Local Development Plan 2032
Draft Plan Strategy
October 2019
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Draft Plan Strategy

The draft Plan Strategy is the first document in a two-stage process, the second being the Local Policies Plan. Together these will constitute the Council’s new Local Development Plan (LDP). It follows the publication of the Preferred Options Paper on 30th March 2017.

The draft Plan Strategy takes account of the particular characteristics of our district and the views of our residents, Council members and key consultees. It provides the statutory policy framework for the future development of the Council area from 2017-2032 aligned with the Council’s Community Plan.

The draft Plan Strategy sets out how the area will develop and grow over the period up to 2032.

How We Got Here

The Council in accordance with relevant legislation and regional guidance is preparing its Local Development Plan in four stages shown in the figure below.

Responses received to the public consultation on the Preferred Options Paper were considered in conjunction with a comprehensive evidence base, comprising of specialist studies, that together have shaped the draft Plan Strategy. These have been important in developing the strategic and operational policies contained within the Plan Strategy.

Policy and Spatial Context

The draft Plan Strategy provides the strategic policy framework across a range of areas such as housing, employment, tourism and infrastructure. It takes account of the ‘Regional Development Strategy 2035’ (RDS), the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and other advice and guidance issued by the Northern Ireland Government.

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 area covers an area of almost 200 square miles (520 square km).

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 it 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 the uplands to the north and south.

The LDP 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 wellbeing and quality of life for all.
The draft Plan Strategy is set out as follows:

**Part 1 – Plan Strategy:**

- **Chapter 1 Introduction** – outlines the background and purpose.
- **Chapter 2 Policy and Spatial Context** – provides detail on the policy framework and profile of the Council area.
- **Chapter 3 Vision and Plan Objectives** – sets out the Local Development Plan (LDP) vision and objectives which drive its delivery.
- **Chapter 4 Strategic Policies and Spatial Strategy** – provides the strategic policies for the LDP for implementation of the following objectives:

  A. **A Quality Place**
     - Enabling Sustainable Communities and Delivery of New Homes
  B. **A Thriving Place**
     - Driving Sustainable Economic Growth
  C. **A Vibrant Place**
     - Growing our City, Town Centres, Retailing and Other Uses
  D. **An Attractive Place**
     - Promoting Sustainable Tourism, Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation
  E. **A Green Place**
     - Protecting and Enhancing the Historic and Natural Environment
  F. **A Connected Place**
     - Supporting Transport and Other Infrastructure

- **Chapter 5 Monitoring and Implementation** – sets out how we will measure the effectiveness of the LDP.

**Part 2 – Operational Policies:**

- **Preamble** - provides the context for operational policies including how all policies must be considered.
- **Topic-based operational policies** - these will guide development across the Council area. Policies are grouped under the six objectives identified under the Spatial Strategy.

**Supporting Documents**

The Plan Strategy is accompanied by:

- **Sustainability Appraisal**
- **Habitats Regulations Assessment**
- **Rural Needs Impact Assessment**
- **Equality Impact Screening Report**.

Additional supporting documents include:

- **Technical Supplements** – The Plan Strategy is underpinned by a robust evidence base which will be reviewed periodically to inform the future Local Policies Plan. The policies and proposals contained within the Plan Strategy are informed by and assessed against relevant available evidence.
- **Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)** – comprising of guidance to be used in conjunction with the Plan Strategy.
Where we are now

- Publish Draft Plan Strategy for 13 week consultation period (see below)
- Further 8 week statutory period for counter representations
- Independent Examination of the draft Plan Strategy
- Adoption of the Plan Strategy followed by preparation and publication of the Local Policies Plan

When and how to make a Representation

Pre-Consultation

To allow further time for consideration of the document, we are publishing it in advance of the formal (statutory) eight week period of public consultation. This period of pre-consultation will run from Friday 11th October 2019 to Thursday 7th November 2019. Please note that no representations should be made within this period as they will not be considered outside the formal consultation 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.

You may make a representation during the formal consultation period in any of the following ways:

- **Online** – use online representation form available at www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/LDP
- **Email** – email us at LDP@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk
- **In writing** – Local Development Plan Team, Civic Headquarters, Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn, BT27 4RL

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 as a written or oral representation.

Your views – Soundness

In accordance with the new Local Development Plan system, it is important that your representations and counter-representations engage with the 12 tests of soundness, which refer to the process by which the draft Plan Strategy was prepared.

**Procedural Tests**

P1 Has the Development Plan Document (DPD) been prepared in accordance with the Council’s timetable and Statement of Community Involvement?

P2 Has the Council prepared its Preferred Options Paper and taken account of any representations made?

P3 Has the DPD been subject to a sustainability appraisal including a Strategic Environmental Assessment?

P4 Did the Council comply with the regulations on the form and content of its DPD and procedure for preparing the DPD?

**Consistency Tests**

C1 Did the Council take account of the Regional Development Strategy?

C2 Did the Council take account of its Community Plan?

C3 Did the Council take account of policy and guidance issued by the Department?

C4 Has the Plan had regard to other relevant plans, policies and strategies relating to the Council’s district or to any adjoining Council’s district?
Coherence and Effectiveness Tests
CE1 The DPD sets out a coherent strategy from which its policies and allocations logically flow and where cross-boundary issues are relevant it is not in conflict with the DPDs of neighbouring councils;
CE2 The strategy, policies and allocations are realistic and appropriate having considered the relevant alternatives and are founded on a robust evidence base;
CE3 There are clear mechanisms for implementation and monitoring; and
CE4 It is reasonably flexible to enable it to deal with changing circumstances.

Further information on the soundness of a Local Development Plan and how to test the soundness of the Plan can be found in the Department for Infrastructure’s publication Development Plan Practice Note 06, www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk.

Following receipt of comments regarding the soundness of the draft Plan Strategy, a further 8 week period will be allowed for receipt of counter-representations. The Council will then publish both sets of representations and a submission shall be made to the Department for Infrastructure to cause an Independent Examination to be held.

Consultation Events
A number of informal drop-in sessions have been organised, details of which are set out below. Drop-in sessions will be staffed by members of the Local Development Plan team who will be happy to answer any queries you may have in an informal setting regarding the draft Plan Strategy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Castlereagh East</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>24 October 2019</td>
<td>The Minor Hall Enler Centre 9 Craigleith Drive Dundonald BT16 2QP</td>
<td>2.00pm to 4.00pm 6.00pm to 8.00pm</td>
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<td>6 November 2019</td>
<td>The Mezzanine Room Lough Moss Leisure Centre Hillsborough Road Carryduff BT8 8HR</td>
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<td><strong>Downshire East</strong></td>
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<td>14 November 2019</td>
<td>The Oak Room Lagan Valley Island Lisburn BT27 4RL</td>
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<td>19 November 2019</td>
<td>Hillsborough Village Centre 7 Ballynahinch Road Hillsborough BT26 6AR</td>
<td>2.00pm to 4.00pm 6.00pm to 8.00pm</td>
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<td><strong>Killultagh</strong></td>
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<td>27 November 2019</td>
<td>Maghaberry Community Centre Maghaberry Road Maghaberry Craigavon BT67 0JG</td>
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<td>4 December 2019</td>
<td>Bridge Community Centre 50 Railway Street Lisburn BT28 1XP</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 December 2019</td>
<td>Ballymacash Community Centre 29 Rathvarna Drive Lisburn BT28 2UB</td>
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Availability of Documents

The draft Plan Strategy will be publicly available and published on the Council’s website from Friday 11 October 2019.

The supporting documents including a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment, draft Habitats Regulations Assessment, Section 75 Equality Impact Screening and Rural Needs Impact Assessment and 8 Technical Supplements will only be publicly available from the start of the statutory consultation period on 8 November 2019.

These will also be published on the Council’s website at www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/LDP

All documentation will be freely downloadable.

These documents will be available for inspection between the hours of 9.00 am – 5.00 pm, from Monday to Friday at: Local Development Plan Team, Civic Headquarters, Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn, BT27 4RL