the environment for example as carbon stores which lessen the effects of climate change. This objective includes protecting and enhancing biodiversity and the coastal and marine area, as well as protection of green and blue infrastructure to enhance the services that natural resources provide.

13...maintain and enhance landscape character.

International and national policies seek to conserve the natural character and landscape of the coast and countryside and protect them from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development. This objective seeks to maintain the character and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes and to protect and enhance open spaces and the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors.

14...protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.

The historic environment and cultural heritage are resources that inform our history and bring character and sense of place. They also attract visitors and contribute to the economy and bring vibrancy to the places where we live, work and relax. This can be achieved by protecting and enhancing Conservation Areas, townscapes and other sites of historic and cultural value including their setting.

The Key Sustainability Issues relating to each sustainability objective are found at the end of each topic chapter of the SA Scoping Report and the prompts used to guide the SA can be found in the SA Guide included in Appendix 5 of the SA Scoping Report.

2.5.3. Assessment Method

The options for each LDP issue were assessed using the appraisal matrix shown in Table 2.1 and scoring in Table 2.2. The matrix includes:

- The plan topic and delivery options to be assessed.
- A score indicating the nature of the effect for each option and alternative in the short, medium and long term for each sustainability objective with an explanation of why the score was given.
- A summary comparing the options and their alternatives in relation to the Sustainability Objectives.
- Identification of any mitigation recommended to address negative effects and measures where appropriate to enhance positive effects.

Table 2.1: Outline Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

ISSUE												
OPTIONS	Option 1:				Option 2:				Option 3:			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1. Sustainability Objective												
2. Sustainability Objective												
3. Sustainability Objective, etc.												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summary and comparison of alternative options against the Sustainability Objectives. ▪ Identification of the most sustainable option. ▪ Identification of the preferred option. ▪ Summary of what, if any, significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option. ▪ Summary of mitigation measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and/or offset as fully as possible any significant adverse effects of the preferred option. ▪ Summary of measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects. 												

Table 2.2: Scoring and definitions for Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

Rating	Description
++ Significant Positive	Policy/ proposal would greatly help to achieve the objective
+ Minor Positive	Policy/ proposal would slightly help to achieve the objective
0 Neutral / no effect	Policy/ proposal would have no overall effect
- Minor Negative	Policy/ proposal would slightly conflict with the objective
-- Significant Negative	Policy/ proposal would greatly conflict with the objective
? Uncertain	The effect cannot be predicted because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the approach has an uncertain relationship to the objective; or ▪ the relationship is dependent on the way in which the approach is implemented; or ▪ insufficient information may be available to enable an appraisal to be made.
ST	Short Term Up to five years
MT	Medium Term Five to 15 years
LT	Long term Over 15 years

Key:	++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No overall effect	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	? Score uncertain
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2.5.4. Identifying Reasonable Alternatives

Reasonable Alternatives (RAs) are the different realistic options available to a Council for delivering the objectives of its LDP. They should also be consistent with other aspects of the LDP as well higher level plans and policies and, in the case of the Local Policies Plan, the Plan Strategy.

The POP identified a number of key strategic planning issues arising in the Plan area. Thirty Key Issues were appraised in the Interim SA Report and were submitted for public consultation, which has helped to shape the more specific policies brought forward in the draft Plan Strategy.

All of the Strategic and Operational Policy objectives were examined and consideration was given to whether any reasonable alternatives to deliver the policy objective were available. Guidance used to evaluate RAs included Development Plan Practice Note 04⁷, the RTPI Practice Advice on SEA⁸, and 'Developing and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment'⁹. Out of the 27 Strategic Policies and 114 Operational Policies comprising the dPS, no RAs were identified. Reasons why RAs were scoped out include (one or more may apply):

- Option required to uphold the aims of current legislation, regulations, or directives.
- Option required to uphold the aims or policy approach of RDS, SPPS or other regional or local plans or strategies.
- POP identified inclusion of specific policy in LDP as the only realistic option.
- POP identified inclusion of specific policy in LDP as the preferred option.
- dPS identified inclusion of specific policy in LDP as the only realistic option.
- No reasonable alternatives were identified on the basis of scoping evidence or other evidence-based assessment.
- Only one realistic option identified for high-level criteria based policy.
- No other option could achieve objective/s.
- No realistic and deliverable objective.
- No sufficiently distinct objective.

An explanation of whether a RA is identified or has been scoped out is included for each policy in Section 3.

2.5.5. The Appraisal Meeting and Write-Up

Appraisal of the various options for the draft Plan Strategy was carried out over a series of seven appraisal sessions, mainly conducted in July and August 2019. The appraisal panel comprised members of the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Local Development Plan team and members of the Sustainable Development team from Shared Environmental Service.

Appraisals were carried out using the agreed SA Framework, and scores with explanations were recorded in the appraisal matrices, presented in Appendix 4. For each issue all options were appraised in terms of how the option would either support or conflict with the Sustainability Objectives. Following this, the matrices were written up, reviewed with planning officers and finalised. A summary of the findings of the appraisal is presented in Section 3.

2.5.6. Assessing the Significance of Effects and Consideration of Potential Mitigation Measures

The SA assessed the significant effects of options both positive and negative. There is no single definition of a significant effect, therefore assessment is a matter of judgement taking account of the extent of the effect spatially and in time.

⁷ Department of the Environment (2015) Development Plan Practice Note 04: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment

⁸ RTPI, Levett-Therivel Practice Advice on Strategic Environmental Assessment Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of SEA/SA for land use plans (Published January 2018)

⁹ EPA Research Report No. 157 Developing and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment (2013-SL-DS-1)

Sustainable development is an underlying principle of plan preparation, therefore for the majority of issues the positive effects of all options already outweigh the negative effects. The SEA Directive requires consideration of *'measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme'*. These are referred to as mitigation measures, and can include recommendations for improving beneficial effects.

Sustainable development is an underlying principle of plan preparation, therefore for the majority of issues the positive effects of all options already outweigh the negative effects. On one occasion the preferred option has included a significant negative effect. Mitigation has therefore been included for this policy. While appraising the Options, some ways in which minor negative effects could be reduced or offset and positive effects could be enhanced have been identified. These are included in Section 3 and Appendix 4 where applicable.

2.5.7. Appraisal Limitations and Assumptions

The assessment reflects baseline information from the Local Development Plan POP Stage Preparatory Papers, and the SA Scoping Report, information provided by consultees and the experience and judgement of the panel carrying out the appraisal meeting. In some cases, there is uncertainty about how a given approach or proposal would be implemented, due to insufficient detail about the type or location of development that could come forward. These effects may remain uncertain until detailed supplementary planning guidance and/or specific site proposals are known. This is a consequence of this strategic stage of plan preparation. Where necessary 'uncertain' was recorded and a note made of further information that could inform future appraisal. For some options, the approach may have an uncertain relationship with the sustainability objective if it could have both positive and negative effects. In these situations 'uncertain' was also recorded and potential impacts noted in the explanation. On occasion the same score has been recorded for the effects of different options, however more subtle differences may be described in the explanation.

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. Some approaches represent a continuation of a previous policy, however each option was considered on its own merits in line with the characteristics of the baseline for the relevant sustainability objective.

Consideration has been given to the timescale in which an effect may be seen. It is hard to predict in many cases when an effect is likely to be apparent at this stage of plan development. Therefore the score is often the same for short, medium and long term. If appropriate, short, medium and long term scores will be differentiated in the SA at Local Policies Plan, which will take account of all additional and updated information available at that time.

2.5.8. Cumulative Effects

Consideration is given to any cumulative effects of proposals at each stage of plan preparation. These will include potential cumulative effects within the plan and in combination with other relevant plans and strategies. Section 4 describes the total and cumulative effects of the preferred options for the draft Plan Strategy on the Sustainability Objectives.

2.5.9. Compatibility of Sustainability Objectives with Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's LDP Objectives.

Chapter 3 of the LDP draft Plan Strategy discusses the link between the LDP and the Council's Corporate and Community Plans.

The vision for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's Local Development Plan derives from a spatial analysis of the Council area supported by clear evidence with the objective of meeting the outcomes of the Community Plan.

The Council's Community Plan 2017-2032 seeks to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the people and the Lisburn and Castlereagh area. It also promotes sustainable development for current and future generations and equality of opportunity through promotion of good relations, the tackling of poverty, social exclusion and patterns of deprivation.

The Community Plan Vision is: *'An empowered, prosperous, healthy and inclusive community.'*

The Community Plan headlines five key themes each with an outcome to be achieved over its lifetime. These outcomes are:

- Theme One - 'Children and Young People': our children and young people have the best start in life.
- Theme Two - 'The Economy': everyone benefits from a vibrant economy
- Theme Three - 'Health and Well-being': we live healthy, fulfilling and long lives
- Theme Four - 'Where We Live': we live and work in attractive, resilient and environmentally friendly places
- Theme Five - 'Our Community': we live in empowered, harmonious, safe and welcoming communities.

The outcomes will be delivered through the Council's Strategic Community Planning Partnership detailed Action Plan, details of which are available on the Council's website at www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk.

Aligning the Local Development Plan with the Community Plan provides the opportunity for the Council to move away from a narrow land use planning approach to a place-shaping focus. As such this LDP forms the spatial reflection of the Community Plan and is a unique opportunity to reflect the aspiration of our community and shape the district for current and future generations.

The LDP Vision is that *"The Local Development Plan (LDP) will respond to the needs of the community in providing a sustainable economy, society and environment. It will support a thriving, vibrant and connected place in which people live, work, visit and invest; and an attractive, green and quality place which will enhance the well-being and quality of life for all"*.

Plan Objectives

Six Plan Objectives have been developed to deliver the vision for the Local Development Plan. The six Objectives set out the aims of the LDP and what it seeks to achieve over the 15 year period from 2017-2032. These include an appropriate 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.

Figure 2 identifies how the Plan Objectives relate to and achieve the spatial aspects of the Community Plan. In addition to delivering the spatial aspects of the Community Plan, the Plan Objectives link and the operational policies.

Figure 2: LDP and Community Plan Themes and Objectives



3 Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Findings

3.1 Introduction

The LDP's 44 Strategic Objectives for the district are grouped under the following themes:

- A: A Quality Place
- B: A Thriving Place
- C: A Vibrant Place
- D: An Attractive Place
- E: A Green Place
- F: A Connected Place.

The Strategic Policies (SPs) of the draft Plan Strategy are also arranged under the six themes outlined above, with an overarching theme of 'Sustainable Development' (SP01). The Strategic Policies include the spatial growth strategy and the settlement hierarchy for the district. The Strategic Policies are supplemented by a range of Operational Policies, which are included in part 2 of the draft Plan Strategy.

The draft Plan Strategy has 24 Strategic Policies, three Strategic Mixed Use (SMU) policies and 114 Operational Policies.

Prior to commencing the appraisal of policies, members of the appraisal panel met to review the draft policies, discuss the RAs and verify the options being put forward. The review of policies and options identified that several policies act together to achieve the same aim. Therefore, to avoid duplication and repetition in the SA it was agreed that it would be appropriate to appraise certain policies with a high degree of similarity together as a group.

A table linking each Strategic policy and Operational policy with their respective appraisal is included at the beginning of Appendix 4. In total, 79 appraisals were carried out to assess the draft Plan Strategy and these are presented in full in Appendix 4.

As discussed in section 0, no reasonable alternatives were identified for the policies at the draft Plan Strategy stage and therefore only one option has been put forward for each appraisal. All options were appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 Sustainability Objectives.

In this Section, for each policy appraised, the preferred option is summarised, followed by an explanation of why there are no reasonable alternatives. These are followed by a figure which summarises the long term effects (the full tables in Appendix 4 also include short and medium term effects). The key for scoring is explained in Table 2.2 and is also summarised under each matrix in Appendix 4.

A summary and comparison of the options against the Sustainability Objectives is presented, after which significant effects, positive or negative, are reported. Where a preferred option is to be taken forward that has a significant negative effect, then it is necessary to identify mitigation measures to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset those significant negative effects of the preferred option.

During the appraisal, ideas were also discussed for measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects and these are reported. There is not a legal requirement to implement these, however they are recorded so that, where appropriate, they can be incorporated to further the overall sustainability of the LDP.

3.2 Spatial Strategy and Strategic Policies

3.2.1. Spatial Strategy - The Settlement Hierarchy

The settlement hierarchy will ensure that the growth of settlements, provision of housing, employment land and other key land uses and related infrastructure is in the most appropriate locations to benefit the community as a whole. The hierarchy will ensure the settlements and the rural hinterland develop to their full potential. The balance will be the requirement for sustainable growth and the protection of the environment. Inequalities are addressed to give a sense of place and distinctiveness while building on opportunities to connect communities across the council area. This spatial approach is considered to be a sustainable approach.

Preferred Option:

Retain the existing settlement hierarchy with minor amendments.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives were identified for the draft Plan Strategy. An alternative option (Option 1B) 'retain the existing settlement hierarchy with no change' was appraised in the Interim SA for the POP. However, while it delivered slightly more positive impacts for the objectives manage material assets sustainably and to protect physical resources and use sustainably, it does not deliver significant positive benefits to the objective to strengthen society. It was not considered necessary to re-appraise this alternative for the draft Plan Strategy. Strategic Settlement Appraisal provided as part of Countryside Assessment Technical Supplement.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	++	+	+	+	0	-	+	?	?	-	?	0	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a positive impact on all of the social sustainability objectives, with significant positive effects identified for strengthening society, through enabling a high proportion of the population of the Council to access services easily. Minor positive effects are also identified for the economic objectives to enable access to high quality education and enable sustainable economic growth however growth in some settlements may place pressure on infrastructure, leading to minor negative effects in the short and medium term. However, as new or upgraded infrastructure is developed, the impact will reduce to neutral by the long term. A mixture of impacts is identified for the environmental sustainability objectives, minor positive effects are seen for to encouraging active and sustainable travel and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment as the identification of settlements arranged in a hierarchy provides focal points for the provision of transport links and the settlement itself may have an historic identity. Minor negative effects are identified for physical and water resources, as settlement growth may result in the development of greenfield land and may place pressure on water resources if adequate wastewater infrastructure is not present. Uncertain effects are identified for air quality and climate change, as settlement growth may result in increased emissions from development and transport, but the hierarchy also delivers opportunities for accessing alternative transport options and can deliver other efficiencies. Uncertain effects are also identified for natural resources as while consolidated development is more positive

than dispersed development, and may deliver opportunities for expanding green and blue infrastructure networks, there may still be localised losses that occur due to development.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to strengthen society. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

To address some of the potential negative impacts of the preferred option for example transport analysis, KSRs and criteria for any reclassification. Existing constraints on e.g. flood plains should continue and green wedges designated in BMAP be protected.

3.2.2. SP01 Sustainable Development

Furthering sustainable development is at the heart of the Plan Strategy and includes facilitating sustainable housing growth; promotes balanced economic growth; protects and enhances the historic and natural environment; and supports sustainable infrastructure.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction (RDS, SPPS).

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternative has been identified - The SPPS identifies sustainable development as a core principle in regional policy. It is best practice to reiterate in the draft Plan Strategy. This policy interrelates with other policies and does not stand alone.

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

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy is an overarching policy, which aims to deliver sustainable development. It is predicted that the policy will deliver positive outcomes across all of the social, economic and environmental objectives. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for improving health and well-being based upon positive outcomes for air quality through active travel with subsequent benefits for people's physical and mental health and well-being. Significant positive outcomes were also predicted for sustainable economic growth due to the policy's holistic approach to employment opportunities promoting balanced economic growth. Across several of the environmental objectives significant positive outcomes were recorded for active/sustainable travel, improving air quality, and reducing causes of and adapting to climate change. These positives were based upon the policy reducing reliance on the car and encouraging/improving connectivity between people and places, using measures that can also improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The policy also aims for energy efficient housing designs and retention of natural resilience with mitigation and adaptation for climate change. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive effects were identified across the social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives with significant positive outcomes predicted for improving health and well-

being, enabling sustainable economic growth, encouraging active/sustainable travel, improving air quality, and reducing causes of and adapting to climate change. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures identified.

3.2.3. SP02 Improving Health and Well-being

All development proposals should contribute positively to the provision of quality open space; age-friendly environments; quality design; enhanced connectivity (physical and digital); integration between land use and transport; and green and blue infrastructure. Noise and air quality should also be taken into account when designing schemes, recognising their impact on health and well-being.

Preferred Option:

In line with core planning principles.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternative has been identified - the SPPS identifies as a core principle in regional policy. It is best practice to reiterate in the draft Plan Strategy. Policy interrelates with other policies and does not standalone.

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

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy is predicted to deliver positive outcomes across all of the social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for the majority of the objectives but significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the social objectives for health and well-being and strengthening society objective, as well as encouraging active and sustainable travel. These outcomes were based upon the policy providing a vision for open space, including green and blue infrastructure, which is essential for people's physical and mental health and well-being. The policy would help to connect people and places - across generations and communities. At the same time, the policy can help facilitate a safe pedestrian environment as well as encourage walking and cycling with positive benefits for people's health and well-being as well as the local environment. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive effects were identified for the social sustainability objectives to improve health and well-being, and to strengthen society; and for the environmental objective to deliver active and sustainable travel. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures identified.

3.2.4. SP03 Creating and Enhancing Shared Space and Quality Places

All development proposals should contribute to the creation of an environment which is accessible to all and enhances opportunities for shared communities; has a high standard of connectivity and supports shared use of public realm. Good quality housing that supports more balanced communities must offer a variety of house types, sizes and tenures to meet different needs. Creating shared neighbourhoods should provide opportunities for communities to access local employment, shopping, leisure, education and community facilities.

Preferred Option:

In line with core planning principles.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternative has been identified - The SPPS identifies as a core principle in regional policy. It is best practice to reiterate in the draft Plan Strategy. Policy interrelates with other policies and does not stand alone.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	++	++	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy is predicted to deliver positive outcomes for all of the social sustainability objectives as well as one of the economic and two of the environmental objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of sustainable economic growth based upon the policy enhancing opportunities for shared communities including accessibility to local employment. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of active and sustainable travel because the policy aims for a high level of connectivity with accessible linkages for walking and cycling. Minor positives were also predicted for the protection of the historic environment because the policy could help to improve upon existing sense of place by conserving the local distinctiveness of shared spaces within neighbourhood communities, creating locations for cultural activities/events. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the enabling access to high quality education objective. Outcomes were based upon the policy developing the right conditions for more people in shared neighbourhoods to be able to access educational resources possibly through community facilities. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for all of the remaining social sustainability objectives including improving health and well-being, strengthening society and providing good quality, sustainable housing. The policy aims for inclusivity and social contact for all partly through creating good quality housing areas that must meet identified needs but also through the provision of shared space and public realm works. The policy should help deliver balanced communities with fair access to leisure and social facilities. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant effects were predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objectives to improve health and well-being, strengthen society and provide good quality, sustainable housing. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures identified.

3.2.5. SP04 Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth

All development proposals should support sustainable economic growth without compromising on environmental standards. Economic growth can contribute to an enhanced society and improve health and well-being through the creation of job opportunities.

Preferred Option:

In line with core planning principles.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternative has been identified - The SPPS identifies as a core principle in regional policy. It is best practice to reiterate in the draft Plan Strategy. This policy interrelates with other policies and does not stand alone.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	+	+	++	+	0	0	?	?	+	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy was predicted to deliver minor positive outcomes for all of the social sustainability objectives and some of the economic objectives but negligible effects and uncertain outcomes were predicted for the majority of the environmental objectives. The minor positive outcomes predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objectives were based upon some indirect benefits of the policy enabling people to have incomes and a better quality of life with positives for people's mental health and well-being. The policy helps to create the right conditions for jobs and economic growth, which facilitates social interaction between people. The construction sector is a large sector within the Council and this policy would help support it and delivery of good quality housing with renewal of older stock that can meet modern standards. The policy could create multiple links between local employers and local schools and colleges and so develop the local skills base that can support the local economy. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the sustainable economic growth objective based upon the purpose of the policy, which is to encourage and support innovation, competitiveness and job creation with a greater diversity of jobs aimed for. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the economic objective to manage material assets sustainably because recycling opportunities and demand for them are evident. It was discussed how the location of larger companies in the area is likely to attract new infrastructure to the area. A minor positive outcome was also predicted for delivery of the environmental objective to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably. This was based upon the policy ensuring that environmental standards must not be compromised and water quality protected with avoidance of aquatic habitats including floodplains. Uncertain outcomes were also predicted for two of the environmental objectives - to improve air quality, and to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change. These uncertain outcomes were based upon future unknowns regarding the type of economic proposal that may come forward and its inputs and outputs that may have an effect on local air quality and/or greenhouse gas emissions. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant effects were predicted for delivery of the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Cross reference to relevant policy.

3.2.6. SP05 Good Design and Positive Place-Making

All development proposals should incorporate good design to further sustainable development, encourage healthier living; promote accessibility and inclusivity and contribute to safety. They should respect the character of the area, respecting environmental and heritage assets and promote local distinctiveness. Successful place-making will be central to decision-making acknowledging the need for quality, place-specific contextual design which promotes accessibility and inclusivity, creating safe, vibrant and adaptable places.

Preferred Option:

In line with core planning principles.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternative has been identified - The SPPS identifies as a core principle in regional policy. It is best practice to reiterate in the draft Plan Strategy. Policy interrelates with other policies and does not stand alone.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	++	++	+	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	++	++

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy was predicted to deliver positive outcomes for all of the social sustainability objectives, one of the economic objectives and several of the environmental objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for improving health and well-being, and the education objective. These positives were based upon the policy delivering benefits for people's health and safety as well as social inclusion and accessibility to resources from successfully designed places/locations in both urban and rural areas. Significant positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the strengthening society and provision of good quality housing. These significantly positive outcomes were based upon the policy helping to create positive places that people want to go and experience because of the standard of inclusivity, accessibility, vibrancy and safety with accessibility to services/facilities well considered. The policy supports lifetime homes and accessible and adaptable homes with design and access a consideration. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for the enabling sustainable economic growth objective because aspects of the policy contribute to positive place making which adds to the local attractiveness of an area and makes it more appealing to investors and visitors as well as residents. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for several of the environmental objectives including active and sustainable travel, maintaining and enhancing landscape character; and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Positives were based upon the policy providing improved accessibility with active travel encouraged as an element of good design. The local landscape should remain protected through compatible development and contextual design

with settlement pattern a contributor to local place-making. Likewise, the policy is likely to help conserve local buildings and features of historic character and conserve a sense of place. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant effects were predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objectives for strengthening society; and providing good quality, sustainable housing. Significant effects were also predicted for the environmental objectives to encourage active and sustainable travel, to maintain and enhance landscape character; and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Reference to Building on Tradition. Design guides.

3.2.7. SP06 Protecting and Enhancing the Environment

All development proposals must respect the historic and natural environment and halt the loss of biodiversity. It must aim to conserve, protect and where possible enhance the environment, acknowledging the rich variety of assets and associated designations. It should include proposals for the careful management, maintenance and enhancement of ecosystem services, which form an integral part of sustainable development.

Preferred Option:

In line with core planning principles.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternative has been identified - The SPPS identifies as a core principle in regional policy. It is best practice to reiterate in the draft Plan Strategy. Policy interrelates with other policies and does not standalone.

	1.... improve health and well-being.		2.... strengthen society.		3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.		4.... enable access to high quality education.		5.... enable sustainable economic growth.		6.... manage material assets sustainably.		7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.		8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.		9.... improve air quality.		10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.		11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.		12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.		13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.		14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	0	+	0	?	0	0	++	++	++	+	++													

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy was predicted to deliver positive outcomes for most of the social and environmental objectives as well as one of the economic objectives. Positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the improving health and well-being, and the strengthening society objectives. These positives were based upon the policy's holistic approach to the consideration of proposals where biodiversity loss is avoided and integration of ecosystem services is encouraged with the physical, mental and social benefits of open and shared space provision also recognised. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the sustainable economic growth objective because the policy encourages a holistic approach to consideration of development, which would directly benefit any investment reliant on the quality of the environment and its attractiveness i.e. tourist related ventures. An uncertain outcome was predicted against the economic objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably because the policy can conserve land/soil from inappropriate development but there could be mineral reserves in greenfield areas, which would lead to a reduction in greenfield land. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for the landscape character objective because landscape is

an asset that the policy can indirectly protect as part of ecosystem services. Significant positive outcomes were also identified for delivery of several of the environmental objectives including reducing the causes of and adapting to climate change; protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably; protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity; and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural resources. Significant positive outcomes were based upon the policy aiming to protect the natural environment to help improve natural resilience to flooding, extreme temperatures and other climate change related impacts like erosion. The natural environment can include designated sites and natural features. The policy encourages enhancement measures and integration of ecosystem services, which can bring positive benefits for air, land, soil, water, biodiversity, people and most likely landscape as well. Significant positive outcomes were also identified for delivery of the objective to protect the historic environment because the policy refers to the protection, conservation and enhancement of the historic environment - assets and designations. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant effects were predicted for delivery of several of the environmental objectives including reducing the causes of and adapting to climate change; protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably; protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity; and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural resources. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures identified.

3.2.8. SP07 Section 76 Planning Agreements

Development will be required to help deliver more sustainable communities by providing, or making contributions to, local and regional infrastructure in proportion to its scale, impact of the development and the sustainability of its location.

A developer will be expected to provide or contribute to the following infrastructure in order to mitigate any negative consequences of development:

- improvements to the transport network, including walking and cycling routes, public transport or, where necessary
 - appropriate parking provision;
 - affordable housing;
 - educational facilities and/or their upgrades;
 - outdoor recreation;
 - protection, enhancement and management of the natural and historic environments;
 - community facilities and/or their upgrades;
 - improvements to the public realm;
 - service and utilities infrastructure;
 - recycling and waste facilities.

Preferred Option:

In line with core planning principles.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternative has been identified - Best practice is to reiterate in the draft Plan Strategy. Builds on the SPPS. Interpretation of legislation - not prescriptive.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	++	0	0	+	0	0	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy was predicted to deliver positive outcomes for all of the social sustainability objectives, half of the economic objectives and several of the environmental objectives. Minor positive outcomes were identified for all of the social sustainability objectives - improving health and well-being, strengthening society; providing good quality, sustainable housing; and enabling access to high quality education. These positives were based upon the potential of the policy. For example, the policy may enable the provision of community facilities /educational resources or affordable housing, with accessible walking and cycling routes. Likewise, the policy could deliver positive outcomes for some of the economic objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and manage material assets sustainably. These positives were again based on the potential of the policy to act as a stimulus for local economic growth including regeneration projects and to deliver services and utilities such as waste management facilities. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the environmental objectives to manage water resources sustainably and to protect the historic environment. Positives were based on the potential for wastewater infrastructure upgrades and/or redevelopment of historic sites/assets, which could be part of a mixed-use scheme. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the active and sustainable travel objective. Positives were based on the potential of the policy to provide walking and cycling routes and/or parking provision as part of new projects or developments that can help reduce reliance on the car. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant effects were predicted for delivery of the environmental objective to encourage active and sustainable travel. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures identified.

3.2.9. SP08 Housing in Settlements

The strategic policy for housing in settlements has been informed by regional and local policy which aims to increase housing density without town cramming, encourage sustainable forms of development, promote good design and deliver balanced communities. In order to enable the needs of the community to be met, the policy encourages mixed tenure housing including affordable housing and specialised housing where a need is identified, for example, residential care homes to help cater for an ageing population. The policy recognises the need to consolidate and encourage higher density development in the city centre, with mixed use schemes on brownfield land to help promote regeneration and dereliction in urban areas.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPSS.

	1... improve health and well-being.	2... strengthen society.	3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4... enable access to high quality education.	5... enable sustainable economic growth.	6... manage material assets sustainably.	7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9... improve air quality.	10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	++	++	0	0	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	++

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a significant positive effect on all of the social sustainability objectives. The policy has a limited influence on the economic sustainability objectives, with negligible effects on education or economic growth. However a minor positive impact is identified for material assets, as the principle of locating housing in settlements and encouraging compact urban forms enables the efficient delivery of a range of utilities and aligns with the proximity principle for waste management. Encouraging development in the compact urban form benefits all of the environmental sustainability objectives by constraining the spread of development into undeveloped areas. Encouraging the compact urban form also helps to facilitate active and sustainable travel as a mode of transport, delivering significant positive impacts on this objective and the principle of high quality design which respects its surroundings also acts in a significant positive manner on protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objectives to improve health and well-being, strengthen society, to provide good quality, sustainable housing, to encourage active and sustainable travel and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Operational policy on housing which encourages energy efficiency and microgeneration, sustainable drainage, biodiversity and landscape enhancement and requires the character of the surrounding historic environment to be respected - in particular HOU3, HOU4 and HOU7.

3.2.10. SP09 Housing in the Countryside

To sustain rural communities, new development and employment opportunities which respect local, social and environmental circumstances are required. The Plan will support development proposals that:

- provide appropriate, sustainable, high quality rural dwellings, whilst protecting rural character and the environment.
- resist urban sprawl in the open countryside which mars the distinction between the rural area and urban settlements
- protect the established rural settlement pattern and allow for vibrant sustainable communities.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPSS.

	1... improve health and well-being.	2... strengthen society.	3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4... enable access to high quality education.	5... enable sustainable economic growth.	6... manage material assets sustainably.	7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9... improve air quality.	10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	?	+	+	-	+	-	+	- -	?	0	?	+	+	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a generally positive effect on the social sustainability objectives, though an uncertain score is recorded for health and well-being. This is because although housing in the countryside has a positive effect for the individuals and families who have a need to live in the countryside, it is less accessible to healthcare facilities and emergency services and is not wholly sustainable in this regard. While a minor positive effect is recorded in terms of sustainable economic growth, the approach has a minor negative impact on the other economic sustainability objectives of enabling access to high quality education and managing material assets sustainably. The dispersed settlement pattern does not have the same degree of accessibility to education and skills training opportunities, and it is more onerous for utilities providers to deliver services and infrastructure to the rural area. The policy's main aims of protecting rural character and the environment contribute positively to several of the environmental sustainability objectives. However, a significant negative effect is identified on the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel, as housing in the countryside is disproportionately reliant on cars and is unlikely to be capable of becoming more sustainable in this regard. Mitigation measures have been identified which can reduce the effect for rural-to-urban journeys and commuting. The reliance on the car and reduced opportunities for low-particulate heating fuels contributes to an uncertain effect on air quality, but the score also recognises that other opportunities including renewable heat and micro-generation may be more feasible for housing in the countryside. These aspects are also considered in the neutral score for the climate change objective. Uncertain effects are also recorded for water resources, as while policy will ensure that housing reliant on non-mains wastewater treatment has adequate treatment provided for at the time of development, the ongoing maintenance of treatment units and regulation of effluent discharge is outside the scope of the LDP.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant positive effects are identified for the preferred Option. A likely significant negative effect is identified for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel and consequently mitigation measures are required.

There are unlikely to be any measures which can mitigate against reliance on the car within and between rural areas. The effects of rural-to-urban travel may be capable of being mitigated through the establishment of wider active and sustainable travel options, particularly if these are developed further or enhanced over the lifetime of the plan. Measures such as greenways and park and ride / park and share hubs can enable rural residents travelling or commuting to urban areas to use more sustainable forms of transport for part of their journey. This would reduce the impact of traffic originating from the rural area to the urban area.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Operational policy on housing which encourages energy efficiency and microgeneration, biodiversity and landscape enhancement and requires the character of the surrounding historic environment to be respected - in particular HOU4, RE1, COU15 and COU16 and HE policies.

3.2.11. SP10 Education, Health, Community and Culture

The strategic policy for education, health, community and culture takes account of regional and local policy which aims to support balanced communities and opportunities for the community to access essential services and facilities over the Plan period. The Plan will support development proposals that:

- a) meet an identified need for services and facilities across the Council area, or
- b) cater for expansion of existing facilities to meet the anticipated needs of the community, in terms of health, education, community and cultural services.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPSS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.		2.... strengthen society.		3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.		4.... enable access to high quality education.		5.... enable sustainable economic growth.		6.... manage material assets sustainably.		7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.		8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.		9.... improve air quality.		10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.		11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.		12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.		13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.		14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	++	0	++	+	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a significant positive effect on the majority of the social sustainability objectives through the delivery of facilities to address identified health, well-being and community needs. It has no effect on the provision of housing. Minor positive effects are identified of the economic sustainability objectives of enabling sustainable economic growth and managing material assets sustainably. The ability to deliver new education facilities (or community facilities which may help in the provision of adult learning or skills training) has a significant positive impact on the objective to enable access to high quality education, however the effects are only likely to be realised over the medium to long term. The effects on the environmental sustainability objectives are generally negligible. An uncertain score is identified for encouraging active and sustainable travel as access to active or sustainable transport does not form part of the criteria for this policy. For extensions to facilities (which are expected to form the greatest proportion of new development coming under this policy) access to alternative modes of travel will be dependent on what is already provided at the existing facilities. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objectives to improve health and well-being, and to strengthen society over all timescales and the objective to enable access to high quality education over the medium and long term. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

The beneficial effects of this policy are closely linked with the Community Plan and this policy will be a key aspect in delivering the development requirements of the Community Plan. Operational policies will help to deliver specific protections.

3.2.12. SP11 Economic Development in Settlements

The strategic policy for economic development in settlements has been informed by regional and local policy which aims to promote employment, encourage job creation, facilitate growth of existing businesses, attract inward investment and address deprivation. The Plan will support development proposals that:

- a) support and promote the Strategic Mixed Use Sites at West Lisburn/Blaris and Purdysburn/Knockbracken in accordance with key site requirements
- b) support and promote the local employment sites throughout the Council area, to help provide opportunities for a range of economic needs and businesses
- c) encourage mixed use schemes supporting regeneration on sites previously used for economic purposes to help tackle inequality and deprivation
- d) provide Class B1 Business within the strategic mixed use sites at West Lisburn/Blaris and Purdysburn/Knockbracken in accordance with key site requirements
- e) provide office development within zoned employment land.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPSS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	+	+	++	+	0	+	?	?	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a minor positive impact on all of the social sustainability objectives as it helps create the conditions for employment that is accessible across all of the district. It also delivers a positive impact on all of the economic sustainability objectives, with a significant positive impact on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. The policy approach of encouraging economic development to be located in sites that are already developed (i.e. settlements and zoned sites) helps to avoid negative effects for the majority of the environmental sustainability objectives and delivers a neutral score. The principle also supports the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel as clustered development has the best chance of being serviced by active or sustainable transport routes. However the effect is minor, recognising that some of the existing sites may not be located convenient to public transport. The effects on the air quality and climate change objectives are uncertain, as they are dependent on the location, nature and scale of any new development brought forward. However, significant negative effects should be avoided by operational policy. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Relevant operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures. At LPP stage consideration may be given to identifying Key Site Requirements which would help to support the environmental sustainability objectives.

3.2.13. SP12 Economic Development in the Countryside

The conversion and re-use of existing buildings for appropriate economic development uses will be encouraged in order to protect rural amenity and achieve wider sustainability objectives.

The Plan will support development proposals that:

- a) facilitate and benefit the rural economy and support rural communities, whilst protecting rural character and the environment.

It should be noted that this policy also caters for major development proposals that cannot be located in a settlement. Such development would be by exception only and would still be required to comply with other regional policy and legislative requirements. The appraisal has considered the effects of such a development, however the scores have been assigned in the context that the probability of new development coming forward under this policy over the lifetime of the plan is very low.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPSS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.		2.... strengthen society.		3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.		4.... enable access to high quality education.		5.... enable sustainable economic growth.		6.... manage material assets sustainably.		7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.		8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.		9.... improve air quality.		10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.		11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.		12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.		13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.		14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	-	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a minor positive impact on the majority of the social sustainability objectives as it enables the generation of new income and jobs in rural areas. It will have no effect on housing. Minor positive effects are identified for enabling sustainable economic growth. This score recognises that while the effects may be locally significant, in the context of the district as a whole economic development in settlements is likely to have a more wide-ranging impact. While some potential influences are noted on the other economic sustainability objectives, these are not considered to be sufficient to generate a perceptible impact. For the environmental sustainability objectives, the principle of encouraging conversion and re-use of existing buildings rather than new development acts positively for the physical resources objective. However, it has minor negative effects on the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel, recognising that although it may enable some households to work beside where they live, such development is likely to be heavily reliant on

cars/vans/lorries and there are unlikely to be many measures available which can help to reduce this reliance. The impact on the air quality and climate change objectives is uncertain, as effects will depend on the location, nature and scale of the economic development. The policy aims of protecting rural character and the environment and the principle of encouraging reuse of existing buildings leads to a negligible effect on the remaining environmental sustainability objectives. The appraisal also recognises that, should it occur in the lifetime of the plan, an exceptional 'major development' in the countryside would have the potential to generate a significant positive effect on economic growth and possible negative effects on many of the environmental sustainability objectives. Such development would still be obliged to mitigate for significant negative effects where there is a legislative requirement to do so. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Relevant operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures. For major development proposals (where qualifying) EIA will help to identify impacts and design effective mitigation for environmental sustainability objectives.

3.2.14. SP13 Mineral Development

The strategic policy for mineral development has been informed by regional and local policy, which aims to support sustainable economic growth whilst recognising the limits of our natural resources and the need to protect and improve the quality of our natural environment.

The Plan will support development proposals that:

- a) facilitate a sufficient supply of minerals through balancing the need for the mineral development against the need to safeguard the environment, taking account of appropriate designations
- b) allow for careful exploitation of minerals
- c) provide for the sustainable and safe restoration and re-use of mineral sites.

It should be noted that the policy will only apply to applications for new mineral development and will not affect existing mineral operations, including old minerals permissions.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPPS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	+	0	0	+	+	++	0	-	?	0	+	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a negligible impact on all of the social sustainability objectives, however a minor positive is identified in the long term for the objective to strengthen society, as restoration and re-use of mineral sites may lead to the establishment of an asset, facility or shared space that is beneficial to a community. The policy has a minor positive impact on the sustainability objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to manage material assets sustainably but will have a negligible effect on education. Significant positive impacts are identified for the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably, as this policy will enable the minerals industry to operate to meet demand in a sustainable manner. A mixed range of effects are identified for the environmental sustainability objectives. The policy recognises that protection of the environment is a key aspect of careful exploitation and a minor positive impact is identified for protecting natural heritage and biodiversity. Neutral effects are predicted for active and sustainable travel, water resources and the historic environment. The effect on the climate change objective is uncertain, as it will be dependent on the nature and scale of the minerals development. Minor negative effects are identified for the air quality and landscape character objectives. It may be possible to reduce the scale of negative effects through measures identified through operational policy and the requirement for restoration will help to reduce the negative effects on landscape character to negligible over the long term. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Relevant operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures. Management plans for quarry operations including landscaping and transport plans. A requirement to conduct restoration and reinstatement in phases while the site is operational may help to bring forward the timescales for beneficial effects. The identification of ACMs may help to protect some of the most sensitive areas from adverse impacts.

3.2.15. SP14 Town Centres, Retailing and Other Uses

A range of town centre uses, including office development is promoted within Lisburn City Centre and the towns of Carryduff, Hillsborough & Culcavy and Moira. The promotion of office development supports sustainable development, urban renaissance and job creation.

The Plan will support development proposals that:

- a) promote town centres, retailing and other uses within the City and town centres to enhance their vitality and viability in accordance with the retail hierarchy and operational policy
- b) support Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre in recognition of its regional status in accordance with key site requirements.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPPS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	+	++	++	0	+	?	0	0	0	0	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a minor positive effect on two out of the three social sustainability objectives by enabling other complementary uses and creating focal points that are shared spaces. The centre-based approach enables significant positive impacts to be delivered for enabling sustainable economic growth and managing material assets sustainably, while indirect / spin-off effects may also occur for enabling access to high quality education. The policy acts positively for encouraging active and sustainable travel and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment. There is an uncertain effect on air quality as it will depend on future energy and transport requirements. The centre-based approach has a neutral or negligible impact on the remaining environmental sustainability objectives. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to manage material assets sustainably. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.

3.2.16. SP15 Evening/Night-time Economy

The strategic policy aims to create more accessible, vibrant city and town centres and support positive place-making. Securing a thriving and vibrant evening/night-time economy is fundamental to the success and future growth of Lisburn City Centre and makes an important contribution to the overall economic growth of the area.

The Plan will support development proposals that:

- promote the City and Town Centres as the main locations for growing the evening/night-time economy, to enhance their vitality and viability
- encourage regeneration in the city and town centres to help develop a vibrant and accessible shared space
- promote sustainable tourism, leisure and culture facilities appropriate to their location.

Preferred Option:

New Policy Provision.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPSS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	0	++	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The option has a minor positive impact on the majority of the social sustainability objectives through encouraging opportunities for social interaction and helping to make town centres feel safer and more inclusive after dark. Significant positive impacts are identified for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to manage material assets sustainably but the effects on enabling access to high quality education are negligible. As this policy relates to centres that are already built up areas the effects are negligible for almost all of the environmental sustainability objectives. A minor positive impact is identified for encouraging active and sustainable travel, as the policy may help to support the establishment of a critical mass of users - increased demand may lead to greater future provision of active and sustainable travel options. Encouraging regeneration of city and town centres may help to stimulate the redevelopment of older buildings with an associated minor positive effect on the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. Operational policy would help to protect against potential negative effects. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to manage material assets sustainably. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.

3.2.17. SP16 Tourism

This strategic policy seeks to facilitate sustainable tourism growth that is reflective of wider government tourism initiatives. The Plan will support development proposals that:

- promote a sustainable approach to tourist development and accommodation across the district
- safeguard key tourism assets
- provide further opportunities for tourism growth having regard to the environment recognising its contribution to economic development, conservation and urban regeneration.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPSS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.		2.... strengthen society.		3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.		4.... enable access to high quality education.		5.... enable sustainable economic growth.		6.... manage material assets sustainably.		7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.		8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.		9.... improve air quality.		10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.		11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.		12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.		13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.		14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a minor positive effect on the majority of the social sustainability objective, though it has no effect on housing. Positive influences are also seen for all of the economic sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth and minor positive effects on enabling access to high quality education through the wider opportunities for delivery of apprenticeships and skills training linked with the hospitality industry. The policy expects tourism growth to have regard for the surrounding environment and may lead to potential enhancement measures for assets that are linked to the water environment, natural resources, landscape character and the historic environment, leading to minor positive effects being identified. The effects on the remaining environmental sustainability objectives are negligible. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.

3.2.18. SP17 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

The strategic policy for open space, sport and outdoor recreation recognises the positive benefits of sport and outdoor recreation on both the physical and mental health of our community. The Local Policies Plan will identify existing areas of open space and potential new areas requiring protection as part of the future open space provision.

The Plan will support development proposals that:

- protect and enhance existing open space and provide new open space provision
- support and protect a network of accessible green and blue infrastructure
- support and promote the development of strategic and community greenways.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPPS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.		2.... strengthen society.		3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.		4.... enable access to high quality education.		5.... enable sustainable economic growth.		6.... manage material assets sustainably.		7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.		8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.		9.... improve air quality.		10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.		11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.		12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.		13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.		14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	++	0	+	+	0	+	++	+	++	+	++	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

By protecting existing and creating new shared areas of open space that people can use for activity, recreation and leisure this policy has a significant positive impact on the objectives to improve health and well-being and to strengthen society. Minor positive effects are identified for enabling access to high quality education and sustainable economic growth. The approach to protect and enhance existing open space and provide new open space with an emphasis on establishing a network of green and blue infrastructure delivers positive effects for all of the environmental sustainability objectives. Significant positive effects are predicted for encouraging active and sustainable travel, reducing causes of and adapting to climate change, protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objective to improve health and well-being, to strengthen society, to encourage active and sustainable travel, to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity, to maintain and enhance landscape character and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.

3.2.19. SP18 Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment and Archaeological Remains

The strategic policy for protecting and enhancing the historic environment and archaeological remains aims to facilitate appropriate development to secure our heritage for future generations.

The Plan will support development proposals that:

- protect and enhance the Conservation Areas, Areas of Townscape Character and Areas of Village Character
- protect, conserve and, where possible, enhance and restore our built heritage assets including our historic parks, gardens and demesnes, listed buildings, archaeological remains and areas of archaeological potential
- promote the highest quality of design for any new development affecting our historic environment.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPPS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	+	0	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	+	+	++

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy approach has a minor positive effect on all of the social sustainability objectives, recognising that people can benefit physically and mentally from having areas of historic and cultural value in their surrounding environment, particularly where these are part of a wider shared space or area of character. While there are some indirect influences noted on the economic sustainability objectives, the only perceptible effect is on enabling sustainable economic growth, where a minor positive effect is seen. Minor positive impacts are identified in respect of natural resources and landscape, highlighting the relationship that the historic environment has with the surrounding landscape and natural landforms. There are also some positive effects noted for the physical resources objective, but there may also be some constraints on mineral development posed by the protection of historic assets leading to an uncertain score. The policy has a significant positive effect on the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. Negligible effects are recorded for the remaining environmental sustainability objectives. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive effects were identified for the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Relevant operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.

3.2.20. SP19 Protecting and Enhancing Natural Heritage

The strategic policy for natural heritage aims to balance the growth of the area whilst protecting and enhancing key assets in order to maintain landscape character, distinctiveness and attractiveness of the area. This strategic policy takes account of our natural heritage features and landscape character within and extending beyond the geographical extent of the area.

The Plan will support development proposals that:

- protect, conserve and, where possible, enhance and restore our natural heritage
- maintain landscape quality and the distinctiveness and attractiveness of the area
- promote the highest quality of design for any new development affecting our natural heritage assets
- safeguard the Lagan Valley Regional Park allowing appropriate opportunities for enhanced access at identified locations thereby protecting their integrity and value.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPSS.

	1... improve health and well-being.	2... strengthen society.	3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4... enable access to high quality education.	5... enable sustainable economic growth.	6... manage material assets sustainably.	7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9... improve air quality.	10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	++	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	++	++	++	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

Through providing and maintaining natural areas, many of which are accessible as shared space, the policy approach has a minor positive impact on health and well-being and a significant positive impact on strengthening society. It has no effect on the delivery of good quality, sustainable housing. The effects on the economic sustainability objectives are mainly negligible, with the exception of the objective to enable sustainable economic growth where a minor positive effect is identified. Positive effects are identified for all of the environmental sustainability objectives, with the exception of encouraging active and sustainable travel where there is no effect identified. The approach will deliver significant positive effects on natural resources, landscape and the historic environment objectives, recognising the strong linkages that occur between the environment and the landscape. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive effects were identified for the objective to strengthen society; protect, manage and use water resources sustainably; protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity; and maintain and enhance landscape character. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Relevant operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.

3.2.21. SP20 Transportation Infrastructure

The strategic policy for transportation infrastructure aims to support and deliver sustainable transportation infrastructure. The Plan will support development proposals that:

- provide or improve an integrated transport network servicing the needs of our community and future growth
- deliver sustainable patterns of development, including safe and accessible environments
- encourage a modal shift from private car dependency through integration of transport and land use
- facilitate Park & Ride, active travel (public transport, cycling and walking) and strategic greenways to move to towards more sustainable modes of travel both within the Council area and linking to wider regional networks.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPSS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	++	0	+	++	0	0	++	+	+	0	+	+	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a positive influence on all of the social sustainability objectives. Minor positive effects on health and well-being and strengthening society should strengthen to significant positive in the long term as linkages become established and schemes are delivered. Positive effects are also identified for the economic sustainability objectives of enabling access to high quality education and enabling sustainable economic growth, again the economic effects will strengthen over time to become significant. With the exception of physical resources and water resources where there are no perceptible effects, positive effects are identified on all of the environmental sustainability objectives. The overall effect on encouraging active and sustainable travel is a significant positive one. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objectives to improve health and well-being, to strengthen society and to enable sustainable economic growth in the long term. Significant positive effects are identified for encouraging active and sustainable travel over all timescales. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Collaborative working with DfI. The Local Policies Plan can identify potential links and safeguard land to deliver schemes. Relevant operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.

3.2.22. SP21 Renewable Energy

The strategic policy for renewable energy supports a diverse range of renewable energy development types that have a key role in reducing dependency on fossil fuels for energy production. The Plan will support development proposals that:

- facilitate the delivery of renewable energy generating facilities (wind, solar, thermal, biomass and other technologies) in the most appropriate locations which aim to meet the regional target for renewable energy production
- minimise any potential visual intrusion and environmental impacts to protect both the rural and urban landscape.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPSS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	0	0	0	+	+	?	0	?	++	?	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a minor positive effect on the objective to improve health and well-being through facilitating cleaner methods of power generation. No other perceptible impacts on the social sustainability objectives are identified. Enabling the generation of renewable energy has a minor positive effect on enabling sustainable economic growth and managing material assets sustainably. The strategic policy's protective criteria in terms of minimising environmental impacts and directing towards appropriate locations helps to reduce the likelihood of negative impacts on the environmental sustainability objectives and therefore the majority of these are neutral effect. However, potential pathways for emissions to air and water are more difficult to predict, as is the scale of physical resource use, and the effect on these objectives is uncertain. The application of relevant operational policies will protect against significant negative effects. Significant positive effects are predicted for the objective to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objective to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Relevant operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.

3.2.23. SP22 Telecommunications and Other Utilities

The strategic policy for telecommunications and other utilities supports the delivery of necessary digital and physical infrastructure to facilitate the diverse needs of the Council area. The Plan will support development proposals that:

- a) facilitate the delivery of sustainable telecommunications and other utilities infrastructure requirements to meet need over the plan period, encouraging future proofing to adapt to technological change
- b) minimise any visual intrusion and environmental impacts to protect both the rural and urban landscape.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPSS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a minor positive impact on the majority of the social sustainability objectives. Digital connectivity and the provision of utilities are a key aspect of health and well-being and facilitating the improvement telecommunications across the district will benefit rural communities as well as urban areas. While the policy will not directly impact the delivery of good quality housing, access to and availability of services and infrastructure is expected. The policy has a minor positive impact on all of the economic sustainability objectives; this recognises the relationship that digital connectivity has with education, business and commerce, but also the ability to connect and upgrade infrastructure where required is a key aspect of managing material assets sustainably. The policy objective of minimising environmental impacts is protective and as a consequence no effect or a negligible effect is identified for the majority of the environmental sustainability objectives. An uncertain effect is identified for the objective to maintain and enhance landscape character, which recognises that while the policy is protective for landscape and the majority of utilities and telecommunications can be sited sensitively or buried to reduce visual impacts, certain types of electrical infrastructure are more difficult to integrate. A minor positive effect is identified for the historic environment, as the policy seeks to minimise visual and environmental impacts including within urban areas. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Relevant operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.

3.2.24. SP23 Waste Management

The strategic policy for waste management seeks to ensure that waste management is managed safely to ensure that any detrimental effects on people, the environment, and local amenity including pollution, are avoided or mitigated. The Plan will support development proposals that:

- facilitate the delivery of appropriate waste management infrastructure in the most appropriate locations paying due regard to the proximity principle and in accordance with the waste hierarchy
- employ the most appropriate technology to meet the wide range of environmental targets while ensuring all the appropriate environmental protections are in place.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPPS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	0	0	0	+	++	?	0	?	0	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has negligible or no effect on the social sustainability objectives though a minor positive effect is identified in respect of improving health and well-being as waste management is an important aspect of maintaining public health. The policy has a minor positive effect on enabling sustainable economic growth and is a key contributor to the objective to manage material assets sustainably, with associated significant positive effects identified. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objective to manage material assets sustainably. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Relevant operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.

3.2.25. SP24 Flooding

The strategic policy for flooding seeks to ensure that development proposals are adequately mitigated to reduce the potential of flooding primarily from rivers and surface water runoff. While the policy aims to reduce the risks, other wider global factors (including climate change) are having an impact in this area. The Plan will support development proposals that:

- reduce the risks and impacts of flooding by managing development to avoid, where possible the potential for flooding
- encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems to alleviate issues around surface water flooding
- adopt a precautionary approach in instances where the precise nature of any risk is as yet unproven but a potential risk has been identified.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPPS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.														
	2.... strengthen society.														
	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.														
	4.... enable access to high quality education.														
	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.														
	6.... manage material assets sustainably.														
	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.														
	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.														
	9.... improve air quality.														
	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.														
	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.														
	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.														
	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.														
	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.														
Option 1	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	+	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a limited effect on the social sustainability objectives although some positive influences are noted for strengthening society and housing by ensuring that development is located in sustainable locations. A minor positive effect is identified for the improvement of health and well-being, through ensuring development occurs away from areas that have identified or potential risks to safety. Similar influences are noted for the economic sustainability objectives in terms of economic development and material assets, through directing new development and infrastructure away from unsustainable locations. A minor positive effect is identified on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. The safeguarding elements of the policy help to deliver positive effects for the objectives to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change, to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably and to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity. These effects are significant positive in respect of water resources. For all other environmental sustainability objectives there are no perceptible effects, although some positive influences are noted around physical resources, and the historic environment. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objective to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Relevant operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.

3.2.26. SMU01 West Lisburn/Blaris

This policy will support development at this Strategic Mixed use site in accordance with an overall Concept Masterplan. The Masterplan will be developed in line with key site requirements. The key site requirements will result in a sustainable form of development which will provide housing in proximity to employment opportunities. There is also provision for opportunities to improve linkages beyond the site connecting to the wider network be that road, rail or other modes of transport. The development of the site in accordance with the policy will have significant benefits not only to the council area but the wider economy in general.

Preferred Option:

New policy provision.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives were identified for the draft Plan Strategy. The alternative options tested for the POP included Option 6B 'Re-designate the Blaris MEL Employment Zoning as two separate zonings for housing and employment' and Option 6C 'Retain the existing Blaris MEL Zoning for employment purposes only'. Option 6B to re-designate the area and include zonings for housing was found to be the most sustainable option. This option has now been refined on the basis of new

evidence which supports this option, and consideration will also be given to the inclusion of new Key Site Requirements to enhance positive effects in the LPP.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	++	++	+	++	++	+	++	+	+	+	++	0	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

This strategic policy has a significant positive impact on all of the social sustainability objectives as it will deliver a planned mixed-use site which integrates a high quality employment and housing area with open space included that is easily accessible through active and sustainable travel to and from the wider area. It also has positive impacts on all of the economic sustainability objectives by enabling employment opportunities in a site that will be well-served from an infrastructure perspective. These impacts are significant for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to manage material assets sustainably. This strategic policy also has a positive impact on all of the environmental sustainability objectives, with the exception of maintaining and enhancing landscape character, where it is recognised that the conversion of almost 120ha of largely undeveloped land to a developed mixed-use area will adversely impact the landscape character of the area. However, the approach of a masterplan which will deliver a planned landscape incorporating boundary planting and green areas will help to reduce the scale of the impact, resulting in a minor negative magnitude for the impact score. As the site matures, the impacts on landscape should reduce to negligible over the long term and the impacts on natural resources should increase to significant positive. The site's planned integration with existing and planned greenways, cycle paths, park and rides and rail also help to deliver significant positive impacts on the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objectives to improve health and well-being, to strengthen society, to provide good quality, sustainable housing, to enable sustainable economic growth, to manage material assets sustainably and to encourage active and sustainable travel through all timescales. Likely significant positive effects are identified for the objective to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity in the long term timescale. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

The masterplan to be provided should indicate areas that should be protected /enhanced. The Key Site Requirements include incorporation of measures for landscaping which will help to enhance positive effects. Operational policies encouraging renewables in certain types of development will provide more positive effects on air quality and climate change objectives.

3.2.27. SMU02 Purdysburn/Knockbracken

This policy will support development at this Strategic Mixed use site in accordance with an overall Concept Masterplan. The Masterplan will be developed in line with key site requirements. The policy protects the current setting of the listed buildings and the high quality landscape setting which gives the site its character. The policy does facilitate appropriate use of the site for a variety of uses. The site provides opportunities to link with various active and sustainable transport networks.

Preferred Option:

New policy provision based on extant Development Plan.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	++	0	+	++	+	0	++	0	0	0	+	++	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

This strategic policy has a positive influence on two out of the three social sustainability objectives through the establishment of a planned mixed use and shared space area in the surrounds of the former demesne. In the long term, it will deliver significant positive effects on the objective to strengthen society. Positive impacts are also identified for all of the economic sustainability objectives as the strategic policy will aim to deliver opportunities for skills enhancement and academic research. Development of this site would make a significant positive contribution to sustainable economic growth in the Council area. The plan would provide for the retention of woodland and parkland areas and would allow only modest changes to the existing development footprint, leading to negligible effects on many the environmental sustainability objectives including the objectives to protect physical resources and use sustainably, to improve air quality, to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change and to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably. Positive impacts are identified for protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage. Significant positive effects are identified for maintaining and enhancing landscape character. As the site is already developed and has good access to different options for active and sustainable travel there are positive effects for this objective. These would be further enhanced through planned integration with future proposed strategic greenways, strengthening the positive effect to significant. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to maintain and enhance landscape character for all timescales. Likely significant positive effects are also identified for the objectives to strengthen society and to encourage active and sustainable travel over the long-term timescale only. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Biodiversity surveys and map resources will help to inform masterplan / development framework on areas that should be protected /enhanced. Key Site Requirements for incorporating renewables in certain types of development will provide more certainty for positive effects on air quality and climate change objectives.

3.2.28. SMU03 Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre

This policy will support development within Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre which is in accordance with operational policy and the key site requirements. The policy will permit up to a

maximum area of floor space for the approved use on the site. The policy will also permit a variety of uses again subject to operation policy and the submission of other assessments. The strategic policy will also provide linkages to existing and planned networks and encouraging a modal shift. This strategic policy will ensure that Sprucefield develops in a manner which best serves the region as a whole given its regional status.

Preferred Option:

New policy provision.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives were identified for the draft Plan Strategy. An alternative option (Option 13A) to retain and reinforce Sprucefield as Regional Shopping Centre (with no variations in use) was appraised in the Interim SA for the POP and was found to be equally sustainable. It was not considered necessary to re-appraise this alternative for the draft Plan Strategy. The option put forward in the draft plan Strategy has been selected on the basis of additional evidence in the form of a Retail Study which has identified that this option has a better chance of delivering more wide ranging economic benefits.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	0	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	?	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

This strategic policy has a minor positive impact on social sustainability objectives to improve health and well-being and to strengthen society, but has no impact on the delivery of housing. It has a significant positive impact on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth but no other impacts are identified for the economic pillar. This option has limited impact on the environmental sustainability objectives, as it relates to a zoning that has already been largely developed and has infrastructure already in place. It has a minor positive impact on the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel due to its accessibility by public transport and potential future linkages with the planned strategic greenway and rail link located nearby. An uncertain impact is recorded for natural resources as the impact is dependent on what species or habitats are present on the undeveloped portions of the site and whether these are of biodiversity or conservation importance. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Ecological / Biodiversity surveys will help to inform Key Site Requirements. KSRs for incorporation of SuDS may reduce pressure on wastewater infrastructure.

3.3 A Quality Place

3.3.1. HOU1 New Residential Development, HOU2 Protection of Land Zoned for Housing, HOU3 Site Context and Characteristics of New Residential Development, HOU4 Design in New Residential Development, HOU5 Public Open Space in New Residential Development, HOU6 Design Concept Statements, Concept Masterplans and Comprehensive Planning, HOU7 Residential Extensions and Alterations, HOU8 Protecting Local Character, Environmental Quality and Residential Amenity in Established Residential Areas, HOU9 The Conversion or Change of Use of Existing Buildings to Flats or Apartments

HOU1 Housing in Settlements: Planning permission will be granted for new residential development in settlements in the following circumstances:

- on land zoned for residential use;
- on previously developed land (brownfield sites);
- in designated city, town centres, villages and small settlements; and,
- Living over the shop schemes above shop and business premises within designated city and town centres.

HOU 2 Protection of Land Zoned for Housing: Planning permission, for alternative uses zoned housing land on where not identified as a Key Site Requirement (KSR), will only be granted in the following circumstances:

- the proposed use is compatible with the housing zoning and it meets a demonstrable local community need; and,
- the nature, size and scale of the alternative use is, and will remain, ancillary to the main use of the land for housing.

HOU3 Place Shaping and New Residential Development: Planning permission will be granted for new residential development where it will create a quality and sustainable residential environment which respects the existing site context and characteristics. An overall design concept must be submitted for all residential proposals and must demonstrate that a proposal draws upon the positive aspects of, and respects the local character, appearance and environmental quality of the surrounding area.

In residential areas of distinctive townscape character, including Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape or Village Character, an increased residential density will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances and space standards should be in accordance with published Departmental guidance. Proposals for residential development will be expected to conform to the following criteria:

- (a) the development respects the surrounding context, by creating or enhancing a local identity and distinctiveness that reinforces a sense of place, and is appropriate to the character and topography of the site in terms of layout, scale, proportions, massing and appearance of buildings, structures and landscaped and hard surfaced areas; and
- (b) archaeological, built heritage and landscape characteristics/features are identified and, where appropriate, protected and suitably integrated into the overall design and layout of the development.

HOU4 Main Elements of Design: Proposals for residential development will be expected to conform to 11 design criteria. Any proposal for residential development which fails to produce an appropriate quality of design will not be permitted, even on land identified for residential use in a development plan. The Department's publication 'Creating Places' (May 2000) should be taken into account in the application of these policies.

HOU5 Public Open Space in New Residential Development: Adequate provision must be made for open space that links with green and blue infrastructure, where possible, and provides pedestrian and cycle linkages to nearby public amenity spaces. Proposals for new residential development of 25 or

more units, or on sites of one hectare or more, must provide public open space as an integral part of the development, subject to 3 criteria.

HOU6 Design Concept Statements, Concept Master Plans and Comprehensive Planning: A Design Concept Statement, or where appropriate a Concept Master Plan, must accompany all planning applications for residential development. A Concept Master Plan will be required for planning applications involving:

- (a) 50 dwellings or more; or
- (b) the development, in part or full, of sites of 2 hectares or more zoned for housing in development plans; or
- (c) housing development on any other site of 2 hectares or more.

For partial development of a site zoned for housing the Concept Master Plan will be expected to demonstrate how the comprehensive planning of the entire zoned area is to be undertaken.

Any proposal for housing that would result in unsatisfactory piecemeal development will not be permitted, even on land identified for residential use in a development plan.

HOU7 Residential Extensions and Alterations: Planning permission will be granted for a proposal to extend or alter a residential property where all of the following criteria are met:

- (a) the scale, massing, design and external materials of the proposal are sympathetic with the built form and appearance of the existing property and will not detract from the appearance and character of the surrounding area;
- (b) the proposal does not unduly affect the privacy or amenity of neighbouring residents;
- (c) the proposal will not cause the unacceptable loss of, or damage to, trees or other landscape features which contribute significantly to local environmental quality; and
- (d) sufficient space remains within the curtilage of the property for recreational and domestic purposes including the parking and manoeuvring of vehicles.

The above policy applies to residential extensions and alterations for all dwellings throughout the Council area, and for extensions and/or alterations to other residential uses, such as, residential/nursing homes, hostels and holiday accommodation. The guidance set out in Annex A of this Plan Strategy will be taken into account when assessing proposals against the above criteria.

HOU8 Protecting Local Character, Environmental Quality and Residential Amenity In established residential areas

Planning permission will be granted for the redevelopment of existing buildings, or the infilling of vacant sites (including extended garden areas) to accommodate new housing, where all the criteria set out in Policies HOU3 and HOU4, and all the additional criteria set out below are met:

- (a) the proposed density is not significantly higher than that found in the established residential area;
- (b) the pattern of development is in keeping with the overall character and environmental quality of the established residential area; and
- (c) all dwelling units and apartments are built to a size not less than those set out in Annex A.

HOU9 The Conversion or Change of Use of Existing Buildings to Flats or Apartments: Planning permission will be granted for the conversion or change of use of existing buildings to flats or apartments (including those for multiple occupancy) where all the criteria set out in Policies HOU3 and HOU4, and all the additional criteria set out below are met:

- (a) there is no adverse effect on the local character, environmental quality or residential amenity of the surrounding area;
- (b) the proposal maintains or enhances the form, character and architectural features, design and setting of the existing building;
- (c) the original property is greater than 150 square metres gross internal floorspace;

- (d) all flats or apartments are self-contained (i.e. having separate bathroom, w.c. and kitchen available for use only by the occupiers); and
- (e) the development does not contain any flat or apartment, which is wholly in the rear of the property and without access to the public street.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives for HOU 1 - 9 as policy options consistent with regional policy - SPSS. Policies are focused on enabling and shaping.

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

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policies were identified as delivering positive outcomes across all of the social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for all of the economic objectives and the majority of the environmental objectives. Positive effects to enable sustainable economic growth, manage material assets sustainably and protect physical resources sustainably were based upon the policies cumulatively helping to maintain and encourage local economic development through the housing sector as well as encouraging a more efficient use of land - brownfield sites, as well as supporting energy and resource efficiency. Location is a key aspect of sustainable growth and the policies help to avoid the development of greenfield land and aim for development in the most appropriate locations. Minor positive effects were predicted for delivery of the environmental objectives to improve air quality, reduce causes of and adapt to climate change, protect water resources, protect natural resources, and maintain and enhance landscape character. Positives were based upon the policies encouraging walking and cycling as well as increased use of public transport from a design stage. Avoidance of incompatible land uses would also help avoid local air quality issues for residents. Energy and resource efficiency are also encouraged through design and consideration of renewables, as well as measures like SuDS and additional planting. Cumulatively the policies are able to help reduce emissions and pollution with positives for climate and the local environment including air, water, land and soil, as well as maintain and enhance local biodiversity levels. The integration of natural and landscape features is encouraged to ensure protection of local landscape character. Significant positive effects were also predicted for delivery of the environmental objectives to encourage active and sustainable travel, and to protect the historic environment. These positives were based upon the policies centralising where people live with greater opportunity to facilitate access to existing and future public transport options as well as walking and cycling. Parking for bikes is also referred to as a design consideration. Some of the policies refer to Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape Character, best form, density and other heritage features thus helping to retain a sense of place. Local heritage and character are referred to within the policies and should remain a consideration. Overall, integrating historic features into a development proposal is encouraged to help make a proposal 'fit'. Significant positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objectives to improve health and well-being, strengthen society and provide sustainable housing. These positive effects were based upon the policies centralising

people to where accessible healthcare and community facilities and services are most likely to be located. In addition, attractive living environments are aimed for by good design that includes aspects like open space as well as walking and cycling routes, which can all deliver positives for people's mental and physical health. The policies enable extensions and conversions that can accommodate specific healthcare needs and may help more people to stay within their communities and for family units to stay together. The approach of the policies to centralise people helps to create a sense of community and with through support for living over shops, sustaining community facilities is more likely. Delivery of lifetime homes and enabling properties to be adapted through extensions or alterations, provides the flexibility that some people may need to live in the same location and community, as well as enabling intergenerational contact. Social inclusion is more likely. Cumulatively the policies encourage good design that can enable social cohesion and a sense of belonging through shared space. Overall, the policies aim to deliver a range of house types that are more energy efficient and that support quality living through density bands and compatible adjacent land uses. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive effects of the policies were identified across most of the social sustainability objectives including to improve health and well-being, strengthening society and providing sustainable housing, as well as against two of the environmental objectives to encourage active and sustainable travel; and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Conservation Design guides such as 'Living Places' to be updated. Creating Places to be referred to. Developer Impact Assessments.

3.3.2. HOU10 Affordable Housing in Settlements

HOU10 Affordable Housing within Settlements: Where the need for Affordable Housing is identified through the Housing Needs Assessment, on sites of more than 0.5 hectares or comprising more than 5 residential units, proposals will only be permitted where provision is made for at least 20% of the units to be affordable.

All developments incorporating affordable housing should be designed to integrate with the overall scheme with no significant distinguishable design differences, in accordance with the operational policies contained within this Plan Strategy.

Where the identified need is not to be provided, detailed reasons for the non-provision will be required. In such circumstances off-site provision or appropriate financial contribution in lieu will need to be robustly justified and agreed through a Section 76 Planning Agreement. Such agreements must contribute to the objective of creating mixed and balanced communities.

By exception, proposals for affordable housing will be considered on lands not zoned for housing or land identified for other uses such as open space, where it can be demonstrated that the criteria identified in the policy have been met.

Development proposals will not be supported where lands have been artificially divided for the purposes of circumventing this policy requirement.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

This is a new policy with no reasonable alternative as the policy option is consistent with regional policy - SPPS. Policy is enabling and shaping. The NIHE as a statutory consultee for the LDP have

stated that zoning is not acceptable. 80% of sites are committed. Windfall sites to be considered. Option enables either approach.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy was identified to deliver no effects or negligible effects against all of the economic and environmental sustainability objectives. Positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objectives with minor positive effects identified to improve health and well-being. Positives were based on the policy helping to deliver more mixed and balanced communities where people from different backgrounds and across generations can live together. This approach should help deliver positive benefits for people by facilitating social cohesion and interaction. It may help develop people's sense of pride in where they live. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the strengthening society, and sustainable housing objectives. These positives were based upon the policy delivering more mixed and balanced communities by delivering affordable housing that could be lifetime homes, with positive benefits for individuals and families in need of affordable housing. The policy approach would likely increase social contact and interaction across social classes and generations which should help to reduce social inequalities. Overall, the mixed tenure approach and range of housing types could help to meet locally identified needs. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive effects were predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objectives to strengthen society and to deliver good quality, sustainable housing. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Section 76 agreements could help to deliver the policy. Future monitoring could be developed to help monitor effectiveness. Zoning or Key Site Requirements at the Local Policies Plan stage.

3.3.3. HOU11 Specialist Accommodation

HOU11 Specialist Accommodation: Planning permission will be granted for specialist residential accommodation, subject to the following criteria being met:

- (a) The homes and/or bed spaces to be provided meet an identified community need demonstrated through a statement of specialist housing need; and
- (b) The proposal is accessible to public transport, leisure and recreation facilities, community facilities and health services.

All proposals, including extensions/alterations/additions to existing residential facilities for sheltered housing, extra-care homes, nursing homes and residential care homes will be considered in accordance with this policy and any other relevant policies contained within this draft Plan Strategy.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

This is a new policy with no reasonable alternative as the policy option is consistent with regional policy - SPPS. Policy is enabling and shaping.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	++	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy was identified to have no effect or negligible effects against all the majority of the sustainability objectives. Minor positive effects were predicted for delivery of the environmental objective to encourage active and sustainable travel based on the policy directing development within settlements which would facilitate access to local public transport options and more likely to encourage walking and cycling and would benefit residents, employees and visitors - particularly benefitting those without access to a vehicle. Minor positive effects were also predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objective to deliver sustainable housing based upon the policy meeting the needs of a specific group of people and facilitating delivery of an increased amount and range of housing in response to different needs. The policy could also help to reduce isolation in respect of vulnerable groups. Significant positive effects were predicted against the social sustainability objectives to improve health and well-being, and to strengthen society. These positives were based upon the policy helping to improve and increase access to residential health care, which has been identified as a local need, with particular provision for the elderly and those with a disability. This approach should help to reduce inequalities in the local provision of and accessibility to healthcare facilities. The policy aims for integration of both the facilities and the people dependent upon them. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive effects are identified for the objectives to improve health and well-being and to strengthen society. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures were identified.

3.3.4. HOU12 Accommodation for the Travelling Community

HOU12 Accommodation for the Travelling Community: Planning permission will be granted for a suitable facility to meet a demonstrable need for Traveller specific accommodation where the criteria identified in the policy are met.

Where a need cannot readily be met within an existing settlement in the locality, applications in the countryside will be required to meet the sequential requirements of Policy COU5 - Affordable Housing.

Exceptionally a single family traveller transit site or serviced site may be permitted in the countryside. Such proposals will be assessed on their merits, having regard to the policy criteria and sequential test.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

There is no existing need but the policy helps futureproof the Council. There is no reasonable alternative as the policy approach is consistent with regional policy - SPPS. The policy enables and shapes.

	1.... improve health and well-being.		2.... strengthen society.		3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.		4.... enable access to high quality education.		5.... enable sustainable economic growth.		6.... manage material assets sustainably.		7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.		8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.		9.... improve air quality.		10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.		11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.		12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.		13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.		14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy was identified to have no effect or negligible effects against the majority of the economic and environmental sustainability objectives but positive outcomes were predicted against all of the social objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the objectives to improve health and well-being, strengthen society; provide good quality, sustainable housing; and enable access to high quality education. Positives were based upon the policy enabling improved access for people to local health care facilities and services. The approach could help bring a specific group of people nearer to other resources like open space and shared space, which can deliver positive benefits for people's physical and mental health and well-being. The approach of the policy enables inclusivity with positives for social cohesion and social interaction of a small proportion of the population. The approach would help to bring a specific group of people closer to local community, health and education facilities and services, reducing inequalities between different groups within society. The provision of good quality and affordable homes could be facilitated in response to locally identified needs for a specific group of people. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the economic objective to manage material assets sustainably based on the policy locating people within settlements where ready access to fit-for-purpose energy and waste management facilities and services are more feasible. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the environmental objective to manage water resources sustainably. The policy approach to provide fit-for-purpose sites within settlements would ensure adequate provision of drinking water and sewage facilities/services, as well as a much reduced risk to local water quality and aquatic ecosystems. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No likely significant positive effects of the policy were identified against any of the sustainability objectives. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures have been identified.

3.3.5 CF01 Community Facilities in Settlements and CF02 Protection of a local Community Facility

Policy CF01: This policy applies within settlements and permits such facilities under certain circumstances as listed in the policy. In the circumstances of an application on zoned land for residential use additional evidence will be required and this is again listed in the policy. For the

purpose of this policy a community facility is as defined in part D1 of the use class order (this is for clarity purposes).

Policy CF02: This policy is to protect local community facilities which are considered vital for a sense of community to exist. A change of use of such a facility will be granted under certain circumstances. The loss of the facility will not result in a deficit to the local community and where land identified for a community use can be used for an alternative use if the loss of that land is again not considered significant and result in a community deficit. This policy requires an evidence base to be provided before granting permission in such exceptional circumstances.

Preferred Option:

New Policy.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with regional policy of the SPSS. The 2 policies have been introduced to provide clarity in relation to this policy area.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	++	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

This option delivers positive influences on all of the social sustainability objectives. It has a minor positive impact on health and well-being and a significant positive impact on the objective to strengthen society through permitting community facilities to be developed where a need is identified and also protecting existing and future provision. The effect on the economic sustainability objectives is mainly negligible, however a minor positive effect is identified for enabling access to high quality education as community facilities may include uses that deliver early years or adult learning. As the focus for new development is in the existing settlements the effects on the environmental sustainability objectives are mainly negligible. Minor positive effects are identified on the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel through the policy promoting accessible locations. There are also minor positive effects for protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage as the policy would allow older buildings to be brought back into use and community uses could include cultural activities. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objective to strengthen society. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures are identified. The policies promote and protect the community infrastructure.

3.3.6 COU1 - Development in the Countryside, COU2 - New Dwellings in Existing Clusters, COU3 - Replacement Dwellings, COU 4 - The Conversion and Reuse of Buildings for residential use in the Countryside, COU6 - Personal and Domestic Circumstances, COU 7 - Dwellings for Non-Agricultural Business Enterprises, COU8 Infill/Ribbon Development, COU9 - Temporary Caravan, and COU10 - Dwellings on Farms.

There are a range of types of development which in principle are considered to be acceptable in the countryside and that will contribute to the aims of sustainable development.

The countryside is a unique resource in terms of its landscapes, cultural heritage, nature conservation and biodiversity. It is home to our agricultural industry and rural communities, providing a recreational and tourism asset. However, there has been an accelerating pressure for development throughout the countryside, in particular single new dwellings. It is recognised this development pressure must be balanced against the needs of rural communities, as such these operational policies are considered appropriate to facilitate sustainable development in the countryside. Policies COU 1 - COU 4 and COU 6 - COU 10 have been appraised together as a group as they all seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. the provision of sustainable single dwellings or short-term dwellings in the countryside for those who require them.

Policies COU 1 - COU 4 and COU 6 - COU 10 rely strongly on 'Building on Tradition'. These policies must also be taken in the context of policies COU 15 and COU 16 and this was a consideration in the appraisal. There is a presumption against building up against the settlement limit. These policies will only affect a small proportion of new development in the Council area and historically have represented a small number of applications per year, however they are considered to be important to the population at the local scale.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent more or less with regional policy. Additional clarification on PPS21. Tightening and tailoring of policy.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	-	0	0	-	+	+	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

These policies have a minor positive impact on the social sustainability objectives, as they allow rural communities to be sustained. They also have a positive influence on the economic sustainability objectives, with minor positive impacts on enabling sustainable economic growth. The policies promote efficient use of land, by encouraging reuse / renovation of existing buildings and requiring replacement dwellings to be retained within the existing curtilage. This, coupled with the protective measures and landscape enhancement measures brought through the accompanying policies COU 15 and COU 16 means that impacts on the environmental sustainability objectives are mainly negligible or minor positive and the positive effects may be strengthened over time. However, some minor negative impacts were identified - the policies are generally not compatible with encouraging the use of active and sustainable travel and some potential negative effects could occur from non-mains

sewage discharges. Adverse impacts on water resources may be reduced through coordination and consultation with other regulatory authorities. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Cross over with policies on non mains sewerage and utilities. Integration with Discharge Consents issued under the Water (NI) Order for non-mains waste water discharges. Routine use of the Biodiversity Checklist will help new development to comply with the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (WANE Act). The use of native or locally characteristic species in landscaping will also help to enhance biodiversity. Policy review mechanism will monitor whether policy is operating in line with strategic objectives.

3.3.7 COU 5 Affordable Housing (in the Countryside)

Planning permission may be granted by exception for a small group of no more than 14 dwellings adjacent to or near a small settlement or village to provide affordable housing to meet an identified need. Planning permission will only be granted where the application is made by a registered Housing Association.

Historically, these policies have represented a very small number of applications per year. However they are considered to be important to the population at the local scale as they address an identified need and therefore have been appraised in this context.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent more or less with regional policy. Additional clarification on PPS21. Tightening and tailoring of policy.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

Minor positive impacts are identified for all of the social sustainability objectives. The appraisal recognises that these impacts could be significant positive at the local scale, as the policy would be used to provide new homes in areas where an identified need has been established - but the scope and scale of new homes that are likely to be delivered through this specific policy is limited and the overall effect is minor. For the remainder of the sustainability objectives, some positive influences were identified however the impacts are negligible in all cases. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures are identified.

3.3.8 COU11 - Farm Diversification, COU12 - Agricultural and Forestry Development, COU13 - A Necessary Community Facility and COU14 - The conversion and re-use of buildings for non-residential use.

COU 11: This policy aims to promote sustainable forms of diversification on an active and established business (in line with COU10), including suitable tourism or agri-tourism schemes. Diversification proposals, therefore, should be of a scale and nature appropriate for the location. Large-scale proposals more suitable to the urban area or existing urban-based enterprises seeking relocation will not be acceptable.

COU 12: Where a proposal does not constitute permitted development and express permission is required, planning permission will only be granted for agricultural and forestry buildings/works subject to the criteria stated, as well as other planning criteria and policy requirements.

COU 13: Planning permission will be granted for a community facility at an existing cluster of development where it is demonstrated, with sufficient evidence, that the proposal is necessary to serve the local rural population.

COU 14: Planning permission will be granted to proposals for the sympathetic conversion, with adaptation if necessary, of a suitable locally important or vernacular building (such as former school houses, churches and older traditional barns and outbuildings) for a variety of alternative uses where this would secure its upkeep and retention. Such proposals will be required to be of a high design quality and meet all of the criteria specified under Policy COU4.

Policies COU 11 - COU 14 have been appraised together as a group as they all relate to non-residential development in the countryside. These policies must also be taken in the context of policies COU 15 and COU 16 and this was a consideration was a consideration in the appraisal.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Policies COU 11, COU 13 and COU 14 are consistent with regional policy - SPPS. Some minor word changes from SPPS and PPS21. Policy COU 13 is a new policy, consistent with the SPPS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	0	++	?	+	-	-	-	-	?	+	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policies have a minor positive impact on the majority of the social sustainability objectives, with the exception of housing where there is no effect. A significant positive impact is identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth and some positive influences are also noted for education and skills, as an indirect benefit from enabling economic development. The impact on material assets is uncertain, as it depends on the nature and location of development brought

forward by these policies. The impacts on the environmental sustainability objectives vary between minor positive and minor negative. Minor negative impacts are identified for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel, as the nature of rural development is such that it is often not possible to integrate with active / sustainable transport routes. Minor negatives are also identified for the objectives to improve air quality, to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change and to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably. Many of the effects identified on these objectives are indirect and therefore would not be directly caused by the new development, however the LDP can form a basis for requesting developer impact assessments which would help to identify potential impacts and include mitigation where necessary. The effect on natural resources is uncertain as some agricultural activities which produce ammonia have the potential to impact the natural environment negatively. It is difficult to predict how much of this type of development would occur and whether negative effects would be mitigated/avoided through the application of other policies. Minor positive impacts are identified in respect of maintaining landscape character and protecting and conserving the historic environment through criteria which are protective of existing landscape character and assets and which also promote the re-use of historic buildings. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Developer Impact Assessments will help to identify impacts and design effective mitigation for certain development types. Legislative changes on permitted development rights could also help to reduce potential for incremental losses.

3.3.9 COU15 - Integration and Design of Buildings in the Countryside and COU 16 - Rural Character and other Criteria

COU 15: In all circumstances proposals for development in the countryside (as specified in Policy COU1) must be in accordance with and sited and designed to integrate sympathetically with their surroundings and of an appropriate design.

COU 16: In all circumstances proposals for development in the countryside (as specified in Policy COU1) must be in accordance with and must not cause a detrimental change to, or further erode the rural character of an area.

Policies COU 15 - COU 16 have been appraised together as a group as they both seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. ensuring that development in the countryside does not result in an adverse impact on its surroundings. These policies will not change the quantum of development or its purpose, but aim to make new development better quality.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Policy COU 15 is consistent with regional policy - SPPS. Some minor word changes from SPPS and PPS21.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policies have a negligible impact on almost all of the sustainability objectives, although many positive influences are noted in terms of the wider benefits that sympathetic design and conservation of landscapes brings. Significant positive impacts are identified for the objective to maintain and enhance landscape character and minor positive impacts are also identified for the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage as these policies will help to ensure that new development is integrated with its surrounding landscape, including any historic assets. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to maintain and enhance landscape character. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Justification and amplification of policy COU 15 which encourages the use of native or locally characteristic species in landscaping.

3.4 A Thriving Place

3.4.1 ED1 Economic Development in Cities and Towns and ED2 Economic development in Villages and Small Settlements

Policy ED 1: The Local Development Plan will ensure that an ample supply of land is available for economic development purposes on suitable sites within larger settlements to meet the future demands of industrial, business, storage and distribution enterprises. The primary focus for expanding business employment will remain the City and town centre.

Policy ED 2: Within villages and small settlements, favourable consideration will be given to applications for industrial, business and storage or distribution uses on unzoned land included within the settlement limit, provided the proposal is of a scale, nature and design appropriate to the character of the settlement involved and it meets the normal planning criteria for this type of development.

Policies ED 1 and ED 2 have been appraised together as a group as they both relate to economic development in settlements. These policies must also be taken in the context of policy ED 9 (General Criteria for Economic Development (including Extensions)) and this was a consideration in the appraisal.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy with new clarity added. Presentational reorder.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	+	0	0	++	+	+	+	?	?	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policies have a limited impact on the social sustainability objectives, although minor positive impacts are identified for the objective to strengthen society and enabling job opportunities across the Council area could indirectly help to strengthen health and well-being. The policies have a positive impact on the economic sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. Minor positive impacts are identified in respect of managing material assets sustainably and there is a potential indirect benefit to education and skills provision. Minor positive impacts are identified for physical resources and encouraging active and sustainable travel as directing economic development towards settlements and centres makes more efficient use of land and enables employment to be located accessible to existing sustainable transport routes. The impacts on the air quality and climate change objectives are uncertain, as they are dependent on the nature and location of the economic development. Measures could be employed to reduce negative effects. While economic development has the potential to impact water resources, biodiversity and natural resources, landscape character and the historic environment adversely, the criteria included in ED 9 are strongly protective and will safeguard against negative impacts, leaving a negligible effect. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Developer Impact Assessments for major development. Transport Assessment and/ or Travel Plans for major development. Drainage Assessment to mitigate impacts of surface water runoff. Key site requirements to integrate / consider biodiversity in zoned sites. Encouraging SuDS in association with economic development may also help to support water resources, health and well-being and biodiversity objectives.

3.4.2 [ED3 Expansion of an established economic development use in the Countryside, ED4 Redevelopment of an Established Economic Development Use in the Countryside, ED5 Major Economic Development in the Countryside and ED6 Small Rural Projects](#)

ED3: Expansion of an established economic development use in the countryside will be permitted where the scale and nature of the proposal does not harm the rural character or appearance of the local area and there is only a proportionate increase in the site. Extensions or new buildings should respect the scale, design and materials of the original building(s) on the site and any historic or architectural interest the original property may have. Proposals for expansion will normally be expected to be accommodated through the reuse or extension of existing buildings on site. If demonstrated that this is not possible, new buildings are required to be in proportion to the existing building(s) and integrated into the overall development.

ED4: A proposal for the redevelopment of an established economic development use in the countryside for employment or business purposes (or a sui generis employment use) will be

permitted (subject to criteria being met). The complete or partial redevelopment of these sites may offer the opportunity for environmental improvement and the promotion of job creation without adding to their impact on the amenity of the countryside.

ED5: Any new Major or Regionally significant economic development (B2, B3) industrial proposal which demonstrates a significant contribution to the regional economy will be permitted in the countryside where it is demonstrated that the proposal due to its size or site specific requirements needs a countryside location.

ED6: A firm proposal to develop a small community enterprise centre or a small rural industrial enterprise on land outside a village or small settlement will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that criteria have been met. This policy allows a flexible approach ensuring adequate provision where firm proposals exist for such projects. It is important that firm proposals for small rural projects are not blocked due to a lack of suitable land within existing settlements.

These policies must also be taken in the context of policy ED 9 (General Criteria for Economic Development (including Extensions)) and this was a consideration in the appraisal.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy with new clarity added. Presentational reorder.

	1.... improve health and well-being.		2.... strengthen society.		3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.		4.... enable access to high quality education.		5.... enable sustainable economic growth.		6.... manage material assets sustainably.		7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.		8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.		9.... improve air quality.		10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.		11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.		12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.		13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.		14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	+	0		

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policies have a minor positive impact on the majority of the social sustainability objectives, although they have no effect on the provision of good quality sustainable housing. A minor positive impact is also identified on enabling sustainable economic growth, by enabling economic development of appropriate size and scale in the countryside. A development under ED5 would potentially generate regionally significant economic benefits. Applying constraints to economic development in the countryside will help to safeguard against negative impacts on material assets, physical resources, water resources, natural resources and the historic environment. Minor negative impacts are identified for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel as development in the countryside will typically not have a great degree of access to active / sustainable transport routes. Impacts on the objective relating to climate change are uncertain, as they will depend on the nature of the development. Positive impacts are identified for the objective to maintain and enhance landscape character as the policies include criteria requiring that new development adopts high quality design principles and is integrated with its surroundings. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Major projects may need EIA.

3.4.3 ED7 Retention of Zoned Land and Economic Development

The Council is keen to support the diversity of the local economy and the retention of existing sites for economic development is necessary to achieve this aim. Development that would result in the loss of land or buildings zoned for economic development use in a Local Development Plan (either existing areas or new allocations) to other uses will not be permitted, unless the zoned land has been substantially developed for alternative uses.

This policy must also be taken in the context of policy ED 9 (General Criteria for Economic Development (including Extensions)) and this was a consideration in the appraisal.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy with new clarity added. Presentational reorder.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	+	+	0	++	?	+	+	0	0	?	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a minor positive effect on the majority of the social sustainability objectives reflecting the fact that economic development can bring prosperity and when partnered with housing may help to drive regeneration in areas of deprivation. Significant positive impacts are identified in terms of enabling sustainable economic growth. The principle of directing the majority of economic development to zoned sites and settlements allows access to active and sustainable transport routes, which has a minor positive impact on this objective and helps to deliver efficient use of land, which has a minor positive impact on physical resources. This principle also helps to ensure development occurs in areas that are capable of accommodating it leading to neutral impacts on natural resources, landscape character and the historic environment. Uncertain effects are recorded for material assets, as impacts may vary depending on the location and nature of development, while impacts on water resources may be influenced by changes in surrounding land uses. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Carry out review of drainage capacities for zoned areas at LPP. Consideration to be given to introducing KSRs at LPP.

3.4.4 ED8 Development incompatible with Economic Development Uses and ED 9 General Criteria for Economic Development (including extensions)

Policy ED8: In some instances, new development could prejudice the continued existence of a particular economic development use. This arises where the particular processes being carried out have a tendency to cause adverse effects of some kind on adjacent land, even when all reasonable remedial measures have been taken by the operator. A proposal for development in the vicinity of an existing or approved economic development use that would be incompatible with this use, or that would prejudice its future operation, will be refused.

Policy ED9: When considering economic development proposals, the Council will seek to minimise adverse effects on the amenities of adjacent properties, particularly dwellings, and natural and built heritage resources.

Policies ED8 ED9 have been appraised together as a group as they both seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. avoiding conflict between new development and the existing environment (including existing development).

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy with new clarity added. Presentational reorder.

	1.... improve health and well-being.		2.... strengthen society.		3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.		4.... enable access to high quality education.		5.... enable sustainable economic growth.		6.... manage material assets sustainably.		7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.		8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.		9.... improve air quality.		10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.		11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.		12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.		13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.		14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	0	0	0	++	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0										

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policies are protective towards existing businesses and are protective towards people and the environment, with significant positive impacts identified for the objectives to improve health and well-being and to enable sustainable economic growth. The various criteria included in ED9 are protective of the environmental objectives and consequently a minor positive impact is identified for almost all of these, with the exception of protecting physical resources and using them sustainably and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objectives to improve health and well-being and to enable sustainable economic growth. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Masterplans / development frameworks for major economic development sites.

3.4.5 MD1 Environmental Protection, MD2 Visual Impact, MD3 Areas of Mineral Constraint and MD9 Restoration Proposals

The Council will balance the case for a particular mineral working proposal against the need to protect and conserve the environment, taking account of all relevant environmental, economic and other considerations. The council will be guided by the precautionary approach; where there is significant

risk of damage to the environment, its protection will be generally paramount, unless there is an overriding public interest.

Policy MD1: The council will support minerals development and proposals will be required to demonstrate the need for that mineral resource balanced against the need to protect and conserve the environment. Minerals development within or in close proximity to an area that has been designated or is proposed for designation to protect its landscape, scientific or natural heritage significance will not be granted permission (subject to certain exceptions).

Policy MD2: Where permission is granted, landscape quality should be protected by attaching conditions designed to avoid or mitigate any adverse visual impacts.

Policy MD3: There will be a general presumption against the granting of planning permission for the extraction and/or processing of minerals in areas of Mineral Constraint (subject to certain exceptions).

Policy MD8: Applications for the extraction of minerals must include satisfactory restoration proposals.

Policies MD1 to MD3 and MD8 have been appraised together as a group as they all seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. enabling sustainable minerals development in the Council area.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy and PSRNI (Green Book) - controls nuisances. Also agreed with statutory consultees.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	0	0	+	0	++	0	0	0	+	+	+	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has no impact on the social sustainability objectives. It has a minor positive impact on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth but no other perceptible effects on the economic sustainability objectives. By supporting minerals development, where appropriate, the policies deliver a significant positive impact on the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably. The policies serve to protect against negative impacts on the environmental sustainability objectives and no overall impacts are identified for the objectives to encourage active and sustainable travel, improve air quality, reduce causes of and adapt to climate change and protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. The proactive aspects of MD1 and MD3, coupled with the landscaping and restoration requirements delivered by MD2 and MD8 are considered to deliver minor positive impacts for water resources and natural resources and although impacts on landscape character are negligible in the short and medium term, minor positive effects may be seen over the long term. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Strengthening of the evidence base on supply and demand of minerals - alongside GSNI / Central Government. Evidence base would inform any designations brought forward at LPP. Measures to provide more certainty on restoration.

3.4.6 MD4 Valuable Minerals

Minerals may be discovered which are particularly valuable to the economy. Applications to exploit minerals, limited in occurrence and with some uncommon or valuable property, will be considered on their own merits.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy and PSRNI (Green Book) - controls nuisances. Also statutory consultees.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	?	0	0	0	++	0	+	0	?	?	?	?	?	?

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a negligible impact on the majority of the social sustainability objectives, though it is noted that valuable minerals extraction has the potential to result in some nuisance impacts. Should the policy be used, it could result in significant positive impacts on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth, but no impacts on the other economic sustainability objectives. It also has a positive impact on the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably as it would allow for future extraction of valuable minerals in circumstances where mineral extraction would otherwise not be permitted. Impacts on the other environmental sustainability objectives are generally uncertain as mineral extraction under this policy may result in exemption from requirements of MD1 and MD3 and the impacts on this objective would depend on the nature, type and scale of the minerals development. However, significant negative impacts would have to be mitigated and legislative requirements would still be applied. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Environmental Impact Assessment and other Developer Impact Assessments. Shadow Habitats Regulation Assessment. Buffer zones associated with HSENI designations such as Major Hazard Site or COMAH.

3.4.7 MD5 Unconventional Hydrocarbon Extraction

This policy will result in the refusal of applications for the exploitation of hydrocarbons which involve unconventional method of extraction. This policy will apply until sufficient and robust evidence on the unacceptable impacts of such extraction methods have been proven. This is a precautionary approach to such types of extraction.

Preferred Option:

New policy provision.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternative has been identified - Consistent with regional policy.

	1.... improve health and well-being	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	0	0	+	?	+	0	-	-	?	?	?	?

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

This policy option has negligible or no impact on the social sustainability objectives. For the economic sustainability objectives there is no impact identified for enabling access to high quality education and a minor positive impact identified for enabling sustainable economic growth. However, it was recognised in the appraisal that economic growth provided by hydrocarbon extraction may not be sustainable overall and may require the development of new infrastructure, leading to an uncertain impact on material assets. There is no effect identified for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel. The policy supports the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably, by enabling the extraction of a mineral resource, should it be found to be present in economically significant quantities. However, extraction would lead to minor negative impacts on the objectives to improve air quality and to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change. Uncertain impacts are recorded for the remaining environmental sustainability objectives as the effect would be dependent on the nature, type and scale of hydrocarbons development. Significant negative impacts are possible, however these may be able to be reduced to minor negative or avoided through mitigation. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Government direction in respect of demonstrating that a robust evidence base is available, should the regional policy position on unconventional hydrocarbon extraction change. Impact assessment such as Environmental Impact Assessment and Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment will identify potential impacts and put forward mitigation.

3.4.8 MD6 Mineral Safeguarding Areas

Surface development which would prejudice future exploitation of valuable mineral reserves will not be permitted.

It should be noted that the evidence base for identifying potential Mineral Safeguarding Areas is currently limited. Evidence held by minerals operators may assist, however data may be

commercially sensitive. Data is being sought at a regional level by the Department for the Economy to inform all Councils. It is currently unclear whether regional data to support identification of Mineral Safeguarding Areas will be available by the Local Policies Plan stage.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy and PSRNI (Green Book) - controls nuisances. Also statutory consultees.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	0	?	?	?	?	?	?

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

No perceptible impacts are identified on the social sustainability objectives. Should Mineral Safeguarding Zones be identified, they may have a significant positive impact on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth but no other impacts on the economic sustainability objectives are identified. The establishment of Mineral Safeguarding Zones would also have a significant positive impact on the objective to protect physical resources and uses sustainably as it would safeguard the future use of a proven resource. However, impacts on the majority of the other environmental sustainability objectives are uncertain, as there is currently no evidence base to identify what mineral resources may be safeguarded and where in the Council area these may occur. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to protect physical resources and use sustainably. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

In considering the identification of safeguarding areas the operational status of quarries would need to be taken into consideration. Studies by GSNI and evidence from minerals industry are required to inform the identification of proven mineral resource areas. MD6 protects against safety and amenity impacts to health and well-being.

3.4.9 MD7 Safety and Amenity and MD8 Traffic Implications

Policy MD7 Safety and Amenity: Minerals development likely to compromise safety or to significantly impair the amenity of people living or working in proximity to the site will not normally be acceptable.

Policy MD8 Traffic Implications: Where traffic from a minerals development proposal would prejudice the safety and convenience of road users, planning permission will be refused unless the access road and / or local road network can be satisfactorily improved.

Policies MD7 and MD8 have been appraised together as a group as they seek to achieve the same aim, health and safety.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy and PSRNI (Green Book) - controls nuisances. Also statutory consultees.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

This option has negligible or no impact on all but two of the sustainability objectives. A minor positive impact is identified for improving air quality and a significant positive impact is identified for the objective to improve health and well-being. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to improve health and well-being. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures have been identified.

3.5 A Vibrant Place

3.5.1 TC1 Town Centre, Retailing and Other Uses, TC2 Lisburn City Centre Primary Retail Core and Retail Frontage, TC3 Town Centres, TC4 District and Local Centres and TC5 Villages and Small Settlements

Policy TC1 Hierarchy of Centres: A Sequential Approach will be adopted for applications for retail and other city/town centre uses to be considered in the following order of preference:

- Primary Retail Core (where designated);
- City or Town Centres;
- District and Local Centres;
- Edge of Centre; and
- Out of Centre locations - only where sites are accessible by a choice of good public transport.

Policy TC2 Lisburn City Centre Primary Retail Core and Retail Frontage: The purpose of the Primary Retail Core and the retail frontage is to ensure the continuance of a compact, lively, and attractive shopping environment. Within the designated primary retail core of Lisburn City Centre, planning permission will be granted for development proposals to convert non-retail uses to retail uses. Non-retail development will be restricted within the primary retail core and retail frontage. Outside the designated primary retail core and retail frontage, and elsewhere within the city centre, retail development will be granted planning permission where it can be demonstrated that there is no suitable site for the proposed development within the primary retail core.

Policy TC3 Town Centres: The Plan seeks to strengthen the role of the three primary towns, Carryduff, Hillsborough and Moira, which serve a local population and offer a variety of services. Permission will

be granted for retail and other town centre uses, subject to the identified criteria being met. Beyond a designated town centre boundary proposals for town centre uses will only be granted planning permission in accordance with the sequential approach of Policy R1.

Policy TC4 District and Local Centres: In district and local centres, planning permission for retailing, business or community development proposals will only be granted if they meet the required criteria.

Policy TC5 Villages and Small Settlements: Growth of appropriate scale, nature and type should also be encouraged in villages and small settlements to retain their vitality and meet an identified local need. Proposals for retailing, business or community uses in villages and small settlements will be granted where they meet the identified criteria.

Policies TC1 - TC5 have been appraised together as a group as they all seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. the growth of the city, town centres, retailing and offices.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

These policies are new policies and no reasonable alternatives have been identified for them. The policies are consistent with regional policy including the RDS and SPSS

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	++	0	+	++	+	+	++	+	0	0	0	0	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

These policies have a positive relationship with the social sustainability objectives. A minor positive impact is identified for improving health and well-being and significant positive impact on strengthening society. There may be indirect positive effects on housing but not enough to raise a perceptible impact on this objective. Positive effects are also identified for all of the economic sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. The principle of directing retail development to identified centres is supportive of many of the environmental sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts identified for encouraging active and sustainable travel and minor positive for the physical resources, air quality and historic environment objectives. A negligible effect is identified on the climate change, water resources, natural resources and landscape objectives. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objectives to strengthen society, to enable sustainable economic growth and to encourage active and sustainable travel. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Historic Environment policies will help to reduce impacts on built heritage and archaeology. The definition of city and town centre boundaries at LPP should take into consideration identified historic

environment assets, such as Conservation Areas. New development should be encouraged to link with strategic greenway proposals. Masterplanning.

3.5.2 TC6 Petrol Filling Stations and Roadside Service Facilities

Petrol filling stations should be located within a defined settlement limit and must fulfil identified criteria on location, scale and need. Proposals in a countryside location would be considered in exceptional circumstances only and must also fulfil the identified criteria.

Preferred Option:

New policy provisions

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

This policy is a new policy and no reasonable alternatives have been identified.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	0	0	+	?	0	-	-	?	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

This policy has no impact on the social sustainability objectives, although some positive effects are noted in the comments. A minor positive impact is identified for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to manage material assets sustainably, however in the long term the impact on material assets becomes uncertain as the role of a service station may change over time in response to government policy on the sale of petrol and diesel cars. The relationship with vehicle use means that the policy has a minor negative impact on encouraging active and sustainable travel, improving air quality and reducing causes of and adapting to climate change. However, over time the relationship may become more uncertain in respect of climate change. The quantity and scale of new development that is likely to be enabled under this policy is considered to be very limited. Consequently it is unlikely to have any perceptible impacts on the objectives relating to physical resources, water resources, natural resources and biodiversity, landscape and the historic environment. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Proposals for development in the countryside would also be subject to COU15 and COU16, which would require landscape integration and enhancement measures in addition to mitigation.

3.6 An Attractive Place

3.6.1 TOU1 Tourism Development in Settlements

Permission will be granted for tourism development (including a tourist amenity or tourist accommodation) within a settlement; provided it is of a nature appropriate to the settlement, respects the site context and surrounding area in terms of scale, size & design and has regard to the specified provisions of the Local Development Plan.

Policy TOU1 must be taken in the context of policy TOU7 (General Criteria for Tourism Development) and this was a consideration in the appraisal.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	+	++	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a minor positive effect on the objectives for health and well-being and strengthening society, though it has no impact on the provision of good quality, sustainable housing. It has a positive impact on all of the economic sustainability objectives, with a significant positive impact on enabling sustainable economic growth. The policy may also help to deliver potential synergies with the education objective through apprenticeships and skills training. Directing development towards settlements (therefore reducing the potential for greenfield land use) and ensuring it respects its surroundings in terms of scale, size and design helps to support many of the environmental sustainability objectives. Measures included in the complementary policy TOU7 may help to deliver enhancements. Minor positive impacts are identified in respect of protecting physical resources, encouraging active and sustainable travel, protecting natural resources, maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Negligible impacts are recorded for the air quality, climate change and water resources objectives. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

TOU7 is the main measure by which positive effects are enhanced / negative impacts reduced.

3.6.2 TOU2 Proposals for Tourism Amenity in the Countryside, TOU3 Proposals for Tourist Accommodation in the Countryside, TOU4 Self-Catering Tourist Accommodation in the Countryside, TOU5 Holiday Parks in the Countryside and TOU6 Proposals for Major Tourism Development in the Countryside

Policy TOU2 Proposals for Tourism Amenity in the Countryside: Provision is made where the tourism activity and associated facilities require a rural location in terms of their functionality or site / area specific requirements. Planning permission will be granted for a tourist amenity in the countryside subject to meeting identified criteria.

Policy TOU3 Proposals for Tourist Accommodation in the Countryside: The retention and conversion of a vernacular building for tourist accommodation will be favourably considered where the environmental benefit of full or partial replacement will outweigh the retention and conversion of the building. Planning permission will be granted for Tourist Accommodation subject to criteria relevant to the development's circumstances being met.

Policy TOU4 Self-Catering Accommodation in the Countryside: Planning permission will be granted for self-catering units of tourist accommodation where identified circumstances have been met.

Policy TOU5 Holiday Parks in the Countryside: Planning Permission will be granted for a holiday park or an extension to an existing facility where it is demonstrated that the proposal will create a high quality and sustainable form of tourism development, to be evidenced by a layout and landscaping plan. The location, siting, size, design, layout and landscaping of the holiday park proposal must be based on an overall design concept that respects the surrounding landscape, rural character and site context.

TOU6 Proposals for Major Tourism Development in the Countryside: A firm proposal for a major tourism development in the countryside will be permitted, subject to it meeting all of the identified exceptional circumstances.

Policies TOU2 to TOU6 have been appraised together as a group as they all relate to tourism development in the countryside. These policies must also be taken in the context of policy TOU7 (General Criteria for Tourism Development) and this was a consideration in the appraisal. Self-catering in countryside may have cross-over with COU14. Baseline evidence suggests that the number of instances in which development would be brought forward via TOU6 will be limited over the lifetime of the plan and the appraisal has been taken in this context.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy and taking on board comments from Tourism Board NI. Making the policy more robust.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	+	++	0	+	?	0	0	0	?	+	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policies have a minor positive impact on the majority of the social sustainability objectives, reflecting the fact that sustainable tourism development can help to support rural communities and may include shared use facilities which deliver benefits. No impact is identified on the objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing. Significant positive impacts are identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth and the development of tourism may lead to indirect minor benefits on enabling access to high quality education through relationships with local colleges for skills provision, training and apprenticeships in tourism-linked courses. The principles of encouraging reuse/renovation of existing buildings and clustering with existing development are supportive of the objectives to protect physical resources and to maintain and enhance landscape character and minor positive impacts are delivered. Criteria on location, siting, size and design also deliver benefits on these objectives in addition to protecting conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage. There is some uncertainty on the impact in respect of encouraging active and sustainable travel and protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity. Measures included in the complementary policy TOU7 will help to deliver mitigation and enhancement where possible, but the impacts are more dependent on the location and nature of the development. No impacts are identified on material assets, air quality, climate change and water resources. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

TOU7 is the main measure by which positive effects are enhanced / negative impacts reduced. Proposals for development in the countryside would also be subject to COU15 and COU16.

3.6.3 TOU7 General Criteria for Tourism Development

Any proposal for a tourism use, in addition to the other policy provisions of this Statement, will be subject to general and design criteria which are intended to achieve satisfactory forms of tourism development and a high standard of design in a sustainable way.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

This policy has a limited impact on the social sustainability objectives, although a minor positive impact is noted for improving health and well-being. Impacts on the economic sustainability objectives are also limited with only the objective to enable sustainable economic growth receiving a score, which is minor positive. The policy has minor positive impacts on most of the environmental

sustainability objectives, with the exception of the objectives to improve air quality and to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change, on which it has a negligible effect though some positive effects are noted. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures have been identified.

3.6.4 TOU8 Safeguarding of Tourism Assets

Planning permission will not be granted for development that would in itself or in combination with existing development have an adverse impact on a tourism asset as to significantly compromise its tourism value.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	0	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	++	++

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy option has minor positive impact on the objectives to improve health and well-being and to strengthen society, though protecting attractive places, shared spaces and sense of place. No effects are identified for the provision of housing. The policy will have no effect on the economic sustainability objectives to enable access to high quality education and to manage material assets sustainably but a significant positive effect is identified for enabling sustainable economic growth. Safeguarding the long term viability of the asset creates the conditions for a more feasible and sustainable tourism industry and other linked supply chain industries. Tourism assets in the district are predominantly associated with natural land and landscapes or built heritage and therefore this policy will deliver positive effects for many of the environmental sustainability objectives. These effects are minor positive for physical resources and significant positive for natural resources, maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage. For the remaining environmental sustainability objectives many positive influences are identified but none sufficient to raise a perceptible effect. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth, to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity, to maintain and enhance landscape character and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures are identified.

3.6.5 OS1 Protection of Open Space

Open space is essential in any community for a variety of reasons which may include amenity value and the quality of the residential environment. It provides areas for nature conservation and biodiversity, buffer zones between conflicting land uses, helps reduce flood risk, and improves air quality. Ultimately open space and its use contributes to general health and well-being. Development that will result in the loss of existing open space or land zoned for the provision of open space will not be permitted, irrespective of its physical condition and appearance, however certain exceptions may be allowed.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy approach - SPPS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	++	+	0	+	0	+	++	+	+	+	++	+	++

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

This policy option has a significant positive effect on two out of the three social sustainability objectives, by protecting shared space that has a function for leisure and recreation activity, with indirect minor positive effects on the objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing. It has limited impact on the economic sustainability objectives, although a minor positive impact is identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. The protection of open space delivers positive impacts for all of the environmental sustainability objectives. This increases to significant positive in respect of the objectives for active and sustainable travel, natural resources and the historic environment which recognises that open space in the Council area has a strong relationship with the delivery of active travel routes and the larger areas of open space in Lisburn City and Castlereagh are associated with natural and heritage features. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objectives to improve health and well-being, to strengthen society, to encourage active and sustainable travel, to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Auditing / monitoring of open space. Review of sites at Local Policies Plan.

3.6.6 OS2 Intensive Sports Facilities, OS3 Noise-Generating Sports and Outdoor Recreational Activities, OS4 Facilities ancillary to Water Sports, OS5 Floodlighting of Sports and Outdoor Recreational Facilities and OS6 Outdoor Recreation in the Countryside

Policy OS2 Intensive Sports Facilities: The Council wishes to ensure that development of intensive sports facilities takes place in appropriate locations. Development of intensive sports facilities will only be permitted where these are located within settlements. An exception may be permitted in the case of the development of a sports stadium, provided that it meets identified criteria. All development of intensive sports facilities will be required to meet indicated standards.

Policy OS3 Noise-Generating Sports & Outdoor Recreational Activities: Proposals for the development of sport or outdoor recreational activities that generate high levels of noise will only be permitted subject to identified criteria being met to avoid conflict with neighbouring land uses.

Policy OS4 Facilities ancillary to Water Sports: Water-based sports in Northern Ireland are an increasingly popular activity and our rivers, reservoirs, lakes and canals are an important recreational resource. Development of facilities ancillary to water sports adjacent to inland lakes, reservoirs and waterways will be permitted where all the indicated criteria are met.

Policy OS5 Floodlighting of Sports and Outdoor Recreational Facilities: The Council will only permit the development of floodlighting associated with sports and outdoor recreational facilities where all identified criteria are met.

Policy OS6 Outdoor Recreation in the Countryside: Recreational activity can make a contribution to the rural economy via activity tourism, and create employment opportunities in various related sectors. Proposals for outdoor recreational use in the countryside will be permitted where all identified criteria are met.

Policies OS2 to OS6 have been appraised together as a group, as they all seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. delivering recreation facilities.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy approach - SPPS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.		2.... strengthen society.		3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.		4.... enable access to high quality education.		5.... enable sustainable economic growth.		6.... manage material assets sustainably.		7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.		8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.		9.... improve air quality.		10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.		11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.		12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.		13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.		14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	++	0	0	++	0	?	0	?	0	+	?	-	?													

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

These policy options have a significant positive effect on two out of the three social sustainability objectives, by enabling the delivery of new shared space that has a function for leisure and recreation activity. No impacts are identified on the social objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing. A significant positive impact is identified for the economic sustainability objective of enabling sustainable economic growth; some minor spin-off effects are also noted for the education objective but not enough to raise a perceptible impact. Negligible impact is also identified for material assets. The policy options have an uncertain impact on many of the sustainability objectives

as the effects are dependent on the nature and scale of development brought forward. Significant negative impacts are likely to be able to be avoided through design and mitigation, however the footprint of facilities developed through OS2 may be quite extensive. The protective nature of the policies means that minor positive effects are identified for water resources, however minor negative effects have been identified for the objective to maintain and enhance landscape character. Larger sports facilities may be difficult to integrate successfully into the landscape, especially if such development were to occur outside a settlement. The scale of the impact of new sports and outdoor recreational facilities may be reduced through location, design and other mitigation. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objectives to improve health and well-being, to strengthen society and to enable sustainable economic growth. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Consultation with HED. Mitigation in respect of landscaping / planting around new development.

3.7 A Green Place

3.7.1 HE1 The Preservation of Archaeological Remains of Regional Importance and their Settings, HE2 The Preservation of Archaeological Remains and of Local Importance and their Settings, HE3 Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation and HE4 Archaeological Mitigation

Policy HE1 The Preservation of Archaeological Remains of Regional Importance and their Settings: The Council will operate a presumption in favour of the physical preservation in situ of archaeological remains of regional importance and their settings. These comprise monuments in State Care, scheduled monuments and Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI) and includes sites not yet scheduled but which merit statutory protection. Development which would adversely affect such sites of regional importance or the integrity of their settings must only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

Policy HE2 The Preservation of Archaeological Remains of Local Importance and their Settings: Proposals which would adversely affect archaeological sites or monuments which are of local importance or their settings shall only be permitted where the Council considers the importance of the proposed development or other material considerations outweigh the value of the remains and/or their settings.

Policy HE3 Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation: Where the impact of a development proposal on important archaeological remains is unclear, or the relative importance of such remains is uncertain, the Council will require developers to provide further information in the form of an archaeological assessment or an archaeological evaluation. Where such information is requested but not made available the Council will refuse planning permission.

Policy HE4 Archaeological Mitigation: Where the Council is minded to grant planning permission for development which will affect sites known or likely to contain archaeological remains, the Council will impose planning conditions to ensure that appropriate measures are taken for the identification and mitigation of the archaeological impacts of the development. This will include, where appropriate, completion of a licensed excavation and recording examination and archiving of remains before development commences or the preservation of remains in situ.

Policies HE1 to HE4 have been appraised together as a group, as they all seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. the protection of archaeological remains.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy approach - SPPS. Consultation with HED has happened and there is a statutory basis for the policies. Council will consult with HED on all policies 1-9.

	1.... improve health and well-being.		2.... strengthen society.		3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.		4.... enable access to high quality education.		5.... enable sustainable economic growth.		6.... manage material assets sustainably.		7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.		8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.		9.... improve air quality.		10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.		11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.		12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.		13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.		14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++		

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

These policies have no identified impacts on almost all of the sustainability objectives. However, some influences are recognised in terms of the relationship the historic environment has with health and well-being, education and our wider environment. Minor positive impacts are identified for the objective maintain and enhance landscape character and significant positive impacts will be delivered through these policies on the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures have been identified.

3.7.2 HE5 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes of Special Historic Interest

Demesnes with their distinct boundary features make a valuable contribution to the quality and character of the local landscape, while those parks, gardens and demesnes that are open to the general public provide an important informal recreational resource and it is important that these valuable features of our built heritage are protected from development which would harm their historic character. The Council will not permit development which would lead to the loss of, or cause harm to, the overall character, principal components or setting of historic parks, gardens and demesnes of special historic interest. Where exceptionally planning permission is granted, this will be conditional on the recording of any features of interest which will be lost as a result of the development.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy approach - SPPS. Consultation with HED has happened and there is a statutory basis for the policies. Council will consult with HED on all policies 1-9.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	++

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a minor positive impact on the social sustainability objectives of improving health and well-being and strengthen society, but has no effect on the provision of housing. It has limited impact on the economic sustainability objectives, though a minor positive impact is identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth through indirect benefits in terms of events spaces, tourism and making the Council area a more attractive place. Positive impacts are identified for many of the environmental sustainability objectives, including significant positive impacts for the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. Negligible impacts are predicted on the sustainability objectives relating to active and sustainable travel, climate change and water resources. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures have been identified.

3.7.3 HE6 Change of Use and/or Extensions or Alterations to a Listed Building, HE7 Control of Advertisements on a Listed Building, HE8 Demolition or Partial Demolition of a Listed Building and HE9 Development affecting the Setting of a Listed Building

Policy HE6 Change of Use and/or extensions or alterations of a Listed Building: The Council accepts that new compatible uses should be found for historic buildings where they can no longer reasonably be expected to serve their original use and where the integrity of their built fabric is under threat. The Council will permit the change of use and/or extension or alteration of a listed building for a viable use that is compatible with the fabric, setting and character of the building, provided that the essential and special character, architectural or historic interest of the building and its setting remains intact and unimpaired.

Policy HE7 Control of Advertisements on a Listed Building: The Council will grant consent for advertisements or signs on a listed building where these are carefully designed and located to respect the architectural form and detailing of the building and which are not detrimental to public safety.

Policy HE8 Demolition or Partial Demolition of a Listed Building: There will be a presumption in favour of retaining listed buildings. Proposals for the total or partial demolition of listed building will not be permitted unless there are exceptional reasons why the building cannot be retained in its original or a reasonably modified form.

Policy HE9 Development affecting the Setting of a Listed Building (BH11): Proposals which would adversely affect the setting of a listed building will not be permitted. Development proposals will normally only be considered appropriate where all indicated criteria have been met.

Policies HE6 - HE9 have been appraised together as a group, as they all seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. the protection of Listed Buildings.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy approach - SPPS. Consultation with HED has happened and there is a statutory basis for the policies. Council will consult with HED on all policies 1-9.

	1... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4... enable access to high quality education.	5... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has minor positive impacts on the majority of the social sustainability objectives, with the exception of the provision of good quality housing, where the impact is negligible. Limited impacts are identified for two out of the three economic sustainability objectives, with the only perceptible impact a significant positive impact for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. This recognises the role that listed buildings have in creating an attractive Council area and the function that some of these attractive or interesting buildings can deliver as economic assets in the city, town centres and across the wider countryside. Negligible impacts are reported for the majority of the environmental sustainability objectives, but the policy delivers most benefit for the objectives to maintain and enhance landscape character where minor positive impacts are seen and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage where there is a significant positive impact. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures have been identified.

3.7.4 HE10 New Development in a Conservation Area or Area of Townscape Character/Area of Village Character, HE11 The Control of Advertisements in a Conservation Area or Area of Townscape Character/Area of Village Character and HE12 Demolition or Partial Demolition in a Conservation Area or Area of Townscape Character/Area of Village Character

Policy HE10 New Development in a Conservation Area/ATC/AVC: The Council will permit development proposals for new buildings, alterations, extensions and changes of use in, or which impact on the setting of, a Conservation Area / ATC / AVC where all the indicated criteria have been met.

Policy HE11 The Control of Advertisements in a Conservation Area/ATC/AVC: The Council will not grant consent for the display of advertisements in or close to a Conservation Area/ATC/AVC which

would adversely affect the character, appearance or setting of the area or which would be detrimental to public safety.

Policy HE12 Demolition or Partial Demolition in a Conservation Area/ATC/AVC: The Council will only consider the demolition of an unlisted building in a Conservation Area/ATC/AVC where the building makes no material contribution to the character or appearance of the area. Demolition would be subject to appropriate arrangements for redevelopment of the site and recording the building before its demolition.

Policies HE10 - HE12 have been appraised together as a group, as they all seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. the protection of Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape Character (or Areas of Village Character).

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy approach - SPPS. Consultation with HED has happened and there is a statutory basis for the policies.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	++

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policies have a minor positive impact on the majority of the social sustainability objectives, although there is no effect on the objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing. Limited impacts are identified for two out of the three economic sustainability objectives, with the only perceptible impact a significant positive impact for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. This recognises the role that Conservation Areas in particular play in our city and town centres. Negligible impacts are reported for the majority of the environmental sustainability objectives, but the policy delivers most benefit for the objectives to maintain and enhance landscape character where minor positive impacts are seen and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage where there is a significant positive impact. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures have been identified.

3.7.5 HE13 The Conversion and Reuse of Non-Listed Buildings

Planning permission will be granted to proposals for the sympathetic conversion, with adaptation if necessary, of a vernacular or suitable locally important building (such as former school houses, churches and older traditional barns and outbuildings) for a variety of alternative uses, where this

would secure its upkeep and retention. Such proposals will be required to be of a high design quality and to meet all of the indicated criteria.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy approach - SPPS. Consultation with HED has happened and there is a statutory basis for this policy.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has no impact on the social sustainability objectives. Minor positive impacts are identified on the economic sustainability objectives of enabling sustainable economic growth and managing material assets sustainably which the policy delivers on through reusing existing buildings and making the overall environment more attractive. It has a negligible impact on most of the environmental sustainability objectives with the exception of the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage where significant positive impacts are identified. The restoration and reuse of non-listed locally important buildings in settlements will have an indirect benefit on the objective to maintain and enhance landscape character leading to minor positive impacts. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures have been identified.

3.7.6 HE14 Enabling Development

Proposals involving enabling development relating to the re-use, restoration or refurbishment of significant places will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated by the applicant through the submission of a Statement of Justification to accompany an application for planning permission that all identified criteria have been met.

Historic indications are that this policy would only result in development in very exceptional cases. Over the lifetime of the plan it is anticipated that there will be very few examples where it is applied.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy approach - SPPS. Consultation with HED has happened and there is a statutory basis for this policy.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	?	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

This policy has limited impact on the social sustainability objectives, however the appraisal has identified some potential effects on the objective relating to housing. No impacts are identified for the economic sustainability objectives although some potential effects are possible for enabling sustainable economic growth. However, these are unlikely to be sufficient to raise a perceptible impact on this sustainability objective. Uncertain impacts are recorded for the objectives to protect physical resources and use sustainably, to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity and to maintain and enhance landscape character. This is due to the uncertainty over what location, nature and scale of development could be enabled through this policy. Development with an extensive footprint could have negative impacts, however there may be some opportunities to mitigate or avoid negative effects. A minor positive impact is identified for the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, as this policy will only be applied where significant long-term benefits which deliver public benefit will occur for the heritage asset. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Although this may cause policies relating to settlement limits vs countryside development to be set aside, it would still be subject to all other relevant policies.

3.7.7 [NH1 European and Ramsar Sites - International, NH2 Species Protected by Law, NH3 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance - National, NH4 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance - Local, NH5 Habitats, Species or Features of Natural Heritage Importance](#)

NH 1- Planning permission will only be granted for a development proposal that, either individually or in combination with existing and/or proposed plans or projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on:

- a European Site (Special Protection Area, proposed Special Protection Area, Special Areas of Conservation, candidate Special Areas of Conservation and Sites of Community Importance); or
- a listed or proposed Ramsar Site

NH 2- Planning permission will only be granted for a development proposal that is not likely to harm a European protected species.

NH 3 - Planning permission will only be granted for a development proposal that is not likely to have an adverse effect on the integrity, including the value of the site to the habitat network, or special interest of:

- an Area of Special Scientific Interest;
- a National Nature Reserve; or

- a Nature Reserve.

NH 4 - Planning permission will only be granted for a development proposal that is not likely to have a significant adverse impact on:

- a Local Nature Reserve; or
- a Wildlife Refuge.

A development proposal which could have a significant adverse impact on a site of local importance may only be permitted where the benefits of the proposed development outweigh the value of the site.

In such cases, appropriate mitigation and/or compensatory measures will be required.

NH 5 - Planning permission will only be granted for a development proposal which is not likely to result in the unacceptable adverse impact on, or damage to known:

- priority habitats;
- priority species;
- active peatland;
- ancient and long-established woodland;
- features of earth science conservation importance;
- features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild flora and fauna;
- rare or threatened native species;
- wetlands (includes river corridors); or
- other natural heritage features worthy of protection.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives were considered. The policies are consistent with regional policy and there is a statutory and legislative requirement for the policies - PPS2, the Habitats Regulations, the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act and its Biodiversity Duty on Councils.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	0	0	0	++	0	+	+	+	++	++	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policies are predicted to deliver positive outcomes for some of the social and economic sustainability objectives and the majority of environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for improving health and well-being and strengthening society based upon the policies providing accessible nature conservation sites and green and blue infrastructure that are likely to be shared spaces with benefits for people's physical and mental health and well-being. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for improving air quality, reducing the causes of climate change, protecting and managing water resources sustainably, and protecting the historic environment. These positive outcomes were based upon the policies protecting areas of land that can act as buffers to pollution whilst maintaining natural resilience to the effects of climate change whilst

protecting wetland habitat that can help to maintain local water quality and aquatic ecosystems. Likewise, the policies would be able to protect any historic/cultural features located within the sites. Significant positive outcomes were also identified for the objectives to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity, and maintain and enhance landscape character. Significant positives were based upon the holistic approach of the policies protecting designated sites and their buffers as well as other areas of green and blue infrastructure with priority habitats and/or species present. The holistic approach of the policies would also help to ensure that natural features and habitats likely to be indicative of the local fabric and character of an area are protected. Significant positive outcomes were also identified for delivery of the economic objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably. These outcomes were based upon the policies protecting areas of greenfield land as well as earth science features across both urban and rural areas. The approach of the policies should help to retain land and its soil as an important natural resource from inappropriate development. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive effects were identified for delivery of the protecting physical resources objective as well as the protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity objective, and maintaining and enhancing landscape character. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Biodiversity checklist. Cross reference with other relevant policy - UT1.

3.7.8 NH6 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Planning permission for new development within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will only be granted where it is of an appropriate design, size and scale for the locality and all the following criteria are met:

- a) the siting and scale of the proposal is sympathetic to the special character of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in general and of the particular locality; and
- b) it respects or conserves features (including buildings and other man-made features) of importance to the character, appearance or heritage of the landscape; and
- c) the proposal respects:
 - local architectural styles and patterns;
 - traditional boundary details, by retaining features such as hedges, walls, trees and gates; and
 - local materials, design and colour.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternative was considered. The policy is consistent with regional policy - SPPS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	?	+	++	++	++

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy is predicted to deliver positive outcomes across the social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives with significant positives recorded for several of these objectives. Minor positives were recorded for improving health and well-being, and strengthening society. These outcomes were based upon the policy retaining and protecting a natural resource or asset that contributes to people's physical health and mental well-being by providing people with an accessible shared space where people from different communities and across generations can take part in exercise, recreation and leisure. Minor positives were also predicted for the enabling access to high quality education objective because the policy helps to provide an open-air educational resource with multiple opportunities for environmental education initiatives as well as raising awareness amongst people about the area. Minor positives were also recorded for some of the economic objectives including enabling sustainable economic growth and protecting physical resources and using sustainably. Positives were based upon the policy providing a significant area of land as semi-natural land cover with both green and blue infrastructure present, which makes the area more attractive to invest in and to visit. The AONB is also an all year-round tourism asset, which strengthens its importance to the local economy. The policy helps to protect land and soil, which delivers positives for the proper functioning of the land as a natural resource. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the active and sustainable travel objective; and the protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably. Positives were based upon the policy retaining and protecting a significant area of green and blue infrastructure, with a full active travel route in place for walking, running and cycling. However, uncertain outcomes were predicted for delivery of the climate change objective based on the location of farmland in the area with grazing cattle. How much this outweighs the positives of the policy - carbon and water storage, flood risk, biodiversity conservation, and active travel, is slightly uncertain. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for several of the environmental objectives including delivery of the natural resources and enhancing biodiversity objective, maintaining and enhancing landscape character; and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Significant positive outcomes were based upon the policy protecting a significant area of land, which is mostly semi-natural land cover - green and blue infrastructure and helps to maintain local biodiversity levels. The policy facilitates landscape scale conservation and is able to provide an area of a high amenity value due to its landscape quality as well as preserve historical and cultural features located within the area. Any new buildings are expected to integrate with local setting by using local materials and locally characteristic designs. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive effects were identified for delivery of several of the environmental sustainability objectives including protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, maintaining and enhancing landscape character; and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural resources. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

AONB management plan. AoHSV, LCAs. Cross-over with other relevant policies.

3.8 A Connected Place

3.8.1 TRA1 Creating an Accessible Environment

The external layout of all development proposals will incorporate, where appropriate:

- facilities to aid accessibility e.g. level access to buildings, provision of dropped kerbs and tactile paving, etc., together with the removal of any unnecessary obstructions;
- convenient movement along pathways and an unhindered approach to buildings;
- priority pedestrian movement within and between land uses; and
- ease of access to reserved car parking, public transport facilities and taxi ranks.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternative has been identified - consistent with regional policy - SPPS and PPS3.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	++	+	+	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy was predicted to deliver positive outcomes for all of the social sustainability objectives, for the economic objective to enable sustainable economic growth, and for the environmental objective to deliver active and sustainable travel. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the social objectives for sustainable housing and access to high quality education objectives. Positives were based upon the policy addressing the specific needs of people through quality design of their living areas, including accessibility to their homes as well as local educational resources. Significant positive outcomes were also predicted for the remaining social sustainability objectives to improve health and well-being, and strengthening society. Significant positive outcomes were based upon the policy improving accessibility to healthcare facilities and services, as well as shared spaces for physical activity where social cohesion and inclusivity can help to reduce inequalities and benefit people both physically and mentally. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the sustainable economic growth objective based upon the policy improving accessibility, which should make the Council area a more attractive place to investors but also for people to live and work. Significant positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the active and sustainable travel objective. These significant positives were based upon the policy aiming to encourage people away from using the car to a more sustainable mode of transport such as public transport, cycling or walking. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive effects were identified for delivery of the improving health and well-being, strengthening society, and encouraging active and sustainable travel objectives. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures have been identified.

3.8.2 TRA2 Access to Public Roads and TRA3 Access to Protected Routes

TRA 2: Planning permission will only be granted for a development proposal involving direct access, or the intensification of the use of an existing access, onto a public road where:

- a) it will not prejudice road safety or significantly inconvenience the flow of traffic; and
- b) it does not conflict with Policy TRA 3 Access to Protected Routes.

TRA 3: The Council will restrict the number of new accesses and control the level of use of existing accesses onto Protected Routes.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives identified - Consistent with regional policy - SPPS and PPS3.

	1.... improve health and well-being.		2.... strengthen society.		3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.		4.... enable access to high quality education.		5.... enable sustainable economic growth.		6.... manage material assets sustainably.		7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.		8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.		9.... improve air quality.		10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.		11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.		12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.		13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.		14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policies were predicted to deliver negligible effects or to have no effect across most of the sustainability objectives although significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objective to improve health and well-being but a minor negative outcome was predicted against the environmental objective to improve air quality. Significant positive outcomes were predicted because the policies aim to improve road safety for all road users by tightening up on measures to reduce any risk of traffic accidents and risk to life. Measures could include enabling road users on to the road safely through specific design standards such as visibility splays. The negative outcomes predicted against the air quality objective were based upon the policies facilitating car use as well as into new areas. The approach of the policies is likely to increase local car numbers in specific areas which may create congestion. Although any impact on local air quality is likely to be temporary, there is uncertainty around the number of possible accesses and road users that may need to use them. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive effects were identified for delivery of the improving health and well-being objective. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Cross-over with other relevant policies.

3.8.3 TRA4 Protection for New Transport Schemes

The policy is protective in nature in that permission will not be granted that would prejudice the implementation of a transport scheme as identified in the local development plan.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	+	0	+	+	-	++	?	?	0	-	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

By facilitating the provision of new transport routes across the council and beyond, including routes for walking and cycling, this policy can enhance connectivity and has a minor positive effect in the medium and long term on all of the social sustainability objectives. Positive effects are also identified in the medium and long term for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to manage material assets sustainably. As the policy would protect routes for a range of different transport options, a mixture of impacts are identified for the environmental sustainability objectives. As walking and cycling routes are developed and linked into an overall integrated transport network the effects on the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel will strengthen from negligible over the short term to significant positive in the long term. The protected routes are largely in undeveloped sites and consequently the development of new transport infrastructure could result in the loss of greenfield land and biodiversity, leading to minor negative impacts for these objectives. Effects on improving air quality and reducing causes of and adapt to climate change are uncertain, as the policy includes routes for roads as well as active and sustainable transport modes and it is unclear where the balance will lie. The impacts on the other environmental sustainability objectives are anticipated to be negligible. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel in the long term timescale. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures are identified.

3.8.4 TRA5 Strategic Greenways and Disused Transport Routes

Planning permission will not be granted for development that would prejudice primary and secondary Greenways or the future re-use of a disused transport route identified in the Local Development Plan for transport or recreational purposes.

Preferred Option:

New Policy Provision.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternative identified. This is a new policy.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy was predicted to deliver minor positive outcomes for some of the social sustainability objectives and the majority of the environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive outcomes in the long term were predicted for improving health and well-being, and for strengthening society. These positives were based upon the policy facilitating the provision of land for future greenways where people would be able to benefit both physically and mentally from access to a shared linear space to walk, cycle or run for recreation and leisure, or commuting purposes. People from different communities would have access to the greenways and be able to socially interact with other people and develop connections to other places. Negligible or no effects were predicted for the economic objectives but minor positive effects were predicted for the majority of the environmental objectives including air quality, climate change, water resources, natural resources, landscape character and the historic environment. These positive outcomes were based upon the policy aiming to provide land that can help to reduce car use by facilitating active travel with likely positive effects for local air quality. The retention of land for greenways adds to green and blue infrastructure and helps to maintain and enhance local biodiversity levels but also natural resilience to the effects of climate change. The land to be preserved for the potential greenways also helps to retain natural features that make up the local fabric and context of the local landscape, as well as historical and cultural features from our industrial and transport heritage. This approach increases accessibility for people to the historic environment. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive effects were identified for delivery of the environmental sustainability objective to encourage active and sustainable travel. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Best practice consultation with NIEA and compliance to wildlife legislation. Crossover with other relevant policies. DfI route plans. Proposals to be considered at Local Policies Plan stage.

3.8.5 TRA6 Transport Assessment

In order to evaluate the transport implications of a development proposal the Council will, where appropriate, require developers to submit a Transport Assessment.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternative has been identified - consistent with regional policy - SPPS and PPS3.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	++	+	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy was identified to have negligible or no effects on all of the social sustainability objectives and the majority of the remaining sustainability objectives. Positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of one of the economic sustainability objectives and several of the environmental objectives. Minor positive effects were identified for the enabling sustainable economic growth. These outcomes were based upon the policy enabling the majority of people accessibility to local services and facilities, as well as places of employment, with potential for more business in the area thus creating more jobs. Minor positive effects were also predicted for delivery of the climate change objective based upon the policy facilitating and encouraging other modes of transport to the car with fewer or zero greenhouse gas emissions. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the active and sustainable travel objective and improving air quality. These outcomes were based upon the policy focusing fairly on all modes of transport including public and active travel so that reliance on the car can be avoided/reduced. Active travel and more sustainable travel options have fewer to zero air pollutants. The policy approach should be able to help reduce the number of cars on the road as well as traffic congestion and so help to reduce or avoid any potential local air quality issues. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive effects were identified for delivery of the environmental sustainability objectives to encourage active and sustainable travel, and to improve air quality. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Cross over with other relevant policy. Drainage Assessments. Review of Transport Assessment guidance and the inclusion of electric charging points.

3.8.6 [TRA7 Car Parking and Servicing Arrangements in New Developments](#), [TRA9 Park and Ride/Park and Share Car Parks](#), [TRA10 Provision of Public and Private Car Parks](#), and [TRA11 Temporary Car Parks](#)

TRA 7 - Development proposals should provide adequate provision for car parking and appropriate servicing arrangements....

TRA 9 - Planning permission will be granted for new, or an extension to an existing, Park and Ride/Park and Share car parks, where they meet an identified need provided by Central Government through the Local Transport.

TRA 10 - Planning permission will be granted for public or private car parks where it is demonstrated that:

- they meet an identified need by reference to the Council's overall car parking strategy;
- they do not significantly contribute to an increase in congestion;
- within areas of parking restraint they are only used for short-stay parking;
- they are compatible with adjoining land uses;

- they respect local character and will not have an adverse effect on visual amenity; and
- they are secure and provide direct and safe access for pedestrians and cyclists.

TRA 11 - Planning permission will not be granted for the development of a temporary car park unless it is demonstrated that:

- it is submitted in conjunction with programmed proposals to develop / redevelop the site in question; or,
- It complies with Policy TRA 10 and the developer can show that a need exists which cannot be met in the short term by existing public or the private operators;

Planning permission, if granted, will be subject to a time-limited condition, typically no more than for a period of 1 year.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Policies TRA9 and TRA10 are new policy, policies TRA7 and TRA11 are consistent with Regional policy direction).

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	0	0	+	0	-	+	0	0	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policies were identified to have negligible effects against all of the social sustainability objectives and the majority of the environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted against the economic sustainability objective to enable sustainable economic growth. These positives were based upon the policies facilitating adequate parking, which is an important aspect of business for everyday functions as well as for staff and customers. Park and rides can also help to move people efficiently from place to place without reliance on the car for full journeys. The policies support local vibrancy across the Council area and help to sustain footfall in retail areas. Minor positive outcomes were also identified for delivery of the environmental objective to encourage active and sustainable travel. Positives were based upon the policies encouraging alternative modes of transport to the car for different journeys as well as the need for car parking to be identified. However, adverse effects of the policies on the economic objective for physical resources were identified. Minor negative outcomes were predicted based upon potential impacts on soil and the likely loss of greenfield land particularly due to development of park and ride sites that tend to be located on the edge of settlements. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No likely significant positive effects of the policies were identified across any of the sustainability objectives. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Cross over with other relevant policy - Natural Heritage policies and Flooding (FLD3). Drainage Assessments. Transport Assessment or Travel Plan.

3.8.7 TRA8 Active Travel Networks and Infrastructure Provision

Planning permission will only be granted for proposals where public transport, walking and cycling provision forms part of the development proposal.

Preferred Option:

New Policy Provision.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternative has been identified. This is a new policy.

	1.... improve health and well-being.		2.... strengthen society.		3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.		4.... enable access to high quality education.		5.... enable sustainable economic growth.		6.... manage material assets sustainably.		7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.		8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.		9.... improve air quality.		10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.		11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.		12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.		13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.		14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy was identified to have negligible effects across several of the sustainability objectives but significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objectives to improve health and well-being, and to strengthen society. These positives were based upon the primary motivation of the policy being to physically connect people and places using active travel routes that can benefit people both physically and mentally. The active travel routes will enable access to a shared space with positives for people's general well-being through social interaction and community connection. Significant positive effects against the active and sustainable travel and air quality objectives were also predicted and in the longer term against the climate change objective. Significant positive effects were based upon the policy enabling people to opt for other modes of transport to the car. People should be able to opt to walk or cycle to a destination, or to a public transport hub for an onward journey. Any transition from the car to active travel will help reduce air pollutants from traffic and could help to improve local air quality where routes align with frequently used commuting journeys. The active travel routes help to futureproof the Council toward a low carbon future and present an opportunity to retain semi-natural land that can help to maintain natural resilience within the local environment to help combat the effects of climate change. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive effects of the policy were identified for delivery of the social sustainability objectives to improve health and well-being, to strengthen society, and for the environmental sustainability objectives to encourage active and sustainable travel, improve air quality and, in the long term, to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Crossover with other relevant policies - landscaping, Natural Heritage.

3.8.8 RE1 Renewable Energy Development

The generation of energy from renewable resources will be permitted provided the proposal, and any associated buildings and infrastructure, will not result in an unacceptable adverse impact on:

(a) public safety, human health, or residential amenity;

- (b) visual amenity and landscape character;
- (c) biodiversity, nature conservation or built heritage interests;
- (d) local natural resources, such as air quality or water quality; and
- (e) public access to the countryside.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No - Consistent with regional policy - SPPS & PPS18.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	0	0	+	++	?	0	0	++	0	+	-	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy was identified to have negligible or no effects on all of the social sustainability objectives and several of the environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the enabling sustainable economic growth objective and significant positive effects against the managing material assets sustainably objective. Positive outcomes were based upon the policy acting as a stimulus for the uptake of a variety of renewables, thus encouraging and supporting all businesses linked to the delivery and maintenance of renewables. The policy supports the delivery of cleaner energy from a variety of renewables into the energy sector and may facilitate a reduction of waste to landfill. There is also the potential for renewable energy to be used much closer to its source, which is a more efficient use of energy. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the environmental objective for natural resources and biodiversity, based upon the policy enabling protection of local biodiversity features including field boundaries and watercourses as well as enhancement of connective green and blue infrastructure. Significant positive effects were predicted for delivery of the climate change objective because the policy facilitates and supports the delivery of a variety of renewables, which are able to help reduce energy consumption from conventional sources thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The policy should help to futureproof the Council area toward a lower carbon future. Some adverse and uncertain outcomes were predicted of the policy and delivery of the landscape character objective and the physical resources objective. Negative outcomes were based upon the potential for some renewables and associated infrastructure to be visually intrusive whilst uncertain outcomes were based upon the potential for varying amounts of land take. Much depends on the type and scale of renewable project and its compatibility with other land uses. Semi-natural land cover can be to a certain extent retained and post-decommissioning, sites can be restored although this can be to varying degrees. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive effects of the policy were identified for delivery of the economic sustainability objective to enable sustainable economic growth and the environmental sustainability objective to reduce the causes of and adapt to climate change. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Flicker assessments. Impact assessments - odour. Environmental Health Organisation legislation. Habitat/Species Management Plans on renewable sites. Planning conditions for restoration of sites and distances from watercourses. Consents for any discharges and use of digestate - IPPC. Landscape Character Assessments. Crossover with other relevant policies.

3.8.9 RE2 Integrated Renewable Energy

Planning permission will be granted for a development proposal which integrates renewable energy technology in its layout, siting and design, where it meets the provisions of Policy RE1 and provided the technology is appropriate to the location in terms of any visual or amenity impact it may have.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternative has been identified - Consistent with regional policy - SPSS & PPS18.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy was identified to have no effects or negligible effects against several of the social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive effects were predicted for one of the social objectives to provide good quality, sustainable housing. Positive effects were based upon the policy helping to deliver low carbon homes and facilitating lifestyles to have less of an impact on the environment. Minor positive effects were also predicted for delivery of the economic sustainability objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to manage material assets sustainably. These positives were based upon the policy acting as a potential stimulus for the uptake of renewables thus supporting the industry but also enabling its integration at an efficient source to user level. Minor positive effects were also predicted for delivery of the environmental objective to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change. Positives were based upon the policy facilitating the delivery of renewables, which when operationally, emit no greenhouse gas emissions. The policy helps to futureproof buildings and homes toward lower carbon living standards by reducing energy consumption from fossil fuel sources. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No likely significant positive effects of the policy were identified across any of the sustainability objectives. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures have been identified.

3.8.10 TEL1 Telecommunications Development

Planning permission will be granted for telecommunications development and any necessary enabling works that will not result in unacceptable damage to visual amenity or harm to environmentally sensitive features or locations. Developers should demonstrate that telecommunications proposals,

having regard to technical and operational constraints, have been sited and designed to minimise visual and environmental impact.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives have been identified - consistent with regional policy - SPPS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy was identified to have negligible or no effects against the majority of the social and all of the environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive effects were predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objective to enable access to high quality education based upon the policy facilitating delivery of a telecommunications network, which should enable people from various backgrounds and communities to participate in further or higher education, as well as general professional development. Minor positive effects were also predicted for two of the economic sustainability objectives including enabling sustainable economic growth and managing material assets sustainably. Positive effects were based upon the policy facilitating telecommunications across urban and rural areas, which acts as the backbone for local businesses and economic ventures. Digital connectivity across the Council area through an effective telecommunications network is key to maximising local economic benefits. The policy facilitates the delivery of a fit-for-purpose telecommunications network, which is an essential aspect of local infrastructure but also part of a wider regional network. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No likely significant positive effects of the policy were identified across any of the sustainability objectives. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures were identified.

3.8.11 UT1 Utilities

The provision of utility services, such as water, sewage, electricity and gas to new development proposals should be laid underground.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternative has been identified - based on previous policy from the Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy was identified to have negligible or no effects against the majority of all of the social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive effects were predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objective to improve health and well-being. Positives were based upon the policy enabling delivery of adequate and appropriate facilities such as water, sewage, electric and gas that are necessary for our everyday quality of life. The delivery of these facilities is a public health requirement. Minor positive effects were also predicted for delivery of the economic sustainability objective to manage material assets sustainably. Positive effects were based upon the policy supporting the future maintenance and possible expansion of existing infrastructure, which is often located underground. Minor positive effects were also predicted for delivery of the environmental sustainability objective to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably. Positive effects were based on the policy helping to ensure efficient distribution of potable drinking water and helping to enable a more efficient use of water as a natural resource. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No likely significant positive effects of the policy were identified across any of the sustainability objectives. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures have been identified.

3.8.12 WM1 Waste Management Facilities, WM3 Waste Disposal and WM5 Development in the Vicinity of Waste Management Facilities or Waste Water Treatment Works

WM1 - Proposals for waste management facilities will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated there is additional need for the facility and it is located at:

- an existing or former waste management facility
- an existing or worked out hard quarry
- an industrial area appropriate to the development proposed; in the case of civic amenity sites it is conveniently located in terms of access to service a settlement
- previously developed, derelict or contaminated land and which makes use of existing or redundant buildings and is grouped with those buildings
- at a site in the countryside where it involves the reuse of existing buildings or is grouped with those buildings and where there is no permanent loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land.

WM3 - Development of landfill or land raising facilities for the disposal of waste will be permitted where:

- a need for the facility is established through the WMS and Council's relevant WMP
- the proposal complies with the requirements of Policy WM1.

WM5 - Development proposals in the vicinity of existing or approved waste management facilities and wastewater treatment works (WwTWs) will only be permitted where all the following criteria are met:

- a) it will not prejudice or unduly restrict activities permitted to be carried out within the waste management facility
- b) it will not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts in terms of people, transportation systems or the environment.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternative has been identified - Consistent with regional policy.

	1.... improve health and well-being.		2.... strengthen society.		3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.		4.... enable access to high quality education.		5.... enable sustainable economic growth.		6.... manage material assets sustainably.		7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.		8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.		9.... improve air quality.		10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.		11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.		12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.		13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.		14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	0	0	0	+	++	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policies were identified to have positive outcomes against the majority of the environmental objectives, all of the economic objectives and one of the social sustainability objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted to improve health and well-being based upon the policies ensuring that different waste streams can be removed from public areas and where people live, thus delivering an essential public health service by preventing nuisance impacts. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the economic objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and protect physical resources. Positives were based upon the policies acting as a stimulus for waste management technologies, processes and facilities. Waste is a commodity and the policies can help to maintain it as an income generating resource - a circular economy. There are multiple jobs linked to the waste management sector and future opportunities linked to the development of recycling facilities and research. The policies also aim to reuse derelict land for waste management facilities, which is a more efficient use of land than developing greenfield sites. The promotion of the waste management hierarchy promotes a more sustainable treatment and use of waste, which should help reduce the risk of land/soil pollution. Significant positive outcomes were identified for delivery of the economic objective to manage material assets sustainably. Positive effects were predicted based upon the policies enabling appropriate sustainable waste management and disposal of waste. Recycling and composting of waste is facilitated and the reuse of resources is encouraged and enabled at the domestic level. Cumulatively these policies should help to reduce household waste production and help the Council meet future waste management targets. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the environmental objectives for climate change, water resources, natural resources, landscape character and the historic environment. These positives were based on the policies promoting the waste management hierarchy which helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, avoids risk of pollution to water and land, and any potential impacts on local biodiversity, landscape character or historic environment. The policies direct development toward existing facilities, or new facilities to brownfield sites and the proposed scale of sites, restoration and aftercare, must be considered in the context of local environmental considerations such as landscape and the historic environment. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive effects were identified for the economic sustainability objective for managing material assets sustainably. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Reinstatement schemes - restoration and aftercare. Environmental Impact Assessments. Site specific requirements.

3.8.13 WM2 Treatment of Waste Water

WM2 - Development proposals to provide mains sewage Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTWs) will be permitted where it is demonstrated to the Council there is a need for new or extended capacity requirements and the new facilities comply with the requirements of Policy WM1. Development relying on non mains sewage treatment will only be permitted where it is demonstrated to the Council and its statutory consultees that there is sufficient capacity to discharge effluent to a watercourse and that this will not create or add to a pollution problem.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternative has been identified - this is a new policy.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	++	+	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy was identified to have no effect or negligible effects against several of the social and environmental sustainability objectives but positive effects against all of the economic objectives. Minor positive effects were also predicted for delivery of the social objective to improve health and well-being based on the policy enabling the treatment of wastewater, with positive benefits for public health. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for all of the economic objectives - to enable sustainable economic growth, and to manage material assets and physical resources sustainably. Positives were based on the policies enabling housing and businesses to be adequately serviced with appropriate provision of facilities and upgrading feasible, which could help sustain a variety of economic ventures to develop and grow. The policy approach helps to protect the quality of soil and land by ensuring the effective treatment of wastewater. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the environmental objective to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity based on the policy aiming to protect local water quality - both groundwater and surface water, with positives for the ecological quality of water and local biodiversity levels. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the environmental objective to protect and manage water resources sustainably based on the policy aiming to protect local water quality - both groundwater and surface water, by ensuring adequate and appropriate facilities are considered and provided that will reduce risks to local waterways and waterbodies at all times. The policy enables upgrading of facilities which

should help to futureproof the Council area and enable integration of new technologies. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive effects were identified for the environmental sustainability objective to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures were identified.

3.8.14 WM4 Land Improvement

WM4 - The disposal of inert waste by its deposition on land will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that it will result in land improvement and the following criteria are met:

- a) it is demonstrated that there is no alternative to deposition of the type of inert waste and that it cannot be reused or recycled
- b) it is demonstrated the type of inert waste to be deposited is exempt under the Waste Management Licensing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (as amended)
- c) it will not result in an unacceptable adverse environmental impact
- d) only the minimum quantity of fill necessary to achieve the demonstrated land improvement shall be deposited
- e) measures are included to demonstrate appropriate restoration and aftercare of sites that will enhance bio-diversity.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternative has been identified - Consistent with regional policy.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	0	0	0	+	?	0	0	?	?	?	0	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy is predicted to deliver no effects or negligible effects across all of the social sustainability objectives, one of the economic objectives and a few of the environmental objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the economic objective to manage material assets sustainably. Positives were based upon the policy enabling reuse of inert waste, which may otherwise go to landfill and promotes the waste management hierarchy - reusing material, which cannot be more efficiently reused or recycled. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the historic environment objective based on the policy referring to the historic environment and requesting no unacceptable impacts. Uncertain outcomes were identified against the economic objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably, as well as against some of the

environmental objectives including the climate change, water resources and natural resources objectives. The level of uncertainty against the physical resources was based on the likely reduction of semi-natural land with the risk of impacts on soil quality. Uncertainty was also associated against the climate change, water and natural resources objectives based on the policy enabling the likely loss of wetland habitats that are important for storing water and carbon. Although the policy supports only inert material for land improvement, potential risks to water quality and aquatic ecology should remain a consideration. Any improvement is likely to replace semi-natural land cover with a higher biodiversity value. Very often, the land to be improved is wet or marshy ground that can support priority species and may itself be a priority habitat. However, the uncertain outcomes are dependent on the location, scale and nature of the land improvement. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No likely significant effects of the policy were identified against any of the sustainability objectives. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Cross over to other flooding policies to help reduce potential surface flooding issues from land improvement. Cross over to other policies including general and landscape. Consent from NIEA. Compensatory measures.

3.8.15 FLD1 Development in Fluvial (River) Flood Plains, FLD2 Protection of Flood Defence and Drainage Infrastructure, FLD3 Development and Surface Water (Pluvial) Flood Risk Outside Flood Plains and FLD4 Artificial Modification of Watercourses

FLD 1 - New development will not be permitted within the 1 in 100 year fluvial flood plain unless the applicant can demonstrate that the proposal constitutes an exception to the policy...

FLD2 - Development will not be permitted that impedes the operational effectiveness of flood defence and drainage infrastructure or hinder access for maintenance.

FLD 3 - A Drainage Assessment (DA) will be required for development proposals that exceed any of the following thresholds.

FLD 4 - Artificial modification of a watercourse, including culverting or canalisation, will only be permitted in the following exceptional circumstances.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternative has been identified - Consistent with regional policy.

	1.... improve health and well-being.		2.... strengthen society.		3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.		4.... enable access to high quality education.		5.... enable sustainable economic growth.		6.... manage material assets sustainably.		7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.		8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.		9.... improve air quality.		10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.		11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.		12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.		13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.		14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	++	++	++	+	+													

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy was identified to deliver positive outcomes against half of the social and economic sustainability objectives and most of the environmental objectives. Minor positive effects were predicted for the social sustainability objective to provide sustainable housing based upon the policies helping to define appropriate locations for fit-for-purpose housing. Updated flood maps have removed previously viable land from use for housing which will ensure delivery of sustainable housing. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the improving health and well-being objective because the overall aim of the policies is to ensure public safety and public health. Avoiding building in flood risk areas delivers positives for people who would otherwise be at risk if located there. This approach helps to ensure immediate safety to people as well as protection of property and supports the delivery of efficient emergency services. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the economic objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to protect physical resources. Positive effects were based upon the policies ensuring businesses would be located in sustainable locations where the risk of flooding, damage to property and danger to life will be avoided. The land to be protected by the policies is most likely to be wetland/floodplain and the protection should help avoid land/soil erosion and help to retain land that can act as a buffer and continue to function as floodplain. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the environmental objectives to maintain landscape character and to protect the historic environment. Positive effects were based on the policies retaining the natural character of watercourses and wetlands as intrinsic features of the local landscape without unnecessary development or alterations. If historic buildings/features are located in flood risk areas, they can be used for compatible uses and drainage assessments can be requested to help protect local historic/cultural features that may be present and vulnerable to changing water levels. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the environmental objectives for climate change, water resources and natural resources. Significant positive outcomes were predicted based on the policies protecting wetlands and their buffers from unnecessary development thus protecting habitat that can help manage the impacts of climate change as well as act as water and carbon stores. The policies should help to minimise flood risk by maintaining the storage and flow of water and by avoiding culverting which should help to maintain local biodiversity levels with the network of protected green and blue infrastructure. The promotion of conserving the natural morphology of watercourses will enable associated species and habitats in those areas to thrive and is likely to support provision of ecosystem services. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive effects of the policy were identified for delivery of the social sustainability objective to improve health and well-being, and for delivery of the environmental sustainability objectives to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change; protect, manage and use water resources sustainably; and to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Local Policies Plan stage information on location of houses in the context of changing flood risk areas. Cross-over with other relevant policies. Drainage Assessments.

3.8.16 FLD5 Development in Proximity to Reservoirs

FLD5 - New development will only be permitted within the potential flood inundation area of a "controlled reservoir"⁴⁶ as shown on the Strategic Flood Map, if:

- a) it can be demonstrated that the condition, management and maintenance regime of the reservoir provides sufficient assurance regarding its safety, to enable the development to proceed
- b) the application is accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment which demonstrates:
 1. an assessment of the downstream flood risk in the event of:

- a controlled release of water
 - an uncontrolled release of water due to reservoir failure
 - a change in flow paths as a result of the proposed development and,
2. that there are suitable measures to manage and mitigate the identified flood risk, including details of emergency evacuation procedures.

Replacement buildings within the potential flood inundation area downstream of a controlled reservoir must be accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment.

Planning permission will be granted provided it is demonstrated that there is no material increase in the flood risk to the development or elsewhere.

With all development proposals there will be a presumption against development within the potential flood inundation area for proposals that include essential infrastructure; storage of hazardous substances; bespoke accommodation for vulnerable groups, and; for any development located in areas where the Flood Risk Assessment indicates potential for an unacceptable combination of depth and velocity.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternative has been identified - Consistent with regional policy.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy was identified to have negligible or no effects against the majority of the sustainability objectives including all of the environmental objectives but positive outcomes were predicted for half of the social objectives and one of the economic objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for the social objective to deliver sustainable housing and the economic objective to enable sustainable economic growth. Positive effects were based upon the policy helping to avoid housing in high-risk areas and thus ensuring housing and other development in the most sustainable locations. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for the objective to improve health and well-being because the policy aims to protect people and communities from any risks associated to living near to reservoirs. Without the policy, a worst-case scenario could lead to loss of life and the primary motivation of the policy is to save life. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive effects of the policy were identified for delivery of the social sustainability objective to improve health and well-being. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures have been identified.

3.8.17 AD1 Amenity and Public Safety

Advertising Consent will be granted for the display of an advertisement where:

- (i) it respects amenity, when assessed in the context of the general characteristics of the locality; and
- (ii) it does not prejudice public safety.

Preferred Option:

In line with Regional Policy Direction.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives were considered, as the policy is consistent with regional policy.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy was identified to have no effect or negligible effects against the majority of social, economic and all of the environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objective to improve health and well-being based upon the policy aiming to avoid danger to life by reducing the number of potentially distracting signs that could affect road users and pedestrians. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the economic sustainability objective to enable sustainable economic growth. Although the policy aims to manage the number of distracting signs to road users, it would not be a constraint on any local economic venture and would facilitate businesses to advertise themselves within the local and wider communities but in safe locations. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No likely significant positive effects of the policy were identified across any of the sustainability objectives. No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures have been identified.

3.9 How has the SA influenced the draft Plan Strategy

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

3.9.1 How the Plan Strategy has evolved from the Preferred Options Paper

The first six strategic policies of the draft Plan Strategy are a reflection of the policy direction emanating from the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) and Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS). These policies are representative of the cross-cutting themes that were identified in the Preferred Options Paper (POP) and that underpin the direction of policies and proposals emerging in the draft Plan Strategy. The formulation, intention and wording of these policies were agreed early in the process and have not altered significantly over the drafting of the Strategy.

- Strategic Policy 01 Sustainable Development (at the heart of the planning system, reflected in the SPPS Pages 11 – 13).
- Strategic Policy 02 Improving Health and Well-being (theme: Enhancing Quality of Life, Page 17 of POP).
- Strategic Policy 03 Creating and Enhancing Shared Space and Quality Places (theme: Strengthening Communities, Page 17 of POP).
- Strategic Policy 04 Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth (theme: Supporting Economic Development, Page 17 of POP).
- Strategic Policy 05 Good Design and Positive Place-Making (theme: Supporting Good Design and Quality Places, Page 18 of POP).
- Strategic Policy 06 Protecting and Enhancing the Environment (theme: Protecting and promoting the natural environment, Page 18 of POP). Strategic Policy 07 Section 76 Planning Agreements (reflected in the SPPS Page 35, Planning Agreements and Page 9 of POP).

The six Strategic Objectives (Strategic Objective A - F in Appendix 5) were set out in the Preferred Options Paper (POP) along with the key issues relating to each; these informed the options and preferred option which were consulted on during public consultation of the POP and upon which the draft Plan Strategy and its associated Plan Objectives, policies and proposals have emerged.

4 The Cumulative Impact of the Preferred Options

This Section considers how the preferred options, grouped by draft Plan Strategy theme, cumulatively relate to the fourteen sustainability objectives. Tables **A3.1 - A3.6** in Appendix 3 illustrate the **long term** total effects on each sustainability objective for the preferred options in the draft Plan Strategy.

4.1 Total Effects of the draft Plan Strategy

4.1.1 Improve Health and Well-being

Strategic Policies and Strategic Mixed Use Policies

All except two of the strategic policies and SMU Policies deliver a positive impact on this objective, with eight of the policies identified as delivering significant positive impacts. These include SMU01 where the planned integration with greenways and high proportion of open space and green space will deliver additional benefits. The impact of SP09 Housing in the Countryside is uncertain as it delivers both positive and negative effects. A neutral effect is identified for SP13 Mineral Development as while the policy does not positively impact health and well-being, it will provide a safeguard against negative impacts.

Operational Policies - A Quality Place

All but one of the policies under this theme act positively on this objective. The provision of high quality, attractive and sustainable homes, accommodation and other facilities which meet the specific needs of the population strongly supports good health and well-being.

Operational Policies - A Thriving Place

In general, economic and minerals development will have limited impacts on health and well-being through they can indirectly contribute to well-being through generating prosperity. However, policies ED8 - ED9 and MD7 - MD8 deliver specific protections, such as the avoidance of nuisance impacts and consideration of traffic safety in proposals, and are considered to deliver significant positive impacts on health and well-being. The exploitation of valuable minerals tends more towards the uncertain as methods for extraction cannot be predicted at this stage.

Operational Policies - A Vibrant Place and An Attractive Place

Identifying centres and directing retail uses towards them establishes focal points in settlements and supports the objective through encouraging social contact. Policies on tourism development deliver a minor positive effect through potentially providing recreation and leisure opportunities for local communities as well as visitors and enabling social contact. The provision and protection of open space provides opportunities for and encourages leisure, recreation and physical activity which strongly benefits health and well-being and promotes social interaction.

Operational Policies - A Green Place

The protection of the historic environment delivers positive effects on health and well-being through providing a pleasant environment which sustains local character, distinctiveness and identity. Assets such as historic parks, gardens and demesnes may be linked with associated open / shared space and these can contribute to physical and mental health benefits. Protecting natural heritage and local biodiversity sustains a local natural environment from which people can indirectly benefit both physically and mentally.

Operational Policies - A Connected Place

The promotion of measures in the design and layout of developments that will support increased walking and cycling with the aim of inducing behavioural change and a modal shift towards active travel will have a significant positive impact on this objective. Policies concerning access to the road network also include safety as a key theme. Improving utilities, telecommunications and infrastructure whilst protecting the natural environment and human environment will deliver positive

effects on quality of life across the district. The provision and protection of waste services plays an important role in public health and avoiding new development in areas at risk from flooding will also deliver significant safety benefits.

Total effects

The majority of the preferred options have either minor or significant positive impacts on this objective. Overall, the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy are considered to have a **significant positive** total effect on health and well-being. No negative impacts were identified.

4.1.2 Strengthen society

Strategic Policies and Strategic Mixed Use Policies

All except three of the strategic policies and SMU Policies deliver a positive impact on this objective, with 11 of the policies identified as delivering significant positive impacts. These include the overall Spatial Strategy, which forms a key aspect of the delivery of services and facilities that benefit communities. The SPs for Renewable Energy, Waste Management and Flooding have a negligible impact on this objective.

Operational Policies - A Quality Place

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. By also sustaining population in smaller settlements, local services are supported and vitality is maintained in villages and rural areas. Enabling the provision of local community facilities within settlements and that are in or near new residential developments in particular will also have a significant positive impact on this objective.

Operational Policies - A Thriving Place

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. Minerals development has negligible or no impact on strengthening society.

Operational Policies - A Vibrant Place and An Attractive Place

Identifying centres which form a focal point for communities can give rise to neutral shared spaces and helps to support cultural and community uses. Facilitating tourism development can enable opportunities for shared facilities which deliver community benefit. The presence of open space is essential in any community for a variety of reasons. Publicly accessible areas of open space help to meet identified needs that will reduce inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities.

Operational Policies - A Green Place

Our historic environment and cultural heritage forms an integral part of local communities and local distinctiveness and plays an important role in creating attractive shared space in the district. The policies support measures to promote the understanding and enjoyment of heritage assets which delivers positively for this objective. Protecting sites of nature conservation importance can also indirectly deliver shared space with an amenity value, where people can meet and engage in a shared interest.

Operational Policies - A Connected Place

Policies on access and transport help to improve accessibility for individuals but will also create the conditions to deliver new and alternative routes which may promote social contact and improve the overall connectivity across the council area and beyond. The other policies arranged under this theme will not deliver any perceptible effects on strengthening society.

Total effects

The majority of the preferred options have either minor or significant positive impacts on this objective. Overall, the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy are considered to have a **significant positive** total effect on strengthening society. No negative impacts were identified.

4.1.3 Provide good quality sustainable housing

Strategic Policies and Strategic Mixed Use Policies

Almost all of the general SPs (SP01-SP07) deliver positively for this objective, with significant positives seen for the SPs relating to quality places and good design (SP03 and SP06). Likewise, the strategic policies on housing (SP08 and SP09) also deliver positive effects, though the impact of housing in the countryside is minor rather than significant. For the remainder of the SPs, the effects are mainly negligible, though minor positive impacts are seen from SP11 Economic Development in Settlements which supports and encourages mixed use sites and SP18 which encourages the reuse of older buildings for residential purposes. A significant positive impact is also identified for SMU01, as around half of the developable area of this mixed use site will be used for residential dwellings.

Operational Policies - A Quality Place

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 population and that are designed to be adaptable and accessible has a significant positive impact on this objective. Housing in the countryside will, in general, only be designed to meet the specific needs of the developer and therefore the impact is more minor in scale.

Operational Policies - A Thriving Place

In general the economic development and minerals policies arranged under this theme will have no impact on the provision of good quality sustainable housing. The inclusion of 'mixed use' in certain economic development zonings can act in a positive manner by helping to meet locally identified needs in relevant areas.

Operational Policies - A Vibrant Place and An Attractive Place

In general, the policies under this theme have negligible or no impact on this objective. However, the delivery of sustainable housing includes respecting the open space that is there and not developing it for housing, unless there is substantial community benefit which will have a minor positive impact.

Operational Policies - A Green Place

The protection, conservation or enhancement of our historic environment assets has the potential to conflict with the provision of housing. Policy is protective towards the historic environment, safeguarding against negative impacts and supports the sympathetic reuse of historic buildings as housing stock. New archaeological discoveries may also be made as a consequence of new housing development and enabling development could include the provision of new housing, though this is project-dependent. No other perceptible effects are identified, however it is acknowledged that the protection of natural heritage may influence the location, density or design of housing development.

Operational Policies - A Connected Place

The majority of the policies arranged under this theme will have a negligible impact on the delivery of housing. However, 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. Avoiding development in areas of flood risk and requiring developers to consider drainage and surface

water management for larger schemes will also help to make housing more sustainable and reduce the risk of unfit homes.

Total effects

Many of the preferred options have no relationship with this objective, but where there is an identified effect it is a positive one. Overall, the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy are considered to have a **minor positive** total effect on the provision of good quality, sustainable housing. No negative impacts were identified.

4.1.4 Enable access to high quality education

Strategic Policies and Strategic Mixed Use Policies

While many of the SPs have a negligible effect on enabling access to education, over half of the SPs make a positive contribution to this objective, mainly through indirect effects linked with employment or by improving the locational accessibility to education and skills provision. These indirect effects are therefore mostly minor. Minor positive effects are also identified for SMU01 and SMU02 due to the potential for these mixed-use sites to include education / research facilities. SP10 Education, Health, Community and Culture is the only policy that delivers a significant positive impact on this objective. A minor negative effect is identified from the SPO9 Housing in the Countryside, which recognises that rural dwellers may have fewer options available for accessing education and skills training provision.

Operational Policies - A Quality Place

Policies relating to residential development in settlements and community facilities have a minor positive on this objective by requiring walking and cycling linkages to be developed between residential areas and enabling the provision or expansion of education or community facilities where a need is identified. None of the policies relating to development in the countryside have a perceptible impact on this objective.

Operational Policies - A Thriving Place

None of the policies under this theme have a perceptible impact on this objective.

Operational Policies - A Vibrant Place and An Attractive Place

The establishment of a hierarchy of centres delivers indirect benefits on the objective by providing focal points for cultural and community activities which may support education. The tourism and hospitality industry forms a large part of further education opportunities in the Council area's colleges. Policies which facilitate tourism may therefore indirectly benefit this objective.

Operational Policies - A Green Place

None of the policies under this theme have a perceptible impact on this objective, other than the protection of our Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The natural and historic environment can be used as a resource for outdoor teaching and educational /scientific research.

Operational Policies - A Connected Place

All but two of the policies under this theme will have no effect on this objective. Facilitating the improvement of telecommunications will benefit the objective by enabling distance learning at all levels. Policy to create accessible environments will also indirectly benefit the objective by improving accessibility to education.

Total effects

Many of the preferred options have no relationship with this objective, but where there is an identified effect it is a minor positive one. Overall, the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy are considered to have a **negligible** total effect on enabling access to high quality education.

4.1.5 Enable sustainable economic growth

Strategic Policies and Strategic Mixed Use Policies

All of the SPs and SMUs are identified as having a positive impact on this objective. Seven of the SPs will deliver significant positive effects, including those relating to Tourism, the Evening and Night Time Economy, Economic Development in Settlements and Transportation Infrastructure. All three SMU policies are also expected to deliver significant positive effects by working in different ways to encourage job creation in locations that are highly accessible.

Operational Policies - A Quality Place

Facilitating the provision of new homes directly helps to support the objective through the construction industry and supply chain and also indirectly through enabling people to live near where they work, giving a minor positive impact for some of the housing policies. Allowing appropriate non-residential development in the countryside delivers a significant positive impact on this objective, through enabling farm diversification and tourism opportunities.

Operational Policies - A Thriving Place

Almost all of the policies in this theme act positively on the objective, with the majority of these significantly so. Economic development and minerals development policy creates the conditions for the creation of a range of job types that are accessible across the district, including to rural areas. Directing 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 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, again strongly benefitting the objective.

Operational Policies - A Vibrant Place and An Attractive Place

All the policies under this theme act positively for this objective. 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. Creating opportunities for appropriate tourism development will extend the potential for economic development across the council area and may also contribute significantly to this objective. Having quality open space and protecting it helps to strengthen tourism potential. New sports or recreation facilities can create jobs, generate income and become destinations that are attractive to a wider area, rather than just the local community.

Operational Policies - A Green Place

Policy for the historic environment has a positive effect on this objective and will deliver significant benefits in terms of making our council area an attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. Protecting the unique character of our Conservation Areas and ATCs helps to safeguard their attractiveness and enhances the vitality and vibrancy of the city and town centres. Policies to safeguard our natural environment may inhibit some aspects of economic growth, but may help to enhance economic activity based around tourism, leisure, landscape and recreation. These policies will help to ensure that natural heritage is appropriately considered and that economic growth is carried out in a sustainable manner.

Operational Policies - A Connected Place

The policies for transportation, infrastructure and connectivity have a positive impact on this objective in the majority of cases. A reliable transport network is a key driver for the efficient functioning of the local economy and well-positioned employment locations that are accessible to the strategic roads network and integrated sustainable transport networks will help to attract investment. Good telecommunications and utilities provisions are a key aspect of commerce and developing new

businesses. Policy on flooding helps to protect new economic development from being located in unsustainable locations.

Total effects

The majority of the preferred options have either minor or significant positive impacts on this objective. Overall, the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy are considered to have a **significant positive** total effect on enabling sustainable economic growth. No negative impacts were identified.

4.1.6 Manage material assets sustainably

Strategic Policies and Strategic Mixed Use Policies

While many of the SPs have a negligible effect on material assets, over half make a positive contribution to this objective, with significant positive effects seen from three policies including those which encourage development in town centres and SP23 Waste Management. The delivery of SMU01 via a master plan approach will also deliver significant positive effects in respect of this sustainability objective. A minor negative effect is identified for SP09, recognising that it is more difficult and expensive to provide and maintain utilities and infrastructure in the countryside (in comparison to development in the compact urban form).

Operational Policies - A Quality Place

Many of the policies under this theme have a negligible impact on the objective. However, housing policy encourages the reuse of brownfield sites and the overall approach of directing the greatest proportion of housing growth to our largest settlements supports the proximity principle. 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 and non-residential development in particular may necessitate infrastructure upgrades, leading to uncertain effects.

Operational Policies - A Thriving Place

Policies for economic development which direct proposals towards settlements and centres support the proximity principle and act in a minor positive manner for this objective. However, some of the sites that are zoned for economic development do not currently have any infrastructure provision, leading to uncertain effects. In general, minerals development will not have any impact on material assets, however it is difficult to predict the effect of valuable mineral extraction, leading to an uncertain score.

Operational Policies - A Vibrant Place and An Attractive Place

The establishment of a hierarchy of centres focuses retail and office development at appropriate scales towards centres where utilities provision, infrastructure, waste, recycling opportunities are present. However, the role of filling and service stations has the potential to evolve over time if electric vehicles become more mainstream and the long term impact is uncertain. While the tourism and open space policies mainly have a negligible impact on this objective, the principle of directing new tourism development towards settlements in the first instance also supports the proximity principle for the location of material assets.

Operational Policies - A Green Place

In general, the policies relating to the historic environment will have limited influence on this objective. However, policy encourages and facilitates the reuse of old / derelict buildings and land which supports the objective. Natural heritage policy may slightly inhibit some types of infrastructure development, however the overall effect will not have a perceptible impact on the objective and the positive impacts on other sustainability objectives may outweigh these minor constraints.

Operational Policies - A Connected Place

Policy on access and transport will, in general, have a negligible impact on material assets. However new road schemes may provide the mechanism for delivering new utilities and infrastructure. Policies enabling new renewables energy, telecommunications, utilities and waste management development will deliver positively for this objective, allowing the council to accommodate future technologies and to have infrastructure that is fit for purpose.

Total effects

The majority of the preferred options have a negligible impact on this objective, but where there is an effect it is mainly a positive one. A small proportion of uncertain and negative scores reflects the fact that some types of development do not align with the proximity principle and may place pressure on rural infrastructure. Overall, the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy are considered to have a **negligible** total effect on managing material assets sustainably.

4.1.7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably

Strategic Policies and Strategic Mixed Use Policies

Half of the SPs deliver no overall impact on this objective. Eight of the SPs have a positive impact, but of these only SP13 Mineral Development delivers a significant positive effect. The appraisals recognise that a plan for growth may not always be compatible with the protection of physical resources and a minor negative effect is identified for the Spatial Strategy, as settlement growth will result in the development of greenfield land. Uncertain effects are identified for four of the SPs, where there may be potential conflicts with the extraction of mineral resources (SP06 and SP18) or where there may be a mixture of positive and negative effects (SP21 Renewable Energy and SP23 Waste Management).

Operational Policies - A Quality Place

Many of the policies under this theme have a negligible impact on the objective. The policies relating to residential development in settlements and to non-residential use in the countryside have a minor positive effect by helping to ensure that the most efficient use of land is made and that the development of greenfield land is kept to minimum levels.

Operational Policies - A Thriving Place

Policy for economic development which directs proposals towards settlements and centres and brownfield land helps to make more efficient use of land and acts positively on the objective. Facilitating sustainable minerals development and allowing potential for future extraction of regionally significant mineral deposits has a significant positive impact on physical resources. These effects reduce to minor for hydrocarbons and valuable minerals as the current evidence base does not indicate any proven resources.

Operational Policies - A Vibrant Place and An Attractive Place

The centre-based approach for retail focuses development and makes efficient use of land. Having uses concentrated in defined centres will help to avoid sprawl and protects natural land as a physical resource. Policy for tourism development encourages the 'settlements first' approach and directs growth to already-developed areas without taking up greenfield land which also supports this objective. Policy on open space may indirectly safeguard semi-natural land and may preserve access to sites of earth science interest. However, the development of new facilities for sports and recreation may result in substantial changes in land use, but effects are uncertain as they would depend on the nature of any proposals brought forward.

Operational Policies - A Green Place

In general, the policies relating to the historic environment have limited influence on this objective. The protection of our historic parks, garden and demesnes helps to safeguard extensive areas against development and loss of natural land and indirectly protects the earth science sites located within

them. There is the potential for proposals which enable development for the conservation of heritage assets to affect physical resources, in cases where a substantial amount of enabling development is required. Policy to protect natural heritage will strongly benefit physical resources by safeguarding earth science features and protecting natural land and soil resources.

Operational Policies - A Connected Place

The transportation and infrastructure policies mostly have a negligible impact on physical resources, however the protection of land for new transport schemes will result in a minor negative impact over the long term though the loss of greenfield land as a consequence of delivering the schemes. The conversion of greenfield land to facilitate new car parking will also have a minor negative effect on the objective. The effect of renewable energy development tends toward the uncertain, as impacts may vary depending the type of development brought forward and its location. Land improvement also delivers uncertain impacts as it is often likely result in the loss of semi-natural land as a consequence of improving agricultural productivity.

Total effects

The greatest proportion of the preferred options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy have negligible or no effect on the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably. Of the options that do have a perceptible impact, the majority are minor positive impacts. However, there is a significant minority of options which have an uncertain or negative impact. This reflects the pressure that new development may have on other competing land uses. Overall, the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy are considered to have a **mixed /minor positive** total effect on protecting physical resources and using them sustainably. However, consideration needs to be given to increasing certainty and minimising negative impacts during the Local Policies Plan stage.

4.1.8 Encourage active and sustainable travel

Strategic Policies and Strategic Mixed Use Policies

The majority of the SPs which relate to infrastructure development (with the exception of transport infrastructure) or the protection of environmental features will have a negligible effect on encouraging active and sustainable travel. The SMUs also have a positive impact, with SMU01 and SMU02 scoring significant positive due to their proximity to planned strategic greenways. The SPs which encourage good design and placemaking, direct new housing or economic development in settlements and which protect shared spaces all deliver significant positive impacts for this objective. Strategic Policy for establishing planning agreements (SP07) will provide a mechanism to deliver new connections and also acts in a significant positive manner for this objective. An uncertain effect is identified for SP10, as this policy will mainly deliver extensions to existing facilities which may not always be located on accessible sites. A significant negative effect is identified for SP09 Housing in the Countryside, as rural households are disproportionately reliant on cars. As a consequence, mitigation measures have been identified.

Operational Policies - A Quality Place

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. This facilitates choice and opportunity for people to use active and sustainable transport for commuting or other journeys, delivering significant positive effects. Housing in the countryside is not compatible with this objective and minor negative effects are identified, as many rural minor roads have no footpaths or cycleways and many rural areas do not have sufficient population to sustain a public transport service.

Operational Policies - A Thriving Place

Many of the sites for economic development in settlements are accessible to sustainable transport and there are potential opportunities for future linkages with walking and cycling routes. Zoning areas

for economic development also helps to create focal points for access to public transport, all of which contributes to minor positive effects on encouraging active and sustainable travel. None of the policies for minerals development will have any perceptible impact on this objective.

Operational Policies - A Vibrant Place and An Attractive Place

Directing services and retail to centres supports the objective as these have existing/established sustainable transport routes. These effects will be strengthened by TRA1 which encourages priority pedestrian movement. However, policy on new filling stations does not help to promote a modal shift to active travel. The focus on settlements first for tourism development helps to enable opportunities for using sustainable modes of travel (for both visitors and workers). However, tourism development in the countryside will be more limited in its options to access active and sustainable travel routes. The provision and protection of open space is considered to be an essential aspect of delivering linked walking / cycling networks and strongly supports this objective.

Operational Policies - A Green Place

In general, the policies under this theme have a limited influence over this objective. However, the Lagan Valley AONB incorporates a strategic greenway and the policy will permit new links to walking and cycling routes which will enhance the green and blue infrastructure network and delivers positively for this objective.

Operational Policies - A Connected Place

The access and transport policies encourage accessibility and connectivity and complement the spatial aspects of housing and economic development. The policies seek to encourage walking and cycling and achieve an integrated transport network that is sustainable, safe and accessible. The establishment of integrated park and rides and other shared transport schemes will help people living rurally who may be obliged to use cars for part of the journey. The policies relating to infrastructure and advertisements do not have any effect on this objective.

Total effects

The greatest proportion of the preferred options included in the draft Plan Strategy have negligible or no impact on the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel although there is also a high proportion of the options that deliver a minor or significant positive effect. It is noted that development in the countryside may not be compatible with this objective and several minor negative effects are recorded. A significant negative impact has been identified for the strategic policy for housing in the countryside. While operational policy reduces to a minor negative, the establishment of integrated transport hubs to encourage part of a journey to be conducted via a sustainable transport mode will also help to mitigate the effect. Overall, the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy are considered to have a **minor positive** total effect on encouraging active and sustainable travel.

4.1.9 Improve air quality

Strategic Policies and Strategic Mixed Use Policies

Relatively few SPs are able to deliver a positive impact on this objective, however minor positive effects are seen from six SPs including those that protect open space and natural heritage. Through the promotion of development that is sustainable, SP01 can deliver a significant positive effect. Growth and new development, particularly housing and economic development, is likely to generate emissions and have indirect effects from associated transport emissions. The SPs which cover these themes have uncertain effects identified, as other factors such as integration with active and sustainable transport, good design and incorporation of energy efficiency measures may deliver positive impacts. A minor negative effect is identified for SP13, mineral development, however measures can be incorporated to reduce the scale of any negative effects. The masterplan approach of SMU01 will also have minor positive effects on this objective.

Operational Policies - A Quality Place

Few of the policies under this theme deliver a perceptible impact on air quality. Policy for residential 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 fuel sources, leading to a minor positive impact on improving air quality. However, non-residential development in the countryside, such as diversification associated with livestock or poultry, may indirectly place pressure on air quality and a minor negative effect is identified.

Operational Policies - A Thriving Place

Economic development in settlements is likely to give rise to emissions that may negatively impact air quality from transport and economic/industrial activities. The overall impact from these activities is uncertain; they are dependent on the type and scale of development. However, the general requirements for all economic development include the requirement for development to be capable of dealing satisfactorily with any emissions which has a minor positive impact on the objective and will serve to reduce the risk of negative effects. Minerals development can lead to airborne emissions and uncertain or minor negative effects are identified as methods of extraction and the potential for mitigation cannot be predicted.

Operational Policies - A Vibrant Place and An Attractive Place

Centres identified under the retail hierarchy are accessible by active and sustainable travel, reducing the need to travel by car for employees and visitors which will indirectly support this objective. Tourism development is unlikely to influence air quality perceptibly. The provision and protection of open space acts positively for air quality by buffering development and enabling dispersion, however development for sports and recreation, especially motorsports, may lead to some emissions which influence air quality.

Operational Policies - A Green Place

The majority of the policies relating to the historic environment places have a negligible impact on this objective. However, many of our historic parks and gardens are extensive and these act as a 'green lung' or buffer zone, particularly where they occur in settlements or alongside transport corridors. Policy to protect 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.

Operational Policies - A Connected Place

Measures to enhance accessibility through active and sustainable travel will have a positive impact on air quality. Developing and enabling opportunities for shared transport such as park and ride/share facilities and protecting arterial routes will help to reduce the rate of increase in traffic congestion and provide opportunities to mitigate the negative effects of growth. The policies relating to infrastructure and advertisements do not have any effect on this objective.

Total effects

The appraisal has reflected the fact that the LDP does not necessarily have a direct influence on many of the factors affecting air quality in the district. Many of the options are unlikely to contribute to a perceptible deterioration in air quality and therefore negligible effects are recorded. While some minor positive impacts and a small proportion of significant positive impacts are identified, there is also an almost equal proportion of uncertainty and some minor negative impacts. The high proportion of uncertain scores reflects that a plan for growth is unlikely to improve air quality, but some options can help to create the conditions which encourage the behavioural changes required for this to happen. The total effect of the options on this objective is **uncertain**.

4.1.10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change

Strategic Policies and Strategic Mixed Use Policies

Only around half of the SPs will deliver perceptible effects on this objective. The policies which protect against flood risk, promote sustainable development, are protective of the natural and historic environment or open space or which support renewable energy will have a positive or significant positive impacts. Five of the SPs relating to economic and minerals development have recorded an uncertain effect. It is difficult to predict what development may come forward as a consequence of these policies and what level of additional greenhouse gas emissions may be generated. The masterplan approach of SMU01 will have minor positive effects on this objective.

Operational Policies - A Quality Place

The majority of the policies under this theme have a negligible impact or neutral relationship with this objective. 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. Conversely, non-residential development in the countryside can indirectly lead to the increased generation of greenhouse gases such as methane. This will lead to a minor negative effect on this objective unless measures are incorporated to reduce the scale of these effects.

Operational Policies - A Thriving Place

Directing economic development towards centres and placing a focus on connectivity by public transport and active travel helps to reduce negative impacts, but behavioural change is also necessary to achieve perceptible changes in greenhouse gas emissions from transport. Development itself may also generate emissions, although these could be avoided or offset through the incorporation of renewable technologies. Such measures are encouraged through ED9, which has a minor positive effect but the overall effects for this grouping of policies tends toward the uncertain as the overall effect is dependent on uptake. Minerals development can lead to greenhouse gas emissions and uncertain effects are identified, as methods of extraction and the potential for mitigation cannot be predicted. The extraction of hydrocarbons would serve to sustain reliance on fossil fuel and a minor negative impact is identified.

Operational Policies - A Vibrant Place and An Attractive Place

The policies included under this theme generally have a limited influence on the climate change objective. In the short and medium term filling and service stations will be linked with continued reliance on fossil fuels. However, in the long term, the role of these facilities may change if electric vehicles become more mainstream and the future impact is uncertain. Open space areas can support this objective by acting as buffer zones which provide resilience against the effects of climate change.

Operational Policies - A Green Place

The policies relating to the historic environment have a negligible impact on this objective, however policies would help to encourage the retention, conservation and reuse of existing resources, which may help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions due to reduced consumption of raw materials and improve energy efficiency of renovated buildings. The natural heritage policies help to deliver this benefit over a much wider area, contributing to green and blue infrastructure networks and enhancing resilience to the effects of climate change. While the protection of our AONB also contributes to these benefits, agricultural practices which produce greenhouse gases are permitted, leading to some uncertainty.

Operational Policies - A Connected Place

Access and transport policies which encourage increased use of more sustainable modes of transport, and reducing consumption of fossil fuels through changing the way we travel supports the objective. Encouraging renewables and micro-renewables development will also have a significant positive impact by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Policy on avoiding areas of flood risk and considering surface water drainage acts in a significant positive manner to increase sustainability and resilience to the predicted future effects of climate change although other infrastructure policies will have no effect.

Total effects

The greatest proportion of the preferred options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy have negligible or no effect on this objective. While some minor positive impacts and a small proportion of significant positive impacts are identified, there is an equal proportion of uncertainty and minor negative impacts. Overall, the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy are considered to have an **uncertain** total effect on reducing causes of and adapting to climate change.

4.1.11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably

Strategic Policies and Strategic Mixed Use Policies

Only around half of the SPs will deliver perceptible effects on this objective. Positive and significant positive effects are identified for ten of the SPs, including those which protect natural areas and open spaces and which promote sustainable development and avoid areas of flood risk. A minor negative impact is identified for the Spatial Strategy, reflecting the fact that there may be issues with discharging waste water (both foul and stormwater) in some settlements and that other policy is required to ensure that development does not go ahead without appropriate infrastructure being in place. Uncertain effects are identified for housing in the countryside as the maintenance and regulation of private treatment systems is outside the scope of the LDP. Uncertain effects are also recorded for SP21 as effects from some types of renewables may be easier to manage than others. The masterplan approach of SMU01 which incorporates green and blue infrastructure will also have minor positive effects on this objective.

Operational Policies - A Quality Place

New housing can place pressure on water quality. Impermeable surfaces such as roofs, driveways, patios and parking areas could increase peak flow rates in watercourses. Foul waste water requires treatment prior to discharge. According new residential development with the strategic housing allocation will encourage development to be located in settlements where water and wastewater infrastructure is already present and is able to accommodate the new development, while meeting the required treatment standards. Policy also encourages the incorporation of SuDS to help control and manage runoff and surface water at source. 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 and a minor negative effect is identified.

Operational Policies - A Thriving Place

New economic development has the potential to impact negatively on local water quality and quantity, for example increased runoff from roofs and areas of hard standing and some types of industrial development may pose a risk of polluting discharges. Minerals development may have a high demand for water and may carry a risk of polluting discharges, including to groundwater. Significant adverse impacts should be avoided through criteria in ED9 and MD1 which deliver minor positive impacts in conjunction with other regulatory measures such as discharge consents.

Operational Policies - A Vibrant Place and An Attractive Place

The establishment of a hierarchy of centres focuses retail and office development at appropriate scales towards centres where there is adequate provision of water and waste water infrastructure, safeguarding against impacts on water resources. This principle also applies to the 'settlements first' approach taken for tourism development. A net positive effect could be gained through the implementation of 'soft' SuDS, which is encouraged for new tourism development through T0U7. Open space helps to deliver natural SuDS and soakaways. Lagan Valley Regional Park encompasses a flood plain and the open space also provides a buffer between development and the river which may deliver indirect benefits to water quality.

Operational Policies - A Green Place

The policies relating to the historic environment have a negligible impact on this objective though it is recognised that many of our heritage assets are linked to the water environment. Natural heritage policies help to enable the retention and provision of semi-natural areas of land including wetlands and their buffers as well as watercourses in urban and rural areas. These areas contribute to green and blue infrastructure and preserve natural drainage patterns, helping to protect local water quality and supporting aquatic ecosystems.

Operational Policies - A Connected Place

The policies on access and transport will have no perceptible impact on water resources. Relevant infrastructure policies will act positively by ensuring that adequate and appropriate drainage and waste water treatment facilities are in place or can be provided for and that flood risk is minimised. This will help to protect the ecological quality of water and reduce risks to local waterways and waterbodies during flooding events.

Total effects

The greatest proportion of the preferred options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy have negligible or no effect on this objective. While some minor positive impacts and a small proportion of significant positive impacts are identified, there is also a moderate proportion of uncertainty and some minor negative impacts. The appraisal also recognises that, in the absence of mitigation, certain types of development can lead to adverse impacts on water quality and quantity. Overall, the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy are considered to have a **mixed / minor positive** total effect on protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably. Consideration needs to be given to increasing certainty and minimising negative impacts during the Local Policies Plan stage.

4.1.12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity

Strategic Policies and Strategic Mixed Use Policies

Strategic policy is generally protective against negative impacts on natural resources and therefore around half the policies are identified as having a neutral or negligible impact on this objective. Policies which are specifically directed to target the protection and enhancement of natural features and open spaces will have a significant positive impact on this objective. Strategic policy that encourages sustainable development and which direct development away from biodiverse sites will also have a minor positive effect on this objective. Settlement growth and development occurring under SMU03 will result in the development of greenfield land. An uncertain impact is recorded for these policies as there may be the potential avoid areas of nature conservation importance through the LPP or by development control. The masterplan approach of SMU01 which incorporates green and blue infrastructure will also have a significant positive effect on this objective.

Operational Policies - A Quality Place

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. HOU3 and HOU4 and policy for

development and dwellings in the countryside encourages new developments to be integrated with natural features such as river, streams, trees and hedgerows and to incorporate landscaped areas using appropriate locally characteristic or indigenous species which will deliver minor positive impacts. While policies on non-residential development in the countryside include criteria to safeguard natural heritage, there may be indirect effects from activities associated with the development and the overall impact is uncertain.

Operational Policies - A Thriving Place

Directing economic development towards settlements and centres delivers more efficient land use and seeks to avoid areas of conservation value, thereby avoiding impacts on natural resources. ED9 may also help to support the objective by introducing the requirement for high quality landscaping which assists the promotion of sustainability and biodiversity. General mineral development policy discourages minerals development within or in close proximity to an area that is important for its natural heritage and includes the requirement for restoration which will have a minor positive impact. The extraction of valuable minerals or hydrocarbons could pose a greater risk of conflict with natural resources objectives leading to an uncertain score, however all proposals would continue to be required to meet legislative requirements.

Operational Policies - A Vibrant Place and An Attractive Place

The sequential approach directing retail or office development into centres first helps to protect greenfield or biodiverse areas and avoids negative effects on natural resources. Similarly, the focus on settlements first for tourism development helps to maintain efficient use of land and focuses growth to more suitable areas, reducing consumption of semi-natural land. The effects of tourism development in the countryside are uncertain, as they are dependent on the nature of any proposals brought forward. However, adverse effects may be reduced through TOU7 which includes criteria for all tourism development to include high quality landscaping that encourages biodiversity. TOU8 will also act in a significant positive manner to safeguard natural assets from adverse impacts of tourism development. The protection of open space will also have a significant positive effect on safeguarding natural resources, both directly by protecting areas such as woodlands and indirectly by maintaining buffer zones between development and natural features such as rivers. The development of sports and recreation facilities could adversely affect natural resources, including through disturbance effects, leading to an uncertain score. Careful consideration of design and mitigation will be required to minimise effects.

Operational Policies - A Green Place

Policy that protects our historic parks, gardens and demesnes and Conservation Areas helps to support the objective by protecting areas of woodland and mature vegetation which may be species rich. Policy to protect natural heritage delivers a significant positive impact on this objective, by protecting of a variety of areas with natural or semi-natural land cover, with positives for the protected species and priority habitats present, and any other local biodiversity features. The policies are holistic in their approach, which is likely to enable enhancement of local biodiversity by connecting sites, habitats and species together through a wider network of green and blue infrastructure.

Operational Policies - A Connected Place

Access and transport policies will have limited effect on natural resources. While the protection of routes for new transport schemes does deliver some benefits, minor negative impacts will occur when schemes are bought through for construction. However, minor gains may be achieved through the development of greenways. Policy on renewables places the requirement to retain existing natural features and to maintain wildlife corridors, which will benefit the objective. Locating waste management facilities in appropriate sites and encouraging restoration will help to reduce biodiversity loss. Avoiding development in areas of flood risk, enabling waste water treatment works

to be provided and ensuring that new development will not add to a pollution problem will help to protect the aquatic environment and safeguard natural resources.

Total effects

The greatest proportion of the preferred options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy have negligible or no effect on the objective. Of the options that do have a perceptible impact, the majority are minor positive impacts, with a small proportion of significant positive. However, there is a significant minority of options which have an uncertain impact. Overall, the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy are considered to have a **minor positive** total effect on protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity. However, consideration needs to be given to increasing certainty during the Local Policies Plan stage.

4.1.13 Maintain and enhance landscape character

Strategic Policies and Strategic Mixed Use Policies

Many of the strategic policies relate only to development inside defined settlement development limits and will have negligible or no impact on this objective. Strategic policy that encourages sustainable development and which protects natural areas and open spaces will also have a positive effect on this objective. An uncertain effect is recorded for SP22 as while many aspects of the policy act positively for landscape, some types of infrastructure may have a negative effect on landscape character which cannot be fully mitigated. The concept masterplan approach for SMU02 will help to safeguard the parkland character of the site and acts in a significant positive manner on this objective.

Operational Policies - A Quality Place

Strategically directing the majority of new residential development and community development to within defined settlement limits supports this objective. Operational policies which promote good design and integration with surroundings will help to deliver a minor positive impact. The LDP recognises that development in the countryside may place pressure on rural landscape. Specific policy has been included to ensure that all development in the countryside is sited and designed to integrate sympathetically with its surroundings, which will deliver positive or significant positive impacts on landscape character.

Operational Policies - A Thriving Place

Directing the majority of new economic development to areas and centres within defined settlement limits and zonings supports this objective and has a minor positive effect. General mineral development policy discourages minerals development in areas that are important for their landscape character and includes a requirement for restoration, which benefits the objective. However, some types of minerals development may override landscape considerations and/or may be difficult to mitigate and consequently the impacts for these are uncertain.

Operational Policies - A Vibrant Place and An Attractive Place

The sequential approach directing retail or office development into centres first helps to protect landscape character and there are no predicted effects on this objective from RT policies. Tourism policies include criteria requiring development to be sensitively integrated to protect local distinctiveness and to safeguard landscape quality. The safeguarding of tourism assets from unnecessary, inappropriate or excessive development will deliver significant positive effects for this objective and will secure a viable and sustainable tourism industry. The protection of open space will also have a positive effect on maintaining landscape character but the development of sports and recreation facilities has the potential to impact landscape, leading to an uncertain score. Careful consideration of design and mitigation will be required to minimise adverse effects.

Operational Policies - A Green Place

The landscape is inseparable from the historic environment and forms the immediate and wider setting of heritage assets. Policy to protect and enhance the historic environment and create places

therefore delivers positively for landscape character. However, projects which enable development for the conservation of heritage assets may affect this objective. The nature of the impact would depend on the scale of the project, its location and feasible mitigation. Policies which protect the natural environment will also deliver significant positive impacts on maintaining and enhancing landscape character.

Operational Policies - A Connected Place

The policies arranged under this theme generally have a limited impact on the objective. However, the protection of disused transport routes to facilitate their development for new transport schemes and the avoidance of new development in flood plains will indirectly help to protect landscape features such as transport corridors or river valleys. Some types of renewable development may pose a risk of visual impact that may not be able to be fully mitigated and some minor negative effects on landscape character may occur.

Total effects

Many of the preferred options have negligible or no relationship with this objective, particularly where the policy relates to development within existing settlement limits. However, where an impact is identified, it is generally a positive one and a small proportion of options will deliver a significant positive effect. A small proportion of uncertain and minor negative scores reflects the appraisal findings that some types of minerals, sports and renewables development may risk conflict with landscape character. Overall, the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy are considered to have a **minor positive** total effect on maintaining and enhancing landscape character.

4.1.14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage

Strategic Policies and Strategic Mixed Use Policies

The majority of the SPs act in a positive manner for this objective, with five SPs delivering significant positive effects. Encouraging good design and placemaking principles in settlements and protecting natural landscapes helps to protect and conserve the historic environment. Many SPs also support the objective by encouraging the restoration and reuse of older buildings. These aspects are also promoted in SMU01 and SMU02, which both identify heritage assets that require particular consideration as part of their overall masterplan. None of the SPs have a negative or uncertain effect on this objective.

Operational Policies - A Quality Place

Housing policy for settlements encourages development to be integrated with surrounding heritage, including ATCs and Conservation Areas. The requirement for masterplanning of larger developments will help to enable features to be designed around and incorporated as focal points in new development, and where appropriate, permit a heritage-led approach to be taken. This leads to a significant positive impact for residential development in settlements. In the countryside, policies encourage the restoration and reuse of older buildings and require new development to respect the character of surrounding built heritage and landscape which also delivers minor positive effects on this objective.

Operational Policies - A Thriving Place

The LDP recognises that economic development has the potential to be incompatible with built heritage / the historic environment. Policies require development to be of a scale, nature and design appropriate to the character of the settlement and are protective against adverse impacts on features of the historic environment, leading to an overall neutral effect. General mineral development policy recognises that the need for minerals resource must be balanced with the need to protect and conserve the natural and historic environment. However, some types of minerals development may override historic environment considerations, leading to uncertain impacts. However, assets that are statutorily protected through legislation would continue to receive protection.

Operational Policies - A Vibrant Place and An Attractive Place

Directing retail and office development into identified centres allows 'sense of place' to be conserved in townscape and rural settings and may also present opportunities for regeneration of areas /restoration of buildings. There exists the potential for conflict between retail / office development and built heritage however adverse effects can be overcome through the application of policies on design and the historic environment. Policies on tourism will help to highlight assets and may enable their restoration and/or enhancement. Many of the open space areas in the council area are centred on heritage assets and safeguarding open space will indirectly help to protect the settings of these assets. New sport and recreation facilities could potentially conflict with the historic environment. Careful consideration of location and design when developing proposals, in conjunction with historic environment policy, will help to minimise adverse effects.

Operational Policies - A Green Place

All policies arranged under this theme deliver a positive effect on this objective with the majority acting in a significant positive manner. Together, policies will help to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and preserve local distinctiveness and character of locations within the district, helping to maintain a sense of place. The policies would also help to support related cultural activities/initiatives and facilitate interpretation and understanding of the historic environment. Policies which are protective of the natural environment will also have a positive impact on this objective, as the historic environment often shares common pressures with the natural environment with regard to sensitivity to development.

Operational Policies - A Connected Place

The policies arranged under this theme generally have a limited impact on the objective. However, the protection of disused transport routes to facilitate their development for new transport schemes may help to deliver increased accessibility to our industrial heritage. The management of development in areas of flood risk and the consideration surface water drainage will benefit the objective. It will allow older buildings to be restored but also will require larger developments to consider the impact that changing hydrology will have on features of the historic environment.

Total effects

The majority of the preferred options have either minor or significant positive impacts on this objective. A small proportion of uncertain scores reflects the appraisal findings that some types of minerals or sports development may risk conflict with features of the historic environment. Overall, the options put forward in the draft Plan Strategy are considered to have a **minor positive** total effect on protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage. No negative impacts were identified.

4.1.15 Summary of Total Effects

Overall, the total effect of all the preferred options of the draft Plan Strategy is to make a positive contribution to the delivery of the majority of the sustainability objectives.

Significant long-term positive effects on sustainability are predicted to occur in relation to:

- improvement of health and well-being,
- strengthening society; and
- enabling sustainable economic growth

Long term positive effects are also predicted to occur for the objectives to:

- provide good quality, sustainable housing
- encourage active and sustainable travel
- protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity
- maintain and enhance landscape character; and
- protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.

However, a mixture of positive, uncertain and minor negative effects are also predicted for some sustainability objectives, especially in relation to protecting physical resources and using them sustainably and protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably.

The total effects on air quality and climate change tend toward uncertain. 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.

Many of these impacts have been minimised through the cross-referencing of policies within draft Plan Strategy, which should be read as a whole, as it will be applied in its entirety to all development proposals, or are capable of being mitigated at Local Policies Plan stage.

4.2 Cumulative Impacts

Schedule 2(6) of EAPP (NI) Regulations requires the appraisal consider secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects. Secondary effects are effects that are not a direct result of the plan, but occur as a result of an original or direct effect. Cumulative effects can arise where several developments each have insignificant effects but together have a significant effect or where several individual effects of the plan (e.g. noise, dust and visual) have a combined effect. Synergistic effects interact to produce a total effect greater than the sum of the individual effects.

Table 4.1: 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	<p>The provision of new development which promotes accessibility and inclusivity and which incorporates good design and positive place-making, in conjunction with enhanced connectivity through walking and cycling, should help to provide high quality living environments that benefit health and well-being for the whole district.</p> <p>Improving utilities, telecommunications and infrastructure and encouraging investment and economic development whilst protecting the natural environment and human environment will also deliver positive effects on quality of life.</p>	<p>The cumulative effect of the relevant policies working together, along with the Community Plan is to strengthen the effect of the significant positive impact.</p>
Strengthen society	<p>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.</p> <p>Encouraging economic development at appropriate scales throughout the settlement hierarchy and also facilitating appropriate economic development in the countryside acts positively on this objective by helping to make employment accessible and reducing the factors causing inequalities.</p> <p>Publicly accessible areas of open space help to meet identified needs that will reduce inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Provide good quality sustainable housing	<p>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</p>	<p>These policies have a synergistic effect on health and well-being and strengthen the effect of the positive impact.</p> <p>The principles of placemaking and good design help to enhance the quality of housing on a</p>

SA Objective	Effect of draft plan preferred options (total effects)	Potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects
	<p>and facilities in settlements which meet the specific and locally-identified needs of the population and that are designed to be adaptable and accessible has a significant positive impact on this objective.</p> <p>Policy 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>wider basis, by making the district a more 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. 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</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
	should not preclude the delivery of essential assets.	
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.</p> <p>This holistic approach to developing active travel networks across the district and integrating with sustainable transport schemes identified through the BMTP 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</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
	natural buffer and diffuse local air pollution, particularly when trees are evident.	
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>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</p>

SA Objective	Effect of draft plan preferred options (total effects)	Potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects
	<p>For rural development, Policy COU15 seeks to avoid the removal of mature native vegetation with 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.</p>	<p>(LBAP) Local Biodiversity Action Plan to protect, maintain, enhance, restore and educate on biodiversity issues.</p> <p>These cumulative effects may remove some of the uncertainty and help to reinforce the minor positive impacts.</p>
<p>Maintain and enhance landscape character</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The policies to protect natural resources and our historic environment also work to support this objective.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>There will be an opportunity to review existing and potential future AoHSV, LLPAs and Landscape Wedges as part of the Local Policies Plan.</p> <p>Liaison with neighbouring Councils and aligning policies where they have potential cross-boundary influence also helps to reinforce the minor positive impacts.</p>
<p>Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Policies which protect landscape character and natural heritage work together to strengthen the protection towards the historic environment and the setting of historic features. Policies also strongly encourage design that integrates new development with its surroundings.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>These cumulative effects will help remove some of the uncertainty and help to strengthen the minor positive effects.</p>

4.3 Outcome and Next Steps

4.3.1 Outcome

The SA process has helped influence the content of the draft Plan Strategy by contributing to the critical review of the Strategic Policies and Operational policies. Through the SA process, preferred options for implementing these policies were identified. In all cases the preferred option represents a sustainable option. This SA Report has been published alongside the draft Plan Strategy for consultation purposes.

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.

The incorporation of sustainable drainage, energy efficiency and renewable measures in new development can also help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create development that is more sustainable and resilient. However, measurable effects are reliant on developers being proactive. It is hoped that by encouraging and establishing these principles as good practice they may become accepted as standard practice during subsequent Plans.

Representations received in response to this consultation may lead to the modification of both the SA Report and Plan Strategy. If these modifications are significant this may lead to additional appraisal against the SA/SEA Framework.

4.3.2 Next steps

SEA Regulations require the Council to produce a formal, post-adoption SA Statement to accompany the Plan Strategy, as soon as reasonably possible after its adoption. The purpose of the post-adoption statement is to outline how the SA process has informed and influenced the plan preparation and

decision making process, and demonstrate how consultation on the SA was taken into account. The SA Statement will contain the following information:

- The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with;
- How environmental and sustainability considerations were integrated into the plan;
- How consultation responses were taken into account; and
- Measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant effects of the plan.

SA will continue throughout the Plan preparation and a Sustainability Report will also be published alongside the Local Policies Plan. In developing the Local Policies Plan we will ensure that no significant negative effects for the sustainability objectives are likely, or where they are unavoidable they can be mitigated to insignificant levels. We will also seek to ensure that positive effects are enhanced where appropriate.

5 Monitoring

A preliminary framework for monitoring has been developed from the key sustainability issues and significant effects identified through the SA. The Council will continue to work with statutory bodies and other partners to finalise and agree the relevant sustainability effects to be monitored and therefore this framework may evolve in response to the results of consultation or changes to the Plan Strategy.

The final Monitoring Framework will be presented in a formal SA Statement following adoption of the Plan Strategy. The final framework will also include details of the current figure and baseline trends (if known). However, it should be noted that monitoring of some of the indicators may rely on adoption of the Local Policies Plan. Where appropriate, monitoring may also align with indicators in the Community Plan.

It is also recognised that the Council alone will not deliver all the outcomes identified in the target column. Delivery will also rest with the actions of other statutory bodies and service providers and the Council will therefore work closely with its partners in taking forward the final SA Monitoring Framework.

INDICATOR	SOURCE	TARGET
IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING		
1. Average housing density from planning applications/approvals	Annual Housing Monitor 1st April to 31 March each year Planning Portal Data showing number of planning applications approved contrary to density bands	Density Band City Centre 120-160 dwellings per hectare. Density Band Outside City Centre and within Greater Urban Areas and Towns 25-35 dwellings per hectare.
2. Education, Health, Community and Cultural services floor space built	Annual Reports from providers Number of planning approvals from planning portal. Section 76 Planning Register.	Identify land for Education, Health, Community and Cultural Use at Local Policies Plan to meet any identified need from Providers. Section 76 Planning agreements where a community infrastructure need is identified
3. Total amount of Open Space	Planning approvals from planning portal Open Space Audit	Retain level of open space
4. New public open space gained through housing development (Ha)	Planning approvals from planning portal Open Space Audit	To monitor new open space
5. Provision of equipped children's play areas	Planning approvals from planning portal Open Space Audit	To monitor equipped children's play areas
6. Active Travel schemes which provide improved linkages	Statistics from DfI and Translink on modal shift Number of planning approvals Transport Schemes/ improvements identified by DfI Number of planning applications/ approvals accompanied by a travel plan, above the relevant Transport Assessment thresholds identified from Planning Portal The number of planning applications/ approvals for Greenways DfI Transport Survey and Translink statistics on alternative transport uses to the private car The Council Car Parking Strategy	Delivery of schemes which support Active Travel (Walking, Cycling, Public Transport)

	Number of Planning applications for residential developments approved/refused with Transport Assessments	
INDICATOR	SOURCE	TARGET
STRENGTHEN SOCIETY		
1. Total Affordable Housing	NIHE Housing Needs Assessment or Statement of Specialist Housing Need NIHE Housing Needs Assessment NI Housing Statistics (DfC)	2,400 Social housing units identified in Housing Needs Assessment over lifetime of the Plan. To monitor that 20% of units on sites of 0.5 hectares or comprising of more than 5 residential units are affordable.
2. Traveller and Specialist Accommodation	NIHE Housing Needs Assessment or Statement of Specialist Housing Need NI Housing Statistics (DfC)	Identify any need for Traveller Accommodation For Specialist Accommodation the homes and/or bed spaces to be provided meet an identified community need demonstrated through a statement of specialist housing need.
3. Total number of housing units built in countryside outside settlements	Annual Housing Monitor 1st April to 31 March each year	To monitor housing numbers built in the countryside.
4. Education, Health, Community and Cultural services floor space built	Annual Reports from providers Number of planning approvals from planning portal. Section 76 Planning Register.	Identify land for Education, Health, Community and Cultural Use at Local Policies Plan to meet any identified need from Providers. Section 76 Planning agreements where a community infrastructure need is identified
5. An improved Night-Time Economy in City and Town Centres	Planning approvals from planning portal Town Centre Health Checks Tourism Statistics data and accommodation/bed spaces available from Tourism NI	Increasing Planning approvals to promote the night-time economy such as hotels, bars/ restaurants, leisure and entertainment venues

Indicator	Source	Target
Provide good quality sustainable housing		
1. Total number of housing units built in each settlement on zoned and windfall sites and within/outside the urban footprint	Annual Housing Monitor 1st April to 31 March each year	(HGI) figure of (9,600 housing units 2015-2025) and projection in Plan Strategy for 11,550 housing units 2017-2032 (Strategic Housing Allocation)
2. Total Affordable Housing	Annual Housing Monitor 1st April to 31st March NIHE Housing Needs Assessment NI Housing Statistics (DfC)	2,400 Social housing units identified in Housing Needs Assessment over lifetime of the Plan To monitor that 20% of units on sites of 0.5 hectares or comprising of more than 5 residential units are affordable
3. Traveller and Specialist Accommodation	Annual Housing Monitor 1st April to 31st March NIHE Housing Needs Assessment NI Housing Statistics (DfC)	Identify any need for Traveller Accommodation For Specialist Accommodation the homes and/or bed spaces to be provided meet an identified community need demonstrated through a statement of specialist housing need
4. Average housing density from planning applications/approvals	Annual Housing Monitor 1st April to 31 March each year	Density Band City Centre 120-160 dwellings per hectare Density Band Outside City Centre and within Greater Urban Areas and Towns 25-35 dwellings per hectare

5. Available capacity of Waste Water Treatment Works to support residential development	NI Water Annual Report and Data on WWTWs capacity Annual Housing Monitor 1st April to 31st March	All housing applications connecting to the existing WwTWs
6. Total number of housing units built in countryside outside settlements	Annual Housing Monitor 1st April to 31 March each year	To monitor housing numbers built in the countryside.

Indicator	Source	Target
Enable access to high quality education		
1. Education, Health, Community and Cultural services floor space built	Education related planning applications/ approvals from Planning Portal Education Authority Annual Report	Identify land for Education, Health, Community and Cultural Use at Local Policies Plan to meet any identified need from Providers.
2. % of working age population with no qualifications	NISRA Labour Force Survey	No target. (Objective is to decrease the percentage of the working age population with no qualifications.)

Indicator	Source	Target
Enable sustainable economic growth		
1. Retention of Zoned Land for Economic Development Uses	Annual Employment Land Monitor 1st April to 31st March Total number of employment approvals on zoned employment land and also outside these zonings	Avoiding loss of zoned employment land to other uses. Employment Uses shall be directed to Zoned Employment Land and the Strategic Mixed Use Sites at West Lisburn/Blaris and Purdysburn/ Knockbracken
2. Retail and office development (sq. m.) permitted within established primary retail core and frontage, city or town centre, district and local centres, edge of centre, out of centre and outside these designations	Planning applications/ approvals from planning portal Retail Impact Assessments Town Centre Health Checks and Assessment of Use Class	Number of approvals annually for Class A1 Retail and Class A2 Financial, Professional Services as in the Use Class Order in the designated primary retail core and frontage and city, town, district and local centres Proposed B1(a) office developments do not exceed 400 square metres of gross floor space in District and Local Centres
3. An improved Night-Time Economy in City and Town Centres	Planning applications/ approvals from planning portal Town Centre Health Checks Tourism statistics data and accommodation/bed spaces available from Tourism NI	Increasing Planning approvals to promote the night-time economy such as hotels, bars/ restaurants, leisure and entertainment venues
4. Growth of Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre	Planning applications/ approvals from planning portal Floor-space statistics provided by Land & Property Services	Development of Sprucefield in accordance with Key Site requirements identified in Strategic Policy SMU03
5. Number of tourism amenity planning approvals in settlements and countryside.	Planning applications/ approvals from planning portal Tourism health checks – visitor numbers, overnight stays Tourism NI Statistics	To monitor tourism amenity development applications
6. Number of tourism accommodation planning approvals in settlements and countryside.	Planning applications/ approvals from planning portal Tourism health checks – visitor numbers, overnight stays Tourism NI Statistics	To monitor tourism amenity development applications

Indicator	Source	Target
Manage material assets sustainably		
1. Total number of housing units built in each settlement on zoned and windfall sites and within/outside the urban footprint	Annual Housing Monitor 1st April to 31 March each year	(HGI) figure of (9,600 housing units 2015-2025) and projection in Plan Strategy for 11,550 housing units 2017-2032 (Strategic Housing Allocation)
2. Renewable Energy schemes in accordance with Government targets	Statistics from DfE and NISRA on renewable energy production and supply Number of planning approvals	Compliance with Government targets on energy supply from renewable sources
3. Provision of telecommunications and digital infrastructure	Statistics and reports from Ofcom Number of planning approvals Planning applications/ approvals from planning portal	Delivery of a fit for purpose tele-communications and digital infrastructure
4. Waste Management schemes in accordance with National and Local targets	The NI Waste Management Strategy Council's Waste Management Plan Northern Ireland Environment Agency statistics on tonnage to landfill or recycling Number of planning approvals	Compliance with National and Local targets on waste management

Indicator	Source	Target
Protect physical resources and use sustainably		
1. Annual Mineral extraction rates in the Council Area	Number of planning approvals from planning portal DFE Annual Monitoring Report on operational quarries in the Council Area	No target. (Objective is that local demand for minerals is met by supply without placing pressure on vulnerable landscapes)
2. The level of growth and amount of physical development that occurs in the district	CORINE Land Cover Inventory	Maintain/Increase % 'green urban' ¹⁰ land use type. Reduce rate of increase of 'built on' land use types.

Indicator	Source	Target
Encourage active and sustainable travel		
1. Active Travel schemes which provide improved linkages	Statistics from DfI and Translink on modal shift Number of planning approvals	Delivery of schemes which support Active Travel (Walking, Cycling, Public Transport)
2. Protection of Strategic Greenways and reuse of disused Transport Routes	Statistics from DfI and Translink on modal shift Number of planning approvals DfI publication 'Strategic Plan for Greenways'	Number of Strategic Greenway or transport schemes on disused transport routes (measured in km)

Indicator	Source	Target
Improve air quality		
1. Air Quality	LCCC Environmental Section	Achieving annual mean objectives / improvement in NO ₂ air quality, revocation of AQMAs.
2. Active Travel schemes which provide improved linkages	Statistics from DfI and Translink on modal shift Number of planning approvals Transport Schemes/ improvements identified by DfI	Delivery of schemes which support Active Travel (Walking, Cycling, Public Transport)

¹⁰ Areas with vegetation within or partly embraced by urban fabric identified through the CORINE Land Cover Inventory. This class is assigned for urban greenery, which usually has recreational or ornamental character and is usually accessible for the public.

	Number of planning applications/ approvals accompanied by a travel plan, above the relevant Transport Assessment thresholds identified from Planning Portal	
3. Travel to work by sustainable modes of transport	NISRA (Census) Travel survey for NI (TSNI) (DfI)	No target. (Objective to increase the proportion of journeys carried out using modes other than the car).

Indicator	Source	Target
Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change		
1. Renewable Energy schemes in accordance with Government targets	Statistics from DfE and NISRA on renewable energy production and supply Number of planning approvals Planning applications/ approvals supporting renewable energy including wind turbines, solar farms etc. and any cumulative impact on sensitive landscapes from this development Annual Reports from providers	Compliance with Government targets on energy supply from renewable sources
2. Development within Fluvial or Pluvial Zones	DfI Rivers Agency Flood Maps NI DfI Rivers Agency consultation responses Number of planning approvals in areas at risk	To monitor the number of planning applications in areas that are prone to flooding and its potential adverse impacts.
3. Travel to work by sustainable modes of transport	NISRA (Census) Travel survey for NI (TSNI) (DfI)	No target. (Objective to increase the proportion of journeys carried out using modes other than the car).

Indicator	Source	Target
Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably		
1. Available capacity of Waste Water Treatment Works to support residential development	NI Water Data on WWTWs capacity Annual Housing Monitor 1st April to 31st March	All housing applications connecting to the existing WWTWs
2. Development within Fluvial or Pluvial Zones	DfI Rivers Agency Flood Maps NI DfI Rivers Agency consultation responses Number of planning approvals in areas at risk	To monitor the number of planning applications in areas that are prone to flooding and their potential adverse impacts.
3. % surface waterbodies in Borough achieving 'good' ecological status (or 'good' ecological potential) or better	DAERA NI Environment Agency Water Management Unit	No target. (Objective is improvement in surface water quality).
4. The number of development proposals permitted that incorporate SuDS, of types that do / do not qualify for adoption by NI Water under The Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016	LCCC Planning Decisions	No target. (Objective is increase in development using 'soft' SuDs)
5. Number and location of properties approved with non-mains wastewater treatment.	DAERA NI Environment Agency LCCC Planning Decisions	No target. (Objective is to decrease number of potential point pollution sources).

Indicator	Source	Target
Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity		
1. Number of planning permissions in Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes	Planning approvals from planning portal Open Space Audit The number of development proposals permitted involving heritage assets contrary to the advice from DFC- Historic Environment Division from planning portal	To monitor planning approvals within existing Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes
2. Number of permissions on International, National, Local sites, designated sites and plan designations: Ramsar, ASSI, national nature reserve, local nature reserve, wildlife refuge, AONBs, Areas of High Scenic Value, Green Wedges and Local Landscape Policy Areas	Planning approvals from planning portal The number of development proposals permitted impacting on natural heritage assets contrary to advice from DAERA- Natural Environment Division	To monitor planning applications within sensitive or protected landscapes. (Objective: no loss of designated sites protected or damage to sensitive landscapes and biodiversity through planning approvals).
3. Changes to designation of natural heritage assets (surface area km², number).	DAERA NI Environment Agency	No Target. (Objective is to maintain / increase areas designated for nature conservation value).
4. Condition of natural heritage assets within the Borough (DAERA condition assessments)	DAERA NI Environment Agency	No Target. (Objective is to maintain / improve areas designated for their nature conservation value).

Indicator	Source	Target
Maintain and enhance landscape character		
1. Total amount of Open Space	Planning approvals from planning portal Open Space Audit	Retain level of open space
2. Number of planning permissions in Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes	Planning approvals from planning portal Open Space Audit The number of development proposals permitted involving heritage assets contrary to the advice from DFC- Historic Environment Division from planning portal	To monitor planning approvals within existing Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes
3. Number of permissions on International, National, Local sites, designated sites and plan designations: Ramsar, ASSI, national nature reserve, local nature reserve, wildlife refuge, AONBs, Areas of High Scenic Value, Green Wedges and Local Landscape Policy Areas	Planning approvals from planning portal The number of development proposals permitted impacting on natural heritage assets contrary to advice from DAERA- Natural Environment Division	To monitor planning applications within sensitive or protected landscapes. (Objective: no loss of designated sites protected or damage to sensitive landscapes and biodiversity through planning approvals).

Indicator	Source	Target
Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage		
1. Number of demolitions/ conversions within Conservation Areas and Areas of Town and Village Character	Planning approvals from planning portal The number of development proposals permitted involving heritage assets contrary to the advice from DFC- Historic Environment Division from planning portal	To monitor demolitions/ conversions within Conservation Areas and Areas of Town and Village Character
2. Number of demolitions/conversions of listed buildings	Planning approvals from planning portal The number of development proposals permitted involving heritage assets contrary to the advice from DFC- Historic Environment Division from planning portal	To monitor demolitions/ conversions of listed buildings
3. Number of planning permissions in Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes	Open Space Audit Planning applications/ approvals from planning portal The number of development proposals permitted involving heritage assets contrary to the advice from DFC- Historic Environment Division from planning portal	To monitor planning approvals within existing Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes

Appendix 1: Compliance Checklist for Strategic Environmental Assessment

Schedule 2 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 lists the following information required for Environmental Reports, according to Regulation 11(3), (4). The location in this Sustainability Appraisal Report or the accompanying SA Scoping Report is identified.

Requirement	Location
1. An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	An introduction to the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council LDP is presented in Section 1 of the SA Report and Section 1 of the SA Scoping Report. The key plans, policies, programmes and strategies that have been considered in the SA are described at the introduction to each topic in Chapter 5 of the SA Scoping Report. A full list is included in the Appendix 4 of the SA Scoping Report.
2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	Baseline information is presented in Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report, under topic sections. Each section highlights the likely evolution of the baseline without the LDP. The Key Sustainability Issues are summarised at the end of each topic in Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report.
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	The environmental characteristics of the district are presented in Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report, in baseline information and as Key Sustainability Issues.
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 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.	Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report identifies environmental problems. A draft Habitats Regulations Assessment for the draft Plan Strategy has been published for consultation alongside the draft Plan Strategy. A summary of the HRA is included in Section 1.3.3 of the SA Report.
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.	Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report outlines the main policy themes in the introduction to each topic. Appendix 4 of the SA Scoping Report outlines the relationship of the LDP with other plans, programmes and policies.

Requirement	Location
<p>6. 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, on issues such as -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) biodiversity; (ii) population; (iii) human health; (iv) fauna; (v) flora; (vi) soil; (vii) water; (viii) air; (ix) climatic factors; (x) material assets; (xi) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; (xii) landscape, and (xiii) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub paragraphs (i) to (xii). 	<p>Likely significant effects are described in Sections 3 and 4 of the SA Report. They are reported in the context of the sustainability appraisal framework included in Appendix 5 of the SA Scoping Report. Interrelationships are discussed in Section 4 of the SA Report and Appendix 3 of the SA Scoping Report.</p>
<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>Measures are reported in Section 3 of the SA Report and also in the matrices presented in Appendix 4 of the SA Report.</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 as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.</p>	<p>Section 2 of the SA Report considers this in general. Section 3 and Appendix 4 of the SA Report provide more detail on the options appraised and any assumptions and limitations encountered in the appraisal.</p>
<p>9. A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 16.</p>	<p>A preliminary framework for potential monitoring has been included in Section 5 of the SA Report.</p>
<p>10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.</p>	<p>A non-technical summary is provided as a separate document to accompany the SA Report and the SA Scoping Report.</p>

Appendix 2: Compatibility of Sustainability Objectives & Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's Strategic Objectives.

Sustainability Appraisal Framework	1 Improve health and well-being.	2 Strengthen society.	3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4 Enable access to high quality education.	5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	6 Manage material assets sustainably.	7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	9 Improve air quality.	10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment
Plan Vision														
The Local Development Plan (LDP) will respond to the needs of the community in providing a sustainable economy, society and environment. It will support a thriving, vibrant and connected place in which people live, work, visit and invest; and an attractive, green and quality place which will enhance the well-being and quality of life for all.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
A: A Quality Place Enabling Sustainable Communities and Delivery of New Homes														
1. Support the existing settlement hierarchy, recognising Lisburn and Castlereagh as a growth area consistent with the RDS and reflective of its strategic location.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	?	✓	?	?	?	?	○	✓
2. Encourage the creation of accessible and connected places to sustain communities with good access to jobs, housing, public transport, education, community and recreation facilities.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	○	✓	○	○	○	○	○	✓
3. Provide for strategic growth at West Lisburn/Blaris including the delivery of new homes.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	✓
4. Support towns, villages and small settlements in the Council area as vibrant and attractive centres providing homes and services appropriate to their role in the settlement hierarchy whilst protecting their identity from excessive development.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	✓	?	?	○	○	○	○
5. Provide appropriate opportunities for housing in settlements with a range of types and tenures, including affordable housing.	✓	✓	✓	○	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6. Encourage good design and positive place-making in all development appropriate to its locality and context	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	○	✓	○	○	○	○	✓	✓

Sustainability Appraisal Framework	Sustainability Appraisal Framework													
	1 Improve health and well-being.	2 Strengthen society.	3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4 Enable access to high quality education.	5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	6 Manage material assets sustainably.	7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	9 Improve air quality.	10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment
7. Support the provision of adequate infrastructure (including water, sewage and transport) for sustainable residential development	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8. Support vibrant rural communities with appropriate opportunities for dwellings and sustainable development in the countryside.	?	✓	✓	?	✓	?	✓	?	?	○	?	✓	✓	✓
B: A Thriving Place Driving Sustainable Economic Growth														
1. Support a thriving and diverse economy with a sufficient supply of land and in locations for a range of employment uses facilitating the creation of new jobs and to encourage existing and new businesses to invest with confidence.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	○	?	?	✓	○	○	○
2. Accommodate population growth to ensure a continuous supply of labour and allow the resident population the opportunity to avail of high quality employment opportunities in sustainable locations close to where they live.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	?	✓	?	?	?	?	○	✓
3. Promote Mixed Use development at strategic locations at West Lisburn and Purdysburn with appropriate employment uses to facilitate opportunities for economic growth and inward investment.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4. Promote access to higher and further education to meet employment needs.	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	○	?	○	○	○	○	○	○
5. Support Lisburn City, the towns and villages as employment and service centres for their surrounding hinterland.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	✓	?	?	○	○	○	○
6. Support the provision of infrastructure both physical and digital to facilitate employment growth, economic regeneration, inward investment and physical renewal.	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	○	○	○	○	○	○	?	✓
7. Manage mineral resources in a sustainable manner, protecting and safeguarding vulnerable landscapes where appropriate.	○	✓	○	○	✓	✓	✓	○	?	?	○	✓	○	○

Sustainability Appraisal Framework	1 Improve health and well-being.	2 Strengthen society.	3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4 Enable access to high quality education.	5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	6 Manage material assets sustainably.	7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	9 Improve air quality.	10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment
	C: A Vibrant Place Growing our City, Town Centres, Retailing and Other Uses													
1. Promote the regeneration of our city and town centres as quality places to live, work, shop and visit	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	○	✓	○	○	○	○	✓	✓
2. Promote Lisburn City Centre as a vibrant destination offering a mix of residential, shopping, employment, high grade office development, leisure and community uses; and better transportation linking people and places.	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	○	○	○	✓
3. Support our towns and villages, encouraging appropriate retailing, offices, mixed use and housing opportunities.	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	○	○	○	✓
4. Promote regeneration and reuse of existing buildings and previously developed land for mixed use development, whilst maintaining environmental quality and protecting residential amenity.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	✓	?	?	○	○	○	○
5. Promote a vibrant and thriving night-time economy in our city and town centres to support economic growth, furthering opportunity for enhancing their vitality and viability.	✓	✓	○	○	✓	✓	○	✓	○	○	○	○	○	✓
6. Support the role of Sprucefield as a regional retail destination at a key strategic location within Northern Ireland.	✓	✓	○	○	✓	○	○	✓	○	○	○	?	○	○
D: An Attractive Place Promoting Sustainable Tourism, Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation														
1. Support and develop tourism infrastructure as a key growth area.	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	○	○	○	○	○	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Facilitate tourism development whilst protecting heritage assets, encouraging development in appropriate locations, including a wide range of tourist accommodation.	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	○	○	○	○	○	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Safeguard key tourism/recreation assets from inappropriate development.	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	○	○	○	○	○	✓	✓	✓	✓
4. Support the recreation and leisure offer to grow in a sustainable manner.	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	○	○	○	○	○	✓	✓	✓	✓

Sustainability Appraisal Framework	Sustainability Objectives													
	1 Improve health and well-being.	2 Strengthen society.	3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4 Enable access to high quality education.	5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	6 Manage material assets sustainably.	7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	9 Improve air quality.	10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment
5. Protect and enhance open space recognising its value in promoting health and well-being and resolving flood issues through the introduction of sustainable urban drainage infrastructure.	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6. Support and encourage accessibility to open space including the Lagan Valley Regional Park and Lagan Navigation as key assets within the Council area.	✓	✓	○	○	✓	○	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
E: A Green Place Protecting and Enhancing the Historic and Natural Environment														
1. Protect our historic and natural environment recognising their contribution to sustainable communities, economic growth, sustainable transport and health and well-being.	✓	✓	✓	○	✓	○	?	○	○	○	○	✓	✓	✓
2. Protect, conserve and enhance our historic environment, optimising the use of brownfield sites and promoting heritage-led regeneration.	✓	✓	✓	○	✓	○	?	○	○	○	○	✓	✓	✓
3. Recognise the value of our Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape/Village Character as important heritage assets.	✓	✓	○	○	✓	○	○	○	○	○	○	✓	✓	✓
4. Shape our places, the quality of new buildings and our town and village centres by promoting good design and maximise benefits to communities.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	○	✓	○	○	○	○	✓
5. Protect our natural heritage assets and promote their sensitive reuse to help create a sense of place.	✓	✓	○	○	✓	○	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6. Ensure new development does not cause harm to biodiversity and other natural resources such as air, water and soil.	✓	✓	○	○	✓	○	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Sustainability Appraisal Framework	1 Improve health and well-being.	2 Strengthen society.	3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4 Enable access to high quality education.	5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	6 Manage material assets sustainably.	7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	9 Improve air quality.	10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment
7. Protect and enhance our designated natural heritage assets including the Lagan Valley Regional Park and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and other high quality landscapes such as Areas of High Scenic Value (AoHSV) and secure, through appropriate designations, to ensure they remain unspoilt for future generations.	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	○	?	✓	✓	✓	✓
F: A Connected Place: Supporting Sustainable Transport and Other Infrastructure														
1. Support the growth of the Council area, exploiting its strategic location on Key Transport Corridors and the rail network.	○	✓	✓	○	✓	○	?	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?
2. Designate and protect the location of strategic infrastructure, promote strategic transport schemes and linkages, maximising accessibility by sustainable modes across the Council area, ensuring infrastructure development is flood resilient.	○	✓	○	○	✓	✓	?	✓	?	?	✓	?	?	?
3. Promote opportunities for sustainable travel through development of Active Travel Networks to support walking, cycling and public transport, reducing the need to travel by private car.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	○	✓	✓	✓	○	○	○	✓
4. Develop and promote strategic greenways to provide opportunities for walking, cycling, biodiversity, health and well-being.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	✓
5. Recognise the contribution green and blue infrastructure offers to human health and sustainable urban drainage.	✓	○	○	○	○	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6. Mitigate and adapt to climate change by minimising greenhouse gas emissions.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	✓	✓	○	○	○	○
7. Support renewable energy infrastructure whilst affording protection to the environment.	?	?	?	○	✓	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	?	✓	?	✓
8. Facilitate the delivery of telecommunications and utilities infrastructure throughout the Plan period.	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	○	○	✓	✓	○	?	?

Sustainability Appraisal Framework	1 Improve health and well-being.	2 Strengthen society.	3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4 Enable access to high quality education.	5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	6 Manage material assets sustainably.	7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	9 Improve air quality.	10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment
9. Support effective waste management through reuse, recycling and reduction of waste to landfill, minimising environmental impacts.	✓	○	○	○	✓	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?
10. Prevent inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding or that increase flood risk elsewhere, whilst managing flood risk and providing mitigation where necessary.	✓	○	○	○	✓	✓	✓	○	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Compatible	✓	No relationship	○	Uncertain relationship	?	Incompatible	✗
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Appendix 3: Impact of Preferred Options on Sustainability Objectives

Tables A3.1 to A3.6 show the total effects (long term) attributed during the appraisal process, with the operational policies arranged under each theme of the Council’s Strategic Objectives. They give a general visual impression of how the policies perform against the Sustainability Objectives.

However, it should be noted that some of the operational policies were grouped together in the appraisal process. It should also be noted that for some policies, the scale of the effects may be much greater than those of other policies.

Table A3.1 Strategic Policies and Strategic Mixed Use Policies

		1... improve health and well-being	2... strengthen society.	3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4... enable access to high quality education.	5... enable sustainable economic growth.	6... manage material assets sustainably.	7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9... improve air quality.	10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
	Spatial Strategy - Settlement Hierarchy	+	++	+	+	+	0	-	+	?	?	-	?	0	+
SP01	SP01 Sustainable Development	++	+	+	+	++	+	+	++	++	++	+	+	+	+
SP02	SP02 Improving Health and Well-being	++	++	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
SP03	SP03 Creating and Enhancing Shared Space and Quality Places	++	++	++	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
SP04	SP04 Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth	+	+	+	+	++	+	0	0	?	?	+	0	0	0
SP05	SP05 Good Design and Positive Place-Making	+	++	++	+	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	++	++
SP06	SP06 Protecting and Enhancing the Environment	+	+	0	0	+	0	?	0	0	++	++	++	+	++
SP07	SP07 Section 76 Planning Agreements	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	++	0	0	+	0	0	+
SP08	SP08 Housing in Settlements	++	++	++	0	0	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	++
SP09	SP09 Housing in the Countryside	?	+	+	-	+	-	+	--	?	0	?	+	+	+
SP10	SP10 Education, Health, Community and Culture	++	++	0	++	+	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0
SP11	SP11 Economic Development in Settlements	+	+	+	+	++	+	0	+	?	?	0	0	0	0
SP12	SP12 Economic Development in the Countryside	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	-	?	?	0	0	0	0
SP13	SP13 Mineral Development	0	+	0	0	+	+	++	0	-	?	0	+	0	0
SP14	SP14 Town Centres, Retailing and Other Uses	+	+	0	+	++	++	0	+	?	0	0	0	0	+
SP15	SP15 Evening/Night-time Economy	+	+	0	0	++	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
SP16	SP16 Tourism	+	+	0	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+
SP17	SP17 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation	++	++	0	+	+	0	+	++	+	++	+	++	++	++
SP18	SP18 Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment and Archaeological Remains	+	+	+	0	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	+	+	++
SP19	SP19 Protecting and Enhancing Natural Heritage	+	++	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	++	++	++	+
SP20	SP20 Transportation Infrastructure	++	++	0	+	++	0	0	++	+	+	0	+	+	+
SP21	SP21 Renewable Energy	+	0	0	0	+	+	?	0	?	++	?	0	0	0
SP22	SP22 Telecommunications and Other Utilities	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	+
SP23	SP23 Waste Management	+	0	0	0	+	++	?	0	?	0	0	0	0	0
SP24	SP24 Flooding	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	+	0
	STRATEGIC MIXED USE POLICIES														
SMU01	SMU01 West Lisburn/Blaris	++	++	++	+	++	++	+	++	+	+	+	++	0	+
SMU02	SMU02 Purdyburn/Knockbracken	+	++	0	+	++	+	0	++	0	0	0	+	++	+
SMU03	SMU03 Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre	+	+	0	0	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	?	0	0

Table A3.2 Operational Policies - A Quality Place

		1... improve health and wellbeing	2... strengthen society.	3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4... enable access to high quality education.	5... enable sustainable economic growth.	6... manage material assets sustainably.	7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9... improve air quality.	10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
	A QUALITY PLACE														
	1. HOUSING IN SETTLEMENTS														
HOU1-HOU9	Residential Development	++	++	++	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	++
HOU10	HOU10 Affordable Housing in Settlements	+	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOU11	HOU11 Specialist Accommodation	++	++	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOU12	HOU12 Accommodation for the Travelling Community	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
	2. COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN SETTLEMENTS														
CF01&CF02	Community Facilities	+	++	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
	3. DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE														
COU1-COU4 & COU6-COU10	Development and Dwellings in the Countryside	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	-	0	0	-	+	+	+
COU5	Affordable Housing	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COU 11-COU14	Non-residential development in the countryside	+	+	0	0	++	?	+	-	-	-	-	?	+	+
COU15 & COU16	General requirements for all development in the Countryside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+

Table A3.3 Operational Policies –A Thriving Place

		1... improve health and wellbeing	2... strengthen society.	3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4... enable access to high quality education.	5... enable sustainable economic growth.	6... manage material assets sustainably.	7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9... improve air quality.	10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
	A THRIVING PLACE														
	4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT														
ED1&ED2	Economic Development in Settlements	0	+	0	0	++	+	+	+	?	?	0	0	0	0
ED3-ED6	Economic Development in the Countryside	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	-	0	?	0	0	+	0
ED7	Retention of Zoned Land and Economic Development	0	+	+	0	++	?	+	+	0	0	?	0	0	0
ED8&9	General Requirements for Economic Development	++	0	0	0	++	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
	5. MINERALS DEVELOPMENT														
MD1-MD3 & MD9	Minerals - Protective Policies & Restoration	0	0	0	0	+	0	++	0	0	0	+	+	+	0
MD4	Valuable Minerals	?	0	0	0	++	0	+	0	?	?	?	?	?	?
MD5	Unconventional Hydrocarbon Extraction	0	0	0	0	+	?	+	0	-	-	?	?	?	?
MD6	Mineral Safeguarding Areas	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	0	?	?	?	?	?	?
MD7&MD8	Traffic, Safety and Amenity	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0

Table A3.4 Operational Policies –A Vibrant Place and an Attractive Place

		1... improve health and well-being	2... strengthen society.	3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4... enable access to high quality education.	5... enable sustainable economic growth.	6... manage material assets sustainably.	7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9... improve air quality.	10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
	A VIBRANT PLACE														
	6. TOWN CENTRES, RETAILING AND OTHER USES														
TC1-TC5	Town Centre, Retailing and Offices	+	++	0	+	++	+	+	++	+	0	0	0	0	+
TC6	Petrol Filling Stations and Roadside Service Facilities	0	0	0	0	+	?	0	-	-	?	0	0	0	0
	AN ATTRACTIVE PLACE														
	7. TOURISM														
TOU1	Tourism Development in Settlements	+	+	0	+	++	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+
TOU2-TOU6	Tourism Development in the Countryside	+	+	0	+	++	0	+	?	0	0	0	?	+	+
TOU7	General Criteria for Tourism Development	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+
TOU8	Safeguarding of Tourism Assets	+	+	0	0	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	++	++
	8. OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND OUTDOOR RECREATION														
OS1	Protection of Open Space	++	++	+	0	+	0	+	++	+	+	+	++	+	++
OS2-OS6	Sports and Recreation Facilities	++	++	0	0	++	0	?	0	?	0	+	?	-	?

Table A3.5 Operational Policies –A Green Place

		1... improve health and well-being	2... strengthen society.	3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4... enable access to high quality education.	5... enable sustainable economic growth.	6... manage material assets sustainably.	7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9... improve air quality.	10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
	A GREEN PLACE														
	9. HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND ARCHAEOLOGY														
HE1-HE4	Archaeological Remains	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++
HE5	Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes of Special Historic Interest	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	++
HE6-HE9	Protection of Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape or Village Character	+	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++
HE10-HE12	Development in Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape or Village Character	+	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	++
HE13	The Conversion and Reuse of Non-Listed Buildings	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++
HE14	Enabling Development	0	0	?	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	+
	10. NATURAL HERITAGE														
NH1-NH5	International, European, National and Local Sites of Nature Conservation Importance and Protected Species	+	+	0	0	0	0	++	0	+	+	+	++	++	+
NH6	Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	?	+	++	++	++

Table A3.6 Operational Policies –A Connected Place

		1... improve health and well-being	2... strengthen society.	3... Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4... enable access to high quality education.	5... enable sustainable economic growth.	6... manage material assets sustainably.	7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9... improve air quality.	10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
	A CONNECTED PLACE														
	11. ACCESS AND TRANSPORT														
TRA1	Creating an Accessible Environment	++	++	+	+	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRA2&TRA3	Access to Public Roads and Protected Routes	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0
TRA4	Protection for New Transport Schemes	+	+	+	0	+	+	-	++	?	?	0	-	0	0
TRA5	Strategic Greenways and Disused Transport Routes	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+
TRA6	Transport Assessment	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	++	+	0	0	0	0
TRA7,TRA9-TRA11	Car Parking and Servicing Arrangements in New Developments	0	0	0	0	+	0	-	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRA8	Active Travel Networks and Infrastructure Provision	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	++	0	0	0	0
	12. RENEWABLE ENERGY														
RE1	RE1 Renewable Energy Development	0	0	0	0	+	++	?	0	0	++	0	+	-	0
RE2	RE2 Integrated Renewable Energy	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
	13. TELECOMMUNICATIONS														
TEL1	TEL1 Telecommunications Development	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	14. UTILITIES														
UT1	UT1 Utilities	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
	15. WASTE MANAGEMENT														
WM1,WM3,WM5	Waste Management and Disposal Facilities	+	0	0	0	+	++	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+
WM2	WM2 Treatment of Waste Water	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	++	+	0	0
WM4	WM4 Land Improvement	0	0	0	0	0	+	?	0	0	?	?	?	0	+
	16. FLOODING														
FLD1-FLD4	Flood Risk and Drainage	++	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	++	++	++	+	+
FLD5	Development in Proximity to Reservoirs	++	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	17. ADVERTISEMENTS														
AD1	Amenity and Public Safety	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Appendix 4: The Sustainability Appraisal Matrices

POLICY	HOW APPRAISED	PAGE
STRATEGIC POLICIES AND SPATIAL STRATEGY		
Spatial Strategy and the Settlement Hierarchy	Spatial Strategy and Settlement hierarchy appraised	160
SP01 Sustainable Development	SP01 appraised	163
SP02 Improving Health and Well-being	SP02 appraised	165
SP03 Creating and Enhancing Shared Space and Quality Places	SP03 appraised	167
SP04 Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth	SP04 appraised	170
SP05 Good Design and Positive Place-Making	SP05 appraised	173
SP06 Protecting and Enhancing the Environment	SP06 appraised	176
SP07 Section 76 Planning Agreements	SP07 appraised	179
SP08 Housing in Settlements	SP08 appraised	182
SP09 Housing in the Countryside	SP09 appraised	185
SP10 Education, Health, Community and Culture	SP10 appraised	188
SP11 Economic Development in Settlements	SP11 appraised	191
SP12 Economic Development in the Countryside	SP12 appraised	194
SP13 Mineral Development	SP13 appraised	197
SP14 Town Centres, Retailing and Other Uses	SP14 appraised	200
SP15 Evening/Night-time Economy	SP15 appraised	203
SP16 Tourism	SP16 appraised	206
SP17 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation	SP17 appraised	209
SP18 Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment and Archaeological Remains	SP18 appraised	212
SP19 Protecting and Enhancing Natural Heritage	SP19 appraised	215
SP20 Transportation Infrastructure	SP20 appraised	218
SP21 Renewable Energy	SP21 appraised	221
SP22 Telecommunications and Other Utilities	SP22 appraised	224
SP23 Waste Management	SP23 appraised	227
SP24 Flooding	SP24 appraised	230

STRATEGIC MIXED USE POLICIES		
SMU01 West Lisburn/Blaris	SMU01 appraised	233
SMU02 Purdysburn/Knockbracken	SMU02 appraised	236
SMU03 Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre	SMU03 appraised	239

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2032 DRAFT PLAN STRATEGY - PART 2 OPERATIONAL POLICIES		
A QUALITY PLACE		
1. HOUSING IN SETTLEMENTS		
HOU1 New Residential Development	HOU1 - HOU9 appraised as a group	242
HOU2 Protection of Land Zoned for Housing	HOU1 - HOU9 appraised as a group	242
HOU3 Site Context and Characteristics of New Residential Development	HOU1 - HOU9 appraised as a group	242
HOU4 Design in New Residential Development	HOU1 - HOU9 appraised as a group	242
HOU5 Public Open Space in New Residential Development	HOU1 - HOU9 appraised as a group	242
HOU6 Design Concept Statements, Concept Masterplans and Comprehensive Planning	HOU1 - HOU9 appraised as a group	242
HOU7 Residential Extensions and Alterations	HOU1 - HOU9 appraised as a group	242
HOU8 Protecting Local Character, Environmental Quality and Residential Amenity in Established Residential Areas	HOU1 - HOU9 appraised as a group	242
HOU9 The Conversion or Change of Use of Existing Buildings to Flats or Apartments	HOU1 - HOU9 appraised as a group	242
HOU10 Affordable Housing in Settlements	HOU10 appraised	248
HOU11 Specialist Accommodation	HOU11 appraised	251
HOU12 Accommodation for the Travelling Community	HOU12 appraised	254
2. COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN SETTLEMENTS		
CF01 Necessary Community Facilities in Settlements	CF01 and CF02 appraised as a group.	257
CF02 Protection of a Local Community Facility	CF01 and CF02 appraised as a group.	257
3. DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE		
COU1 Development in the Countryside	COU1 - COU4 & COU6 - COU10 appraised as a group.	260
COU2 New Dwellings in Existing Clusters	COU1 - COU4 & COU6 - COU10 appraised as a group.	260
COU3 Replacement Dwellings	COU1 - COU4 & COU6 - COU10 appraised as a group.	260

COU4 The Conversion and Reuse of Buildings for Residential Use	COU1 - COU4 & COU6 - COU10 appraised as a group.	260
COU5 Affordable Housing	COU5 appraised	263
COU6 Personal and Domestic Circumstances	COU1 - COU4 & COU6 - COU10 appraised as a group.	260
COU7 Dwellings for Non-Agricultural Business Enterprises	COU1 - COU4 & COU6 - COU10 appraised as a group.	260
COU8 Infill/Ribbon Development	COU1 - COU4 & COU6 - COU10 appraised as a group.	260
COU9 Temporary Caravan	COU1 - COU4 & COU6 - COU10 appraised as a group.	260
COU10 Dwellings on Farms	COU1 - COU4 & COU6 - COU10 appraised as a group.	260
COU11 Farm Diversification	COU 11 - COU14 appraised as a group	265
COU12 Agricultural and Forestry Development	COU 11 - COU14 appraised as a group	265
COU13 Necessary Community Facilities in the Countryside	COU 11 - COU14 appraised as a group	265
COU14 The Conversion and Reuse of Buildings for Non-Residential Use	COU 11 - COU14 appraised as a group	265
COU15 Integration and Design of Buildings in the Countryside	COU15 & COU16 appraised as a group	268
COU16 Rural Character and other Criteria	COU15 & COU16 appraised as a group	268
A THRIVING PLACE		
4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
ED1 Economic Development in Cities and Towns	ED1&ED2 appraised as a group	270
ED2 Economic Development in Villages and Small Settlements	ED1&ED2 appraised as a group	270
ED3 Expansion of an Established Economic Development Use in the Countryside	ED3-ED6 appraised as a group	273
ED4 Redevelopment of an Established Economic Development Use in the Countryside	ED3-ED6 appraised as a group	273
ED5 Major Economic Development in the Countryside	ED3-ED6 appraised as a group	273
ED6 Small Rural Projects	ED3-ED6 appraised as a group	273
ED7 Retention of Zoned Land and Economic Development	ED7 appraised	276
ED8 Development Incompatible with Economic Development Uses	ED8 & ED9 appraised as a group	279
ED9 General Criteria for Economic Development	ED8 & ED9 appraised as a group	279

5. MINERALS DEVELOPMENT		
MD1 Environmental Protection	MD1-MD3 & MD9 appraised as a group	282
MD2 Visual Impact	MD1-MD3 & MD9 appraised as a group	282
MD3 Areas of Mineral Constraint	MD1-MD3 & MD9 appraised as a group	282
MD4 Valuable Minerals	MD4 appraised	285
MD5 Unconventional Hydrocarbon Extraction	MD5 appraised	287
MD6 Mineral Safeguarding Areas	MD6 appraised	290
MD7 Safety and Amenity	MD7 & MD8 appraised as a group	292
MD8 Traffic Implications	MD7 & MD8 appraised as a group	292
MD9 Restoration Proposals	MD1-MD3 & MD9 appraised as a group	282
A VIBRANT PLACE		
6. TOWN CENTRES, RETAILING AND OTHER USES	TC1-TC5 appraised as a group	294
TC1 Town Centre, Retailing and Other Uses	TC1-TC5 appraised as a group	294
TC2 Lisburn City Centre Primary Retail Core and Retail Frontage	TC1-TC5 appraised as a group	294
TC3 Town Centres	TC1-TC5 appraised as a group	294
TC4 District and Local Centres	TC1-TC5 appraised as a group	294
TC5 Villages and Small Settlements	TC1-TC5 appraised as a group	294
TC6 Petrol Filling Stations and Roadside Service Facilities	TC6 appraised	297
AN ATTRACTIVE PLACE		
7. TOURISM		
TOU1 Tourism Development in Settlements	TOU1 appraised	299
TOU2 Proposals for Tourism Amenity in the Countryside	TOU2-TOU6 appraised as a group	301
TOU3 Proposals for Tourist Accommodation in the Countryside	TOU2-TOU6 appraised as a group	301
TOU4 Self-Catering Tourist Accommodation in the Countryside	TOU2-TOU6 appraised as a group	301
TOU5 Holiday Parks in the Countryside	TOU2-TOU6 appraised as a group	301
TOU6 Proposals for Major Tourism Development in the Countryside	TOU2-TOU6 appraised as a group	301
TOU7 General Criteria for Tourism Development	TOU7 appraised	304
TOU8 Safeguarding of Tourism Assets	TOU8 appraised	306
8. OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND OUTDOOR RECREATION		
OS1 Protection of Open Space	OS1 appraised	308

OS2 Intensive Sports Facilities	OS2-OS6 appraised as a group	310
OS3 Noise-Generating Sports and Outdoor Recreational Activities	OS2-OS6 appraised as a group	310
OS4 Facilities ancillary to Water Sports	OS2-OS6 appraised as a group	310
OS5 Floodlighting of Sports and Outdoor Recreational Facilities	OS2-OS6 appraised as a group	310
OS6 Outdoor Recreation in the Countryside	OS2-OS6 appraised as a group	310
A GREEN PLACE		
9. HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND ARCHAEOLOGY		
HE1 The Preservation of Archaeological Remains of Regional Importance and their Settings	HE1-HE4 appraised as a group	313
HE2 The Preservation of Archaeological Remains of Local Importance and their Settings	HE1-HE4 appraised as a group	313
HE3 Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation	HE1-HE4 appraised as a group	313
HE4 Archaeological Mitigation	HE1-HE4 appraised as a group	313
HE5 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes of Special Historic Interest	HE5 appraised	316
HE6 Change of Use and/or Extensions or Alterations to a Listed Building	HE6-HE9 appraised as a group	318
HE7 Control of Advertisements on a Listed Building	HE6-HE9 appraised as a group	318
HE8 Demolition or Partial Demolition of a Listed Building	HE6-HE9 appraised as a group	318
HE9 Development affecting the Setting of a Listed Building	HE6-HE9 appraised as a group	318
HE10 New Development in a Conservation Area or Area of Townscape Character/Area of Village Character	HE10 - HE12 appraised as a group	321
HE11 The Control of Advertisements in a Conservation Area or Area of Townscape Character/Area of Village Character	HE10 - HE12 appraised as a group	321
HE12 Demolition or Partial Demolition in a Conservation Area or Area of Townscape Character/Area of Village Character	HE10 - HE12 appraised as a group	321
HE13 The Conversion and Reuse of Non-Listed Buildings	HE13 appraised	324
HE14 Enabling Development	HE14 appraised	326
10. NATURAL HERITAGE		
NH1 European and Ramsar Sites - International	NH1-NH5 appraised as a group	328
NH2 Species Protected by Law	NH1-NH5 appraised as a group	328
NH3 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance - National	NH1-NH5 appraised as a group	328
NH4 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance - Local	NH1-NH5 appraised as a group	328
NH5 Habitats, Species or Features of Natural Heritage Importance	NH1-NH5 appraised as a group	328
NH6 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	NH6 appraised	332

A CONNECTED PLACE		
11. ACCESS AND TRANSPORT		
TRA1 Creating an Accessible Environment	TRA1 appraised	335
TRA2 Access to Public Roads	TRA2 and TRA3 appraised as a group	338
TRA3 Access to Protected Routes	TRA2 and TRA3 appraised as a group	338
TRA4 Protection for New Transport Schemes	TRA4 appraised	341
TRA5 Strategic Greenways and Disused Transport Routes	TRA5 appraised	344
TRA6 Transport Assessment	TRA6 appraised	347
TRA7 Car Parking and Servicing Arrangements in New Developments	TRA7 and TRA9-TRA11 appraised as a group	350
TRA8 Active Travel Networks and Infrastructure Provision	TRA8 appraised	353
TRA9 Park and Ride/Park and Share Car Parks	TRA7 and TRA9-TRA11 appraised as a group	350
TRA10 Provision of Public and Private Car Parks	TRA7 and TRA9-TRA11 appraised as a group	350
TRA11 Temporary Car Parks	TRA7 and TRA9-TRA11 appraised as a group	350
12. RENEWABLE ENERGY		
RE1 Renewable Energy Development	RE1 appraised	356
RE2 Integrated Renewable Energy	RE2 appraised	359
13. TELECOMMUNICATIONS		
TEL1 Telecommunications Development	TEL1 appraised	361
14. UTILITIES		
UT1 Utilities	UT1 appraised	363
15. WASTE MANAGEMENT		
WM1 Waste Management Facilities	WM1, WM3 and WM5 appraised as a group	365
WM2 Treatment of Waste Water	WM2 appraised	368
WM3 Waste Disposal	WM1, WM3 and WM5 appraised as a group	365
WM4 Land Improvement	WM4 appraised	370
WM5 Development in the Vicinity of Waste Management Facilities or Waste Water Treatment Works	WM1, WM3 and WM5 appraised as a group	365
16. FLOODING		
FLD1 Development in Fluvial (River) Flood Plains	FLD1 - FLD4 appraised	373
FLD2 Protection of Flood Defence and Drainage Infrastructure	FLD1 - FLD4 appraised	373
FLD3 Development and Surface Water (Pluvial) Flood Risk Outside Flood Plains	FLD1 - FLD4 appraised	373

FLD4 Artificial Modification of Watercourses	FLD1 - FLD4 appraised	373
FLD5 Development in Proximity to Reservoirs	FLD5 appraised	376
17. ADVERTISEMENTS		
AD1 Amenity and Public Safety	AD1 appraised	379

Spatial Strategy and the Settlement Hierarchy				
Option	Retain the existing settlement hierarchy with minor amendments.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	This policy allows for consolidation of housing, which overall is a more sustainable approach than more dispersed development. The principle of a hierarchy which directs facilities or services according to the settlement's position enables easier access to health care and community facilities for the majority of the population, but allows flexibility for people to live in rural settlements or where they need. This flexibility helps to supports family cohesion in rural areas.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	The hierarchy enables a high proportion of the population of the Council to access services easily. This option is able to deliver services that meet identified needs. Rural communities are able to be sustained by an economically active population in the countryside and family cohesion is supported. Community focus is stronger in the rural area than in the urban area.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	This strategic policy can enable the provision of a mix of housing; the minor amendments to the hierarchy enable some flexibility, which allows it to deliver slightly more for this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Consolidation in settlements enables access to schools and provides the flexibility to match development with need/provision for education. It therefore makes schools more sustainable through matching need with capacity. Minor adjustments in settlement classification will help to enable the needs of those settlements to be met.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The principle of the settlement hierarchy makes the Council area an attractive place to live and work. It allows appropriate levels of employment to be enabled in settlements. Reclassifying a settlement further up the hierarchy allows more facilities to be permitted. It can encourage sustainable tourism, which is important for the economy.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	-	-	0	The identification of new settlements or sites is likely to increase pressure on existing services and infrastructure and may trigger need for new infrastructure. Over time as infrastructure is developed, the impact will be resolved.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	-	-	The principle of the hierarchy focuses development in settlements which overall is a more sustainable approach than dispersed development. However, there will be a possible loss of greenfield land, especially around smaller settlements that do not have the zoning required.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The identification of settlements arranged in a hierarchy provides focal points for the provision of transport links. The settlements that are higher up in the hierarchy will generally have a greater population, which helps to provide the critical mass needed by transport providers to sustain a greater range and frequency of public transport options. The hierarchy also helps to establish priorities for enabling active travel linkages. Rural development is by its nature likely to be located further from public transport / access to active travel which could be interpreted as a negative but the hierarchy overall supports the principle. However, over time the designation may help to enable the delivery of new opportunities for active / sustainable travel that will be accessible to more of the Council's population.
9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	The principle of the hierarchy encourages growth in settlements that are already established, however new development and a rise in population can lead to increases in emissions from transport and the development itself which will have a negative effect on the objective. The hierarchy can support the objective by establishing more locations which have the potential to be travelled to or within by active and sustainable travel. Classifying settlements to allow new services may also help to reduce the need to travel by car. The overall impact on the objective is uncertain.

10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	New housing and economic development will result in greenhouse gas emissions from the development itself and from transport. However, the principle of the hierarchy helps to consolidate development and make it more efficient. Policy directs development away from vulnerable areas such as flood plain. It is difficult to predict the impacts that will occur from housing and transport however some of the negative effects can be reduced through designing in efficiency measures in to new development, encouraging the use of SuDS and incorporating renewables technologies.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	-	-	-	In general, new development can place pressure on water resources - whilst there is adequate water provision in the Council area there may be issues with discharging waste water (both foul waste and stormwater). The hierarchy helps to direct the provision of drainage infrastructure to be in keeping with settlement size, but waste water treatment is under the control of external service providers and there are issues with available treatment capacities and stormwater overflows. Amendments to the hierarchy may increase wastewater treatment needs in smaller settlements and infrastructure may need upgraded. Whilst new development will not be permitted in areas where there is insufficient wastewater treatment capacity unless packaged treatment is provided, new development may still contribute to pressure.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	?	?	?	The principle of the hierarchy focuses development in settlements which is more positive for this objective than dispersed development. However, settlement growth and new development can result in losses of greenfield land and natural resources. Changes to the hierarchy mainly affect the distribution of housing and employment, however it may influence the provision of blue / green infrastructure. The overall effect on the objective is uncertain.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	The principle of the hierarchy focuses development in settlements which is more positive for this objective than dispersed development. Amendments to the hierarchy are unlikely to impact on wider landscape however it may influence the landscape within settlements. Settlements are not always within a LLPA and may have distinctive character but not be protected. Areas meriting protection may be designated as LLPAs at LPP.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	The position of the settlement within the hierarchy has limited impact on this objective, though settlements may have evolved over a very long period of time and be identified as a consequence of historic development. There may be potential opportunities for changes in the hierarchy to permit new investment-type ventures to use heritage buildings.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>The settlement hierarchy will ensure that the growth of settlements, provision of housing, employment land and other key land uses and related infrastructure is in the most appropriate locations to benefit the community as a whole. The hierarchy will ensure the settlements and the rural hinterland develop to their full potential. The balance will be the requirement for sustainable growth and the protection of the environment. Inequalities are addressed to give a sense of place and distinctiveness while building on opportunities to connect communities across the council area. This spatial approach is considered to be a sustainable approach.</p>				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives were identified for the draft Plan Strategy. An alternative option (Option 1B) 'retain the existing settlement hierarchy with no change' was appraised in the Interim SA for the POP. However, while it delivered slightly more positive impacts for the objectives manage material assets sustainably and to protect physical resources and use sustainably, it does not deliver significant positive benefits to the objective to strengthen society. It was not considered necessary to re-appraise this alternative for the draft Plan Strategy. Strategic Settlement Appraisal provided as part of Countryside Assessment Technical Supplement.</p>				

<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The policy has a positive impact on all of the social sustainability objectives, with significant positive effects identified for strengthening society, through enabling a high proportion of the population of the Council to access services easily. Minor positive effects are also identified for the economic objectives to enable access to high quality education and enable sustainable economic growth however growth in some settlements may place pressure on infrastructure, leading to minor negative effects in the short and medium term. However, as new or upgraded infrastructure is developed, the impact will reduce to neutral by the long term. A mixture of impacts is identified for the environmental sustainability objectives, minor positive effects are seen for to encouraging active and sustainable travel and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment as the identification of settlements arranged in a hierarchy provides focal points for the provision of transport links and the settlement itself may have an historic identity. Minor negative effects are identified for physical and water resources, as settlement growth may result in the development of greenfield land and may place pressure on water resources if adequate wastewater infrastructure is not present. Uncertain effects are identified for air quality and climate change, as settlement growth may result in increased emissions from development and transport, but the hierarchy also delivers opportunities for accessing alternative transport options and can deliver other efficiencies. Uncertain effects are also identified for natural resources as while consolidated development is more positive than dispersed development, and may deliver opportunities for expanding green and blue infrastructure networks, there may still be localised losses that occur due to development.</p>	
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to strengthen society.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:</p> <p>To address some of the potential negative impacts of the preferred option for example transport analysis, KSRs and criteria for any reclassification. Existing constraints on e.g. flood plains should continue and green wedges designated in BMAP be protected.</p>	

Strategic Policy 01 Sustainable Development				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction (RDS, SPPS).			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Overarching policy. Able to address emissions issue by encouraging active travel - positives for air quality and physical health of people and their mental well-being. Also able to add resilience to local communities for climate change.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Overarching policy. Sustainable housing growth encouraged/supported. Positives for communities - a more pleasant environment and community resilience.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Overarching policy. Able to contribute to sustainable housing growth. Design layout able to be considered/encouraged - passive solar design, low carbon homes/lifestyles. Improved connectivity.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Overarching policy. Locations of facilities important with regards to efficient access for people.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Overarching policy. Option aims for balance to whole area - wider/holistic approach. Able to bring employment opportunities - promoting balanced economic growth.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Overarching policy. Aims for the 'reduce, reuse, recycle' route rather than landfill. Able to integrate sustainable land use development and consider land use for material assets.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Overarching policy. Promotes balanced economic growth. Minerals considered and appropriately facilitated. Sustainable patterns of development supported - a more efficient use of land.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Overarching policy. Able to reduce reliance on car and support efficient travel even when by vehicle. Able to encourage and improve connectivity - jobs/housing - using infrastructure as well as encourage other modes of travel with less emissions than cars/vehicles. Focus on connectivity between housing and facilities.
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	Overarching policy, which refers to maintaining/ improving air quality. Mitigation is also mentioned in the policy. A balanced approach is needed to satisfy the policy and achieve sustainable development.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Overarching policy, aims to reduce car use and promote active/sustainable travel. Limiting GHG emissions from housing designs and locations, as well as increasing resilience to climate change with mitigation and adaptation are emphasized. Able to avoid sensitive areas important for climate change.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Overarching policy. Promotes SuDS to help reduce flood risk and improve water quality as well as help manage storm water. Green infrastructure also encouraged. Only promoted.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Overarching policy. Promotes sustainable patterns of development - aims to work with the natural environment and its processes. Green infrastructure also referred to.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+ + +	Overarching policy. Landscape protected under other policies. Sustainable patterns of development under this policy indirectly protect landscape character.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+ + +	Overarching policy. Policy refers to protecting the historic environment. The objective is protected by other policy/legislation. Sustainable patterns of development also help to protect delivery of the objective.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>Furthering sustainable development is at the heart of the Plan Strategy and includes facilitating sustainable housing growth; promotes balanced economic growth; protects and enhances the historic and natural environment; and supports sustainable infrastructure.</p>		
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternative has been identified - The SPPS identifies sustainable development as a core principle in regional policy. It is best practice to reiterate in the draft Plan Strategy. This policy interrelates with other policies and does not stand alone.</p>		
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The policy is an overarching policy, which aims to deliver sustainable development. It is predicted that the policy will deliver positive outcomes across all of the social, economic and environmental objectives. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for improving health and well-being based upon positive outcomes for air quality through active travel with subsequent benefits for people's physical and mental health and well-being. Significant positive outcomes were also predicted for sustainable economic growth due to the policy's holistic approach to employment opportunities promoting balanced economic growth. Across several of the environmental objectives significant positive outcomes were recorded for active/sustainable travel, improving air quality, and reducing causes of and adapting to climate change. These positives were based upon the policy reducing reliance on the car and encouraging/improving connectivity between people and places, using measures that can also improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The policy also aims for energy efficient housing designs and retention of natural resilience with mitigation and adaptation for climate change. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>		
<p>The most sustainable option: SP01 Sustainable Development This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>		<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positive effects were identified across the social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives with significant positive outcomes predicted for improving health and well-being, enabling sustainable economic growth, encouraging active/sustainable travel, improving air quality, and reducing causes of and adapting to climate change.</p>		
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>		
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: No additional measures identified.</p>		

Strategic Policy 02 Improving Health and Well-being				
Option	In line with core planning principles.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Policy provides vision for open space, which is essential for people's health and well-being. Provision of open space able to help improve contact between people - across generations and across communities. The LDP is also aligned with the Community Plan and links to all social objectives - housing too. The quality of where we live is important for our mental well-being and policy provides opportunities to help reduce deprivation/inequality. Also able to ensure age friendly environments - noise control. Green and blue infrastructure also promoted which can help to connect people and places as well as provide an amenity value - all positive for people's health and well-being.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Policy can help improve contact between people of all ages - across generations and across communities. The LDP aligns with the Community Plan and links to all social objectives. Policy able to encourage safe pedestrian places for people to share. Open space and connectivity are elements of the policy.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Policy able to impact on the quality of life of people by providing open space next to housing. The overall quality of housing areas including affordable housing can be improved with the provision of open space.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	The physical location of educational and skills training facilities and providers can be considered in the context of access to local infrastructure. Policy can help improve opportunities for connectivity and accessibility.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policy is able to make the local environment more attractive, which is a positive for attracting businesses and employers to whom location is key. This brings jobs, services and facilities - money. If people are healthy and well then they are more likely to be able to work and add to the local economy.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Policy refers to quality design and connectivity, which are positives for the location of accessible waste management facilities including bins. Accessing adequate internet connectivity should help to improve social contact - (digital transformation) with positives for people's health and well-being.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Open space study aims to highlight gaps in open space, which will help to ensure deficits are met/improved upon.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The policy is positive for active travel and promotes its health benefits. Green and blue infrastructure also referred to and connectivity - pedestrian environment. Both walking and cycling are encouraged.
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	Air quality is expected to be a consideration within the design of proposals and its impacts mitigated. Walking and cycling are promoted and both are good for maintaining air quality and potentially improving it too by reducing vehicle journeys. Open space also referred to which is a positive for air quality.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Green and blue infrastructure is promoted which can also include active travel routes - active travel is promoted. There is potential to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide networks of open space that can alleviate flooding, higher temperatures and so on.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Networks of green and blue infrastructure are promoted which can store water and filter run-off. Natural flood plain areas retained as open space, can act as flood storage. Open space can also be used as a type of SuDS.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Networks of green and blue infrastructure are promoted which can act as wildlife corridors that help to maintain and enhance local biodiversity. Opportunities to protect ecosystem services by promoting G/BI and open space, and using as active travel and SuDS.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Policy aims for integration of development through the quality of well-designed buildings and spaces so that visual intrusion is minimised and local landscape character is appropriately and adequately considered.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	Policy requires quality design of buildings/spaces and for the local environment to be appropriately considered including consideration of maintaining good air quality and amenity through managed noise levels. All these aspects can help to conserve and protect historic buildings and features - both the fabric and setting of features.
<p>Summary of Policy: All development proposals should contribute positively to the provision of quality open space; age-friendly environments; quality design; enhanced connectivity (physical and digital); integration between land use and transport; and green and blue infrastructure. Noise and air quality should also be taken into account when designing schemes, recognising their impact on health and well-being.</p>				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives: No reasonable alternative has been identified - the SPPS identifies as a core principle in regional policy. It is best practice to reiterate in the draft Plan Strategy. Policy interrelates with other policies and does not stand alone.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: The policy is predicted to deliver positive outcomes across all of the social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for the majority of the objectives but significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the social objectives for health and well-being and strengthening society objective, as well as encouraging active and sustainable travel. These outcomes were based upon the policy providing a vision for open space, including green and blue infrastructure, which is essential for people's physical and mental health and well-being. The policy would help to connect people and places - across generations and communities. At the same time, the policy can help facilitate a safe pedestrian environment as well as encourage walking and cycling with positive benefits for people's health and well-being as well as the local environment. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				
<p>The most sustainable option: SP02 Improving Health & Well-Being This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>			<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positive effects were identified for the social sustainability objectives to improve health and well-being, and to strengthen society; and for the environmental objective to deliver active and sustainable travel.</p>				
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>				
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: No additional measures identified.</p>				

Strategic Policy 03 Creating and Enhancing Shared Space and Quality Places				
Option	In line with core planning principles.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Policy aims for inclusivity and social contact for all. From this comes a positive impact for people's mental health and well-being. There are also links to creating good quality housing areas with positive outcomes for people living there and delivery of this objective.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Policy would help ensure provision of shared space and public realm works. Regeneration of areas may also be feasible. Policy able to encourage communities that have equal access to leisure and social facilities - more balanced communities.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Good quality housing is referred to that must meet identified needs - variety of types and size, and a mix of tenures.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	The policy should help develop the right conditions for more people in shared neighbourhoods to be able to access educational resources possibly through community facilities.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Policy refers to enhancing opportunities for shared communities including accessibility to local employment.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective. However, if the 'connectivity' referred to in the policy were to include digital connectivity then there could be some positive outcomes of the policy against this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect as the policy refers to the design of land as shared /open space as opposed to protection of the land itself.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Policy aims for a high standard of connectivity to encourage active travel with linkages for walking and cycling. Approach would help to improve accessibility.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Negligible effect as active travel able to reduce transport emissions and open space able to contribute to maintaining local air quality.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Negligible effect as active travel able to reduce transport emissions and open space able to provide adaptation - cooling effect and/or act as a water store.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect as open spaces are evident that are near to water resources i.e. Lagan Valley Regional Park and that act as buffers but policy is to deliver shared space.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Negligible effect as shared space may encompass semi-natural land or features with a biodiversity value but policy is about delivering well-designed shared /open space.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Negligible effect as shared space may encompass some semi-natural land or features with a biodiversity value and provide these as part of a well-designed shared /open space.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	Policy able to improve upon existing sense of place by conserving the local distinctiveness of shared spaces within neighbourhood communities. There are feasible links to culture as shared spaces can be used for cultural activities/events. The shared use of the public realm is directly referred to in the policy.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>All development proposals should contribute to the creation of an environment which is accessible to all and enhances opportunities for shared communities; has a high standard of connectivity and supports shared use of public realm. Good quality housing that supports more balanced communities must offer a variety of house types, sizes and tenures to meet different needs. Creating shared neighbourhoods should provide opportunities for communities to access local employment, shopping, leisure, education and community facilities.</p>				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternative has been identified - The SPSS identifies as a core principle in regional policy. It is best practice to reiterate in the draft Plan Strategy. Policy interrelates with other policies and does not standalone.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: The policy is predicted to deliver positive outcomes for all of the social sustainability objectives as well as one of the economic and two of the environmental objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of sustainable economic growth based upon the policy enhancing opportunities for shared communities including accessibility to local employment. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of active and sustainable travel because the policy aims for a high level of connectivity with accessible linkages for walking and cycling. Minor positives were also predicted for the protection of the historic environment because the policy could help to improve upon existing sense of place by conserving the local distinctiveness of shared spaces within neighbourhood communities, creating locations for cultural activities/events. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the enabling access to high quality education objective. Outcomes were based upon the policy developing the right conditions for more people in shared neighbourhoods to be able to access educational resources possibly through community facilities. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for all of the remaining social sustainability objectives including improving health and well-being, strengthening society and providing good quality, sustainable housing. The policy aims for inclusivity and social contact for all partly through creating good quality housing areas that must meet identified needs but also through the provision of shared space and public realm works. The policy should help deliver balanced communities with fair access to leisure and social facilities. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				
<p>The most sustainable option: SP03 Creating and Enhancing Shared Space and Balanced Communities This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>			<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant effects were predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objectives to improve health and well-being, strengthen society and provide good quality, sustainable housing.</p>				

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: No additional measures identified.

Strategic Policy 04 Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth				
Option	In line with core planning principles.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Indirect positives for delivery of the objective because the policy promotes provision of jobs and employment which enables people to have incomes and a better quality of life with positives for people’s mental health and well-being. Policy able to help reduce poverty and inequalities through job opportunities.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Policy promotes job creation and employment by creating the right conditions for jobs and economic growth. With this comes social interaction between people from different backgrounds and communities.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Sustainable economic growth would lead to new housing and renewal of older stock to help enable people to both live and work in the Council. A higher quality of housing would be likely to meet modern standards. The construction sector is a large sector within the Council and this policy would help support it.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Policy could enable links for the development of local skills base and supporting education that can support the local economy. There could be multiple links between local colleges and education systems, and local employers.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The purpose of the policy is to encourage and support innovation, competitiveness and job creation. Traditional employment to be protected but also new initiatives encouraged. Greater diversity aimed for. Efficient delivery of goods feasible.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	The location of larger companies in the area may be able to attract new infrastructure to the area i.e. digital connectivity. Some landfills are still in use in the Council but recycling opportunities and demand for more space for recycling are also evident. There is also an old quarry site now being used as a waste facility - reuse of land for material assets. There could possibly be more use of renewables in the district but the opportunities are there to do this.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	The minerals industry is evident in the Council with 6 active sites present and 2 landing sites on Lough Neagh. This policy and other operational policy would protect these sites. Some old quarry sites in the Council are now also protected as earth science sites.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The policy encourages the location of employment sites to be located near to accessible, active travel options. Accessibility for freight to strategic transport network.
9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	Proposals are expected to minimise their air emissions and air quality must be considered within industrial, transport and agricultural proposals - environmental standards are not to be compromised. The location of proposals must be considered but depending on the type of proposal and the level of inputs and outputs, there may or may not be an effect on local air quality. Rurally located proposals may have less risk of affecting local air quality.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	Environmental standards must not be compromised and must be appropriately considered against the type of industrial or agricultural proposal. There is some uncertainty with this objective because the future type of proposal and level of emissions cannot be determined.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Environmental standards must be a consideration and not be compromised. Industry cannot discharge without consent and large developments would have to meet standards for abstraction, discharge and quality. Water quality must be protected and the location of sites considered with sustainable land use development patterns aimed for. Sensitive aquatic habitats including floodplains would be avoided.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Environmental standards must be a consideration and not be compromised.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Other operational policies are able to protect delivery of the objective by minimising visual intrusion.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	The policy can promote the reuse of historic buildings/sites and older buildings/features for suitable local economic ventures. This could help support the conservation of the historic environment.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>All development proposals should support sustainable economic growth without compromising on environmental standards. Economic growth can contribute to an enhanced society and improve health and well-being through the creation of job opportunities.</p>				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternative has been identified - The SPPS identifies as a core principle in regional policy. It is best practice to reiterate in the draft Plan Strategy. This policy interrelates with other policies and does not standalone.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The policy was predicted to deliver minor positive outcomes for all of the social sustainability objectives and some of the economic objectives but negligible effects and uncertain outcomes were predicted for the majority of the environmental objectives. The minor positive outcomes predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objectives were based upon some indirect benefits of the policy enabling people to have incomes and a better quality of life with positives for people’s mental health and well-being. The policy helps to create the right conditions for jobs and economic growth, which facilitates social interaction between people. The construction sector is a large sector within the Council and this policy would help support it and delivery of good quality housing with renewal of older stock that can meet modern standards. The policy could create multiple links between local employers and local schools and colleges and so develop the local skills base that can support the local economy. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the sustainable economic growth objective based upon the purpose of the policy, which is to encourage and support innovation, competitiveness and job creation with a greater diversity of jobs aimed for. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the economic objective to manage material assets sustainably because recycling opportunities and demand for them are evident. It was discussed how the location of larger companies in the area is likely to attract new infrastructure to the area. A minor positive outcome was also predicted for delivery of the environmental objective to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably. This was based upon the policy ensuring that environmental standards must not be compromised and water quality protected with avoidance of aquatic habitats including floodplains. Uncertain outcomes were also predicted for two of the environmental objectives - to improve air quality, and to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change. These uncertain outcomes were based upon future unknowns regarding the type of economic proposal that may come forward and its inputs and outputs that may have an effect on local air quality and/or greenhouse gas emissions. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				
<p>The most sustainable option: SP04 Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>			<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant effects were predicted for delivery of the objective to enable sustainable economic growth.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Cross reference to relevant policy.

Strategic Policy 05 Good Design and Positive Place-Making				
Option	In line with core planning principles.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Successfully designed places/locations can be positive for health and well-being as they can encourage and enable both healthier and safer lifestyles.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Positive place making is a people-centred approach and the policy encourages and sets standards for inclusivity, accessibility, vibrant and safety. Accessibility to services/facilities is key aspect of the policy. Any new proposal should build on what is already there. Able to provide more attractive locations/spaces for social interaction.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Accessible and adaptable homes are aimed for within residential developments. Design and access also considered - all of which contribute to positive place making. Successful place making aimed for which contributes to delivery of the objective. Policy supports lifetime homes.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Location is key to ensure inclusivity and accessibility to local educational resources in both urban and rural areas. The policy can help create positive places where people want to go, to learn.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Policy is able to help create an attractive place for local economic ventures and locations where people want to work, visit and invest in. Policy encourages good design and promotes local distinctiveness, which can help with the attractiveness of town centres, villages and settlements.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the provision of waste segregation in civic areas could be an important part of successful place making and design. .
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Active and sustainable travel - accessibility - is an element of good design. Design and Access Statements are a requirement of the policy, which encourages active travel.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although it is likely that the policy can help support delivery of the objective with the support for accessible active travel and request for Design and Access Statements.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although it is likely that the policy can help support delivery of the objective with the support for accessible active travel and request for Design and Access Statements.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although some local environmental features may be protected that maintain local biodiversity and delivery of the objective.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	++ ++ ++	Policy aims to protect the local setting and distinctiveness of the local landscape. Policy requires development to be compatible with local landscape character - contextual design. Policy able to help reduce inappropriate development. Settlement pattern also expected to be a contributor to local place-making.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	++ ++ ++	Policy likely to help conserve local buildings and features of historic/ local character/distinctiveness and conserve a sense of place. Policy able to support delivery of the objective by directly referring to respecting heritage assets and promoting local distinctiveness.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>All development proposals should incorporate good design to further sustainable development, encourage healthier living; promote accessibility and inclusivity and contribute to safety. They should respect the character of the area, respecting environmental and heritage assets and promote local distinctiveness. Successful place-making will be central to decision-making acknowledging the need for quality, place-specific contextual design which promotes accessibility and inclusivity, creating safe, vibrant and adaptable places.</p>		
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternative has been identified - The SPPS identifies as a core principle in regional policy. It is best practice to reiterate in the draft Plan Strategy. Policy interrelates with other policies and does not standalone.</p>		
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The policy was predicted to deliver positive outcomes for all of the social sustainability objectives, one of the economic objectives and several of the environmental objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for improving health and well-being, and the education objective. These positives were based upon the policy delivering benefits for people’s health and safety as well as social inclusion and accessibility to resources from successfully designed places/locations in both urban and rural areas. Significant positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the strengthening society and provision of good quality housing. These significantly positive outcomes were based upon the policy helping to create positive places that people want to go and experience because of the standard of inclusivity, accessibility, vibrancy and safety with accessibility to services/facilities well considered. The policy supports lifetime homes and accessible and adaptable homes with design and access a consideration. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for the enabling sustainable economic growth objective because aspects of the policy contribute to positive place making which adds to the local attractiveness of an area and makes it more appealing to investors and visitors as well as residents. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for several of the environmental objectives including active and sustainable travel, maintaining and enhancing landscape character; and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Positives were based upon the policy providing improved accessibility with active travel encouraged as an element of good design. The local landscape should remain protected through compatible development and contextual design with settlement pattern a contributor to local place-making. Likewise, the policy is likely to help conserve local buildings and features of historic character and conserve a sense of place. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>		
<p>The most sustainable option: SP05 Good Design and Positive Place-Making This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant effects were predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objectives for strengthening society; and providing good quality, sustainable housing. Significant effects were also predicted for the environmental objectives to encourage active and sustainable travel, to maintain and enhance landscape character; and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Reference to Building on Tradition. Design guides.

Strategic Policy 06 Protecting and Enhancing the Environment				
Option	In line with core planning principles.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Policy enables consideration of the natural and historic environment within proposals that help avoid the loss of biodiversity. The policy approach encourages ecosystem services to be adequately integrated. A holistic approach to a clean environment could provide more opportunities for ventures like growing own food. Areas of open and shared space are able to provide locations for recreation and amenity with positives for both physical and mental health. All of these aspects can provide positive benefits for people’s health and well-being and add to people’s quality of life.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Policy encourages and supports protection and conservation of the natural and historic environment, as well as integration of ecosystem services to proposals. These aspects are often linked to areas of shared space that provide an amenity value and where people can enjoy recreational/leisure pursuits. Stoneyford has an ecosystem services asset provided by NI Water - water purification, walks.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Negligible effect as policy likely to help provide a more pleasant local environment.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Policy aims to protect the natural and historic environment as well as integrate ecosystem services, which would directly benefit economic ventures linked to the natural or historic environment and support economic ventures directly reliant on the quality of the environment and its attractiveness. Policy able to protect the local environment and help to continue to attract investment and visitors - tourist related ventures.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect of this policy and delivery of this objective. It is a protectionist policy for the natural and historic environment which may constrain proposals in some locations but unlikely to, as the overall aim of the policy is sustainable development.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	?	?	?	Policy is protectionist and able to help encourage conservation of natural and historic areas, as well as encourage integration of ecosystem services so protecting land/soil. However, there may be mineral sites located in some areas that are greenfield sites - important with their semi-natural land cover for local biodiversity levels. There could be some tension between minerals and the natural environment but this would depend on location of proposals and minerals. The uncertainty is reflected in the score.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Negligible effect of the policy on the objective although active/sustainable travel routes could be linked to green and blue infrastructure as well as ecosystem services.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy is likely to support the conservation of land with natural features/environment present, which would help to maintain local air quality. Measures to protect and enhance assets are possible to also lead to protection of local air quality.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Policy able to protect the natural environment including areas of land that act as a floodplain or carbon store. Ecosystem services projects are often linked to climate change adaptation as they can improve natural resilience to flooding, extreme temperatures and other climate change related impacts like erosion. Ecosystem services are referred to in the policy.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Policy able to protect areas of natural environment including buffers around watercourses, floodplains and other wetlands. Approach will help to protect water quality and maintain the flow of water. Ecosystem services projects are often linked to wetlands or reservoirs and there is an example of an Integrated Constructed Wetland within the Council at Stoneyford.

<p>12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>The policy approach aims to protect the natural and historic environment, as well as halt the loss of biodiversity. Designations and assets are all to be considered which includes natural features and sites. Enhancement measures are also encouraged. Integrating ecosystem services is also encouraged and supported, which would bring positive benefits for air, land, soil, water, biodiversity, people and most likely landscape as well.</p>
<p>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>The policy approach aims for proposals that respect, conserve, protect and where feasible enhance both the historic and natural environment which cumulatively would help to conserve landscape as an asset. Landscape as an asset can be part of ecosystem services. Delivery of the landscape objective is viewed as an indirect benefit of the policy.</p>
<p>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>The policy refers to protection of the historic environment and conservation of assets and designations all of which could encompass historic and cultural features. Policy encourages and supports protection and enhancement of the historic environment which can also be part of ecosystem services which are referred to in the policy for integration.</p>
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>All development proposals must respect the historic and natural environment and halt the loss of biodiversity. It must aim to conserve, protect and where possible enhance the environment, acknowledging the rich variety of assets and associated designations. It should include proposals for the careful management, maintenance and enhancement of ecosystem services, which form an integral part of sustainable development.</p>				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternative has been identified - The SPPS identifies as a core principle in regional policy. It is best practice to reiterate in the draft Plan Strategy. Policy interrelates with other policies and does not standalone.</p>				

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

The policy was predicted to deliver positive outcomes for most of the social and environmental objectives as well as one of the economic objectives. Positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the improving health and well-being, and the strengthening society objectives. These positives were based upon the policy's holistic approach to the consideration of proposals where biodiversity loss is avoided and integration of ecosystem services is encouraged with the physical, mental and social benefits of open and shared space provision also recognised. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the sustainable economic growth objective because the policy encourages a holistic approach to consideration of development, which would directly benefit any investment reliant on the quality of the environment and its attractiveness i.e. tourist related ventures. An uncertain outcome was predicted against the economic objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably because the policy can conserve land/soil from inappropriate development but there could be mineral reserves in greenfield areas, which would lead to a reduction in greenfield land. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for the landscape character objective because landscape is an asset that the policy can indirectly protect as part of ecosystem services. Significant positive outcomes were also identified for delivery of several of the environmental objectives including reducing the causes of and adapting to climate change; protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably; protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity; and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural resources. Significant positive outcomes were based upon the policy aiming to protect the natural environment to help improve natural resilience to flooding, extreme temperatures and other climate change related impacts like erosion. The natural environment can include designated sites and natural features. The policy encourages enhancement measures and integration of ecosystem services, which can bring positive benefits for air, land, soil, water, biodiversity, people and most likely landscape as well. Significant positive outcomes were also identified for delivery of the objective to protect the historic environment because the policy refers to the protection, conservation and enhancement of the historic environment - assets and designations. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

The most sustainable option: SP06 Protecting, Enhancing Environment including management of ecosystems This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.

The preferred option: This option is the only option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant effects were predicted for delivery of several of the environmental objectives including reducing the causes of and adapting to climate change; protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably; protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity; and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural resources.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: No additional measures identified.

Strategic Policy 07 Section 76 Planning Agreements				
Option	In line with core planning principles.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Potential to bring about positives for health and well-being of local people through provision of community facilities or improved access to community facilities. Other examples could be provision of, or improvements to open space or accessibility points to local walking and cycling routes.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Potential to bring about positives for communities through providing social/community facilities and/or access to them. Examples could include improved access for rural communities to local facilities and services, or provision of a new community centre.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Potential opportunities to deliver affordable housing within housing proposals using agreements could be available.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Potential opportunities to deliver educational resources could be delivered using agreements. These could be shared facilities or provision for playgroups.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Potential to act as a stimulus for local economic growth and potential to help with regeneration projects. Opportunities to enable improvements to the public realm.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Potential to help deliver services and utilities including waste facilities and maybe help to increase number of waste streams. Such projects most likely to be linked to the nature of the proposal.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Protection and/or delivery of open space may be feasible through local projects able to also deliver recreation.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Walking and cycling and public transport all promoted as possible projects. Parking provision could also be provided. Outdoor recreation could be linked to local active travel routes.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Projects such as open space or green space areas, or projects focused around active travel are likely to be good for local air quality but not enough to score for the objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Projects likely to be good for climate change by promoting active travel or retaining greenfield land for low impact use but not enough to score for the objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Wastewater infrastructure upgrades could be delivered using the agreements. May be an opportunity for new development if they can provide the local upgrade in areas of existing WwTW capacity.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Natural environment features and associated projects could be considered under this policy and possible projects could focus on relocating badger setts or providing funds for similar ecological work but unlikely that the policy would be used for this objective.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	Policy able to be applied to help redevelop and regenerate historic sites/land back into use. Regenerating/reusing sites could be feasible as part of a mixed use scheme. Outcomes could be more positive depending on the scale and uptake.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>Development will be required to help deliver more sustainable communities by providing, or making contributions to, local and regional infrastructure in proportion to its scale, impact of the development and the sustainability of its location.</p> <p>A developer will be expected to provide or contribute to the following infrastructure in order to mitigate any negative consequences of development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ improvements to the transport network, including walking and cycling routes, public transport or, where necessary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ appropriate parking provision; □ affordable housing; □ educational facilities and/or their upgrades; □ outdoor recreation; □ protection, enhancement and management of the natural and historic environments; □ community facilities and/or their upgrades; □ improvements to the public realm; □ service and utilities infrastructure; □ recycling and waste facilities. 				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternative has been identified - Best practice is to reiterate in the draft Plan Strategy. Builds on the SPPS. Interpretation of legislation - not prescriptive.</p>				

<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: The policy was predicted to deliver positive outcomes for all of the social sustainability objectives, half of the economic objectives and several of the environmental objectives. Minor positive outcomes were identified for all of the social sustainability objectives - improving health and well-being, strengthening society; providing good quality, sustainable housing; and enabling access to high quality education. These positives were based upon the potential of the policy. For example, the policy may enable the provision of community facilities /educational resources or affordable housing, with accessible walking and cycling routes. Likewise, the policy could deliver positive outcomes for some of the economic objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and manage material assets sustainably. These positives were again based on the potential of the policy to act as a stimulus for local economic growth including regeneration projects and to deliver services and utilities such as waste management facilities. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the environmental objectives to manage water resources sustainably and to protect the historic environment. Positives were based on the potential for wastewater infrastructure upgrades and/or redevelopment of historic sites/assets, which could be part of a mixed-use scheme. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the active and sustainable travel objective. Positives were based on the potential of the policy to provide walking and cycling routes and/or parking provision as part of new projects or developments that can help reduce reliance on the car. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>	
<p>The most sustainable option: S76 Planning Agreements This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant effects were predicted for delivery of the environmental objective to encourage active and sustainable travel.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: No additional measures identified.</p>	

Strategic Policy 08 Housing in Settlements				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	This policy places an emphasis on delivering housing that incorporates high quality design in our settlements. Pleasant living environments can be beneficial to mental health. Policy also encourages balanced communities with mixed tenures. This aims to support social and intergenerational contact and reduce exclusion and isolation. The principle of a compact urban form while respecting appropriate densities can enable opportunities for accessing all local day to day needs by walking or cycling and thus can indirectly support and encourage healthier lifestyles.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	This policy introduces new policy for affordable and accessible housing and aims to reduce inequalities and encourage and deliver balanced local communities. High quality design will include high quality shared space. The new aspects to the policy will deliver significantly for this objective as they will help to create the right conditions for stronger communities.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	This approach will help to deliver a mixture of house types of different size and tenure in the Council area, including affordable and specialised housing. The principles of high quality design include measures to aid accessibility and adaptation and therefore the policy will benefit people with disabilities, health issues or who have additional needs in respect of mobility and will ultimately help to deliver housing that is more sustainable. This strategic policy will indirectly contribute to the delivery of 'lifetime homes' however the detail will be delivered through operational policy.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	There are indirect links on the objective, through housing development supporting the construction industry and in terms of providing a wider range of options (in terms of type, tenure and affordability) for employees across a range of employment sectors to live near where they work. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Encouraging compact urban forms supports the more efficient delivery of utilities. The critical mass approach of the strategic housing allocation supports the proximity principle for material assets. The policy actively encourages the reuse of derelict or brownfield land.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	In comparison to dispersed development, this strategic approach of maintaining compact urban footprint will deliver more efficient use of land and (and will aid in the delivery of the RDS target for 60% of new housing to be in existing urban footprint or brownfield sites for larger settlements). It is acknowledged that housing growth will still lead to development of some greenfield land, however the overall approach is positive in that it helps to curtail urban sprawl and minimise greenfield land use.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The approach of directing development to settlements encourages housing growth in areas that already benefit from walking and cycling infrastructure and sustainable transport provisions. This is a major aspect of encouraging and supporting modal shift. Increasing numbers in settlement will help to generate increased demand for services - more need should lead to more or enhanced services. Encouraging high quality design and a compact urban form will also help to create the best conditions for encouraging walking and cycling, if it becomes easier to do so more people will opt to leave their cars at home.
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	Housing growth will lead to emissions from transport and energy / heating. A compact urban form creates the conditions that may help to reduce reliance on the private car for local journeys. However the approach also encourages development in urban areas where there may already be existing quality issues. The strategic housing allocation to settlements will enable the highest proportion of new housing in the district to have access to 'cleaner' (lower-emission) options for central heating (such as mains gas). Increased housing densities in appropriate areas can also help to reduce emissions from heating and transport.

<p>10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>The approach will create conditions that encourage the use of other forms of transport than the car, though the scale of positive effects is heavily dependent on behavioural change. The strategic housing allocation to settlements and encouragement of compact urban forms and appropriate densities will help to enable access to lower carbon energy /heating options for a greater proportion of new housing and may help more energy efficient housing to be delivered. Policy requires design that respects the surrounding context, which would help to avoid areas with habitat or other features that may enable the development to be more resilient to the effects of climate change.</p>
<p>11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>By according with the strategic housing allocation the approach will encourage development to be located in settlements where water and wastewater infrastructure is already present and is able to accommodate the new development while meeting the required treatment standards. New development will require separation of stormwater from foul waste which will help to reduce pressure on the sewerage network.</p>
<p>12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>The policy encourages development inside settlement limits, avoiding the wider countryside. It encourages high quality design for new development that respects its surrounding context. The approach may enable protection and enhancement of local biodiversity through landscape design.</p>
<p>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>Policy directs development to within settlements and will help avoid sprawl and spread of development into the wider countryside. By encouraging high quality design there is an expectation that new development will be integrated and maintained within its surrounding context. Development would be excluded from areas designated for their landscape value.</p>
<p>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>Policy requires that design must respect its surrounding context, which would include archaeological features and heritage. Wider policy aims would include sympathetic design. Respecting context and densities will help to support townscape and settings and overall aim is to deliver a high quality urban environment. Operational policies would provide added certainty in protecting identified assets and undiscovered / unrecorded features and assets.</p>
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>The strategic policy for housing in settlements has been informed by regional and local policy which aims to increase housing density without town cramming, encourage sustainable forms of development, promote good design and deliver balanced communities. In order to enable the needs of the community to be met, the policy encourages mixed tenure housing including affordable housing and specialised housing where a need is identified, for example, residential care homes to help cater for an ageing population. The policy recognises the need to consolidate and encourage higher density development in the city centre, with mixed use schemes on brownfield land to help promote regeneration and dereliction in urban areas.</p>				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPPS.</p>				

<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The policy has a significant positive effect on all of the social sustainability objectives. The policy has a limited influence on the economic sustainability objectives, with negligible effects on education or economic growth. However a minor positive impact is identified for material assets, as the principle of locating housing in settlements and encouraging compact urban forms enables the efficient delivery of a range of utilities and aligns with the proximity principle for waste management. Encouraging development in the compact urban form benefits all of the environmental sustainability objectives by constraining the spread of development into undeveloped areas. Encouraging the compact urban form also helps to facilitate active and sustainable travel as a mode of transport, delivering significant positive impacts on this objective and the principle of high quality design which respects its surroundings also acts in a significant positive manner on protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>	
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?</p> <p>There are significant positive effects identified for the objectives to improve health and well-being, strengthen society, to provide good quality, sustainable housing, to encourage active and sustainable travel and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:</p> <p>Operational policy on housing which encourages energy efficiency and microgeneration, sustainable drainage, biodiversity and landscape enhancement and requires the character of the surrounding historic environment to be respected - in particular HOU3, HOU4 and HOU7.</p>	

Strategic Policy 09 Housing in the Countryside				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	?	?	?	This policy has positive effects for people who have a need to live in the countryside. The policy helps to sustain family links, a sense of community and respects the needs and values of those that have a requirement to live rurally, delivering indirect benefits on physical and mental health. However, the policy does not enhance the level of services or access to services for rural dwellers through its dispersed pattern. Housing in the countryside is typically located further away from health facilities and services and has longer emergency service response times for the people who choose to live there. The policy acts positively for personal well-being, but has possible minor negative effects for community well-being. Housing in the countryside is not considered to be sustainable for this objective in the long term. The overall effect is uncertain.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Accessibility to facilities and services may be less convenient for rural dwellers. Parks, gardens, open space and shared space may not be locally available. However enabling housing in the countryside where there is a need allows for vibrant, sustainable rural communities and can help to support local services. The operational policies help to strengthen the effect through encouraging development to be clustered.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Policy encourages the provision of good quality housing in the countryside that is sustainable and capable of becoming a lifetime home. However any specific needs catered for through new housing development in the countryside will only be those that are required by the individual developer.
4... enable access to high quality education.	-	-	-	Access to education facilities and providers of skills training may be more difficult from housing in the countryside and options / opportunities may be reduced. This policy puts pressure on providing rural education facilities and doesn't help to improve overall education level and employability.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The provision of housing in the countryside is linked with need generated by people working in the countryside. The policy helps to support and sustain certain sectors, especially agriculture, however it is not a stimulus for overall economic growth. The policy enables development where people need to live and work in the countryside. The impact of the policy is highly localised.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	-	-	-	It is more difficult and expensive for service providers to provide and maintain utilities in the countryside (in comparison to development in the compact urban form) and less sustainable. Housing in the countryside does not align well with the proximity principle for waste management. There may be more opportunities for renewables to be incorporated into development in the countryside, but uptake is down to the preference of the developer.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	The principle of dispersed development is not really compatible with this objective as it may result in incremental decrease in greenfield land. However, the strategic aims of the policy include the protection of rural character and the environment and the overall intent of policy is to support this objective and reduce the rate at which natural land is converted to developed land. This is supported by operational policy which has a number of constraints applied to encourage development to be clustered and to avoid encroachment / incremental loss wherever possible. Features of earth science, designated areas and minerals would be also be avoided through operational policy.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	-	-	-	Housing in the countryside is not compatible with this objective, as many rural minor roads have no footpaths or cycle ways and many rural areas do not have sufficient population to sustain a public transport service. Housing in the countryside is disproportionately reliant on cars and is unlikely to be capable of becoming more sustainable in this regard. There are unlikely to be any measures which can mitigate against reliance on the car within and between rural areas. However, the effects of rural-to-urban travel may be capable of being mitigated by wider active and sustainable travel options, particularly if these are developed further or enhanced over the lifetime of the plan. Measures such as greenways and park and ride / park and share hubs can enable rural residents to use more sustainable forms of transport for part of their journey. This would reduce the impact of traffic originating from the rural area to the urban area.

9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	Background air quality is generally good in rural areas and housing development in the countryside is a small proportion of the overall housing development. However the principle of housing development in countryside does not really support the objective. There are fewer options available for ‘cleaner’ heating and a greater reliance on cars for transport. The policy is unlikely to improve air quality, but it difficult to predict the overall effect as effects may vary depending on whether new technologies come forward e.g. more use of solar energy / ground source heat pumps or other renewable technologies.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Housing in countryside is less likely to have access to ‘cleaner’ or lower carbon heating options, however it may have more opportunities available for renewable micro-generation. New housing is unlikely to be located in areas that are vulnerable to or that have a function in providing resilience against the effects of climate change (e.g. peatland, woodland, dunes, flood plain). The overall impact on the objective is negligible. These habitats are also protected by operational policies which will deliver additional certainty.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	?	?	?	Housing in the countryside may in general place more pressure on water supply infrastructure, however water supply is not an issue of concern in the district. Housing in the countryside will usually not have access to mains waste water treatment and is reliant on non –mains methods for treating foul waste. Non-mains treatment such as septic tanks can be detrimental to water quality depending on numbers and effectiveness of treatment. While development would not be permitted without proof of effective non-mains effluent treatment measures being in place, the efficiency of non-mains treatment relies on maintenance and regulation of septic tanks or other treatment plants, which is outside the scope of the LDP and historically there have been issues with point source pollution.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	The policy seeks to protect biodiversity and rural character from being eroded incrementally by new dispersed development in the countryside. This approach is supported by the operational policies which will require new development to be integrated with existing biodiversity features, mature hedgerows, trees, etc.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	The policy seeks to protect rural character including landscape character from being eroded incrementally by new dispersed development in the countryside and for development to integrate with and respect local natural features. It also seeks to resist urban sprawl and marring of the distinction between settlements and the rural area. This approach is supported by the operational policies which will require new development to be integrated and clustered with other development to reduce the incidence of new isolated houses in the countryside.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	The policy seeks to protect rural character, which includes the historic environment, from being eroded incrementally by new dispersed development in the countryside. It promotes development that respects the established rural settlement pattern and will help to retain sense of place in rural areas. This approach is supported by the operational policies which will require new development to be integrated and clustered with other development and the protection and conservation of identified and undiscovered historic features, including their settings.
Summary of Policy:				
<p>To sustain rural communities, new development and employment opportunities which respect local, social and environmental circumstances are required. The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> provide appropriate, sustainable, high quality rural dwellings, whilst protecting rural character and the environment. resist urban sprawl in the open countryside which mars the distinction between the rural area and urban settlements protect the established rural settlement pattern and allow for vibrant sustainable communities. 				
Reasonable Alternatives:				
No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPPS.				

<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The policy has a generally positive effect on the social sustainability objectives, though an uncertain score is recorded for health and well-being. This is because although housing in the countryside has a positive effect for the individuals and families who have a need to live in the countryside, it is less accessible to healthcare facilities and emergency services and is not wholly sustainable in this regard. While a minor positive effect is recorded in terms of sustainable economic growth, the approach has a minor negative impact on the other economic sustainability objectives of enabling access to high quality education and managing material assets sustainably. The dispersed settlement pattern does not have the same degree of accessibility to education and skills training opportunities, and it is more onerous for utilities providers to deliver services and infrastructure to the rural area. The policy’s main aims of protecting rural character and the environment contribute positively to several of the environmental sustainability objectives. However, a significant negative effect is identified on the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel, as housing in the countryside is disproportionately reliant on cars and is unlikely to be capable of becoming more sustainable in this regard. Mitigation measures have been identified which can reduce the effect for rural-to-urban journeys and commuting. The reliance on the car and reduced opportunities for low-particulate heating fuels contributes to an uncertain effect on air quality, but the score also recognises that other opportunities including renewable heat and micro-generation may be more feasible for housing in the countryside. These aspects are also considered in the neutral score for the climate change objective. Uncertain effects are also recorded for water resources, as while policy will ensure that housing reliant on non-mains wastewater treatment has adequate treatment provided for at the time of development, the ongoing maintenance of treatment units and regulation of effluent discharge is outside the scope of the LDP.</p>	
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?</p> <p>No significant positive effects are identified for the preferred Option. A likely significant negative effect is identified for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel and consequently mitigation measures are required.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? There are unlikely to be any measures which can mitigate against reliance on the car within and between rural areas. The effects of rural-to-urban travel may be capable of being mitigated through the establishment of wider active and sustainable travel options, particularly if these are developed further or enhanced over the lifetime of the plan. Measures such as greenways and park and ride / park and share hubs can enable rural residents travelling or commuting to urban areas to use more sustainable forms of transport for part of their journey. This would reduce the impact of traffic originating from the rural area to the urban area.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:</p> <p>Operational policy on housing which encourages energy efficiency and microgeneration, biodiversity and landscape enhancement and requires the character of the surrounding historic environment to be respected - in particular HOU4, RE1, COU15 and COU16 and HE policies.</p>	

Strategic Policy 10 Education, Health, Community and Culture				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	This policy will be the main mechanism for delivering healthcare and community facilities. In addition these facilities will be delivered under the policy where a need has been identified and consequently there must be a critical mass that produces the need for the facility. By enabling the provision of the needed facility, the policy will directly serve to improve either the health or well-being of the population in the area of the identified need. The types of facility enabled under this policy will help the young and the old and will enable physical activity, social integration, and potentially help to reduce isolation for all within the community.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	The policy helps to deliver on locally identified needs for specific groups. It enables the provision of resources that may be shared resources or shared space. It will mainly enable development that is located in settlements which will embrace the critical mass approach and be easily accessible to its serving population, however facilities would also be enabled in the countryside, should the need be identified.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	If there is an identified need for education facilities, this policy will enable it to be delivered. There is no identified need for new facilities in the district at present, but potential sites could be identified at LPP which enable the delivery of the objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	New or expanded facilities such as health or education facilities could help to generate new jobs. Education and community facilities can also help to deliver education and skills training. The policy supports the enhancement of the skills base and enables the provision of jobs through the social range of people. The policy helps to make the Council area a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Education, health, community and cultural facilities facilitated through this policy are most likely to be located in a settlement, which enables best access to utilities. The policy encourages expansion in areas where infrastructure is already located and would enable the sustainable extension of utilities. Enabling these types of facilities mainly in settlements supports the proximity principle for waste management. An indirect consequence of the policy may be the restoration of derelict land, as some of the district's mixed use sites that have the potential to be developed under this policy are brownfield sites.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	?	?	?	The policy encourages the expansion of existing facilities as well as the construction of new facilities and it is noted that some existing sites may not be well connected with active and sustainable travel routes. Access to active or sustainable transport does not form part of the criteria for this policy. The impact on the policy on this objective will be dependent on the location and type of development. Indirect effects may be delivered in cases where a need has been identified for a new education, health, community or cultural facility associated with new housing development, in which case physical links for walking and cycling would be established as part of the overall development.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Access to active or sustainable transport does not form part of the criteria for this policy however it is likely that new community sites, especially larger facilities, would encourage the use of alternative modes of transport. Expansions / extensions to existing facilities are the most likely outcome of this policy and the overall impact on this objective will be negligible.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Expansions / extensions to existing facilities are the most likely outcome of this policy and transport effects are uncertain. Facilities are unlikely to be located in areas that are vulnerable to or which provide resilience against the effects of climate change. New buildings or extensions are likely to be more energy efficient, but would still result in increased energy use. The overall impact on this objective is negligible.

<p>11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>New development is most likely to be located in an area with established mains water provision and wastewater treatment. Very few facilities delivered under this policy are anticipated in areas of the countryside with no access to the mains wastewater network. However, should this occur, operational policy would require for effective treatment of effluent to be in place as a condition of development. Facilities of this type are unlikely to be ever located in a flood plain as they typically serve vulnerable groups.</p>
<p>12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Facilities enabled through this policy will mainly be located in settlements and not the wider countryside. The policy encourages extension / expansion in the first instance, therefore most development will usually occur within the curtilage/footprint of existing development. Operational policies would deliver additional control / safeguarding against adverse impacts and there is no risk to nature conservation sites.</p>
<p>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Facilities enabled through this policy will mainly be located in settlements and not the wider countryside and will mainly be extensions to existing development. Impacts on landscape character are unlikely to occur. Operational policy will deliver additional safeguards against landscape and visual impacts. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.</p>
<p>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Facilities enabled through this policy are more likely to be in settlements and are most likely to be extensions to existing facilities. Strategic policy will identify the need for the facility. Should the area of need be identified in a site where potential effects on features of the historic environment could occur (e.g. an extension to a listed building), the strategic policy will rely on operational policy to deliver protection and enhancement. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.</p>
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>The strategic policy for education, health, community and culture takes account of regional and local policy which aims to support balanced communities and opportunities for the community to access essential services and facilities over the Plan period. The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) meet an identified need for services and facilities across the Council area, or b) cater for expansion of existing facilities to meet the anticipated needs of the community, in terms of health, education, community and cultural services. 				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPPS.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The policy has a significant positive effect on the majority of the social sustainability objectives through the delivery of facilities to address identified health, well-being and community needs. It has no effect on the provision of housing. Minor positive effects are identified of the economic sustainability objectives of enabling sustainable economic growth and managing material assets sustainably. The ability to deliver new education facilities (or community facilities which may help in the provision of adult learning or skills training) has a significant positive impact on the objective to enable access to high quality education, however the effects are only likely to be realised over the medium to long term. The effects on the environmental sustainability objectives are generally negligible. An uncertain score is identified for encouraging active and sustainable travel as access to active or sustainable transport does not form part of the criteria for this policy. For extensions to facilities (which are expected to form the greatest proportion of new development coming under this policy) access to alternative modes of travel will be dependent on what is already provided at the existing facilities. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				

<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are significant positive effects identified for the objectives to improve health and well-being, and to strengthen society over all timescales and the objective to enable access to high quality education over the medium and long term.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: The beneficial effects of this policy are closely linked with the Community Plan and this policy will be a key aspect in delivering the development requirements of the Community Plan. Operational policies will help to deliver specific protections.</p>	

Strategic Policy 11 Economic Development in Settlements				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	All aspects of the policy are designed to create an economic base for people living in the Council area. Income and prosperity can indirectly support good quality of life and well-being. The development of strategic mixed use sites where people can live near to where they work may also help to encourage healthy lifestyles, where walking and cycling is able to become the main mode of travel.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	The policy helps to create the conditions for a mix of jobs and employment throughout the council area - this may help to reduce the factors causing inequalities. Local employment sites are dispersed through the council areas in settlements, increasing accessibility to jobs for all groups. The promotion of mixed use schemes which support regeneration and which tackle inequality and deprivation will also help to strengthen society.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	The policy supports and encourages mixed use sites across the Council. These can indirectly support the objective through the delivery of associated housing which may include housing that helps to meet the needs of specific groups of people.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	The policy will help to support economic development, which in turn can provide work-based and skills training. Enabling a range of employment opportunities across the district helps to develop a workforce with transferrable skills.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policy helps to direct development to the right places and makes best use of location. It creates the conditions for a range of job types that are accessible to all. The proposed strategic mixed use sites are located accessible to existing major transport routes and therefore should be attractive to investors. Encouraging the redevelopment of brownfield/ derelict sites may help to regenerate town centres and overall the policy helps to make the council area more attractive.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	In the main, the policy encourages economic development in sites that are within settlements, or developed areas that have provision of infrastructure. Where not in an existing settlement, it directs development to a site where sufficient infrastructure can feasibly be provided. The policy promotes the reuse of derelict land which benefits the objective, and zoning land suitable for economic development will also help to reduce the potential for ground contamination. Economic development may include use types which have high energy demands or which may result in increased generation of waste. The effect will depend on the nature and scale of development, but is unlikely to have a negative effect on the delivery of infrastructure or waste services.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	The policy restricted to settlements, there is no wider implication of land development in the countryside from this policy. The policy generally protects semi-natural land and physical features through restricting development to within settlement development limits and there would be no impacts on earth science sites or Mineral development. However, it is acknowledged that the West Lisburn strategic mixed use site is currently undeveloped and is still under agricultural use - development of this site will result the loss of greenfield land. Negative effects on this site may be reduced through policy SMU01, which includes provisions for the retention or creation of semi-natural land through the masterplan approach. The overall principle of directing economic land use to focal points established by this strategic policy is a positive one and overall a neutral effect is predicted.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The principle of directing economic development to settlements that are spread across the council area helps to support the objective. The strategic mixed use sites are located (or will be located) on key transport routes. The overall approach enables opportunities for walking and cycling / sustainable travel. However the impact magnitude is minor, as the local employment sites that are already established may not all have access to walking / cycling routes or convenient public transport links.
9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	The policy is not likely to improve air quality. Economic development may result in emissions from the development itself and transport. The impact will depend on the location, nature and scale of development, or whether it happens at all. Significant negative effects on air quality will be avoided through operational policy.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	The effect on this objective is difficult to predict as it is unknown what development will come forward and the nature and extent of any greenhouse gas emissions associated with it. The approach creates the conditions for encouraging active and sustainable transport but behavioural change is also required to create an effect. The principle of locating economic development in settlements helps to avoid areas that are vulnerable to or which provide resilience against the effects of climate change.

<p>11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>The policy directs economic development to settlements where water and wastewater infrastructure is present or can feasibly be delivered. All new development would require separate surface water and waste water drainage, and adequate treatment capacity to be available, to reduce the rate of increased demand on the sewerage network. New development is likely to make more efficient use of water. Operational policies will support this and add certainty that negative impacts can be avoided occur.</p>
<p>12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>The principle of encouraging economic development in sites that are already developed (i.e. settlements and zoned sites) will help to avoid development in the wider countryside and is less likely to result in biodiversity or natural habitat loss. Designated sites would be avoided. Operational policy will help to avoid adverse impacts and deliver enhancements where possible.</p>
<p>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>The principle of encouraging economic development in sites that are already developed and avoiding new economic development in the wider countryside helps to avoid negative effects. There is no overall effect on the objective.</p>
<p>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>The principle of encouraging economic development in sites that are already developed and avoiding new economic development in the wider countryside helps to avoid negative effects. Operational policy will help to avoid adverse impacts on specific assets and deliver enhancements where possible. There is no overall effect on the objective.</p>

Summary of Policy:

The strategic policy for economic development in settlements has been informed by regional and local policy which aims to promote employment, encourage job creation, facilitate growth of existing businesses, attract inward investment and address deprivation. The Plan will support development proposals that:

- a) support and promote the Strategic Mixed Use Sites at West Lisburn/Blaris and Purdysburn/Knockbracken in accordance with key site requirements
- b) support and promote the local employment sites throughout the Council area, to help provide opportunities for a range of economic needs and businesses
- c) encourage mixed use schemes supporting regeneration on sites previously used for economic purposes to help tackle inequality and deprivation
- d) provide Class B1 Business within the strategic mixed use sites at West Lisburn/Blaris and Purdysburn/Knockbracken in accordance with key site requirements
- e) provide office development within zoned employment land.

Reasonable Alternatives:

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPSS.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

The policy has a minor positive impact on all of the social sustainability objectives as it helps create the conditions for employment that is accessible across all of the district. It also delivers a positive impact on all of the economic sustainability objectives, with a significant positive impact on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. The policy approach of encouraging economic development to be located in sites that are already developed (i.e. settlements and zoned sites) helps to avoid negative effects for the majority of the environmental sustainability objectives and delivers a neutral score. The principle also supports the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel as clustered development has the best chance of being serviced by active or sustainable transport routes. However the effect is minor, recognising that some of the existing sites may not be located convenient to public transport. The effects on the air quality and climate change objectives are uncertain, as they are dependent on the location, nature and scale of any new development brought forward. However, significant negative effects should be avoided by operational policy. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.

The preferred option: This option is the only option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are significant positive effects identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Relevant operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures. At LPP stage consideration may be given to identifying Key Site Requirements which would help to support the environmental sustainability objectives.

Strategic Policy 12 Economic Development in the Countryside				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	This policy will facilitate appropriate employment opportunities in the countryside. Jobs, incomes and prosperity can help to benefit mental health and quality of life for rural communities.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	The policy helps to maintain an economic presence in the countryside. It creates the conditions to provide jobs in rural communities and for these communities to create and access new facilities and services. It helps to reduce the factors causing inequalities and meet identified needs that will reduce inequalities in rural areas.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	There are potential indirect effects on the objective through enabling employment opportunities through rural economic development that may ultimately lead to the delivery of skills training or apprenticeships. Overall, the option is unlikely to have a perceptible effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policy facilitates innovation and competitiveness within the rural economy and supports enhancement of the skills base. It enables the creation of a range of job types that are suitable for the location, such as in the agriculture, agri-food or tourism sectors. While it may help to create accessible jobs in areas of relative deprivation, the employment may be less accessible than economic development located in settlements. A 'major development' would, by definition, contribute significantly to this objective. However the probability of a project that meets the criteria of this policy and that is in accordance with other regional policy coming through over the lifetime of the plan is low and consequently the effect significance has been kept minor in the appraisal.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	While new economic is likely to occur on sites where there is already development and so where services will already exist, economic development in the countryside has the potential to create pressure on infrastructure. However, the availability of material assets is likely to affect the development, rather than vice versa and costs to improve infrastructure are likely to be the responsibility of the developer. Economic development may give rise to new or increased requirements for waste management. The overall impact on the objective is negligible. Operational policy will apply relevant constraints to development to further safeguard material assets.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Economic development in the countryside may result in a change of land use. However the policy does not generally promote large-scale expansion outside of existing curtilage and conversion and reuse of existing sites and buildings is preferred, which supports the objective. It is noted that a major project could potentially result in land use change across a large footprint which may lead to a negative effect on this objective. This scale of development would be by exception only and would be only be permitted in cases where other considerations outweigh these losses.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	-	-	-	Economic development in the countryside is generally incompatible with this objective, as many rural minor roads have no footpaths or cycle ways and many rural areas do not have sufficient population to sustain a public transport service. However, facilitating economic development in the countryside may enable some households to work beside where they live, thus avoiding the need to travel for employment. In general, however, economic development in the countryside is likely to be heavily reliant on cars/vans/lorries and there are unlikely to be many measures available which can help to reduce this reliance. The overall effect is considered to be minor negative, as this type of development will form a minor proportion of the overall economic development in the Council area.
9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	Economic development may give rise to polluting emissions from the development itself or from transport. The effect will be dependent on the location, nature and scale of the development and is consequently uncertain. Operational policies should help to reduce the scale of any potential negative effects.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	Economic development may give rise to greenhouse gas emissions from the development itself or from transport. The effect will be dependent on the location, nature and scale of the development and is consequently uncertain. As a consequence of other policies, economic development is unlikely to occur in areas that are vulnerable to or that have a function in providing resilience against the effects of climate change. Operational policies should help to reduce the scale of any potential negative effects.

<p>11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Economic development in the countryside is less likely to have access to municipal waste water treatment infrastructure and is more likely to be reliant on septic tanks or other forms of private treatment. Development without access to mains sewerage that would generate waste water would not be permitted without proof that the development is capable of dealing satisfactorily with any emission or effluent. The quantum of new development requiring such measures is expected to be low and effluent discharges associated with economic development / business would be subject to third party regulation. The overall impact on the objective is negligible. It is noted that a major project could result in development over a considerable footprint and may have large-scale drainage and waste water treatment requirements that have a greater risk of influencing local water quality or quantity. Such development would be by exception only and would still be required to comply with other regional policy and legislative requirements.</p>
<p>12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>The policy's aim is to protect rural character and environment and is protective against negative effects on natural resources. It encourages conversion and re-use of existing buildings rather than new development. The overall impact on the objective is negligible. Operational policies will provide additional certainty against negative impacts and may encourage some measures for biodiversity enhancement / offsetting. It is noted that a major project could occupy a large footprint of previously undeveloped greenfield land which could have an adverse effect on biodiversity and natural resources. Such development would be by exception only and would be only be permitted in cases where other considerations outweigh adverse effects. A major development would still be required to comply with other regional policy and legislative requirements.</p>
<p>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>The policy's aim is to protect rural character and environment and is protective against negative effects on landscape character. It encourages conversion and re-use of existing buildings rather than new development. The overall impact on the objective is negligible. Operational policies will provide additional certainty against negative impacts and may encourage some additional measures such as landscaping / planting which will support the objective over the longer term. It is noted that a major project could have a considerable visual presence which may negatively affect the surrounding landscape character. Such development would be by exception only and would be only be permitted in cases where other considerations outweigh adverse effects. A major development would still be required to comply with other regional policy and legislative requirements.</p>
<p>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>The policy's aim is to protect rural character and environment and is protective against negative effects on designated assets of the historic environment. It encourages conversion and re-use of existing buildings rather than new development. The overall impact on the objective is negligible. Operational policies will provide additional certainty against negative impacts on designated sites and monuments and includes measures that may help to safeguard non-designated assets. It is noted that a major project could have a considerable physical and visual presence which may negatively affect the historic environment. Such development would be by exception only and would be only be permitted in cases where other considerations outweigh adverse effects. A major development would still be required to comply with other regional policy and legislative requirements.</p>

Summary of Policy:

The conversion and re-use of existing buildings for appropriate economic development uses will be encouraged in order to protect rural amenity and achieve wider sustainability objectives.

The Plan will support development proposals that:

a) facilitate and benefit the rural economy and support rural communities, whilst protecting rural character and the environment.

It should be noted that this policy also caters for major development proposals that cannot be located in a settlement. Such development would be by exception only and would still be required to comply with other regional policy and legislative requirements. The appraisal has considered the effects of such a development, however the scores have been assigned in the context that the probability of new development coming forward under this policy over the lifetime of the plan is very low.

Reasonable Alternatives:	
No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPPS.	
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:	
<p>The policy has a minor positive impact on the majority of the social sustainability objectives as it enables the generation of new income and jobs in rural areas. It will have no effect on housing. Minor positive effects are identified for enabling sustainable economic growth. This score recognises that while the effects may be locally significant, in the context of the district as a whole economic development in settlements is likely to have a more wide-ranging impact. While some potential influences are noted on the other economic sustainability objectives, these are not considered to be sufficient to generate a perceptible impact. For the environmental sustainability objectives, the principle of encouraging conversion and re-use of existing buildings rather than new development acts positively for the physical resources objective. However, it has minor negative effects on the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel, recognising that although it may enable some households to work beside where they live, such development is likely to be heavily reliant on cars/vans/lorries and there are unlikely to be many measures available which can help to reduce this reliance. The impact on the air quality and climate change objectives is uncertain, as effects will depend on the location, nature and scale of the economic development. The policy aims of protecting rural character and the environment and the principle of encouraging reuse of existing buildings leads to a negligible effect on the remaining environmental sustainability objectives. The appraisal also recognises that, should it occur in the lifetime of the plan, an exceptional 'major development' in the countryside would have the potential to generate a significant positive effect on economic growth and possible negative effects on many of the environmental sustainability objectives. Such development would still be obliged to mitigate for significant negative effects where there is a legislative requirement to do so. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>	
The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.	The preferred option: This option is the only option.
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option.	
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.	
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:	
Relevant operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures. For major development proposals (where qualifying) EIA will help to identify impacts and design effective mitigation for environmental sustainability objectives.	

Strategic Policy 13 Mineral Development				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	The policy's aim is to safeguard the environment while allowing for the careful exploitation of minerals. This safeguarding will include the human environment. Operational policy will deliver certainty against negative impacts on amenity and health.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	+	The policy includes the requirement for restoration and re-use of mineral sites. After uses may include an asset, facility or shared space that is beneficial to a community, but the effect will only be manifested in the long term.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Enables the provision of locally sourced materials for the construction of new houses. The minerals extracted may lead to better quality and more sustainable housing. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Supporting a local minerals industry can indirectly help to deliver some apprenticeships and training. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Enables the construction industry to grow as required to meet the demand of the Council and the region as a whole. The policy supports the creation of a range of job types and helps to enable local competitiveness and innovation. Mineral development can also indirectly stimulate growth through the supply chain such as equipment manufacturing and processing industries. It delivers effects that are spread throughout the year.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	The policy encourages careful exploitation. Mineral development can be quite energy intensive, but supply should be available to meet demand. Costs to improve infrastructure are likely to be the responsibility of the developer. Quarries generally generate minimal waste.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	The policy enables the minerals industry to operate sustainably. It encourages mineral extraction in a sustainable manner and a balanced way and recognises the need to safeguard the environment. The policy includes the requirement for post use restoration and re-use, which could include access to a new earth science feature or other tourism, education or biodiversity feature.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	-	-	-	Mineral development can have localised negative effects on air quality through dust and emissions from plant and onsite vehicles. It may also generate emissions from offsite transport requirements. The scale of the effect may be reduced through measures identified via operational policy, such as a quarry management plan. New development would be required to mitigate all significant negative effects on air quality that have the potential to be harmful to human health in order to meet legislative requirements.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	Mineral development may result in greenhouse gas emissions from plant and transport. The operation of a quarry and its end product do not reduce the causes of or effects of climate change. The regional approach respects the natural environment, including peat and wetlands, however in exceptional circumstances there may be potential for conflict if these coincide with a proven resource of a valuable mineral. Should any proven conventional oil or gas resources be identified in the district, or a change in the regional policy on lignite extraction, extraction may also conflict with this objective. The overall effect is uncertain, as it is dependent on the nature of the resource being extracted and the scale of the activity.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Mineral development has the potential to impact water quality and groundwater adversely. However, the policy recognises that the need for the mineral development must be balanced against the need to safeguard the environment, taking account of appropriate designations. Impact on the water environment will be a key consideration in granting minerals permissions. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Mineral development has the potential to adversely impact biodiversity and natural resources. However, the policy recognises that the need for the mineral development must be balanced against the need to safeguard the environment, taking account of appropriate designations. It also promotes careful exploitation. The regional approach also respects the natural environment unless in exceptional circumstances. Impact on the natural environment will be a key consideration in granting minerals permissions. Restoration and reuse of mineral sites will help to support enhancement of natural resources.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	-	-	0	The policy recognises that the need for the mineral development must be balanced against the need to safeguard the environment, taking account of appropriate designations and that minerals exploitation should be careful. However, mineral development has a greater risk than some other types of development of impacting landscape character adversely. The requirement for restoration of sites will help to reduce impacts over the long term. Operational policy may give rise to other measures which can reduce the scale of negative effects.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	Mineral development has the potential to impact the historic environment adversely. However, the policy recognises that the need for the mineral development must be balanced against the need to safeguard the environment, taking account of appropriate designations. It also promotes careful exploitation. Impact on the historic environment will be a key consideration in granting minerals permissions. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>The strategic policy for mineral development has been informed by regional and local policy, which aims to support sustainable economic growth whilst recognising the limits of our natural resources and the need to protect and improve the quality of our natural environment.</p> <p>The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> facilitate a sufficient supply of minerals through balancing the need for the mineral development against the need to safeguard the environment, taking account of appropriate designations allow for careful exploitation of minerals provide for the sustainable and safe restoration and re-use of mineral sites. <p>It should be noted that the policy will only apply to applications for new mineral development and will not affect existing mineral operations, including old minerals permissions.</p>				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPPS.</p>				

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

The policy has a negligible impact on all of the social sustainability objectives, however a minor positive is identified in the long term for the objective to strengthen society, as restoration and re-use of mineral sites may lead to the establishment of an asset, facility or shared space that is beneficial to a community. The policy has a minor positive impact on the sustainability objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to manage material assets sustainably but will have a negligible effect on education. Significant positive impacts are identified for the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably, as this policy will enable the minerals industry to operate to meet demand in a sustainable manner. A mixed range of effects are identified for the environmental sustainability objectives. The policy recognises that protection of the environment is a key aspect of careful exploitation and a minor positive impact is identified for protecting natural heritage and biodiversity. Neutral effects are predicted for active and sustainable travel, water resources and the historic environment. The effect on the climate change objective is uncertain, as it will be dependent on the nature and scale of the minerals development. Minor negative effects are identified for the air quality and landscape character objectives. It may be possible to reduce the scale of negative effects through measures identified through operational policy and the requirement for restoration will help to reduce the negative effects on landscape character to negligible over the long term. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.

The preferred option: This option is the only option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are significant positive effects identified for the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Relevant operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures. Management plans for quarry operations including landscaping and transport plans. A requirement to conduct restoration and reinstatement in phases while the site is operational may help to bring forward the timescales for beneficial effects. The identification of ACMDs may help to protect some of the most sensitive areas from adverse impacts.

Strategic Policy 14 Town Centres, Retailing and Other Uses				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Other uses permitted under this policy can include community uses, including leisure and health uses, and shared space. Town centres and retailing areas can provide social meeting places. Facilitates the creation of new jobs, which can indirectly support well-being.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Town centres and retailing areas are areas which are open to all. The policy helps to encourage positive social interaction and other uses can include leisure, community and cultural facilities. Policies help to support vibrancy and vitality to give people a sense of community and place in town centres.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Facilities for education can form one of the 'other uses' in the centres. The policy encourages compact retail community uses and office spaces can help to support access to skills training. Skills and training opportunities may occur as a spin-off to new employment.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policy helps to promote the district as an attractive place to live, work and invest. It enables best use of location to be made in the centres and can deliver year-round benefits. The policy supports the creation of a range of job types and the centres approach helps to make these accessible to more. The approach helps to support vitality and vibrancy in the city and town centres and may help to increase the number of people coming to work in the council area.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	The centres-focused approach is supportive of this objective. Infrastructure is already concentrated in centres and the locations are fit for purpose. The approach uses what is already there more sustainably.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	The approach will not affect the overall use of the land resource, but encourages development to go to where it's best suited to go, into settlement centres. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The centres-focused approach aligns to and supports the provision of and use of active and sustainable travel. The promotion of centres where there are focal points for transport, with housing around is a fundamental driver for encouraging people to use active and sustainable transport. City and town centres have more options for using several modes of transport. This particularly benefits those who live within the settlements but is not as much the case at Sprucefield. The scope / opportunities for using active and sustainable travel will increase further up the retail hierarchy.
9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	The policy will influence the types of uses in town centres. The uses may not adversely impact air quality, but are also unlikely to improve air quality. The approach gives the greatest opportunities for access through other modes of transport than the car and active travel, but will still require the use of vehicles such as service vehicles.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	There would be some emissions associated with energy and transport from the permitted uses. The approach encourages the use of other forms of transport than the car. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The approach locates these use types in areas where all services and infrastructure and surface water are already present. Through operational policy new development will require modern drainage systems to be provided and measures such as SuDS and more efficient use of water may be encouraged.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Focuses development towards centres that are already developed areas and should not affect wider biodiversity. Noted however that some areas of town centre may encompass natural features or localised biodiversity. Doesn't enhance biodiversity in the town centre. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Focuses development towards centres. New development would occur within the existing built form and should not affect wider landscape character. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Retail development has the potential to conflict with historic environment and may impact townscape. However retail can also enhance vitality and vibrancy of a centre and encourage regeneration and reuse of buildings. The policy encourages the development of a sense of place and can complement areas of townscape character. Operational policies will further help to protect, conserve and enhance specific historic assets and features, and the streetscape and town centre character.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>A range of town centre uses, including office development is promoted within Lisburn City Centre and the towns of Carryduff, Hillsborough & Culcavy and Moira. The promotion of office development supports sustainable development, urban renaissance and job creation.</p> <p>The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> promote town centres, retailing and other uses within the City and town centres to enhance their vitality and viability in accordance with the retail hierarchy and operational policy support Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre in recognition of its regional status in accordance with key site requirements. 				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPPS.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The policy has a minor positive effect on two out of the three social sustainability objectives by enabling other complementary uses and creating focal points that are shared spaces. The centre-based approach enables significant positive impacts to be delivered for enabling sustainable economic growth and managing material assets sustainably, while indirect / spin-off effects may also occur for enabling access to high quality education. The policy acts positively for encouraging active and sustainable travel and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment. There is an uncertain effect on air quality as it will depend on future energy and transport requirements. The centre-based approach has a neutral or negligible impact on the remaining environmental sustainability objectives. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>			<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are significant positive effects identified for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to manage material assets sustainably.</p>				

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.

Strategic Policy 15 Evening/Night-time Economy				
Option	New Policy Provision.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	The policy helps to establish areas that are positive social meeting places, and encourages opportunities for social interaction. An evening/night-time economy may help to increase 'sense of safety' in town centres after dark. By enabling opportunities for people to be out in the evenings, the policy may indirectly encourage walking in the evenings, supporting healthier lifestyles.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Establishing and encouraging an evening / night time economy encourages social interaction. May help to creates or enhance shared space. The policy may help to reduce inequalities.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The policy may indirectly help to support the hospitality industry which in turn can deliver skills training. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policy promotes growth in the leisure and entertainment sectors. It supports innovation and competitiveness within the local economy and may help to enable the creation of a range of job types that are accessible. It makes the best use of location by enabling some businesses to open longer. Establishing a critical mass of people in centres at night time may make the district a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Utilities and services that are fit for purpose will already be present in the centres. The approach enables use of the town centre (an asset in itself) for longer / to its fullest potential. The approach may generate more litter / waste, but this would occur in locations that are capable of dealing with it. Regeneration in the city and town centres may help to reduce the number of derelict or vacant properties.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	The centres are already built up areas and developed. This policy would not result in any additional land use and the option would have no effect on this objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Centre approach aligns to and supports active and sustainable travel. Promoting development in centres which are transport hubs and have housing around is a fundamental driver for encouraging people to use active and sustainable travel. City and town centres have more options for using several modes of transport. This policy will deliver greatest benefits those who live within those settlements as the scope / opportunity for using active and sustainable travel will increase as one goes up the retail hierarchy. The policy will also help to establish a critical mass - increased demand will help to deliver future provision of more sustainable travel routes.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Establishing an evening / night time economy may lead to slight increases in GHG emissions from increased energy consumption and transport. The option would have no effect on this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Town centre uses will have access to water and waste water infrastructure. There would be no additional demand on resources. Everything should be fit for purpose. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	The policy encourages regeneration in the city and town centres to help develop a vibrant and accessible shared space. This might help to stimulate the redevelopment of older buildings. It may create new opportunities for cultural activities. Other operational policy will help to protect, conserve historic assets and the streetscape and town centre character.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>The strategic policy aims to create more accessible, vibrant city and town centres and support positive place-making. Securing a thriving and vibrant evening/night-time economy is fundamental to the success and future growth of Lisburn City Centre and makes an important contribution to the overall economic growth of the area.</p> <p>The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> promote the City and Town Centres as the main locations for growing the evening/night-time economy, to enhance their vitality and viability encourage regeneration in the city and town centres to help develop a vibrant and accessible shared space promote sustainable tourism, leisure and culture facilities appropriate to their location. 				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPPS.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The option has a minor positive impact on the majority of the social sustainability objectives through encouraging opportunities for social interaction and helping to make town centres feel safer and more inclusive after dark. Significant positive impacts are identified for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to manage material assets sustainably but the effects on enabling access to high quality education are negligible. As this policy relates to centres that are already built up areas the effects are negligible for almost all of the environmental sustainability objectives. A minor positive impact is identified for encouraging active and sustainable travel, as the policy may help to support the establishment of a critical mass of users - increased demand may lead to greater future provision of active and sustainable travel options. Encouraging regeneration of city and town centres may help to stimulate the redevelopment of older buildings with an associated minor positive effect on the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. Operational policy would help to protect against potential negative effects. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>			<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are significant positive effects identified for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to manage material assets sustainably.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.

Strategic Policy 16 Tourism				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Tourism development can indirectly help to provide new meeting places, create new open space and encourage social interaction. Tourism in rural areas may allow help to reduce isolation and bring new people to an area. It may help to create new jobs and enhance prosperity. There may be opportunities for shared uses that support physical activity and healthy lifestyles.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Tourism can help to create or enhance shared space. It promotes positive social interaction. It can help to give rural communities appropriate access to facilities and services.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	There may be some indirect influences through supporting education and skills training or apprenticeships through a focus on the hospitality industry. The policy may help to create and support linkages with local colleges.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The approach supports innovation and competitiveness within the local economy and supports the best use of location. It may help to enable the creation of a range of job types that are accessible, especially to areas of greatest deprivation and may increase the number of people coming to the council area to work. Tourism opportunities may help to improve vitality and vibrancy of the city and town centres and can make the Council area a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. Many jobs linked to the tourism industry are seasonal and low earning, but they can enable people to work flexibly which can suit some people's lifestyles and may provide opportunities for people to acquire useful transferrable skills.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Tourism development may occur anywhere in the district. Energy infrastructure should be fit for purpose, however telecoms and broadband may not always be available in rural locations. However, tourism growth is more likely to be limited by the availability of infrastructure rather than vice versa, as the policy expects tourism growth to have regard for the surrounding environment. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Earth science features could include assets that contribute to a tourism related development - development may help to safeguard or highlight these assets. In association with restoration and reinstatement proposals, some types of mineral development could have a future beneficial use as an asset for tourism. The policy expects tourism growth to have regard for the surrounding environment. Tourism development is unlikely to result in a perceptible loss of physical resources.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Tourism development is unlikely to result in additional opportunities for active or sustainable transport but may benefit from routes that are present or planned. Greenways may become a tourism asset in their own right. Tourism development in settlements will have more opportunities to access active or sustainable travel routes, tourism development in the countryside less likely to be able to link with routes. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Development of this type is unlikely to generate air quality issues. There may be minor emissions associated from the development itself and transport. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The policy promotes a sustainable approach to tourist development and accommodation across the district. Tourism development may give rise to slight increases in greenhouse gases from transport or heating/energy. However opportunities to incorporate renewables may be available. The effects may depend on where the development is located and whether it uses existing buildings or is new development. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Tourism development within the city and towns should have access to mains water and wastewater infrastructure with adequate treatment and drainage. The policy expects tourism growth to have regard for the surrounding environment and therefore development in the countryside would be required to have regard for water resources. Some types of tourism development may incorporate water resources - the policy will safeguard key tourism assets, which would include a water resource if it is part of the asset and may help to improve / restore some waterbodies. Overall, policy promotes sustainable approach to tourist development and accommodation across the Council area.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Protection of the environment is the overarching principle of this strategic policy. The policy focuses on protecting tourism assets which would include the natural resources in the district. Tourism development may generate new opportunities to enhance areas. The effects will be supported through operational policy.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Protection of the environment is the overarching principle of this strategic policy. Policy focus on protecting tourism asset which will include be the landscape. Effects will be supported through operational policy.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Protection of the environment is the overarching principle of this strategic policy. The policy focuses on protecting tourism assets, which may include heritage assets. Policy encourages conservation and regeneration which may support the sympathetic reuse of historic buildings. Positive effects will be supported through operational policy.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>This strategic policy seeks to facilitate sustainable tourism growth that is reflective of wider government tourism initiatives. The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> promote a sustainable approach to tourist development and accommodation across the district safeguard key tourism assets provide further opportunities for tourism growth having regard to the environment recognising its contribution to economic development, conservation and urban regeneration. 				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPPS.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The policy has a minor positive effect on the majority of the social sustainability objective, though it has no effect on housing. Positive influences are also seen for all of the economic sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth and minor positive effects on enabling access to high quality education through the wider opportunities for delivery of apprenticeships and skills training linked with the hospitality industry. The policy expects tourism growth to have regard for the surrounding environment and may lead to potential enhancement measures for assets that are linked to the water environment, natural resources, landscape character and the historic environment, leading to minor positive effects being identified. The effects on the remaining environmental sustainability objectives are negligible. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				

<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are significant positive effects identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.</p>	

Strategic Policy 17 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	The policy helps to create open space that people can use for recreation and leisure. It helps to encourage physical activities and healthy lifestyles for people of all ages. Open space, sport and outdoor recreation encourage social contact and interaction which can benefit mental health. Greenways can help to reduce the risk of accidents by providing traffic free routes for active travel. Overall the policy helps to deliver improvements to quality of life.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	The policy helps to create, retain or enhance shared space in areas across the Council area that can benefit everyone including rural communities. Accessibility to shared space helps to deliver positive social interaction and cohesion. Greenways have the potential to create physical links between different communities.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Sports facilities may be shared use or may perform an education/skills function in their own right, e.g. coaching and team sports. Outdoor space can be used for education purposes.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policy helps to make the Council area a more attractive place. Sports and recreation facilities may be income-generating and can support jobs.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	The policy helps to protect and enhance areas of open space which may include semi-natural land. However it could also result in the conversion of semi-natural land to monoculture or hardstanding for sport and recreation purposes. Sensitive areas would be protected by operational policy.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The policy helps to create, retain or enhance walking and cycling routes with the aim of developing a network of accessible green and blue infrastructure. The policy will support and promote the development of strategic and community greenways. It also protects existing greenway/route along the Lagan towpath. These provisions help to encourage a modal shift to active travel. Positive effects will be strengthened through operational policy to link development to active and sustainable travel routes.
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	Open space can act as a buffer and help to disperse air pollutants. Through the promotion of greenways the policy will encourage the use of other modes of transport than the car and may help to reduce transport emissions.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	The policy helps to encourage walking and cycling in preference to the car. It encourages the retention and creation of green spaces and green and blue infrastructure. Existing open space areas encompass floodplains and these will be protected, more can be identified. It indirectly can help to protect some types of habitat (e.g. woodland) that capture carbon).
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Through encouraging green and blue infrastructure the policy can support the development of measures such as SuDS which can serve a purpose in protecting water quality and reducing flood risk. Open space can provide a buffer between development and water which contributes positively to protecting water quality. Safeguarding areas of open space (e.g. along river valleys) can also indirectly help to deliver more natural resilience to flooding. It can also help to maintain natural water flows for ecological quality. Waterbodies that are used for recreational fishing could be protected and enhanced through this policy. Some sports may be associated with the water environment and may pose a risk/put pressure on water quality - this would be prevented through other policy and legislation.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	++ ++ ++	Through protecting existing assets and encouraging the development of a network of green and blue infrastructure, the policy can help to protect/ enhance local biodiversity. It may also help to create, protect or enhance wildlife corridors. It may help to provide a buffer to designated sites.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	++ ++ ++	The policy helps to keep open space areas free from development, indirectly reducing visual intrusion. Open space is important for landscape character. Greenways can complement features such as river corridors or old transport routes that form part of the landscape. The policy can promote new development that is sensitively integrated to protect/ enhance local distinctiveness.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	++ ++ ++	Designated parks and open spaces can help to protect the setting of certain historic assets, e.g. Hillsborough Castle, Wallace Park and Lisburn Castle Gardens. The safeguarding and enhancement of blue infrastructure such as canal towpaths, mill races, etc. can help to enable access to industrial heritage and support the protection, conservation and enhancement of these assets. Establishing open space and networks of accessible green and blue infrastructure can help to enhance 'sense of place' and protect cultural heritage. Open space areas can be used for cultural activities such as festivals, concerts and fairs.

Summary of Policy:

The strategic policy for open space, sport and outdoor recreation recognises the positive benefits of sport and outdoor recreation on both the physical and mental health of our community. The Local Policies Plan will identify existing areas of open space and potential new areas requiring protection as part of the future open space provision.

The Plan will support development proposals that:

- a) protect and enhance existing open space and provide new open space provision
- b) support and protect a network of accessible green and blue infrastructure
- c) support and promote the development of strategic and community greenways.

Reasonable Alternatives:

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPPS.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

By protecting existing and creating new shared areas of open space that people can use for activity, recreation and leisure this policy has a significant positive impact on the objectives to improve health and well-being and to strengthen society. Minor positive effects are identified for enabling access to high quality education and sustainable economic growth. The approach to protect and enhance existing open space and provide new open space with an emphasis on establishing a network of green and blue infrastructure delivers positive effects for all of the environmental sustainability objectives. Significant positive effects are predicted for encouraging active and sustainable travel, reducing causes of and adapting to climate change, protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>
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What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are significant positive effects identified for the objective to improve health and well-being, to strengthen society, to encourage active and sustainable travel, to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity, to maintain and enhance landscape character and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.

Strategic Policy 18 Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment and Archaeological Remains				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	The policy will help to protect and conserve accessible areas of historic and cultural value where people can visit and benefit from both physically and mentally. Places like historic gardens and archaeological remains are shared spaces where people can benefit from social interaction and families can participate in cultural activities that support family cohesion. The policy would help to provide areas where everyone can visit and benefit from.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	The policy protects and conserves accessible areas that are a shared space or resource and open to all communities. These areas enable people from different backgrounds and areas to mix by visiting the same locations. By the policy protecting and conserving historic/cultural areas and sites, it helps to make the area more attractive to residents and visitors, which means there are likely to be more people from different backgrounds visiting the district.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	The policy is able to designate areas within settlements that help to protect and conserve the local character and setting by ensuring only high quality designs of new buildings or extensions are feasible. The policy may also help to reduce vacancy rates in some areas by enabling reuse of older buildings and regeneration of areas. It is noted that there may be potential issues with upgrading homes to meet lifetime home standards and there could be potential restraining cost issues for some developers but overall, any housing delivered is likely to meet the higher, modern standards of energy efficiency and be of a quality design that delivers for the objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The policy would have a negligible effect although it is noted that there are potential links for specific skills training and apprenticeships within the historic/cultural heritage, and archaeological conservation sectors.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policy helps to protect and conserve accessible areas of historic/cultural interest and archaeological importance. These make local areas more attractive to residents, visitors and investors and can act as a focal point for associated local economic activity. These areas can help maintain and enhance local vitality and vibrancy within settlements and may help to attract people and keep them there to spend more within the local area. In effect, the policy supports local tourism by protecting and conserving areas of historic/cultural interest. There are potential heritage led activities that can develop from these areas with potential economic benefits for the local economy. It is noted that there may be some constraints on potential development opportunities but overall, the policy would deliver for the objective.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	There may be potential restrictions on domestic scale renewables in the areas protected under this policy such as solar panels but overall, the policy is unlikely to affect delivery of the objective within the district. Also, existing infrastructure for telecommunications and energy distribution within the areas protected is likely to be already in place. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	?	?	?	The policy helps to avoid development of the areas protected and conserved by it. These areas are likely to have natural features present but with the historic parks, gardens and demesnes, there is the likelihood of a significant amount of semi-natural land to be conserved where development will not occur or be limited and appropriate. Earth science sites could also be protected under the policy. However, it was noted that the discovery of archaeological remains could affect exploration of minerals. The uncertainty surrounding the location of minerals and archaeological remains is reflected in the score.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on delivery of the objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on delivery of the objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on delivery of the objective.

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on delivery of the objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	The policy would help to protect and conserve areas where natural features are likely to be evident with a local biodiversity value but particularly in the historic parks, gardens and demesnes. Conservation of these areas adds to local green and blue infrastructure as well as maintaining local biodiversity levels. The parks, gardens and demesnes are mostly located in the western half of the Council area and they encompass a significant area of land. They are an important aspect of the accessible natural heritage environment.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	The policy would help to protect and conserve areas that are intrinsic to local landscape character through their built and natural features, and local settings. Any new development would have to be sensitively integrated so as the local landscape character would not be detracted from.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	The policy would help to protect, conserve and enhance areas of historic/cultural/archaeological value and interest. This would help to maintain and possibly enhance a sense of place and local identity by conserving and enhancing the local historic/cultural distinctiveness of an area. The policy enables archaeological features to be recorded and preserved, and for cultural heritage assets such as fortes, castles or houses to be preserved and enhanced. These areas tend to be in settlements where people can more readily access them and benefit from interpretation of the historic environment with potential for participation in cultural activities and heritage led initiatives.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>The strategic policy for protecting and enhancing the historic environment and archaeological remains aims to facilitate appropriate development to secure our heritage for future generations.</p> <p>The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) protect and enhance the Conservation Areas, Areas of Townscape Character and Areas of Village Character b) protect, conserve and, where possible, enhance and restore our built heritage assets including our historic parks, gardens and demesnes, listed buildings, archaeological remains and areas of archaeological potential c) promote the highest quality of design for any new development affecting our historic environment. 				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPPS.</p>				

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

The policy approach has a minor positive effect on all of the social sustainability objectives, recognising that people can benefit physically and mentally from having areas of historic and cultural value in their surrounding environment, particularly where these are part of a wider shared space or area of character. While there are some indirect influences noted on the economic sustainability objectives, the only perceptible effect is on enabling sustainable economic growth, where a minor positive effect is seen. Minor positive impacts are identified in respect of natural resources and landscape, highlighting the relationship that the historic environment has with the surrounding landscape and natural landforms. There are also some positive effects noted for the physical resources objective, but there may also be some constraints on mineral development posed by the protection of historic assets leading to an uncertain score. The policy has a significant positive effect on the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. Negligible effects are recorded for the remaining environmental sustainability objectives. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.

The preferred option: This option is the only option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positive effects were identified for the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Relevant operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.

Strategic Policy 19 Protecting and Enhancing Natural Heritage				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	The policy would help to protect, conserve and enhance areas of natural heritage value that people can access and use for outdoor recreation and leisure pursuits such as hiking, cycling, fishing, kayaking, and birdwatching. The areas can be enjoyed by individuals and families facilitating social interaction and family cohesion. The recreational and leisure activities in the outdoor locations protected under this policy bring positive benefits for peoples' physical and mental health and well-being.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	The policy helps to protect, conserve and enhance areas of natural heritage value that can be considered shared space and a shared resource with opportunities for social interaction, inclusion and cohesion. The LVRP is an accessible resource from various locations and a popular meeting place for people to visit. Local clubs and associations provide multiple activities.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on delivery of the objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	There are potential links to educational walks and site visits as well as public tours in areas protected under the policy including the LVRP where local clubs/charities already use the natural environment for outdoor learning and research. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policy helps to contribute to the local attractiveness of the district by protecting, conserving and enhancing areas of natural heritage value that residents and visitors can view, access and enjoy. These areas can become the focal point for associated economic development with positives for the local economy. The policy helps to maintain and protect the natural environment as an asset for sustainable tourism.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on delivery of the objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	The policy would help to protect, conserve and enhance designated earth science sites as well as other lands of a nature conservation value with semi-natural land cover. The policy is positive for retention of land and soil as a natural resource. The policy does not preclude development but it must be appropriate to the local setting.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	There would be indirect benefits for the objective as the policy would help to facilitate people walking and cycling in the areas protected under the policy including the LVRP where the towpath is already a popular active travel route used by commuters in to and out of Belfast. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	The policy would help to protect, conserve and enhance areas of natural heritage value that are green spaces where inappropriate development is controlled and active and sustainable travel more likely to be facilitated. The protection of these areas helps to maintain areas of land as areas of open/green space that can act as buffers to local air emissions from for example transport routes as well as help with the local dispersal of emissions. Likewise, the LVRP covers a significant area of green space, within an urban environment, where key transport corridors are located. The LVRP acts as a natural filter/buffer for local air quality.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	The policy helps to protect, conserve and enhance areas where habitats that capture carbon and water are located and where inappropriate development can be controlled so helping to maintain the integrity of the protected areas. This approach helps to maintain natural resilience within the environment by maintaining and adding to local green and blue infrastructure that can cope with the impacts of climate change such as more frequent and heavy floods, and hotter temperatures. Some of the lands protected under the policy cannot be developed for agricultural uses.

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	The policy helps to protect, conserve and enhance designated wetland sites including Ramsar sites and SPAs as well as ASSIs with aquatic habitats and associated species present. Inappropriate development is controlled which helps to protect the quality of surface and ground water in these areas. The policy helps to protect the aquatic environment and its ecology across the Council area and by conserving these areas, the policy helps to minimise flood risk by maintaining water flows and facilitating natural water storage particularly through the protection of floodplains and river systems. The LVRP with its canal and the Lagan River and associated floodplains is an important natural aquatic resource within an urban and agricultural environment that helps to improve local water quality and reduce local flooding.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	The policy helps to protect, conserve and enhance designated sites for nature conservation value and their buffers, which helps to maintain and enhance local biodiversity. The policy approach helps to maintain and add to the local green and blue infrastructure networks. The conservation of sites and provision and management of accessible areas like the LVRP is supportive of ecosystem services where natural resilience in the natural environment is conserved but at the same time, the land is farmed and fished, used for recreation and leisure whilst facilitating an active travel route for commuters into and out of Belfast.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	The policy helps to protect, conserve and enhance designated sites for nature conservation value and their buffers, where inappropriate development is controlled and any type of visual intrusion much less likely to be an issue. The areas protected under the policy are likely to be intrinsic to local landscape character with their natural features and settings. The policy is able to add a further layer of protection to areas designated for their landscape value. Protection and conservation of the LVRP helps to protect its contribution to local distinctiveness by managing inappropriate development.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	The policy helps to protect, conserve and enhance designated sites for nature conservation value and their buffers, which at the same time can help to maintain local distinctiveness when built heritage assets are also located within the sites. The policy helps to protect local historic /cultural features and settings, where both natural and built heritage assets are located together. The LVRP has remnants of industrial heritage located within it along the Lagan Canal - the towpath and its bridges and gatekeeper house. The policy helps to protect these historic heritage assets in their setting and enables access to them with interpretation and heritage- led activities provided.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>The strategic policy for natural heritage aims to balance the growth of the area whilst protecting and enhancing key assets in order to maintain landscape character, distinctiveness and attractiveness of the area. This strategic policy takes account of our natural heritage features and landscape character within and extending beyond the geographical extent of the area.</p> <p>The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> protect, conserve and, where possible, enhance and restore our natural heritage maintain landscape quality and the distinctiveness and attractiveness of the area promote the highest quality of design for any new development affecting our natural heritage assets safeguard the Lagan Valley Regional Park allowing appropriate opportunities for enhanced access at identified locations thereby protecting their integrity and value. <p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPPS.</p>				

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

Through providing and maintaining natural areas, many of which are accessible as shared space, the policy approach has a minor positive impact on health and well-being and a significant positive impact on strengthening society. It has no effect on the delivery of good quality, sustainable housing. The effects on the economic sustainability objectives are mainly negligible, with the exception of the objective to enable sustainable economic growth where a minor positive effect is identified. Positive effects are identified for all of the environmental sustainability objectives, with the exception of encouraging active and sustainable travel where there is no effect identified. The approach will deliver significant positive effects on natural resources, landscape and the historic environment objectives, recognising the strong linkages that occur between the environment and the landscape. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.

The preferred option: This option is the only option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positive effects were identified for the objective to strengthen society; protect, manage and use water resources sustainably; protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity; and maintain and enhance landscape character.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Relevant operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.

Strategic Policy 20 Transportation Infrastructure				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	The policy seeks to encourage a modal shift, getting people away from the current high degree reliance on the private car. The policy aims to deliver effects above and beyond the daily commute and encourage people to spend more time outdoors. Walking and cycling are good for physical health and can also support mental health and well-being. Strategic greenways and linking across boundaries can be important for leisure and recreation. An integrated transport network will include hubs which would include, for example, the hospital. The approach encourages connections that extend beyond the Council boundaries. However, improvements to infrastructure and series cannot occur without investment and their delivery is reliant on an external service provider. Collaborative working with DfI will be necessary and the Local Policies Plan can provide the mechanism to identify potential links and safeguard land. It is hoped that the collaborative approach will lead to schemes being delivered on the ground and the effect will strengthen to significant.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	An integrated transport system should give everyone from all locations and backgrounds access to routes to get to and from health, community, education and cultural facilities, employment and homes. The approach helps to connects places and people. While it benefits all, it will bring specific benefits to people who don't have access to car and will provide new linkages for rural communities. Some of the integrated transport routes such as greenways may also help to link different communities together.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The policy doesn't deliver housing, however it will help to make housing become more sustainable, where it is accessible to an integrated transport network. The overall impact on the objective is negligible. The operational policies will help to deliver on the aims and enhance connectivity by requiring the developer to include access to walking cycling and sustainable transport links into their proposals. This makes sure that future housing is linked to the network in a sustainable way.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	An integrated system should provide linkages between education facilities and areas where people live, within both settlements and rural areas. It should help to make it easier for children to get to schools but would also benefit students and enable access to adult learning.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Having a sustainable integrated transport network will make the district a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. It allows people more choice and freedom of movement and provides more options for getting to places. It may help to reduce inequalities in terms of accessibility to jobs. An integrated transport system can help to support tourism as well and benefits should be seen through all sections of the economy. It may also deliver local benefits by enhancing accessibility at a local level - providing a range of local travel options may encourage people to visit local shops more frequently rather than larger centres. Economic development may also be attracted around the transport hubs, these can be focal points. However, the benefits are reliant on third party service providers for delivery. If integrated schemes are delivered and in particular where these serve our strategic sites, they will provide the best opportunities for economic growth.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Encourages and supports transport infrastructure within the Council area that is fit for purpose. The overall impact on this objective is negligible.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	There are indirect links which may influence physical resources. New schemes may result in changes to land use, however a more general modal shift to public transport and walking and cycling should not impact the objective. An efficient integrated transport system may provide opportunities for transporting minerals by other methods than road freight. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The policy encourages transport that is sustainable, safe and accessible and all these aspects work to encourage the modal shift. The specific schemes needed to achieve full integration will require new infrastructure to be developed. While these are identified in the policy, their delivery would be outside the scope of the LDP. The establishment of integrated park and rides and other shared transport schemes can help people living rurally who may be obliged to use cars for part of the journey. This approach would help to reduce congestion in the most congested part of the network (usually edge of city / towns into centres). The operational policy for developers to integrate access to walking cycling and sustainable transport links into proposals is new and will help to initiate step change.

9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	Modal shift away from reliance on the car will help to improve air quality. The scale and extent is dependent on behavioural change and the rate at which investment and service provision is delivered however overall effects are positive.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	There are indirect links with the objective through encouraging increased use of more sustainable modes of transport, reducing consumption of fossil fuels through changing the way we travel. This can help to reduce polluting forms of transport and increase resilience all round in terms of transportation.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Strategic greenways could provide a dual purpose with flood risk management, e.g. along the Lagan, and may support the incorporation of sustainable drainage systems. Encouraging a reduced reliance on cars may indirectly reduce polluting emissions from cars that enter watercourses via drainage systems. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Greenways can help to deliver and enhance the network of green and blue infrastructure. The policy aims to facilitate the implementation of three new strategic greenways. This may support the objective by creating wildlife or biodiversity corridors within the council area which may also extend beyond the council boundaries. The benefits may be more widespread if a network is created that eventually extends across NI. This approach can help to deliver ecosystems services.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	The establishment of greenways can help to maintain landscape character. New strategic roads schemes are unlikely to impact negative on landscape character but they may cause some visual impact which would reduce over time as reinstatement planting becomes more established. Strategic projects would avoid sites of landscape importance.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	A modal shift away from cars can help to reduce the amount of vehicles in town centres and encourage more walking and cycling in centres. This can help to enhance sense of place and benefit the setting of historic buildings. Greenways may be closely linked with industrial heritage and their establishment can enable the restoration of old features and aid accessibility to heritage features.
Summary of Policy:				
<p>The strategic policy for transportation infrastructure aims to support and deliver sustainable transportation infrastructure. The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> provide or improve an integrated transport network servicing the needs of our community and future growth deliver sustainable patterns of development, including safe and accessible environments encourage a modal shift from private car dependency through integration of transport and land use facilitate Park & Ride, active travel (public transport, cycling and walking) and strategic greenways to move to towards more sustainable modes of travel both within the Council area and linking to wider regional networks. 				
Reasonable Alternatives:				
No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPSS.				

<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The policy has a positive influence on all of the social sustainability objectives. Minor positive effects on health and well-being and strengthening society should strengthen to significant positive in the long term as linkages become established and schemes are delivered. Positive effects are also identified for the economic sustainability objectives of enabling access to high quality education and enabling sustainable economic growth, again the economic effects will strengthen over time to become significant. With the exception of physical resources and water resources where there are no perceptible effects, positive effects are identified on all of the environmental sustainability objectives. The overall effect on encouraging active and sustainable travel is a significant positive one. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>	
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are significant positive effects identified for the objectives to improve health and well-being, to strengthen society and to enable sustainable economic growth in the long term. Significant positive effects are identified for encouraging active and sustainable travel over all timescales.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:</p> <p>Collaborative working with DfI. The Local Policies Plan can identify potential links and safeguard land to deliver schemes. Relevant operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.</p>	

Strategic Policy 21 Renewable Energy				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	At the regional scale this policy will act positively by encouraging the production of energy through safer, cleaner and more efficient renewable methods - this can act positively on health and well-being. However, at local scale it is acknowledged there could be potential effects from nuisance impacts which, if unmitigated, may be harmful to health. However, overall renewables are considered to be better for health than burning fossil fuels by reducing polluting emissions. Operational policy includes more detail to safeguard against negative effects.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective. The incorporation of micro-renewables in new housing is encouraged and would help to make housing more sustainable, but it is not a requirement.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Renewable energy is a potential growth sector in itself. It enables diversification of enterprises such as farms to gain additional income. Some types of renewable allow the possibility for two different land uses to occur in one area. The supply chain and maintenance of renewable technologies can help to support spin-off industries.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	The policy facilitates the delivery of renewable energy. However, there may be some issues with delivering growth, in that the network is constrained and is not capable in all areas of immediately accommodating certain types of renewable energy generation. The network may need to be upgraded and updated to enable full adoption. The policy also supports the objective by encouraging 'other' technologies that may emerge in the future.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	?	?	?	Some types of renewable generation can require considerable areas of land, however many renewables can operate while retaining the original land use. Renewables can be compatible with the minerals industry; many quarries have turbines. While solar panels can allow simultaneous agricultural use, they may reduce the productivity of the land and may require specific drainage provisions to prevent soil erosion. It is uncertain what effects future technologies might have.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	Renewables can reduce the requirement to use fossil fuel for energy production and can indirectly help to reduce emissions from power generation. However, not all renewables are emission free; biomass can generate emissions. Emissions may also occur from transport requirements for biomass generators. The effect is uncertain. Relevant operational policies can help to reduce the impact of polluting emissions.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	The intention of the policy is to reduce the effects contributing to climate change. However the scale of the future development that may be bought forward is unknown. However the policy seeks to enable the conditions for regional targets to be met and supports renewables development - it is not restrictive and encourages a variety of renewable technologies.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	?	?	?	Some types of renewables have the potential to influence the water environment. There is currently only one hydro scheme in the Council area. The policy aim of minimising environmental impacts and encouraging development to take place only where the location is appropriate is protective. Some types of renewable may require specific measures to manage runoff. The effect depends on the location, nature and scale of the development however potential significant negative effects would be mitigated for through the application of relevant operational policies.

<p>12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>The policy aim of minimising environmental impacts and encouraging development to take place only where the location is appropriate is protective of natural resources. Sites that are designated for their nature conservation value will be avoided through policy. Overall a neutral effect is predicted. There may be opportunities for certain type of renewables development to incorporate measures to enhance biodiversity around a new development - operational policy would encourage and enable this to be delivered where relevant.</p>
<p>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>The policy aim of minimising environmental impacts and encouraging development to take place only where the location is appropriate is protective. Sites that are designated for their particular landscape quality and value would be protected through policy. The precautionary approach also extends to a requirement for renewable energy development to minimise visual intrusion. The overall strategy helps to safeguard against negative effects and a neutral effect is predicted. There may be opportunities for certain type of renewables development to incorporate measures to protect and enhance landscape, such as retaining natural boundary vegetation and incorporating new planting and landscaping - operational policy would encourage and enable this to be delivered where relevant.</p>
<p>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>There is the potential for renewables development to conflict with the historic environment, both directly through construction impacts / visual impact and indirectly through influencing setting. The policy aim of minimising environmental impacts and encouraging development to take place only where the location is appropriate is protective. Sites and features that are designated for their particular importance would be protected through policy. The policy objective of minimising visual intrusion and overall precautionary approach is protective and a neutral impact is predicted. Relevant operational policies will deliver additional safeguards.</p>
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>The strategic policy for renewable energy supports a diverse range of renewable energy development types that have a key role in reducing dependency on fossil fuels for energy production. The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) facilitate the delivery of renewable energy generating facilities (wind, solar, thermal, biomass and other technologies) in the most appropriate locations which aim to meet the regional target for renewable energy production b) minimise any potential visual intrusion and environmental impacts to protect both the rural and urban landscape. 				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPPS.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The policy has a minor positive effect on the objective to improve health and well-being through facilitating cleaner methods of power generation. No other perceptible impacts on the social sustainability objectives are identified. Enabling the generation of renewable energy has a minor positive effect on enabling sustainable economic growth and managing material assets sustainably. The strategic policy's protective criteria in terms of minimising environmental impacts and directing towards appropriate locations helps to reduce the likelihood of negative impacts on the environmental sustainability objectives and therefore the majority of these are neutral effect. However, potential pathways for emissions to air and water are more difficult to predict, as is the scale of physical resource use, and the effect on these objectives is uncertain. The application of relevant operational policies will protect against significant negative effects. Significant positive effects are predicted for the objective to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>			<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are significant positive effects identified for the objective to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Relevant operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.

Strategic Policy 22 Telecommunications and Other Utilities				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Access to high-speed telecommunications is a key aspect of modern life. Many people value high quality telecoms on a par with other services such as water/sanitation, which this policy would also help to deliver. The policy can help to sustain or improve people's quality of life. Digital connectivity can help to reduce isolation.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Communications infrastructure connects society and families and enables people to communicate with each other. The policy approach enables the delivery of services right across the district (subject to service providers) and helps to reduce inequalities.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The provision and incorporation of telecommunications and utilities connections are part and parcel of new housing but they do not in themselves contribute to the delivery of housing. High speed telecoms and good provisions for other utilities are what are now expected for housing to be sustainable. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	The policy aims of enabling telecommunications infrastructure where it is required helps to enable people to study from home and to have access to education at all levels no matter where they are located in the district. It can help to reduce inequalities in education.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policy aims of enabling telecommunications infrastructure where it is required enables business to be established and conducted anywhere in the district. Good infrastructure is a key aspect attracting businesses and investment. Bigger business would generally expect good telecoms and utilities to be provided before establishing, but the policy also supports smaller enterprises and micro-businesses. The provision of high speed digital communications linkages can enable worldwide access to commerce, where business can be done online any time of night or day. It can also allow people the opportunity to work from home.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Policy facilitates the delivery of new infrastructure and telecoms. While utilities or telecoms are already present in the district and are generally fit for purpose, the policy enables and encourages future proofing and the ability to adapt to changes in technology. By facilitating and promoting the provision of utilities and telecoms the policy may deliver the ability for users to have greater access to choice between providers and services. Strategic growth proposals may lead to a need for new infrastructure this policy will help those to be delivered.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	The policy approach should result in minimal footprint. The majority of works would be located underground, helping to reduce any loss of land. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The policy is likely to enable more people to work from home, which may reduce the need to travel or could encourage people to consider active travel options. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The policy enables water to be supplied to a development and waste water to be conveyed away. It facilitates the development or improvement of utilities, but does not provide the investment or the infrastructure. The effect of the policy will depend on what is needed and what the service provider is able to deliver.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Infrastructure is likely to be mainly located underground. Most of the disturbance associated with the provision or improvement of utilities and telecoms is temporary. The effect is negligible. Operational policy would require reinstatement.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	?	?	?	Most new utilities infrastructure will be located underground. There is unlikely to be any lasting effect on this objective from underground works, the potential effects would be temporary. The policy encourages development that causes minimal visual intrusion and environmental impacts and integration of infrastructure with the landscape is expected. However, it is recognised that electricity infrastructure in particular can have an adverse effect on landscape character and the overall effect is uncertain. Operational policy will help to deliver more specific safeguards against effects on landscape character.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Most new utilities infrastructure will be located underground but there may be temporary / short term effects on the historic environment while construction takes place. Where excavations occur there is a risk of damage to or disturbance of archaeology. The policy encourages development that causes minimal visual intrusion and avoids impact to the urban landscape as well as rural landscapes. It recognises that visual intrusion / wirescape can affect townscape and character. Appropriate consideration of historic features must be undertaken. Operational policy will help to deliver more specific safeguards against effects on the historic environment and ensure that reinstatement takes place.

Summary of Policy:

The strategic policy for telecommunications and other utilities supports the delivery of necessary digital and physical infrastructure to facilitate the diverse needs of the Council area. The Plan will support development proposals that:

- facilitate the delivery of sustainable telecommunications and other utilities infrastructure requirements to meet need over the plan period, encouraging future proofing to adapt to technological change
- minimise any visual intrusion and environmental impacts to protect both the rural and urban landscape.

Reasonable Alternatives:

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPPS.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

The policy has a minor positive impact on the majority of the social sustainability objectives. Digital connectivity and the provision of utilities are a key aspect of health and well-being and facilitating the improvement telecommunications across the district will benefit rural communities as well as urban areas. While the policy will not directly impact the delivery of good quality housing, access to and availability of services and infrastructure is expected. The policy has a minor positive impact on all of the economic sustainability objectives; this recognises the relationship that digital connectivity has with education, business and commerce, but also the ability to connect and upgrade infrastructure where required is a key aspect of managing material assets sustainably. The policy objective of minimising environmental impacts is protective and as a consequence no effect or a negligible effect is identified for the majority of the environmental sustainability objectives. An uncertain effect is identified for the objective to maintain and enhance landscape character, which recognises that while the policy is protective for landscape and the majority of utilities and telecommunications can be sited sensitively or buried to reduce visual impacts, certain types of electrical infrastructure are more difficult to integrate. A minor positive effect is identified for the historic environment, as the policy seeks to minimise visual and environmental impacts including within urban areas. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Relevant operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.</p>	

Strategic Policy 23 Waste Management				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	In the wider sense the policy will help to improve health and well-being through reducing waste going to landfill and promoting reuse and recycling. It supports a cleaner environment which benefits public health. The policies ensure that different waste streams can be removed from public areas and where people live, which also brings positive effects for people’s health and well-being.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	Potential indirect link through the end use following restoration of former waste management sites. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Waste management is an industry in itself. It can provide jobs and training opportunities. The policy advocates the use of the most appropriate technology to deal with waste. It may help to support innovation and competitiveness. Businesses rely heavily on how their waste is dealt with and transported off site and facilitating the growth of services that are deemed to be needed will benefit businesses.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	The policy enables appropriate sustainable waste management and disposal of waste. It may also permit the provision of energy generation through waste-to-energy. Supporting the development of facilities to manage waste can indirectly help to decrease the proportion of waste going to landfill, increase reuse and recycling rates, and enable organic material to be composted. The policy helps to drive the waste management hierarchy, but service providers are responsible for investment and implementation.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	?	?	?	The policy aims to reduce the extent of land use for landfill and promote the use of the most appropriate locations and the most appropriate methods of treatment / recovery of waste. It enables treatment / recovery of waste to occur close to source. The overall effect will depend on the location and nature of waste management facilities brought forward by service providers.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	The policies aim to reduce the overall proportion of waste going to landfill, helping to avoid emissions of methane or other pollutants to air. Some emissions may occur from transport. Effects may not be contained to within the district, waste could travel across Council boundaries. The overall effect will depend on the location and nature of waste management facilities brought forward by service providers.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	By helping to meet environmental targets, the policy helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially from landfill. It supports reuse and recycling and should help to reduce overall resource and energy consumption. The overall impact on the objective is positive, but not considered to have a perceptible impact.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Dependent on their nature and location, waste management facilities have the potential to impact water quality. The policy is protective in that it requires development proposals to ensure that all the appropriate environmental protections are in place. It also includes the amplification that proposals for waste management facilities to avoid or minimise any detrimental effects on the environment and amenity. With safeguards in place a neutral effect is predicted. Operational policies which require restoration and aftercare of sites will further help to safeguard against effects after the facility has ceased operating.

<p>12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>The policy is protective in that it requires development proposals to be located in appropriate sites and ensure that all the appropriate environmental protections are in place. It also includes the amplification that proposals for waste management facilities to avoid or minimise any detrimental effects on the environment and amenity. With safeguards in place a neutral effect is predicted. Operational policies may give rise to some potential enhancements such as new planting and landscaping around a site. Operational policies which require restoration and aftercare of sites may help to deliver further enhancements which deliver net gains on biodiversity after the facility has ceased operating.</p>
<p>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>The policy is protective in that it requires development proposals to be located in appropriate locations. It also includes the amplification that proposals for waste management facilities to avoid or minimise any detrimental effects on the environment and amenity. Due regard of the proximity principle means that all new facilities should all be within the built form / settlements. With safeguards in place, a neutral effect is predicted. Impacts on landscape from a new facility would be further safeguarded through mitigation identified through the application of relevant operational policies.</p>
<p>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>The policy is protective in that it requires development proposals to be located in appropriate locations. Identified assets of the historic environment would therefore form a key consideration in choosing an appropriate location. The policy also includes the amplification that proposals for waste management facilities should avoid or minimise any detrimental effects on the environment, this would help deliver safeguards against impacts on unidentified / unrecorded archaeology. A neutral effect is predicted. Operational policies will help to deliver more specific protections.</p>
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>The strategic policy for waste management seeks to ensure that waste management is managed safely to ensure that any detrimental effects on people, the environment, and local amenity including pollution, are avoided or mitigated. The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) facilitate the delivery of appropriate waste management infrastructure in the most appropriate locations paying due regard to the proximity principle and in accordance with the waste hierarchy b) employ the most appropriate technology to meet the wide range of environmental targets while ensuring all the appropriate environmental protections are in place. 				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPPS.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The policy has negligible or no effect on the social sustainability objectives though a minor positive effect is identified in respect of improving health and well-being as waste management is an important aspect of maintaining public health. The policy has a minor positive effect on enabling sustainable economic growth and is a key contributor to the objective to manage material assets sustainably, with associated significant positive effects identified. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>			<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are significant positive effects identified for the objective to manage material assets sustainably.</p>				

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Relevant operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.

Strategic Policy 24 Flooding				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	The policy benefits health and well-being by ensuring that all forms of development avoid areas where there may be risk to life.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	An indirect link is identified through avoiding development in areas at risk, prevents an area from being a vulnerable part in society. It helps to deliver resilience for communities and strengthens society in a wider sense, by preventing new development or areas of settlements from being cut off by flooding in the future.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The policy indirectly helps to ensure that housing is sustainable and reduces the risk of unfit homes in the future.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective, however it ensures that new schools / educational facilities would not be built in areas vulnerable to flooding.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policy indirectly supports the objective by ensuring that economic development is sustainable and should help to avoid disruption and damage caused by flooding. This protection is strengthened by operational policy which permits new built form in the flood plain by exception only.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The policy advocates a precautionary approach and ensures that utilities and infrastructure would not be situated in inappropriate locations (while still allowing essential infrastructure to be delivered by exception through operational policy). The overall impact on the objective is negligible however the safeguarding effects on material assets are strengthened through operational policy on infrastructure in defended and undefended areas.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	The policy will indirectly safeguard areas of undeveloped land where a potential risk has been identified, such areas may encompass semi-natural land or features of earth science interest. However the policy would not necessarily reduce the quantum or extent of development, it would probably occur elsewhere. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	The policy indirectly protects flood plains and wetlands which are habitats that provide resilience to climate change. The policy also indirectly delivers resilience to buildings from storm events by adopting a precautionary approach and avoiding development in potential hazard areas. The policy encourages SuDS, which can also help to contribute to resilience and adaptation to the effects of climate change, such as higher intensity rainfall events.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	The policy helps to protect water resources by managing development to avoid areas of flood risk. It helps to avoid the need for flood defences. The precautionary approach taken by the policy provides further safeguarding against risk of requiring new defences in the future. It indirectly reduces the risk of pollution entering the water environment from flooding events and protects the aquatic environment including some wetland areas. The policy encourages the use of SuDS to manage runoff which will maintain more natural water flows for good ecological quality. 'Soft' SuDS in new development can help to enhance water quality and not just protect it, however the policy provides no certainty that this effect would be delivered.

<p>12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	+	+	+	<p>The policy should help to protect areas from development and support wildlife (including aquatic wildlife) and local biodiversity. It is compatible with the establishment and management of green and blue infrastructure. The incorporation of ‘soft’ SuDS in new development can help to deliver biodiversity improvements but these effects are not certain as they would be dependent on uptake.</p>
<p>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	+	+	+	<p>The policy indirectly helps to maintain landscape character. It avoids new development in river valleys where there are flood plains - valleys can be characteristic landscape features. Flood plain could be intrinsic to the local landscape character.</p>
<p>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>	0	0	0	<p>Elements of the historic environment are already located in the flood plain. Many of the historic features identified in the district are linked with canals and watercourses and relate to the industrial heritage of the area. However these are already developed and the policy should have no effect on these. The precautionary approach to new development may indirectly help to protect the setting of water-related heritage features and the precautionary approach and promotion of sustainable drainage may indirectly help to safeguard these features from increased flooding. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.</p>
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>The strategic policy for flooding seeks to ensure that development proposals are adequately mitigated to reduce the potential of flooding primarily from rivers and surface water runoff. While the policy aims to reduce the risks, other wider global factors (including climate change) are having an impact in this area. The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) reduce the risks and impacts of flooding by managing development to avoid, where possible the potential for flooding b) encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems to alleviate issues around surface water flooding c) adopt a precautionary approach in instances where the precise nature of any risk is as yet unproven but a potential risk has been identified. 				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with the regional policy of the SPPS.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The policy has a limited effect on the social sustainability objectives although some positive influences are noted for strengthening society and housing by ensuring that development is located in sustainable locations. A minor positive effect is identified for the improvement of health and well-being, through ensuring development occurs away from areas that have identified or potential risks to safety. Similar influences are noted for the economic sustainability objectives in terms of economic development and material assets, through directing new development and infrastructure away from unsustainable locations. A minor positive effect is identified on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. The safeguarding elements of the policy help to deliver positive effects for the objectives to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change, to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably and to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity. These effects are significant positive in respect of water resources. For all other environmental sustainability objectives there are no perceptible effects, although some positive influences are noted around physical resources, and the historic environment. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>			<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	

<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are significant positive effects identified for the objective to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</p>
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Relevant operational policies will help to deliver specific protections and encourage the identification and implementation of potential enhancement measures.</p>

Strategic Policy SMU01 West Lisburn / Blaris				
Option	New policy provision.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	This approach should lead to the establishment of an employment area which is highly accessible from surrounding housing areas, which will deliver indirect benefits for health and well-being. The inclusion of park / open space which links with the proposed strategic greenway will help to enhance benefits, and a planned linkage to the rail network could also help to enhance accessibility. The policy will allow for healthcare uses which would also benefit the objective. Aspects of the policy can help to deliver a good work life balance.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Employment land should bring more employment, which has benefits for strengthening society. Employment land will accessible by active and sustainable travel options (and also by road) from nearby housing which should mean accessible jobs for local residents and communities in the wider area, some of which are identified as deprived communities. The strategic policy will include for the provision of new high quality open space which would be an accessible shared space and will provide opportunities for positive social interaction.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	This zoning is adjacent to key transport corridors, and has been identified as an accessible location for housing. Providing an opportunity for housing at this location would make use of the good level of public transport provision on these networks. Re-designation provides an opportunity to facilitate the provision of a range of housing types and will provide opportunities to establish a mix of housing types and tenures in proximity to jobs, reducing need to travel. The scale of development enabled by this strategic policy and the inclusion of Key Site Requirements will facilitate the delivery of affordable housing and lifetime homes. A strategic zoning delivered through a masterplan is considered to be a more sustainable way of delivering housing.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	The Education Authority has indicated that there is available capacity in schools which would be accessible from the location. The policy allows for the establishment of nurseries or preschools if these are needed.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	This strategic employment location is adjacent to key transport corridors, and has been identified as an accessible location for housing. The approach will mean a loss of overall land supply for employment in the Council area, but will mean that there is a greater population with accessibility to the site. It will enable the opportunity for a high quality area of employment and housing. The site is also accessible to wider areas of deprivation in adjacent councils. Providing an opportunity for housing at this location would make use of the good level of public transport provision on these networks. Use can also be made of cycle links into Lagan Valley Regional Park, Lisburn City centre and on to Belfast using active travel.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Using an existing (but as yet undeveloped) zoning for employment land will consolidate development in a well-served location. Infrastructure is, or will be, fit for purpose and renewable or energy efficient technologies are encouraged to be included in new buildings. The phased approach will also support the efficient delivery of new utilities and infrastructure. The impact is significant and will be enhanced if a specific requirement for renewables is included in the masterplan.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	The site is located within the settlement limit of Lisburn (though it is currently undeveloped). Its development will result in consumption of land / change of land use. The strategic policy will also retain a large area of semi-natural land as a linear park along the riverside. The masterplan approach will result in more efficient land use than a dispersed approach and therefore is considered to have a positive effect on this objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The strategic policy includes integration with a proposed strategic greenway which will encourage active travel. It also will include integrated public transport (strategic park and ride and rail hub).The co-location of jobs and housing will also help to encourage active and sustainable travel as the preferred mode of transport.
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	Any form of new development is likely increase pressure on air quality through increased activity with associated emissions. Including housing at this location may bring fewer emissions than an area zoned solely for employment. A design concept that encourages renewable energy and energy efficiency measures in new development

				and accessibility to the gas distribution network will also support this objective. Housing at this location would be accessible to the city centre by active travel and good public transport links, which will benefit the objective by encouraging reduced reliance on single occupant vehicle journeys.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	New development will contribute to greenhouse gas emissions from construction, transport and heating. However, the approach brought by this strategic policy is more efficient than dispersed employment and homes. The masterplan approach with phased delivery will also help to deliver greater resource efficiency. A design concept that encourages renewable energy and energy efficiency measures in new development will benefit this objective. The co-location of jobs and housing will also help to encourage the use of active or sustainable travel in preference to cars. The inclusion of a linear park along the river will help to provide resilience against flooding.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	20 ha of the site are on the flood plain; the inclusion of a linear park will protect the natural floodplain and provide storage for flood water. It will also help to avoid the need for flood defences. Any form of development will increase water usage and will generate waste water which may increase pressure on water quality. The phased approach and consideration of water management in the overall design concept can help to reduce pressure on waste water infrastructure. The incorporation of 'soft' SuDS as a Key Site Requirement could deliver significant benefits to this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	The site is currently mostly agriculture / improved pasture. The strategic policy includes 20 ha of linear riverside park which will be wooded and will help to enhance the existing biodiversity and improve the riparian area. It will also incorporate green and blue infrastructure. Open space would also be included within housing areas and landscaping and boundary planting are a requirement of the masterplan. Benefits to this objective brought by the master plan approach and implementation of an overall design concept are likely to increase over lifetime of the plan as vegetation /landscaping matures. Benefits to this objective could be further enhanced if 'soft' SUDs are incorporated.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	-	-	0	This strategic policy protects features such as the river corridor and the cemetery, however main views / an open vista across the site from elsewhere will be impacted negatively. The site will be a planned landscape with green areas, which may reduce the scale of the negative effect. The site is not currently a designated landscape area and is within the settlement development limit. High rise buildings would not form part of the development. Visual impact is likely to reduce over time, as landscaping and boundary treatments mature.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	The strategic policy will ensure that identified heritage features within the site are retained and protected. A planned landscape could help to enhance the setting of Blaris old cemetery. Development with excavation may result in previously unrecorded artefacts being damaged / lost, however it may also provide opportunities to discover new heritage. Risks can be greatly reduced through the inclusion of measures such as archaeological testing and monitoring, developed in consultation with HED.
Summary of Policy:				
This policy will support development at this Strategic Mixed use site in accordance with an overall Concept Masterplan. The Masterplan will be developed in line with key site requirements. The key site requirements will result in a sustainable form of development which will provide housing in proximity to employment opportunities. There is also provision for opportunities to improve linkages beyond the site connecting to the wider network be that road, rail of other modes of transport. The development of the site in accordance with the policy will have significant benefits not only to the council area but the wider economy in general.				
Reasonable Alternatives:				
No reasonable alternatives were identified for the draft Plan Strategy. The alternative options tested for the POP included Option 6B 'Re-designate the Blaris MEL Employment Zoning as two separate zonings for housing and employment' and Option 6C 'Retain the existing Blaris MEL Zoning for employment purposes only'. Option				

6B to re-designate the area and include zonings for housing was found to be the most sustainable option. This option has now been refined on the basis of new evidence which supports this option, and consideration will also be given to the inclusion of new Key Site Requirements to enhance positive effects in the LPP.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

This strategic policy has a significant positive impact on all of the social sustainability objectives as it will deliver a planned mixed-use site which integrates a high quality employment and housing area with open space included that is easily accessible through active and sustainable travel to and from the wider area. It also has positive impacts on all of the economic sustainability objectives by enabling employment opportunities in a site that will be well-serviced from an infrastructure perspective. These impacts are significant for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to manage material assets sustainably. This strategic policy also has a positive impact on all of the environmental sustainability objectives, with the exception of maintaining and enhancing landscape character, where it is recognised that the conversion of almost 120ha of largely undeveloped land to a developed mixed-use area will adversely impact the landscape character of the area. However, the approach of a masterplan which will deliver a planned landscape incorporating boundary planting and green areas will help to reduce the scale of the impact, resulting in a minor negative magnitude for the impact score. As the site matures, the impacts on landscape should reduce to negligible over the long term and the impacts on natural resources should increase to significant positive. The site’s planned integration with existing and planned greenways, cycle paths, park and rides and rail also help to deliver significant positive impacts on the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.

The preferred option: This option is the only option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objectives to improve health and well-being, to strengthen society, to provide good quality, sustainable housing, to enable sustainable economic growth, to manage material assets sustainably and to encourage active and sustainable travel through all timescales. Likely significant positive effects are identified for the objective to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity in the long term timescale.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

The masterplan to be provided should indicate areas that should be protected /enhanced. The Key Site Requirements include incorporation of measures for landscaping which will help to enhance positive effects. Operational policies encouraging renewables in certain types of development will provide more positive effects on air quality and climate change objectives.

Strategic Policy SMU02 Purdysburn/Knockbracken				
Option	New policy provision based on extant Development Plan.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Creates the potential to develop a high quality health care resource for the Council area and the wider region (NI). Provides opportunities for a range of jobs which may enhance prosperity for surrounding areas. The strategic policy may enable the opportunity for the site to be linked with the greenway to Carryduff. Linkage with greenway / open space could help to enhance positive effects for patients and allow active travel for workers. The positive effects could become more significant over time however, as uptake / development will be dependent on third party service provider the score is kept at minor.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Not currently perceived as a shared space, redevelopment / masterplanning and integration with greenway will allow the site to become more of a public asset. This type of facility will help many aspects of social cohesion.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective. Housing will not be permitted on the site.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Could provide opportunities for research and development. With IT and ICT facilities being developed on site, there may be opportunities for skills enhancement and training in compatible sectors.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	This proposed policy would help to facilitate economic growth through a business park which is ideal for research and development opportunities in ICT and healthcare. This could significantly contribute to competitiveness and innovation for the Council area and will help to drive economic growth. Helps to spread accessibility to jobs across the Council area.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Infrastructure is already present at the site. Additional /upgrading servicing of this site can be done efficiently as premises are consolidated in one area. The effects could be further enhanced with the inclusion of renewables in new development.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	The site is a former demesne / parkland and the masterplan approach will provide safeguarding against development of semi-natural areas and parkland (comprising around 40ha of the site). Encourages re-use of buildings where possible. There will be no loss in physical resources for the part of site that already exists. New development would not affect physical resources such as identified earth science features.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The site is well located for Cairnshill Park and Ride and is on a main route into Belfast, as well as being located in an area with a large resident population. Planned linkage with proposed greenway to Carryduff also strengthens the support for this objective over time and will increase the benefit to significant.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	There could be minor increases in travel/commuting to the site and some possible emissions from new development/redevelopment. However, the types of development will be constrained and are unlikely to be high impact and transport emissions may be offset by the provision of good access via active and sustainable travel options.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	There could be increases in travel/commuting to the site, but it will be developed to make best use of sustainable and active travel options. The inclusion of renewable generation or efficiency measures in new development would help to deliver benefits for this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The policy option could potentially impact upon water quality, however there is existing drainage infrastructure servicing the site and the river currently has a vegetation buffer surrounding it. Potential impacts can be mitigated through the application of water pollution prevention guidelines in construction and operational benefits could be delivered through the incorporation of SuDS (especially 'soft' SuDS) in new development to manage run-off.

<p>12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	+	+	+	<p>The site is on a historic demesne and has extensive areas of woodland and a local wildlife site. The existing zoning took biodiversity into account, and there could be potential positives for biodiversity with sensitive management of the site. The greenway would potentially be a wildlife corridor. Requires retention of parkland and trees.</p>
<p>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	+	+	+	<p>Zoning the site in this way should safeguard the setting of this group of listed buildings in the parkland landscape. The masterplan approach will take account of landscape character and site topography and ensure that new development is appropriate for its surroundings.</p>
<p>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>	+	+	+	<p>Zoning the site in this way should safeguard the use of this grouping of buildings including listed buildings. Master planning or use of a development framework for the development of the site will help to ensure that it is carried out done sensitively, to reflect the historic demesne and the listed buildings.</p>
<p>Summary of Policy:</p>				
<p>This policy will support development at this Strategic Mixed use site in accordance with an overall Concept Masterplan. The Masterplan will be developed in line with key site requirements. The policy protects the current setting of the listed buildings and the high quality landscape setting which gives the site its character. The policy does facilitate appropriate use of the site for a variety of uses. The site provides opportunities to link with various active and sustainable transport networks.</p>				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p>				
<p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p>				
<p>This strategic policy has a positive influence on two out of the three social sustainability objectives through the establishment of a planned mixed use and shared space area in the surrounds of the former demesne. In the long term, it will deliver significant positive effects on the objective to strengthen society. Positive impacts are also identified for all of the economic sustainability objectives as the strategic policy will aim to deliver opportunities for skills enhancement and academic research. Development of this site would make a significant positive contribution to sustainable economic growth in the Council area. The plan would provide for the retention of woodland and parkland areas and would allow only modest changes to the existing development footprint, leading to negligible effects on many the environmental sustainability objectives including the objectives to protect physical resources and use sustainably, to improve air quality, to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change and to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably. Positive impacts are identified for protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage. Significant positive effects are identified for maintaining and enhancing landscape character. As the site is already developed and has good access to different options for active and sustainable travel there are positive effects for this objective. These would be further enhanced through planned integration with future proposed strategic greenways, strengthening the positive effect to significant. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>			

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to maintain and enhance landscape character for all timescales. Likely significant positive effects are also identified for the objectives to strengthen society and to encourage active and sustainable travel over the long-term timescale only.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Biodiversity surveys and map resources will help to inform masterplan / development framework on areas that should be protected /enhanced. Key Site Requirements for incorporating renewables in certain types of development will provide more certainty for positive effects on air quality and climate change objectives.

Strategic Policy SMU03 Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre				
Option	New policy provision.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	This approach would include extending uses to include recreation and leisure which could potentially bring benefits for health and well-being. However this would depend on the type of leisure and recreation uses which resulted. It is not possible to determine the impact of this approach on health and well-being at this stage. There is also the opportunity to link the site to the proposed strategic greenway at West Lisburn. Additional job opportunities may enhance prosperity locally which will support this objective.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Retains Sprucefield as a Regional Shopping Centre, and widens the range of uses provides meeting places for people to use. It also brings employment to the Council area, which plays a role in improving quality of life for employees and their families. It is an all-inclusive shared space. A masterplan could include public realm works which would help to enhance the site as a destination. The strategic policy is unlikely to cause a negative impact on Lisburn City centre, as the unit sizes permitted at Sprucefield would not be feasible in the city and all proposals will be accompanied by a retail impact assessment, rather it is anticipated that this will site will complement Lisburn City Centre.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Widening the range of uses may encourage economic growth and employment, and will widen the range of employment types. The policy helps to make best use of location. The retail study to inform the draft Plan Strategy has indicated that wider range of use could enhance the potential for Sprucefield as a destination and help to increase footfall and help develop the critical mass to deliver the site's full potential as a strategic employment location.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The primary servicing and infrastructure of the site is already established. However, additional development may increase servicing and infrastructure needs. Growth at the site may enable delivery of infrastructure upgrades that benefit a wider area. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Most of the land identified for this regional shopping use (and considering a future extension of uses) has been developed. However any additional development may mean a loss of a small amount of land. This is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Sprucefield is located at a well-connected site for public transport linkages. The impact on this objective would be further enhanced by a proposed new rail halt nearby at West Lisburn and linkages to the proposed strategic greenway from Belfast to Craigavon.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Most of the land identified for this regional shopping use (and considering a future extension of uses) has been developed. However any additional development could possibly have an impact on water use and surrounding water quality. Indications are that waste water infrastructure is capable of receiving the additional development. Potential impacts can be mitigated through the application of water pollution prevention guidelines in construction and operational benefits could be enhanced through the incorporation of SuDS. The strategic policy is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	?	?	?	Most of the land identified for this regional shopping use (and considering a future extension of uses) has been developed. However, undeveloped land may contain locally important biodiversity or species of conservation concern and new development could possibly have an effect on this objective. This impact could be mitigated through ecological surveys and development control policy for nature conservation.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
Summary of Policy: This policy will support development within Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre which is in accordance with operational policy and the key site requirements. The policy will permit up to a maximum area of floor space for the approved use on the site. The policy will also permit a variety of uses again subject to operation policy and the submission of other assessments. The strategic policy will also provide linkages to existing and planned networks and encouraging a modal shift. This strategic policy will ensure that Sprucefield develops in a manner which best serves the region as a whole given its regional status.				
Reasonable Alternatives: No reasonable alternatives were identified for the draft Plan Strategy. An alternative option (Option 13A) to retain and reinforce Sprucefield as Regional Shopping Centre (with no variations in use) was appraised in the Interim SA for the POP and was found to be equally sustainable. It was not considered necessary to re-appraise this alternative for the draft Plan Strategy. The option put forward in the draft plan Strategy has been selected on the basis of additional evidence in the form of a Retail Study which has identified that this option has a better chance of delivering more wide ranging economic benefits.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: This strategic policy has a minor positive impact on social sustainability objectives to improve health and well-being and to strengthen society, but has no impact on the delivery of housing. It has a significant positive impact on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth but no other impacts are identified for the economic pillar. This option has limited impact on the environmental sustainability objectives, as it relates to a zoning that has already been largely developed and has infrastructure already in place. It has a minor positive impact on the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel due to its accessibility by public transport and potential future linkages with the planned strategic greenway and rail link located nearby. An uncertain impact is recorded for natural resources as the impact is dependent on what species or habitats are present on the undeveloped portions of the site and whether these are of biodiversity or conservation importance. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.				
The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.			The preferred option: This option is the only option.	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option.				

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Ecological / Biodiversity surveys will help to inform Key Site Requirements. KSRs for incorporation of SuDS may reduce pressure on wastewater infrastructure.

HOU1 New Residential Development, HOU2 Protection of Land Zoned for Housing, HOU3 Site Context and Characteristics of New Residential Development, HOU4 Design in New Residential Development, HOU5 Public Open Space in New Residential Development, HOU6 Design Concept Statements, Concept Masterplans and Comprehensive Planning, HOU7 Residential Extensions and Alterations, HOU8 Protecting Local Character, Environmental Quality and Residential Amenity in Established Residential Areas, HOU9 The Conversion or Change of Use of Existing Buildings to Flats or Apartments				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	HOU 1- Locations centralises people to where health facilities and services are located. Helps ensure accessibility through transport links. HOU 2 - Zoned land able to provide access to a variety of community facilities including educational and health. HOU 3 - Helps to create attractive places to live - landscaping; positives for well-being. HOU 4 - Promotes positive mental health with adaptable accommodation as well as lifetime homes; open space able to be considered for physical activity and amenity value. HOU 5 - Open space protected with benefits for physical health - recreational activity. HOU6 - links to design statements, which can help ensure positive living environments for people from the early design stage and influence people's quality of life. HOU 7 - Supportive of healthcare needs - nursing homes/extensions for healthcare reasons. HOU 8 - Good design considered - linked to quality of life and well-being. HOU 9 - conversion enabled which could help families in certain circumstances to stay together with positives for their health and well-being.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	HOU 1 - Location is key and helps to create a sense of community - vibrancy; supports living over shops. HOU 2 - Supports community facilities. HOU 3 - Creates a more attractive place where people may have a better sense of pride and belonging. HOU 4 - Delivery of lifetime homes able to support intergenerational contact. Helps to prevent social exclusion. HOU 5 - Provides open space and shared space, which enables meeting up, social cohesion and shared use. HOU 6 - Able to prevent ghost settlements. HOU7/9 - Allows properties to be adapted through extensions and alterations providing flexibility for living in the same location and community. HOU8 - Protects local character and helps to retain a sense of place. HOU9 - Provides for the conversion or change of use of existing buildings to flats or apartments allowing a choice of accommodation in a particular location, which could help more people to stay within their communities and family units to stay together.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	HOU 4 - Links to delivery of a range of house types as well as more energy efficient homes. Density bands also support quality living areas. Conflict with adjacent land uses more likely to be avoided. HOU 7 - Extensions feasible so homes can be adapted to changing circumstances. Delivery of lifetime homes more likely.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	HOU 2 - Enables facilitating access to educational resources on land zoned for housing. Alternative uses of educational facilities allowed. HOU 4 - Local neighbourhood facilities can be provided if a need is identified which could be provision of educational resources.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	HOU 1 - 9 - All policies are drivers for the building of houses/homes and associated works, which cumulatively help to maintain and encourage local economic development through the construction/building/housing sector. Some of the policies also support/enable/facilitate living over shops which can help to bring vibrancy to local centres.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	HOU 1 - Supports/encourages redevelopment of brownfield sites/land to a more efficient use. HOU 4 - Supports/encourages energy and resource efficiency and refers to renewables. Waste storage also considered - design aspect. HOU 9 - Refers to recycling provision.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	HOU 1 - Location is a key aspect for sustainable growth - most efficient use of land. HOU 3 & 4 - Policies help to avoid the development of greenfield land - efficient use of land. Policies aim for development in the most appropriate locations - sustainable development. HOU 7, 8 & 9 - Support for the redevelopment/reuse of existing buildings and brownfield sites, which help to facilitate use of urban land.

8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	HOU 1 - Centralising where people live in key locations better enables people’s general ability to access existing and future public transport options. This approach better facilitates delivery of a sustainable transport system. HOU 3 & 4 - Active travel - both walking and cycling - is encouraged and supported, as too is increased use of public transport. Parking for bikes also referred to as a design consideration.
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	HOU 3 & 4 - Active travel - both walking and cycling - is encouraged and supported, as too is increased use of public transport. Parking for bikes also referred to as a design consideration. HOU 4 - Supports/encourages energy and resource efficiency. Incompatible land uses also able to be avoided, which should help avoid local air quality issues for residents.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	HOU 3 & 4 - Supports active and sustainable travel - both walking and cycling are encouraged and supported, as too is increased use of public transport. Parking for bikes also referred to as a design consideration. Approach helps to reduce emissions - design and access statements applicable. HOU 4 - Supports/encourages energy and resource efficiency - passive solar design, and refers to renewables. SuDS is encouraged to help manage local flooding, increased run-off and further act as an adaptation measure.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	HOU 4 - SuDS is encouraged to help manage local flooding, increased run-off and further act as an adaptation measure. Some of the policies also refer to buffer planting which helps protect local water quality by reducing soil/land erosion and filtering run-off from pollutants.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	HOU 3 - Buffer planting and additional planting are referred to as well as integration of natural features. HOU 4 - Policy refers to hierarchy of planting for integration of developments. HOU 5 - Policy refers to woodland areas in open space.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	HOU 3 - Buffer planting and additional planting are referred to which can act as landscape features. The integration of natural features is encouraged to help maintain/enhance landscape character. HOU 6 - Landscape appraisals are required for the policy.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	HOU 3 - Policy refers to Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape Character. Form and other heritage features are referred to, which help to retain a sense of place. HOU 4 - Best form - density - and use of appropriate materials are required. HOU 7 - Policy refers to consideration of local heritage. HOU 8 - Policy recognises the importance of protecting local character in established residential areas. Policy focus is on urban area and protection of its character - ATCs. Overall, integrating historic features into a development proposal is encouraged to help make a proposal ‘fit’.

Summary of Policies:

HOU1 Housing in Settlements: Planning permission will be granted for new residential development in settlements in the following circumstances:

- on land zoned for residential use;
- on previously developed land (brownfield sites);
- in designated city, town centres, villages and small settlements; and,
- Living over the shop schemes above shop and business premises within designated city and town centres.

HOU 2 Protection of Land Zoned for Housing: Planning permission, for alternative uses zoned housing land on where not identified as a Key Site Requirement (KSR), will only be granted in the following circumstances:

- the proposed use is compatible with the housing zoning and it meets a demonstrable local community need; and,
- the nature, size and scale of the alternative use is, and will remain, ancillary to the main use of the land for housing.

HOU3 Place Shaping and New Residential Development: Planning permission will be granted for new residential development where it will create a quality and sustainable residential environment which respects the existing site context and characteristics. An overall design concept must be submitted for all residential proposals and must demonstrate that a proposal draws upon the positive aspects of, and respects the local character, appearance and environmental quality of the surrounding area.

In residential areas of distinctive townscape character, including Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape or Village Character, an increased residential density will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances and space standards should be in accordance with published Departmental guidance. Proposals for residential development will be expected to conform to the following criteria:

- (a) the development respects the surrounding context, by creating or enhancing a local identity and distinctiveness that reinforces a sense of place, and is appropriate to the character and topography of the site in terms of layout, scale, proportions, massing and appearance of buildings, structures and landscaped and hard surfaced areas; and
- (b) archaeological, built heritage and landscape characteristics/features are identified and, where appropriate, protected and suitably integrated into the overall design and layout of the development.

HOU4 Main Elements of Design: Proposals for residential development will be expected to conform to 11 design criteria. Any proposal for residential development which fails to produce an appropriate quality of design will not be permitted, even on land identified for residential use in a development plan. The Department's publication 'Creating Places' (May 2000) should be taken into account in the application of these policies.

HOU5 Public Open Space in New Residential Development: Adequate provision must be made for open space that links with green and blue infrastructure, where possible, and provides pedestrian and cycle linkages to nearby public amenity spaces. Proposals for new residential development of 25 or more units, or on sites of one hectare or more, must provide public open space as an integral part of the development, subject to 3 criteria.

HOU6 Design Concept Statements, Concept Master Plans and Comprehensive Planning: A Design Concept Statement, or where appropriate a Concept Master Plan, must accompany all planning applications for residential development. A Concept Master Plan will be required for planning applications involving:

- (a) 50 dwellings or more; or
- (b) the development, in part or full, of sites of 2 hectares or more zoned for housing in development plans; or
- (c) housing development on any other site of 2 hectares or more.

For partial development of a site zoned for housing the Concept Master Plan will be expected to demonstrate how the comprehensive planning of the entire zoned area is to be undertaken.

Any proposal for housing that would result in unsatisfactory piecemeal development will not be permitted, even on land identified for residential use in a development plan.

HOU7 Residential Extensions and Alterations: Planning permission will be granted for a proposal to extend or alter a residential property where all of the following criteria are met:

- (a) the scale, massing, design and external materials of the proposal are sympathetic with the built form and appearance of the existing property and will not detract from the appearance and character of the surrounding area;

- (b) the proposal does not unduly affect the privacy or amenity of neighbouring residents;
- (c) the proposal will not cause the unacceptable loss of, or damage to, trees or other landscape features which contribute significantly to local environmental quality; and
- (d) sufficient space remains within the curtilage of the property for recreational and domestic purposes including the parking and manoeuvring of vehicles.

The above policy applies to residential extensions and alterations for all dwellings throughout the Council area, and for extensions and/or alterations to other residential uses, such as, residential/nursing homes, hostels and holiday accommodation. The guidance set out in Annex A of this Plan Strategy will be taken into account when assessing proposals against the above criteria.

HOU8 Protecting Local Character, Environmental Quality and Residential Amenity In established residential areas

Planning permission will be granted for the redevelopment of existing buildings, or the infilling of vacant sites (including extended garden areas) to accommodate new housing, where all the criteria set out in Policies HOU3 and HOU4, and all the additional criteria set out below are met:

- (a) the proposed density is not significantly higher than that found in the established residential area;
- (b) the pattern of development is in keeping with the overall character and environmental quality of the established residential area; and
- (c) all dwelling units and apartments are built to a size not less than those set out in Annex A.

HOU9 The Conversion or Change of Use of Existing Buildings to Flats or Apartments: Planning permission will be granted for the conversion or change of use of existing buildings to flats or apartments (including those for multiple occupancy) where all the criteria set out in Policies HOU3 and HOU4, and all the additional criteria set out below are met:

- (a) there is no adverse effect on the local character, environmental quality or residential amenity of the surrounding area;
- (b) the proposal maintains or enhances the form, character and architectural features, design and setting of the existing building;
- (c) the original property is greater than 150 square metres gross internal floorspace;
- (d) all flats or apartments are self-contained (i.e. having separate bathroom, w.c. and kitchen available for use only by the occupiers); and
- (e) the development does not contain any flat or apartment, which is wholly in the rear of the property and without access to the public street.

Reasonable Alternatives:

No reasonable alternatives for HOU 1 - 9 as policy options consistent with regional policy - SPPS. Policies are focused on enabling and shaping.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

The policies were identified as delivering positive outcomes across all of the social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for all of the economic objectives and the majority of the environmental objectives. Positive effects to enable sustainable economic growth, manage material assets sustainably and protect physical resources sustainably were based upon the policies cumulatively helping to maintain and encourage local economic development through the housing sector as well as encouraging a more efficient use of land - brownfield sites, as well as supporting energy and resource efficiency. Location is a key aspect of sustainable growth and the policies help to avoid the development of greenfield land and aim for development in the most appropriate locations. Minor positive effects were predicted for delivery of the environmental objectives to improve air quality, reduce causes of and adapt to climate change, protect water resources, protect natural resources, and maintain and enhance landscape character. Positives were based upon the policies encouraging walking and cycling as well as increased use of

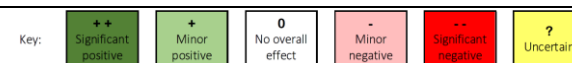
public transport from a design stage. Avoidance of incompatible land uses would also help avoid local air quality issues for residents. Energy and resource efficiency are also encouraged through design and consideration of renewables, as well as measures like SuDS and additional planting. Cumulatively the policies are able to help reduce emissions and pollution with positives for climate and the local environment including air, water, land and soil, as well as maintain and enhance local biodiversity levels. The integration of natural and landscape features is encouraged to ensure protection of local landscape character. Significant positive effects were also predicted for delivery of the environmental objectives to encourage active and sustainable travel, and to protect the historic environment. These positives were based upon the policies centralising where people live with greater opportunity to facilitate access to existing and future public transport options as well as walking and cycling. Parking for bikes is also referred to as a design consideration. Some of the policies refer to Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape Character, best form, density and other heritage features thus helping to retain a sense of place. Local heritage and character are referred to within the policies and should remain a consideration. Overall, integrating historic features into a development proposal is encouraged to help make a proposal 'fit'. Significant positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objectives to improve health and well-being, strengthen society and provide sustainable housing. These positive effects were based upon the policies centralising people to where accessible healthcare and community facilities and services are most likely to be located. In addition, attractive living environments are aimed for by good design that includes aspects like open space as well as walking and cycling routes, which can all deliver positives for people's mental and physical health. The policies enable extensions and conversions that can accommodate specific healthcare needs and may help more people to stay within their communities and for family units to stay together. The approach of the policies to centralise people helps to create a sense of community and with through support for living over shops, sustaining community facilities is more likely. Delivery of lifetime homes and enabling properties to be adapted though extensions or alterations, provides the flexibility that some people may need to live in the same location and community, as well as enabling intergenerational contact. Social inclusion is more likely. Cumulatively the policies encourage good design that can enable social cohesion and a sense of belonging through shared space. Overall, the policies aim to deliver a range of house types that are more energy efficient and that support quality living through density bands and compatible adjacent land uses. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

The most sustainable option: HOU1-9 - Housing in Settlements, Protection of Land Zoned for Housing, Place Shaping and New Residential Development, Main Elements of Design, Public Open Space in New Residential Development, Design Concept Statements, Concept Master Plans and Comprehensive Planning, Residential Extensions and Alterations, Protecting Local Character, Environmental Quality & Residential Amenity in established Residential Areas, The Conversion or Change of Use of Existing Buildings to Flats or Apartments: These options were the only options; the appraisal has considered them to be sustainable options.

The preferred option: These options were the only options; the appraisal has considered them to be sustainable options.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?
Likely significant positive effects of the policies were identified across most of the social sustainability objectives including to improve health and well-being, strengthening society and providing sustainable housing, as well as against two of the environmental objectives to encourage active and sustainable travel; and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.



Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Conservation Design guides such as 'Living Places' to be updated. Creating Places to be referred to. Developer Impact Assessments.

HOU10: Affordable Housing in Settlements				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Policy approach could help to deliver more mixed and balanced communities that facilitate people from different backgrounds and across generations living together. This would bring positive benefits for social contact/interaction and could help people feel good about where they live/come from - sense of pride.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Policy approach could help to deliver more mixed and balanced communities with positive benefits for individuals/communities in need of affordable housing as well as enabling increased social contact/interaction across generations and different social classes. This could help reduce inequalities and could improve the local sense of pride that people have for where they live or come from. Policy approach would increase diversity amongst local people.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Policy approach would help to deliver affordable housing and meet locally identified needs. Affordable homes can also be lifetime homes - adaptable, sustainable. Overall, the mixed tenure approach and range of housing types could help to meet local needs.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy could help support job creation in areas of deprivation.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective. .
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy approach to the location of affordable housing is more likely to enable people to walk, cycle or use public transport.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.

Summary of Policy:

HOU10 Affordable Housing within Settlements: Where the need for Affordable Housing is identified through the Housing Needs Assessment, on sites of more than 0.5 hectares or comprising more than 5 residential units, proposals will only be permitted where provision is made for at least 20% of the units to be affordable.

All developments incorporating affordable housing should be designed to integrate with the overall scheme with no significant distinguishable design differences, in accordance with the operational policies contained within this Plan Strategy.

Where the identified need is not to be provided, detailed reasons for the non-provision will be required. In such circumstances off-site provision or appropriate financial contribution in lieu will need to be robustly justified and agreed through a Section 76 Planning Agreement. Such agreements must contribute to the objective of creating mixed and balanced communities.

By exception, proposals for affordable housing will be considered on lands not zoned for housing or land identified for other uses such as open space, where it can be demonstrated that the criteria identified in the policy have been met.

Development proposals will not be supported where lands have been artificially divided for the purposes of circumventing this policy requirement.

Reasonable Alternatives:

This is a new policy with no reasonable alternative as the policy option is consistent with regional policy - SPPS. Policy is enabling and shaping. The NIHE as a statutory consultee for the LDP have stated that zoning is not acceptable. 80% of sites are committed. Windfall sites to be considered. Option enables either approach.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

The policy was identified to deliver no effects or negligible effects against all of the economic and environmental sustainability objectives. Positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objectives with minor positive effects identified to improve health and well-being. Positives were based on the policy helping to deliver more mixed and balanced communities where people from different backgrounds and across generations can live together. This approach should help deliver positive benefits for people by facilitating social cohesion and interaction. It may help develop people's sense of pride in where they live. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the strengthening society, and sustainable housing objectives. These positives were based upon the policy delivering more mixed and balanced communities by delivering affordable housing that could be lifetime homes, with positive benefits for individuals and families in need of affordable housing. The policy approach would likely increase social contact and interaction across social classes and generations which should help to reduce social inequalities. Overall, the mixed tenure approach and range of housing types could help to meet locally identified needs. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

The most sustainable option: HOU10 - Affordable Housing within Settlements: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.

The preferred option: This option is the only option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positive effects were predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objectives to strengthen society and to deliver good quality, sustainable housing.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Section 76 agreements could help to deliver the policy. Future monitoring could be developed to help monitor effectiveness. Zoning or Key Site Requirements at the Local Policies Plan stage.

HOU11: Specialist Accommodation				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Policy approach could help to improve and increase access to residential health care, which has been identified as a local need. The policy allows for greater choice of accommodation with particular provision for the elderly and those with a disability.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Policy able to provide an opportunity for an increased level of positive, social interaction. The policy would also help to reduce inequalities by increasing provision of and accessibility to healthcare facilities. Location of the sites able to be considered in the context of access to local services and facilities - local need. Approach is inclusive and aims to integrate the facilities and the people in them.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Policy able to meet the needs of a specific group of people and deliver to a locally identified need. The approach could help to deliver an increased amount and range of housing in response to different situations and family needs. The policy could also help to reduce isolation in respect of vulnerable groups.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy approach could help to deliver some access to educational resources for certain needs.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the approach would help to support employment and training/skills opportunities in the healthcare sector as well as help to generate local economic spend.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy approach may avoid use of greenfield land by directing development toward the settlements thus making the most efficient use of land.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Policy approach to directing development within settlements would help to enable and support access to local public transport options as well as encourage access to active travel - walking and cycling. This approach could bring positives for residents, employees and visitors - particularly benefitting those without access to a vehicle.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>HOU11 Specialist Accommodation: Planning permission will be granted for specialist residential accommodation, subject to the following criteria being met: (a) The homes and/or bed spaces to be provided meet an identified community need demonstrated through a statement of specialist housing need; and (b) The proposal is accessible to public transport, leisure and recreation facilities, community facilities and health services.</p> <p>All proposals, including extensions/alterations/additions to existing residential facilities for sheltered housing, extra-care homes, nursing homes and residential care homes will be considered in accordance with this policy and any other relevant policies contained within this draft Plan Strategy.</p>				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>This is a new policy with no reasonable alternative as the policy option is consistent with regional policy - SPPS. Policy is enabling and shaping.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The policy was identified to have no effect or negligible effects against all the majority of the sustainability objectives. Minor positive effects were predicted for delivery of the environmental objective to encourage active and sustainable travel based on the policy directing development within settlements which would facilitate access to local public transport options and more likely to encourage walking and cycling and would benefit residents, employees and visitors - particularly benefitting those without access to a vehicle. Minor positive effects were also predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objective to deliver sustainable housing based upon the policy meeting the needs of a specific group of people and facilitating delivery of an increased amount and range of housing in response to different needs. The policy could also help to reduce isolation in respect of vulnerable groups. Significant positive effects were predicted against the social sustainability objectives to improve health and well-being, and to strengthen society. These positives were based upon the policy helping to improve and increase access to residential health care, which has been identified as a local need, with particular provision for the elderly and those with a disability. This approach should help to reduce inequalities in the local provision of and accessibility to healthcare facilities. The policy aims for integration of both the facilities and the people dependent upon them. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				
<p>The most sustainable option: HOU11-Specialist Accommodation: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>			<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positive effects are identified for the objectives to improve health and well-being and to strengthen society.</p>				

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: No additional measures were identified.

HOU12 Accommodation for the Travelling Community				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Policy approach is likely to enable improved access for people to local health care facilities and services as well as supporting general social interaction with positives for people's physical and mental health and well-being. The approach could help bring a specific group of people nearer to other facilities like open space and shared space that can also deliver positive benefits for physical and mental health and well-being.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Policy approach is an inclusive policy with positives for social cohesion and social interaction of a small proportion of the population. The approach would help to bring a small group of people closer to local community facilities and services - health, education, and amenity. The policy would help to reduce inequalities between different groups within society.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Policy able to deliver good quality and affordable homes in response to a locally identified need for a specific group of people within society. Approach would be sustainable, as aspects like access to local infrastructure, amenities and local landscape would all be considered.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Policy approach would enable increased access to local educational resources and related opportunities for learning and development.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy is more likely to support employment for those people by providing a settled location in closer proximity to local employment opportunities.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Policy approach able to centralise/locate people in settlement areas where material assets/infrastructure is already located. The approach would be able to provide fit-for-purpose sites with adequate provision of energy and waste management facilities/ services.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy approach is able to direct sites and people away from greenfield land by using a sequential approach, which aims for the most efficient use of land.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy approach to locate in settlements enables more opportunities for people to use public transport and access active travel options.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Policy approach able to centralise/locate people in settlement areas where water infrastructure is already located. The approach would be able to provide fit-for-purpose sites with adequate provision of drinking water and sewage facilities/services with a much reduced risk to local water quality and aquatic ecosystems.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy approach would help to direct travellers into existing settlements where the risk of detracting from local landscape character is reduced and local visual intrusion is able to be minimised.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.

Summary of Policy:

HOU12 Accommodation for the Travelling Community: Planning permission will be granted for a suitable facility to meet a demonstrable need for Traveller specific accommodation where the criteria identified in the policy are met.

Where a need cannot readily be met within an existing settlement in the locality, applications in the countryside will be required to meet the sequential requirements of Policy COU5 - Affordable Housing.

Exceptionally a single family traveller transit site or serviced site may be permitted in the countryside. Such proposals will be assessed on their merits, having regard to the policy criteria and sequential test.

Reasonable Alternatives:

There is no existing need but the policy helps futureproof the Council. There is no reasonable alternative as the policy approach is consistent with regional policy - SPPS. The policy enables and shapes.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

The policy was identified to have no effect or negligible effects against the majority of the economic and environmental sustainability objectives but positive outcomes were predicted against all of the social objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the objectives to improve health and well-being, strengthen society; provide good quality, sustainable housing; and enable access to high quality education. Positives were based upon the policy enabling improved access for people to local health care facilities and services. The approach could help bring a specific group of people nearer to other resources like open space and shared space, which can deliver positive benefits for people’s physical and mental health and well-being. The approach of the policy enables inclusivity with positives for social cohesion and social interaction of a small proportion of the population. The approach would help to bring a specific group of people closer to local community, health and education facilities and services, reducing inequalities between different groups within society. The provision of good quality and affordable homes could be facilitated in response to locally identified needs for a specific group of people. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the economic objective to manage material assets sustainably based on the policy locating people within settlements where ready access to fit-for-purpose energy and waste management facilities and services are more feasible. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the environmental objective to manage water resources sustainably. The policy approach to provide fit-for-purpose sites within settlements would ensure adequate provision of drinking water and sewage facilities/services, as well as a much reduced risk to local water quality and aquatic ecosystems. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

<p>The most sustainable option: HOU12-Travellers Accommodation: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant positive effects of the policy were identified against any of the sustainability objectives.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: No additional measures have been identified.</p>	

CF01 Community Facilities in Settlements and CF02 Protection of a local Community Facility				
Option	New Policy.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	The policy supports and encourages healthier lifestyles through facilitating provision of such facilities as defined under part D1 of the use class order such as educational and health related facilities and service provision. It will promote and retain such community facilities and services where there is an identified need. The provision of a diverse range of facilities covers all demographics within a community and can improve both physical and mental well-being. The protection of land for future use is key to having a positive impact on people's lives. Physical and mental health and well-being are key elements of the community plan and this policy fundamentally supports that vision.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	The use of community related infrastructure is key to a vibrant and connected place. The perceived loss of community in urban areas is directly counted by these policies in that it permits such facilities where a need is identified and also protects existing and future provision. The policy aims to bring health related uses/services and other community requirements closer to the community with the possibility for more social interaction and community cohesion to occur in spaces which are viewed as providing a shared resources/space to every member of that community. The policy is viewed as empowering a community to seek provision of a service if they can identify and prove the need for such a facility while also protecting a service which exists are is planned.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Negligible effect directly through this policy however as a result of development there may be a requirement to provide facilities and or services now or in the future that will help to create a sense of community and improve the overall health of that community.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	The policy does protect any lands that are identify for future use of an educational nature. Although this policy is not directly delivering education facilities, education again maybe delivered in such facilities. The use of open space and facilities of other service providers may increase learning opportunities for members of the community.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	This policy has a negligible overall effect. The provision of such facilities could result in certain areas being more attractive to live or visit. A sense of place and community could encourage economic investment but not as a direct result of this policy.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible impact however the policy will protect existing material assets and infrastructure.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible impact as the policy will protect any significant resources.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The overall aim of this policy is to bring services closer to where the demand for that service is within a settlement which provides a focus and critical mass to provide what is required. The need will depend on the numbers of people requiring the identified need. If that is then provided at source it will lead to easier access to the services/facilities which should encourage people to access these in a more sustainable manner due to the proximity of the facility. Shorter journey times and accessible locations aid public transport provision and/or active travel. Such transport options are more likely in a settlement which may already have a base line provision from which to work from.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The policies will have a negligible impact and an impact will only become apparent if users of the facilities make a modal shift in how they access that facility.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Negligible impact but with services/facilities in closer proximity to the need it may again in the longer term reduce the overall impact on the production of green-house gases.

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the provision of some community facilities could enhance biodiversity with the provision of natural screening and areas of open space linked to a community facility.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	No link is identified as this policy covers development predominantly within settlements.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	The policy does enable the reuse of existing buildings within settlements and also development on previously developed land. These could be of a cultural or historic nature and significant in nature. The policy could help to bring buildings and their settings back into community use, helping to retain sense of place and identity within the settlement.
Summary of Policy:				
<p>Policy CF01: This policy applies within settlements and permits such facilities under certain circumstances as listed in the policy. In the circumstances of an application on zoned land for residential use additional evidence will be required and this is again listed in the policy. For the purpose of this policy a community facility is as defined in part D1 of the use class order (this is for clarity purposes).</p> <p>Policy CF02: This policy is tom protect local community facilities which are considered vital for a sense of community to exist. A change of use of such a facility will be granted under certain circumstances. The loss of the facility will not result in a deficit to the local community and where land identified for a community use can be used for an alternative use if the loss of that land is again not considered significant and result in a community deficit. This policy requires an evidence base to be provided before granting permission in such exceptional circumstances.</p>				
Reasonable Alternatives:				
<p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified. The policy is consistent with regional policy of the SPPS. The 2 policies have been introduced to provide clarity in relation to this policy area.</p>				

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

This option delivers positive influences on all of the social sustainability objectives. It has a minor positive impact on health and well-being and a significant positive impact on the objective to strengthen society through permitting community facilities to be developed where a need is identified and also protecting existing and future provision. The effect on the economic sustainability objectives is mainly negligible, however a minor positive effect is identified for enabling access to high quality education as community facilities may include uses that deliver early years or adult learning. As the focus for new development is in the existing settlements the effects on the environmental sustainability objectives are mainly negligible. Minor positive effects are identified on the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel through the policy promoting accessible locations. There are also minor positive effects for protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage as the policy would allow older buildings to be brought back into use and community uses could include cultural activities. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.

The preferred option: This option is the only option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are significant positive effects identified for the objective to strengthen society.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

No additional measures are identified. The policies promote and protect the community infrastructure.

Policy COU1 - Development in the Countryside, Policy COU2 - New Dwellings in Existing Clusters, Policy COU3 - Replacement Dwellings, Policy COU 4 - The Conversion and Reuse of Buildings for residential use in the Countryside, Policy COU6 - Personal and Domestic Circumstances, Policy COU 7 - Dwellings for Non-Agricultural Business Enterprises, Policy COU8 Infill/Ribbon Development, Policy COU9 - Temporary Caravan, and Policy COU10 - Dwellings on Farms.				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Enabling replacement dwellings helps to improve quality of housing stock and supports improved health and well-being. COU 6 and COU 9 provide for special circumstances, including the provision of care/carer facilities or home alterations for purposes of changed need. Noted that dwellings in the countryside may be further from emergency services and may mean people having to travel further to access health services. Overall the impacts are considered to be positive.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Clustering as facilitated by COU 2 helps to support social contact. Encouraging clustered dwellings in preference to separated dwellings may help to reduce isolation. Keeps families together (also supported by COU 10). Policies do not disadvantage rural communities from staying together.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	May help to meet some housing need, though does not contribute to meeting locally identified need other than on farm units. COU 10 allows sustainability on the farm unit. Policies also help to meet the needs of specific groups and replacement dwellings may help to reduce the number of unfit homes. Contributes to providing a mix of housing types, helps to reuse vacant dwellings. But may also exclude some specific groups such as single / retired people unless in the family. When plan strategy is adopted these policies may lead to a slight reduction in the overall number of dwellings approved in the country but will not adversely impact overall housing supply.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Secondary and further education is mainly located in settlements. It may be more difficult to access education and skills training from housing in the countryside. Build rate is not on a scale that is likely to help support rural schools. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Helps to support rural industry, agricultural or indigenous / spin off industries. COU7 and COU 10 are supportive as they help to sustain growth if used in the way that the policy is intended. COU 4 also supports economic growth. Can apply for a house on a farm that is necessary to sustain a business. Noted that the number of full-time farmers registered in the Council area is relatively low.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Waste collection can be less efficient in the countryside although encouraging clustering / reducing scope for new isolated dwellings supports the objective. Additional pressure on other material assets such as electricity infrastructure is not thought to be perceptible. Housing in the countryside may have fewer options for accessing choice in utilities such as broadband. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	0	0	Replacement dwellings should be within the original dwelling curtilage, change of use also reuses old buildings and there is a direction towards using existing accesses which helps reduce the footprint of new development. Policies also direct towards infill and clustering of dwellings which encourages more efficient use of land. Over time this policy will tighten and should result in less pressure on land as a resource in the future.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	-	-	-	These policies do not help to encourage the modal shift towards using active / sustainable transport. Housing in the countryside is typically more car dependent as on many rural roads there are no footpaths/ cycle ways. However the policies may indirectly help to sustain rural bus services by maintaining a population of economically active people in the countryside.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Baseline evidence indicates that generally speaking there are fewer issues with air quality in rural areas than in settlements. While there are fewer options for central heating (e.g. no access to mains gas) there may be more opportunities for incorporating measures such as solar panels or other renewables, or ground source heat pumps. However, housing in the countryside is typically more car dependent. The low quantity of houses means that the overall impact on the objective is negligible.

10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Development / redevelopment of dwellings may allow opportunities for new efficiency measures to be incorporated. New / replacement buildings may also be more energy efficient than old. The low quantity of houses means that the overall impact on the objective is negligible.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	-	-	-	Dwellings in the countryside could lead to cumulative impacts on water quality, however development should not proceed unless it can be demonstrated that there will be no detrimental impact on water quality. Some applications may not support certain types of waste water discharge. Noted that treatment standards have been raised and new non-mains treatment systems in the Council area are typically biodisc rather than septic tank, which reduces pressure on groundwater. However, long term operation / maintenance of private waste treatment systems (e.g. septic tank) is outside the remit of the LDP. Also noted that where mains treatment is not available, housing enlargement/extension and replacement dwellings may not always result in consultation on whether existing septic tank is appropriate/ uses appropriate technology to scale of replacement. Measures could be employed to reduce the scale of potential negative effects. Policy in conjunction with FLD flood policy would allow the replacement of existing building in the flood plain which would not support the objective, however in practice this is unlikely to occur.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	NH policies help to prevent significant adverse impacts. Policies in conjunction with COU 15 and COU 16 encourage reuse of existing buildings and laneways, and retaining existing hedgerows. Most sites should have biodiversity for integration and additional landscaping as encouraged in the policy should help to improve/enhance biodiversity. Positive effects could be enhanced through measures such as the use of the biodiversity checklist. The biodiversity checklist would help to highlight potential issues at an early stage and help identify requirements for developer impact assessment which would provide more certainty on mitigation against negative impacts on species of conservation concern such as bats, badgers, barn owls etc.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	New development can place pressure on landscape. Policies which encourage the retention and renovation of existing buildings and which seek to maintain and integrate new development within established boundaries helps to maintain landscape character. The baseline has identified that the biggest impacts on landscape are from clustering and gap/infill, the scope for which has been reduced. Policies on design are strongly protective of landscape and take account of SPPS and 'Building on Tradition'. Policies COU 1 - COU 4 and COU 6 - COU 10 will not in themselves result in the improvement of landscape character however the inclusion of requirements for landscaping where new development is proposed through COU 15 & 16 may help to improve character over time.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	COU 3 and COU 4 support retention and sympathetic refurbishment of old buildings. There is a requirement for new development to respect character of surrounding buildings. Local Irish vernacular buildings should be retained and incorporated. Allows for protection and conservation of monuments and buildings (e.g. listed buildings may have a planned landscape round them) - cross over with HE policies. The policies that are protective of landscape also strongly support this objective.

Summary of Policy:

There are a range of types of development which in principle are considered to be acceptable in the countryside and that will contribute to the aims of sustainable development.

The countryside is a unique resource in terms of its landscapes, cultural heritage, nature conservation and biodiversity. It is home to our agricultural industry and rural communities, providing a recreational and tourism asset. However, there has been an accelerating pressure for development throughout the countryside, in particular single new dwellings. It is recognised this development pressure must be balanced against the needs of rural communities, as such these operational policies are considered appropriate to facilitate sustainable development in the countryside. Policies COU 1 - COU 4 and COU 6 - COU 10 have been appraised together as a group as they all seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. the provision of sustainable single dwellings or short-term dwellings in the countryside for those who require them.

Policies COU 1 - COU 4 and COU 6 - COU 10 rely strongly on 'Building on Tradition'. These policies must also be taken in the context of policies COU 15 and COU 16 and this was a consideration in the appraisal. There is a presumption against building up against the settlement limit. These policies will only affect a small proportion of new

development in the Council area and historically have represented a small number of applications per year, however they are considered to be important to the population at the local scale.	
Reasonable Alternatives: No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent more or less with regional policy. Additional clarification on PPS21. Tightening and tailoring of policy.	
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: These policies have a minor positive impact on the social sustainability objectives, as they allow rural communities to be sustained. They also have a positive influence on the economic sustainability objectives, with minor positive impacts on enabling sustainable economic growth. The policies promote efficient use of land, by encouraging reuse / renovation of existing buildings and requiring replacement dwellings to be retained within the existing curtilage. This, coupled with the protective measures and landscape enhancement measures brought through the accompanying policies COU 15 and COU 16 means that impacts on the environmental sustainability objectives are mainly negligible or minor positive and the positive effects may be strengthened over time. However, some minor negative impacts were identified - the policies are generally not compatible with encouraging the use of active and sustainable travel and some potential negative effects could occur from non-mains sewage discharges. Adverse impacts on water resources may be reduced through coordination and consultation with other regulatory authorities. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.	
The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.	The preferred option: This option is the only option.
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option.	
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.	
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects Cross over with policies on non mains sewerage and utilities. Integration with Discharge Consents issued under the Water (NI) Order for non-mains waste water discharges. Routine use of the Biodiversity Checklist will help new development to comply with the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (WANE Act). The use of native or locally characteristic species in landscaping will also help to enhance biodiversity. Policy review mechanism will monitor whether policy is operating in line with strategic objectives.	

Policy COU 5 Affordable Housing (in the Countryside)				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Enables choice for rural population. Sustains the rural community in areas where sections of the population may not be able to afford market price for a single rural dwelling or a home built to lifetime standard. Provides opportunity for increased social contact and intergenerational contact. May help to support family cohesion.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Reduces inequalities in rural communities (likely to be significant positive locally but overall impact magnitude reduced to minor, due to scale / proportion of what development may come forward through this policy).
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Provides housing which meets locally identified needs (in terms of type, tenure and size). Provides housing which meets lifetime homes criteria. Helps to meet the needs of specific groups, e.g. single people, families, retired people, ethnic minorities or disabled. May indirectly facilitate a reduction in the number of unfit homes. (Likely to be significant positive impact at the local scale, but overall impact magnitude reduced to minor due to scale / proportion of what development may come forward through this policy).
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	May help sustain population in village schools. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	May indirectly support rural workers. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	May encourage use of derelict land. Settlements will have available infrastructure. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Policy has amenity and environmental considerations. May result in small losses of land. Sequential approach helps to reduce overall loss and increase efficiency of land use. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Location in settlements will help increase accessibility to public transport, but may be not have such an impact on encouraging modal shift to walking/ cycling. While policy doesn't specifically mention transport, it should allow residents to access local services in a settlement by walking / cycling. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	New housing may lead to increases in emissions from transport and heating. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	New homes may have greater opportunities for energy efficiency measures. Scale of development is unlikely to impact the objective perceptibly.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Development would not occur in areas where insufficient waste water treatment is in place. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Policy in conjunction with COU 15 and COU 16 is protective against negative effects. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Sequential test applied through COU 5(c) and overall policy in conjunction with COU 15 and COU 16 helps to safeguard landscape character and to maintain distinct settlement boundary. Pushes site selection toward inside settlement then degraded site on edge of settlement. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	May encourage reuse of old buildings (though this would also be permitted through other policies and is more likely to occur through other policy). The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>Planning permission may be granted by exception for a small group of no more than 14 dwellings adjacent to or near a small settlement or village to provide affordable housing to meet an identified need. Planning permission will only be granted where the application is made by a registered Housing Association.</p> <p>Historically, these policies have represented a very small number of applications per year. However they are considered to be important to the population at the local scale as they address an identified need and therefore have been appraised in this context.</p>				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent more or less with regional policy. Additional clarification on PPS21. Tightening and tailoring of policy.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives</p> <p>Minor positive impacts are identified for all of the social sustainability objectives. The appraisal recognises that these impacts could be significant positive at the local scale, as the policy would be used to provide new homes in areas where an identified need has been established - but the scope and scale of new homes that are likely to be delivered through this specific policy is limited and the overall effect is minor. For the remainder of the sustainability objectives, some positive influences were identified however the impacts are negligible in all cases. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>			<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option.</p>				
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>				
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</p> <p>No additional measures are identified.</p>				

Policy COU11 - Farm Diversification, Policy COU12 - Agricultural and Forestry Development, Policy COU13 A Necessary Community Facility and Policy COU14 The conversion and re-use of buildings for non-residential use.				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Policy criteria COU 11 (d) and COU 12 (e) specifically aim to avoid nuisance impacts (odour, noise, pollution) from new development. Community facilities delivered through COU 13 could include health facilities. Wider health and well-being benefits are possible from allowing people to work as well as live in the rural community. May contribute to social contact. May encourage more people to come to the countryside and interact.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Positive for rural community. Enables a vibrant rural community to be sustained and enables the rural population to gain access to necessary services and facilities.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective. .
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Business diversification and/or community facilities may enable new opportunities for skills training, employment and apprenticeships at the local scale. May also enable new opportunities for education enrichment (e.g. open farms). The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Strongly helps to support rural economy. Allows farm diversification - makes farms more sustainable and supports innovation and competitiveness. Make the best use of location, reduces need for travel. Helps to maximise economic benefits of sustainable tourism.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	?	?	?	May allow farms to consider new opportunities for on-site recycling / reuse. Farm diversification can be very reactive depending on what subsidies are available and sometimes legislation/regulation may not keep pace with trends. Economic development in the countryside may place pressure on rural infrastructure. The effects depend on the location and nature of new development.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Negative effects are dependent on the location and nature of new development. However, policies support the objective by directing towards reuse of existing buildings or clustering with them and minimising land take. Greenfield land use is only by exception. Conflict between tourism and earth science features is unlikely to be an issue in this Council area.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	-	-	-	Policies help to enable rural population to live and work in the same location and may provide for new local facilities which could reduce travelling distances in some cases. However, many types of diversification and agricultural development would result in additional transport requirements (often HGVs) and are not able to be achieved through active / sustainable travel. Rural development is generally much less likely to be accessible from active/sustainable travel routes.
9... improve air quality.	-	-	-	Agricultural and forestry diversification associated with livestock or poultry may indirectly place pressure on air quality. Measures indicated below may help to reduce the scale of the negative effect.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	-	-	-	Agriculture and transport are the main contributors to greenhouse gas emissions in NI. Losses of semi-natural land are also a factor. While COU 2 (h) specifically seeks to avoid increases in emissions from livestock, the policies allow for types of agricultural development which are unlikely to contribute positively to the objective (albeit indirectly). However, they may enable opportunities for development types such as renewables which could support the objective. Improving practices and reducing effects are mostly outside scope of the development plan, however measures indicated below may help to reduce the scale of negative effects for specific new development.

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	-	-	-	Baseline water quality conditions across the Council area are not meeting WFD standards. The policies may indirectly impact this objective as practises associated with intensification of agriculture in general do not enhance water quality and historically have been adversely impacting water quality. (Noted that current DAERA policies are encouraging better management of diffuse pollutants such as nitrates and herbicides). Livestock rearing may also have increased demand for abstraction / fresh water. Improving practices and reducing effects are mostly outside scope of the development plan, however measures indicated below may help to reduce the scale of negative effects for specific new development. Other types of development facilitated through these policies would be subject to criteria COU 16(f) which would ensure that adequate waste water treatment is available.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	?	?	?	COU 11 and COU 12 include specific criteria to avoid adverse impacts on natural heritage. Retention of natural boundaries and enhancing new development with planting / landscaping is a general requirement for all these policies delivered through COU 15 which could enhance natural resources. Agricultural activities which produce ammonia have the potential to impact the natural environment negatively. The overall impact on the objective is uncertain.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Policies direct towards existing buildings and clusters in the first instance. COU 11 and COU 12 place a requirement for new development to be of character and scale it is appropriate to its location and COU 12 also requires a design and use of materials that is sympathetic to the locality and adjacent buildings. The policies are also subject to COU 15 which seeks to minimise visual impact and integrate new development.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Policies COU 11 and COU 12 have criteria included to protect built heritage. Policies are protective of buildings and direct towards reuse of old buildings in the first instance. Policy COU 14 actively seeks to bring old buildings back in to use in a sympathetic manner. The policies are also subject to COU 15 which seeks to preserve and protect local character.

Summary of Policies:

COU 11: This policy aims to promote sustainable forms of diversification on an active and established business (in line with COU10), including suitable tourism or agri-tourism schemes. Diversification proposals, therefore, should be of a scale and nature appropriate for the location. Large-scale proposals more suitable to the urban area or existing urban-based enterprises seeking relocation will not be acceptable.

COU 12: Where a proposal does not constitute permitted development and express permission is required, planning permission will only be granted for agricultural and forestry buildings/works subject to the criteria stated, as well as other planning criteria and policy requirements.

COU 13: Planning permission will be granted for a community facility at an existing cluster of development where it is demonstrated, with sufficient evidence, that the proposal is necessary to serve the local rural population.

COU 14: Planning permission will be granted to proposals for the sympathetic conversion, with adaptation if necessary, of a suitable locally important or vernacular building (such as former school houses, churches and older traditional barns and outbuildings) for a variety of alternative uses where this would secure its upkeep and retention. Such proposals will be required to be of a high design quality and meet all of the criteria specified under Policy COU4.

Policies COU 11 - COU 14 have been appraised together as a group as they all relate to non-residential development in the countryside. These policies must also be taken in the context of policies COU 15 and COU 16 and this was a consideration was a consideration in the appraisal.

<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Policies COU 11, COU 13 and COU 14 are consistent with regional policy - SPPS. Some minor word changes from SPPS and PPS21. Policy COU 13 is a new policy, consistent with the SPPS.</p>	
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives</p> <p>The policies have a minor positive impact on the majority of the social sustainability objectives, with the exception of housing where there is no effect. A significant positive impact is identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth and some positive influences are also noted for education and skills, as an indirect benefit from enabling economic development. The impact on material assets is uncertain, as it depends on the nature and location of development brought forward by these policies. The impacts on the environmental sustainability objectives vary between minor positive and minor negative. Minor negative impacts are identified for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel, as the nature of rural development is such that it is often not possible to integrate with active / sustainable transport routes. Minor negatives are also identified for the objectives to improve air quality, to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change and to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably. Many of the effects identified on these objectives are indirect and therefore would not be directly caused by the new development, however the LDP can form a basis for requesting developer impact assessments which would help to identify potential impacts and include mitigation where necessary. The effect on natural resources is uncertain as some agricultural activities which produce ammonia have the potential to impact the natural environment negatively. It is difficult to predict how much of this type of development would occur and whether negative effects would be mitigated/avoided through the application of other policies. Minor positive impacts are identified in respect of maintaining landscape character and protecting and conserving the historic environment through criteria which are protective of existing landscape character and assets and which also promote the re-use of historic buildings. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>	
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</p> <p>Developer Impact Assessments will help to identify impacts and design effective mitigation for certain development types. Legislative changes on permitted development rights could also help to reduce potential for incremental losses.</p>	

Policy COU15 - Integration and Design of Buildings in the Countryside and Policy COU 16 - Rural Character and other Criteria				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Well-designed buildings which are considerably located and integrated in the context of their surroundings may benefit well-being for their users and neighbours. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective. (The policies don't affect the quantity or quality of housing, the main effects are on the appearance of new development).
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	May contribute to more attractive landscapes which may indirectly benefit the objective by making the Council area a nicer place to live, work, visit and invest. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	COU 16 (f) requires new development to have any necessary services (incl. utilities) already available or that they can be provided without adverse impacts. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	These policies don't influence the footprint of proposed development. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Landscaping such as trees and hedgerows can positively influence air quality by establishing a barrier, but the impacts are negligible.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Promoting the retention of existing mature vegetation may benefit this objective. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	COU 16 (f) requires new development to have any necessary services (incl. treatment of waste water) already available or that they can be provided without adverse impacts. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	COU 15 (b) promotes retention of existing trees and natural site boundaries (where these are hedgerows) - this contributes positively to delivering the objective, but the overall impact is negligible.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	The primary purpose of policies COU 15 and COU 16 is to respect local character, minimise visual intrusion and protect the setting of prominent features. It will ensure that new development in the countryside will be sensitively integrated to protect/ enhance local distinctiveness.

<p>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>++</p>	<p>Indirect benefits to this objective are provided through the landscape protection and enhancement criteria in COU 15 and COU 16. These policies also promote the retention of stone walls, historic field boundaries and settlement boundaries and are protective towards conserving the setting of historic environment assets.</p>
<p>Summary of Policies:</p>		
<p>COU 15: In all circumstances proposals for development in the countryside (as specified in Policy COU1) must be in accordance with and sited and designed to integrate sympathetically with their surroundings and of an appropriate design.</p>		
<p>COU 16: In all circumstances proposals for development in the countryside (as specified in Policy COU1) must be in accordance with and must not cause a detrimental change to, or further erode the rural character of an area.</p>		
<p>Policies COU 15 - COU 16 have been appraised together as a group as they both seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. ensuring that development in the countryside does not result in an adverse impact on its surroundings. These policies will not change the quantum of development or its purpose, but aim to make new development better quality.</p>		
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p>		
<p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Policy COU 15 is consistent with regional policy - SPPS. Some minor word changes from SPPS and PPS21.</p>		
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives</p>		
<p>The policies have a negligible impact on almost all of the sustainability objectives, although many positive influences are noted in terms of the wider benefits that sympathetic design and conservation of landscapes brings. Significant positive impacts are identified for the objective to maintain and enhance landscape character and minor positive impacts are also identified for the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage as these policies will help to ensure that new development is integrated with its surrounding landscape, including any historic assets. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>		
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>		
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>		
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</p>		
<p>Justification and amplification of policy COU 15 which encourages the use of native or locally characteristic species in landscaping.</p>		

Policy ED1 Economic Development in Cities and Towns and Policy ED2 Economic development in Villages and Small Settlements				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Indirect link in that provision of jobs, especially good jobs could help to improve health outcomes and enhance well-being in an area by increasing prosperity. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Promotes a wide range of employment types across all settlements. May help to reduce factors causing inequalities.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Indirect effects possible through economic development potentially enabling apprenticeships and skills training opportunities. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Makes best use of location. Encouraging development in the right places helps to enable vitality and vibrancy of city, town and village centres. Enhances accessibility of jobs.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Proximity principle directs towards settlements and centres which supports the objective. Allows more efficient use of infrastructure.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Directing towards settlements and centres and brownfield land makes more efficient use of land. Some employment zones are 'white land', the policies may indirectly protect features in other areas by directing new development away from unzoned greenfield land. (Also no greenfield extensions).
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Some areas are zoned for active travel opportunities. More attractive to public transport services. Most employment locations are on an existing sustainable transport route. Maintains the critical mass for provision of services.
9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	Impacts on air quality will depend on nature and location of the development. It is more difficult to quantify impacts where economic development is manufacturing, transport is a big component. It is easier to identify potential impacts for service industry employment where the effects are mainly from people commuting to from the site. Noted that the proposed new business park is green and has a new rail halt and encourages sustainable travel. Directing employment to sites readily accessible to the strategic road network helps to support free flow of traffic, may help to reduce emissions from vehicles. However economic uses may increase traffic / transport requirements. There are known congestion issues on Newtownards and Saintfield Roads. Development of zoned areas that are currently greenfield/undeveloped will create emissions where previously there were none. The overall impact on the objective is uncertain. Measures could be employed to reduce negative effects.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	Potential impacts will depend on nature and location of the development. Approach of directing employment towards centres and zones helps provide opportunities for people to access work by active / sustainable transport. However, economic development may not reduce polluting forms of transport and some economic development may result in emissions. However, economic development could also provide sites or opportunities for renewable generation such as solar panels. Measures could be employed to reduce negative effects.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Economic development could include intensive users of water / producers of waste water. Some existing economic development has high water demand however water supply is not an issue in the Council, there is also a large groundwater resource. Zoned land is not in flood plains. Economic development on greenfield land has the potential to lead to increased runoff which may impact on surface water flows and influence flood risk. ED 9 (d), (e) and (g) provide greater certainty that the policy will not adversely impact the objective.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Sequential approach directing towards settlements and centres is supportive of this objective. It is considered that the policies will not adversely impact natural resources and biodiversity. There may be opportunities to enhance zoned sites through KSRs.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Sequential approach directing development within settlement limits and centres is supportive of this objective. ED 2 seeks to protect the character of small settlements and villages and proposals that are of a scale, nature and design appropriate to the character of the settlement. The criteria in ED 9 which would be applied to new development being brought about under these policies will help to protect against adverse impacts on landscape character.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	Economic development has the potential to be incompatible with built heritage / the historic environment. ED 2 seeks to protect the character of small settlements and villages and proposals that are of a scale, nature and design appropriate to the character of the settlement. The criteria in ED 9 which would be applied to new development being brought about under these policies will help to protect against adverse impacts on features of the historic environment.

Summary of Policies:

Policy ED 1: The Local Development Plan will ensure that an ample supply of land is available for economic development purposes on suitable sites within larger settlements to meet the future demands of industrial, business, storage and distribution enterprises. The primary focus for expanding business employment will remain the City and town centre.

Policy ED 2: Within villages and small settlements, favourable consideration will be given to applications for industrial, business and storage or distribution uses on unzoned land included within the settlement limit, provided the proposal is of a scale, nature and design appropriate to the character of the settlement involved and it meets the normal planning criteria for this type of development.

Policies ED 1 and ED 2 have been appraised together as a group as they both relate to economic development in settlements. These policies must also be taken in the context of policy ED 9 (General Criteria for Economic Development (including Extensions)) and this was a consideration in the appraisal.

Reasonable Alternatives:

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy with new clarity added. Presentational reorder.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives

The policies have a limited impact on the social sustainability objectives, although minor positive impacts are identified for the objective to strengthen society and enabling job opportunities across the Council area could indirectly help to strengthen health and well-being. The policies have a positive impact on the economic sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. Minor positive impacts are identified in respect of managing material assets sustainably and there is a potential indirect benefit to education and skills provision. Minor positive impacts are identified for physical resources and encouraging active and sustainable travel as directing economic development towards settlements and centres makes more efficient use of land and enables employment to be located accessible to existing sustainable transport routes. The impacts on the air quality and climate change objectives are uncertain, as they are dependent on the nature and location of the economic development. Measures could be employed to reduce negative effects. While economic development has the potential to impact water resources, biodiversity and natural resources, landscape character and the historic environment adversely, the criteria included in ED 9 are strongly protective and will safeguard against negative impacts, leaving a negligible effect. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Developer Impact Assessments for major development. Transport Assessment and/ or Travel Plans for major development. Drainage Assessment to mitigate impacts of surface water runoff. Key site requirements to integrate / consider biodiversity in zoned sites. Encouraging SuDS in association with economic development may also help to support water resources, health and well-being and biodiversity objectives.</p>	

ED3 Expansion of an established economic development use in the Countryside, ED4 Redevelopment of an Established Economic Development Use in the Countryside, ED5 Major Economic Development in the Countryside and ED6 Small Rural Projects				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Enables opportunities for jobs in rural areas which can indirectly enhance well-being. Allows rural communities to work near where they live. Economic prosperity can indirectly lead to improved health and well-being.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Allows rural communities to work in areas where they live. Community enterprises facilitated through policy ED6 would be strongly beneficial for this objective, however it is unlikely that many of these would be brought through over the lifetime of the Plan therefore the impact magnitude is minor.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Allows business to extend in the location they are in. Encourages best use of location. Allows an existing economic use to be retained, where appropriate. Economic development in the countryside is supported in the Council, but the policies recognise that this type of economic development is not considered to be sustainable overall. Constraining development in the countryside will encourage businesses to move to towns where appropriate. A small rural project can be sustainable if it has to be in a specific location and may help rural regeneration. Major benefits could occur from ED5 if new development was to occur through this policy, but it is considered to be very unlikely that this policy would be applied through the lifetime of the plan. Therefore impact magnitude remains minor.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Some opportunities may be constrained by a lack of infrastructure. The overall impact on the objective is negligible as the policies aim to direct economic development towards areas that are better suited to it.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Encourages reuse of sites to avoid increase of curtilage cover. ED3 only permits an extension beyond existing site boundary in exceptional circumstances. Policies generally allow/protect areas for potential future use of physical resources. Noted that a major project brought under ED5 could impact physical resources through land use change, but would have to demonstrate an overriding benefit economically. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	-	-	-	Unlikely to encourage greater adoption of active / sustainable travel methods - may help to reduce travel distances, but unlikely to result in active travel / modal shift.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Will not reduce transport emissions. Likely to maintain dependence on car. Certain types of economic development could generate emissions, but ED9 seeks to reduce impact of emissions on neighbours. ED 9 + legislation will provide safeguarding against excessive emissions.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	Transport and economic uses are unlikely to be supportive of this objective. Depends on the nature and location of the economic development. Some types of development could generate greenhouse gases, but there may also be opportunities for renewable energy generation.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Water availability is not a constraint in the Council area. Economic development could place pressure on waste water infrastructure, or surface and groundwater where mains sewerage is not present. However safeguards are in place through ED9 (d), (e) and (g) which should protect against adverse impacts on water quality or flood risk and are also backed up by FLD policies.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Encourages reuse of sites to avoid increase land-use beyond curtilage. Safeguards are in place through ED9 (c) which protects against unacceptable losses and ED9 (k) which requires site layout to promote sustainability and biodiversity. Major projects brought about through ED5 may result in projects with larger physical footprint which could result in biodiversity losses. Negative impacts could be avoided or reduced through developer impact assessments such as EIA and shadow HRA.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Policies retain expansion within curtilage of existing development for the most part (except ED5). Scale and nature of buildings brought about by policies ED3, ED4 and ED6 should be appropriate to surrounding character (and for ED3 or ED4 should not be bigger than existing buildings). Amplification of ED3 includes requirement by condition for landscaping. Development via ED6 will be required to cluster with the settlement, but not dominate it, adversely affect landscape setting. Additional safeguards against deterioration of landscape character are included in the policy criteria of ED 9 which applies to all.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	Policy ED3 requires extensions or new buildings to respect the scale, design and materials of the original building(s) on the site and any historic or architectural interest the original property may have. Policy ED9 which applies to all provides a safeguard by requiring that development does not adversely affect features of the historic environment. ED9's requirements on landscape integration will also indirectly contribute positively to this objective.

Summary of Policies:

ED3: Expansion of an established economic development use in the countryside will be permitted where the scale and nature of the proposal does not harm the rural character or appearance of the local area and there is only a proportionate increase in the site. Extensions or new buildings should respect the scale, design and materials of the original building(s) on the site and any historic or architectural interest the original property may have. Proposals for expansion will normally be expected to be accommodated through the reuse or extension of existing buildings on site. If demonstrated that this is not possible, new buildings are required to be in proportion to the existing building(s) and integrated into the overall development.

ED4: A proposal for the redevelopment of an established economic development use in the countryside for employment or business purposes (or a sui generis employment use) will be permitted (subject to criteria being met). The complete or partial redevelopment of these sites may offer the opportunity for environmental improvement and the promotion of job creation without adding to their impact on the amenity of the countryside.

ED5: Any new Major or Regionally significant economic development (B2, B3) industrial proposal which demonstrates a significant contribution to the regional economy will be permitted in the countryside where it is demonstrated that the proposal due to its size or site specific requirements needs a countryside location.

ED6: A firm proposal to develop a small community enterprise centre or a small rural industrial enterprise on land outside a village or small settlement will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that criteria have been met. This policy allows a flexible approach ensuring adequate provision where firm proposals exist for such projects. It is important that firm proposals for small rural projects are not blocked due to a lack of suitable land within existing settlements.

These policies must also be taken in the context of policy ED 9 (General Criteria for Economic Development (including Extensions)) and this was a consideration in the appraisal.

Reasonable Alternatives:

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy with new clarity added. Presentational reorder.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

The policies have a minor positive impact on the majority of the social sustainability objectives, although they have no effect on the provision of good quality sustainable housing. A minor positive impact is also identified on enabling sustainable economic growth, by enabling economic development of appropriate size and scale in the countryside. A development under ED5 would potentially generate regionally significant economic benefits. Applying constraints to economic development in the countryside will help to safeguard against negative impacts on material assets, physical resources, water resources, natural resources and the historic environment. Minor negative impacts are identified for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel as development in the countryside will typically not have a great degree of access to active / sustainable transport routes. Impacts on the objective relating to climate change are uncertain, as they will depend on the nature of the development. Positive impacts are identified for the objective to maintain and enhance landscape character as the policies include criteria requiring that new development adopts high quality design principles and is integrated with its surroundings. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.

The preferred option: This option is the only option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Major projects may need EIA.

Policy ED7 Retention of Zoned Land and Economic Development Uses				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Indirect link through retaining jobs / contributing to prosperity which supports better health and well-being. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Helps ensure sufficient land in a settlement to support local employment needs. Helps inclusion of all groups and reduces inequalities. Delivers community benefits.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	May enable some affordable housing in specific areas where 'mixed use' is permissible - could help meet locally identified needs (in terms of type, tenure and size) as part of regeneration projects.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Safeguarding employment land helps encourage skills base, indirectly this may help deliver apprenticeships. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Protects employment land. Makes best use of location. Helps to provide a range of jobs and supports innovation and competitiveness in the Council area. Also helps to support the vitality and vibrancy of city and town centres.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	?	?	?	Encourages proximity principle. Generally enables use of in-situ infrastructure which is fit for purpose (however noted that some zoned sites may not currently have any infrastructure). As the nature of the economic development that would arise in these sites is unknown it not possible to predict whether it would include measures to generate renewable energy or whether aspects relating to waste management could be included. Encourages reuse of brownfield land. The overall impact is uncertain.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Makes more efficient use of land, helps to avoid greenfield land use. Directing economic development uses towards zoned areas may help to reduce soil erosion / pollution.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Directs economic development towards settlements and zones which have better opportunities for active and sustainable travel. Walking and cycling routes can be planned for zoned areas. Could help encourage modal shift to use of active travel and/ or public transport. Zoning areas for economic development also helps to create focal points for access to public transport and can benefit those without access to a vehicle and reduce congestion. Enables residents to live and work in the same settlement.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Encouraging / enabling use of active and sustainable travel in the council area can support the objective. Redevelopment could result in reduced emissions to meet current standards (rather than legacy standards). Unlikely to decrease/adversely impact air quality, but also unlikely to improve it. Location of sites by key transport routes allows for more efficient distribution.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Economic development may result in emissions of greenhouse gases. Zoned land in settlements means that active travel is a viable option. Encouraging / enabling use of active and sustainable travel in the council area supports the objective. Reuse of land / buildings can reduce net energy consumption. New development could be more carbon efficient. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.

<p>11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>New economic development has the potential to impact negatively on local water quality and quantity, for example increased runoff from areas of hard standing/car parks, roofs can affect stream and river flows and other potential risks to water quality can occur with employment land. Zoned land would have been assessed for drainage capacity when it was first established / zoned, however baseline conditions may have changed in the intervening period. Significant adverse impacts should be avoided through criteria (d), (e) and (g) of ED9 and other regulatory measures (such as discharge consents). However, growth of surrounding development may have resulted in pressure on drainage infrastructure since areas were originally zoned which may pose constraints on new development.</p>
<p>12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Limited natural resources on sites that are zoned.</p>
<p>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Zoning areas in which the majority of economic development is directed towards maintains landscape character of the wider Council area. Focuses on reuse of areas where economic development has previously occurred. Consolidates existing development and includes consideration of landscape. Additional safeguards against deterioration of landscape character are included in the policy criteria of ED9.</p>
<p>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>The long-term future of a building or buildings of architectural or historical interest or importance could potentially be facilitated through ED7. However, the only site on which this type of project is likely to occur has a separate policy. Policy ED9 which applies to all economic development provides a safeguard by requiring that development does not adversely affect features of the historic environment.</p>

Summary of Policy:

The Council is keen to support the diversity of the local economy and the retention of existing sites for economic development is necessary to achieve this aim. Development that would result in the loss of land or buildings zoned for economic development use in a Local Development Plan (either existing areas or new allocations) to other uses will not be permitted, unless the zoned land has been substantially developed for alternative uses.

This policy must also be taken in the context of policy ED 9 (General Criteria for Economic Development (including Extensions)) and this was a consideration in the appraisal.

Reasonable Alternatives:

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy with new clarity added. Presentational reorder.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives

The policy has a minor positive effect on the majority of the social sustainability objectives reflecting the fact that economic development can bring prosperity and when partnered with housing may help to drive regeneration in areas of deprivation. Significant positive impacts are identified in terms of enabling sustainable economic growth. The principle of directing the majority of economic development to zoned sites and settlements allows access to active and sustainable transport routes, which has a minor positive impact on this objective and helps to deliver efficient use of land, which has a minor positive impact on physical resources. This principle also helps to ensure development occurs in areas that are capable of accommodating it leading to neutral impacts on natural resources, landscape character and the historic environment. Uncertain effects are recorded for material assets, as impacts may vary depending on the location and nature of development, while impacts on water resources may be influenced by changes in surrounding land uses. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

<p>The most sustainable option: The option is the only option; the appraisal has considered the option to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: The option is the only option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects Carry out review of drainage capacities for zoned areas at LPP. Consideration to be given to introducing KSRs at LPP.</p>	

Policy ED8 Development incompatible with Economic Development Uses and Policy ED 9 General Criteria for Economic Development (including extensions)

Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			Explanation
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	ED8 helps to avoid nuisance and conflict between neighbouring land uses. This contributes to better well-being. Several criteria of ED9 help to provide safeguards against impacts on health through the requirement that new development does not harm amenities, does not create a noise nuisance, does not produce harmful emissions and has a design that meets the needs of people whose mobility is impaired and aims to deter crime and promote personal safety.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	The overall impact on the objective is negligible, however the requirement included in ED9 that new development is designed to deter crime and promote personal safety contributes positively to this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Indirect link though ED8 in terms of ensuring housing is not incompatible with neighbouring economic development use - appropriate locations only. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	ED8 helps to protect existing businesses from being constrained. Many of the criteria in ED9 help to support this objective in terms of best use of location. Protects the businesses as well as the people living near them.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	ED9 (k) recognises that economic development must meet criteria for associated infrastructure which helps ensure that development does not adversely impact material assets.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Parking requirements required through ED9 (i) may incur some additional land use, the overall impact on the objective is negligible.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	ED9 encourages active travel through criteria (k) which requires that a movement pattern is provided that, insofar as possible, supports walking and cycling, meets the needs of people whose mobility is impaired, respects existing public rights of way and provides adequate and convenient access to public transport.
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	ED9 supports this objective by safeguarding against adverse impacts on air quality through criteria (g), the requirement for development to be capable of dealing satisfactorily with any emissions.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	ED9 supports this objective by safeguarding against adverse impacts on water quality and quantity through criteria requirement for dealing satisfactorily with any emissions or effluent, not locating development in an area at flood risk and not causing or exacerbating flooding and promoting active / sustainable travel.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	ED9 supports this objective by requiring that economic development is not located in an area at flood risk and would not cause or exacerbate flooding, also would also negatively impact the water environment.

<p>12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>ED9 supports this objective by requiring that economic development does not adversely affect features of the natural environment. Potential impacts on natural resources are one of the main reasons for constraining development in the countryside. ED9 may also help to enhance biodiversity by introducing the requirement for landscaping arrangements that are of high quality and assisting the promotion of sustainability and biodiversity. Ensuring that development is compatible with surrounding land uses is particularly applicable to the countryside.</p>
<p>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>Policies require economic development to be compatible with surrounding land uses; in the case of proposals in the countryside, they require satisfactory measures to assist integration into the landscape to be included with new development. The requirement in ED9 for development to include appropriate boundary treatments and screening to assist integration into the landscape also supports this objective.</p>
<p>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>ED 9c Requirement for new economic development to not adversely affect features of the natural or historic environment. Also compatible with surrounding land use - protects but doesn't conserve or enhance.</p>

Summary of Policy:

Policy ED8: In some instances, new development could prejudice the continued existence of a particular economic development use. This arises where the particular processes being carried out have a tendency to cause adverse effects of some kind on adjacent land, even when all reasonable remedial measures have been taken by the operator. A proposal for development in the vicinity of an existing or approved economic development use that would be incompatible with this use, or that would prejudice its future operation, will be refused.

Policy ED9: When considering economic development proposals, the Council will seek to minimise adverse effects on the amenities of adjacent properties, particularly dwellings, and natural and built heritage resources.

Policies ED8 ED9 have been appraised together as a group as they both seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. avoiding conflict between new development and the existing environment (including existing development).

Reasonable Alternatives:

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy with new clarity added. Presentational reorder.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives

The policies are protective towards existing businesses and are protective towards people and the environment, with significant positive impacts identified for the objectives to improve health and well-being and to enable sustainable economic growth. The various criteria included in ED9 are protective of the environmental objectives and consequently a minor positive impact is identified for almost all of these, with the exception of protecting physical resources and using them sustainably and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.

The preferred option: This option is the only option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objectives to improve health and well-being and to enable sustainable economic growth.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Masterplans / development frameworks for major economic development sites.

MD1 Environmental Protection, MD2 Visual Impact, MD3 Areas of Mineral Constraint and MD9 Restoration Proposals				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Possibility of indirect benefits for post-restoration uses facilitated by MD8 enabling education enrichment. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Mineral extraction (which is currently limited to quarries in the Council area) is important for economic growth. MD1 presumption in favour supports the minerals industry and sustainable minerals extraction. Mineral extraction is an enabler for economic growth and contributes to economic growth. If Areas of Mineral Constraint (AoMC) are identified they may have the potential to restrict opportunities, but there is no evidence base to suggest AoMC, if designated, would be coincident with areas of minerals value and exceptions are available.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The overall impact on the objective is negligible, there are no major infrastructure demands other than road access and in the main quarries do not generate waste.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Policies enable the minerals industry to operate sustainably and allow best use of location to be made. They provide balance between the need for extraction and the need to protect the environment. They allow materials to be locally sourced which can enhance competitiveness in the local economy. Restoration can help to enhance the physical environment at end of life.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Policies take a precautionary approach where there is the potential for significant risk to the environment. There would be a requirement for airborne pollutants, including dust, to be well-managed. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Plant machinery associated with mineral extraction will generate emissions, but overall effect on the objective is not considered to be perceptible. Restoration could help to support the objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Policies are protective towards water resources. MD1 includes a requirement for minerals development (including extraction and processing) to include measures to prevent pollution of river, watercourse and groundwater.

<p>12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>Minerals extraction can result in loss of natural land cover. Restoration could help to offset the loss in the long term. MD1 is protective - it discourages minerals development within or in close proximity to an area that has been designated (or is proposed for designation) for its landscape, scientific or natural heritage significance and promotes the preservation of good quality agricultural land, tree & vegetation cover, wildlife habitats, natural features of interest in the landscape. Quarries have pockets of unique biodiversity. Positive effects could strengthen over time with restoration.</p>
<p>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>MD1 and MD3 are protective. MD1 discourages minerals development within or in close proximity to an area that has been designated (or is proposed for designation) for its landscape and promotes the preservation of good quality agricultural land, tree & vegetation cover, wildlife habitats, natural features of interest in the landscape. MD2 requires minerals development to provide reliable measures to protect landscape against visual impact and attaches conditions to mitigate visual impacts. Over time these will help to enhance the landscape around minerals development. The requirement for satisfactory restoration proposals through MD8 will also benefit this objective over time.</p>
<p>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>MD1 is protective; the policy amplification states that decisions on mineral applications will be made with regard to the preservation landscape & sites of archaeological & historic interest. The council will support minerals development where proposals can demonstrate the need for that mineral resource balanced against the need to protect and conserve the natural and historic environment. Minerals development within or in close proximity to an area that has been designated (or is proposed for designation) to protect its landscape, scientific or natural heritage significance will not normally be granted permission where this would prejudice the essential character of the area and the rationale for its designation. However, this would not apply to valuable minerals as set out in policy MD4. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.</p>

Summary of Policies:

The Council will balance the case for a particular mineral working proposal against the need to protect and conserve the environment, taking account of all relevant environmental, economic and other considerations. The council will be guided by the precautionary approach; where there is significant risk of damage to the environment, its protection will be generally paramount, unless there is an overriding public interest.

Policy MD1: The council will support minerals development and proposals will be required to demonstrate the need for that mineral resource balanced against the need to protect and conserve the environment. Minerals development within or in close proximity to an area that has been designated or is proposed for designation to protect its landscape, scientific or natural heritage significance will not be granted permission (subject to certain exceptions).

Policy MD2: Where permission is granted, landscape quality should be protected by attaching conditions designed to avoid or mitigate any adverse visual impacts.

Policy MD3: There will be a general presumption against the granting of planning permission for the extraction and/or processing of minerals in areas of Mineral Constraint (subject to certain exceptions).

Policy MD8: Applications for the extraction of minerals must include satisfactory restoration proposals.

Policies MD1 to MD3 and MD8 have been appraised together as a group as they all seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. enabling sustainable minerals development in the Council area.

Reasonable Alternatives:

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy and PSRNI (Green Book) - controls nuisances. Also agreed with statutory consultees.

Key:

<p>++ Significant positive</p>	<p>+ Minor positive</p>	<p>0 No overall effect</p>	<p>- Minor negative</p>	<p>-- Significant negative</p>	<p>? Uncertain</p>
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<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The policy has no impact on the social sustainability objectives. It has a minor positive impact on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth but no other perceptible effects on the economic sustainability objectives. By supporting minerals development, where appropriate, the policies deliver a significant positive impact on the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably. The policies serve to protect against negative impacts on the environmental sustainability objectives and no overall impacts are identified for the objectives to encourage active and sustainable travel, improve air quality, reduce causes of and adapt to climate change and protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. The proactive aspects of MD1 and MD3, coupled with the landscaping and restoration requirements delivered by MD2 and MD8 are considered to deliver minor positive impacts for water resources and natural resources and although impacts on landscape character are negligible in the short and medium term, minor positive effects may be seen over the long term. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>	
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</p> <p>Strengthening of the evidence base on supply and demand of minerals - alongside GSNI / Central Government. Evidence base would inform any designations brought forward at LPP. Measures to provide more certainty on restoration.</p>	

Policy MD4 Valuable Minerals				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	?	?	?	May result in adverse noise and / or amenity impacts. Could bring prosperity. Impacts dependent on location, nature and scale of mineral extraction. Significant negative impacts on health / well-being would be prevented by legislative requirements.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	A valuable mineral could help to support a community through delivering jobs, etc. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Enables best use of location to be made, resource is dependent on geology. Support the development of a range of job types. Policy concerns valuable minerals only, therefore economic benefits could be significant. Impacts depend somewhat on the nature and scale of the mineral extraction.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Extraction may lead to waste, dependent on what mineral is being extracted. May result in investment in new infrastructure. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Allows for future extraction of a mineral resource. Enables minerals industry to operate sustainably. Effects depend on the value of the mineral, extraction could conflict with sites designated for earth science. Evidence base does not currently identify any proven resource, so impact magnitude is minor.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	Impacts depend on nature and type of mineral extraction. Dust and machinery emissions are possible.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	Impacts on this objective depend on nature, type and scale of minerals development.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	?	?	?	Mineral extraction under this policy may result in exemption from requirements of MD1 and MD3. Impacts on this objective depend on nature, type and scale of minerals development. Mining may impact groundwater, mining also has significant demands for water. Significant negative impacts would have to be mitigated, legislative requirements would still be applied.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	?	?	?	Mineral extraction under this policy may result in exemption from requirements of MD1 and MD3. Impacts on this objective depend on nature, type and scale of minerals development. Significant negative impacts would have to be mitigated, legislative requirements would still be applied.

<p>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>Mineral extraction under this policy may result in exemption from requirements of MD1 and MD3. Impacts on this objective depend on nature, type and scale of minerals development. Open cast mines may impact landscape and policy allows mineral extraction to override landscape designations. Underground mining may have reduced potential for impacts.</p>
<p>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>Mineral extraction under this policy may result in exemption from requirements of MD1 and MD3. Development may enable archaeological features to be found. May also result in destruction of archaeological assets. Significant negative impacts would have to be mitigated, legislative requirements would still be applied.</p>
<p>Summary of Policy: Minerals may be discovered which are particularly valuable to the economy. Applications to exploit minerals, limited in occurrence and with some uncommon or valuable property, will be considered on their own merits.</p>			
<p>Reasonable Alternatives: No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy and PSRNI (Green Book) - controls nuisances. Also statutory consultees.</p>			
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: The policy has a negligible impact on the majority of the social sustainability objectives, though it is noted that valuable minerals extraction has the potential to result in some nuisance impacts. Should the policy be used, it could result in significant positive impacts on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth, but no impacts on the other economic sustainability objectives. It also has a positive impact on the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably as it would allow for future extraction of valuable minerals in circumstances where mineral extraction would otherwise not be permitted. Impacts on the other environmental sustainability objectives are generally uncertain as mineral extraction under this policy may result in exemption from requirements of MD1 and MD3 and the impacts on this objective would depend on the nature, type and scale of the minerals development. However, significant negative impacts would have to be mitigated and legislative requirements would still be applied. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>			
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>		<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth.</p>			
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>			
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects Environmental Impact Assessment and other Developer Impact Assessments. Shadow Habitats Regulation Assessment. Buffer zones associated with HSENI designations such as Major Hazard Site or COMAH.</p>			

Policy MD5 Unconventional Hydrocarbon Extraction				
Option	New policy provision.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Unconventional Hydrocarbon extraction has the potential to generate nuisance impacts (such as noise, vibration, dust, spillages) which may be harmful to health, however the policy includes measures to safeguard people who live or work nearby from adverse amenity and health impacts. There are perceived health and well-being impacts from unconventional hydrocarbon extraction; however there is currently a presumption against this type of activity unless robust evidence is provided, which will include evidence on health impacts. The overall impact on this objective is negligible.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Allows best use of location to be made, if required. May contribute to economic growth, however this may not be sustainable growth as hydrocarbons are a finite resource. May contribute to new jobs / employment. (Also noted in the appraisal that impacts on economic growth could be substantial, but not necessarily long term, and there is currently no certainty that they could be realised as the evidence base is limited, therefore a minor positive impact is recorded).
6... manage material assets sustainably.	?	?	?	May result in an indigenous energy source, located close to users. May result in the development of new infrastructure / there may be insufficient infrastructure in areas where resource is located. Extraction would result in the depletion of a finite resource. The overall effect is uncertain, as it would depend on the location, nature and scale of the development.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Enables the possibility for unconventional hydrocarbon extraction to be locally sourced, where appropriate. Development would include measures to prevent pollution of soils. The evidence base does not currently recognise any proven resources in the Council area as limited exploration has occurred, effect is therefore a minor positive impact is recorded.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	-	-	-	Unconventional hydrocarbon extraction would require activities such as flaring and venting, etc. which may adversely impact air quality. It may be possible to introduce measures to reduce the scale of the negative effects.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	-	-	-	May result in increased greenhouse gas emissions. Supports continued reliance on fossil fuels which is inconsistent with transitioning to a low-carbon economy. Could be significant negative, depending on technology available at the time, e.g. carbon capture. It may be possible to introduce measures to reduce the scale of the negative effects.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	?	?	?	Noted from baseline evidence the most likely hydrocarbon reservoir is the same geological formation as the main aquifer which is used for water abstraction and there is potential conflict with the objective if hydrocarbons cannot be extracted without impacting the aquifer. Unconventional hydrocarbon extraction has greater risk of impacting groundwater and has high water demand, however there is a presumption against this type of extraction. Policy requires impacts to be managed. MD1, which also applies to development under this policy, includes safeguards to protect against significant negative impacts which would also be a legislative requirement, however there may still remain some risk from accidental pollution.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	?	?	?	Conventional hydrocarbon exploration and extraction has a relatively small footprint, although infrastructure requirements may increase the footprint. There is a presumption against development for unconventional hydrocarbons. Impacts on this objective depend on nature, type and scale of hydrocarbons development. Safeguards are included in the policy, significant negative impacts would have to be mitigated and legislative requirements would apply. However there may still be some impacts on or losses to natural resources and biodiversity.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	?	?	?	It is likely that development permitted under this policy will not help to maintain or enhance landscape character. MD1, which also applies to development under this policy, includes safeguards to protect against significant negative impacts and requirements for screening / landscaping which may help to reduce negative effects. It is possible that development may have a relatively small footprint, however impacts on this objective will depend on nature, type and scale of hydrocarbons development and whether any associated infrastructure is required.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	?	?	?	MD1, which also applies to development under this policy, states that decisions on mineral applications will be made with regard to the preservation landscape and sites of archaeological & historic interest. However, where regionally significant economic benefits are identified development may be allowed to proceed even where negative impacts on a feature or asset have been identified. Impacts on this objective depend on nature, type and scale of hydrocarbons development.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>This policy will result in the refusal of applications for the exploitation of hydrocarbons which involve unconventional method of extraction. This policy will apply until sufficient and robust evidence on the unacceptable impacts of such extraction methods have been proven. This is a precautionary approach to such types of extraction.</p>				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternative has been identified - Consistent with regional policy.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>This policy option has negligible or no impact on the social sustainability objectives. For the economic sustainability objectives there is no impact identified for enabling access to high quality education and a minor positive impact identified for enabling sustainable economic growth. However, it was recognised in the appraisal that economic growth provided by hydrocarbon extraction may not be sustainable overall and may require the development of new infrastructure, leading to an uncertain impact on material assets. There is no effect identified for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel. The policy supports the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably, by enabling the extraction of a mineral resource, should it be found to be present in economically significant quantities. However, extraction would lead to minor negative impacts on the objectives to improve air quality and to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change. Uncertain impacts are recorded for the remaining environmental sustainability objectives as the effect would be dependent on the nature, type and scale of hydrocarbons development. Significant negative impacts are possible, however these may be able to be reduced to minor negative or avoided through mitigation. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>			<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option? No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option? No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option.</p>				

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Government direction in respect of demonstrating that a robust evidence base is available, should the regional policy position on unconventional hydrocarbon extraction change. Impact assessment such as Environmental Impact Assessment and Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment will identify potential impacts and put forward mitigation.

Policy MD6 Mineral Safeguarding Areas				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Helps avoid conflict of residential land use with mineral extraction. At minute no evidence / certainty on scale of benefit. May help to reduce noise / nuisance impacts. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	May constrain some areas for housing development. However, it will not impact the delivery of housing across the Council area. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Safeguards viability of businesses by preventing existing operations from being sterilised/ constrained by new development. Allows for future expansion where a proven resource is identified.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Supports infrastructure in existing sites rather than requiring new infrastructure to develop new sites. Encourages re-use of resources, may be spin-offs from a valuable minerals site.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Enables materials to be locally sourced, where possible. Helps retain potential future use/benefit of physical resources. Protects minerals in a sustainable way, allows for expansion - Helps to retain semi-natural land cover/biodiversity by allowing established operators to expand rather than having to relocate and commence activities at a new site. Noted that the evidence base for identifying potential Mineral Safeguarding Areas is currently limited.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Has no relationship with active and sustainable travel.
9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	May increase size of mineral operations but also noted that if production levels / outputs remain the same then the impacts would not increase. Operational history may affect regulatory requirements.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	Scale and nature of impact unknown as no available evidence base. Unlikely to be safeguarding minerals that are carbon sources.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	?	?	?	Unclear what processing / mining would occur as part of this policy. Mineral extraction may have significant water demand and management of waste water. Would be mitigated through regulation. Operational history may affect regulatory requirements. Scale and nature of impact unknown as no available evidence base.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	?	?	?	Safeguarding areas may encompass natural heritage, though this would be a consideration when identifying sites for designation. Some quarries may not have restoration plans.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	? ? ?	Protecting area will result in activities that have a high likelihood to be visually impacting. Unlikely that areas that are designated for their landscape quality would be included, but may still result in erosion of landscape character.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	? ? ?	Protecting area will result in activities that may directly impact or indirectly impact HE assets. Unlikely that areas encompassing designated historic environment assets would be included, but may still result in threats to unrecorded / undesignated archaeology or built heritage.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>Surface development which would prejudice future exploitation of valuable mineral reserves will not be permitted.</p> <p>It should be noted that the evidence base for identifying potential Mineral Safeguarding Areas is currently limited. Evidence held by minerals operators may assist, however data may be commercially sensitive. Data is being sought at a regional level by the Department for the Economy to inform all Councils. It is currently unclear whether regional data to support identification of Mineral Safeguarding Areas will be available by the Local Policies Plan stage.</p>		
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy and PSRNI (Green Book) - controls nuisances. Also statutory consultees.</p>		
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>No perceptible impacts are identified on the social sustainability objectives. Should Mineral Safeguarding Zones be identified, they may have a significant positive impact on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth but no other impacts on the economic sustainability objectives are identified. The establishment of Mineral Safeguarding Zones would also have a significant positive impact on the objective to protect physical resources and uses sustainably as it would safeguard the future use of a proven resource. However, impacts on the majority of the other environmental sustainability objectives are uncertain, as there is currently no evidence base to identify what mineral resources may be safeguarded and where in the Council area these may occur. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>		
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to protect physical resources and use sustainably.</p>		
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>		
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:</p> <p>In considering the identification of safeguarding areas the operational status of quarries would need to be taken into consideration. Studies by GSNi and evidence from minerals industry are required to inform the identification of proven mineral resource areas. MD6 protects against safety and amenity impacts to health and well-being.</p>		

Policies MD7 Safety and Amenity and MD8 Traffic Implications				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	MD6 protects nearby residents from nuisance impacts (noise, dust, vibration, etc.) emitted from quarries and other minerals development which, if unregulated, could affect the health of people living or working nearby. MD7 aims to reduce risk of traffic accidents and other safety issues from HGVs and other plant entering and exiting a quarry or other minerals development.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	Enables 'good neighbours' between residential and economic development. Helps to protect quality of life of communities living close to quarries. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	May place some constraints or result in some additional costs to a developer. Unlikely to impact establishment / expansion of minerals or present significant economic burden. However it is more sustainable for the operator to improve access to strategic road network. Helps to make the Council area a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	May place minor constraints on the exploitation of mineral resources. But enables the minerals industry to operate more sustainably. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Possible indirect benefits on sustainable travel from road network being improved through MD7. No effect on encouraging active travel. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	Protection against amenity impacts brought through MD6 would include requiring dust nuisance (which is an air quality issue) and any other emissions to be managed effectively. The effect of MD7 supporting access to strategic roads network helps to reduce effects of congestion, and avoid queuing or idling HGVs which will benefit the objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Measures required through MD7 may help to reduce transport pollution. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
Summary of Policy				
<p>Policy MD7 Safety and Amenity: Minerals development likely to compromise safety or to significantly impair the amenity of people living or working in proximity to the site will not normally be acceptable.</p> <p>Policy MD8 Traffic Implications: Where traffic from a minerals development proposal would prejudice the safety and convenience of road users, planning permission will be refused unless the access road and / or local road network can be satisfactorily improved.</p> <p>Policies MD7 and MD8 have been appraised together as a group as they seek to achieve the same aim, health and safety.</p>				
Reasonable Alternatives				
No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy and PSRNI (Green Book) - controls nuisances. Also statutory consultees.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives				
This option has negligible or no impact on all but two of the sustainability objectives. A minor positive impact is identified for improving air quality and a significant positive impact is identified for the objective to improve health and well-being. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.				
The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.			The preferred option: This option is the only option.	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to improve health and well-being.				
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.				
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects				
No additional measures have been identified.				

Policies TC1 - TC5: Town Centre Uses, Retailing and Offices TC1 Hierarchy of Centres, TC2 Lisburn City Centre Primary Retail Core and Retail Frontage, TC3 Town Centres, TC4 District and Local Centres, and TC5 Villages and Small Settlements				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Identifying a hierarchy of centres helps to establish focal points in settlements and centres. Identifying centres and directing retail uses towards them provides a sense of vibrancy and safety, creating pleasant environments. These focal points can become meeting places, delivering positive effects through helping to increase social contact and intergenerational contact.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	City, town, local and district centres are meeting places and promote positive social interaction. The policies help to create, retain and enhance shared space / neutral space and help to increase accessibility to facilities and shared space. Centres are focal points for cultural and community uses. Clustering of retailing and accessibility to town centres may help to reduce inequalities. The importance of a centre to a community may increase down the hierarchy.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Policies may have indirect impacts of enabling housing in town centres (flats over shops, mixed use etc.). The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	The establishment of a hierarchy may deliver indirect benefits by allowing communities to grow and expand and providing focal points for cultural and community benefits which may support education. Critical mass in city and town centres complements education and skills provision.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Policies support the creation of a range of job types in areas that are accessible, especially to areas of greatest deprivation. They make best use of location and help to make the Council area a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. 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.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Focuses retail and office development towards centres where utilities provision, infrastructure, waste, recycling opportunities are present. Public realm works can be a material assets.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Focuses development, makes efficient use of land. Avoids spread by having uses concentrated in defined centres. Helps to retain potential future use/benefit of physical resources (for education/tourism/recreation/biodiversity) e.g. lagan valley park connects to schools and the city centre.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Directing services and retail to centres and the sequential approach directing preferentially towards city and town centres supports the objective as these have existing/established sustainable transport routes. Linkages to active travel routes are identified and promoted. District Centres and Local Centres are also highly accessible by public transport. Not so much the villages and small settlements but still options / opportunities.
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	All centres are accessible by active and sustainable travel, reducing the need to travel by car for employees and visitors. Noted that Dundonald has an AQMA - its having a local centre will not exacerbate the air quality issues due to its connectivity with sustainable transport routes.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Directing retail and offices towards centres which are accessible by active and sustainable travel encourages the use of other modes of transport to the car. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The policies do not directly influence the quantity of retail or office development, just its location. Identified centres have water and waste water infrastructure and the policies should not have a significant impact on freshwater demand or waste water treatment.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	The sequential approach directing retail or office development into centres protects land and enhances opportunities for linkages with green / blue infrastructure. Strategic greenways are located through from Lisburn and Sprucefield to Belfast. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	The sequential approach directing retail or office development into centres helps to protect landscape character. It protects the setting of settlements and prevents urban sprawl. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Directing retail development into identified centres allows 'sense of place' to be conserved in townscape and rural settings. Conservation areas in town centres may present a conflict with retail. Adverse effects can be overcome through policies on design. Supporting and encouraging retail and office development in city and town centres may also present opportunities for regeneration of areas /restoration of buildings.

Summary of Policy:

Policy TC1 Hierarchy of Centres: A Sequential Approach will be adopted for applications for retail and other city/town centre uses to be considered in the following order of preference:

- Primary Retail Core (where designated);
- City or Town Centres;
- District and Local Centres;
- Edge of Centre; and
- Out of Centre locations - only where sites are accessible by a choice of good public transport.

Policy TC2 Lisburn City Centre Primary Retail Core and Retail Frontage: The purpose of the Primary Retail Core and the retail frontage is to ensure the continuance of a compact, lively, and attractive shopping environment. Within the designated primary retail core of Lisburn City Centre, planning permission will be granted for development proposals to convert non-retail uses to retail uses. Non-retail development will be restricted within the primary retail core and retail frontage. Outside the designated primary retail core and retail frontage, and elsewhere within the city centre, retail development will be granted planning permission where it can be demonstrated that there is no suitable site for the proposed development within the primary retail core.

Policy TC3 Town Centres: The Plan seeks to strengthen the role of the three primary towns, Carryduff, Hillsborough and Moira, which serve a local population and offer a variety of services. Permission will be granted for retail and other town centre uses, subject to the identified criteria being met. Beyond a designated town centre boundary proposals for town centre uses will only be granted planning permission in accordance with the sequential approach of Policy R1.

Policy TC4 District and Local Centres: In district and local centres, planning permission for retailing, business or community development proposals will only be granted if they meet the required criteria.

Policy TC5 Villages and Small Settlements: Growth of appropriate scale, nature and type should also be encouraged in villages and small settlements to retain their vitality and meet an identified local need. Proposals for retailing, business or community uses in villages and small settlements will be granted where they meet the identified criteria.

Policies TC1 - TC5 have been appraised together as a group as they all seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. the growth of the city, town centres, retailing and offices.

Reasonable Alternatives:

These policies are new policies and no reasonable alternatives have been identified for them. The policies are consistent with regional policy including the RDS and SPPS.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

These policies have a positive relationship with the social sustainability objectives. A minor positive impact is identified for improving health and well-being and significant positive impact on strengthening society. There may be indirect positive effects on housing but not enough to raise a perceptible impact on this objective. Positive effects are also identified for all of the economic sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. The principle of directing retail development to identified centres is supportive of many of the environmental sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts identified for encouraging active and sustainable travel and minor positive for the physical resources, air quality and historic environment objectives. A negligible effect is identified on the climate change, water resources, natural resources and landscape objectives. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.

The preferred option: This option is the only option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objectives to strengthen society, to enable sustainable economic growth and to encourage active and sustainable travel.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Historic Environment policies will help to reduce impacts on built heritage and archaeology. The definition of city and town centre boundaries at LPP should take into consideration identified historic environment assets, such as Conservation Areas. New development should be encouraged to link with strategic greenway proposals. Masterplanning.

Policy TC6 Petrol Filling Stations and Roadside Service Facilities				
Option	New policy provisions.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Provides safe location to rest and get fresh food / drink on a long journey. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	Provides a service which may benefit a rural community. Constrains size so that new development meets local need, but avoids extending retailing outside settlement centres. Noted that service stations can function as meeting places. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Allows lorry fuelling, positioning on trunk roads supports freight economy (without lorries having to enter into settlements). Supports efficient movement of goods and people. Enhances pedestrian experience in town centre, but may take some passing trade outside of centres, cafés etc. Enables development that provides a service / facility (and creates jobs) rather than just a petrol station, yet curtails scale of retail element (essentials only - protecting settlement centres). Overall supports growth, but may mean that distribution is different.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	?	Service stations may provide an infrastructure service, e.g. Wi-Fi access, e-car charging points, rest area, etc. and provide key access to fuel (often open well outside normal trading hours). Noted that over time this use may change, if greater demand for charge points, but uncertain whether this function would evolve over the long term.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Considerable land take can be associated with roadside service facilities. Within settlements, development would tend to be on land with previous use (brownfield). Likely to be a limited number of these coming forward in the Council area over life of plan, so impacts on this objective are considered to be negligible.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	-	-	-	Does not promote modal shift to active travel. Unlikely to benefit those without access to cars. Does not retain, create, or enhance walking and cycle routes. May help to reduce congestion in town centres.
9... improve air quality.	-	-	-	Doesn't reduce transport emissions. Unlikely to reduce emissions of key pollutants.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	-	-	?	Policy doesn't help to reduce polluting forms of transport. Vehicles are a principal emitter of greenhouse gases. However, towards the end of the plan the circumstances may change in terms of the role of service stations in providing car charging points rather than fuel. Uncertainty over whether this function would be realised.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Unlikely to have negative impacts. Regulation / standards for water management with this type of development are strict (though outside the control of the Council). The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Considerable land take can be associated with roadside service facilities. Within settlements would tend to be land with previous use (brownfield). Likely to be a limited number of these coming forward in the Council area over life of plan, so impacts are negligible.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Likely to be a limited number of these coming forward in the Council area over life of plan, so impacts are negligible. Adverse impacts on landscape would be avoided through other policies.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	Likely to be a limited number of these coming forward in the Council area over life of plan, so impacts are negligible. Adverse impacts on archaeology or built heritage would be avoided through other policies.
Summary of Policy:				
Petrol filling stations should be located within a defined settlement limit and must fulfil identified criteria on location, scale and need. Proposals in a countryside location would be considered in exceptional circumstances only and must also fulfil the identified criteria.				
Reasonable Alternatives:				
This policy is a new policy and no reasonable alternatives have been identified.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:				
This policy has no impact on the social sustainability objectives, although some positive effects are noted in the comments. A minor positive impact is identified for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to manage material assets sustainably, however in the long term the impact on material assets becomes uncertain as the role of a service station may change over time in response to government policy on the sale of petrol and diesel cars. The relationship with vehicle use means that the policy has a minor negative impact on encouraging active and sustainable travel, improving air quality and reducing causes of and adapting to climate change. However, over time the relationship may become more uncertain in respect of climate change. The quantity and scale of new development that is likely to be enabled under this policy is considered to be very limited. Consequently it is unlikely to have any perceptible impacts on the objectives relating to physical resources, water resources, natural resources and biodiversity, landscape and the historic environment. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.				
The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.			The preferred option: This option is the only option.	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option.				
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.				
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects				
Proposals for development in the countryside would also be subject to COU15 and COU16, which would require landscape integration and enhancement measures in addition to mitigation.				

Policy TOU1 Tourism Development in Settlements				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Indirect effects may be delivered through providing places / destinations for enabling social contact and family cohesion. Assets such as museums and art galleries can also benefit mental health and well-being. Tourism development may provide recreation and leisure opportunities for local communities as well as visitors. TOU7 includes a requirement to safeguard amenity of nearby residents.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	May indirectly provide shared spaces and social interaction. Concentrating tourism in settlements benefits their communities. Promotes inclusion.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Indirect relationship with provision of skills training for tourism sector. Tourism forms a large part of further education opportunities in the Council area's colleges. Some facilities may provide enrichment opportunities for schools.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Encouraging tourism development within a settlement helps to maximise the economic benefits of sustainable tourism. It helps to create a range of jobs and supports enhancement of the skills base. It makes the Council area a more attractive place to visit. Tourism development may help to enhance the vitality and vibrancy of the city and town centres.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Directing new development towards settlements in the first instance benefits the objective by directing towards areas where there is existing infrastructure which is fit for purpose.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	The focus on settlements first helps to maintain efficient use of land and directs growth to already-developed areas without taking up greenfield land. The policy also requires that development is of a size and scale that is appropriate in the context of surrounding areas.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The focus on settlements first helps to enable opportunities for using sustainable modes of travel (for both visitors and workers) and benefits those without access to car. The cross-over with TOU7 will serve to enhance the effects.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The policy in conjunction with TOU7 will encourage the use of other modes of transport than the car. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The policy in conjunction with TOU7 will encourage the use of other forms of transport than the car and the inclusion of sustainable design concepts such as SuDS which will support the objective. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The focus on settlements first should mean that the majority of new development occurs in areas where water/wastewater infrastructure is already present and should not increase pressure on water resources. TOU7 will preclude development in areas where effluent/wastewater cannot be adequately dealt with and encourages surface water to be managed in a sustainable way which can help alleviate flood risk. Extra benefits could be gained through implementation of 'soft' SuDS, which is also encouraged in TOU7.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Focus on settlements first helps to maintain efficient use of land and focuses growth to more suitable areas, reducing consumption of semi-natural land. Constraints are applied to new development which are protective of the natural environment, but would potentially allow some development in designated sites where it could be demonstrated that negative impacts would not occur. TOU7 encourages design that enhances biodiversity.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Focus on settlements first helps to maintain landscape character. TOU7 also includes criteria to safeguard landscape quality and character and reduce visual impact. It requires development to be sensitively integrated to protect local distinctiveness.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	TOU1 recognises the importance of historic environment designations such as Conservation Areas. The policy in combination with TOU7 recognises the need to conserve 'sense of place' in townscape and rural settings. Tourism development may include cultural activities and interpretation of the historic environment.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>Permission will be granted for tourism development (including a tourist amenity or tourist accommodation) within a settlement; provided it is of a nature appropriate to the settlement, respects the site context and surrounding area in terms of scale, size & design and has regard to the specified provisions of the Local Development Plan. Policy TOU1 must be taken in the context of policy TOU7 (General Criteria for Tourism Development) and this was a consideration in the appraisal.</p>				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The policy has a minor positive effect on the objectives for health and well-being and strengthening society, though it has no impact on the provision of good quality, sustainable housing. It has a positive impact on all of the economic sustainability objectives, with a significant positive impact on enabling sustainable economic growth. The policy may also help to deliver potential synergies with the education objective through apprenticeships and skills training. Directing development towards settlements (therefore reducing the potential for greenfield land use) and ensuring it respects its surroundings in terms of scale, size and design helps to support many of the environmental sustainability objectives. Measures included in the complementary policy TOU7 may help to deliver enhancements. Minor positive impacts are identified in respect of protecting physical resources, encouraging active and sustainable travel, protecting natural resources, maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Negligible impacts are recorded for the air quality, climate change and water resources objectives. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>			<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth.</p>				
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>				
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: TOU7 is the main measure by which positive effects are enhanced / negative impacts reduced.</p>				

Policies TOU2 - TOU6 - Tourism Development in the Countryside.

TOU2 Proposals for Tourism Amenity in the Countryside, TOU3 Proposals for Tourist Accommodation in the Countryside, TOU4 Self-Catering Accommodation in the Countryside, TOU5 Holiday Parks in the Countryside and TOU6 Proposals for Major Tourism Development in the Countryside

Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Indirect benefits to this objective are possible through TOU2 as tourism amenity development may include facilities for leisure, recreation or active travel that can be used by the resident community. May bring prosperity to an area which can have indirect benefits on well-being.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Opportunities for facilities that can be shared use for community benefit. Tourism development may bring communities together and promotes positive social interaction.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Indirect relationship with skills training for tourism sector. Some tourism facilities may provide enrichment opportunities for schools. Tourism forms a large part of further education opportunities in the Council area's colleges.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Tourism development will be supported where appropriate and is an area for economic growth. Significant spinoff for the economy is hoped. These policies support the creation of a range of job types that are accessible, including to rural communities. They support enhancement of the skills base. They help to make the best use of location and may make the Council area a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. They may increase the number of people coming to the Council area to work. TOU6 could result in significant economic benefits, but the likelihood of this type of development occurring in the Council area over the life of the plan is limited.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Allows some dispersed development, where appropriate. Existing facilities and infrastructure should not be placed under pressure by new development. May bring the critical mass needed to deliver new services to a rural area. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Development in the countryside will result in some consumption of land, though the policies encourage the reuse or extension of existing buildings over building new ones and clustering new development with existing development in the main. The policies aim to consolidate land use and retain more efficient use of land which supports this objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	?	?	?	Facilities developed under these policies are more likely to be dispersed and will probably be more limited in ability to access active and sustainable travel routes. However new development could be linked to routes including the Councils towpaths and greenways. The complementary policy TOU7 seeks to make linkages to active and sustainable travel where it is available however the overall impact is dependent on the location and nature of the development.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The scale of tourism development in the council area is unlikely to have any perceptible impact on air quality. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Transport impacts are unknown, however the scale of tourism development in the council area is unlikely to have any perceptible impact on this objective.

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Countryside development may have less access to water / waste water infrastructure - safeguarding against adverse impacts on water quality and quantity is delivered through general criteria in TOU7 relating to effluent and surface water drainage. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	?	?	?	The location and extent of future tourism development is unknown. There could be some biodiversity losses but also potential gains through landscape integration and enhancement measures incorporated in policies and TOU7. Tourism may indirectly help to highlight areas that warrant protection.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Directs new development towards reuse of existing buildings or clustering with other existing development. Policies TOU2 and TOU5 have criteria for location, siting, size and design to encourage landscape integration and minimise visual intrusion. They also reference preservation of rural character and site context. There is a requirement for development to respect the surrounding land use. Complementary policy TOU7 also places requirement for high quality landscaping arrangements.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	The impact on rural character, landscape and natural / built heritage is an important consideration, particularly within areas designated for their landscape, natural or cultural heritage qualities. Policies encourage retention / restoration of vernacular buildings. TOU7 reinforces protection on all policies.

Summary of Policies:

Policy TOU2 Proposals for Tourism Amenity in the Countryside: Provision is made where the tourism activity and associated facilities require a rural location in terms of their functionality or site / area specific requirements. Planning permission will be granted for a tourist amenity in the countryside subject to meeting identified criteria.

Policy TOU3 Proposals for Tourist Accommodation in the Countryside: The retention and conversion of a vernacular building for tourist accommodation will be favourably considered where the environmental benefit of full or partial replacement will outweigh the retention and conversion of the building. Planning permission will be granted for Tourist Accommodation subject to criteria relevant to the development's circumstances being met.

Policy TOU4 Self-Catering Accommodation in the Countryside: Planning permission will be granted for self-catering units of tourist accommodation where identified circumstances have been met.

Policy TOU5 Holiday Parks in the Countryside: Planning Permission will be granted for a holiday park or an extension to an existing facility where it is demonstrated that the proposal will create a high quality and sustainable form of tourism development, to be evidenced by a layout and landscaping plan. The location, siting, size, design, layout and landscaping of the holiday park proposal must be based on an overall design concept that respects the surrounding landscape, rural character and site context.

TOU6 Proposals for Major Tourism Development in the Countryside: A firm proposal for a major tourism development in the countryside will be permitted, subject to it meeting all of the identified exceptional circumstances.

Policies TOU2 to TOU6 have been appraised together as a group as they all relate to tourism development in the countryside. These policies must also be taken in the context of policy TOU7 (General Criteria for Tourism Development) and this was a consideration in the appraisal. Self-catering in countryside may have cross-over with COU14. Baseline evidence suggests that the number of instances in which development would be brought forward via TOU6 will be limited over the lifetime of the plan and the appraisal has been taken in this context.

Reasonable Alternatives:	
No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy and taking on board comments from Tourism Board NI. Making the policy more robust.	
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:	
The policies have a minor positive impact on the majority of the social sustainability objectives, reflecting the fact that sustainable tourism development can help to support rural communities and may include shared use facilities which deliver benefits. No impact is identified on the objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing. Significant positive impacts are identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth and the development of tourism may lead to indirect minor benefits on enabling access to high quality education through relationships with local colleges for skills provision, training and apprenticeships in tourism-linked courses. The principles of encouraging reuse/renovation of existing buildings and clustering with existing development are supportive of the objectives to protect physical resources and to maintain and enhance landscape character and minor positive impacts are delivered. Criteria on location, siting, size and design also deliver benefits on these objectives in addition to protecting conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage. There is some uncertainty on the impact in respect of encouraging active and sustainable travel and protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity. Measures included in the complementary policy TOU7 will help to deliver mitigation and enhancement where possible, but the impacts are more dependent on the location and nature of the development. No impacts are identified on material assets, air quality, climate change and water resources. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.	
The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.	The preferred option: This option is the only option.
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth.	
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.	
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	
TOU7 is the main measure by which positive effects are enhanced / negative impacts reduced. Proposals for development in the countryside would also be subject to COU15 and COU16.	

Policy TOU7 General Criteria for Tourism Development				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	More likely to be smaller-scale development coming through tourism policies, however larger developments may have spin-off / indirect positive impacts for well-being through requirements for links with walking/ cycling provision. TOU7 (h) provides a safeguard against amenity impacts which may be harmful to health.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Aims to maximise opportunities for development being attractive and making best use of location such as linking with active and sustainable travel and adopting quality design.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	TOU7 (b) includes design criteria for sustainable infrastructure. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Requires tourism development to be compatible with adjacent land uses and not to adversely affect features of the natural environment.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Requirement to consider linkages to active and sustainable transport routes where they are available supports the objective. The impact magnitude is minor as it will not cause the development of new infrastructure for active / sustainable travel, but will encourage consideration of more sustainable modes of transport when planning development.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Encourages the use of other modes of transport to the car. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Seeks to minimise emissions and promote development that uses sustainable design concepts which support the objective. Encourages other forms of transport than the car. Encourages consideration of sustainable drainage systems which can help with climate change resilience. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Requires development to have adequate waste water treatment. Encouraging development to incorporate sustainable measures to manage run-off helps to manage flood risk. Encouraging sustainable drainage systems (especially 'soft' SuDS) brings water quality benefits.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Promotes the inclusion of high quality landscaping that encourages biodiversity. Also incorporates requirement for development to not adversely impact natural heritage

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+ + +	Requirement for design including site layouts and landscaping arrangements that promotes sustainability in the landscape. Ensures that tourism development is sensitively integrated in the landscape.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+ + +	Requirement for development to not adversely affect built heritage features. Promotes design that is integrated with surroundings which will help to deliver on this objective.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>Any proposal for a tourism use, in addition to the other policy provisions of this Statement, will be subject to general and design criteria which are intended to achieve satisfactory forms of tourism development and a high standard of design in a sustainable way.</p>		
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified.</p>		
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>This policy has a limited impact on the social sustainability objectives, although a minor positive impact is noted for improving health and well-being. Impacts on the economic sustainability objectives are also limited with only the objective to enable sustainable economic growth receiving a score, which is minor positive. The policy has minor positive impacts on most of the environmental sustainability objectives, with the exception of the objectives to improve air quality and to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change, on which it has a negligible effect though some positive effects are noted. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>		
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option.</p>		
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>		
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:</p> <p>No additional measures have been identified.</p>		

TOU8: Safeguarding of Tourism Assets				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	The safeguarding of a tourism asset is the primary reason for this policy and as such can provide depending on the asset a sense of place and also an attractive and pleasant place to visit. As a result the assets can provide physical and mental well-being benefits brought about by their presence. Interaction with the asset and others who visit or use the asset can have positive benefits.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	This policy protects key tourism assets and their settings for residents and visitors alike who are then able to access these assets. The assets which are protected are viewed as shared spaces in the widest sense possible where people can benefit from social contact and use of the shared resources/spaces, across the entire council area. A sense of place and place making are provided by many historical tourism assets giving a sense of how people connect to the past. It can also be about the wider area and landscape and again how people relate to it. Society often has its roots in the past and common heritage can strengthen communities with a shared past and providing for a shared future in the knowledge that asset is protected.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The impact is considered negligible. The asset may have educational benefits but this is not the primary purpose of the policy.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	By safeguarding the tourism assets within the council it is viewed as a sustainable way to grow this section of the economy. The council area has a diverse range of tourism assets ranging from built heritage to historic and natural landscapes. The protection of these assets allows for certainty over the long term so people can plan to visit and experience what the area has to offer. The protection of an asset can result in a range of positive economic spin-offs both locally and for the wider economic area. The long term security of the asset creates the conditions for a more feasible and sustainable tourism industry and others connected to it. The policy prevents any development which could damage the intrinsic value of an asset and hence reduce the possibility of the effectiveness of the asset to attract tourist and also reputational damage of the asset.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	No effect on material assets is envisaged by this policy.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	This policy will protect geological features of interest in the council area and also there wider setting and impact in the landscape. It will also protect the surrounding areas which could include woodland and areas of semi-natural land which contribute to and are an integral part of the local landscape where assets are located. This approach is likely to help avoid loss of such land as inappropriate development would not be permitted.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Tourism assets are located across the council area in both urban and rural settings. This policy will safeguard assets irrespective of location. The policy does not directly encourage active and sustainable travel but public transport can provide access to these assets mainly in the urban context. Assets set in a rural context as less easily linked to public transport or active travel routes and in certain cases the introduction of access to the asset could actually have a negative impact on the asset. Future development of greenways is a more sustainable way to potentially link assets to other appropriate adjacent land uses.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	In the rural areas, there is reduced potential to visit an asset without the use of a car. In the urban context there is the potential for public transport links. This is an unclear area as organised excursions could reduce overall impacts while the success of an asset could result in an increase in visitor numbers.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The policy will protect assets that may have an element of water management or be protected by other legislation.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	The policy will protect tourism assets and their settings, and this will retain and maintain areas such as woodland and the semi-natural land which has an abundance of local biodiversity value. This could range from protected species and habitats to an area locally rich in biodiversity. Any tourism asset which is related to the natural environment would be protected and have linkages to ecosystem services irrespective of its location.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	The policy will protect tourism assets and their settings. This will ensure that buildings in the rural context will be protected in connection with their surrounding landscape. This retains the contextual nature and links between the build and natural environment which are so vital to the tourism industry. The landscape character is integral to defining an area and the protection of this policy helps to avoid any future lose by visual intrusion.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	The policy aims to protect tourism assets and their setting. In the urban context this is key due to development pressures. The urban nature of assets can be both built and in their setting which can include their curtilage or areas of open space in the urban context. The policy approach helps with the preservation and conservation of assets through access to them and their continued use by the wider community.
Summary of Policy: Planning permission will not be granted for development that would in itself or in combination with existing development have an adverse impact on a tourism asset as to significantly compromise its tourism value.				
Reasonable Alternatives: No reasonable alternatives have been identified.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: The policy option has minor positive impact on the objectives to improve health and well-being and to strengthen society, though protecting attractive places, shared spaces and sense of place. No effects are identified for the provision of housing. The policy will have no effect on the economic sustainability objectives to enable access to high quality education and to manage material assets sustainably but a significant positive effect is identified for enabling sustainable economic growth. Safeguarding the long term viability of the asset creates the conditions for a more feasible and sustainable tourism industry and other linked supply chain industries. Tourism assets in the district are predominantly associated with natural land and landscapes or built heritage and therefore this policy will deliver positive effects for many of the environmental sustainability objectives. These effects are minor positive for physical resources and significant positive for natural resources, maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage. For the remaining environmental sustainability objectives many positive influences are identified but none sufficient to raise a perceptible effect. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.				
The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.			The preferred option: This option is the only option.	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are significant positive effects identified for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth, to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity, to maintain and enhance landscape character and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.				
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.				
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: No additional measures are identified.				

Policy OS1: Protection of Open Space				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Retains open space that people can use. Helps to provide and protect opportunities for healthy lifestyles and physical activity. Ultimately the presence of open space and its use contributes to general health and well-being of a community.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Provides shared space and enables social interaction. The presence of open space is essential in any community for a variety of reasons. Publicly accessible areas of open space meets identified needs that will reduce inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Sustainable housing involves respecting the open space that is there and not developing it for housing, unless there is substantial community benefit. The protection of open space can help to improve the quality of housing, but does not increase the quantity of housing.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Shared facilities for recreation and leisure may indirectly contribute to the objective. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Some open space can provide an economic contribution. Some facilities can be economic generators, there is a local revenue stream from playing fields and pitches, also community centres and assets. Having quality open space and protecting it helps to make the Council area a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Open spaces may encompass semi—natural land and this policy helps to protect that. The policy may also indirectly safeguard and enable access to sites of earth science interest.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Open space is an enabler for this objective in that it is essential for delivering walking / cycling networks. Protecting open space can help improve active travel linkages and connectivity between sites. Many greenways / routes are zoned under open space and so this policy would provide strong protection. This policy complements policies TRA5 (Strategic Greenways and Disused Transport Routes) and TRA8 (Active Travel Networks and Infrastructure Provision).
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	The policy enables active travel in the Council area and there are beneficial effects to this objective from establishing and using active travel networks. Open space can also support the improvement of air quality by providing a buffer zone between an emitter (e.g. a principal road) and a receptor (e.g. a residential area).
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Many open spaces act as buffer zones which can help to provide resilience against the effects of climate change (e.g. surface water attenuation and storage). In this Council area they also support the objective by encouraging the use of other forms of transport than the car, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Open space provides natural SuDS and soakaways. Lagan Valley Regional Park encompasses a flood plain and the open space also provides a buffer between development and the river. Beneficial effects are indirect and considered to be minor.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	The policy protects wildlife corridors and local biodiversity and aims to protect / provide an ecosystem service where possible. It helps to protect and provide buffers around development and aids with the delivery of green / blue infrastructure.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	++	Open space forms part of the landscape. It helps to protect the setting of certain features, such as former transport corridors and prominent features, however the majority of open space is comprised of small pieces of ground and the effect of the open space on visual amenity is very localised.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+++	Lagan Valley Regional Park helps to conserve built heritage; many open space areas in the Council are based around heritage assets, e.g. Hillsborough Forest Park is protective of the setting of Hillsborough Castle. Demesnes are important open space areas. This policy, in connection with policy TRA5 (Strategic Greenways and Disused Transport Routes) could enable more access to and public appreciation of industrial heritage features associated with disused transport routes.
Summary of Policy:		
Open space is essential in any community for a variety of reasons which may include amenity value and the quality of the residential environment. It provides areas for nature conservation and biodiversity, buffer zones between conflicting land uses, helps reduce flood risk, and improves air quality. Ultimately open space and its use contributes to general health and well-being. Development that will result in the loss of existing open space or land zoned for the provision of open space will not be permitted, irrespective of its physical condition and appearance, however certain exceptions may be allowed.		
Reasonable Alternatives:		
No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy approach - SPPS.		
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:		
This policy option has a significant positive effect on two out of the three social sustainability objectives, by protecting shared space that has a function for leisure and recreation activity, with indirect minor positive effects on the objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing. It has limited impact on the economic sustainability objectives, although a minor positive impact is identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. The protection of open space delivers positive impacts for all of the environmental sustainability objectives. This increases to significant positive in respect of the objectives for active and sustainable travel, natural resources and the historic environment which recognises that open space in the Council area has a strong relationship with the delivery of active travel routes and the larger areas of open space in Lisburn City and Castlereagh are associated with natural and heritage features. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.		
The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.	The preferred option: This option is the only option.	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objectives to improve health and well-being, to strengthen society, to encourage active and sustainable travel, to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.		
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.		
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:		
Auditing / monitoring of open space. Review of sites at Local Policies Plan.		

Policies OS2 - OS6 Sports and Outdoor Recreational Activities

OS2 Intensive Sports Facilities, OS3 Noise Generating Sports & Outdoor Recreational Activities, OS4 Facilities ancillary to water sports, OS5 Flood lighting of sports and outdoor recreational facilities, and OS6 Outdoor Recreation in the Countryside.

Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	These types of recreational facilities promote and provide opportunities for healthy lifestyles and physical activities. They enable social and intergenerational contact and support family cohesion. OS3 and OS5 help to safeguard against development which has unacceptable levels or noise or other amenity nuisances which may be harmful to health.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	The policies help to provides and enhance shared space. New development delivered through these policies will be required to meet requirements for increased accessibility (especially stadia facilitated through OS2). The policies help to meet identified needs and deliver inclusivity which can help to reduce the factors causing inequalities.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	There is an indirect link with this objective through educational enrichment and provision of facilities that could be used for educational purposes. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Facilities enabled through these policies have links with enhancing tourism and may become an economic driver in their own right. Some types of development, such as stadia or large sports facilities can be significant drivers of employment and income. Some places become destinations for a wider area, rather than just the local community. Such development can really help to contribute to rural areas.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Existing infrastructure has to be fit for purpose to accommodate development. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	?	?	?	Can result in large areas of ground which may be developed, especially in the context of stadia and noise-generating sports. These may have a large footprint and represent substantial changes in land use. Other uses such as an outdoor pursuits centre may be lower impact. The overall impact is dependent on what types of projects come forward over the lifetime of the plan and the nature and scale of those projects.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	OS2 has a criterion for accessibility which gives priority to walking, cycling & public transport. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	The impact on this objective depends on the type of activity that is brought forward. For example a motorsports track could generate emissions. Dependent on location there may also be emissions from transport, however directing development preferentially towards on settlements first and including consideration of access by active and sustainable transport should help to reduce the scale of potential negative effects. The overall impact is uncertain.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Doesn't encourage reduction in energy use. Negligible

<p>11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</p>	+	+	+	<p>While OS4 permits development in and surrounding waterbodies, it is protective against adverse impacts from activities in or near water and also recognises local water / catchment plans which may be more specific and may preclude the development. OS2 is also protective for features important to nature conservation which would include riparian habitats. OS5 safeguards against disturbance from inappropriate lighting, which may be of particular importance in the vicinity of salmonid rivers. Proposals for recreation in the countryside must include satisfactory provisions for drainage and waste disposal to prevent pollution of watercourses.</p>
<p>12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	?	?	?	<p>The policies could result in large areas of ground being developed, especially in the context of stadia and noise-generating sports. Recreation may cause disturbance effects and erosion effects however the policies recognise that nuisance impacts such as noise may disturb wildlife as well as people. The overall impact is dependent on what types of projects come forward over the lifetime of the plan and the nature and scale of those projects, however significant negative impacts should be able to be avoided through the application of these policies.</p>
<p>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	-	-	-	<p>Certain proposals may adversely affect landscape (and this may extend to light pollution at night). Some effects could be mitigated, but larger projects are likely to have minor negative impacts.</p>
<p>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>	?	?	?	<p>OS2 is protective against impacts on archaeology and built heritage. There could be potential conflicts on the setting of historic environment assets from the use of floodlighting, however the policies aim to protect. Large projects may impact setting from a greater distance. The overall impact is dependent on what types of projects come forward over the lifetime of the plan and the nature and scale of those projects, however significant negative impacts should be able to be avoided through the application of these policies.</p>

Summary of Policies:

Policy OS2 Intensive Sports Facilities: The Council wishes to ensure that development of intensive sports facilities takes place in appropriate locations. Development of intensive sports facilities will only be permitted where these are located within settlements. An exception may be permitted in the case of the development of a sports stadium, provided that it meets identified criteria. All development of intensive sports facilities will be required to meet indicated standards.

Policy OS3 Noise-Generating Sports & Outdoor Recreational Activities: Proposals for the development of sport or outdoor recreational activities that generate high levels of noise will only be permitted subject to identified criteria being met to avoid conflict with neighbouring land uses.

Policy OS4 Facilities ancillary to Water Sports: Water-based sports in Northern Ireland are an increasingly popular activity and our rivers, reservoirs, lakes and canals are an important recreational resource. Development of facilities ancillary to water sports adjacent to inland lakes, reservoirs and waterways will be permitted where all the indicated criteria are met.

Policy OS5 Floodlighting of Sports and Outdoor Recreational Facilities: The Council will only permit the development of floodlighting associated with sports and outdoor recreational facilities where all identified criteria are met.

Policy OS6 Outdoor Recreation in the Countryside: Recreational activity can make a contribution to the rural economy via activity tourism, and create employment opportunities in various related sectors. Proposals for outdoor recreational use in the countryside will be permitted where all identified criteria are met.

Policies OS2 to OS6 have been appraised together as a group, as they all seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. delivering recreation facilities.

Reasonable Alternatives:

No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy approach - SPPS.

<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>These policy options have a significant positive effect on two out of the three social sustainability objectives, by enabling the delivery of new shared space that has a function for leisure and recreation activity. No impacts are identified on the social objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing. A significant positive impact is identified for the economic sustainability objective of enabling sustainable economic growth; some minor spin-off effects are also noted for the education objective but not enough to raise a perceptible impact. Negligible impact is also identified for material assets. The policy options have an uncertain impact on many of the sustainability objectives as the effects are dependent on the nature and scale of development brought forward. Significant negative impacts are likely to be able to be avoided through design and mitigation, however the footprint of facilities developed through OS2 may be quite extensive. The protective nature of the policies means that minor positive effects are identified for water resources, however minor negative effects have been identified for the objective to maintain and enhance landscape character. Larger sports facilities may be difficult to integrate successfully into the landscape, especially if such development were to occur outside a settlement. The scale of the impact of new sports and outdoor recreational facilities may be reduced through location, design and other mitigation. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>	
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objectives to improve health and well-being, to strengthen society and to enable sustainable economic growth.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:</p> <p>Consultation with HED. Mitigation in respect of landscaping / planting around new development.</p>	

Policies HE1 - HE4 - Archaeological Remains				
HE1 The Preservation of Archaeological Remains of Regional Importance and their Settings, HE2 The Preservation of Archaeological Remains of Local Importance and their Settings, HE3 Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation and HE4 Archaeological Mitigation.				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Some indirect influences noted around preserving the setting of archaeological remains / retaining undeveloped areas and well-being. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	Protecting archaeology can help to support local identity. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective, although archaeological assessment and evaluation and archaeological mitigation may occur as a consequence of new housing development.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Investigation of archaeological sites can provide education enrichment and learning - e.g. public dig at Moira Demesne. State monuments can also provide education enrichment through school visits. The policies indirectly support this objective, but the overall impact on the objective is negligible.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Protection of archaeological remains can support tourism and enhance the Council area as an attractive place to live, work and visit. Archaeological assessment and evaluation and archaeological mitigation may occur as a consequence of new economic development. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Historical remains are a material asset, their preservation indirectly helps to support this objective. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Historical remains are a physical resource, their preservation indirectly helps to support this objective. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.

<p>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	<p>++ ++ ++</p>	<p>Policies ensure that existing and potential new archaeological features are preserved in their settings. Indirectly helps to protect an aspect of the landscape.</p>
<p>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>++ ++ ++ + + +</p>	<p>Policies serve to conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage and also to preserve the setting of cultural heritage assets. They also enable local distinctiveness and 'sense of place' to be conserved in townscape and rural settings. HE4 and HE5 allow archaeological features to be discovered, assessed, recorded and preserved. They support access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment.</p>
<p>Summary of Policies:</p> <p>Policy HE1 The Preservation of Archaeological Remains of Regional Importance and their Settings: The Council will operate a presumption in favour of the physical preservation in situ of archaeological remains of regional importance and their settings. These comprise monuments in State Care, scheduled monuments and Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI)s and includes sites not yet scheduled but which merit statutory protection. Development which would adversely affect such sites of regional importance or the integrity of their settings must only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>Policy HE2 The Preservation of Archaeological Remains of Local Importance and their Settings: Proposals which would adversely affect archaeological sites or monuments which are of local importance or their settings shall only be permitted where the Council considers the importance of the proposed development or other material considerations outweigh the value of the remains and/or their settings.</p> <p>Policy HE3 Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation: Where the impact of a development proposal on important archaeological remains is unclear, or the relative importance of such remains is uncertain, the Council will require developers to provide further information in the form of an archaeological assessment or an archaeological evaluation. Where such information is requested but not made available the Council will refuse planning permission.</p> <p>Policy HE4 Archaeological Mitigation: Where the Council is minded to grant planning permission for development which will affect sites known or likely to contain archaeological remains, the Council will impose planning conditions to ensure that appropriate measures are taken for the identification and mitigation of the archaeological impacts of the development. This will include, where appropriate, completion of a licensed excavation and recording examination and archiving of remains before development commences or the preservation of remains in situ.</p> <p>Policies HE1 to HE4 have been appraised together as a group, as they all seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. the protection of archaeological remains.</p>		
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy approach - SPPS. Consultation with HED has happened and there is a statutory basis for the policies. Council will consult with HED on all policies 1-9.</p>		
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>These policies have no identified impacts on almost all of the sustainability objectives. However, some influences are recognised in terms of the relationship the historic environment has with health and well-being, education and our wider environment. Minor positive impacts are identified for the objective maintain and enhance</p>		

landscape character and significant positive impacts will be delivered through these policies on the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.	
The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.	The preferred option: This option is the only option.
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.	
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects No additional measures have been identified.	

Policy HE5 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes of Special Historic Interest				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	This policy delivers benefits to this objective indirectly. It helps to safeguard locations that provide opportunities for physical activities and encourages healthy lifestyles for all ages (e.g. provision of safe locations for activities such as parkrun). Parks, gardens and demesnes can be meeting places or destinations which help to increase social contact and intergenerational contact. High quality outdoor spaces have positive mental health benefits.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Historic parks, gardens and demesnes are shared space which can promote positive social interaction. They often have associated buildings which can be used as venues for local events and meetings. They can provide opportunities for volunteering.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Historic parks, gardens and demesnes can also provide education enrichment through school visits. The overall impact on this objective is negligible.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Helps to make the Council area a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. Historic parks, gardens and demesnes can provide attractive locations for events which can stimulate the economy, e.g. concerts, weddings, etc. Assets such as Hillsborough Castle can also be destinations which attract tourism.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	The policy helps to safeguard extensive areas against development and loss of natural land. In this Council one supplementary site encompasses an area of earth science interest. The policy does not impact minerals.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Many sites are accessible by walking / cycling and public transport. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	Indirectly protects areas that are carbon sinks, these parks are extensive and act as a 'green lung' or provide buffer zones, particularly where they occur in settlements or alongside transport corridors.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Indirectly protects areas and habitats that capture carbon. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Some of the parks contain lakes, and may act as surface water traps to allow runoff to disperse more slowly. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Indirectly helps to protect local biodiversity, historic parks, gardens and demesnes often contain mature trees and may be species rich. However it is noted that there may also be many non-native species in landscaped gardens as well as native ones. Some sites may connect with green / blue infrastructure.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Safeguarding historic parks, gardens and demesnes helps to retain significant feature in the landscape, especially where these are edge of settlement or in open countryside. Helps to protect and/ or enhance the setting of prominent features and maintains local landscape character.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	The policy helps to conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage through protecting the setting of historic environment assets. It allows 'sense of place' to be conserved in townscape and rural settings.
Summary of Policy:				
Demesnes with their distinct boundary features make a valuable contribution to the quality and character of the local landscape, while those parks, gardens and demesnes that are open to the general public provide an important informal recreational resource and it is important that these valuable features of our built heritage are protected from development which would harm their historic character. The Council will not permit development which would lead to the loss of, or cause harm to, the overall character, principal components or setting of historic parks, gardens and demesnes of special historic interest. Where exceptionally planning permission is granted, this will be conditional on the recording of any features of interest which will be lost as a result of the development.				
Reasonable Alternatives:				
No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy approach - SPPS. Consultation with HED has happened and there is a statutory basis for the policies. Council will consult with HED on all policies 1-9.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:				
The policy has a minor positive impact on the social sustainability objectives of improving health and well-being and strengthen society, but has no effect on the provision of housing. It has limited impact on the economic sustainability objectives, though a minor positive impact is identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth through indirect benefits in terms of events spaces, tourism and making the Council area a more attractive place. Positive impacts are identified for many of the environmental sustainability objectives, including significant positive impacts for the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. Negligible impacts are predicted on the sustainability objectives relating to active and sustainable travel, climate change and water resources. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.				
The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.			The preferred option: This option is the only option.	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.				
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.				
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: No additional measures have been identified.				

Policies HE6 - HE9 - Protection of Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape or Village Character
HE6 Change of Use and/or extensions or alterations of a Listed Building, HE7 Control of Advertisements on a Listed Building, HE8 Demolition or Partial Demolition of a Listed Building and HE9 Development affecting the Setting of a Listed Building.

Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Indirect benefits from protection of buildings and areas which provide meeting places /destinations. Listed buildings can enhance the ambience of an area which in turn can help to benefit mental health and overall well-being.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Enhancing shared space and placemaking delivers benefits for this objective. A town square or Conservation Area with listed buildings around can form the backdrop for community events. These designations may be for buildings and areas which are the focal points of a settlement, they may include buildings such as churches and cathedrals. These areas and buildings provide enrichment and their protection benefits this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	HE6 may include converting other types of building to housing. Policies do not contribute perceptibly to delivering this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no perceptible effect on this objective although it was noted that some listed buildings are linked to schools.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	These policies help to make the Council area a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. The city and some town centres are conservation areas with listed buildings included; protection of these areas helps to safeguard their attractiveness and enhance the vitality and vibrancy of the city and town centres. The policies support economic activity while helping to safeguard assets and encourage vacant buildings to be brought back in to use.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Some old buildings may harbour species of conservation importance such as bats. Listed building upgrades can include mitigation and enhancement measures in their restoration such as swift boxes The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	The majority of listed buildings are in urban areas or settlements. Restricting development that would affect the setting of a listed building will positively impact landscape character.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	The policies help to conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage and allow 'sense of place' and distinctiveness to be conserved in townscape and rural settings. They help to preserve and enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets. Protection of Listed Buildings may provide opportunities for cultural activities.
Summary of Policies:				
<p>Policy HE6 Change of Use and/or extensions or alterations of a Listed Building: The Council accepts that new compatible uses should be found for historic buildings where they can no longer reasonably be expected to serve their original use and where the integrity of their built fabric is under threat. The Council will permit the change of use and/or extension or alteration of a listed building for a viable use that is compatible with the fabric, setting and character of the building, provided that the essential and special character, architectural or historic interest of the building and its setting remains intact and unimpaired.</p> <p>Policy HE7 Control of Advertisements on a Listed Building: The Council will grant consent for advertisements or signs on a listed building where these are carefully designed and located to respect the architectural form and detailing of the building and which are not detrimental to public safety.</p> <p>Policy HE8 Demolition or Partial Demolition of a Listed Building: There will be a presumption in favour of retaining listed buildings. Proposals for the total or partial demolition of listed building will not be permitted unless there are exceptional reasons why the building cannot be retained in its original or a reasonably modified form.</p> <p>Policy HE9 Development affecting the Setting of a Listed Building (BH11): Proposals which would adversely affect the setting of a listed building will not be permitted. Development proposals will normally only be considered appropriate where all indicated criteria have been met.</p> <p>Policies HE6 - HE9 have been appraised together as a group, as they all seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. the protection of Listed Buildings.</p>				
Reasonable Alternatives:				
No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy approach - SPPS. Consultation with HED has happened and there is a statutory basis for the policies. Council will consult with HED on all policies 1-9.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:				
The policy has minor positive impacts on the majority of the social sustainability objectives, with the exception of the provision of good quality housing, where the impact is negligible. Limited impacts are identified for two out of the three economic sustainability objectives, with the only perceptible impact a significant positive impact for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. This recognises the role that listed buildings have in creating an attractive Council area and the function that some of these attractive or interesting buildings can deliver as economic assets in the city, town centres and across the wider countryside. Negligible impacts are reported for the majority of the environmental sustainability objectives, but the policy delivers most benefit for the objectives to maintain and enhance landscape character where				

minor positive impacts are seen and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage where there is a significant positive impact. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.	
The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.	The preferred option: This option is the only option.
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.	
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects No additional measures have been identified.	

Policies HE10 - HE12 development in Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape or Village Character HE10 New Development in a Conservation Area/ATC/AVC, HE11 The Control of Advertisements in a Conservation Area/ATC/AVC and HE12 Demolition or Partial Demolition in a Conservation Area/ATC/AVC.				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Conservation areas can enhance the ambience of an area which can positively influence well-being and mental health.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Enhancing shared space and placemaking delivers benefits for this objective. The protection of areas identified under these designations helps to conserve sense of place and identity in a settlement. A town square or Conservation Area can form the backdrop for community events. These designations may include buildings and areas which are the focal points of a settlement.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	These policies help to make the Council area a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. The city and some town centres are conservation areas; protection of these areas, supported by the protection of ATCs and AVCs, helps to safeguard their attractiveness and may help to enhance the vitality and vibrancy of the city and town and potentially also village centres. Conservation areas can attract people. The policies support economic activity while helping to safeguard assets. Controlling advertising does not preclude advertising, but the overall effect of policy HE11 is to make a place more attractive which can help it to thrive.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	These policy will not influence the provision of infrastructure but may influence its design. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	The Conservation Area and ATC / AVC designations all lead to a greater likelihood that natural features and local biodiversity will be present in these areas. All mature trees in conservation areas are protected.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	All Conservation Areas and ATCs are in towns/urban areas. Setting aspects can positively impact landscape. These policies help to ensure that development respects local character and forms part of landscape character.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	The policies help to conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage and allow 'sense of place' and distinctiveness to be conserved in townscape and rural settings. They help to preserve and enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets. Protection of Conservation Areas may provide opportunities for cultural activities. Preservation of these areas forms an important aspect of placemaking.
<p>Summary of Policies:</p> <p>Policy HE10 New Development in a Conservation Area/ATC/AVC: The Council will permit development proposals for new buildings, alterations, extensions and changes of use in, or which impact on the setting of, a Conservation Area / ATC / AVC where all the indicated criteria have been met.</p> <p>Policy HE11 The Control of Advertisements in a Conservation Area/ATC/AVC: The Council will not grant consent for the display of advertisements in or close to a Conservation Area/ATC/AVC which would adversely affect the character, appearance or setting of the area or which would be detrimental to public safety.</p> <p>Policy HE12 Demolition or Partial Demolition in a Conservation Area/ATC/AVC: The Council will only consider the demolition of an unlisted building in a Conservation Area/ATC/AVC where the building makes no material contribution to the character or appearance of the area. Demolition would be subject to appropriate arrangements for redevelopment of the site and recording the building before its demolition.</p> <p>Policies HE10 - HE12 have been appraised together as a group, as they all seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. the protection of Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape Character (or Areas of Village Character).</p>				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy approach - SPPS. Consultation with HED has happened and there is a statutory basis for the policies.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The policies have a minor positive impact on the majority of the social sustainability objectives, although there is no effect on the objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing. Limited impacts are identified for two out of the three economic sustainability objectives, with the only perceptible impact a significant positive impact for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. This recognises the role that Conservation Areas in particular play in our city and town centres. Negligible impacts are reported for the majority of the environmental sustainability objectives, but the policy delivers most benefit for the objectives to maintain and enhance landscape character where minor positive impacts are seen and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage where there is a significant positive impact. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				

<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: No additional measures have been identified.</p>	

Policy HE13 The Conversion and Reuse of Non-Listed Buildings in Settlements.				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Conversion and reuse as a facility for community or health use could benefit the objective. The effect is dependent on the end use of the converted building, but the overall impact of this policy on this objective is considered to be negligible.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	This policy could enable the reuse / restoration of a building that may contribute to the character of a settlement. Uses could include facilities for the community or a building that functions as a meeting place. The effect is dependent on the end use of the converted building, but the overall impact of this policy on this objective is considered to be negligible.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Conversion and reuse may include conversion to housing. The effect is dependent on the end use of the converted building, but the overall impact of this policy on this objective is considered to be negligible.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Encourages the reuse of locally important buildings which may deliver positive impacts on this objective, particularly if the reuse is for economic purposes. Helps to retain / restore the character of a settlement and may help with placemaking. Improving the quality of buildings helps to make settlements more attractive.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Promotes the restoration of empty buildings, reduces the potential for demolition and leaving a vacant / derelict site. Reuse rather than rebuilding also supports waste hierarchy principles.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Encourages reuse rather than new land use therefore indirectly may slightly reduce new land take.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Promotes building reuse in a settlement - indirectly supports this objective by being more likely to have access to active travel and public transport routes. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Restoration / reuse of an old building will help to improve its energy efficiency and would require less resource consumption than a new build. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Some old buildings may harbour species of conservation importance such as bats. Building upgrades can include mitigation and enhancement measures in their restoration, such as swift boxes. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+ + +	Could result in the restoration of a dilapidated building which will improve the overall appearance of an area. Locally important buildings may be at the edge of a settlement or be within an LLPA and their restoration could help to enhance landscape character.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+ + + + + +	This policy helps to conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage. It may allow 'sense of place' to be conserved in townscape settings and villages. It may help to protect or enhance distinctiveness and sense of place
Summary of Policy:		
Planning permission will be granted to proposals for the sympathetic conversion, with adaptation if necessary, of a vernacular or suitable locally important building (such as former school houses, churches and older traditional barns and outbuildings) for a variety of alternative uses, where this would secure its upkeep and retention. Such proposals will be required to be of a high design quality and to meet all of the indicated criteria.		
Reasonable Alternatives:		
No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy approach - SPPS. Consultation with HED has happened and there is a statutory basis for this policy.		
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:		
The policy has no impact on the social sustainability objectives. Minor positive impacts are identified on the economic sustainability objectives of enabling sustainable economic growth and managing material assets sustainably which the policy delivers on through reusing existing buildings and making the overall environment more attractive. It has a negligible impact on most of the environmental sustainability objectives with the exception of the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage where significant positive impacts are identified. The restoration and reuse of non-listed locally important buildings in settlements will have an indirect benefit on the objective to maintain and enhance landscape character leading to minor positive impacts. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.		
The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.	The preferred option: This option is the only option.	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.		
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.		
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:		
No additional measures have been identified.		

Policy HE14 Enabling Development				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	?	?	?	The application of this policy could deliver new housing, but it is not the mechanism through which housing is normally delivered. It is unlikely to deliver housing that is inclusive / affordable. The overall impact is dependent on what projects come forward under this policy.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Could facilitate new small-scale economic development or tourism provision which could be locally significant, but effects are dependent on what projects are brought forward. The instances of where the policy will be used are likely to be so infrequent that the effect on the objective is uncertain, but the impact is negligible.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	?	?	?	May result in some loss of land - the impact depends on what scale of development is necessary to sustain the restoration of the asset and the location and nature of the development.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	?	?	?	May result in some local loss of biodiversity - the impact depends on what scale of development is necessary to sustain the restoration of the asset and the location and nature of the development. However, legislative requirements for protected species and habitats and mitigation through planting / landscaping could help to overcome significant adverse impacts.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	?	?	?	The impact on landscape character depends on what scale of development is necessary to sustain the restoration of the asset and the location and nature of the development.

<p>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>+</p> <p>+</p> <p>+</p>	<p>This policy would enable the restoration/reuse of a historic building or structure that would otherwise be left to deteriorate. This may have locally important benefits to this objective, especially as criteria include a 'long-term public benefit'. However it is noted that the likelihood and frequency of the policy being applied is very low and consequently the overall impact magnitude is minor.</p>
<p>Summary of Policy:</p>		
<p>Proposals involving enabling development relating to the re-use, restoration or refurbishment of significant places will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated by the applicant through the submission of a Statement of Justification to accompany an application for planning permission that all identified criteria have been met.</p> <p>Historic indications are that this policy would only result in development in very exceptional cases. Over the lifetime of the plan it is anticipated that there will be very few examples where it is applied.</p>		
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p>		
<p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Consistent with regional policy approach - SPPS. Consultation with HED has happened and there is a statutory basis for this policy.</p>		
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p>		
<p>This policy has limited impact on the social sustainability objectives, however the appraisal has identified some potential effects on the objective relating to housing. No impacts are identified for the economic sustainability objectives although some potential effects are possible for enabling sustainable economic growth. However, these are unlikely to be sufficient to raise a perceptible impact on this sustainability objective. Uncertain impacts are recorded for the objectives to protect physical resources and use sustainably, to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity and to maintain and enhance landscape character. This is due to the uncertainty over what location, nature and scale of development could be enabled through this policy. Development with an extensive footprint could have negative impacts, however there may be some opportunities to mitigate or avoid negative effects. A minor positive impact is identified for the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, as this policy will only be applied where significant long-term benefits which deliver public benefit will occur for the heritage asset. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>		
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option.</p>		
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>		
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:</p>		
<p>Although this may cause policies relating to settlement limits vs countryside development to be set aside, it would still be subject to all other relevant policies.</p>		

Policy NH1 European and Ramsar Sites – International; NH2 Species Protected by Law; NH3 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance - National; HN4 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance – Local and NH5 Habitats, Species or Features of Natural Heritage Importance

Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			Explanation
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	The policies are likely to deliver direct and indirect benefits for people's physical and mental health and well-being by providing accessible sites, reserves and local areas with biodiversity features present. These provide people with opportunities for both physical and mental stimulation, as well as providing an amenity value and even educational/learning opportunities through volunteering projects. The policies ensure protection and provision of green and blue infrastructure with its amenity value for people but may also have a dual purpose for people if active travel routes are available.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	There could be indirect benefits to society through the protection and provision of shared spaces with an amenity value, where people can meet and enjoy as well as maybe experience a shared interest such as birdwatching, photography, fishing or climbing.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although there are likely to be volunteering opportunities as well as relevant skills and training courses maintained and created because of the protection awarded to sites and areas applicable under these policies. There are usually school trips to nature conservation areas and such sites/areas are often used for educational and scientific research projects - part of the curriculum.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policies may deliver both positives and negatives for the objective. In areas protected by these policies, some types of economic growth may be inhibited but the policies are able to help protect, maintain and provide the natural environment baseline for the Council to which multiple types of economic venture are reliant - tourism, leisure, landscape and recreation. The policies can also encourage new economic ventures whilst making the Council more attractive to visit, live and invest in.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although some infrastructure may be inhibited if designated sites are to be compromised. Other policy controls utilities in these areas
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	The policies help to protect areas of land and water with multiple varieties of semi-natural land cover as well as earth science features. This approach of the policies helps to retain the land and its soil as an important natural resource.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policies ensure areas of land that can be considered green and blue infrastructure, are protected and maintained. Active travel is often linked to green and blue infrastructure, which can enhance routes/greenways, and so the policies may indirectly help to encourage delivery of this objective.
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	The policies ensure areas of land are protected as green and blue infrastructure across urban and rural areas. This helps to maintain local air quality in those specific areas by enabling areas of green and blue space to act as buffers between developments. These spaces can help diffuse local air pollution particularly when trees are evident - treelines, woods, parkland.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	The policies help to ensure that there are areas of land - designated sites and other areas of green and blue infrastructure, protected and maintained as fully functioning habitats that can naturally store carbon and/or water, as well as provide a cooling effect during hot weather and act as a buffer in areas vulnerable to erosion. Policies help to maintain natural resilience.

<p>11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</p>	+	+	+	<p>The policies help to ensure designated sites and other areas of green and blue infrastructure are protected and maintained as fully functioning habitats. This approach should help to protect wetlands and their buffers as well as watercourses in urban and rural areas. Protected wetlands/watercourses and their buffers are able to more effectively store water, which helps to reduce local flooding during heavy rainfall, but they also help to filter pollutants and are in effect natural SuDS. The approach of the policies helps to protect local water quality, which supports aquatic ecosystems.</p>
<p>12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	+	+	+	<p>The policies help to protect and maintain designated sites and their buffers as well as other areas of green and blue infrastructure across both urban and rural areas where priority habitats and/or species may be present. This approach helps to maintain local biodiversity levels and is more likely to sustain a network of green and blue infrastructure - wildlife corridors. The policies are holistic in their approach, which is likely to enable enhancement of local biodiversity by connecting sites, habitats and species together.</p>
<p>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	+	+	+	<p>The policies help to protect and maintain designated sites and their buffers as well as other areas of green and blue infrastructure across both urban and rural areas. This approach can help to ensure that areas with locally characteristic natural features are protected as an intrinsic part of local landscape. The natural habitats of an area may be indicative of the local fabric and character of an area - drumlins, private gardens, canals, farmed landscapes.</p>
<p>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.</p>	+	+	+	<p>The policies help to ensure areas with green and blue infrastructure are protected and maintained which could include areas where the pattern of fields or hedgerows indicate historical/cultural farming practices. Likewise, canals and their associated structures, or old mills on riverbanks could be included within protected areas thus helping to preserve features from our industrial heritage. Likely to be a secondary feature of some sites.</p>

Summary of Policy:

NH 1- Planning permission will only be granted for a development proposal that, either individually or in combination with existing and/or proposed plans or projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on:

- a European Site (Special Protection Area, proposed Special Protection Area, Special Areas of Conservation, candidate Special Areas of Conservation and Sites of Community Importance); or
- a listed or proposed Ramsar Site

NH 2- Planning permission will only be granted for a development proposal that is not likely to harm a European protected species.

NH 3 - Planning permission will only be granted for a development proposal that is not likely to have an adverse effect on the integrity, including the value of the site to the habitat network, or special interest of:

- an Area of Special Scientific Interest;
- a National Nature Reserve; or
- a Nature Reserve.

NH 4 - Planning permission will only be granted for a development proposal that is not likely to have a significant adverse impact on:

- a Local Nature Reserve; or
- a Wildlife Refuge.

A development proposal which could have a significant adverse impact on a site of local importance may only be permitted where the benefits of the proposed development outweigh the value of the site.

In such cases, appropriate mitigation and/or compensatory measures will be required.

NH 5 - Planning permission will only be granted for a development proposal which is not likely to result in the unacceptable adverse impact on, or damage to known:

- priority habitats;
- priority species;
- active peatland;
- ancient and long-established woodland;
- features of earth science conservation importance;
- features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild flora and fauna;
- rare or threatened native species;
- wetlands (includes river corridors); or
- other natural heritage features worthy of protection.

Reasonable Alternatives:

No reasonable alternatives were considered. The policies are consistent with regional policy and there is a statutory and legislative requirement for the policies - PPS2, the Habitats Regulations, the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act and its Biodiversity Duty on Councils.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: The policies are predicted to deliver positive outcomes for some of the social and economic sustainability objectives and the majority of environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for improving health and well-being and strengthening society based upon the policies providing accessible nature conservation sites and green and blue infrastructure that are likely to be shared spaces with benefits for people's physical and mental health and well-being. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for improving air quality, reducing the causes of climate change, protecting and managing water resources sustainably, and protecting the historic environment. These positive outcomes were based upon the policies protecting areas of land that can act as buffers to pollution whilst maintaining natural resilience to the effects of climate change whilst protecting wetland habitat that can help to maintain local water quality and aquatic ecosystems. Likewise, the policies would be able to protect any historic/cultural features located within the sites. Significant positive outcomes were also identified for the objectives to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity, and maintain and enhance landscape character. Significant positives were based upon the holistic approach of the policies protecting designated sites and their buffers as well as other areas of green and blue infrastructure with priority habitats and/or species present. The holistic approach of the policies would also help to ensure that natural features and habitats likely to be indicative of the local fabric and character of an area are protected. Significant positive outcomes were also identified for delivery of the economic objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably. These outcomes were based upon the policies protecting areas of greenfield land as well as earth science features across both urban and rural areas. The approach of the policies should help to retain land and its soil as an important natural resource from inappropriate development. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

<p>The most sustainable option: NH1-5 European and Ramsar Sites - International, Species Protected by Law; Sites of Nature Conservation Importance - National; Sites of Nature Conservation Importance - Local; Habitats, Species or Features of Natural Heritage Importance: These options were the only options; the appraisal has considered them to be sustainable options.</p>	<p>The preferred option: These options were the only options.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positive effects were identified for delivery of the protecting physical resources objective as well as the protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity objective, and maintaining and enhancing landscape character.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Biodiversity checklist. Cross reference with other relevant policy - UT1.</p>	

Policy NH6 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	The policy helps to retain and protect an area of green and blue infrastructure, which provides an amenity value due to its landscape quality. As a natural resource/asset, it can also help contribute to people's physical health and mental well-being by providing people with an accessible area where they can take part in exercise, recreation and leisure. It is an open and green space able to provide people with an easily accessible escape from the urban environment where people from different communities and generations can enjoy together.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	The policy helps to retain and protect an area of green and blue infrastructure, which provides an amenity value due to its landscape quality but is an easily accessible shared space where people from different communities and across generations can enjoy together. The policy helps to sustain a significant open space area as a meeting place for people to use - residents and visitors.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	The policy helps to retain and protect an area of green and blue infrastructure, which provides an amenity value due to its landscape quality but is also an easily accessible shared space where people can experience the natural environment and see historical heritage too - open-air educational resource. There are multiple opportunities for environmental education initiatives as well as raising awareness amongst people about the area. Interpretative boards have been placed along the canal to explain the history of Lagan Navigation and monitoring of the waterways and plants takes place. There are also facilities for teaching outdoor recreational activities.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policy helps to retain and protect an area of green and blue infrastructure, which provides an amenity value due to its landscape quality but it is also an easily accessible shared space where people from different communities and ages can participate in outdoor activities. It makes the area more attractive to live, visit and invest in. This creates a spin-off effect where visitors to the area then use local facilities and services and help add to local footfall and vibrancy. Local ventures include cafes, restaurants and hot food vans. The park is an all year round tourism asset so its benefits are not seasonal. This strengthens its importance within the local economy as a natural resource that can deliver positives all year.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although there are access nodes to help manage distribution of material assets.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	The policy helps to retain a significant area of land as semi-natural land cover with both green and blue infrastructure present. The policy helps to protect the land and its soil, which delivers positives for the proper functioning of the land as a natural resource - avoiding/minimising erosion and filtering pollutants.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The policy helps to retain and protect a significant area of green and blue infrastructure, which is accessed at several points. There is already a full active travel route in place for walking, running and cycling. The policy should help support enhancement of the greenway which runs through the Lagan Valley AONB.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy does help to retain a significant area of open and green space, which helps to maintain local air quality by acting as a buffer between land uses and diffusing pollutants. Tree cover is also evident within the area, which helps to reduce carbon levels and filters air pollutants, including those from the local farmland within the area.

<p>10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>The policy helps to retain and protect a significant area of land, which is mostly semi-natural land cover and with both green and blue infrastructure. This enables carbon and water both to be stored through the conservation of various habitats and natural features that are present and important for these roles. When there are periods of heavy rainfall the area can help to store water and reduce the risk of local flooding. The area also enables people to walk, run or cycle to work and some commutes are already being replaced by quicker active travel commutes. There is farmland in the area and cattle are also grazed so there are adverse effects on climate from this policy. How much this outweighs the positives of the policy for climate is slightly uncertain and so this is reflected in the score.</p>
<p>11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>The policy helps to retain and protect a significant area of land, which is mostly semi-natural land cover and with both green and blue infrastructure but watercourses in the area are particularly prominent. The Lagan River and its buffer acts as a natural floodplain and helps to filter local run off from farmland and transport corridors. The watercourses help to filter water and act as natural Suds.</p>
<p>12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>The policy helps to retain and protect a significant area of land, which is mostly semi-natural land cover made of green and blue infrastructure. This helps to maintain local biodiversity levels as well as protecting the natural heritage of the area by awarding protection to the habitats and species present. The policy in effect, retains the area as multiple local wildlife corridors.</p>
<p>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>The policy helps to retain and protect a significant area of green and blue infrastructure, which provides a high amenity value due to its landscape quality. The policy supports landscape scale conservation, where the setting of the area and its views within and from outside are protected. It enables a green wedge affect and adds local distinctiveness.</p>
<p>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>The policy helps to retain and protect a significant area of green and blue infrastructure, which provides a high amenity value due to its landscape quality but also enables preservation of historical features located within the area and provides access to them. There are numerous examples of canals, towpaths, bridges, old mills and their associated living areas, all dating from the industrial era. These are conserved within the local character of the area and some are in daily use, which helps with their maintenance. The policy should help sustain preservation of the historic and cultural aspects of the area. Any new buildings should consider using local materials and locally characteristic designs so that they are integrated to the local setting.</p>
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>Planning permission for new development within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will only be granted where it is of an appropriate design, size and scale for the locality and all the following criteria are met:</p> <p>a) the siting and scale of the proposal is sympathetic to the special character of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in general and of the particular locality; and</p> <p>b) it respects or conserves features (including buildings and other man-made features) of importance to the character, appearance or heritage of the landscape; and</p> <p>c) the proposal respects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ local architectural styles and patterns; ▪ traditional boundary details, by retaining features such as hedges, walls, trees and gates; and ▪ local materials, design and colour. 				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternative was considered. The policy is consistent with regional policy - SPSS.</p>				

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

The policy is predicted to deliver positive outcomes across the social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives with significant positives recorded for several of these objectives. Minor positives were recorded for improving health and well-being, and strengthening society. These outcomes were based upon the policy retaining and protecting a natural resource or asset that contributes to people’s physical health and mental well-being by providing people with an accessible shared space where people from different communities and across generations can take part in exercise, recreation and leisure. Minor positives were also predicted for the enabling access to high quality education objective because the policy helps to provide an open-air educational resource with multiple opportunities for environmental education initiatives as well as raising awareness amongst people about the area. Minor positives were also recorded for some of the economic objectives including enabling sustainable economic growth and protecting physical resources and using sustainably. Positives were based upon the policy providing a significant area of land as semi-natural land cover with both green and blue infrastructure present, which makes the area more attractive to invest in and to visit. The AONB is also an all year-round tourism asset, which strengthens its importance to the local economy. The policy helps to protect land and soil, which delivers positives for the proper functioning of the land as a natural resource. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the active and sustainable travel objective; and the protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably. Positives were based upon the policy retaining and protecting a significant area of green and blue infrastructure, with a full active travel route in place for walking, running and cycling. However, uncertain outcomes were predicted for delivery of the climate change objective based on the location of farmland in the area with grazing cattle. How much this outweighs the positives of the policy - carbon and water storage, flood risk, biodiversity conservation, and active travel, is slightly uncertain. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for several of the environmental objectives including delivery of the natural resources and enhancing biodiversity objective, maintaining and enhancing landscape character; and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Significant positive outcomes were based upon the policy protecting a significant area of land, which is mostly semi-natural land cover - green and blue infrastructure and helps to maintain local biodiversity levels. The policy facilitates landscape scale conservation and is able to provide an area of a high amenity value due to its landscape quality as well as preserve historical and cultural features located within the area. Any new buildings are expected to integrate with local setting by using local materials and locally characteristic designs. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

The most sustainable option: NH6 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.

The preferred option: This option is the only option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positive effects were identified for delivery of several of the environmental sustainability objectives including protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, maintaining and enhancing landscape character; and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural resources.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

AONB management plan. AoHSV, LCAs. Cross-over with other relevant policies.

Policy TRA1 Creating an Accessible Environment				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	The policy aims to deliver health benefits both physically and mentally by enabling physical activity whilst being in the outdoors. The policy should help improve accessibility to facilities and services including healthcare as well as to each other. The policy is able to help increase social contact amongst people which brings with it positives for people's mental well-being.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	The policy aims to improve accessibility for people to each other but also to local facilities and services including parks. Enabling people to walk or cycle provides an opportunity for people to use a shared linear space/resource and to meet people from different communities and across generations. The policy aims to deliver on inclusivity and should be able to help reduce any inequalities there may be regarding access to places and between people.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	The policy should be able to address the specific needs of people through the design of their living areas and the buildings they reside in. The approach of the policy supports delivery of lifetime homes and is able to improve the local design of residential areas. It can help improve accessibility to and from homes, which makes them more sustainable, and of a certain quality.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	The policy should be able to improve, or ensure accessibility to local schools, community centres, libraries and any other local educational resources. This approach to improving accessibility could enable people without access to internet facilities to be able to study, or enable people without access to a car to be able to attend a training course to help improve their employability.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policy aims to improve accessibility, which should make it easier for people to get to and from work. It is likely to help make the Council area a more attractive place to live, work and invest in and could indirectly attract more employers to the area.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although active travel routes do use land albeit to a small scale relative to other land uses and it can be dual purpose.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The policy aims to promote and deliver for sustainable and active travel. It aims to encourage people from using private motorised vehicles to a more sustainable mode - modal shift. The approach of the policy aims to enable people to use public transport or opt to cycle or walk to work, or school, rather than use the car.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Negligible effect however the policy aims to reduce reliance on the car and other modes of private vehicle use by aiming to promote and facilitate sustainable and active travel options. These have much less of an impact on local air quality to none at all and are potentially able to improve air quality in the long term.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Negligible effect however the policy aims to reduce reliance on the car and other modes of private vehicle use by aiming to promote and facilitate sustainable and active travel options - public transport, walking and cycling. These have much less greenhouse gas emissions to none at all and are potentially able to reduce emissions through choice of mode of travel, or the number of journeys being made. The active travel routes may be located on green and blue infrastructure, which can be multipurpose in that it may be land that can flood, or land that can be planted up with trees which can store carbon.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy should enable improved accessibility to historic buildings for people without a car so helping to reduce potential inequalities between people and their class background concerning shared access to historical and cultural resources.
Summary of Policy:				
<p>The external layout of all development proposals will incorporate, where appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ facilities to aid accessibility e.g. level access to buildings, provision of dropped kerbs and tactile paving, etc., together with the removal of any unnecessary obstructions; ▪ convenient movement along pathways and an unhindered approach to buildings; ▪ priority pedestrian movement within and between land uses; and ▪ ease of access to reserved car parking, public transport facilities and taxi ranks. 				
Reasonable Alternatives:				
No reasonable alternative has been identified - consistent with regional policy - SPPS and PPS3.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:				
<p>The policy was predicted to deliver positive outcomes for all of the social sustainability objectives, for the economic objective to enable sustainable economic growth, and for the environmental objective to deliver active and sustainable travel. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the social objectives for sustainable housing and access to high quality education objectives. Positives were based upon the policy addressing the specific needs of people through quality design of their living areas, including accessibility to their homes as well as local educational resources. Significant positive outcomes were also predicted for the remaining social sustainability objectives to improve health and well-being, and strengthening society. Significant positive outcomes were based upon the policy improving accessibility to healthcare facilities and services, as well as shared spaces for physical activity where social cohesion and inclusivity can help to reduce inequalities and benefit people both physically and mentally. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the sustainable economic growth objective based upon the policy improving accessibility, which should make the Council area a more attractive place to investors but also for people to live and work. Significant positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the active and sustainable travel objective. These significant positives were based upon the policy aiming to encourage people away from using the car to a more sustainable mode of transport such as public transport, cycling or walking. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				

<p>The most sustainable option: TRA1 Creating an Accessible Environment: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positive effects were identified for delivery of the improving health and well-being, strengthening society, and encouraging active and sustainable travel objectives.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: No additional measures have been identified.</p>	

Policy TRA2 & TRA3: Access to Public Roads, Access to Protected Routes				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	The policies aim to improve safety levels on the road by tightening up on measures, which should increase the sense of safety for all road users. The risk of traffic accidents and risk to life are likely to be reduced because of these policies. The policies should help enable road users to access the road network safely through specific design standards that must be met, such as visibility splays.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although a housing application in the countryside could be affected if proper access could not be feasible. However, a house in such a location would not be sustainable.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policies do help to facilitate traffic flow, which links to the efficient transport of goods and services within the economy.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policies are likely to facilitate an increase in curtilage particularly in the wider countryside due to new laneways and/or new or intensified accesses.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policies facilitate use of motorised vehicles rather than active travel however, the policies support the future use of motorised vehicles and public bus services may be opted for.
9... improve air quality.	-	-	-	The policies facilitate car use to new areas, or at an increased level to existing areas. The approach of the policies is likely to increase local car numbers in specific areas and possibly create congestion although any impact on local air quality is likely to be only temporary and unlikely to be of any significant threat to people's health. There is uncertainty around the scale of possible accesses under these policies and the number of road users that may need to use them. This uncertainty is reflected in the score as a minor negative.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policies facilitate motorised vehicle use, which is likely to generate greenhouse gas emissions, they do not promote car use itself and public bus services may be opted for.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the potential loss of natural features such as hedgerows is referred to in the policies and should be avoided with any losses compensated for by replanting. This approach should help to maintain local biodiversity levels.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the approach of the policies aiming to minimise the number of access points and protect local features like hedgerows that may be intrinsic to the local landscape character, should help avoid any potential adverse impacts on local landscape.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the approach of the policies aiming to minimise the number of access points and protect local features like field boundaries that may be culturally important or include locally important historic features, should help avoid any adverse impacts on the historic environment.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>TRA 2: Planning permission will only be granted for a development proposal involving direct access, or the intensification of the use of an existing access, onto a public road where:</p> <p>a) it will not prejudice road safety or significantly inconvenience the flow of traffic; and</p> <p>b) it does not conflict with Policy TRA 3 Access to Protected Routes.</p> <p>TRA 3: The Council will restrict the number of new accesses and control the level of use of existing accesses onto Protected Routes.</p>				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives identified - Consistent with regional policy - SPPS and PPS3.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The policies were predicted to deliver negligible effects or to have no effect across most of the sustainability objectives although significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objective to improve health and well-being but a minor negative outcome was predicted against the environmental objective to improve air quality. Significant positive outcomes were predicted because the policies aim to improve road safety for all road users by tightening up on measures to reduce any risk of traffic accidents and risk to life. Measures could include enabling road users on to the road safely through specific design standards such as visibility splays. The negative outcomes predicted against the air quality objective were based upon the policies facilitating car use as well as into new areas. The approach of the policies is likely to increase local car numbers in specific areas which may create congestion. Although any impact on local air quality is likely to be temporary, there is uncertainty around the number of possible accesses and road users that may need to use them. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				
<p>The most sustainable option: TRA2 - TRA3: These options were the only options; the appraisal has considered them to be sustainable options.</p>			<p>The preferred option: These options are the only options.</p>	
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positive effects were identified for delivery of the improving health and well-being objective.</p>				

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Cross-over with other relevant policies.

TRA4 Protection for New Transport Schemes				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	+	+	The policy will protect transport schemes which will reduce travel times across the council area and beyond. Protection is also afforded to pedestrian and cycle routes which have health benefits in the longer term. Upgrading of the transport network will reduce congestion and reduce the potential number of road accidents again achievable over the long term. This policy builds in an element of future proofing and upgrading of the entire network.
2... strengthen society.	0	+	+	The policy could provide new and alternative routes which improve the overall connectivity across the council area and beyond. These could be shared spaces with positives for people through increased social contact and interaction.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	+	+	The policy could result in new housing developments being better integrated to the network both by active travel routes and/or linkages to local public transport provision. This may result in certain housing developments becoming more attractive for people to live due to the new linkages provided by such schemes.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No effect is envisaged by this policy. The only indirect impact could be routes make travel to such places easier and quicker.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	+	+	The protection of the new transport schemes will help improve the immediate local infrastructure, and the connection to the wider transport network. This is key driver for the efficient functioning of the local economy be that by business or the private citizen. The old adage time is money is vitally important to any business getting product to and from its market place. It can result in the local area and the council area in general more economically attractive for inward investment. It also makes the area easier to traverse making it a place more attractive to live in or visit. The introduction of more active travel routes which are more sustainable over the longer term are likely to support areas being more viable adding vibrancy and vitality to these areas.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	+	+	The policy helps protect land ensuring an adequate amount of land is retained for future transport schemes. These schemes are considered vital to the future of a sustainable transport network. The policy is a strategic approach in conjunction with other providers to the provision of land for local infrastructure (roads) which could also be used for pipelines, electrical infrastructure and telecommunications. The option provides a degree of certainty in how such infrastructure will be delivered.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	-	-	The protection of land and identifying it at local policy plan stage can result in a sterilisation of land. In the long term it will result in the loss of greenfield land to facilitate such development. Some development will be more acceptable options such as active travel routes could present an opportunity to retain/add to local green infrastructure.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	+	+	The policy will enable active travel networks to be delivered as well as other road schemes which improve the overall accessibility to public transport links. The policy again provides a degree of certainty in how it all of this integrated infrastructure provision can be delivered. The new transport schemes will under the correct conditions result in a modal shift over the longer term encouraging active travel by providing improved access to active travel routes and a wider active travel network.
9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	Any provision for new road infrastructure could potentially lead to an increase in emissions, which could result in an effect on local air quality in specific areas. The improved network could however reduce congestion issues in specific areas reducing or even improving the air quality at that specific location. An uptake in active travel and a modal shift could have a positive impact on local air quality by the simple reduction of vehicles using the road network. There is a degree of uncertainty around the delivery of the schemes and their ultimate success in moving people out of the private car.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	Any new road infrastructure could potentially increase the use of vehicles emitting greenhouse gas emissions however the reverse is true as it could result in less vehicles on the road due to active travel and park and ride provision. Hence the jury has to be out the impact such schemes will have on climate change by reducing the number of vehicles on the road. The policy allows for each scenario to happen but the overall aim is to reduce the causes of climate change.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	No effect is envisaged by this policy.

<p>12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	-	-	-	<p>To protect natural resources a level of compensatory measures would need to be employed. These could include planting along new roads while the biodiversity along proposed active travel routes could be more easily retained and enhanced. It is more likely that a roads scheme will result in the inevitable loss of greenfield land to provide for the development and other associated development. The plus to this is the protected lands identified may not come forward for a variety of reasons and during that time the biodiversity in that area will thrive.</p>
<p>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	0	0	0	<p>The policy will lead to the loss of greenfield land if implemented however no development would be permitted in the most sensitive of locations. Visual intrusion would be kept to a minimum. The landscape is adaptable to change and over time many schemes become part of the landscape. Active travel networks can in many instances improve the appearance of the landscape with planting and other features.</p>
<p>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>	0	0	0	<p>No effect is envisaged by this policy as routes would not be approved which could negatively impact on the built environment. Proposals to enhance this by way of inclusion within a scheme would be encouraged. A listed building could become a hub for an active travel scheme or even a destination point for a new transport scheme.</p>
<p>Summary of Policy:</p>				
<p>The policy is protective in nature in that permission will not be granted that would prejudice the implementation of a transport scheme as identified in the local development plan.</p>				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p>				
<p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p>				
<p>By facilitating the provision of new transport routes across the council and beyond, including routes for walking and cycling, this policy can enhance connectivity and has a minor positive effect in the medium and long term on all of the social sustainability objectives. Positive effects are also identified in the medium and long term for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to manage material assets sustainably. As the policy would protect routes for a range of different transport options, a mixture of impacts are identified for the environmental sustainability objectives. As walking and cycling routes are developed and linked into an overall integrated transport network the effects on the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel will strengthen from negligible over the short term to significant positive in the long term. The protected routes are largely in undeveloped sites and consequently the development of new transport infrastructure could result in the loss of greenfield land and biodiversity, leading to minor negative impacts for these objectives. Effects on improving air quality and reducing causes of and adapt to climate change are uncertain, as the policy includes routes for roads as well as active and sustainable transport modes and it is unclear where the balance will lie. The impacts on the other environmental sustainability objectives are anticipated to be negligible. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				
<p>The most sustainable option: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>			<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are significant positive effects identified for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel in the long term timescale.</p>				

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

No additional measures are identified.

Policy TRA 5: Strategic Greenways and Disused Transport Routes				
Option	New Policy Provision.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	+	The policy aims to protect or preserve land for future use as a greenway, but there are uncertainties as to when or even if this will be deliverable. In the longer term, there could be positive outcomes for people's physical and mental health and well-being if the greenways were delivered for recreation, leisure or commuting purposes.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	+	The policy aims to protect or preserve land for future use as a greenway, but there are uncertainties as to when or even if this will be deliverable. In the longer term, there could be positive outcomes for strengthening society as people from different communities would have access to a shared linear space and be able to interact across the generations and develop connections with other people and places.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although there could be potential local economic benefits from the use of the greenways, as the footfall could help to sustain existing associated economic ventures like bike shops and cafes but also support new ones as well. The tourism, leisure and hospitality sector could benefit most but so too could local recreational businesses and outdoor activity providers. The policy helps to preserve land for future opportunities by protecting current conditions.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy is able to help retain land/soil from other development. There may also be links to earth science sites where the policy approach to preserve the land for future greenway use helps to conserve the earth science interest.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The policy aligns with the Department for Infrastructure's (DfI) strategic greenway network and so the policy helps to futureproof the Council for their potential delivery.
9... improve air quality.	0	+	+	The policy preserves land for future use as a greenway, which should enable more people to choose to walk, cycle, or run to work or school; or to visit people or places. Greenways can help to reduce the number of cars on the road by enabling walking and cycling for commuting, as well as for recreational purposes. They may help reduce traffic congestion, which is when air quality can become an issue. There are a number of potential greenway routes linked to Belfast, which could become particularly important for commuters. The potential to improve local air quality in the longer term is reflected in the score.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	+	+	The policy preserves land for future use as a greenway, which should enable more people to choose to walk, cycle, or run to work or school; or to visit people and places. Greenways can help to reduce the number of cars on the road by enabling walking and cycling for commuting. They may help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. There are a number of potential routes linked to Belfast, which could become particularly important for commuters. The retention of land for greenways means retaining green space, which is likely to be considered as green and blue infrastructure. This land is likely to be semi-natural with natural features present, which can help to store carbon and water and at the same time provide a cooling effect during hotter weather. The positives for the objective are reflected in the score.

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy could help to support buffering of watercourses where potential greenways may be located such as the Blaris site.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	The policy aims to preserve the opportunity for future greenways and so it aims to facilitate that delivery by protecting the land from other uses. The semi-natural land cover, natural features and buffers are all protected. This approach should help to maintain local biodiversity levels in those areas and overtime may help to enhance it too. The greenways themselves present linear opportunities to integrate native planting, add buffering to watercourses, and connect to wildlife corridors so adding to the local green and blue infrastructure network.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	The policy aims to preserve the opportunity for future greenways and so it aims to facilitate that delivery by protecting the land from other uses. The semi-natural land cover, natural features and buffers to these greenways can be protected. The policy approach to these sites should help to retain natural features and areas that make up the local fabric and context of the local landscape.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	The policy aims to preserve the opportunity for future greenways and so it aims to facilitate that delivery by protecting the land from other uses. The historical and cultural buildings and features within these greenways can also be protected and their preservation for future use as a greenway may enable their future conservation. The policy approach to these sites should help to retain important remnants of our industrial and transport heritage. The approach is likely to enable an increased level of accessibility to the historic environment.
Summary of Policy:				
Planning permission will not be granted for development that would prejudice primary and secondary Greenways or the future re-use of a disused transport route identified in the Local Development Plan for transport or recreational purposes.				
Reasonable Alternatives:				
No reasonable alternative identified. This is a new policy.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:				
The policy was predicted to deliver minor positive outcomes for some of the social sustainability objectives and the majority of the environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive outcomes in the long term were predicted for improving health and well-being, and for strengthening society. These positives were based upon the policy facilitating the provision of land for future greenways where people would be able to benefit both physically and mentally from access to a shared linear space to walk, cycle or run for recreation and leisure, or commuting purposes. People from different communities would have access to the greenways and be able to socially interact with other people and develop connections to other places. Negligible or no effects were predicted for the economic objectives but minor positive effects were predicted for the majority of the environmental objectives including air quality, climate change, water resources, natural resources, landscape character and the historic environment. These positive outcomes were based upon the policy aiming to provide land that can help to reduce car use by facilitating active travel with likely positive effects for local air quality. The retention of land for greenways adds to green and blue infrastructure and helps to maintain and enhance local biodiversity levels but also natural resilience to the effects of climate change. The land to be preserved for the potential greenways also helps to retain natural features that make up the local fabric and context of the local landscape, as well as historical and cultural features from our industrial and transport heritage. This approach increases accessibility for people to the historic environment. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.				

<p>The most sustainable option: TRA5 Strategic Greenways and Disused Transport Routes: This option was the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positive effects were identified for delivery of the environmental sustainability objective to encourage active and sustainable travel.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Best practice consultation with NIEA and compliance to wildlife legislation. Crossover with other relevant policies. Dfl route plans. Proposals to be considered at Local Policies Plan stage.</p>	

Policy TRA 6: Transport Assessment				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy should help to increase safety for people and reduce accidents, or reduce nuisance impacts such as noise on people. It also enables active travel within the plan, which can deliver positives for people’s physical health and mental well-being through physical activity and social contact.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy should help improve connectivity and accessibility for people within different communities to their local services and facilities as well as each other - reducing inequalities.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy encourages connectivity and accessibility through active travel routes within the design of housing developments and should help to meet locally identified needs such as accessible walkways to local bus and/or train stops.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy encourages connectivity and accessibility through active travel routes, which could be linked to local schools and libraries and help to provide all families access to these resources - reducing inequalities.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policy enables the majority of people accessibility to local services and facilities, as well as places of employment. Potential spin-offs from development could be that it becomes a local stimulus for more business in the area thus creating more jobs.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy is likely to help enable the minerals industry to operate sustainably for example by ensuring access to a site. Likewise, the Transport Assessment should help to ensure the most efficient use of land and minimise the amount of land used for roads.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The policy focuses on all modes of transport including public and active travel. The Transport Assessment should identify and consider all modes fairly so that car use can be avoided/reduced and opportunities for active travel and more sustainable travel options maximised.
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	The policy focuses on all modes of transport including public and active travel. It aims to maximise opportunities to avoid car use and enable other transport modes that have fewer to zero air pollutants. The policy approach should be able to help reduce traffic congestion, which can create local air quality issues.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	The policy focuses on all modes of transport including public and active travel. It aims to maximise opportunities to avoid car use and enable other transport modes that have fewer to zero greenhouse gas emissions. The policy approach should be able to help reduce the number of cars on the road as well as facilitate and encourage active travel.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy may lead to an increase in curtilage which could increase run-off in local areas but the Transport Assessment should help to ensure the most efficient use of land and address any potential water quality issues.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy should consider local biodiversity and enable measures for species/habitats to be delivered - for example badger passes.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
Summary of Policy:				
In order to evaluate the transport implications of a development proposal the Council will, where appropriate, require developers to submit a Transport Assessment.				
Reasonable Alternatives:				
No reasonable alternative has been identified - consistent with regional policy - SPPS and PPS3.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: The policy was identified to have negligible or no effects on all of the social sustainability objectives and the majority of the remaining sustainability objectives. Positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of one of the economic sustainability objectives and several of the environmental objectives. Minor positive effects were identified for the enabling sustainable economic growth. These outcomes were based upon the policy enabling the majority of people accessibility to local services and facilities, as well as places of employment, with potential for more business in the area thus creating more jobs. Minor positive effects were also predicted for delivery of the climate change objective based upon the policy facilitating and encouraging other modes of transport to the car with fewer or zero greenhouse gas emissions. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the active and sustainable travel objective and improving air quality. These outcomes were based upon the policy focusing fairly on all modes of transport including public and active travel so that reliance on the car can be avoided/reduced. Active travel and more sustainable travel options have fewer to zero air pollutants. The policy approach should be able to help reduce the number of cars on the road as well as traffic congestion and so help to reduce or avoid any potential local air quality issues. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.				
The most sustainable option: TRA6 Transport Assessment: This option was the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.			The preferred option: This option is the only option.	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positive effects were identified for delivery of the environmental sustainability objectives to encourage active and sustainable travel, and to improve air quality.				
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.				

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Cross over with other relevant policy. Drainage Assessments. Review of Transport Assessment guidance and the inclusion of electric charging points.

Policy TRA7 Car Parking and Servicing Arrangements in New Developments; TRA9 Park & Ride/Park & Share Car Parks; TRA10 Provision of Public and Private Car Parks and TRA11 Temporary Car Parks

Option				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policies enable access to healthcare and related services and facilities by car. The policies help to safeguard adequate parking where it may be essential. Adequate parking provision can give people peace of mind and they may feel safer and more comfortable leaving their car in an assigned area. There is also provision for cycling facilities.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policies may enable people to travel to shared spaces and access facilities and services where people can benefit from social interaction.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policies may help to meet the needs of specific groups/families/individuals as the number of parking spaces links to the type of house. This may be particularly relevant when less abled people are tenants. b
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policies can enable adequate access to education facilities and may increase accessibility particularly in rural areas.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policies facilitate delivery of an important aspect of local economic ventures. Parking is essential for most types of business - staff and customers and deliveries. The type of parking needed is likely to vary a lot depending on the location of the business but also the type of business –shifts, distribution networks. Park and rides can also help to move people efficiently from place to place without reliance on the car for full journeys. Adequate parking is an important aspect for many jobs but the policies are also able to help support local vibrancy across the Council and help to sustain footfall in retail areas.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policies may enable the reuse of vacant or derelict land.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	-	-	The policies facilitate delivery of adequate parking and controls over temporary parking but there is a use of land, which could be brownfield or greenfield. Under the policies there is more likely to be a loss of greenfield land with potential risks to soil quality. For example, likely park and ride locations tend to be on the edge of settlements.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Policy TRA 7 - full amount of parking doesn't need to be delivered - x spaces/unit but alternative modes of transport if promoted then the parking can be reduced. Policy TRA 9 - encourages park and ride/share which potentially helps to reduce reliance on the car, the length of journeys made by car, and the number of cars on the road. Policy TRA 10 - need for car park to be identified
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policies aim to provide adequate parking they also aim to control the amount of parking provided and to encourage reduced reliance on the car which should help to reduce emissions from motorised vehicles.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policies aim to provide adequate parking they also aim to control the amount of parking provided and to encourage reduced reliance on the car which should help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from motorised vehicles.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policies may require drainage assessments and SuDS are referred to in TRA 10.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policies may pose a risk to local biodiversity particularly in greenfield areas. There are some brownfield sites likely to be suitable for development but park and ride/share locations tend to be located on the edge of settlements. Crossover with Natural Heritage policies would be important whilst Policy TRA 10 refers to respecting local character and adjacent land uses.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policies facilitate parking provision mostly located within settlement limits, they also facilitate delivery of park and ride locations on the edge of settlements and within rural areas where a need is identified. Integration of all sites would be expected to help with visual amenity.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although policy TRA7 may help to reduce parking provision on or near to historic environment features or settings as historic settlement patterns are directly referred to in the policy, as well as consideration of rear servicing facilities.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>TRA 7 - Development proposals should provide adequate provision for car parking and appropriate servicing arrangements....</p> <p>TRA 9 - Planning permission will be granted for new, or an extension to an existing, Park and Ride/Park and Share car parks, where they meet an identified need provided by Central Government through the Local Transport.</p> <p>TRA 10 - Planning permission will be granted for public or private car parks where it is demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ they meet an identified need by reference to the Council’s overall car parking strategy; ▪ they do not significantly contribute to an increase in congestion; ▪ within areas of parking restraint they are only used for short-stay parking; ▪ they are compatible with adjoining land uses; ▪ they respect local character and will not have an adverse effect on visual amenity; and ▪ they are secure and provide direct and safe access for pedestrians and cyclists. <p>TRA 11 - Planning permission will not be granted for the development of a temporary car park unless it is demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ it is submitted in conjunction with programmed proposals to develop / redevelop the site in question; or, ▪ It complies with Policy TRA 10 and the developer can show that a need exists which cannot be met in the short term by existing public or the private operators; <p>Planning permission, if granted, will be subject to a time-limited condition, typically no more than for a period of 1 year.</p>				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives have been identified. Policies TRA9 and TRA10 are new policy, policies TRA7 and TRA11 are consistent with Regional policy direction).</p>				

<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: The policies were identified to have negligible effects against all of the social sustainability objectives and the majority of the environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted against the economic sustainability objective to enable sustainable economic growth. These positives were based upon the policies facilitating adequate parking, which is an important aspect of business for everyday functions as well as for staff and customers. Park and rides can also help to move people efficiently from place to place without reliance on the car for full journeys. The policies support local vibrancy across the Council area and help to sustain footfall in retail areas. Minor positive outcomes were also identified for delivery of the environmental objective to encourage active and sustainable travel. Positives were based upon the policies encouraging alternative modes of transport to the car for different journeys as well as the need for car parking to be identified. However, adverse effects of the policies on the economic objective for physical resources were identified. Minor negative outcomes were predicted based upon potential impacts on soil and the likely loss of greenfield land particularly due to development of park and ride sites that tend to be located on the edge of settlements. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>	
<p>The most sustainable option: TRA7, 9, 10 & 11 - Car Parking and Servicing Arrangements in New Developments, Park & Ride/Park & Share Car Parks, Provision of Public and Private Car Parks, Temporary Car Parks: These options are the only options; the appraisal has considered these to be sustainable options.</p>	<p>The preferred option: These options are the only options; the appraisal has considered these to be sustainable options.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant positive effects of the policies were identified across any of the sustainability objectives.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Cross over with other relevant policy - Natural Heritage policies and Flooding (FLD3). Drainage Assessments. Transport Assessment or Travel Plan.</p>	

Policy TRA 8: Active Travel Networks and Infrastructure Provision				
Option	New Policy Provision.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	The primary motivation of the policy is to physically connect people and places - enabling recreational and leisure pursuits with positive benefits for people's physical and mental health and general well-being.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	The primary motivation of the policy is to physically connect people and places thus enabling social cohesion. It can enable access to a shared, linear space. The policy refers to the modal shift towards sustainable transport and the associated benefits such as increased social interaction and community connection through the greenway.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although there are likely to be indirect benefits for the quality of life of residents because the policy can add to the fabric of the residential development.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy is likely to help enable active travel access to some educational facilities.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy is likely to generate spin-off benefits that may increase the attractiveness of the Council area as a place to work, live and invest in.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy is likely to retain land/soil for active travel use and may help to minimise the amount of curtilage.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The policy's primary motivation is to physically connect people and places using the mode of active travel. The policy facilitates, supports and encourages active travel as an alternative mode of transport for people to choose rather than using the car. This may help to reduce congestion particularly if commuters can opt for the active travel route. It should help people without access to a vehicle to be able to access more easily local services and facilities. It should also help people walk or cycle to a destination, or to a public transport hub for a further sustainable journey.
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	The policy's primary motivation is to physically connect people and places using the mode of active travel. The policy provides a means for people to be able to choose not to travel to work or school or to the shops by motorised vehicle. This should help to reduce emissions of air pollutants and help to maintain local air quality. If the routes align with popular commutes then the potential to improve local air quality is there.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	The policy's primary motivation is to physically connect people and places using the mode of active travel. This should mean a reduced level of reliance on motorised vehicles with other modes of transport with zero greenhouse gas emissions facilitated, supported and encouraged. The policy helps to futureproof the Council for a low carbon future. There may also be potential for green and blue infrastructure along these routes where integration of natural features could help to store carbon and/or water. The retention of land with semi-natural land cover helps to increase the natural resilience of the local environment.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.

<p>12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Negligible effect although the policy’s primary motivation is to physically connect people and places using the mode of active travel and greenways. These provide linear opportunities for integration and conservation of green and blue infrastructure, particularly within housing proposals. Local biodiversity could be enhanced along routes using native planting schemes and biodiversity measures included such as the creation of scrapes/ponds and provision of bird boxes.</p>
<p>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Negligible effect although the policy could help to integrate these existing features/sites into the local setting with the potential of improving local landscape character.</p>
<p>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Negligible effect although the policy provides some potential opportunities to help preserve local historically important features including remnants of our industrial and transport heritage. The policy should enable the conservation of features likely to be better maintained because they are in use.</p>
<p>Summary of Policy: Planning permission will only be granted for proposals where public transport, walking and cycling provision forms part of the development proposal.</p>				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives: No reasonable alternative has been identified. This is a new policy.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: The policy was identified to have negligible effects across several of the sustainability objectives but significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objectives to improve health and well-being, and to strengthen society. These positives were based upon the primary motivation of the policy being to physically connect people and places using active travel routes that can benefit people both physically and mentally. The active travel routes will enable access to a shared space with positives for people’s general well-being through social interaction and community connection. Significant positive effects against the active and sustainable travel and air quality objectives were also predicted and in the longer term against the climate change objective. Significant positive effects were based upon the policy enabling people to opt for other modes of transport to the car. People should be able to opt to walk or cycle to a destination, or to a public transport hub for an onward journey. Any transition from the car to active travel will help reduce air pollutants from traffic and could help to improve local air quality where routes align with frequently used commuting journeys. The active travel routes help to futureproof the Council toward a low carbon future and present an opportunity to retain semi-natural land that can help to maintain natural resilience within the local environment to help combat the effects of climate change. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				
<p>The most sustainable option: TRA8 Active Travel Networks and Infrastructure Provision: This option was the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>			<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positive effects of the policy were identified for delivery of the social sustainability objectives to improve health and well-being, to strengthen society, and for the environmental sustainability objectives to encourage active and sustainable travel, improve air quality and, in the long term, to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.</p>				

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Crossover with other relevant policies - landscaping, Natural Heritage.

Policy RE1: Renewable Energy Development				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although for some people there can be potential impacts from some renewables on their mental health and well-being. Some people are affected by the flicker effect or noise from turbines. Likewise, some people like the look of the renewables and they can become local attractions for people. Other nuisances from renewables may be odour from anaerobic digesters.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policy is a potential stimulus for the uptake of a variety of renewables, which is likely to help encourage and support all businesses linked into the delivery of renewables, from a pre-construction to an operational phase. This stimulus is likely to help support a number of jobs within the industry as well as those focused on maintenance and skills and training associated with the industry. Renewables can reduce the running costs for businesses, which should mean more cash flow for other business needs. There is potential for a knock-on effect where businesses use their green credentials to gain a competitive edge, which the policy enables.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	The policy aims to support the delivery of a variety of renewables as cleaner energy and enables a reduction of waste to landfill. There is also the potential for produced cleaner energy to be used much closer to its source, which is a more efficient use of energy.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	?	?	?	The policy facilitates delivery of a variety of renewables, which can sometimes require substantial areas of land - footprints, access routes, associated structures. The presence of renewables can be compatible with other uses for example solar/wind energy can occur alongside farming and forestry, and include local biodiversity measures. Semi-natural land cover can be to a certain extent retained and protected whilst post-decommissioning entire sites can be restored.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although overall the policy facilitates delivery of renewables that collectively should help to reduce energy consumption from conventional sources that tend to create air pollution. Some of the technologies such as anaerobic digesters that are encouraged under this policy may adversely affect local air quality. It is likely to depend on their location and the use of digestate and local physical conditions. Most of the technologies would have no effect on local air quality.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	The policy facilitates and supports the delivery of a variety of renewables, which are able to help reduce energy consumption from conventional sources thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The policy can help support the delivery of renewables in both urban and rural areas and may be particularly useful in helping farmers reduce their emissions by enabling cleaner sources of energy as well as anaerobic treatments for agricultural waste. The policy helps to futureproof the Council area toward a lower carbon standard of living.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy facilitates the delivery of a variety of renewables including hydro-projects, which can adversely affect water flows and local aquatic ecology if not appropriately located or adequately considered from an early design stage. There is only one hydro project approval in the Council. Other technologies are unlikely to affect delivery of this objective with standard planning conditions to ensure buffers along watercourses and cross-reference to other policies.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	The policy facilitates and supports the delivery of a variety of renewables but the policy enables protection of local biodiversity features including field boundaries and watercourses by promoting and encouraging retention of features as well as buffering. Natural features are encouraged to be retained to primarily aid with integration of the renewables but this approach also helps to maintain local biodiversity levels through intact wildlife corridors and connective green and blue infrastructure networks.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	-	-	-	The policy facilitates and supports the delivery of a variety of renewables, which are likely to take up land and may be supported by associated structures including electrical infrastructure. It is likely to depend on the type of technology being considered but some are likely to pose a higher risk of visual intrusion. Wind turbines can be visually intrusive whilst solar farms can be easier to integrate but the visual impact issue can be very subjective. Some other potential renewables like anaerobic digesters are likely to be more easily absorbed with existing structures.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy facilitates the delivery of a variety of renewables, which could have the potential to adversely affect local historic or cultural features and/or character. The historic environment should be adequately protected and this can be done by ensuring objective assessments are in place.

Summary of Policy:

The generation of energy from renewable resources will be permitted provided the proposal, and any associated buildings and infrastructure, will not result in an unacceptable adverse impact on:

- (a) public safety, human health, or residential amenity;
- (b) visual amenity and landscape character;
- (c) biodiversity, nature conservation or built heritage interests;
- (d) local natural resources, such as air quality or water quality; and
- (e) public access to the countryside.

Reasonable Alternatives:

No - Consistent with regional policy - SPPS & PPS18.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

The policy was identified to have negligible or no effects on all of the social sustainability objectives and several of the environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the enabling sustainable economic growth objective and significant positive effects against the managing material assets sustainably objective. Positive outcomes were based upon the policy acting as a stimulus for the uptake of a variety of renewables, thus encouraging and supporting all businesses linked to the delivery and maintenance of renewables. The policy supports the delivery of cleaner energy from a variety of renewables into the energy sector and may facilitate a reduction of waste to landfill. There is also the potential for renewable energy to be used much closer to its source, which is a more efficient use of energy. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the environmental objective for natural resources and biodiversity, based upon the policy enabling protection of local biodiversity features including field boundaries and watercourses as well as enhancement of connective green and blue infrastructure. Significant positive effects were predicted for delivery of the climate change objective because the policy facilitates and supports the delivery of a variety of renewables, which are able to help reduce energy consumption from conventional sources thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The policy should help to futureproof the Council area toward a lower carbon future. Some adverse and uncertain outcomes were predicted of the policy and delivery of the landscape character objective and the physical resources objective. Negative outcomes were based upon the potential for some renewables and associated infrastructure to be visually intrusive whilst uncertain outcomes were based upon the potential for varying amounts of land take. Much depends on the type and scale of renewable project and its compatibility with other land uses. Semi-natural land cover can be to a certain extent retained and post-decommissioning, sites can be restored although this can be to varying degrees. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.

The most sustainable option: RE1: Renewable Energy Development - This option was the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.

The preferred option: This option is the only option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positive effects of the policy were identified for delivery of the economic sustainability objective to enable sustainable economic growth and the environmental sustainability objective to reduce the causes of and adapt to climate change.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Flicker assessments. Impact assessments - odour. Environmental Health Organisation legislation. Habitat/Species Management Plans on renewable sites. Planning conditions for restoration of sites and distances from watercourses. Consents for any discharges and use of digestate - IPPC. Landscape Character Assessments. Crossover with other relevant policies.

Policy RE2 Integrated Renewable Energy				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	The policy helps to deliver low carbon homes and facilitates buildings and lifestyles that have less of an impact on the environment.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policy is a potential stimulus for the uptake of renewables. It can facilitate a business that wants to use renewables to improve their Corporate Social Responsibility or to maintain their green credentials - ISO14001. The policy enables renewables to be integrated, which can lead to reduced running costs, which is a positive for the business or company involved. This may help to encourage other economic ventures to consider renewables - local level and wider.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	The policy facilitates delivery of renewables and at an efficient source to user level. The use of renewables is likely to lead to reduced running costs for the user.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy is able to incorporate renewables within the footprint of buildings and not require land within the wider countryside.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy is able to facilitate delivery of renewables, which are generally much cleaner sources of energy with less air pollutants than conventional sources - coal, oil, gas.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	The policy facilitates the delivery of renewables, which emit no greenhouse gas emissions when in operational use. The policy enables the use of renewables, which helps to futureproof buildings and homes toward lower carbon living but also helps to reduce energy consumption from conventional sources.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although there could be some sites where there may be a higher risk of potential visual impact, however integration through careful design would be required.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although there could be some sites where there may be a higher risk of potential impacts on buildings of historic value but consents would be required and sensitive design of any renewables to the local historic/cultural buildings.
Summary of Policy:				
Planning permission will be granted for a development proposal which integrates renewable energy technology in its layout, siting and design, where it meets the provisions of Policy RE1 and provided the technology is appropriate to the location in terms of any visual or amenity impact it may have.				
Reasonable Alternatives:				
No reasonable alternative has been identified - Consistent with regional policy - SPPS & PPS18.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:				
The policy was identified to have no effects or negligible effects against several of the social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive effects were predicted for one of the social objectives to provide good quality, sustainable housing. Positive effects were based upon the policy helping to deliver low carbon homes and facilitating lifestyles to have less of an impact on the environment. Minor positive effects were also predicted for delivery of the economic sustainability objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to manage material assets sustainably. These positives were based upon the policy acting as a potential stimulus for the uptake of renewables thus supporting the industry but also enabling its integration at an efficient source to user level. Minor positive effects were also predicted for delivery of the environmental objective to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change. Positives were based upon the policy facilitating the delivery of renewables, which when operationally, emit no greenhouse gas emissions. The policy helps to futureproof buildings and homes toward lower carbon living standards by reducing energy consumption from fossil fuel sources. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.				
The most sustainable option: RE2: Integrated Renewable Energy - This option was the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.			The preferred option: This option is the only option.	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant positive effects of the policy were identified across any of the sustainability objectives.				
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.				
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: No additional measures have been identified.				

Policy TEL1 Telecommunications Development				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy does help facilitate telecommunication networks, which are part of our everyday lives and a vital aspect of our daily communications with friends and family. Provision in the Council is generally good and people are able to quickly access various healthcare services as well as emergency services.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy does help facilitate telecommunications, which enable people to communicate with each other, and to participate in courses or other shared interests. The policy approach is to ensure social contact is enabled between people and places.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	The policy enables people who may not be at school or college to study from home and/or in libraries or community centres. The policy facilitates delivery of a telecommunications network, which should enable people from various backgrounds and communities to participate in further or higher education as well as general professional development.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policy facilitates telecommunications across urban and rural areas and is the backbone for local businesses. It is as important for rural businesses as for those located in towns and may be more important to help develop rurally located economic ventures - contact, orders, and customer service opportunities. Connectivity across the Council area through an effective telecommunications network is key to maximising local economic benefits.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	The policy helps to facilitate the delivery of a telecommunications network, which is an essential aspect of the local infrastructure within the Council. It is also part of a wider regional network and must be adequately maintained and upgraded - fit-for-purpose. Policy enables site sharing and new masts (where appropriate).
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy approach should enable small footprints and the majority of works to be located underground helping to reduce any loss of land.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy is likely to enable more people to work from home, which may reduce car use and encourage people to consider active travel options.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy is likely to enable more people to work or study from home, which could reduce car use particularly at peak times and help to reduce congestion related issues such as poorer air quality. It may be more feasible to walk or cycle to their nearest library or community centre to work or study.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy is likely to enable more people to work or study from home, which could reduce car use particularly at peak times, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It may be more feasible for workers or students to walk or cycle to their nearest library or community centre, to work or study.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy requires minimal visual intrusion with integration of infrastructure expected. Mast sharing is also recommended to help reduce any visual intrusion and to help maintain local landscape character.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy refers to the likely location of telecommunications in towns and other settlements, and how appropriate consideration of historic features must be considered.
Summary of Policy:				
Planning permission will be granted for telecommunications development and any necessary enabling works that will not result in unacceptable damage to visual amenity or harm to environmentally sensitive features or locations. Developers should demonstrate that telecommunications proposals, having regard to technical and operational constraints, have been sited and designed to minimise visual and environmental impact.				
Reasonable Alternatives:				
No reasonable alternatives have been identified - consistent with regional policy - SPPS.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: The policy was identified to have negligible or no effects against the majority of the social and all of the environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive effects were predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objective to enable access to high quality education based upon the policy facilitating delivery of a telecommunications network, which should enable people from various backgrounds and communities to participate in further or higher education, as well as general professional development. Minor positive effects were also predicted for two of the economic sustainability objectives including enabling sustainable economic growth and managing material assets sustainably. Positive effects were based upon the policy facilitating telecommunications across urban and rural areas, which acts as the backbone for local businesses and economic ventures. Digital connectivity across the Council area through an effective telecommunications network is key to maximising local economic benefits. The policy facilitates the delivery of a fit-for-purpose telecommunications network, which is an essential aspect of local infrastructure but also part of a wider regional network. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.				
The most sustainable option: TEL1: Telecommunications Development - This option was the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.			The preferred option: This option is the only option.	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?				
No likely significant positive effects of the policy were identified across any of the sustainability objectives.				
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.				
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: No additional measures were identified.				

Policy UT1 Utilities				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	The policy enables the delivery of adequate and appropriate facilities such as water, sewage, electric and gas that are necessary for our everyday quality of life. The delivery of these facilities is a public health requirement.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although adequate provision and upkeep of utilities may help better sustain rural communities by enabling families and individuals to stay in their rural areas.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy is likely to help support delivery of more fit-for-purpose homes and may help to improve the quality of vacant dwellings that are unfit.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy can help to support the local economy through the provision and upkeep of the utilities that the economy depends upon. There is adequate infrastructure in place to support the Council area including gas.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	The policy helps to support the future maintenance and possible expansion of the infrastructure that is in place. It also enables maintenance of the infrastructure which is often located underground.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy does help to retain land from development because of underground infrastructure. If works do occur then the land must be reinstated.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	The policy is able to efficiently distribute treated water as potable drinking water and helps to enable a more efficient use of water as a natural resource.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the provision of new services in urban areas is likely to have much less of an impact on the natural environment. In rural areas, electric cables are required to be above ground and to avoid designated areas.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy helps to direct infrastructure underground and to avoid designated areas. Any above ground structures should follow landform and avoid skylines so that visual intrusion is minimised.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy directs most utilities infrastructure underground and where it is above ground, electrical structures are expected to avoid areas of archaeological or built heritage interest as referred to in the policy.
Summary of Policy:				
The provision of utility services, such as water, sewage, electricity and gas to new development proposals should be laid underground.				
Reasonable Alternatives:				
No reasonable alternative has been identified - based on previous policy from the Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:				
The policy was identified to have negligible or no effects against the majority of all of the social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive effects were predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objective to improve health and well-being. Positives were based upon the policy enabling delivery of adequate and appropriate facilities such as water, sewage, electric and gas that are necessary for our everyday quality of life. The delivery of these facilities is a public health requirement. Minor positive effects were also predicted for delivery of the economic sustainability objective to manage material assets sustainably. Positive effects were based upon the policy supporting the future maintenance and possible expansion of existing infrastructure, which is often located underground. Minor positive effects were also predicted for delivery of the environmental sustainability objective to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably. Positive effects were based on the policy helping to ensure efficient distribution of potable drinking water and helping to enable a more efficient use of water as a natural resource. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.				
The most sustainable option: UT1: Utilities - This option was the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.			The preferred option: This option is the only option.	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant positive effects of the policy were identified across any of the sustainability objectives.				
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.				
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: No additional measures have been identified.				

WM1 Waste Management Facilities, WM3 Waste Disposal and WM5 Development in the Vicinity of Waste Management Facilities or Waste Water Treatment Works

Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	The policies ensure that different waste streams can be removed from public areas and where people live, which brings positives for people's health and well-being. The policies help deliver an essential public health service by preventing nuisance impacts. There is a sustainable waste management system in place that also brings wider indirect positives for health - location of services, efficient routes, and sustainability through the waste management hierarchy.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policies help to deliver and sustain a market for different types of waste. The policies can help act as a stimulus for waste management technologies, processes and facilities. Waste can be a commodity and the policies can help to maintain it as an income generating resource. The approach of the policies should help reduce waste to landfill and help to reduce costs to businesses linked to waste disposal. There are multiple jobs linked to the waste management sector and future opportunities linked to the development of recycling facilities and research. Waste reuse/recycling is part of a circular economy which is referred to in some of the policies. Energy recovery also encouraged.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	The policies enable appropriate sustainable waste management and disposal of waste. Recycling and composting of waste is facilitated and the reuse of resources is encouraged and enabled at the domestic level. Cumulatively these policies should help to reduce household waste production and help the Council meet future waste management targets. The policies also provide for the reuse of derelict/contaminated land for waste management facilities.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	The policies aim to reuse derelict land for waste management facilities, which is a more efficient use of land than developing greenfield sites. The approach of the policies to the promotion of the waste management hierarchy promotes a more sustainable treatment and use of waste, which should help to reduce the risk of land/soil pollution.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policies would help to reduce waste to landfill, helping to avoid emissions to air. The policies also help to support and promote more sustainable waste management with more efficient routes and accessible recycling/composting sites. Cumulatively, these should help to reduce transport related emissions.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	+	+	The policies aim to reduce the quantities of waste to landfill as well as facilitating and promoting waste management processes that are higher up the hierarchy than recovery. Cumulatively greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced. The policies by helping to facilitate and support reuse and recycling should help to reduce consumption. The policies support development of a circular economy, which is likely to strengthen overtime - reflected in the score.

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	The policies aim to protect local water quality and groundwater from pollution by reducing waste to landfill and developing the provision of adequate recycling facilities for residents. The policies also ensure the safeguarding of wastewater treatment facilities by not enabling inappropriate adjacent land uses.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	The policies help to ensure a more efficient use of land by supporting the use of appropriate vacant/derelict/contaminated land for provision of waste management facilities, which should help reduce impacts from occurring in the wider countryside and to local biodiversity. The policies should help reduce reliance for landfill as a preferred disposal option. Restoration of sites is also required which could help to deliver positives for local biodiversity. Reference to nature conservation is within some of the policies (WM1).
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	The policies direct development toward existing facilities, or new facilities to brownfield sites which should help to protect local landscape character. Landscape has to be considered within any waste related proposal. The proposed scale of sites, and restoration and aftercare of sites, must be considered in the context of landscape character. Some of the policies emphasise the importance of landscape (WM1 & WM3).
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	The policies aim to limit the location of facilities and to locate facilities in suitable/appropriate sites ideally existing or brownfield sites. This approach should help avoid or reduce potential adverse impacts on the historic environment. WM1 directly refers to protecting the historic environment.
Summary of Policy:				
<p>WM1 - Proposals for waste management facilities will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated there is additional need for the facility and it is located at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) an existing or former waste management facility b) an existing or worked out hard quarry c) an industrial area appropriate to the development proposed; in the case of civic amenity sites it is conveniently located in terms of access to service a settlement d) previously developed, derelict or contaminated land and which makes use of existing or redundant buildings and is grouped with those buildings e) at a site in the countryside where it involves the reuse of existing buildings or is grouped with those buildings and where there is no permanent loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land. <p>WM3 - Development of landfill or land raising facilities for the disposal of waste will be permitted where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a need for the facility is established through the WMS and Council’s relevant WMP b) the proposal complies with the requirements of Policy WM1. <p>WM5 - Development proposals in the vicinity of existing or approved waste management facilities and wastewater treatment works (WwTWs) will only be permitted where all the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) it will not prejudice or unduly restrict activities permitted to be carried out within the waste management facility b) it will not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts in terms of people, transportation systems or the environment. 				
Reasonable Alternatives:				
No reasonable alternative has been identified - Consistent with regional policy.				

<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The policies were identified to have positive outcomes against the majority of the environmental objectives, all of the economic objectives and one of the social sustainability objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted to improve health and well-being based upon the policies ensuring that different waste streams can be removed from public areas and where people live, thus delivering an essential public health service by preventing nuisance impacts. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the economic objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and protect physical resources. Positives were based upon the policies acting as a stimulus for waste management technologies, processes and facilities. Waste is a commodity and the policies can help to maintain it as an income generating resource - a circular economy. There are multiple jobs linked to the waste management sector and future opportunities linked to the development of recycling facilities and research. The policies also aim to reuse derelict land for waste management facilities, which is a more efficient use of land than developing greenfield sites. The promotion of the waste management hierarchy promotes a more sustainable treatment and use of waste, which should help reduce the risk of land/soil pollution. Significant positive outcomes were identified for delivery of the economic objective to manage material assets sustainably. Positive effects were predicted based upon the policies enabling appropriate sustainable waste management and disposal of waste. Recycling and composting of waste is facilitated and the reuse of resources is encouraged and enabled at the domestic level. Cumulatively these policies should help to reduce household waste production and help the Council meet future waste management targets. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the environmental objectives for climate change, water resources, natural resources, landscape character and the historic environment. These positives were based on the policies promoting the waste management hierarchy which helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, avoids risk of pollution to water and land, and any potential impacts on local biodiversity, landscape character or historic environment. The policies direct development toward existing facilities, or new facilities to brownfield sites and the proposed scale of sites, restoration and aftercare, must be considered in the context of local environmental considerations such as landscape and the historic environment. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>	
<p>The most sustainable option: WM1, 3 & 5 - Waste Management Facilities; Waste Disposal; Development in the Vicinity of Waste Management Facilities: These options were the only options; the appraisal has considered them to be sustainable options.</p>	<p>The preferred option: These options were the only options; the appraisal has considered them to be sustainable options.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positive effects were identified for the economic sustainability objective for managing material assets sustainably.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:</p> <p>Reinstatement schemes - restoration and aftercare. Environmental Impact Assessments. Site specific requirements.</p>	

WM2: Treatment of Waste Water				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	The policy enables the treatment of wastewater, which brings positive benefits for people’s health and quality of life. It is important for public health. The policy also allows for the upgrading of treatment facilities, which should help to maintain local water quality and futureproof the Council in the provision of this service.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy helps to meet the needs of people living in both rural and urban areas by enabling housing to be located where no mains are present.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policy enables housing and businesses to be adequately serviced with upgrading feasible, which could help sustain a variety of economic ventures to develop and grow. The policy allows for own treatment facilities to be put forward by developers/business owners. The policy is likely to be more important for some types of business such as recreational/leisure types - tourism/health sector.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	The policy allows for the provision of facilities that can be considered part of infrastructure and are a standard requirement. The policy enables adequate and appropriate provision of facilities but also enables upgrading of them too.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	The policy helps to protect the quality of soil and land by ensuring the provision of adequate and appropriate facilities are in place for the effective treatment of wastewater. The policy approach aims to avoid soil/land pollution from the outset.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	The policy aims to protect local water quality - both groundwater and surface water, by ensuring adequate and appropriate facilities are considered and provided. Upgrading of facilities is also feasible which should help to futureproof homes/businesses/facilities for expansion, or for deterioration of existing facilities. This could help enable integration of potential new technologies. The policy aims to protect the ecological quality of water and reduce risks to local waterways and waterbodies during floods.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	The policy aims to protect local water quality - both groundwater and surface water, with positives for the ecological quality of water and local biodiversity levels. The provision of adequate and appropriate facilities should help to protect the local environment and particularly aquatic ecology.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Negligible effect as related infrastructure is located underground and any above ground facilities are sited with landscaping a consideration.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
<p>Summary of Policy: WM2 - Development proposals to provide mains sewage Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTWs) will be permitted where it is demonstrated to the Council there is a need for new or extended capacity requirements and the new facilities comply with the requirements of Policy WM1. Development relying on non mains sewage treatment will only be permitted where it is demonstrated to the Council and its statutory consultees that there is sufficient capacity to discharge effluent to a watercourse and that this will not create or add to a pollution problem.</p>				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives: No reasonable alternative has been identified - this is a new policy.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: The policy was identified to have no effect or negligible effects against several of the social and environmental sustainability objectives but positive effects against all of the economic objectives. Minor positive effects were also predicted for delivery of the social objective to improve health and well-being based on the policy enabling the treatment of wastewater, with positive benefits for public health. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for all of the economic objectives - to enable sustainable economic growth, and to manage material assets and physical resources sustainably. Positives were based on the policies enabling housing and businesses to be adequately serviced with appropriate provision of facilities and upgrading feasible, which could help sustain a variety of economic ventures to develop and grow. The policy approach helps to protect the quality of soil and land by ensuring the effective treatment of wastewater. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the environmental objective to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity based on the policy aiming to protect local water quality - both groundwater and surface water, with positives for the ecological quality of water and local biodiversity levels. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the environmental objective to protect and manage water resources sustainably based on the policy aiming to protect local water quality - both groundwater and surface water, by ensuring adequate and appropriate facilities are considered and provided that will reduce risks to local waterways and waterbodies at all times. The policy enables upgrading of facilities which should help to futureproof the Council area and enable integration of new technologies. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				
<p>The most sustainable option: WM2 - Treatment of Waste Water: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>			<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positive effects were identified for the environmental sustainability objective to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</p>				
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>				
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: No additional measures were identified.</p>				

WM4: Land Improvement				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy does refer to health.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although land improvement is likely to increase productivity of land.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	The policy enables reuse of inert waste, which may otherwise go to landfill. It enables a viable waste stream which when not abused is top of the waste management hierarchy - reusing material which cannot be more efficiently reused or recycled.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	?	?	?	The policy enables improvement of land for agricultural productivity so it aims to maintain and possibly increase the amount of land that can be used. It is possible that there could be a risk of impacts on soil quality and a loss of more ecologically valuable land. The policy may help make some land more productive but reduce the quantity of semi-natural land. Much would depend on the location, scale and nature of the land improvement.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although there could be the potential for impacts on local air quality due to dust and associated traffic.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	The policy enables the improvement of land, which tends to be wet or marshy ground. Wetlands are important for storing water, which is particularly important when flooding occurs. Wetlands may also act as important carbon stores if they are peat based or with trees. Although this is the most likely type of land to be improved, it may not always be and much depends on the location but also the scale and nature of the improvement.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	?	?	?	Leachate from sites should be controlled and surface and ground water protected. Under the policy, the inert material that can be used is referred to and because only inert material can be considered, run-off should not adversely affect the local aquatic environment. Consents are required from NIEA but potential risks to water quality and aquatic ecology depend upon the location, scale and nature of the proposed land improvement.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	?	?	?	The policy enables land improvement, which could replace semi-natural land cover with a higher biodiversity value than improved land. Land improvement is most likely to be for agricultural purposes, which can be some of the least biodiverse land cover in the wider countryside. Very often, the land to be improved is wet or marshy ground that can support priority species and may itself be priority habitat. If improved, this value would be lost though much would depend on the scale and nature of the proposal. To help enhance local biodiversity levels, compensatory measures are referred to in the policy.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although local landscape character may be considered through the appropriate scale and nature of the proposal to help minimise any visual intrusion.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	The policy refers to the historic environment and aims to protect it by requesting no unacceptable impacts.
<p>Summary of Policy: WM4 - The disposal of inert waste by its deposition on land will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that it will result in land improvement and the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) it is demonstrated that there is no alternative to deposition of the type of inert waste and that it cannot be reused or recycled b) it is demonstrated the type of inert waste to be deposited is exempt under the Waste Management Licensing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (as amended) c) it will not result in an unacceptable adverse environmental impact d) only the minimum quantity of fill necessary to achieve the demonstrated land improvement shall be deposited e) measures are included to demonstrate appropriate restoration and aftercare of sites that will enhance bio-diversity. 				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives: No reasonable alternative has been identified - Consistent with regional policy.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: The policy is predicted to deliver no effects or negligible effects across all of the social sustainability objectives, one of the economic objectives and a few of the environmental objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the economic objective to manage material assets sustainably. Positives were based upon the policy enabling reuse of inert waste, which may otherwise go to landfill and promotes the waste management hierarchy - reusing material, which cannot be more efficiently reused or recycled. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the historic environment objective based on the policy referring to the historic environment and requesting no unacceptable impacts. Uncertain outcomes were identified against the economic objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably, as well as against some of the environmental objectives including the climate change, water resources and natural resources objectives. The level of uncertainty against the physical resources was based on the likely reduction of semi-natural land with the risk of impacts on soil quality. Uncertainty was also associated against the climate change, water and natural resources objectives based on the policy enabling the likely loss of wetland habitats that are important for storing water and carbon. Although the policy supports only inert material for land improvement, potential risks to water quality and aquatic ecology should remain a consideration. Any improvement is likely to replace semi-natural land cover with a higher biodiversity value. Very often, the land to be improved is wet or marshy ground that can support priority species and may itself be a priority habitat. However, the uncertain outcomes are dependent on the location, scale and nature of the land improvement. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				

The most sustainable option: WM4 - Land Improvement: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.	The preferred option: This option is the only option.
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects of the policy were identified against any of the sustainability objectives.	
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.	
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Cross over to other flooding policies to help reduce potential surface flooding issues from land improvement. Cross over to other policies including general and landscape. Consent from NIEA. Compensatory measures.	

FLD1 Development in Fluvial (River) Flood Plains, FLD2 Protection of Flood Defence and Drainage Infrastructure, FLD3 Development and Surface Water (Pluvial) Flood Risk Outside Flood Plains and FLD4 Artificial Modification of Watercourses				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	The overall aim of the policies is to ensure public safety and public health. The policies also help to ensure people have a quality of life through peace of mind because living in flood risk areas is avoided and adequate defences for flooding are considered. This preventative approach of the policies should help with people's mental health - well-being. Avoiding building in flood risk areas delivers positives for people who would otherwise be at risk if located there. This approach helps to ensure immediate safety to people as well as protection of property. It also helps support the delivery of efficient emergency services. The policies help to prevent vulnerable groups from being pushed into higher risk areas.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although areas of open space may be dual purposed - used for flooding during periods of high rainfall or rising water levels.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	The policies help to define where housing should not be built for health and safety reasons. The policies aim for appropriate locations and fit-for-purpose dwellings i.e. sustainable. Updated flood maps have removed previously viable land from use for housing but this approach ensures delivery of sustainable housing. The policies are able to reduce the risk of vulnerable groups being made more likely to live in high-risk flood areas.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although sports facilities may still be feasible on ground that floods.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Traditionally industrial sites have been located on or near to waterways but new economic sites should not be restricted or constrained under these policies as they are much less likely to be dependent upon a water-based location. These COU11 where the risk of flooding, damage to property and danger to life would be real threats. The policies help to reduce costs associated to defending areas.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policies are able to help direct infrastructure to the most appropriate locations - away from flood risk areas. This approach should help with the sustainability of development. There is still scope within the policy for necessary works on utilities in flood risk areas as well as for essential infrastructure.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	The policies are able to protect land from development. The land is most likely to be wetland/floodplain and the protection should go some way to helping avoid land/soil erosion due to development in areas more prone to instability or erosion. The policies can help to retain land that can act as a buffer and continue to function as a floodplain.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although greenways and other active travel routes are feasible near to watercourses.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	The policies enable the protection of floodplain areas without any unessential development, or land use that does not maintain the natural flooding function of the wetland to be present. The policies help to maintain the wetlands and their buffers as adaptation for climate change able to help deal with flooding but also potentially as a carbon store and provision of a cooling effect.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	The policies help to protect floodplains and their buffers and avoid unnecessary development, which should help enable them to properly function as water stores. This approach should help to minimise flood risk by maintaining the storage and flow of water and by avoiding culverting of rivers - retaining the natural morphology of watercourses is encouraged.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	The policies help to protect and retain wetlands and their buffers as green and blue infrastructure helping to maintain local biodiversity levels. In effect, soft SuDS can help to maintain and enhance local biodiversity. The approach of the policies to avoid unnecessary development and promote the natural morphology of watercourses enables species and habitats in those areas to thrive and is likely to support ecosystem services.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	The policies help add to the protection of landscape character in wetland areas at a landscape scale by retaining areas of land that flood without unnecessary development or alterations to their morphology. The policies should help to retain the natural character of watercourses as intrinsic features of the local landscape.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	The policies help to protect historic buildings if located in flood risk areas, as they can be re/used - water compatible. FLD 3 refers to drainage assessments to help protect local historic/cultural features that may be present and vulnerable to changing water levels.
<p>Summary of Policy: FLD 1 - New development will not be permitted within the 1 in 100 year fluvial flood plain unless the applicant can demonstrate that the proposal constitutes an exception to the policy...</p> <p>FLD2 - Development will not be permitted that impedes the operational effectiveness of flood defence and drainage infrastructure or hinder access for maintenance.</p> <p>FLD 3 - A Drainage Assessment (DA) will be required for development proposals that exceed any of the following thresholds.</p> <p>FLD 4 - Artificial modification of a watercourse, including culverting or canalisation, will only be permitted in the following exceptional circumstances.</p>				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives: No reasonable alternative has been identified - Consistent with regional policy.</p>				

<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The policy was identified to deliver positive outcomes against half of the social and economic sustainability objectives and most of the environmental objectives. Minor positive effects were predicted for the social sustainability objective to provide sustainable housing based upon the policies helping to define appropriate locations for fit-for-purpose housing. Updated flood maps have removed previously viable land from use for housing which will ensure delivery of sustainable housing. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the improving health and well-being objective because the overall aim of the policies is to ensure public safety and public health. Avoiding building in flood risk areas delivers positives for people who would otherwise be at risk if located there. This approach helps to ensure immediate safety to people as well as protection of property and supports the delivery of efficient emergency services. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the economic objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and to protect physical resources. Positive effects were based upon the policies ensuring businesses would be located in sustainable locations where the risk of flooding, damage to property and danger to life will be avoided. The land to be protected by the policies is most likely to be wetland/floodplain and the protection should help avoid land/soil erosion and help to retain land that can act as a buffer and continue to function as floodplain. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the environmental objectives to maintain landscape character and to protect the historic environment. Positive effects were based on the policies retaining the natural character of watercourses and wetlands as intrinsic features of the local landscape without unnecessary development or alterations. If historic buildings/features are located in flood risk areas, they can be used for compatible uses and drainage assessments can be requested to help protect local historic/cultural features that may be present and vulnerable to changing water levels. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the environmental objectives for climate change, water resources and natural resources. Significant positive outcomes were predicted based on the policies protecting wetlands and their buffers from unnecessary development thus protecting habitat that can help manage the impacts of climate change as well as act as water and carbon stores. The policies should help to minimise flood risk by maintaining the storage and flow of water and by avoiding culverting which should help to maintain local biodiversity levels with the network of protected green and blue infrastructure. The promotion of conserving the natural morphology of watercourses will enable associated species and habitats in those areas to thrive and is likely to support provision of ecosystem services. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>	
<p>The most sustainable option: FLD1-4 - Development in Fluvial Flood Plains; Protection of Flood Defence & Drainage Infrastructure; Development and Surface Water (Pluvial); Flood Risk outside Flood Plains; Artificial Modification of Watercourses: These options were the only options; the appraisal has considered them to be sustainable options.</p>	<p>The preferred option: These options were the only options.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?</p> <p>Likely significant positive effects of the policy were identified for delivery of the social sustainability objective to improve health and well-being, and for delivery of the environmental sustainability objectives to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change; protect, manage and use water resources sustainably; and to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</p> <p>Local Policies Plan stage information on location of houses in the context of changing flood risk areas. Cross-over with other relevant policies. Drainage Assessments.</p>	

FLD5 Development in Proximity to Reservoirs				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	This policy is about the health and safety of people/communities and helps to avoid development in high-risk areas near to reservoirs. A worst-case scenario could lead to loss of life and the adverse impacts of this on affected people's mental health and well-being. The primary motivation of the policy is to save life.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	The policy helps to avoid housing in high-risk areas. This approach supports finding the most sustainable locations for housing.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policy helps to avoid development in high-risk areas, which helps to encourage consideration of such risks from an early development stage. The policy seeks for the most sustainable locations for businesses/companies, housing and industry.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although essential infrastructure could still be worked on.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy does help to manage the avoidance of development in high-risk areas where, due to some of the impacts of climate change - higher rainfall and frequency of storm events as well as increased deterioration of dam infrastructure, future risk may be higher. The policy supports climate change adaptation by helping to avoid or reduce the risk of damage to property and infrastructure.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy does help to avoid development in high-risk areas where, if a breach were to occur, the risk of pollution to local watercourses and groundwater would be likely to occur. It helps to avoid this and to protect the quality of drinking water.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.

Summary of Policy:
 FLD5 - New development will only be permitted within the potential flood inundation area of a “controlled reservoir”46 as shown on the Strategic Flood Map, if:

- a) it can be demonstrated that the condition, management and maintenance regime of the reservoir provides sufficient assurance regarding its safety, to enable the development to proceed
- b) the application is accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment which demonstrates:
 - 1. an assessment of the downstream flood risk in the event of:
 - a controlled release of water
 - an uncontrolled release of water due to reservoir failure
 - a change in flow paths as a result of the proposed development and,
 - 2. that there are suitable measures to manage and mitigate the identified flood risk, including details of emergency evacuation procedures.

Replacement buildings within the potential flood inundation area downstream of a controlled reservoir must be accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment.
 Planning permission will be granted provided it is demonstrated that there is no material increase in the flood risk to the development or elsewhere.
 With all development proposals there will be a presumption against development within the potential flood inundation area for proposals that include essential infrastructure; storage of hazardous substances; bespoke accommodation for vulnerable groups, and; for any development located in areas where the Flood Risk Assessment indicates potential for an unacceptable combination of depth and velocity.

Reasonable Alternatives:
 No reasonable alternative has been identified - Consistent with regional policy.

<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: The policy was identified to have negligible or no effects against the majority of the sustainability objectives including all of the environmental objectives but positive outcomes were predicted for half of the social objectives and one of the economic objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for the social objective to deliver sustainable housing and the economic objective to enable sustainable economic growth. Positive effects were based upon the policy helping to avoid housing in high-risk areas and thus ensuring housing and other development in the most sustainable locations. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for the objective to improve health and well-being because the policy aims to protect people and communities from any risks associated to living near to reservoirs. Without the policy, a worst-case scenario could lead to loss of life and the primary motivation of the policy is to save life. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>	
<p>The most sustainable option: FLD5 - Development in Proximity to Reservoirs: This option is the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>	<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positive effects of the policy were identified for delivery of the social sustainability objective to improve health and well-being.</p>	
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>	
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: No additional measures have been identified.</p>	

Policy AD1 Amenity and Public Safety				
Option	In line with Regional Policy Direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	The policy aims to reduce the number of potentially distracting signs that could affect a driver because of where they are located or because of the amount of signs that are evident. The policy approach aims to help reduce potential risks to people on the roads - both drivers and pedestrians in urban and rural areas. The overall policy aim is to avoid danger to life.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policy aims to reduce the number of signs that are located together and in unsafe locations for road users, There may be some local businesses adversely affected if they want a sign near to their location but based on safety reasons is not allowed but another location can be sought. The policy should not be a constraint on any local economic venture. It facilitates businesses to advertise themselves within the local and wider communities.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	The option would have no effect on this objective.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy aims to minimise the amount of signs in certain areas or avoid them completely if unsafe - an approach, which should support protecting the amenity value of the wider countryside and its landscape character.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although the policy approach should support protecting the setting of locally important historic or cultural features.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>Advertising Consent will be granted for the display of an advertisement where:</p> <p>(i) it respects amenity, when assessed in the context of the general characteristics of the locality; and</p> <p>(ii) it does not prejudice public safety.</p>				
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives were considered, as the policy is consistent with regional policy.</p>				
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: The policy was identified to have no effect or negligible effects against the majority of social, economic and all of the environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the social sustainability objective to improve health and well-being based upon the policy aiming to avoid danger to life by reducing the number of potentially distracting signs that could affect road users and pedestrians. Minor positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the economic sustainability objective to enable sustainable economic growth. Although the policy aims to manage the number of distracting signs to road users, it would not be a constraint on any local economic venture and would facilitate businesses to advertise themselves within the local and wider communities but in safe locations. This option is considered to be a sustainable option.</p>				
<p>The most sustainable option: AD1: Amenity and Public Safety - This option was the only option; the appraisal has considered it to be a sustainable option.</p>			<p>The preferred option: This option is the only option.</p>	
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant positive effects of the policy were identified across any of the sustainability objectives.</p>				
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>				
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: No additional measures have been identified.</p>				

Appendix 5: How has the SA influenced the Draft Plan Strategy

Strategic Objective A: Enabling Sustainable Communities and the delivery of new Homes

Four key issues were identified in the POP:

- 1: The Settlement Hierarchy
- 2: Facilitating Future Housing Growth (Settlements)
- 3: Facilitating Sustainable Housing in the Countryside
- 4: Education, Health, Community and Cultural Facilities

1 The Settlement Hierarchy

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	Draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
<p>1a.Retain the existing settlement hierarchy with limited amendments (Preferred Option).</p> <p>1b.Retain the existing settlement hierarchy with no change</p>	<p>1.Comments from POP</p> <p>2.Regional and local policy direction</p> <p>3.Population studies and settlement appraisals</p> <p>4.Engagement with members and other stakeholders</p> <p>5.Statutory appraisals</p>	<p>Provides a Spatial Strategy and settlement hierarchy, defining development limits and allocating land for housing growth in accordance with the sequential approach of the RDS</p>	<p>No amendments required</p> <p>See Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy (pg 47-52) and Plan Objective A: A Quality Place – Enabling Sustainable Development and</p>

2 Facilitating Future Housing Growth (Settlements)

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	Draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
<p>2a.Focus future Housing Growth in Lisburn City with limited dispersal in the remaining settlement hierarchy, taking into account any constraints (Preferred Option).</p> <p>2b.Focus future Housing Growth in Lisburn City.</p> <p>2c. Protect Existing Housing Zonings.</p>	<p>1.Comments from POP</p> <p>2.Regional and local policy direction</p> <p>3. Housing study, urban capacity study, housing monitor</p> <p>4.Engagement with members and other stakeholders</p> <p>5.Statutory appraisals</p>	<p>SP08 The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <p>a) are in accordance with the Strategic Housing Allocation provided in Table 3</p> <p>b) facilitate new residential development which respects the surrounding context and promotes high quality design within settlements</p> <p>c) promote balanced local communities with a mixture of house types of different size and tenure including affordable and specialised housing</p> <p>d) encourage compact urban forms and appropriate densities while protecting the quality of the urban environment.</p> <p>Operational policies</p> <p>HOU1-HOU12</p>	<p>New policy HOU10 Affordable housing in settlements.</p> <p>It was agreed following discussion with members, NIHE and assessment of the potential delivery in terms of numbers, the final policy position was that affordable housing will be delivered on sites of more than 0.5 hectares or comprising of 5 residential units or more, proposals will only be permitted where provision is made for a minimum 20% of all units to be affordable.</p> <p>It was also agreed to secure this by a section 76 planning agreement.</p> <p>HOU6 wording was amended and a Concept Masterplan will be required for applications over 50 units, this is in line with Development Management regulations.</p> <p>New policy HOU11 Specialist Accommodation also facilitates housing for those with an identified need.</p> <p>The SA highlighted both policies as a significant positive in meeting social objectives.</p>

3 Facilitating Sustainable Housing in the Countryside

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	Draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
<p>3a.Retention of Existing Rural Policy-Led Approach (Preferred Option).</p> <p>3b.Retention of Existing Rural Policy-Led Approach plus identify 'Special Countryside Areas'.</p>	<p>COU16</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comments from POP 2. Regional and local policy direction 3. Housing study, urban capacity study, housing monitor 4. Engagement with members and other stakeholders 5. Statutory appraisals 	<p>SP09 The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) provide appropriate, sustainable, high quality rural dwellings, whilst protecting rural character and the environment b) resist urban sprawl in the open countryside which mars the distinction between the rural area and urban settlements c) protect the established rural settlement pattern and allow for vibrant sustainable communities <p>Operational policies COU1- COU16</p>	<p>COU2: Policy wording altered to clarify what is meant by a cluster. Definitions now included within the J&A.</p> <p>COU3: Policy amended in relation to what can be replaced. Members sought clarity in relation to this aspect of the previous CTY policy.</p> <p>COU4: Clarity in relation to locally important buildings now included in consultation with members and consultees.</p> <p>COU7: A condition is to be included restricting the occupation of the dwelling solely for the use of the business.</p> <p>COU8: Members required clarity on the definition of a built up frontage and the gap to be filled. This has been amended in the policy to reflect those concerns.</p> <p>COU9; The policy heading is now temporary caravan to reflect the SPPS position.</p> <p>COU10: The evidence required in the policy now includes verifiable business accounts. This was resisted</p>

			<p>by members however on legal advice this was retained in the policy.</p> <p>COU13: This was introduced to provide clarity in relation to such buildings in the countryside.</p> <p>The SA considered these amendments to be enhancements to existing policies and no negative impacts on SA objectives</p>
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4 Education, Health, Community and Cultural Facilities

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	Draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
<p>4a.Land identified for education, health, community or cultural uses by the relevant providers will be protected from development for alternative uses through the new Local Development Plan.</p>	<p>1.Comments from POP</p> <p>2.Regional and local policy direction</p> <p>3.Population studies and settlement appraisals</p> <p>4.Engagement with members and other stakeholders</p> <p>5.Statutory appraisals</p>	<p>SP10 The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <p>a) meet an identified need for services and facilities across the Council area</p> <p>b) cater for expansion of existing facilities to meet the anticipated needs of the community in terms of health, education, community and cultural services.</p> <p>Operational policy CF01 and CF02</p>	<p>Two new policies have been introduced</p> <p>CF01 and CF02 these are deemed necessary by members providing clarity in this policy area. These two policies have evolved over the plan period during workshops with members.</p> <p>The SA highlighted this as a significant positive in meeting social objectives.</p>

Strategic Objective B: Driving Sustainable Economic Growth

Six key issues were identified:

- 5: Safeguarding Existing Employment Land
- 6: West Lisburn/Blaris Major Employment Location (MEL)
- 7: Purdysburn Mixed Use Site Major Employment Location (MEL)
- 8: The Maze Lands Strategic Land Reserve of Regional Importance
- 9: Facilitating Sustainable Rural Economic Development in the Countryside
- 10: Mineral Safeguarding Zones and Areas of Mineral Constraint

5 Safeguarding Existing Employment Land

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	Draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
<p>5a. Maintain the current provision of land zoned for employment (with the exception of the West Lisburn/Blaris Major Employment Location) (Preferred Option).</p> <p>5b. Redesignate sites which are currently zoned as employment land for alternative uses</p> <p>5c. Increase current levels of zoned employment land</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comments from POP 2. Regional and local policy direction 3. Employment land review and urban capacity study 4. Engagement with members and other stakeholders 5. Statutory appraisals 	<p>SP11 The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support and promote the Strategic Mixed Use Sites at West Lisburn/Blaris and Purdysburn/Knockbracken in accordance with key site requirements b) support and promote the local employment sites throughout the Council area, to help provide opportunities for a range of economic needs and businesses c) encourage mixed use schemes supporting regeneration on sites previously used for economic purposes to help tackle inequality and deprivation d) provide Class B1 Business within the strategic mixed use sites at West Lisburn/Blaris and Purdysburn/Knockbracken in accordance with key site requirements. 	<p>The Policy now ensures policy direction and clarity in relation to providing key site requirements for the strategic mixed use sites.</p> <p>Policy ED1 provides additional clarity on B1 use as distinct from B2, B3 and B4 uses and provides additional flexibility for B1 uses within zoned employment land.</p> <p>The SA considered these amendments to be enhancements to existing policies and no negative impacts on SA objectives</p>

		Operational policies ED1 – ED9	
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6 West Lisburn/Blaris Major Employment Location (MEL)

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	Draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
<p>6a.Redesignate the Blaris Major Employment Zoning as a Mixed Use site (Preferred Option).</p> <p>6b.Redesignate the Blaris Major Employment Zoning as two separate zonings for housing and employment</p> <p>6c.Retain the existing Blaris Major Employment Zoning for employment purposes only</p>	<p>1.Comments from POP</p> <p>2.Regional and local policy direction</p> <p>3. Employment Land Review, Housing Growth Study, Urban Capacity Study, Office study</p> <p>4.Engagement with members and other stakeholders</p> <p>5.Statutory appraisals</p>	<p>SP11 The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <p>a) support and promote the Strategic Mixed Use Sites at West Lisburn/Blaris and Purdysburn/Knockbracken in accordance with key site requirements.</p> <p>d) provide Class B1 Business within the strategic mixed use sites at West Lisburn/Blaris and Purdysburn/Knockbracken in accordance with key site requirements.</p> <p>SMU01 The Plan will support development of the Strategic Mixed Use Site at West Lisburn/Blaris in accordance with an overall Concept Masterplan for the site incorporating a Transport Assessment to be agreed with the Council. The Masterplan shall outline:</p> <p>a) The provision of the M1-Knockmore Link Road</p> <p>b) The overall design concept, objectives and priorities for the site, including provision of approximately half of the developable area for employment uses and half of the developable area for residential dwellings</p> <p>c) A block structure defined by a hierarchy of routes and spaces</p>	<p>The policy has been revised from BMAP based on updated evidence collated.</p> <p>The key site requirements have been included to ensure that development occurs in an orderly and sustainable manner.</p> <p>The requirement of an overall concept masterplan will provide clarity that all the key site requirements have been included and considered. Each individual element is considered as important as the next.</p> <p>The use of the site for housing and a mixed use site in light of the employment and housing growth studies is a more sustainable use of this strategic site.is The SA considered these amendments to</p>

		<p>d) Appropriate scale, massing and design variety of building blocks</p> <p>e) A linear riverside park and other appropriate open space and public realm works with linkages to Blaris Old Cemetery and the wider Lagan Corridor</p> <p>f) Appropriate landscaping including site boundary planting and around Blaris old cemetery</p> <p>g) Appropriate provision for public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure, both within the site and linking to existing or planned networks, including the West Lisburn railway halt</p> <p>h) Implementation within the site of a car-free Primary Strategic Greenway linking the National Cycle Network (NCN9) from Union Locks west towards Portadown</p> <p>i) The proposed phasing of development</p> <p>j) The following uses, as defined in the Planning (Use Classes) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 (or as amended) will only be acceptable: • employment (Use Classes B1, B2, B3 and B4) • dwellings (Use Class C1) • small scale local needs convenience retailing (Use Class A1) healthcare facilities (Use Class D1(a))</p> <p>k) The total amount of floor space for use within Use Class B1(a) within the overall zoning shall not exceed 10,000 square meters</p> <p>l) Funding of the M1-Knockmore Link Road shall be the responsibility of the developers either in full or a very substantial part.</p>	<p>be enhancements to the existing policy and no negative impacts on SA objectives</p>
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7 Purdysburn Mixed Use Site Major Employment Location (MEL)

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	Draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
<p>7a.Retain the existing Purdysburn Major Employment Location as a Mixed Use site</p>	<p>1.Comments from POP 2.Regional and local policy direction 3. Employment Land Review, Urban Capacity Study and Office study 4.Engagement with members and other stakeholders 5.Statutory appraisals</p>	<p>SP11 The Plan will support development proposals that: a) support and promote the Strategic Mixed Use Sites at West Lisburn/Blaris and Purdysburn/Knockbracken in accordance with key site requirements. d) provide Class B1 Business within the strategic mixed use sites at West Lisburn/Blaris and Purdysburn/Knockbracken in accordance with key site requirements. SMU02 Purdysburn/Knockbracken The Plan will support development of the Strategic Mixed Use Site at Purdysburn/Knockbracken in accordance with an overall Concept Masterplan for the site incorporating a Transport Assessment to be agreed with the Council. The Masterplan shall outline: a) Primary access to be from the Saintfield Road b) The overall design concept, objectives and priorities for the site c) A block structure defined by a hierarchy of routes and spaces d) The Grahamholm Building shall be retained as a focal point and its spatial setting respected by development proposals e) A comprehensive landscaping scheme to take account of the existing parkland character, supplemented with additional planting throughout the site and to its</p>	<p>The policy has been revised from BMAP based on updated evidence collated. The key site requirements have been included to ensure that development occurs in an orderly and sustainable manner. The submission of the concept masterplan will provide clarity that all the key site requirements have been included and considered. The policy has evolved to ensure the setting of the site is retained while opening up the possibility for economic development on the site. The SA considered the policy which reflects the existing policy had no negative impacts on SA objectives</p>

		<p>boundaries including a 5-10 metre buffer along the western site boundary</p> <p>f) Appropriate provision for public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure, both within the site and linking to existing or planned networks</p> <p>g) Implementation within the site of a car free secondary Strategic Greenway linking Carryduff with Cairnshill Park and Ride</p> <p>h) An appropriate mix of the following uses as defined in the Planning (Use Classes) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 (or as amended): • Employment (Use Class B1(a), B1(b) and B1(c)) • Residential (Use Class C3 and C4 only) • Medical or Health Services (Use Class D1(a)) only</p> <p>i) The total amount of floor space for use within Use Class B1(a) shall not exceed 3,000 square metres</p> <p>j) Proposed employment uses in close proximity to health uses shall provide appropriate open space/landscape buffers to ensure no adverse impact on the amenity of health or residential occupiers</p> <p>k) An area identified on Map 8 shall be kept free from built development</p> <p>l) Development proposals shall take account of the landscape character and site topography and shall be set within a generous parkland setting interspersed with high quality landscaping</p> <p>m) Development proposals shall take account of the existing landmark buildings</p>	
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8 The Maze Lands Strategic Land Reserve of Regional Importance

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	Draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
8a. Retain designation of the Maze Lands as a Strategic Land Reserve of Regional Importance		Owing to the fact that the land has its own specific designation as a strategic land reserve of regional importance it does not strictly fall under an employment land designation. No specific policy is therefore required as any future proposal will be subject to relevant operational policies where applicable.	N/A

9 Facilitating Sustainable Rural Economic Development in the Countryside

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	Draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
<p>9a. Retention of the existing policy-led approach (Preferred Option).</p> <p>9b. Retention of the existing policy-led approach but in addition allow for the possible creation of 'Rural Business Development Zones' in a limited number of key/strategic locations</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comments from POP 2. Regional and local policy direction 3. Employment land review 4. Engagement with members and other stakeholders 5. Statutory appraisals 	<p>SP12 The Plan will support development proposals that: a) facilitate and benefit the rural economy and support rural communities, whilst protecting rural character and the environment.</p> <p>Operational Policies ED3, ED4, ED5, ED6, ED8, ED9, COU11 and COU14</p>	<p>ED3 retains the previous policy of PPS4</p> <p>ED4 is retained with the exception of reuse of existing sites for social/affordable housing – these are covered under countryside housing policy; reuse of existing sites for storage/distribution also removed from policy, unless there are exceptional circumstances for such a use in the countryside.</p> <p>ED5 retains the previous policy of PPS4 with only minor rewording</p> <p>ED6 minor rewording and removal of sequential site selection of previous policy.</p>

			<p>ED8 and ED9 retain existing policy of PPS4</p> <p>COU 11 and COU 14 remain unchanged from previous CTY policies, with only minor changes reflecting removal of integration requirements, these are covered in general criteria countryside policies.</p> <p>The SA considered these amendments to be enhancements to the existing policy and no negative impacts on SA objectives</p>
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10 Mineral Safeguarding Zones and Areas of Mineral Constraint

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	Draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
<p>10a. Provide Mineral Safeguarding Zones and Areas of Mineral Constraint in addition to the existing policy-led approach in relation to Mineral Development (Preferred Option).</p> <p>10b. Retain the existing policy-led approach in relation to Mineral Development</p>	<p>1. Comments from POP</p> <p>2. Regional and local policy direction</p> <p>3. Engagement with members and other stakeholders</p> <p>4. Statutory appraisals</p>	<p>SP13 The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <p>a) facilitate a sufficient supply of minerals through balancing the need for the mineral development against the need to safeguard the environment, taking account of appropriate designations</p> <p>b) allow for careful exploitation of minerals c) provide for the sustainable and safe restoration and reuse of mineral sites.</p> <p>Operational policies MD1 – MD9</p>	<p>All of the minerals policies where previously in the PSRNI and have been carried forward to align with the SPPS.</p> <p>MD4 policy has been amended and there is no presumption against exploitation of a valuable mineral. This wording of this policy has been on the advice during the consultation process and the SA. This approach is considered the most sustainable over the long term.</p> <p>New policy MD5 reflects the direction in the SPPS. The policy can</p>

			<p>be reviewed in light of any new evidence to the contrary.</p> <p>The SA considered these amendments to be enhancements to the existing policy and no negative impacts on SA objectives</p>
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Strategic Objective C: Growing Our City, Town Centres, Retailing and Offices

Seven key issues were identified:

- 11: Growing Lisburn City Centre
- 12: Strengthening Town Centres
- 13: Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre
- 14: Strengthening District and Local Centres
- 15: Growing the Night Time Economy
- 16: Promoting Office Development within the City, Town, District and Local Centres
- 17: City Centre Development Opportunity Sites

11 Growing Lisburn City Centre; 12 Strengthening Town Centres; 16 Promoting Office Development within the City, Town, District and Local Centres & 17 City Centre Development Opportunity Sites

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	Draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
<p>11a. Extend the existing City Centre boundary (Preferred Option).</p> <p>11b. Retain the existing City Centre boundary</p> <p>12a. Retain the existing town centre of Carryduff and designate town</p>	<p>1. Comments from POP</p> <p>2. Regional and local policy direction</p> <p>3. Retail study and Office study</p>	<p>SP14 The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <p>a) promote town centres, retailing and other uses within the City and town centres to enhance their vitality and viability in accordance with their role and function in the retail hierarchy</p>	<p>New policy TC1 The town centre uses are as defined in the SPPS for clarity purposes. Requested as a result of consultation as previous policy was contained in PPS8.</p>

<p>centre boundaries in the historic towns of Hillsborough and Moira (Preferred Option).</p> <p>12b. Retain the existing town centre of Carryduff</p> <p>16a. Promoting Office Development within the City, Town, District and Local Centres</p>	<p>4.Engagement with members and other stakeholders</p> <p>5.Statutory appraisals</p>	<p>Operational policies TC1 – TC3</p>	<p>New policy TC2 non retail development is restricted this was inserted to ensure that the most significant parts of Lisburn are retained for retail use. This policy is site specific and a result of consultation during the plan process and the SA.</p> <p>New policy TC3 Town Centres and TC5 Villages and Small Settlements reflects the policy position of the SPPS.</p> <p>Additional new policy TC6 Petrol Filling Stations and Roadside Service Facilities which was originally in Rural Planning Strategy for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The SA considered these policies to be sustainable reflecting regional policy position.</p>
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13 Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	Draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
<p>13a.Retain and reinforce Sprucefield as a Regional Shopping Centre (Preferred Option).</p> <p>13b.Retain Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre but extend uses to include recreation and leisure</p>	<p>1.Comments from POP</p> <p>2.Regional and local policy direction</p> <p>3. Retail Capacity study and office study</p>	<p>SP14 The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <p>b) support Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre in recognition of its regional status in accordance with key site requirements.</p> <p>SMU03 The Plan will support development proposals within Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre that are</p>	<p>The policy has been revised from BMAP. based on updated evidence collated.</p> <p>The key site requirements have been included to ensure that development occurs in an orderly and sustainable manner.</p>

	<p>4.Engagement with members and other stakeholders</p> <p>5.Statutory appraisals</p>	<p>accompanied by a Transport assessment, in accordance with operational policy and subject to the following key site requirements:</p> <p>a) A maximum of an additional 50,000 square metres gross external floor space will be permitted consisting of: - up to a maximum of 25,000 square metres gross external floor space for retail uses as defined by Class A of the Planning Use Classes Order 2015 - up to a maximum of 25,000 square metres gross external floor space for leisure and recreation uses, including café/restaurant or tourism-related uses as defined by the Planning (Use Classes) Order 2015</p> <p>b) The type of retail goods offered should be mainly comparison goods, the type, scale and nature of which to be determined through the submission of a retail impact assessment</p> <p>c) Any proposal individually or cumulatively exceeding more than 1,000 square metres gross external floor space will require a Retail Impact Assessment and needs assessment in accordance with regional policy; this includes applications for any extension(s) which would result in the overall development exceeding 1,000 square metres gross external floor space</p> <p>d) Car showrooms will be permitted as part of the 25,000 square metres gross external floor space for retail uses e) Appropriate provision for public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure, both within the site and linking to existing or planned networks.</p>	<p>This policy has evolved over the course of the plan period in light of the evidence base collated through the Retail Capacity Study..</p> <p>The floor space requirements and, permitted uses on the site are all considered sustainable in line with the SA.</p> <p>The SA considered the policy had no negative impacts on SA objectives.</p>
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14 Strengthening District and Local Centres

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
<p>14a. Extend District and Local Centre Boundaries (Preferred Option).</p> <p>14b. Retain the existing boundaries at Forestside District Centre and Dundonald Local Centre</p>	<p>1. Comments from POP</p> <p>2. Regional and local policy direction</p> <p>3. Retail study and office study</p> <p>4. Engagement with members and other stakeholders</p> <p>5. Statutory appraisals</p>	Operational Policy TC4	<p>New policy TC4 District and Local Centres reflects the policy position of the SPPS.</p> <p>The SA considered this policy to be sustainable reflecting regional policy position.</p>

15 Growing the Night Time Economy

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	Draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
15a. Grow the Night Time Economy		<p>SP15 The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <p>a) promote the City and Town Centres as the main locations for growing the evening/night-time economy, to enhance their vitality and viability</p> <p>b) encourage regeneration in the city and town centres to help develop a vibrant and accessible shared space c) promote sustainable tourism, leisure and culture facilities appropriate to their location.</p>	<p>New strategic policy in light of updated evidence base (including the Council’s City Centre Masterplan) and at the request of members and wider consultation process.</p> <p>No specific operational policy as policies contained in the Draft Plan Strategy will facilitate any proposed development.</p> <p>The SA considered this policy to be sustainable reflecting regional policy position.</p>

Strategic Objective D: Promoting Sustainable Tourism, Open Space and Recreation

Four key issues were identified:

18: Promoting Hillsborough Castle as a Key Tourism Destination

19: Promoting the Lagan Navigation as a Key Tourism/Recreation Opportunity Area

20: Protecting and Promoting the Lagan Valley Regional Park as a Key Tourism/Recreation Opportunity Area

21: Protecting and Enhancing Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

18 Promoting Hillsborough Castle as a Key Tourism Destination; 19 Promoting the Lagan Navigation as a Key Tourism/Recreation Opportunity Area; 20 Protecting and Promoting the Lagan Valley Regional Park as a Key Tourism/Recreation Opportunity Area

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	Draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
<p>18a. Promote Hillsborough Castle as a Key Tourism Destination (Preferred Option).</p> <p>19a. Promote the implementation of the Lagan Navigation as a Key Tourism / Recreation Opportunity Area (Preferred Option).</p> <p>20a. Protect and promote the Lagan Valley Regional Park as a rich natural asset, retaining and enhancing the Lagan Valley Regional Park Nodes (Preferred Option).</p>	<p>1. Comments from POP</p> <p>2. Regional and local policy direction</p> <p>3. Landscape character assessment review</p> <p>4. Engagement with members and other stakeholders</p> <p>5. Statutory appraisals</p>	<p>SP16 The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <p>a) promote a sustainable approach to tourist development and accommodation across the district</p> <p>b) safeguard key tourism assets</p> <p>c) provide further opportunities for tourism growth having regard to the environment recognising its contribution to economic development, conservation and urban regeneration.</p> <p>Operational Policies TOU1 – TOU8</p>	<p>No site specific policies are identified in relation to the key assets mentioned, but protected under the Strategic Policy SP16.</p> <p>TOU8 this was former policy TSM8 at early workshops it was proposed to remove this policy as considered covered under other operational policy. During review and as part of discussion on the SA this policy was reinserted as its removal was considered to create a policy vacuum.</p> <p>The SA considered this policy to be sustainable reflecting regional policy position.</p>

21 Protecting and Enhancing Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	Draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
<p>21a. Protect and enhance all areas of open space and provide opportunity to identify a limited number of potential new Community Greenways (Preferred Option).</p> <p>21b. Protect and enhance all areas of open space</p>	<p>1. Comments from POP</p> <p>2. Regional and local policy direction</p> <p>3. Open space</p> <p>4. Engagement with members and other stakeholders</p> <p>5. Statutory appraisals</p>	<p>SP17 The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <p>a) protect and enhance existing open space and provide new open space provision</p> <p>b) support and protect a network of accessible green and blue infrastructure c) support and promote the development of strategic and community greenways</p> <p>Operational policies OS1- OS6</p>	<p>No significant alterations have been made to these policies during the plan making process. The wording and intention reflects the former PPS from which they are derived and SPPS approach.</p> <p>The SA considered these policies to be sustainable reflecting regional policy position.</p>

Strategic Objective E: Supporting Sustainable Transport and Other Infrastructure

Seven key issues were identified:

22: Retention of Key Transportation Infrastructure Schemes (Road and Rail)

23: Retention of Key Park and Ride Sites

24: Promoting Active Travel (walking, cycling and public transport)

25: Connecting People and Places – Greenways

26: Renewable Energy

27: Telecommunications

28: Waste Management

22 Retention of Key Transportation Infrastructure Schemes (Road and Rail); 23 Retention of Key Park and Ride Sites; 24 Promoting Active Travel (walking, cycling and public transport); 25 Connecting People and Places - Greenways

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	Draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
<p>22a.Retain a number of key transportation infrastructure schemes to enhance accessibility within the area (Preferred Option).</p> <p>23a.Retain a number of key Park & Ride Sites with identification of potential new Park & Ride Sites (Preferred Option).</p> <p>23b. Retain a number of key Park & Ride Sites</p> <p>24a. Promote Active Travel in all new development (within Urban Areas/Settlements) to demonstrate how the</p>	<p>1.Comments from POP</p> <p>2.Regional and local policy direction</p> <p>3. Local transport study</p> <p>4.Engagement with members and other stakeholders</p> <p>5.Statutory appraisals</p>	<p>SP20 The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <p>a) provide or improve an integrated transport network servicing the needs of our community and future growth</p> <p>b) deliver sustainable patterns of development, including safe and accessible environments</p> <p>c) encourage a modal shift from private car dependency through integration of transport and land use</p> <p>d) facilitate Park & Ride, active travel (public transport, cycling and walking) and strategic greenways to move to towards more sustainable modes of travel both</p>	<p>New policy TRA5 provides additional protection for strategic greenways in keeping with regional approach in SPPS.</p> <p>New policy TRA8 was introduced as it supports the aims of modal shift.</p> <p>The policy has been formulated over the plan formulation period and was requested by various bodies and is considered sustainable in the long term. The SA has refined this policy.</p> <p>TRA9 provides additional clarity on the provision of Park and Ride sites.</p>

<p>development integrates with existing public transport, walking and cycling (Preferred Option).</p> <p>25a. Protect and develop safe, shared and accessible Greenways connecting communities, promoting walking and cycling, recreational and social interaction and enhancing health and well-being (Preferred Option).</p>		<p>within the Council area and linking to wider regional networks.</p> <p>Operational policies TRA1 – TRA11</p>	<p>The SA considered these policies to be sustainable reflecting regional policy position.</p>
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26 Renewable Energy

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	Draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
<p>26a. Introduce Areas of Constraint in relation to renewable development (wind turbines) (Preferred Option).</p> <p>26b. Retain the existing policy-led approach in relation to renewable development</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comments from POP 2. Regional and local policy direction 3. Landscape character assessment 4. Engagement with members and other stakeholders 5. Statutory appraisals 	<p>SP21 The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) facilitate the delivery of renewable energy generating facilities (wind, solar, thermal, biomass and other technologies) in the most appropriate locations which aim to meet the regional target for renewable energy production b) minimise any potential visual intrusion and environmental impacts to protect both the rural and urban landscape. <p>Operational policies RE1 – RE2</p>	<p>No significant alterations have been made to these policies during the plan making process, the wording and intention reflects the former PPS from which they are derived and SPPS approach.</p> <p>The SA considered these policies to be sustainable reflecting regional policy position.</p>

27 Telecommunications

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	Draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
<p>27a. Retain the existing policy-led approach in relation to telecommunication development (Preferred Option).</p> <p>27b. Introduce Areas of Constraint in relation to telecommunication development</p>	<p>1. Comments from POP</p> <p>2. Regional and local policy direction</p> <p>3. Engagement with members and other stakeholders</p> <p>4. Statutory appraisals</p>	<p>SP22 The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <p>a) facilitate the delivery of sustainable telecommunications and other utilities infrastructure requirements to meet need over the Plan period, encouraging future proofing to adapt to technological change</p> <p>b) minimise any visual intrusion and environmental impacts to protect both the rural and urban landscape.</p> <p>Operational Policies TEL1 and UT1</p>	<p>In the strategic policy it was considered appropriate to include utilities.</p> <p>In the operational policies it was decided at an early stage that that the two should remain separate for clarity purposes.</p> <p>The SA considered these policies to be sustainable reflecting regional policy position.</p>

28 Waste Management

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	Draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
<p>28a. Retain the existing policy-led approach in relation to waste management within the Council area (Preferred Option).</p>	<p>1. Comments from POP</p> <p>2. Regional and local policy direction</p> <p>3. Engagement with members and other stakeholders</p> <p>4. Statutory appraisals</p>	<p>SP23 The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <p>a) facilitate the delivery of appropriate waste management infrastructure in the most appropriate locations paying due regard to the proximity principle and in accordance with the waste hierarchy</p> <p>b) employ the most appropriate technology to meet the wide range of environmental targets while ensuring all the appropriate environmental protections are in place</p>	<p>No significant alterations have been made to these policies during the plan making process or as the result of the SA process the wording and intention reflects the former PPS from which they are derived.</p> <p>The SA considered these policies to be sustainable reflecting regional policy position.</p>

		<p>c) secure appropriate restoration and aftercare of waste management sites</p> <p>Operational policies WM1 – WM5</p>	
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Strategic Objective F: Protecting and Enhancing the Built and Natural Environment

Two key issues were identified:

29: Protecting and Enhancing Built Heritage Assets and Archaeological Remains

30: Protecting and Enhancing Natural Heritage Assets

29 Protecting and Enhancing Built Heritage Assets and Archaeological Remains

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	Draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
<p>29a. Retain the existing policy-led approach with regards to the protection and enhancement of Built Heritage Assets but in addition provide opportunity to identify potential new Conservation Areas, Areas of Townscape Character or Areas of Village Character throughout the Council area (Preferred Option).</p> <p>29b. Retain the existing policy-led approach with regards to the protection and enhancement of Built Heritage Assets</p>	<p>1. Comments from POP</p> <p>2. Regional and local policy direction</p> <p>3. Engagement with members and other stakeholders</p> <p>4. Statutory appraisals</p>	<p>SP18 The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <p>a) protect and enhance the Conservation Areas, Areas of Townscape Character and Areas of Village Character</p> <p>b) protect, conserve and, where possible, enhance and restore our built heritage assets including our historic parks, gardens and demesnes, listed buildings, archaeological remains and areas of archaeological potential</p> <p>c) promote the highest quality of design for any new development affecting our historic environment.</p> <p>Operational Policies HE1- HE14</p>	<p>No significant alterations have been made to these policies during the plan making process or as the result of the SA process. The wording and intention reflects the former PPS and associated addendums from which they are derived. Only slight changes to wording has been done to reflect the current approach of the SPPS.</p> <p>The SA considered these policies to be sustainable reflecting regional policy position.</p>

30 Protecting and Enhancing Natural Heritage Assets

Options from the POP	Factors influencing policy formation	Draft Plan Strategy policy	Key amendments to policy
<p>30a. Retain the existing policy-led approach with regards to the protection and enhancement of Natural Heritage Assets but in addition provide opportunity to identify potential new environmental designations across the Council area (Preferred Option).</p> <p>30b. Retain the existing policy-led approach with regards to the protection and enhancement of Natural Heritage Assets</p>	<p>1. Comments from POP</p> <p>2. Regional and local policy direction</p> <p>3. Landscape Character Assessment</p> <p>4. Engagement with members and other stakeholders</p> <p>5. Statutory appraisals</p>	<p>SP19 The Plan will support development proposals that:</p> <p>a) protect, conserve and, where possible, enhance and restore our natural heritage</p> <p>b) maintain landscape quality and the distinctiveness and attractiveness of the area</p> <p>c) promote the highest quality of design for any new development affecting our natural heritage assets</p> <p>d) safeguard the Lagan Valley Regional Park allowing appropriate opportunities for enhanced access at identified locations thereby protecting their integrity and value.</p> <p>Operational policies NH1 – NH6</p>	<p>No significant alterations have been made to these policies during the plan making process or as the result of the SA process. The wording and intention reflects the former PPS from which they are derived. Only slight changes to wording has been done to update any references to local/national/international designations and to reflect the content of the SPPS.</p> <p>The SA considered these policies to be sustainable reflecting regional policy position.</p>