

# **Lisburn and Castlereagh Draft Community Plan SEA SCREENING REPORT**

**This SEA Screening Report Template has been developed by Lisburn and Castlereagh Community Planning staff in the absence of a template for NI. The contents of the report relate to the requirements contained in Schedule 1 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation (Northern Ireland) 2004 and will assist in determining the need for an SEA assessment for the Community Plan for the Lisburn and Castlereagh area.**

## SEA SCREENING REPORT (COVER NOTE)

### Part 1

**Consultation Body:** Department of the Environment  
Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)  
Klondyke Building, Cromac Avenue,  
Gasworks Business Park,  
Lower Ormeau Road,  
Belfast, BT7 2JA

**Legislative Requirement:** The Development, implementation and monitoring of the Community Plan is a legislative function prescribed in the *Local Government Act (NI) 2014*.

### Part 2

Screening is required as outlined in the 'EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment – (commonly known as the 'SEA Directive' and translated into a Northern Ireland law in '*The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation (Northern Ireland) 2004*'.

#### Determination

An SEA is not required because the Community Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects, it is high level and any specific activities arising as a result of the outcomes contained within the plan will be separately screened either via the Local Development Planning process or the screening of another strategy. The Community Plan will consist of a series of outcomes and indicators/measures which will be delivered via the strategies and work programmes of various community planning partners.

**The Responsible Authority is Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council.**

**Contact Officer: Catharine McWhirter, Community Planning Officer.**

**Signed:**.....

**Date:**.....

## Introduction

The EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment – (commonly known as the ‘SEA Directive’) has the objective of providing for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation of and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with the Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Article 32 of the SEA Directive details the characteristics that ‘plans and programmes’ must possess for the SEA Directive to apply and include those:

*‘which are subject to preparation and/or adoption by authority at national, regional or local level or which are prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure by parliament or Government, and, which are required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions’.*

The Lisburn and Castlereagh Community Plan falls within the scope of Article 2 of the EU Directive 2001/42/EC as it is a plan that is (a) subject to adoption by the Council and (b) is directed by the legislative and regulatory provisions of the *Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014*.

The EU Directive 2001/42/EC has been transposed into Northern Ireland law within the *Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation (Northern Ireland) 2004* and provides in Part I that a determination needs to be made as to whether certain plans or programmes are required to undertake an SEA process. Making a determination is the first stage of the SEA process and is referred to as ‘screening’.

Screening is required under the above named regulations to determine whether the policies or objectives of any plan or programme would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

The aim of this report is to determine if the Community Plan requires an SEA to be undertaken. The objectives are:

- To set out and consider the characteristics of the Community Plan.
- To set out and consider the characteristics of the environmental effects of the Community Plan and the areas likely to be affected.
- To inform and advise the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and Lisburn and Castlereagh District Council of the determination made.

Article 2 and 3 of the SEA Directive sets out the criteria which determines the requirement for a SEA process to be processed. Article 3 provides for a determination on a case by case basis as to whether plans are likely to have a significant environmental effect taking into account the criteria of Annex II of the Directive (transposed into Northern Ireland law this refers to Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation (Northern Ireland) 2004*).

Application of the Screening criteria was applied with guidance from ‘ A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive’ from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

<b>Table 1</b>	
<b>Responsible Authority</b>	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (as the facilitator of the Community Plan)
<b>Contact Address / Person</b>	Catharine McWhirter Civic Headquarters Lagan Valley Island Lisburn BT27 4RL
<b>Approval Signature</b>	
<b>Date of Submission</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
<b>Title of Plan</b>	Lisburn & Castlereagh Community Plan
<b>Purpose of Plan</b>	The Community Plan will be the strategic long-term plan for the new council area which will inform and guide delivery of services by all partners. The Local Development Plan for the area provides the spatial strategy for the Community Plan.
<b>What Prompted the Plan</b> ( i.e. legislation, regulatory or administrative provision)	The Council has a legislative duty, under the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, to <i>‘initiate, maintain, facilitate, and participate in community planning’</i> . Community planning partners must participate and assist the Council in discharge of its duties in relation to Community Planning.
<b>Subject</b>	Community Planning
<b>Period covered by Plan</b>	5-15 years with a review of performance against outcomes published every 2 years and a review of the plan every 4 years.
<b>Area Covered by the Plan</b>	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area (map attached at appendix 1)
<b>Summary of nature / content of Community Plan</b>	The Community Plan and associated supporting documentation will set out the long term vision and objectives for the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area. This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a baseline of the existing conditions in the area</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An integrated view of the social, economic and environmental needs of the area in the context of regional, national and European policies and strategies and taking account of communities and issues that extend into neighbouring council areas and jurisdictions;</li> <li>• Long term vision for the area;</li> <li>• Long term outcomes against which progress can be monitored and evaluated;</li> <li>• A focus on delivering in the short to medium term to achieve the long term vision</li> <li>• Governance Structure and delivery arrangements.</li> </ul>
<b>Are there any proposed Plan objectives?</b>	The plan will have outcomes rather than objectives. These are still in development
<b>Are objectives attached</b>	No

<b>Criteria for determination of the likely significance of effects on the environment</b>	
<b>1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to –</b>	
<b>a) The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;</b>	
<b>Likely to have significant environmental effects</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</b>	
<p>The Community Plan will be the long-term strategic planning framework for the Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh area, affecting the Council and its partners as outlined in the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014 the draft Local Government (Community Planning Partners order) 2014 and associated guidance. The Plan will not identify specific locations or projects/activities but will contain high-level outcomes and indicators and measures to determine progress. Therefore the plan will not set any precedent for development. It will provide strategic and policy direction for the delivery of services by all of its partners.</p> <p>Its key principles will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Good governance:</b> The Plan will be answerable to the communities and people of the Lisburn and Castlereagh area and keep them informed of, and seek their views on, what is being done. It will aim to remove any wasteful overlaps and make the best use of our key resources to deliver our strategic priorities. Actions will be based on clear evidence and information derived from what the community needs. The Strategic Partnership will be open and honest, and have clear and agreed purposes, and methods that achieve these purposes. The Strategic Partnership will use what is learnt</li> </ul>	

from contact with local people to better understand and engage with communities, and to improve the services the Partners deliver.

- **Inclusion:** The plan will ensure that fairness, equality and inclusion underpin all aspects of community engagement through Section 75 and Good Relations commitments.
- **Value for money:** The Plan will ensure it is cost effective and through partnership working looks for service provision synergies and areas of mutual interest. The Strategic Partnership will use its knowledge to avoid consultation overload and service duplication.
- **Excellent standards:** All of the work of the Strategic Partnership will be underpinned by excellence. It will monitor, evaluate and review its work to improve the quality of the community planning process through a commitment to learning from experience.
- **Creativity and innovation:** The Plan will foster creativity and innovation in its approach to the Community Planning process in pursuit of the best outcomes for our citizens.
- **Outcomes focussed:** The Plan will collate robust evidence from quantitative and qualitative sources upon which the outcomes will be generated and developed. The outcomes will reflect the needs of the community.

**(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;**

**Likely to have significant environmental effects** **NO**

**Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)**

The Community Plan will be the principal strategic plan the Lisburn & Castlereagh geographic area. It will inform all other partner agency plans who are legally obliged to align plans and strategies to 'take account' of the Community Plan. The *Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014* and the amendments to the *Planning Act (NI) 2011* provide a statutory link between the Community Plan and Local Development Plan. The Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Sustainable Development 2014 clearly states that Councils 'must take account of the Community Plan when preparing a Local Development Plan'.

Other plans including the Corporate Plan, Performance Improvement Plan, Economic Development Strategy, Local Bio-diversity Action Plan and Rural Development Action Plan will become implementation plans for the delivery against the social, economic and environmental well-being outcomes and to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. These will be defined by the outcomes in the Community plan.

**(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;**

**Likely to have significant environmental effects** **NO**

**Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)**

The *Local Government Act (NI) 2014* states that community planning will 'identify long-term objectives in relation to the district for contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in NI'. Community Planning Guidance (section 8 page 22) states that the Community Planning Partnership 'should set out sustainable development and integration of social, economic and environmental priorities as a key principle of their community plans and should have regard to the Executive's sustainable development strategy in development of their Community Plan'.





The Community Plan is unlikely to have a significant impact on the environment. Quality and accessibility of the local environment as well as understanding and living in harmony with environmental processes are potential priority issues that will be addressed within the Community Plan. The Community Plan will not set a precedent to development and will not specify specific locations for activities.

**(g) The likely significant effects on the environment: Biodiversity, geodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage), and landscape.**

**Likely to have significant environmental effects**                      **NO**

**Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)**

The Community Plan and through the Local Development Plan, is likely to have significant environmental impacts on the whole of Castlereagh & Lisburn area. The area includes one AONB; 12 national nature reserves; 1 local nature reserve; 1 RAMSAR sites; 1 special area of conservation; 3 special protected areas; 8 ASSIs; 6 Areas of High Scenic Value, 116 sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI), 118 Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPA), approximately 745 archaeological sites/ monuments, 5 of these are under State Care and 72 are Scheduled Monuments. The Community Plan will not set a precedent to development and will not specify specific locations for activities.

### **Summary of Screening Report and the significant environmental effects of Lisburn & Castlereagh Community plan.**

The Community Plan will be the long-term strategic framework document providing the overarching policy and strategic outcomes focused framework for the delivery of services by community planning partners within the Lisburn and Castlereagh area.

The Plan will be focused on outcomes, indicators and delivery mechanisms to ensure that the vision and commitments contained within the Plan are realised. Sustainable development and its principles have been integrated into the community planning process and the Plan will focus on improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area.

The Community Plan falls within the scope of Section 5(4) but as it does not set a precedent for development, and due to it being based on a series of high-level outcomes, the implementation of the plan will not have a significant environmental impact.

Following careful review and consideration it is recognised that the Community Plan does not require an SEA because it falls short of the scope of Section 5(1). The Community Plan will not set a precedent to development and will not specify specific locations for activities.