

Marie Ward
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

Date: 9th March 2021

Ref: LCCC LDP F&MC dPS

Local Development Plan Team
Civic Headquarters
Lagan Valley Island
Lisburn
BT27 4RL

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's Local Development Plan 2032- Consultation on focussed changes addendum including minor changes schedule -January 2021.

Representation Response of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

I refer to your consultation received via email on 14th January 2021 in reference to the above and thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes and the associated documents.

- Consultation on Focussed Changes Addendum including Minor Changes Schedule (January 2021)
- Addendum to Habitats Regulation Assessment (January 2021)
- Sustainability Appraisal Report (January 2021)
- Addendum to Rural Needs Impact Assessment Screening Report (January 2021)
- Addendum to EQIA Screening Report (January 2021)

Each of the documents has been reviewed and NMDDC would make the following comments.

Consultation on Focussed Changes Addendum including Minor Changes Schedule (January 2021)

The preparation of the document identifying focussed changes for public consultation in line with Development Plan Practice Note 10 (DPPN 10) is noted. It is also noted that the document includes minor changes for information in a separate schedule in accordance with paragraph 4.5 of DPPN 10.

The focussed changes are divided into two separate sections relating to Part One: Draft Plan Strategy and Part Two: Operational Policies. The focussed changes to Part One and the accompanying reasons for the changes are noted in each case. Primarily they relate to:

-SP08 Housing in Settlements which included the correction of an error in the affordable housing need figures and a change to take account of the updated Housing Growth Figures.

-SP14 Town Centres, Retailing and Other Uses which removes criterion b which related to supporting Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre in recognition of its regional status in accordance with key site requirements.

SP21 Renewable Energy which included amendments to the Justification and Amplification to note a 'cautious' approach and to take account of the 'wider settings' of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty' and recognising these as 'sensitive landscapes'.

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The focussed changes to Part Two and the accompanying reasons for the changes are also noted. These changes relate primarily to the wording of the policy and justification and amplification to provide clarity, to align with the SPPS or take account of consultee concerns over a conflict with the Habitats Regulations.

NMDDC have no objection the proposed focussed changes. However, it would make a number of observations.

- Focussed Change FC14B relates to Policy UT1 Utilities. It is noted the document 'Consultation on Focussed Changes Addendum including Minor Changes Schedule' includes an alteration to criterion b to read as 'Avoidance of areas of nature conservation, historic environment or archaeological interest [where possible](#)'. However, the screening of FC14B in the documents 'Addendum to Sustainability Appraisal Report' (Appendix A) and 'Addendum to Habitats Regulation Assessment' (Table 1) does not reference the inclusion of this amendment which the Council considers would require assessment given its potential impact.
- FC8A and FC8B relate to Policy MD1. However, the text of FC8B reads as 'scientific [of](#) natural or built heritage'. It is considered it should be amended to read as 'scientific, natural or built heritage' to be consistent with FC8A.

Addendum to Habitats Regulation Assessment January 2021

This report notes that all proposed focussed and minor changes were screened to identify whether any would have a likely significant effect on any international sites.

It is noted that following the initial screening exercise ten policies were identified as having a likely significant effect and mitigation measures in the form of six recommended amendments were identified.

It was found that the proposed focussed and minor changes to the draft Plan Strategy document have no likely significant effect on any international sites and for Appropriate Assessment has been screened out in each case.

NMDDC would again refer to FC14B as noted above. Also, whilst it is accepted that the minor changes schedule is provided for information purposes in line with DPPN10 it is noted that MC63 and MC65B in document 'Consultation on Focussed Changes Addendum including Minor Changes Schedule' makes reference to the water body of Portmore Lough however this detail is omitted from table 2 of the 'Addendum to Habitats Regulation Assessment' which shows the application of the Integrity Test following the incorporation of mitigation measures by minor changes which results in an inconsistency.

Reference to MC52E is also omitted from the minor change column of Appendix 2 of 'Addendum to Habitats Regulation Assessment'.

Sustainability Appraisal Report January 2021

It is noted that each of the proposed focussed and minor changes were screened as part of the addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal Report and that it was concluded that none of the changes would 'materially' change what the Sustainability Appraisal initially assessed, or what it assumed about how the LDP would be implemented. It was concluded that the incorporation of the proposed changes in the draft Plan Strategy will have no significant impact on the Plan's performance against the Sustainability Objectives.



As highlighted previously NMDDC would highlight the inconsistency of the wording noted in relation of FC14B as detailed in the Schedule document and appendix A of the Sustainability appraisal report. With the exception of this NMDDC has no further comment to make in relation to the addendum to Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Addendum to Rural Needs Impact Assessment Screening Report (January 2021)

NMDDC note the addendum states it assesses the proposed focussed and minor changes in relation to the Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) while the findings relate only to the focussed changes as the minor changes were screened out. The focussed changes do not introduce new policy and so no implications on the overall RNIA were identified. NMDDC has no further comment to make in relation to the addendum to Rural Needs Impact Assessment Screening Report.

Addendum to EQIA Screening Report (January 2021)

It is noted the addendum to the Draft Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) Screening Report assessed the proposed focussed changes in relation to the EQIA process and screened out the minor changes as they were considered to have no impact on the draft EQIA Screening Report. The addendum concludes that as the focussed changes do not introduce new policy the outcomes identified and considered in the initial EQIA Screening Report remain unchanged. NMDDC has no further comment regarding the addendum to the EQIA Screening Report.

In conclusion, NMDDC considers that the proposed changes to your draft Plan Strategy and associated documents are not in conflict with the ongoing development of our own draft Plan Strategy. We thank you for the opportunity to comment and look forward to continued consultation and engagement with you on matters of common interest at the appropriate time in our respective work programmes.

Yours sincerely



Anthony McKay
Chief Planning Officer