

Have your say

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council is consulting on the Mid and East Antrim Local Development Plan - Draft Plan Strategy 2030.

Formal Consultation

The draft Plan Strategy will be open for formal public consultation for a period of eight weeks, **commencing on 16 October 2019 and closing at 5pm on 11 December 2019.**

Please note that representations received after the closing date on 11 December will not be considered.

The draft Plan Strategy is published along with a range of assessments which are also open for public consultation over this period. These include a Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment), a draft Habitats Regulations Assessment, a draft Equality (Section 75) Screening Report and a Rural Needs Impact Assessment.

We welcome comments on the proposals and policies within our draft Plan Strategy from everyone with an interest in Mid and East Antrim and its continuing development over the Plan period to 2030. This includes individuals and families who live or work in our Borough. It is also important that we hear from a wide spectrum of stakeholder groups who have particular interests in Mid and East Antrim. Accordingly, while acknowledging that the list below is not exhaustive, we welcome the engagement of the following groups:

- Voluntary groups
- Residents groups
- Community forums and groups
- Environmental groups
- Business groups
- Developers/landowners
- Professional bodies
- Academic institutions

Availability of the Draft Plan Strategy

A copy of the draft Plan Strategy and all supporting documentation, including the Sustainability Appraisal Report, is available on the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council website:

www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/LDP

The draft Plan Strategy and supporting documentation is also available in hard copy or to view during office hours, 9.30am - 4.30pm at the following Council offices:

- Planning Department, County Hall, 182 Galgorm Road, Ballymena, BT42 1QF
- The Braid, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ
- Carrickfergus Museum and Civic Centre, 11 Antrim Street, Carrickfergus, BT38 7DG
- Smiley Buildings, Victoria Road, Larne, BT40 1RU

The draft Plan Strategy and supporting documentation can be made available in different formats upon request.

Contact Details

All responses to this public consultation should be submitted to the Planning Team via the following options:

By the online consultation portal: consult.midandeastantrim.gov.uk

By Email: planning@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

By Post:

Local Development Plan Team
County Hall
182 Galgorm Road
Ballymena
BT42 1QF

When making a response to the consultation on the draft plan Strategy, we would encourage you to use the online consultation portal and to read carefully the guidance that accompanies it before completing it. Using the online consultation portal will help the Independent Examiner to understand what part of the plan you consider to be unsound and what suggested change you wish to make to it.

Aims of the Public Consultation

The public consultation on the Draft Plan Strategy aims to:

- Encourage full public participation in this stage of the Local Development Plan process and to stimulate ongoing interest and involvement in the Plan process;
- Promote a sense of ownership of the Local Development Plan;
- Facilitate the Independent Examination of the draft Plan Strategy to ensure its soundness; and
- Provide a robust foundation for work on the Local Policies Plan, the next stage in the Plan process.

How will the Council deal with your comments?

Subsequent to the eight week consultation period, there will be a further eight week period allowed for counter-representations.

All representations and counter-representations will be analysed by our Local Development Plan team and a Public Consultation Report will be prepared and presented to Elected Members. This may result in amendments to the draft Plan Strategy, before its formal submission to the Department for Infrastructure, in advance of the Independent Examination.

It should be noted that your responses are public documents that will be made available for public inspection and Independent Examination. All responses will therefore be held on a database in accordance with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR).

Overview

What is the purpose of the Local Development Plan?

The main purpose of the Local Development Plan (LDP) is to inform the general public, statutory developers and other interested parties of the policy framework and land use proposals that will guide decisions on planning applications for development in Mid and East Antrim until 2030.

The Plan will aim to provide sufficient land to meet anticipated needs for housing, employment, and services, all supported by adequate infrastructure, over the Plan period. It will also seek to ensure that all new development is of high quality and located in suitable places - which themselves should be enhanced by the development. A 'suitable place' will generally be a location where the development proposal can help meet economic and social needs without compromising the quality of the environment. This is often referred to as 'sustainable development' which has been defined as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

In seeking to deliver sustainable development, the Plan will serve to implement the regional direction set out in the Regional Development Strategy (RDS), Sustainable Development Strategy and other central government initiatives.

What is Sustainability Appraisal?

A Sustainability Appraisal is being carried out alongside preparation of our Local Development Plan. Local Planning Authorities use Sustainability Appraisal to assess plans against a set of Sustainability Objectives developed in consultation with consultees. This assessment helps us to identify the relative environmental, social and economic performance of possible strategic, policy and site specific options, and to evaluate which of these may be more sustainable. Sustainability Appraisal is a statutory process incorporating the requirements of the European Union Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

What is the purpose of this document?

The purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report is to:

- Identify other policies, plans, programmes and Sustainability Objectives of relevance to our Local Development Plan.
- Collect baseline information about the environmental, social and economic conditions in our Council area, and consider how these might change in the future.
- Identify sustainability issues and challenges which could affect or be addressed by our Local Development Plan.
- Develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework, consisting of Sustainability Objectives and Appraisal prompts which will form the basis for assessment of our Local Development Plan; and
- Consult on the scope and method of the Sustainability Appraisal.

Sustainability Objectives for the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Local Development Plan

The objectives for sustainable development for our Council are to...

- 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 and cultural heritage.

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List of Abbreviations

AAP	Area of Archaeological Potential
AoHSV	Area of High Scenic Value
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
ASAI	Area(s) of Significant Archaeological Interest
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest
AWB	Artificial Waterbody
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
BMAP	Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan
CCC	Committee on Climate Change
COE	Council of Europe
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DCCAE	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
DE	The Department of Education
DEA	District Electoral Area
DETI	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
DfC	Department for Communities
DfE	Department for the Economy
DfI	Department for Infrastructure
DOE	Department of the Environment
DoH	Department of Health
DoJ	Department of Justice
EA	Education Authority
EAPP	Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes
EC	European Commission
EO	The Executive Office
ES	Ecosystem Services
ESCR	Earth Science Conservation Site
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GSNI	Geological Survey of Northern Ireland
HED	Historic Environment Division
HGI	Housing Growth Indicator(s)
HMWB	Heavily Modified Waterbody
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LDP	Local Development Plan
LGD	Local Government District
MCAA	Marine and Coastal Access Act
MPS	Marine Policy Statement
NHSCT	Northern Health and Social Care Trust

NI	Northern Ireland
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
NINIS	Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
NIW	Northern Ireland Water
PfG	Programme for Government
PFRA	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for NI
POMs	Programme of Measures
POP	Preferred Options Paper
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
RBD	River Basin District
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RDS	Regional Development Strategy
RLCA	Regional Landscape Character Area
ROMP	Review of Old Mineral Permissions
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCA	Seascape Character Area
SCaMP	Sustainable Catchment Area Management Planning
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SFRA	Significant Flood Risk Area
SLNCI	Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
SOA	Super Output Area
SONI	System Operator for Northern Ireland
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPPS	Strategic Planning Policy Statement
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
TSNI	Travel Survey Northern Ireland
UK	United Kingdom
UK Gov.	UK Government
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WMG	Waste Management Group
WMU	Water Management Unit
WTW	Water Treatment Works
WwTW	Wastewater Treatment Works

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Scoping Report

This scoping report is the second formal output of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process for our Local Development Plan (LDP). It updates and builds on the Scoping Report prepared alongside the Preferred Options Paper (POP), published in June 2017. The SA Scoping Report presents information about the topics being assessed under the SA which incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). It outlines the assessment methodology and approach for future Sustainability Appraisal reports. The Scoping Report will be updated throughout plan preparation and will be included with all Sustainability Appraisal Reports published as part of the consultation process for the LDP.

1.2 Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Local Development Plan

Section 4 of this report describes the approach that is being taken to plan preparation in more detail and provides an overview of the Council area.

1.3 Sustainable Development

The Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy - *'Everyone's Involved'*¹ states that sustainability policy, *"is driven by intergenerational equity; to secure a quality of life for present and future generations that is positive and rewarding"*.

Achieving sustainable development is a requirement set out in Provision 25 of The Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006. This requires all Departments and Councils in Northern Ireland, in exercising their functions, to act in the way they consider best calculated to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. In doing this they must have regard to any strategy or guidance relating to sustainable development published by Northern Ireland departments.

Within planning legislation, Section 5 of The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (as amended) requires those who exercise any function in relation to LDPs to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development.

SA is the approach used to promote sustainable development within LDPs by evaluating the social, environmental and economic effects of all aspects of the LDP throughout its preparation.

The Sustainable Development Strategy identifies 32 strategic objectives in the following Priority Areas:

- Building a dynamic, innovative economy that delivers the prosperity required to tackle disadvantage and lift communities out of poverty;
- Strengthening society so that it is more tolerant, inclusive and stable and permits positive progress in quality of life for everyone;
- Driving sustainable, long-term investment in key infrastructure to support economic and social development;
- Striking an appropriate balance between the responsible use and protection of natural resources in support of a better quality of life and a better quality environment;
- Ensuring reliable, affordable and sustainable energy provision and reducing our carbon footprint; and

¹ NI Executive (2010) Everyone's Involved - Sustainable Development Strategy

- Ensuring the existence of a policy environment which supports the overall advancement of sustainable development in and beyond Government.

1.4 Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment 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. 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. Appendix 1 records how these regulations are being complied with.

1.5 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 LDPs 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'¹. SA therefore refers to an integrated approach which fully incorporates SEA and fulfils the requirements for both SA and SEA. Appendices 2 & 3 of this report demonstrate how SEA has been accomplished.

1.6 Stages in Sustainability Appraisal

The key stages of Sustainability Appraisal are summarised below with their location.

Table 1.1: Stages of Sustainability Appraisal and location in this report.

Stage	Description	Location
Stage A (1) Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	Identify other relevant policies, plans, programmes and Sustainability Objectives.	Appendix 4
	Collect baseline information	Sections 4 & 5
	Consult the Consultation Body on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.	Prior to POP consulted DAERA 11/01/2017, response received 13/02/2017. Submission made by DAERA on published POP SA 04/07/2017 (refer to Appendix 6).
	Identify environmental issues and challenges	Section 5

¹ Department of the Environment (2015) Development Plan Practice Note 04: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment

Stage	Description	Location
	Develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework	Section 6
	Produce draft Scoping Report and share with stakeholders	Section 2.3
Stage A (2) Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report	Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report, assessment of reasonable alternatives against agreed Sustainability Appraisal framework and undertaking public consultation along with the Preferred Options Paper (POP).	Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report published with POP in June 2017
Stage B	Assessment of alternatives and any likely significant effects on the draft plan against Sustainability Appraisal framework, taking into account the evidence base and where necessary, proposing mitigation measures for alleviating any adverse effects.	Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report published with POP in June 2017.
Stage C	Sustainability Appraisal Report to document the appraisal process and findings.	SA Report
Stage D	Consultation with the public, environmental authorities and any EU member state affected on the Sustainability Appraisal Report and draft plan.	SA Report
Stage E	Sustainability Appraisal Statement to show how the Sustainability Appraisal and opinions/consultations have been taken into account, the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted and the proposed measures to monitor the plan.	SA Report
Stage F	Monitoring: Establishing arrangements to monitor the significant effects of the implementation of the plan, to identify unforeseen adverse effects and undertake appropriate remedial action.	SA Report

Source: After Development Plan Practice Note 05, DOE 2015

1.7 Other Assessments

1.7.1 Habitats Regulations Assessment

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) 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; this is also carried out for Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance designated under the provisions of the Ramsar Convention). A draft HRA has been published for consultation alongside the Draft Plan Strategy and an updated version will be undertaken for the Draft Local Policies Plan. A final HRA will be published when each of these are adopted.

1.7.2 Rural Proofing

The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, which came in to force on 1 June 2017, applies to NI Government Departments and Councils. It 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.

The approach to considering rural needs is called 'rural proofing' and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) provides advice on carrying it out in 'Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing'¹ and 'A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 for Public Authorities'². 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. Where appropriate, adjustments are made to take account of particular rural circumstances.

This 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 such as health, education and infrastructure. Key Sustainability Issues for the Borough 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 will potentially have a disproportionate impact.

As plan preparation progresses and more detail emerges about proposals, how they will be implemented and where they will be located, rural issues will be considered in more depth. 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.

1.8 Scoping Report Structure

Section 2 details the proposed approach to Sustainability Appraisal and Section 3 provides an overview of plan preparation. Section 4 gives an overview of the baseline information and each topic is reported on in Section 5 with the context, relevant baseline information, trends, key issues and the implications for the LDP. Section 6 presents the Sustainability Framework and outlines the next steps in the SA.

¹ DAERA (2015) [Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing](#)

² DAERA (2017) [A guide to the Rural Needs Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2016 - May 2017](#)

2 Sustainability Appraisal: The Approach

2.1 Introduction

This section describes the overall approach taken to the SA throughout the LDP process. Sections 4 to 6 are the application of this approach for the Scoping Report for Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's LDP.

2.2 Principles

The Sustainability Appraisal process is carried out under the following principles:

Role

SA is a tool to aid plan-making which identifies potential effects of options, how these may be mitigated with a view to informing on the most appropriate option. It does not, however, give a 'right' answer and is not the decision-making mechanism.

Integrated

SA is an essential part of the plan-making process. It is integral to and carried out through the whole of plan preparation and subsequent monitoring. It helps to test the effects of options and inform the selection of proposals. It will provide evidence of the decision-making process and any changes brought about to ensure sustainability of the LDP.

Shared Information

Where appropriate, data collected for other purposes such as LDP Position Papers, Technical Supplements or Community Planning is used for evidence or for future monitoring.

Relevant

The SA focuses on context and data that is relevant to the plan. It will not detail issues that cannot be addressed within the remit of the LDP.

Connected

The LDP may be influenced by or have an impact on neighbouring areas. This SA considers strategies and plans beyond the Council area, where there is potential for significant positive or negative effects. Neighbouring Councils were invited to comment on the SA Scoping Report and SA Interim Report when these were published in June 2017 and will be invited to comment on the SA Report. It is also acknowledged that Mid and East Antrim Borough has direct connectivity to the marine environment and indirect connectivity through its watercourses and river systems.

Proportionate

The SA aims to avoid duplication. Therefore, for example, international strategies are not included where they have been given effect in a national or regional strategy. Where more detailed information is available in another document, the essentials are included here and a link provided to that document.

Up-to-date

The SA Reports will be updated during plan preparation to ensure that current policies, plans and programmes are reflected, and recent data is used.

Future proof

Potential future changes within and beyond the life of the plan are considered, to anticipate needs and to try to maintain opportunities for long term sustainable development.

2.3 Involving Others

Informal and formal consultation with stakeholders and the public is an essential part of SA, to ensure that the topics and issues have been fully considered. The first formal consultation required on the SA Scoping Report was with the Statutory Consultation Body. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) acts as the lead for the Consultation Body (DAERA) and was consulted on the outline of the SA Scoping Report in January 2017. Where possible, experts with general and local knowledge of all topics have been consulted to inform the LDP Position Papers and Section 5. Statutory consultees were invited to comment on the SA Reports published at POP stage in June 2017.

Where appropriate, the NIEA's comments have been incorporated and will further inform future updates to the SA Reports. A register of consultation responses is being maintained and has been provided in Appendix 6 of this report.

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council adjoins Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, and Mid Ulster District Council. These Councils will be invited to comment on the draft Plan Strategy and SA Reports along with other statutory consultees including DAERA.

The public was formally consulted on the SA Interim Report, together with the SA Scoping Report, following the publication of the Preferred Options Paper in June 2017. There will also be public consultation on the SA Reports which will accompany the draft Plan Strategy and draft Local Policies Plan. Representations at public consultation that are relevant to the SA will be reviewed. Where necessary, the SA reports will be revised in response to representations and to any changes to the Plan Strategy or Local Policies Plan.

2.4 The Evidence Base

The evidence base is arranged according to a number of topics and for each topic a consistent approach to reporting is followed. The approach is described in more detail in Section 4 and the evidence base is presented in Section 5.

The evidence base was prepared using all available information sources. Every effort has been made to ensure that the document refers to the most recent information available, however it is an evolving document and is reviewed and updated at each stage of appraisal.

2.5 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. All stages of plan-making will be assessed using the Framework which may be updated as further information becomes available. The Sustainability Reports to accompany

the Plan Strategy will include proposed indicators for monitoring any significant effects of delivery of the LDP in relation to the Sustainability Objectives.

2.6 Significant Effects

The SA will assess 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 from discussion that takes account of the extent of the effect spatially and in time.

2.7 Assessment Method

The key stages are Sustainability Appraisal of:

- Options and reasonable alternatives for the Preferred Options Paper;
- Options and reasonable alternatives for the Plan Strategy; and
- The Local Policies Plan.

The proposed method for the appraisal of each part of the LDP follows.

2.8 Appraisal of options and reasonable alternatives for Preferred Options Paper

In the draft Plan Strategy, policy options are presented at a strategic and operational level. In some cases, more than one policy option has been assessed. Only reasonable alternatives were considered. The SA Report accompanying the draft Plan Strategy evaluates all policy options using the appraisal matrix shown below in Table 2.1. The matrix includes:

- The plan topic and delivery options to be assessed;
- A score indicating the nature of the effect for each option in the short, medium and long term with an explanation of why the score was given; and
- A summary comparing the options and recommending the preferred approach together with any mitigation recommended to address negative effects and measures, where appropriate, to enhance positive effects.

Table 2.1: Outline Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

Policy								
OPTION(S)	Option 1:				Option 2:			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... sustainability objective.								
2... sustainability objective.								
3... sustainability objective.								
<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 possible 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

2.9 Plan Strategy

The proposals in the draft Plan Strategy will be reviewed and the Scoping Report and Sustainability Appraisal updated to reflect any changes from the previous POP stage. A SA Scoping Report and a separate SA Report will be provided in support of the consultation on the draft Plan Strategy.

2.10 Local Policies Plan

In advance of preparation of the Local Policies Plan criteria will be developed to help guide the appraisal of sites. The proposals in the Local Policies Plan will be appraised using the SA Framework and a SA Report will be published as part of the consultation on these papers.

2.11 Cumulative Effects

Consideration will be 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. A section on cumulative effects has been included in the SA Report to accompany the draft Plan Strategy.

3 Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Local Development Plan

3.1 Context - Requirement to Prepare a Local Development Plan

Part 2 of The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the 2011 Act) provides for the preparation of a LDP by a Council for its district, which will (when adopted) replace current development plans. The LDP will comprise two development plan documents:

- The Plan Strategy (PS); and
- The Local Policies Plan (LPP).

The LDP should fulfil the following functions:

- Provide a 15-year plan framework to support the economic and social needs of a Council's district in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing for the delivery of sustainable development;
- Facilitate sustainable growth by co-ordinating public and private investment to encourage development where it can be of most benefit to the wellbeing of the community;
- Allocate sufficient land to meet society's needs;
- Provide an opportunity for all stakeholders, including the public, to have a say about where and how development within their local area should take place;
- Provide a plan-led framework for rational and consistent decision-making by the public, private and community sectors and those affected by development proposals; and
- Deliver the spatial aspects of a Council's current Community Plan.

3.2 Scope of the plan

The 2011 Act requires the Council to prepare a LDP with the objective of furthering sustainable development and to take account of a number of key central government plans and policies which are underpinned by this concept. In addition, there are links between the LDP and Council's other plans and strategies including our Community Plan. The Local Government (NI) Act 2014 introduced a statutory link between a Council's Community Plan and its LDP. It is intended that the LDP will be the spatial reflection of the Community Plan and that the two should work in tandem towards the same vision for our Council area and its communities. The LDP will also take account of our Corporate Plan 2019-2023; in particular to those strategic objectives such as '*sustainable jobs and tourism*', '*good health and wellbeing*', '*learning for life*', '*community safety and cohesion*', and '*our environment*', that can be partially influenced through the LDP.

The LDP will set out a number of Strategic Plan Objectives with economic, social and environmental themes which will take account of the functions set out in section 3.1. These Plan objectives will also link in to the 14 Objectives for Sustainable Development being brought forward through the SA process. The Plan Objectives will be delivered through a combination of its strategic policies and proposals as contained within the Plan Strategy and its local policies and proposals as contained within the Local Policies Plan.

The purpose of our 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 and guide development decisions within the Council area up to 2030. It will ensure that lands are appropriately zoned and that our infrastructure is enhanced to develop the Council area for future generations.

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, the RDS, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)¹ and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs)², the UK Marine Policy Statement (UK MPS) and, when adopted, the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland. The new LDP will replace the current statutory development plans that apply to the Borough.

The new Local Development Plan for the Council will replace the following existing development or area plans:

- Ballymena Area Plan 1986-2001, adopted in 1989
- Larne Area Plan 2010, adopted in 1998
- Carrickfergus Area Plan 2001, adopted in March 2000

The Carrickfergus Area Plan 2001 was formerly superseded by the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (BMAP) in September 2014. However, on 18 May 2017 a judgement in the Court of Appeal ruled that the process in relation to the final adoption of BMAP was unlawful. As a result the Carrickfergus Area Plan remains the statutory development plan for Carrickfergus, Greenisland and Whitehead.

3.3 Preparation

The evidence base for our LDP has been prepared through a series of Position Papers which establish the baseline for the social, economic and environmental issues to be addressed through the Plan. These are published at: www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/business/planning/local-development-plan/plan-preparation-process

There are four key stages in the Local Development Plan process which are shown below, as follows:

- Initial Plan Preparation i.e. Preferred Options Paper
- Preparation and Adoption of Plan Strategy
- Preparation and Adoption of Local Policies Plan
- Monitoring and Review

The timeframe for key stages and indicative dates are outlined in the updated Mid and East Antrim LDP Timetable agreed between the Council and Central Government, and published alongside the Preferred Options Paper. This timetable will be reviewed by the Council's LDP Working Group on an annual basis in early April of each year. Any amendment required to the timetable will be notified to the Department for Infrastructure and the Planning Appeals Commission and a revised timetable published, as necessary.

Public consultation will be carried out in accordance with legislative requirements and with the commitments stated in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) published on 4th August 2016.

3.4 Overview of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Area

Mid and East Antrim incorporates the former Council areas of Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne, save for a small part of Greenisland which was transferred to Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough

¹ DOE (2015) Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) Planning for Sustainable Development

² Planning NI Planning Policy Statements and Supplementary Planning Guidance (found at Planning NI https://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/planning_statements_and_supplementary_planning_guidance.htm)

Council. The Borough extends to 104,511 hectares (1,045 km²) from the Antrim Coast in the east to the River Bann in the west.

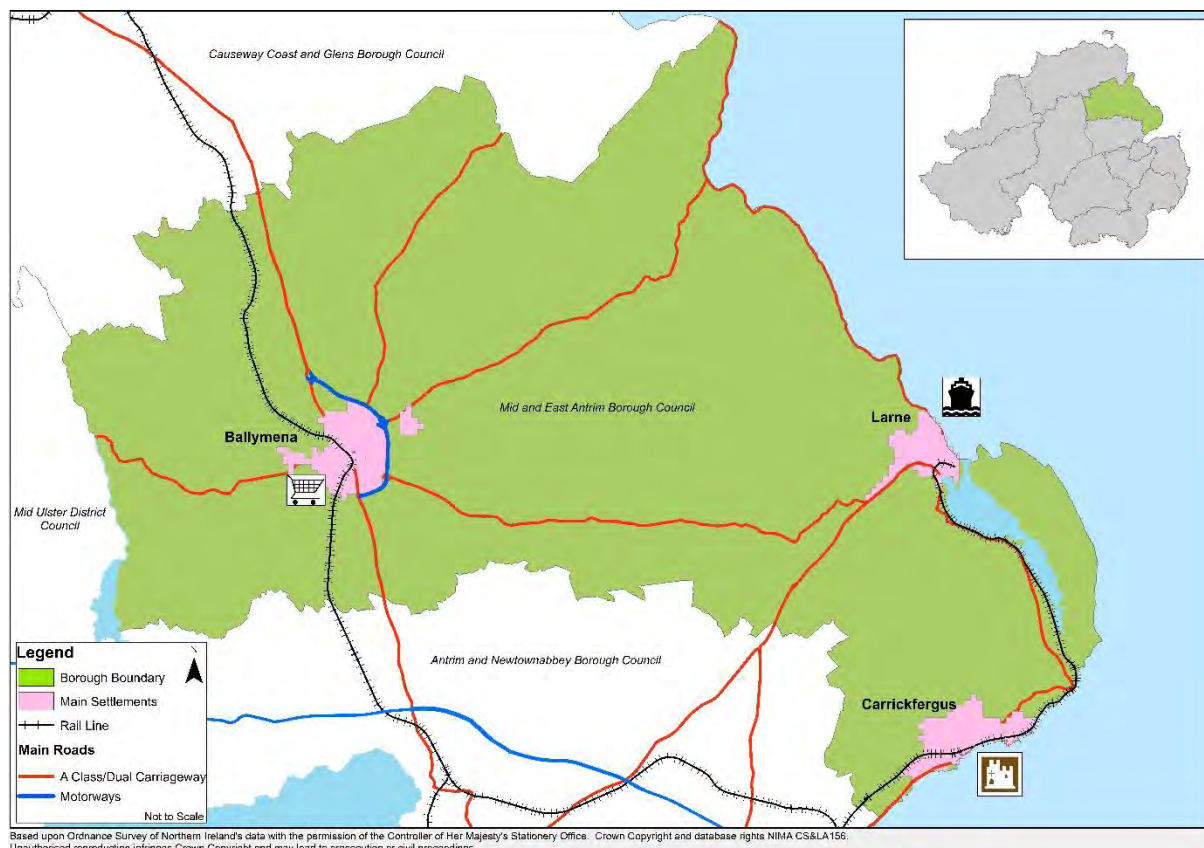
According to census figures, our population increased by 6.5% between 2001 and 2011 from 127,101 to 135,338. The total estimated population currently stands at 139,070, with projections of an increase of 2.2% by 2030 to a total of 142,114.

Our population is ageing. In 2015, 18.1% of the population in Mid and East Antrim was aged 65 and over. By 2030 it is projected that this figure will have increased to 24%. The growing number of elderly is a key factor in a declining average household size. The average household size is expected to fall from 2.47 in 2011 to 2.37 by 2030. The LDP will take account of the implications of these trends, for example in the delivery of appropriate housing in areas accessible to health and community services.

Approximately 63% of the population is urban based, being located in the three main towns of Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne and the two existing small towns of Greenisland and Whitehead. The remaining 37% of the population is split between the existing villages, small settlements and the open countryside, with the latter accounting for some 22% of the total population.

3.5 Plan Vision and Objectives

The Local Development Plan must set out a clear vision as to what Mid and East Antrim Borough should look like by 2030. A series of Strategic Objectives have been developed in order to support and help achieve the Plan Vision. Section 2.4.9 and Appendix 2 of the SA Report discuss the Plan Vision and Objectives.

Figure 3.1: Spatial Context of Mid and East Antrim

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4 Overview of the Baseline Evidence

4.1 Presentation of Baseline Evidence

The baseline evidence is presented in Section 5 for fourteen topics, which span the social, economic and environmental themes. Several topics contribute to social, economic and environmental themes. Due to these overlaps, Table 4.1 presents an outline scope for each topic to help clarify where information is likely to be presented in this report.

Table 4.1: Scope of Sustainability Topics

Topic	Includes
1. Health and Wellbeing	Health profile, physical activity, access to health care, access to open space and recreation quiet areas, noise.
2. Community	Community identity, shared space, social inclusion, crime prevention and community safety, deprivation and good relations, rural issues.
3. Housing	Housing, urban capacity, settlements.
4. Education and Skills	Primary through to third level and apprenticeships
5. Economy and Employment	Employment, economic growth, investment, tourism, industry and commerce, town centres and retailing
6. Material Assets	Infrastructure relating to energy / heat generation and distribution, telecommunications, waste management and pipelines; derelict and contaminated land, renewable energy, cemeteries
7. Physical Resources	Earth science, minerals, land (including land use), soil and geothermal energy.
8. Transport and Accessibility	Public, private transport, traffic and efficient movement, walking, cycling.
9. Air	Air quality and short-term changes (aspects relating to climate are covered in Climate Change).
10. Climate Change	Northern Ireland in global context of climate change; greenhouse gas emissions; implications of climate change, mitigation and adaptation.
11. Water	Water quality and resources (including coastal), water levels (flood risk).
12. Natural Resources	Biodiversity, fauna, flora, designated sites, green and blue infrastructure, ecosystem services. Includes intertidal and coastal zones, and marine environment. Access to open space and outdoor recreation.
13. Landscape	Landscape, seascape and countryside/rural area
14. Historic Environment and Cultural heritage	Historic environment, archaeology (including marine), built heritage and industrial heritage, townscape and cultural heritage assets.

Each topic is presented using the following structure, and the headings are explained in sections 4.2 to 4.7:

- Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies;
- Baseline evidence;
- Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the LDP; and

- Key Sustainability Issues.

4.2 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The Sustainability Appraisal must include a review of other policies, plans, programmes and strategies that have an influence on the content of the LDP. The aims of this review are:

- To identify all external social, economic and environmental objectives which have a bearing on the Sustainability Appraisal of the LDP;
- To reflect sustainability themes contained in regional policies and strategies;
- To identify any other sustainability issues that might influence the preparation of the plan; and
- To highlight whether other policies, plans or programmes might give rise to cumulative effects when combined with the LDP.

Consideration of this context also helps ensure that the LDP will deliver obligations for the Council which are within the scope of the LDP. Appendix 4 presents the strategies, policies, programmes and plans that have been considered with their key objectives and implications for the LDP.

4.3 Strategic Context

The following regional strategies are overarching and form a backdrop to the LDP. Each is introduced here and key relevant aspects are described in more detail under each topic in Section 5.

- Draft Northern Ireland Programme for Government
- Regional Development Strategy 2035
- Strategic Planning Policy Statement
- Sustainable Development Strategy '*Everyone's Involved*'
- Regional Transportation Strategy - Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future
- Regional Water Strategy - '*Sustainable Water*'
- UK Marine Policy Statement
- Draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland
- Planning Policy Statements
- A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland
- Supplementary Planning Guidance
- Other Strategies and Plans
- Transport Plans
- Belfast Region City Deal 2018
- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Corporate Plan 2019-2023
- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Community Plan 2017-2032, '*Putting People First*'
- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Integrated Economic Development Strategy, '*Amplify*'.
- LDP POP and draft Plan Strategies for neighbouring Council areas of Mid Ulster District Council, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

4.4 Baseline Information

A desk-based review has been undertaken to identify baseline conditions in Mid and East Antrim Borough Council. Each sustainability topic is presented in Section 5 with a review of relevant current information available. Where it has not been possible to provide specific information at a local Council level, information for NI has been used. Where there are critical data gaps, these have been identified.

Baseline evidence has firstly been taken from the following LDP preparatory Position Papers which are all available at www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/plan-preparation-process

- Population Paper
- Population Paper Appendices and Maps Population Projections
- Addendum to Population Paper
- Housing & Settlement
- Addendum to Housing Paper
- Housing and Settlement Appendices & Maps
- Employment & Economic Development
- Employment & Economic Development Appendices A
- Town Centre & Opportunity Sites
- Town Centre & Opportunity Sites Appendices
- Environmental Assets
- Open Space & Recreation
- Tourism
- Public Utilities
- Education Health & Community Facilities
- Development Pressure Analysis
- Strategic Settlement Evaluation
- Strategic Settlement Evaluation Appendices
- Minerals Development
- Housing Allocation
- Transportation Paper
- Transportation Appendix

The evidence base also takes account of information collected and published for our Community Plan. This includes the Community Planning Baseline Report October 2016 for the Borough found at www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/resident/community-planning/building-our-evidence-base/ and documents prepared for and by the following Task and Finish Groups:

- [Good Health and Wellbeing Group](#)
- [Progress in Education Group](#)
- [Community Safety and Cohesion Group](#)
- [Sustainable Jobs and Tourism Group](#)

It should be noted that a series of Technical Supplements have been published alongside the LDP draft Plan Strategy. The Technical Supplements bring together the evidence base that has been used to inform the preparation of the LDP draft Plan Strategy. The Technical Supplements build upon and update some of the LDP Position Papers. The Technical Supplements to the draft Plan Strategy were being prepared simultaneously to the Scoping Report and consequently some of the updated information presented within the Technical Supplements was not available at the time the Scoping Report was finalised. Consequently the Scoping Report has not included information from the Technical Supplements.

The baseline topics for the SA have a wider scope than the LDP evidence gathering requirements. Data sources in 'Local Development Plans: Environmental Evidence and Information'¹ have been referred to, as well as the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report².

¹ DAERA (2017) Local Development Plans: DAERA Environmental Evidence and Information (Version 2.1/ May 2017)

² DAERA (2019) [Northern Ireland environmental statistics report 2019](#) (Date published: 30 May 2019)

In addition to the LDP and Community Plan evidence, we have used evidence presented on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) website. NISRA is the principal source of official statistics and social research on NI. Much data at Council or sub-Council level was sourced from the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) website. NINIS is part of NISRA and aims to make small area information held within Central Government and Non-Departmental Public Bodies available to as wide an audience as possible. The NINIS website contains datasets on a range of socio-economic themes at small-area statistical geographies.

4.5 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

This section highlights the trends in the baseline information and how the baseline might evolve without the LDP. This also helps identify key issues for each topic and identifies potential sustainability problems or opportunities that could be addressed through the Local Development Plan.

The following applies to all topics in Section 5. Without the LDP in place, the Regional Development Strategy (RDS), the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS), Area Plans and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions.

The plans in place for the Borough, the Ballymena Area Plan (1986-2001), the Larne Area Plan 2010 and the Carrickfergus Area Plan 2001 were adopted before the first version of the RDS was published in 2001 and also before the publication of any of the PPS documents. These area plans are also well past their notional end dates. Due to the varying ages of these Plans, there is also discrepancy in how planning policies and designations have been applied in the Borough.

The existing plans were not prepared in the context of the new Council areas and do not reflect the economic growth and social development for our area or environmental pressures. Therefore these plans do not reflect today's needs for our society, economy and environment or the strategic priorities of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council. A new plan brings an opportunity to develop a plan led system and to reflect the most recent strategies and local priorities.

4.6 The Key Sustainability Issues

Drawing on the policies, plans, programmes and strategies review, the baseline information and the likely evolution of the baseline without the LDP, Key Sustainability Issues are set out for each topic. These reflect the local area and are mainly issues that are relevant to and may be influenced by the LDP. These Key Sustainability Issues will also identify the potential for cumulative effects which should be considered in preparation of the LDP. Key Sustainability Issues will be reviewed and, where necessary, updated at key stages of Plan preparation

4.7 Sustainability Objectives

The Key Sustainability Issues inform the Sustainability Objectives. These are presented in Section 6 with a short rationale and description of what each objective seeks to achieve. There are several overlaps between objectives which support each other.

5 Baseline Evidence

5.1 Health and Wellbeing

5.1.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

This topic considers the health profile for our council, needs for and access to health care, physical activity and the effects of noise. It overlaps with most other topics for example where they shape the environment in which we live, interactions with others and opportunities for employment and education. It overlaps with the natural heritage topic which considers open space.

The common thread of relevant policies is that actions should improve the outcomes for everyone's mental and physical health and wellbeing. Policy measures seek to prolong healthy life and reduce preventable deaths. Contributors to this include improving health in pregnancy and improving mental health, which can have long term effects on healthy life. They also acknowledge that the health conditions of those who are most deprived are significantly worse. Consequently, programmes have been developed such as 'Delivering Social Change', an Executive programme that seeks to reduce inequalities. NI health-related strategies are supportive of international strategies and the Sustainable Development Strategy.

Part of supporting good health is encouraging physical activity. There are several strategies and initiatives for this purpose including 'Sport Matters', 'A Fitter Future for All', the 'Outdoor Recreation Action Plan', and 'Exercise, Explore, Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways'. These include creating the environment and specific facilities to encourage increased physical activity, including active travel. There is a particular focus on groups that have lower rates of activity which is now women and girls, people with disabilities, older people and the most economically disadvantaged.

The 'Transforming your Care: Strategic Implementation Plan' and the Northern Health and Social Care Trust's Population Plan inform infrastructure requirements for health care. 'Making Life Better' is a ten-year strategic framework for public health launched in 2014. It provides direction for policies and actions to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Northern Ireland and reduce inequalities in health. The outcome 'Making the Most of the Physical Environment' is highly relevant to the LDP. Outcome 12 of this framework 'Making the Most of the Physical Environment' is highly relevant to the LDP. Actions can be grouped into the following general themes:

- To improve and maintain the environment in terms of air quality, water quality, waste management and environmental noise;
- To enhance the capacity of our physical infrastructure to protect, support and provide access to healthy and active living and wellbeing through, for example, creating environments that promote social interaction and mental wellbeing, are safe for all ages and incentivise physical activity.

The SPSS reflects this, in particular through six regional strategic objectives that require provision of, and accessibility for all, to open space with high standards of design.

The Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 locally implement the European Noise Directive, the aim of which is to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, of exposure to environmental noise. The Regulations apply to noise from major road, railway, airport and industrial sources. These existing sources are not subject to planning control, but may be considered in the context of proposed development, which could be affected by environmental noise. A range of legislation is in place to establish permitted noise levels

and manage noise emissions from domestic, industrial and commercial sources. The 2014 Noise Policy Statement for Northern Ireland provides clarity on current noise policies and practices.

Our Council Vision is that 'Mid and East Antrim will be a strong, vibrant, safe and inclusive community where people work together to improve the quality of life for all.' One of the five strategic themes of the Corporate Plan for delivering this vision is 'Good Health and Wellbeing'. The objectives for delivering this include:

- Deliver a joined-up approach to improve physical and emotional health and wellbeing.
- Play our part in enabling people to live longer and healthier lives, reducing health inequalities and social isolation.
- Enable older people to be active, respected and supported in their community.

A draft Play Strategy, 'Out to Play' was published in May 2019 and consulted on and a draft Outdoor Recreation Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Plan 2019 - 2029 was also published for consultation in 2019. Once finalised, both strategies will aim to improve the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents.

'Good Health and Wellbeing' is one of the five priority themes for our Community Plan with the goal of 'Improving health, including the wider factors and causes of ill health'. The five strategic priorities are

- Prevention and early intervention - Our people are able to enjoy longer and healthier lives
- Health and work - Our workplaces are for health as well as wealth
- Healthy places and lifestyles - Our people are physically active more often
- Deprivation and health - Our borough has health equality for all
- Responding to an ageing society - Our older people are active, respected and supported in their community.

5.1.2 Baseline Information

Data has been sourced from our Community Planning Baseline Report October 2016, papers prepared for the Community Plan Good Health and Wellbeing Task and Finish Working Group, the Education, Health and Community Facilities and Open Space and Recreation Position Papers as well as further sources referenced separately. This topic overlaps with the Community, Housing, Transport and Accessibility, Air Quality, Natural Resources, and Landscape sections of this report.

Overview

Positive indicators for health and wellbeing in Mid and East Antrim are that the Council is in the top quartile in NI for childhood obesity, and for suicide and self-harm. We have the lowest hospital admission rate across the councils and lowest percentage of patients on the mental health register. Wellbeing is generally good compared to NI as a whole.

Challenges for our Borough are that, in common with other areas, there are large health inequality gaps particularly in admissions related to alcohol, drugs and self-harm as well as suicide and teenage birth rate. The main causes of deaths are cancer, heart disease and respiratory disease which account for 70% of all deaths. We are above the NI average for the most common medical conditions and in particular have the highest prevalence rates for diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity and heart disease.

Population profile

The future population profile is relevant as it informs health care needs, demand for childcare facilities, schools, the provision of adequate housing and need for later life care.

Between mid-2016 and mid-2026, the population of Mid and East Antrim is projected to increase by 3,600 people (2.6%), decreasing its share of NI from 7.4% to 7.3%. Those aged 65-84 are projected to increase by 22.9% by 2026 and 37% by 2030, with higher rates of increase in the 85+ age bracket predicted of 53% and 95%. The population aged 85+ in Mid and East Antrim Ireland is projected to grow from 1,570 in 2016 to 2,577 by the year 2030¹. This will increase the requirement for late and end of life care.

Life expectancy

In 2014 the median age at death was 80 for Mid and East Antrim and also NI as a whole. Life expectancy for both males and females has steadily increased and remains higher overall in Mid and East Antrim than NI as a whole. Females born between 2011 and 2013 in Mid and East Antrim have the second highest life expectancy across the 11 councils and can expect to live to 83 years of age compared to the NI average of 82.4. However males have the third lowest and can expect to live to 78 which is similar to the NI average of 78.1.

Over the period 1998-2000 to 2008-2010 life expectancy for males improved at a slightly faster rate than for females, with the highest rate of change in the former Ballymena council area. The former Ballymena council area also had the highest life expectancy of all three districts in both periods for both genders.

Males in the 20% most deprived areas in Mid and East Antrim could expect to live 4.3 years fewer than in the LGD as a whole. For females the life expectancy is 2.5 years less. Between 2006/08 and 2010/12 the male life expectancy inequality gap narrowed by 1.0 year while the female gap widened by 1.2 years.

Healthy life expectancy for males in Northern Ireland for 2010-2012 was 58.6 years, and for females was 61.6 years. Disability-free life expectancy for males in Northern Ireland for 2010-2012 was 60.2 years, and for females was 60.8 years. Healthy and disability-free life expectancy is not currently available at Local Government District (LGD) however, when compared to overall life expectancy, these are indicators of the need for health care and adaptation for disability for older people.

Causes of death

The three main causes of deaths in our Borough in 2017 were cancer 26.5%, circulatory disease 25% and respiratory disease 13%. The rate for cancers was lower than the 2017 Northern Ireland average at 27%, but higher for circulatory and respiratory disease. Mid and East Antrim is 10th out of the 11 Councils in terms of deaths due to circulatory diseases, in addition the Council is in 9th position in relation to the number of deaths per 1,000 population².

¹ NISRA (2016) 2016-based Population Projections for areas within Northern Ireland (Date published: 26 April 2018)

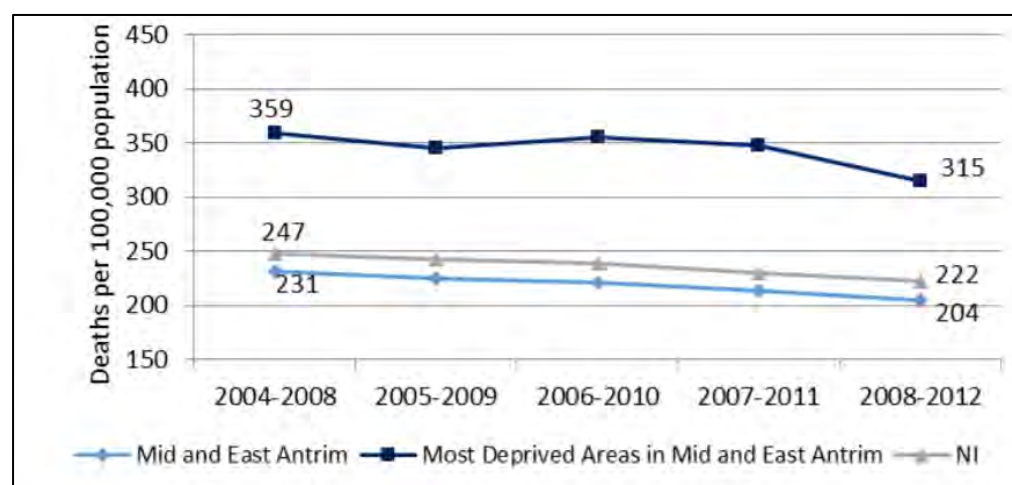
² Source: Public Health Agency and NISRA: Investing For Health Statistics: 2015

Table 5.1.1: Causes of Death in Mid and East Antrim and NI (2012-17)

	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	NI	MEA	NI	MEA	NI	MEA	NI	MEA	NI	MEA	NI	MEA
Deaths due to Malignant Neoplasms (%)	28.0	27.5	28.3	28.7	29.5	27.9	28.1	25.8	29.4	30.5	27.8	26.5
Deaths due to Circulatory Diseases (%)	27.1	29.0	26.2	27.1	25.3	26.7	24.3	25.5	23.5	22.3	23.6	25.0
Deaths due to Respiratory Diseases (%)	13.7	12.4	14.2	13.5	13.7	15.1	14.4	16.5	12.8	13.1	13.4	13.0
Deaths due to External Causes (%)	5.0	4.8	5.0	4.6	4.8	4.8	5.0	4.8	5.0	5.4	6.0	5.1
Deaths from suicide and undetermined intent (%)	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.5	2.1	1.5	1.9	2.1	1.9	1.8

Source: NISRA Making Life Better Theme 3 - Empowering Healthy Living | Deaths by Cause (administrative geographies) (November 2018)

The death rates in Figure 5.1.1 are standardised by age and sex with respect to the European Standard Population 2010 and relate to the number of deaths per 100,000 population. Preventable deaths are those that could be largely prevented from occurring in the first place. The data shows that there is a lower rate of preventable deaths compared with NI as a whole, however there are significantly higher rates in the most deprived areas in our Council.

Figure 5.1.1: Preventable Mortality in Mid and East Antrim 2004 - 2012

Source: Mid and East Antrim Community Planning, Good Health and Wellbeing Briefing Notes

Admission Rates

Between 2008/09 and 2012/13, the overall standardised hospital admission rate in Mid and East Antrim fell by 11% from 40,534 per 100,000 population to 36,116 bringing it below the NI rate. The admission rate for alcohol related causes in the Council has fallen by 9% and remained lower than the NI average which has increased by 3% during this period. The admission rate for drug related causes has also fallen and remained lower than the NI average. The inequality gap means that admissions for these cause are 126% higher in the most deprived areas.

Physical Health

Results from the 2011 Census show that in Mid and East Antrim 80.2% of people stated their general health was either good or very good (79.5% NI). 19.3% of people had a long-term health problem or

disability that limited their day-to-day activities (20.1% NI). This is consistent with the comparison between the LGD as a whole and NI for the majority of health outcomes which show small differences and typically better health in our Borough. Areas within towns in Mid and East Antrim tend to have more elderly people and those with a long-term illness e.g. Sunnylands, Killycrot, Craigy Hill, Moat, Castle Demesne and Harryville.

Table 5.1.2: The Most Commonly Recorded Medical Conditions (2014/15)

Condition	% of total registered patients in Mid and East Antrim	% of total registered patients in NI	Rank
High Blood Pressure	14.70	13.19	highest
Obesity	12.02	10.90	2nd highest
Diabetes	6.31	5.56	highest
Asthma	6.17	6.03	4th highest
Heart Disease	4.29	3.84	2nd highest
Cancer Register	2.06	2.04	6th highest

Source: Mid and East Antrim Community Planning, Good Health and Wellbeing Briefing Notes

Physical activity

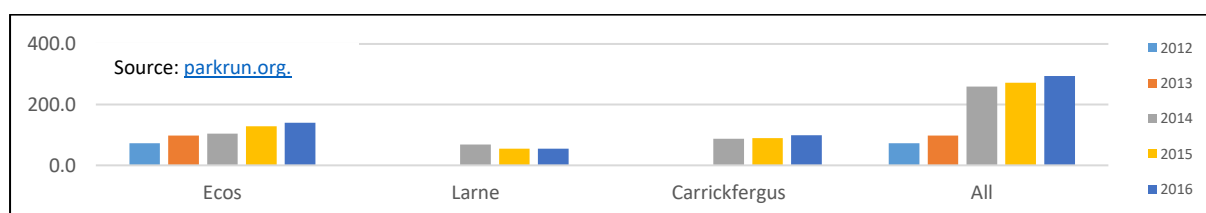
It is recommended by the Department of Health that people aged 19 and over should try to be active on a daily basis and have 150 minutes of moderate activity, or 75 minutes of vigorous activity a week.

Physical activity has not been specifically recorded at a council level however at the NI level it has increased from a very low level in 2011 of 34% to 53% in 2013¹. More detailed information for 2013/14 shows that 28% of people take very little exercise, women are less physically active, less than a fifth of adults do the recommended level of muscle strengthening exercise and only 14% of older people do the recommended amount of balance and coordination exercise. The Northern Health and Social Care Trust showed similar results to Northern Ireland however the level of activity is still far below recommended levels.

Data for time spent outdoors², shows that in 2015, 79% of people in Mid and East Antrim spent leisure time outdoors once a week or more, higher than the NI average of 66%. In 2017 the figure was 86% (NI 72%).

Since 2012 there have been free weekly parkrun running events in three parks in the Borough which shows an increase in this form of participation in physical activity.

Figure 5.1.2: Average weekly participants at Parkruns in Mid and East Antrim



¹ Source: Health Survey Northern Ireland 2013/14

² NISRA Continuous Household Survey via Central Survey Unit, Leisure Time Outdoors (administrative geographies) 2015, 2017

Mid and East Antrim Council have recently also teamed with Macmillan to help people with cancer. The scheme offers a free tailored programme to help people stay active¹.

'Everybody Active 2020' is a small grant programme to increase participation in sports and physical activity in underrepresented groups such as women and girls (specifically aged 14-25), people living with disability and those living in areas of greatest social need².

Children and physical activity

ARK (Access Research Knowledge - a joint initiative between Queens University and the University of Ulster) carries out an annual survey of P7-aged children and 16 year olds in NI. Commencing in 2015, ARK has been commissioned by Sport NI to include questions on sport and physical activity in the surveys, to provide a baseline and allow policy progress to be measured.

The surveys found that around half (49%) of P7 children and four out of ten 42% 16 year olds reported that they walked or cycled to and from school. However only a third (32%) of P7 children and less than one in ten (8%) 16-year olds met the United Kingdom (UK) guideline target of a minimum 60 minutes of physical activity per day. Large proportions of children are therefore not engaging regularly in physical activity. One in ten children felt they could not play freely with their friends in their community and children reported being able to play more freely with friends in school (84%), compared with being able to play with friends when in their communities or homes (77%). Children reported feeling safer when playing in school (89%), compared with feeling safe when playing in their communities or homes (73%). This reflects the findings of several UK studies³ which found, among other things, that a fifth of children did not play outside at all on an average day and less than one in ten children regularly played in wild spaces compared to half of children a generation ago.

Mid and East Antrim Parks and Open Spaces⁴ section recognises that *"Mid and East Antrim is a haven for young children and it's packed with safe, secure play areas for them to unleash their energy. Play is an essential part of every child's life and is vital for the enjoyment of childhood as well as social, emotional, intellectual and physical development. When children are asked about what they think is important in their lives, playing and friends are usually at the top of the list"*.

The draft Play Strategy⁵ recognises that good play experiences can also enhance children and young people's mental health. This is particularly important given the current rise in rates of mental health problems among young people. Scientific studies continue to show that play and fun activities can have several major benefits for the elderly as well.

Infant related health

Measures relating to infant and associated maternal health are largely positive for Mid and East Antrim. The under 17 teenage birth rate has decreased from 2.83 per 1,000 females in 2008 to 1.99 in 2012 which was the fifth lowest rate across the councils in 2012. However in the most deprived areas within the LGD the teenage birth rate was 72% higher than the rate for the Council as a whole.

¹ Mid and East Antrim council Move More Northern Ireland Scheme : www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/resident/sport-and-leisure/move-more

² Mid and East Antrim council Everybody Active 2020 Scheme: www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/resident/community-planning/good-health-and-wellbeing/everybody-active-2020/

³ The Guardian, 25th March 2016 *'Three-quarters of UK children spend less time outdoors than prison inmates – survey'* (accessed 28.11.17)

⁴ Mid and East Antrim Borough Council – Play (found at <https://www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/things-to-do/parks/play>)

⁵ Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Have your say on play development in the Borough (found at <https://www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/council/policies-and-documents/consultations/have-your-say-on-play-development-in-the-borough>)

Regarding breastfeeding on discharge, in 2014, 47% of mothers were breastfeeding on discharge in Mid and East Antrim which was slightly higher than 45% in 2013.¹

Mental Health

In Mid and East Antrim the standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety medication has increased by from 156 per 1,000 population in 2009 to 174 in 2012. However, it has remained lower than the NI average. In 2015/16, 0.71% of registered patients in the Council were on the mental health register which, although it has increased steadily, was the lowest across all 11 councils. This position is reflected in lower rates for suicide and admissions for self-harm. This however is another case where the figures for these measures are much higher in the most deprived areas.

Mid and East Antrim is only one of three multi-agency Support Hubs in Northern Ireland. Support hubs are designed to help vulnerable people get access to the right support, at the right time, from the right organisation in their local area. The aim is to have a hub set up in each local council area².

Noise

Trend data for our Borough is not available as it was collected on the former council level. The total number of noise complaints in Northern Ireland has remained fairly constant over the previous 10 years, varying between 11,099 and 12,193. However a 10% reduction has been experienced in 2015/16 from the previous year and is the lowest number of complaints recorded since 2005. For Mid and East Antrim there were 363 complaints in 2015/16 the top three sources, accounting for 79% of complaints, were noise from animals (198), Other Neighbour Noise (45) and Music Televisions Parties (43). Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, in partnership with the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, has developed a mobile phone app to log and report nuisance noise, 'The Noise App'³.

The Environmental Noise Directive requires Member States to 'preserve environmental noise quality where it is good', through the identification and protection of designated Quiet Areas within urban areas with more than 100,000 inhabitants.

Under the Environmental Noise Regulations (NI) 2006, Round 3 noise maps have been produced based on 2016 data for the following:⁴

- major roads - (more than 3 million vehicle passages per year)
- major railways - (railways with more than 30,000 train passages per year)
- major airports - (airports with more than 50,000 movements per year)
- agglomerations - (urban areas with more than 100,000 inhabitants)

Noise maps of relevance to Mid and East Antrim include those published for major roads and major railways, which are present in the Borough and industrial sites in the Belfast agglomeration. The settlements of Greenisland and Carrickfergus are included within the 'Belfast agglomeration'. The most affected areas from related noise appear to be along the main road corridors (A26, A8, M2), in the industrial areas of Carrickfergus, particularly Kilroot⁵.

¹ HCS Public Health Agency Children's Health in Northern Ireland 12 May 2017.

² Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Health and Wellbeing (found at www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/resident/healthandwellbeing/support-hubs)

³ Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Environmental Health - Noise (found at <https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/resident/environmental-health/noise>)

⁴ DAERA Round 3 Noise Maps and Noise Mapping Technical Reports (Date published: 26 January 2018)

⁵ DAERA: Noise Mapping and Action Planning Contract Round 3 – 2016/17 Summary Report – Final January 2018

DAERA has developed its own approach to the identification and designation of Quiet Areas in policy guidance and in connection with the city of Belfast. One Quiet Area has been designated in the Borough, at Bashfordlands (Carrickfergus).

Providing care

Results from the 2011 Census reported that 11.9% of people stated that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others (11.8% NI). This relates only to long-term physical or mental ill-health/disability or problems due to old age. Slightly higher proportions providing care are found in the Super Output Areas of Boneybefore, Craig Hill, Glynn, Milebush, Burleigh Hill 2, Knockagh and Greenisland.

Health Care Facilities and Ambulance Response Times

The area is covered by the Northern Health and Social Care Trust. There are two hospitals within Mid and East Antrim, Braid Valley Care Complex, Ballymena and Moyle Hospital, Larne which provide a range of community hospital and outpatient services. Moyle hospital incorporates Inver Intermediate Care Unit which operates up to 18 beds for patients who require inpatient rehabilitation. Neither of these hospitals have an Accident and Emergency Department and therefore is necessary to travel outside Mid and East Antrim to Antrim, Belfast or Coleraine to access such facilities.

The ambulance median response time for Mid and East Antrim is 30 seconds slower than the NI average and around the mid-point for all councils in Northern Ireland. There are additional provisions for emergency response which are not accounted for in these figures. These are Rapid Response Vehicles and paramedics and Community First Responders who may be the first person to arrive on the scene in rural areas and are trained to provide life-saving treatment while waiting on an ambulance or rapid response vehicle.

A new Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Station, at Ballee Playing Fields, Ballymena opened in September 2017. The new station will replace the current station at the Braid Valley Hospital site, and will incorporate the ambulance Divisional Headquarters from Coleraine. This facility will provide enhanced services and enable the ambulance service to respond effectively to current and increasing demand.

Since July 2017 an Air Ambulance service has been in operation in NI. The Air Ambulance crew comprises a pilot, doctor, and paramedic and runs 365 days of the year operating for twelve hours every day. The air ambulance can reach anywhere in NI in approximately twenty-five to thirty minutes and the rapid response is vital in an emergency situation and has a mission to provide outstanding critical care where and when it is needed most¹. This service is of particular benefit to rural parts of the Borough.

There are 26 GP practices and 31 dental surgeries throughout Mid and East Antrim. On the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) register there are 20 nursing homes and 17 residential homes. There are two Northern Health and Social Care Trust Children's homes: The Willows, Ballymena and Barn Court, Carrickfergus. The distribution of health care facilities is mapped in the Education, Health and Community Facilities Position Paper.

Current proposals identified by the NHSCT for additional health facilities, subject to funding, include:

¹ Air Ambulance Northern Ireland www.airambulancenir.org

- Replacement of three Adult Centres;
- Replacement of Slemish House, Children's Centre; and
- Replacement roof and refurbishment of Pennybridge stores.

Inequalities

The Health Inequalities Annual Report compares trends in indicators of health across deprivation levels and between urban and rural populations. Data collected shows that for many indicators there is a large gap, with significantly worse conditions for the most deprived areas.

The 2019 Health Inequalities Annual Report¹ states that in Mid and East Antrim four health outcomes were worse than the NI average, 29 were similar to the NI average and 9 health outcomes were better than the NI average.

The most notable health outcomes for Mid and East Antrim that are below the NI average in 2019 are: Year 8 Obesity, Self-Harm Admissions and Drug Related Admissions.

The largest inequality gaps between the 20% most deprived areas within the mid and East Antrim LGD and the LGD averages are for drug and alcohol-related hospital admissions and deaths and self-harm hospital admissions.

When comparing the rural population against the Northern Ireland population the rural population generally has better results than those for the Northern Ireland population. The measures where the rural population fare worse are elective inpatient admissions where the rate has declined but for a lesser extent than for the Northern Ireland average. Rural populations have a slightly higher prevalence of being overweight or obese. The median ambulance response time has increase for rural populations over 2011-15 from under 12 minutes to over 15 minutes compared with under 6 to over 9 minutes for the Northern Ireland as a whole.

Of the 65 Super Output Areas making up the Mid and East Antrim LGD, 10 (15%) are classed as being in the 20% most deprived areas in NI and just over a quarter of areas (17) are among the least deprived. Health outcomes are worse in the most deprived areas in Mid and East Antrim across all 26 indicators. In terms of health, Northland, Ballee, Ballyloran and Sunnylands are the four most deprived areas in Mid and East Antrim.

Health Survey Northern Ireland

Health Survey Northern Ireland is a Department of Health survey that has run every year from April 2010 across Northern Ireland. Only differences that are statistically significant are reported and results are based on responses from 3,355 individuals, it cannot be reported at LGD level. Some findings that can inform trends or provide a basis for future comparison follow.

In 2017/18, around a fifth of respondents (18%) scored highly on the GHQ12 suggesting they may have a possible mental health problem. Respondents in the most deprived areas (22%) continue to be more likely to record a high GHQ12 score than those in the least deprived areas (15%)²

Almost nine in every ten adults (88%) indicated they were 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with life in general however the rate for 'very satisfied' was 32% for the most deprived areas compared with 47% for the least deprived areas.

¹ Information Analysis Directorate / Department of Health NI (2019) [Health and Inequalities Annual Report 2019 \(published 27 March 2019\)](#)

² Health Survey Northern Ireland 2017/2018

Overall, three-quarters of adults (75%) felt there was something they could do to make their life healthier in one or more of the following ways.

Figure 5.1.3: How people feel they can make their life healthier



Source: Health Survey Northern Ireland

Around two-fifths of adults reported having a longstanding illness, with over two-thirds (69%) in the 75 years and over age group. Respondents in the most deprived areas were more likely to report a longstanding illness (49%) and of those 79% were likely to be limited by it, these being significantly higher than in the least deprived areas.

Around half of respondents (45%) reported having three to five people close to them that could be counted on if they had serious personal problems, while almost all respondents (98%) reported having at least one. Over a third of respondents aged 16 to 24 years (37%) stated it would be easy or very easy to get practical help from neighbours if they needed it. This rate increased with age reaching 71% for those aged 75 years and over.

Obesity

The Northern Ireland Health Survey reported that over a quarter of adults (27%) were classed as obese with a further 37% classed as overweight. Obesity levels have shown an upward trend from the 23% recorded in 2010/11. Whilst obesity levels were similar, males were more likely than females to be overweight¹

In Mid and East Antrim the prevalence for those on the obesity register in 2014/15 was 12.0% compared to 10.9% for NI, the second highest rate for all councils. Therefore the rate of obesity is poor by NI standards which are high by global standards.²

Around three-quarters of children aged 2-15 were classed as either normal weight or underweight, while 18% were classed as overweight and 9% were classed as obese. Since 2010/11, the proportion of children classed as overweight or obese has remained at similar levels. Childhood Obesity Rates for children have been similar to the NI rates in the Borough but are higher in the most deprived areas.

Safety

There are NI Fire and Rescue Service Stations in Ballymena, Carnlough, Carrickfergus, Larne and Whitehead. NIFRS reported the following incidents in Mid and East Antrim for the period April 2012 to March 2015 which highlight the importance of accessibility to these services.

¹ Health Survey Northern Ireland 2017/2018 (published: 20 November 2018)

² NINIS Disease Prevalence (Quality Outcomes Framework) (administrative geographies)

Table 5.1.3: NIFRS Incidents 2012/15

Incident	Number	Average Annual
Dwelling Fires	236	79
Fires in other buildings	131	44
Special Service Calls	347	116
Road Traffic Collisions	140	47
Vehicle Fires	183	61
Wild Fires	302	101

Source: NIFRS Fire and Rescue Service Information

Radon

Radon is a natural radioactive gas that occurs at low levels outside but which can become concentrated in enclosed places, such as houses, workplaces and other buildings. Long-term exposure to radon increases the risk of lung cancer, particularly in smokers or ex-smokers. After smoking, radon exposure is the second greatest cause of lung cancer. It is estimated to cause 30 deaths per year in NI¹.

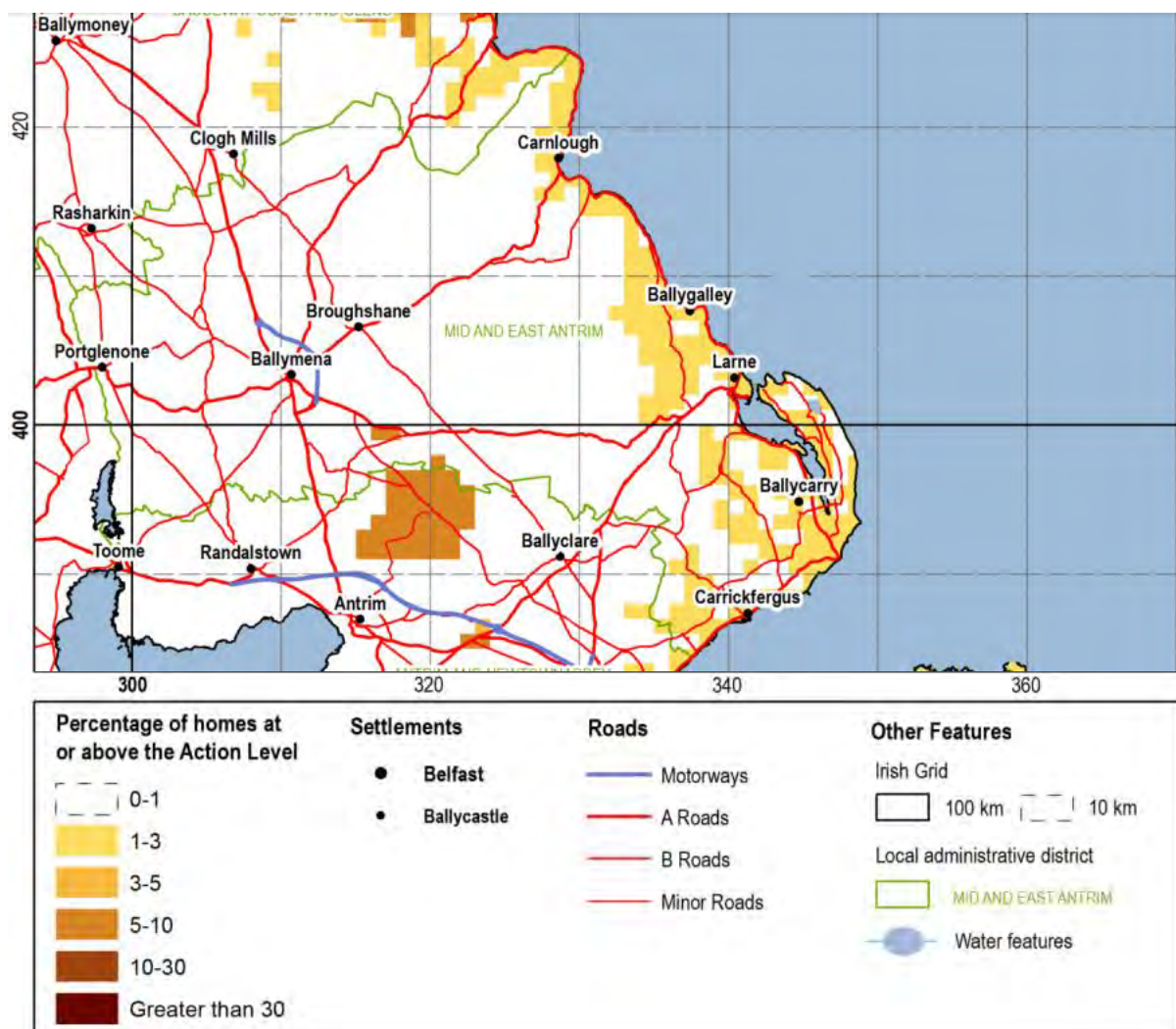
Public Health England (in conjunction with the GSNI) published a new indicative atlas of Radon levels in homes throughout NI in 2015. It estimates that some 155,000 homes, about 1 in 5 in Northern Ireland, are now in 'Affected Areas'².

An extract from this atlas is shown in Figure 5.1.4. The darker colours on the radon map indicate a greater probability of high radon levels in a building. The government has recommended that householders take action to reduce their radon levels where they exceed the 'action level' of 200 Becquerels per cubic metre.

The atlas helps to inform where measurement of Radon levels may be required at dwellings, and if necessary, where action may be required to protect homes. It can be seen in Figure 5.1.4 that there are no areas in Mid and East Antrim with a 10% or greater probability of exceeding the recommended action level for Radon, however a small area near Moorfields has a 5-10% probability and much of the coastline around a 1-3 % probability.

¹ NI Direct Radon Gas in your Home (found at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/radon-gas-your-home>)

² Gov.uk "New Radon Map for Northern Ireland Published"(found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-radon-map-for-northern-ireland-published>)

Figure 5.1.4: Extract from 'Radon in Northern Ireland: Indicative Atlas'

Source: Radon in NI: Indicative Atlas August 2015

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5.1.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

The most significant baseline trends, relevant to health and wellbeing and the local development plan, which could continue in the absence of a new local development plan are lack of physical activity and discrepancies in health and wellbeing in the most deprived communities in our Borough. The opportunity to plan strategically to create an environment that encourages active travel and physical activity and improve the environment in the most deprived areas could be missed. Some of the measures of health such as respiratory disease may be exacerbated if there is no change or a deterioration in environmental conditions. While there are other environmental controls in place, the lack of a plan would mean that there is less opportunity to site development to reduce negative interactions between uses.

5.1.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Health and Wellbeing

- The population is predicted to rise by the year 2030 but with a slowing growth rate over that period.
- Trends indicate an aging population with the number of people over 65 years expected to be a greater proportion of the total population by 2030.

- There will be a need to meet the future needs for care and support for older people at home or in communal homes and to improve access to health services and other facilities and services.
- Many people are dependent on carers in the home or local community.
- Overall health and wellbeing is good relative to other areas with the lowest hospital admission rates and numbers on the mental health register. Health is also improving and people living longer.
- There are high prevalence rates for diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity and heart disease. Main causes of deaths are cancer, heart disease and respiratory disease.
- There is inequality in health with all measures of health being significantly worse in the most deprived areas.
- Good spatial planning could reduce health inequalities by providing a high standard of design and place making, open space, capacity for any additional services required and accessibility.
- Levels of obesity are high by global standards reflecting poor diet and a relatively sedentary lifestyle.
- Levels of physical activity are relatively high to other Council areas however much lower than recommended levels.
- There is a need to promote physical activity through provision of and ensuring good accessibility to sports facilities, open space, green infrastructure and walking and cycling routes.
- There is a need for children to have accessible play opportunities in places where they feel safe.
- There will be a need to enable older people to engage in physical activity to prolong their healthy lives.
- Noise and environmental quality are not identified as being significant adverse effects at present and should be improved, or sustained.
- There is a need to plan the relative location of industry and housing, open space and public facilities to minimise use conflicts.
- Ambulance response times have been increasing across Northern Ireland.
- Major transport infrastructure has the potential to cause noise disturbance, air pollution or safety risks which can be reduced through siting and design of development.

5.2 Community

5.2.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Community considers community identity, shared space, prosperity and social inclusion, crime prevention and community safety, good relations and the rural population.

An understanding of changes in the makeup of the population informs future needs for the plan area for housing, employment, infrastructure, facilities and amenities. Models of the future population take account of other policies, net migration and, for example, health initiatives, which are likely to have an influence on births, deaths. A consistent requirement of policies related to the various demographic groups is the need to incorporate equality of treatment and opportunity.

‘Delivering Social Change’, an NI Executive Programme, seeks to reduce inequalities, often through targeted approaches, and the draft Programme for Government includes an outcome that *‘We have a more equal society’* which includes measures to reduce poverty, health and educational inequality and also relates to employment.

The Regional Strategic Objective of the SPPS to *‘sustain a vibrant rural community by supporting rural economic development of an appropriate nature and scale’* is representative of regional rural policy. It seeks to enable people to live and work in rural communities with reasonable provision of facilities while retaining the intrinsic character and value of the countryside and small communities. This echoes the Rural White Paper Action Plan which also refers to improved infrastructure, transport and key services; strong community infrastructure which can avail of economic, social and cultural opportunities; and better linkages between rural and urban areas.

There is growing recognition of the need for provision to take account of the varying needs of different age groups. The World Health Organisation promotes Age-friendly practices. It states that *‘An age-friendly world enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities and treats everyone with respect, regardless of their age. It is a place that makes it easy for older people to stay connected to people that are important to them.’*¹ This ethos is reflected in the objectives of the Active Ageing Strategy 2016-2021 which includes aims such as the co-ordinated delivery of suitable warm housing and timely and reliable transport provision. Other aims include social participation and volunteering opportunities which help address isolation and loneliness and the active participation and citizenship of older people in decision making on policies and the provision of services. The draft Northern Ireland Children and Young People’s Strategy 2017-2027 promotes co-operation amongst Departments, Agencies and other service deliverers. Its aims include that children and young people are provided the opportunity to experience good relations with those of a different race, religion or culture.

Together: Building a United Community Strategy² is another Executive programme. It has a vision for *‘a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance’*.³

¹ World Health Organisation – Ageing and lifecourse/Towards an Age-friendly world (found at <https://www.who.int/ageing/age-friendly-world/en/>)

² Together: Building a United Community Strategy (Date published: 23 May 2013) <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/together-building-united-community-strategy>

³ The Executive Office: Together: Building a United Community Strategy

Our Council has developed a Good Relations programme¹ to deliver on these objectives and to develop mutual understanding, respect for cultural traditions, the principle of interdependence and positive cross-community/race relations development through a wide-range of programmes.

The 'Community Safety Action Plan'² includes the action for Councils *'to support a sense of pride and ownership within neighbourhoods, deter anti-social behaviour and to address growing amenity problems associated with dilapidated or unsightly buildings and neglected sites'*.

Our Council Vision is that 'Mid and East Antrim will be a strong, vibrant, safe and inclusive community where people work together to improve the quality of life for all.' One of the five strategic themes of the Corporate Plan for delivering this vision is 'Community Safety and Cohesion. The objectives for delivering this are:

- Encourage good relations by creating vibrant, shared, and cohesive communities within the borough.
- Improve community safety and confidence to enable people to feel safe and have a sense of belonging to their area.
- Build the capacity of local communities to become resilient and self-sustainable; and
- Work with partners to provide support to vulnerable people who need it.

Mid and East Antrim's Community Plan includes 'Community Safety and Cohesion' as one of its five Themes, with the aim of 'reducing crime and creating good relations between people and communities'.

5.2.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in our Community Planning Baseline Report, October 2016. One of the Community Planning Task and Finish Groups was on Community Safety and Cohesion and the papers it considered and outcomes are found on its webpage³. The Population Position Paper and Population Position Paper Appendices include tables and maps illustrating much of the following data at the more detailed Super Output Areas.

NINIS in general and its Area Profile for Mid and East Antrim at January 2017 have been important data sources. The baseline data also refers to the 2011 Equality Awareness Survey which measured attitudes towards specific equality groups and perceptions and experiences of unfair treatment. The survey of over 1000 people followed a similar structure and content to that of the Commission's previous Equality Awareness Surveys (2008 and 2005).

Population Distribution

According to the Census 2011, approximately 58.2% of households are urban-based, being located in the three main towns of Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne. The remaining 41.5% of households are split between the small towns, villages, small settlements and the open countryside, with the latter accounting for some 18.8% of the total population.

¹ Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Good Relations (found at <https://www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/resident/good-relations/what-is-good-relations>)

² Department of Justice Community Safety action plan 2015 to 2017 (date published 16 June 2015)

³ Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Community Planning, Community Safety and Cohesion (found at <https://www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/resident/community-planning/community-safety-and-cohesion>)

The urban proportion 63.4% is slightly lower than the NI average of 68.7% whilst the rural proportion (36.6%) is higher than the NI average (31.3%)¹. In some of the rural areas, individuals and communities may potentially be quite isolated².

On Census day 2011, 6,402 households in Mid and East Antrim were one person households where the resident was aged 65+ years³. This accounted for 43% of all one-person households (total 14,897)⁴.

What the data tells us about population change is summarised here however the future impact on housing is considered in more detail in 5.3. The rate of population growth has been lower than that for Northern Ireland as a whole with an increase between 2001 and 2015 of just under 10,000.

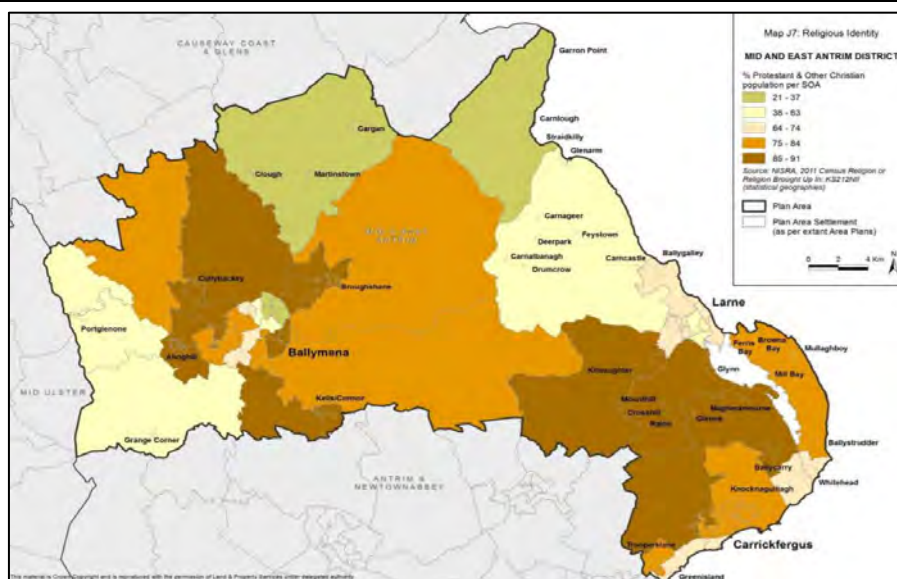
The rate of population growth from 2016 to 2030 is set to be lower at 3.1% than the NI rate of growth which is predicted to be around 5.3%⁵. Factors contributing to this lower rate are lower rates of birth and in-migration. The 2015 population density (131 persons/km²) is slightly below the Northern Ireland average of 134 persons/km².

Ethnicity, Identity, Language and Religion

The 2011 Census recorded 19.34% of the resident population of the Borough as 'belonging to or brought up in the Catholic religion' (NI: 45%) and 72.88% 'belonging to brought up in a 'Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)' religion' (NI: 48%). 0.72% were from 'other' religions (NI 0.9%) and 6.97% declared no religion (NI: 5.6%).

Figure 5.2.1 illustrates how religious identity varies across our Borough. The 2011 Equality Awareness Survey reported that 7% perceived those from a different religion in an unfavourable light at the Northern Ireland level. Across the 11 councils we had the highest percentage of residents preferring to live, work and educate their children in mixed religion neighbourhoods.

Figure 5.2.1: Religious Identity



Source: NISRA Census 2011

¹ NISRA, NINIS: Urban Rural Composition (administrative geographies) 2009.

² The Big Plan Statistical Baseline July 2017 – 1st Issue

³ NINIS Age Friendly Profile for Mid and East Antrim Local Government District (LGD2014)

⁴ NINIS Census 2011 Profile for Mid and East Antrim Local Government District Table 2: Usual Residents and Households by Household Size

⁵ NISRA 2016-based Population Projections for Areas within NI

In the 2014 Local Government Election, 73% of Mid and East Antrim District voted for Unionist parties, 11% for Nationalist parties and 16% for Other/Independents. In the 2019 Local Government Election 66.6% of 1st preference votes were for Unionist parties, 8.2% were for Nationalist parties and 25.2% for Other / Independents. This shows that the level of support for Unionist parties is much higher in the Borough than for Nationalist and Other parties or Independents. However, there is considerable variation at the local scale across the Council area.

At the 2011 Census, in respect of identity, 71.36% of the resident population of the Borough indicated that they had a British national identity, 9.19% had an Irish national identity and 29.43% had a Northern Irish national identity (respondents could indicate more than one national identity).

In the 2011 census 0.96% of the resident population of the Borough were from an ethnic minority population (NI: 1.72%) and the remaining 99.04% were white (including Irish Traveller) (NI: 98.28)¹. 2.19% of the Borough's resident population reported that they did not have English as their first language². The 2011 Census recorded 92 Irish Travellers in the Borough.

Mid and East Antrim has a lower proportion, 9.12% (11.16% NI) of its population born outside Northern Ireland. The 2016 Equality Awareness Survey found that, although attitudes towards the different groups were generally positive, 52% agree that more needs to be done to promote good relations between people of different background. Perceptions of unfair treatment for all equality groups have decreased since 2011, with the proportion of people who feel no groups are treated unfairly increasing from 17% to 50%.³

Marital status

In 2011, of those over 16 in Mid and East Antrim, 31.4% were single, 55.52% were married, 5.92% divorced and 7.16% widowed. This shows an increase in the number of single people and those that have divorced and a decrease in people married, but the proportion married is still above the NI average and the proportion single is still below the NI average.

Persons with a disability and persons without

In 2018 the number of people claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payments (PIP) in Mid and East Antrim was 9,500, down from approximately 12,400 in the previous two years. Children under the age of 15 accounted for approximately 18% of recipients, while over 65s accounted for 38% of recipients⁴. The decrease in recipients is likely to be due to reassessments being carried out as DLA is replaced by PIP⁵. For NI, the number of recipients has decreased from 209,030 in 2017 to 159,050 in 2018⁶.

The combination of increasing life expectancy with declining disability free life expectancy (Table 5.2.1) is likely to lead to a significant increase in the numbers of people with a disability.

¹ NINIS Census 2011: Ethnic Group: KS201NI (administrative geographies)

² Census 2011 Population Statistics for Mid and East Antrim Local Government District (2014)

³ Sourced Equality Awareness Survey 2016 www.equalityni.org/Delivering-Equality/Equality-Awareness-Survey

⁴ NISRA Making Life Better Theme 4 – Creating the Conditions Disability Living Allowance Recipients (administrative geographies) 2011-18

⁵ BBC News "DLA benefits cut or stopped in almost half of cases" Published 26th September 2018 (found at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-45650885>)

⁶ NISRA Making Life Better Theme 4 – Creating the Conditions Disability Living Allowance Recipients (administrative geographies) 2011-18

Table 5.2.1: Disability Free Life Expectancy Northern Ireland

	Male	Female
2008-2010	61.3	62.7
2009-2011	61.1	62.3
2010-2012	60.2	60.8
2015-2017	59.1	60.3

Source: Department of Health Public health NI fact sheet 2018 <https://www.healthni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/ph-fact-sheet-2018.pdf>

Persons with dependants and persons without

In 1981 46.86% of households in Mid and East Antrim had dependent children, by 2011 the figure was 32.14% and this follows the NI trend. Within Mid and East Antrim the following Super Output Areas had higher proportions of households with children - Kilwaughter, Bluefield 2, Ahoghill 2, Grange, Glenravel, Dunclug, Eden 1, Woodburn and Clipperstown.

The table below shows the projected household types with and without children from 2016 until 2030. The figures indicate a steady increase in one adult households and two adults without children households.

Table 5.2.2: Projected household types with and without children from 2016 until 2030 in Mid and East Antrim

Household Type	2016	2030
One adult households	15,347	17,328
Two adults without children	16,586	18,770
Other households without children	8,537	8,900
One adult households with children	3,145	2,951
Other households with children	12,026	11,276
Total households	55,641	59,225

Source: NISRA 2016 Based Household Projections (2018).

The projected increase in one adult households also indicates that a growing number of one adult households are 75+ years old.

One Person Households	2016	2030
Aged 16-39 years	2,343	2,060
Aged 40-64 years	6,198	6,994
Aged 65-74 years	2,862	3,097
Aged 75 years or over	3,944	5,177
Total one person households	15,347	17,328

Source: NISRA 2016 Based Household Projections (2018).

Deprivation

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2017¹ scores areas in NI across several deprivation domains including income, employment, access to services, and crime. Scores range

¹ NISRA: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 (NIMDM2017)

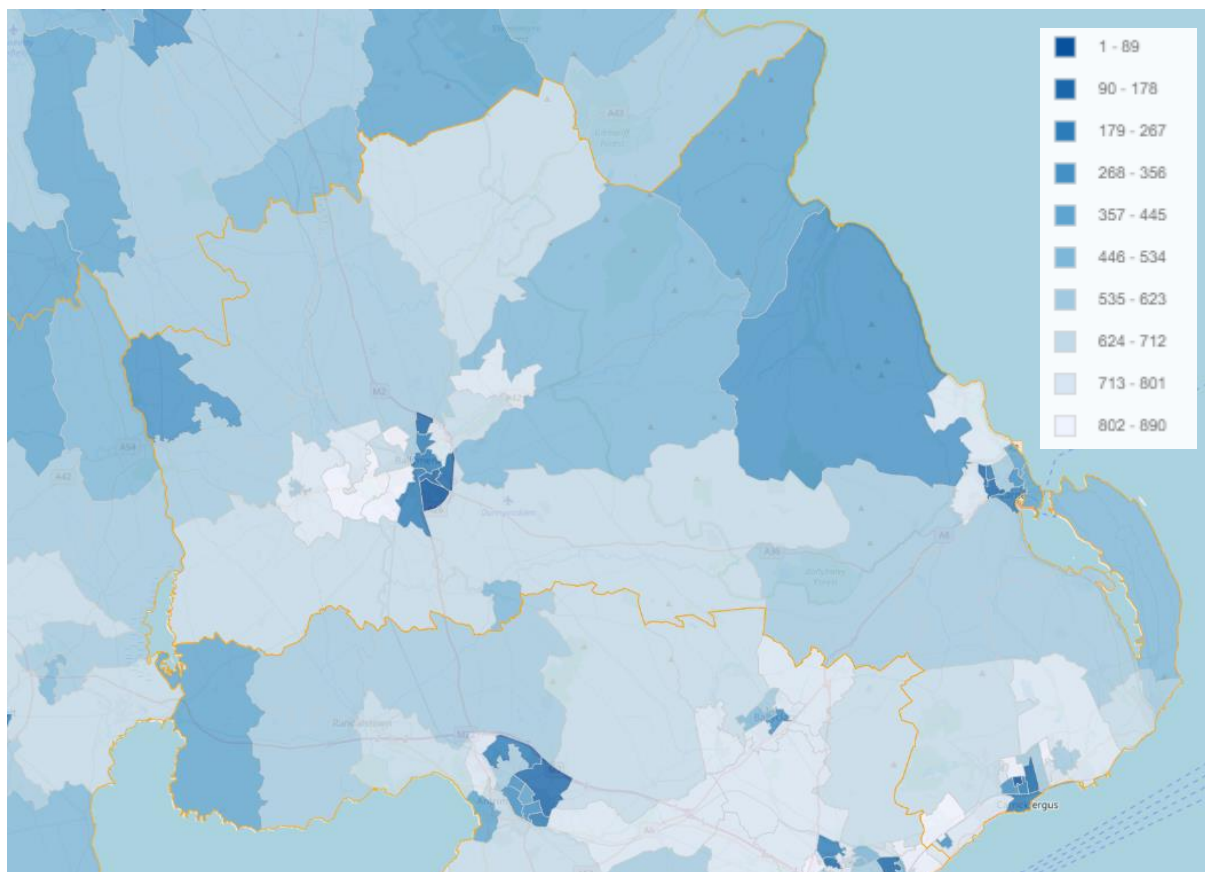
from 1 (most deprived) to 890 (least deprived). Spatially there is a wide range of scores across the Borough.

The highest rankings for multiple deprivation are evident in and around the main towns of Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne. Two Super Output Areas (SOA)¹ in Mid and East Antrim are within the top 10% most deprived in NI, Northland (Carrickfergus), ranked 65 and Ballee (Ballymena) ranked 85. Glenarm (281) is the highest-ranked rural area.

The SOAs in Mid and East Antrim with the highest ranked deprivation with respect to access to services were Glenarm (3), Slemish (34), Grange (49) Island Magee (69), Woodburn (65), and Glenwhirry (71).

The most deprived SOAs for crime and disorder in Mid and East Antrim are Central Larne (41), Castle Demesne (52), Harryville (61), Moat (79) and Dunlug (89). However, some rural parts of the Borough such as Grange (845) and Dunminning (867) rank amongst the least deprived in NI for crime and disorder.

Figure 5.2.2: Multiple Deprivation ranks for Mid and East Antrim 2017 by Super Output Area



Source: NISRA NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017²

Rural

In 2001, Mid and East Antrim District was relatively urban with over three quarters of the population living in designated settlements while the remainder lived in the open countryside. Almost half of the population in Ballymena District lived in Ballymena town and this urban bias is even greater in

¹ Super Output Areas are a series of geographical boundaries developed by NISRA to improve the reporting of small area statistics.

² NISRA:NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 (NIMDM2017)²

Larne town and Carrickfergus town within their respective districts. The former Carrickfergus district had the highest percentage of the population living in towns with only 7.7% living in the open countryside. The former Ballymena district had the highest percentage of rural dwellers. Figures from the 2011 Census are shown in Table 5.2.3. From this analysis it is clear that the towns need to develop in order to fulfil their roles as regional hubs and, in the case of Larne, a regional gateway.

Table 5.2.3: Population and Household Distribution in Mid and East Antrim - 2011

	Ballymena District		Larne District		Carrickfergus District		Mid and East Antrim	
	Population	Households	Population	Households	Population	Households	Population	Households
Main Towns	46.0%	48.8%	58.1%	61.3%	71.3%	71.2%	56.2%	58.5%
Local Towns	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	23.7%	24.4%	6.8%	7.3%
Villages	20.1%	21.2%	18.3%	17.5%	n/a	n/a	13.9%	14.0%
Small Settlements	1.3%	1.2%	3.4%*	3.2%*	0.3%	0.4%	1.5%	1.4%
Total Urban	67.4%	71.2%	79.8%*	82.0%*	95.4%	96.0%	78.4%	81.2%
Rural Remainder	32.6%	28.8%	20.2%	18.0%	4.6%	4.0%	21.6%	18.8%
District Total	64,044	24,817	32,180	13,297	39,114	16,200	135,338	54,314

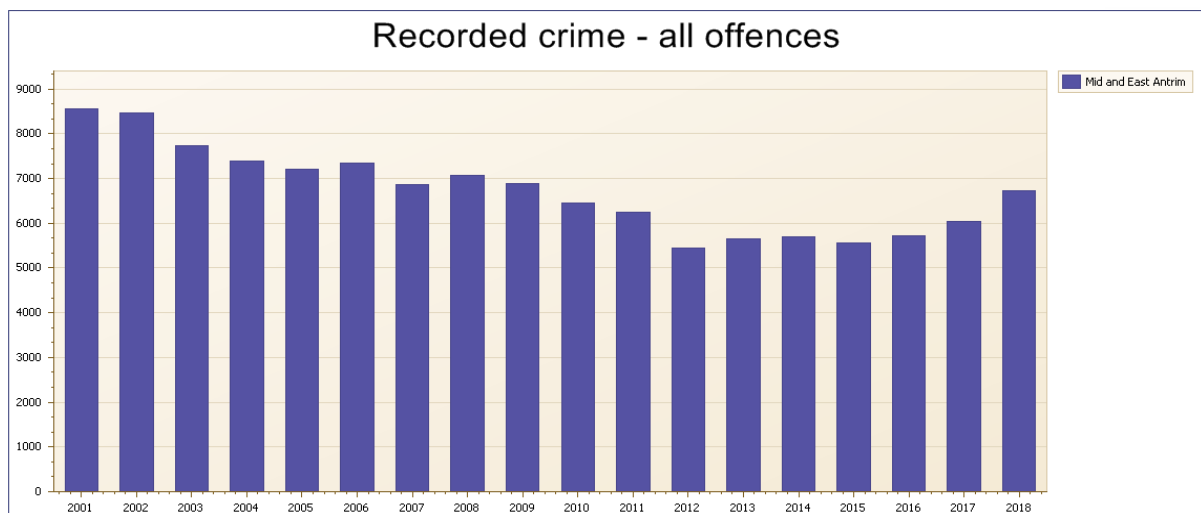
* Excludes 11 small settlements in Larne where the population and household totals were below the following thresholds: 20 or more households and 50 or more usual residents. The figures for these 11 have been included in Rural Remainder totals.

Source: 2011 Census Headcount and Household Estimates for Settlements Published 26/03/2015. Based on Settlement hierarchy in existing Area Plans.

Crime

In 2018/2019, 6,739 crimes were recorded in Mid and East Antrim. This was an 11.8% increase on the 2017/2018 figures¹. Mid and East Antrim is joint 5th lowest across the 11 council areas in terms of crime². The Community Plan Baseline Report 2016 reports on types of crime and where each is most prevalent. In every indicator (except Criminal Damages) the performance was better than the NI average.

Figure 5.2.3: All Recorded Crime in Mid and East Antrim 2001-2018



Source: NISRA: Police Recorded Crime (administrative geographies) - All offences from 2008- 2018 www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk

¹ PSNI- www.psni.police.uk

² Mid and East Antrim Corporate Plan 2019-2023.

Community Facilities

The LDP POP Education, Health and Community Facilities Position Paper details community facilities in the Borough. There are nine libraries across the Borough which, although opening hours for many have been reduced, provide important hubs for accessing information and communication and act as shared spaces. All are open at least 18 hours a week. The level of use of libraries in 2011 - 2014 was lower in the Borough at 27% than the NI average (30%) and the second lowest overall ¹

In 2019, there were 30 community centres located throughout Mid and East Antrim. These are generally located within towns and villages, with the majority of these within easy walking distance so they are easily accessible. Youth Services are delivered through a range of venues including schools, youth centres, community centres and church halls.

5.2.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Population trends are largely influenced by other factors such as birth and death rate which in turn reflect many other factors such as health. Migration is subject to external influences such as national policy and the regional economy however it can also be directly influenced by the physical, economic and social environment. Planning can have an influence on this by creating the conditions for investment and place shaping to make it more attractive to live. BMAP 2015 was not prepared in the context of the new council areas and does not reflect the economic growth and social development for our area.

Therefore in the absence of a new plan there is a risk that policies and provision for development will not reflect the needs of our Council area or support delivery of our Community Plan. A new plan brings an opportunity to develop a plan led system and to reflect the most recent strategies.

5.2.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Community

- Approximately one fifth of the population is under 16 years and this proportion is predicted to reduce over the plan period.
- There has been an increase in the proportion of people living in small settlements and villages between 2001 and 2011 with a related decrease in the proportion living in the main towns of Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne.
- There is an increasing trend in the number of single person households.
- A greater proportion of older people will increase the need for suitable housing that is accessible for those who may not drive and enables support to be provided.
- Levels of deprivation vary widely through the Council area with multiple issues in many areas.
- The highest concentrations of deprivation with respect to proximity to services are Glenarm, Islandmagee, Carnlough, Glenravel, Grange, Glenwherry, Dunminning and Slemish.
- There is a commitment and need to promote social inclusion through appropriate and accessible shared space and applying place making to make areas inclusive for all backgrounds, abilities and income levels.
- Some areas have populations which predominantly reflect one religion or political opinion.
- Local representatives and groups can help to identify the needs and experience of different parts of our society which can be recognised through Community Planning. The LDP can help to deliver measures identified through Community Planning.
- The community is not ethnically diverse, however the needs of minority groups should be taken into account.

¹ Mid and East Antrim LDP Plan Preparation Process Education, Health & Community Facilities Paper 9 September 2015

- There will continue to be a need for access to childcare facilities as well as community and leisure facilities.

5.3 Housing

5.3.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Good quality sustainable housing is a fundamental need of society and can make a significant positive contribution to community cohesion and the character of our built environment. It is the role of the LDP to facilitate land for the delivery of homes proactively to meet the variety of future housing needs, together with the opportunities for people living there to make healthy lifestyle choices and benefit from community services and facilities.

Overarching policy recognises that a stable and sustainable housing market will provide high quality homes, and support economic growth and prosperity. Good quality, sustainable housing supports wider society including the most disadvantaged who can be supported through the access to high quality affordable housing which comprises social rented housing and intermediate housing.

Good quality housing is essential to safety and wellbeing. Availability of appropriate housing and access to community and social services influence the independence and quality of life of older people. New homes should be capable of being lifetime homes. Good quality housing developments promote wellbeing and health improvement through design to encourage walking and cycling, and use of open space for recreation. Fuel poverty can be tackled through housing design that aims for a low-carbon future, which also helps local air quality and our contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Regional policy recognises that housing growth needs to be managed to achieve sustainable patterns of residential development. This can be achieved by promoting housing within existing hubs and clusters and by using vacant and underutilized land including brownfield sites. Regional policy encourages 60% of new housing to be in the hubs and clusters and to use brownfield sites. The needs of rural dwellers, those on low incomes, the vulnerable, the elderly, the disabled and the homeless should also be considered in housing policy.

One of the five strategic themes of the Corporate Plan is 'our Environment'. It includes the objective to *'deliver high quality places where people want to live, work and invest, using the Local Development Plan, regeneration and excellence in leadership'*.

Our Community Plan has three themes that relate to housing and living environments: Good Health and Wellbeing, Community Safety and Cohesion, and Environment.

5.3.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the LDP Position Paper Housing and Settlement and the Addendum to Housing and Settlement Paper April 2016. Any available updates since the publication of these papers have been included in the text below.

Overview

The following summarises the position in relation to housing:

- Household Tenure - In 2011, 72% of households were owner occupied, 13.5% private rented, 11.8% social rented homes and 2.4% other.
- Dwelling Prices - Cost of a typical home in the Borough is £124,575 the 3rd lowest of all Councils in NI (NI House Price Index January- March 2019)
- Age (Elderly) –18.6% of the MEA population is 65+ years - compared to NI proportion of 16.2%;
- Age (Elderly) - It is expected that over 31% of MEA population will be aged 65+ by 2030;

- Age (Children) - 19.2% of the MEA population is under 16 years - compared to NI proportion of 20.9%
- Age (Children) - Higher proportions of children are associated with particular areas - e.g. Kilwaughter (Larne), Dunclug (Ballymena) and Northland (Carrickfergus);
- Health/Disability - 1 in 5 people in MEA suffer from some form of limiting long term illness;
- Health/Disability - Higher rates of long term illness are associated with particular areas - e.g. Sunnylands and Killycrot in Carrickfergus; Craigy Hill in Larne; and Moat, Castle Demesne and Harryville in Ballymena;
- Affordable Housing Needs -NIHE indicate that the five year social rented housing need for 2018-2023 is 643 units. Projections indicate that the social rented housing need from a 2018/19 baseline will extend to 1,331 units by 2030.
- NIHE indicate that MEA will require 660 intermediate housing units between 2018 and 2028.
- Affordable Housing Needs - Areas of greatest need to 2030 include Carrickfergus town (518 units), Ballymena town (365 units) Broughshane (115 units), Ahoghill (99 units) and Greenisland (53 units);
- Affordable Housing Needs -Single, older persons and small family households comprise 91% of the housing stress waiting list.
- Homelessness - NIHE indicates that the levels of homelessness have been fairly consistent since 2013-2018, with an increasing trend. The numbers of those accepted as homeless has also increased.

Housing Growth Indicators

Housing Growth indicators (HGIs) provide an estimate of future housing need in Northern Ireland. The figures are based on current population/household information trends and assume that these trends will continue into the future.

In April 2016, DfI published a revised Housing Growth Figure of 5,400 dwellings for Mid and East Antrim Borough for the period 2012-2025, using 2012-based household projections. Projecting the figure of 5,400 on a pro rata basis to 2030 for the period 2012-2030 gives a figure of 7,477. The projected annual yield required to meet the new dwelling requirement is 415.4¹.

Figure 5.3.1 Projected New Dwelling Required in Mid and East Antrim 2012-2030

	HGI 2012-2025	Per Year / Pro rata Figure	HGI 2012-2030 (Pro rata x 18 years)
Mid & East Antrim	5,400	415.4	7,477

Source: Mid and East Antrim BC Housing Allocation Position Paper 13. May 2016.

Dwelling Completion Rates

In 2014, the projected annual dwelling completion rate was approximately 496 dwellings per annum based on dwelling completion data from 2014². Completion rates are based on historic trend data and therefore reflect economic conditions at the time. January- March 2017 saw the highest

¹ Mid and East Antrim BC Housing Allocation Position Paper 13. May 2016.

² NISRA/ Land and Property Services, 2012 based on housing growth indicators (HGIs).

number of dwellings completed at 163, compared to the lowest amount in April- June 2019 when it fell to 81.

House Prices and Affordability

In 2012, the former Carrickfergus and Larne districts had the highest levels of affordable homes for first time buyers in NI (75% of the housing stock were classified as affordable). However, affordability remains an issue for first time buyers who cannot access mortgage finance.

The Northern Ireland House Price Index Quarter 1 2019¹ indicates that residential property prices in Mid and East Antrim Borough Council has a relatively low standardised price and there has been a minimal increase of 0.7% on the previous year.

Table 5.3.1: House Price Index and Standardised Price in each Council area Q1 2019

Local Government District	Index (Quarter 1 2019)	Percentage Change on Previous Quarter	Percentage Change over 12 months	Standardised Price (Quarter 1 2019)
Antrim and Newtownabbey	120.0	-1.5%	3.3%	£138 060
Ards and North Down	111.9	-1.3%	0.8%	£150 247
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	121.7	-0.1%	3.4%	£119 951
Belfast	121.5	-2%	4.4%	£128 386
Causeway Coast and Glens	133.5	2.3%	9.6%	£144 168
Derry and Strabane	127.4	-4.0%	6.5%	£120 651
Fermanagh and Omagh	132.1	1.4%	5.4%	£126 575
Lisburn and Castlereagh	119.4	0.1%	4.1%	£160 301
Mid and East Antrim	120.3	-0.6%	0.7%	£124 575
Mid Ulster	117.8	-2.5%	-0.3%	£131 751
Newry, Mourne and Down	122.5	-2.2%	-0.3%	£137 768
Northern Ireland	121.5	-1.0%	3.5%	£134 811

Source: Department of Finance 2019

The SPSS states that affordable housing relates to social rented housing and intermediate housing, and defines each of these. It is acknowledged that DfC launched a consultation paper in June 2019 in regards to the definition of affordable housing. The NIHE Housing Needs Assessment received in January 2019 indicates that the total new build social rented housing need to 2030 within Mid and East Antrim is 1,331.

The NIHE Mid and East Antrim Housing Investment Plan 2019-23 indicates a requirement for 660 intermediate housing units in the Borough between 2018 and 2028.

Housing Supply and Distribution

The SPSS recognises that good quality housing is a fundamental human need that plays a significant role in shaping our lives and our communities. A home is a vital part of people's lives and contributes to creating a safe, healthy and prosperous society. Encouraging more housing within existing urban areas, promoting good design and achieving balanced communities.

¹ Department of Finance Northern Ireland House Price Index Quarter 1, 2019 – publication <https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-house-price-index>

Existing Development Plans within Mid and East Antrim define the Settlement Strategy for the Borough.

Housing can contribute to achieving many of the Community Plan outcomes. It can shape health and wellbeing, regeneration and the environment, community cohesion and neighbourhoods. Linked to the Programme for Government, it can also reduce fuel poverty, promote the use of renewable energy and assist economic growth. The LDP and the delivery of housing is recognised within the Community Plan as one of the key vehicles to achieving its outcomes.¹

Tenure

Mid and East Antrim has a slightly higher level of owner occupied dwellings accounting for 72% of the Borough total compared to 67% in NI. Mid and East Antrim has a lower proportion of social housing than the Northern Ireland figure. Household growth will be driven by an increase in single person and two person adult households; the rate of growth is projected to be slightly lower than the NI total. It also shows that there is likely to be a decline in the number of household with children, with the current proportion of 27% of households with children dropping to 20%. It should be noted that household projections are calculated in a policy neutral environment. These findings align with the NIHE Housing Market Analysis (June 2018) which also forecasts that the largest increase to 2037 will be in single person and two adult households (based on NISRA statistics).

Rural Housing

Rural housing continues to make a contribution to overall housing supply albeit at a reduced rate since the introduction of Planning Policy Statement 21 (PPS21).

Fuel Poverty

A fuel poor household is one needing to spend in excess of 10% of its household income on all fuel use to achieve a satisfactory standard of warmth. It assesses the ability to meet all domestic energy costs including space and water heating, cooking, lights and appliances.

The NIHE House Condition Survey 2016 provided a comprehensive picture of the dwelling stock and its condition in 2016 for Northern Ireland and the 11 new District Councils. This survey estimated that 22.0% of households in Northern Ireland were in fuel poverty which is a significant improvement in fuel poverty levels since 2011 when the figure was 42.0%. For households where the Household Reference Person was aged 60-74 years, 22% of households were in fuel poverty rising to 38% where the Household Reference Person was aged 75+ years.

Table 5.3.2 Fuel Poverty shows the rates of fuel poverty by council area. Mid and East Antrim ranks 5th out of 11 Councils in relation to fuel poverty.

¹ Local Development Plan Housing Position Paper.

Table 5.3.2: Fuel Poverty

Council	2006 % of Fuel Poverty	2016 % of Fuel Poverty
Antrim and Newtownabbey	25	14
Ards and North Down	37	20
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	33	24
Belfast	39	15
Causeway Coast and Glens	36	27
Derry and Strabane	33	31
Fermanagh and Omagh	35	26
Lisburn and Castlereagh	29	13
Mid and East Antrim	35	22
Mid Ulster	38	32
Newry, Mourne and Down	35	26
Total	34	22

Source: NIHE Housing Conditions Survey 2016

Unfit dwellings and Decent Homes

The 2016 House Condition Survey shows a decrease in the rate of unfitness of Northern Ireland's housing stock from 4.6% to 2.1%.

'Decent homes' considers a range of factors beyond unfitness including meeting modern standards. The NI average for this is 8% which equates to 61,000 dwellings. The proportion of dwellings failing the Decent Homes standard has fallen significantly since 2001 when 206,000 dwellings (32%) failed the test. Eight out of the eleven councils have non-decent rates of between 4% and 8%. Mid Ulster, Newry, Mourne and Down and Fermanagh and Omagh have above average rates failing Decent Homes.

Living Environment Deprivation - Housing Access and Housing Quality

The Northern Ireland Deprivation Measure 2017 Living Environment Domain identifies the prevalence of shortcomings in the quality of housing, access to suitable housing and the outdoor physical environment. It comprises nine indicators, including the proportion of domestic dwellings that are unfit or in a state of disrepair, the proportion of dwellings without a modern boiler, double glazing or loft insulation, adaptations for disability and indicators for the surrounding environment such as dwellings in flood risk areas and road defects.

- At the 'small areas' scale, the highest concentration of deprivation with respect to the living domain (housing quality and housing access) occurs in pockets in Ballymena and Larne towns with Castle Demesne in Ballymena the most deprived Super Output Area in Mid and East Antrim.

5.3.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without a new LDP there would be less opportunity to consider current zonings for housing and adapt to meet the areas of greatest need. There would also be less opportunity to design housing policy to accommodate the changing demography of the Council area and the identified social housing need for more single elderly and small adult households.

Applying sustainability appraisal will enable a more strategic and balanced plan for the future. Considerations for future housing include the availability of or capacity to provide necessary infrastructure, energy efficiency, a good quality environment, accessibility to employment and

services, and to forms of transport that reduce reliance on private cars and social considerations such as shared space, the vitality of towns and provision of care.

5.3.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Housing

- In 2011 almost 60% of all households consisted of 1 or 2 persons, and this proportion is predicted to grow by 2030. A decline in average household size will increase the number of homes required per capita and influence the type of dwellings required.
- A changing demography has created a high demand within social rented housing for 1 and 2 bedroom dwellings that can accommodate single, elderly and small family households. These form a significant proportion of the housing stress waiting list.
- The greatest affordable housing need is concentrated in Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Broughshane, Ahoghill and Greenisland.
- A growing proportion of older people (65+) will increase the need for suitable housing that is accessible for those who may not drive and which enables support to be provided.
- The needs of people with disabilities should be appropriately considered.
- There are advantages to providing life time homes that are accessible and adaptable to all and meet wheelchair standards.
- New housing should be low carbon and energy efficient to help reduce the problems of fuel poverty.
- Despite the relatively low standardised house price across the Borough, affordability remains an issue for first time buyers.
- All new housing should help to support healthy lifestyles.
- Housing provision should enable social cohesion in families and communities and promote vibrancy of settlements.

5.4 Education and Skills

5.4.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Education and skills takes account of learning from primary to third level education and vocational training. Good educational and skills outcomes support people to succeed economically, have better life chances and opportunities for better health.

Low educational attainment and low skills levels significantly constrain life chances and increase the risk of poverty and poor health. Significant inequality in educational attainment exists within Northern Ireland. Access to high quality education and skills training can be increased through cooperation between statutory agencies and other institutions. Overarching policies recognise that the education and skills levels of the population must improve in order meet the needs of communities and businesses. This will allow businesses to make use of opportunities for regional and global trade, and help create conditions for increased high quality employment.

Education is one of the most significant investments in developing the individual, society and the economy. The overall vision of the Department of Education (DE) is to see *'every young person achieving to his or her full potential at each stage of his or her development'*.

In recent years there have been a number of influential publications which set out to all those involved in the education sector a challenge to consider new approaches. This includes sharing facilities which would promote a more cohesive and tolerant society and assist a better use of the resources available to education.

In 2009, the DE introduced the 'Sustainable Schools Policy'. This was followed in 2011 by an area planning process, designed to address the long-term primary school needs from 2012-2025. The overall output of these is the assessment of schools against a set of criteria for sustainable enrolment levels, delivery of quality education and financial sustainability.

The 'Providing Pathways - Strategic Area Plan for Schools 2017-2020' identifies the challenges for the education system throughout each Local Government District area. Area planning aims to establish a network of viable schools that are of the right type, the right size, located in the right place, and have a focus on raising standards. The aim of area planning is to ensure that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum in sustainable, fit-for-purpose schools. The Education Authority (EA), in partnership with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, Controlled Schools' Support Council, Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, Governing Bodies Association, Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education, Catholic Schools' Trustee Service and the Further Education sector publishes an annual Action Plan to identify area planning solutions within each Council.

The draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021 has 14 outcomes, of which some are directly linked to the provision of a good education system. Some of these outcomes aim for *'more people in better jobs'*, and ensuring *'children and young people have the best start in life'*. Indicators for achieving these outcomes include reducing educational inequalities and improving the quality of education across NI.

Within a land use planning context, LDPs should allocate sufficient land to meet the anticipated educational needs of the community. They should recognise town centres as important hubs for a range of uses, including education. Within a rural context, policy requires that people who live in the countryside should also have opportunities to access high quality education and learning.

One of the five strategic themes of the Corporate Plan is 'Learning for Life'. It includes the objectives to 'develop a joined-up approach to the delivery of education and training programmes in schools and in the wider community' and to 'encourage our people to realise their potential through awareness, training and lifelong learning'.

'Progress in Education' is one of the themes in our Community Plan. It includes the outcomes "*in our Borough there are no barriers to stop anyone achieving their educational potential*" and "*our people and wider communities place value on life-long learning*".

5.4.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the LDP Position Paper on Education Health and Community Facilities. This topic overlaps with the Health and Wellbeing, Community, Economy and Employment and Transport and Accessibility topics.

Pre-school Education

There are 53 pre-school/units within Mid and East Antrim, the majority of which are either voluntary or controlled. In the 2018-19 academic year there were 1,568 pre-school/nursery pupils in voluntary & private preschool education centres, nursery schools and primary school nursery classes.

Primary School Education

'Providing Pathways'¹ states that the Borough's population in the age range 0-15 years is projected to decrease by 1.6% by 2024.

Primary education in Mid and East Antrim is provided by 56 primary schools. 41 (73%) of these primary schools are controlled, 11 (20%) are Catholic maintained, 1 (2%) is controlled integrated and three (5%) are grant maintained integrated. .

'Providing Pathways' also identifies that in the 2015-16 year, which forms the baseline for the report, there were 11,204 enrolments at primary level across the Borough. Around 21% of the total approved enrolments (2,970 out of 13,775 available places) were unfilled. The Annual Action Plan 2018/19² reported that there has been a reduction of 1,060 in the number of available school places in Primary schools and a further reduction of four reported in the 2019-21 Annual Action Plan³.

The Annual Action Plan 2019/21 has indicated a number of required actions for several primary schools in the Borough, including to promote shared education solutions which provide sustainable schools in the Glenarm/Carnlough area, to establish learning support and autism specific provision and to ensure school places are located as required and address school provision where sustainability is an issue.

Post Primary Education

Providing Pathways has indicated that the Borough's population in the age range 16-19 years is projected to decrease by 3.0% by 2024.

There are 13 post-primary schools in the Borough. 'Providing Pathways' reported 10,601 enrolments for the year 2015/6 out of a total of 11,465 approved places. However, at the local level,

¹ Education Authority (NI) (2017) 'Providing Pathways' – Strategic Area Plan 2017-2020.

² Education Authority (NI) Annual Action Plan for Primary, Post-Primary and Special Schools April 2018 – March 2019

³ Education Authority (NI) Annual Action Plan for Primary, Post-Primary and Special Schools April 2019 – March 2021

in Ballymena and Carrickfergus a number of schools are over-subscribed while others have significant spare capacity.

The Annual Action Plan 2019/21 has indicated a number of required actions for two post primary schools in the Borough, which include to establish learning support and autism specific provision and to ensure that school places are located as required.

Further Education

There are three Northern Regional College (NRC) campuses in Ballymena and one NRC campus in Larne. There are no NRC campuses in Carrickfergus, although NRC provides a wide range of course for adults in the community. Carrickfergus, however, is within close proximity to the existing NRC campus at Newtownabbey.

Special Education

There are two special school in Mid and East Antrim, located in Larne and Ballymena. In 2015/2016 Education Authority figures show Castle Tower School (Ballymena) was at 98% capacity and a deficit of places of Roddensvale School (Larne). In 2017 Castle Tower moved to a new, purpose built facility on a 13 acre site¹.

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment in Mid and East Antrim is around average for the NI LGDs, with Table 5.4.1 showing that just over half (57.7%) of school leavers in 2016/17 had 2+ 'A' Levels A* to E versus the NI average of 58.5%. However, across the Borough there is significant variation in educational attainment. The indicators used in the NIMDM 2017 show that while one SOA (Slemish) has 10% or less of its school leavers leaving with fewer than 5 GCSE passes, 17 SOAs, shown in Figure 5.4.1, have more than 40% of pupils leaving school with fewer than 5 GCSEs (including English and Maths). Two of these SOAs (Northland and Ballee) had more than three quarters of school leavers receiving fewer than five GCSEs.

Table 5.4.1: Qualifications of school leavers by District Council of pupil residence 2016/2017^{(1) (3)}

	2+ A-levels A*-E⁽²⁾	5+ GCSEs A*-C⁽²⁾	5+ GCSEs A*-C⁽²⁾ inc. GCSE English and Maths
Mid and East Antrim	57.7	83.8	70.8
NI Total	58.5	83.8	69.6

1. Excludes special and independent schools

2. Includes equivalent qualifications

3. District Council of pupil residence is based on the residential postcode of each individual pupil

Source: NISRA 2016/17 statistical bulletin Qualifications & destinations of Northern Ireland school leavers table 2016/17 published: 31.05.18

¹ Department for Education Press Release, "New £21million Castle Tower School officially opened" Published: 27 June 2018

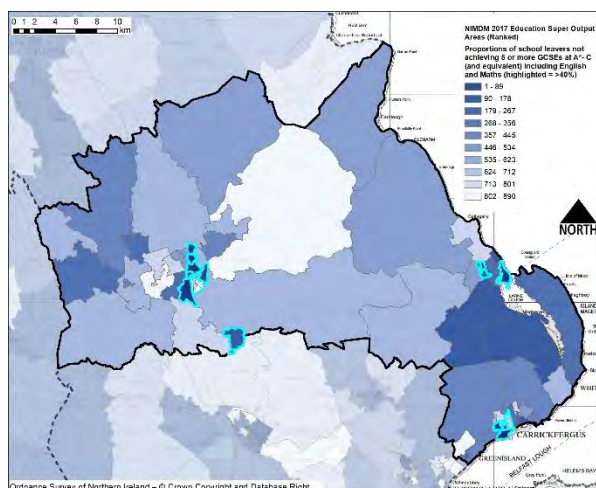


Figure 5.4.1 NIMDM 2017 Ranked SOA
Proportions of school leavers not achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A*- C (and equivalent) including English and Maths

(For 2014/15 to 2015/16 academic years).
Highlights show areas in excess of 40%.

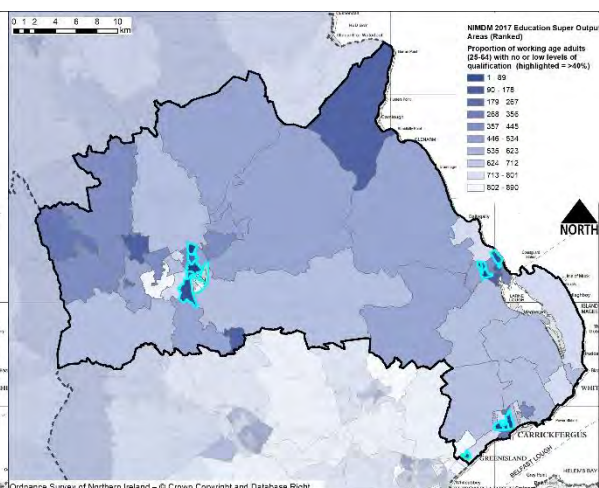


Figure 5.4.2: NIMDM 2017 Ranked SOA
Proportion of working age adults (25-64) with no or low levels of qualification

(Derived from Census 2011).
Highlights show areas in excess of 40%

Source: NISRA - [Deprivation Education, Skills and Training Indicators - NIMDM 2017 \(statistical geographies\) - Table view](#).

Skills Level of Working age population

Mid and East Antrim has around the average proportion (30.2% in 2016¹) of resident 16-64 year olds with a qualification at or above NVQ level 4 of all the LGDs (NI 30.9%). It has a slightly lower than average proportion with no qualifications at 12.9% compared to the NI figure of 16.0%.

However, the NIMDM 2017 also demonstrates that there is a significant variation across the Borough in the proportion of the population with 'no or low levels of qualifications' (NVQ Level 1 / equivalent or none). In 16 of the Borough's 65 SOAs, more than 40% of the working age population have no or low levels of qualification, shown in Figure 5.4.2. Two SOAs, Knockagh and Galgorm 2, have fewer than 20% of their working age population with no or low levels of qualification.

Higher and Further Education Enrolments

Table 5.4.2 shows an increase in Higher Education enrolments between 2012 and 2014 which is broadly in line with the trend in Northern Ireland. It also shows that Further Education enrolments rose between 2012 and 2013, but dropped to 32.35% in 2014 (NI 35%).

Table 5.4.2: Percentage of school-leavers who entered higher or further education after post-primary school in the Mid and East Antrim and Northern Ireland.

	2012		2013		2014	
	Destination: Higher Education (%)	Destination: Further Education (%)	Destination: Higher Education (%)	Destination: Further Education (%)	Destination: Higher Education (%)	Destination: Further Education (%)
NI	42.65	34.43	41.81	35.39	42.3	35
MEA	40.14	33.27	43.07	34.45	43.58	32.35

Source: Department of Education Northern Ireland

¹ Source: Labour Force Survey, Local Area Database 2016 - Highest Level of qualification attained by LGD, 2016

5.4.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline within the Local Development Plan

Without a new LDP, there may be less opportunity to look at settlement pattern and school sustainability or to facilitate skills training and further education in areas of greatest need.

5.4.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Education and Skills

- In some areas a decline in pupil numbers will have implications for the sustainability of existing schools.
- Sharing facilities has been recognised as a way to promote a more cohesive and tolerant society and make better use of the resources available to education.
- Although we have a high level of educational achievement, this is not consistent across the Borough and some areas have a high proportion of the population with no or low levels of qualifications.

5.5 Economy and Employment

5.5.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Creating the conditions to achieve and maintain stable economic growth are key aims of all relevant strategies locally, regionally and within a European context. Economic growth is driven by a healthy business sector, which itself relies on a base of high quality education, and delivery of relevant skills to the workforce.

The common thread of relevant economic policies is to achieve sustainable growth of the economy. In particular, policy recognises the priority in Northern Ireland (NI) to raise competitiveness through increased export, and to identify opportunities in new, emerging and developed markets. The need to support the development of a more innovation-based economy is also identified and this links to a high potential for research and development. The Draft Northern Ireland Tourism Strategy 2020 was identified in the PfG as one of the 'building blocks' to underpin the first strategic priority of growing a sustainable economy and investing in the future.

Within current planning policy, it is recognised that planning authorities should take a positive approach to sustainable economic development and enable job creation, giving priority to large scale proposals with job creation potential, through zoning land and promoting developments in settlement hubs. Policy also refers to the importance of creating the right conditions for investment through supporting urban and rural renaissance, ensuring that settlements remain vital. In terms of regional policy there is a recognition that accessible land should be made available to promote job creation and to promote sustainable economic growth at key locations.

The RDS Spatial Framework identifies Ballymena and Larne towns as 'main hubs'. Larne is also identified as a 'gateway' due to its strategic coastal location and important port functions. Carrickfergus is grouped within the major conurbation of Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area and is seen to have a complementary role within this urban entity. Carrickfergus and Larne have benefitted from recent major road improvements which have significantly improved connectivity to Belfast. The proximity of Ballymena and Larne to the International Airport, further supports their status as economic hubs.

The Council's Integrated Economic Development Strategy - 'Amplify' was published in May 2018 and covers the period from 2018-2030. Amplify's strategic framework is intended to catalyse and guide the work of all stakeholders as they strive to improve the prospects of the area's people, businesses and communities. Amplify recognises that building economic capacity and capability within our Borough is crucial to the creation of an attractive place where people want to live and work. It places specific focus on five priority sectors: Advanced Manufacturing; Agri-foods; Tourism; Financial and Business; and Digital.

One of the five strategic themes of the Corporate Plan is 'Sustainable Jobs & Tourism'.

- Grow, support and sustain new and existing businesses through council and other initiatives.
- Position MEA as a dynamic, outward-looking region which welcomes and supports inward investment.
- Enable entrepreneurs to deliver economic growth through partnership and other supports.
- Attract more visitors to stay longer and spend more through the delivery of our tourism strategy.
- Create a compelling tourism and economic proposition by developing and investing in our unique heritage and assets.

The first theme of our Community Plan is ‘Sustainable Jobs and Tourism’. It aims for a “*proud, vibrant and ambitious place, which collaborates, encourages and supports economic and tourism growth and prosperity*”. The key priorities, under a general aim to grow the economy,¹ are to promote sustainable jobs and tourism as well as ensuring Mid and East Antrim is a “leading and competitive place to start and grow business”.² These priorities have assumed added significance given the challenge posed by recent (and pending) significant industrial and commercial closures.

The Community Plan includes a list of proposed actions which will be accomplished through a number of task and finish groups. They included projects to aid the understanding of businesses and skills in the Borough, ways to work with companies to provide support on enterprise and innovation and to encourage a stronger culture of entrepreneurship within the local the economy. Measures to promote the area as a tourist destination, and also as a place to live, study and invest are also priorities.

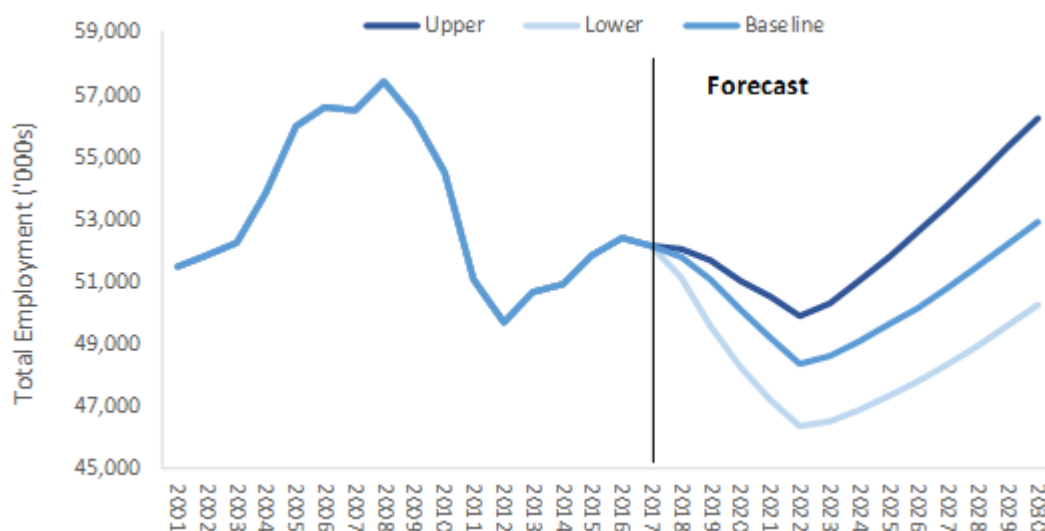
5.5.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in Mid and East Antrim District LDP Position Paper 3, Employment and Economic Development.

Economic Activity and Employment

In 2015, 77% of the working age population of Mid and East Antrim was classified as economically active, compared to 73% for Northern Ireland as a whole. This represents a 4% increase on the 2011 figure for Mid and East Antrim. Much of this growth was as a result of increasing numbers of women entering the job market.

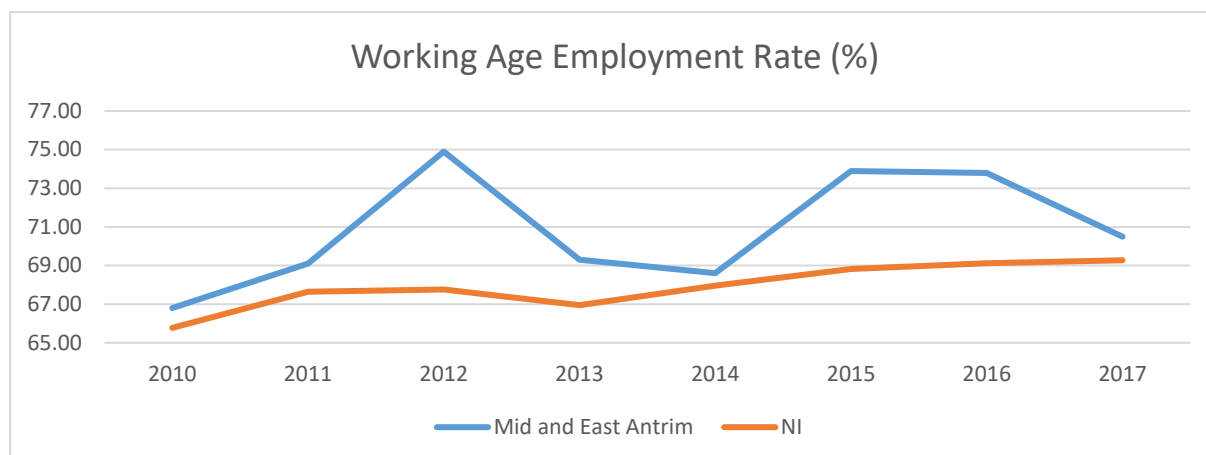
Figure 5.5.1: Total Employment Level by scenario, Mid and East Antrim 2001-2030.



Sourced: UUEPC Local Model Winter 2018 Outlook.

¹ Economic growth is the main priority in the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-19.

² Mid & East Antrim Community Plan – Putting People First, April 2017, https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/downloads/Putting_People_First_-_The_Mid_and_East_Antrim_Community_Plan.pdf

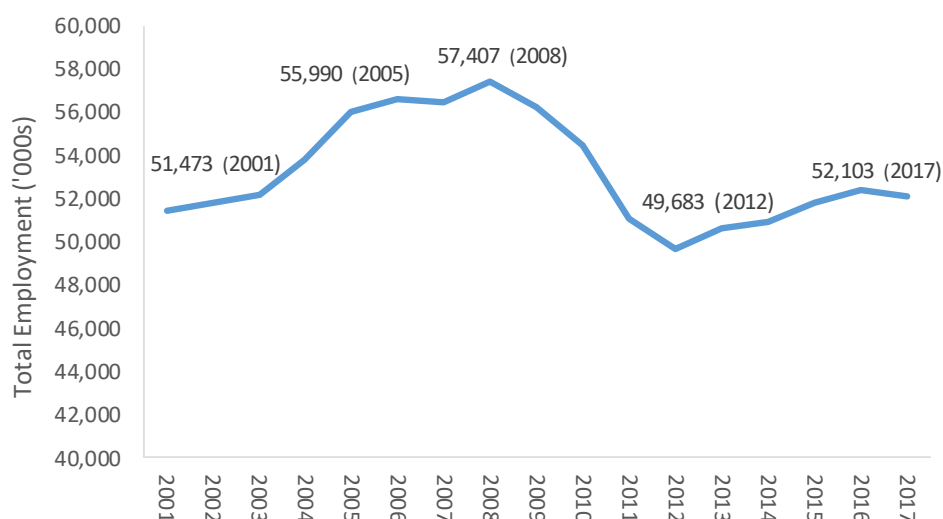
Figure 5.5.2: Level of Working Age Employment 2010-2017 in Mid and East Antrim

Source: NINIS Economic Activity and Qualifications (administrative geographies)

Economic Activity and Employment

In 2017, 52,103 people were employed in the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council area, which represents 6% of the total workforce in NI. The working age employment rate for the Borough has remained slightly above the NI average since 2010 (Figure 5.5.2). Since 2001 the Mid and East Antrim area has gained a total of 630 net new jobs, with a total of 8,738 jobs being created and 8,108 jobs lost. Many of the losses came between 2008 and 2010 as result of the financial crisis.

The recovery since 2012 has been a volatile one with a net addition of jobs and, at the same time, significant announcements of industrial/commercial redundancies and closures. Although there have been prospective losses of around 2,100 jobs announced since 2015, it should be noted that not all of these job losses have fully taken effect and are not reflected in the latest data releases.¹ For example, the closure of Michelin occurred in April 2018 and Kilroot Power Station is expected to close in the near future

Figure 5.5.3: Total Employment Level, Mid and East Antrim, 2001-2017

Source: UUEPC Local Model Winter 2018 Outlook

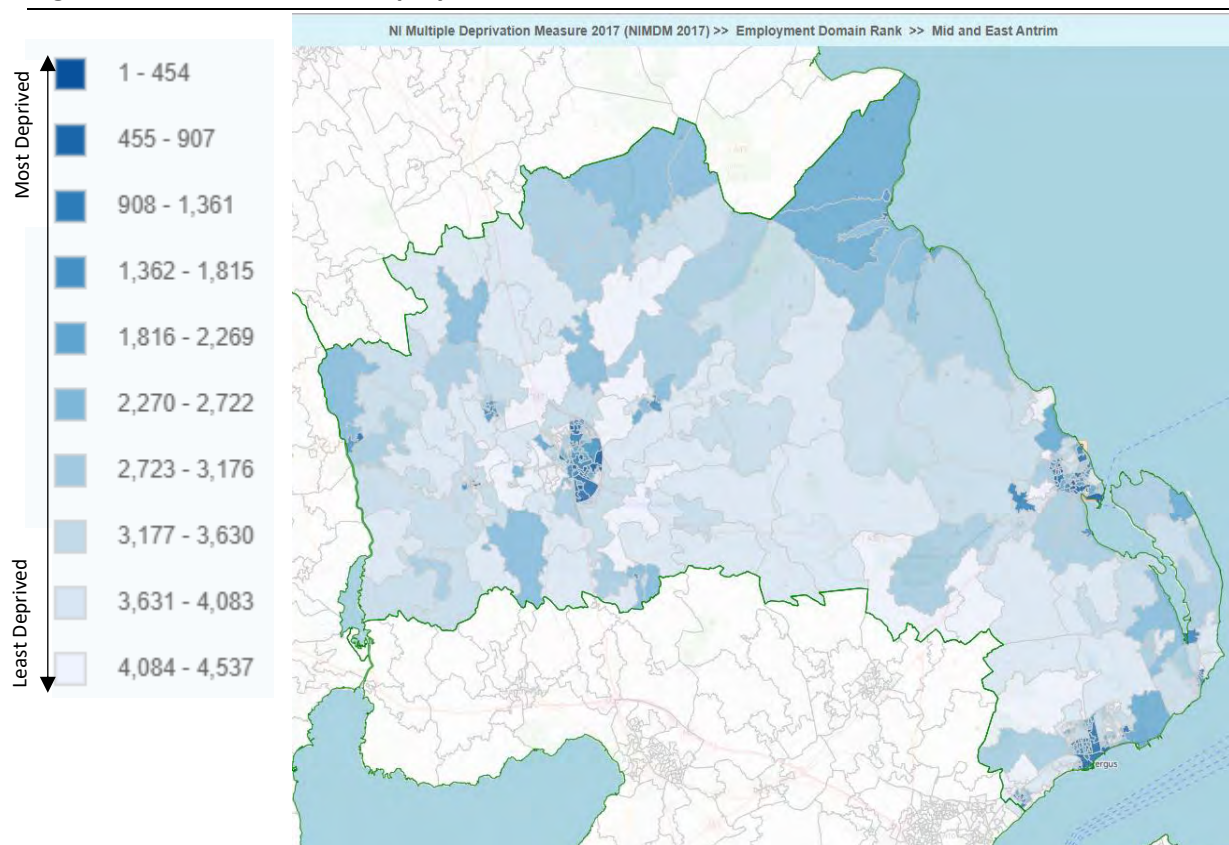
¹ Note: Latest employee jobs figures by Local Government District relates to the 2015 BRES, while latest NI employment data refers to Q1 2018. A further BRES release (for 2017) is expected later in 2018.

Employment and Income Deprivation

NISRA publishes spatially linked statistics on deprivation as part of the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure, the most recent of which was published in 2017 (NIMDM2017). In total, seven deprivation indicators make up the overall NIMDM, including the 'Employment Deprivation Domain' and the 'Income Deprivation Domain'. Each Super Output Area (SOA) and Small Area (SA)¹ has been ranked against all the other SOAs and SAs in NI, to determine their relative position on the scale in terms of each indicator. It should be noted that the NIMDM 2017 is a relative measure of deprivation, meaning that it is possible to say that one area is more or less deprived than another, but it is not possible to say by how much. 'Employment Deprivation' rankings are calculated on the basis of the proportion of working age population in the SOA or SA who are in receipt of at least one employment related benefit, and individuals who are not in receipt of the selected benefits, nor have received income from employment ².

Figure 5.5.4 shows the pattern of employment deprivation in the SAs across Mid and East Antrim from the NIMDM2017. The darkest blue colours (ranks 1-454) show the most deprived SAs in NI in terms of the employment deprivation indicator and the lightest colours (4,804-4,537) are the least deprived. It can be seen that while the SAs with the highest rankings of employment deprivation are in and around the main towns, there are also more rural areas around Carnlough, Portglenone, Glenravel and Islandmagee which have relatively higher levels of deprivation.

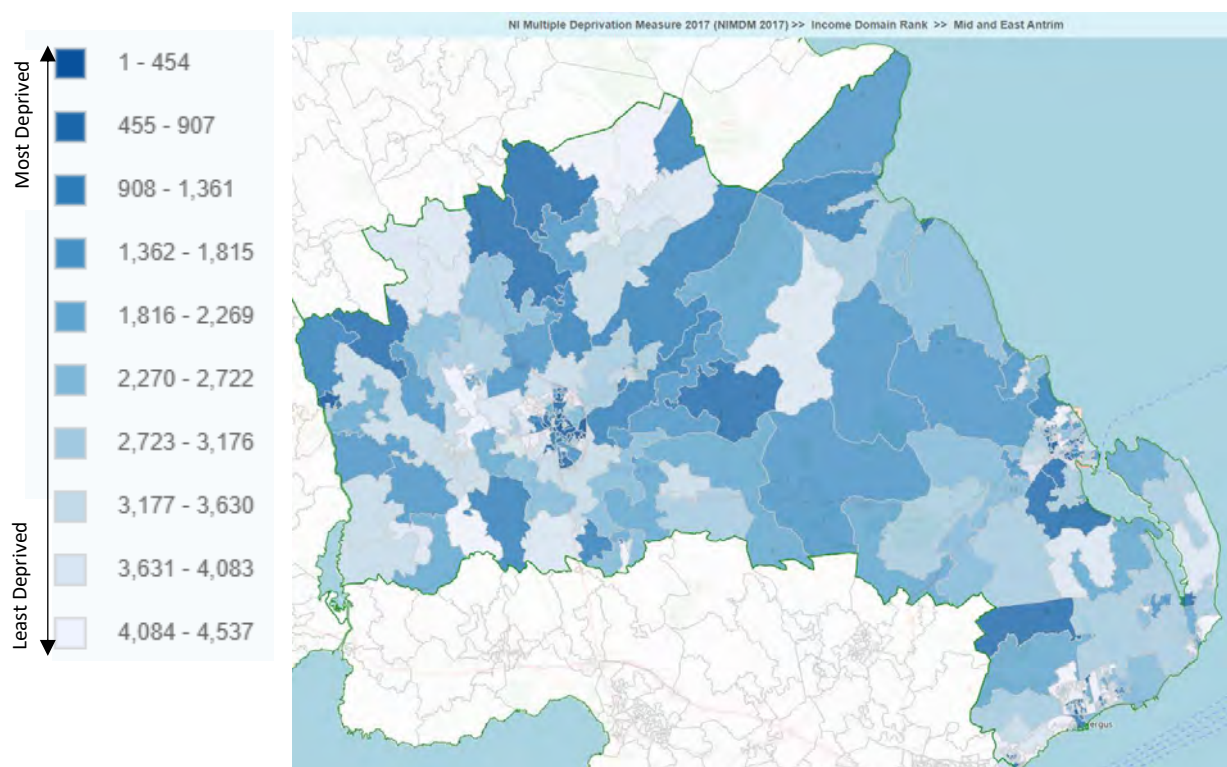
Figure 5.5.4: NIMDM 2017 Employment Domain Rank for SAs in Mid and East Antrim



Source NISRA NIMDM 2017 Employment Deprivation Domain

¹ Super Output Areas (SOA) and Small Areas (SA) are statistical geography boundaries created by NISRA to allow the reporting of small area statistics. There are 890 SOAs in NI and 4537 SAs.

² NISRA (2017) Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures 2017 Description of Indicators

Figure 5.5.5: NIMDM 2017 Income Domain Rank for SAs in in Mid and East Antrim

Source NISRA NIMDM 2017 Income Deprivation Domain

‘Income Deprivation’ rankings are calculated on the basis of the proportion of the population living in households whose equivalised income is below 60% of the NI median. Figure 5.5.5 shows the income deprivation pattern across Mid and East Antrim. The figure shows that income deprivation in Mid and East Antrim is spread across both rural and urban areas, with many of the SAs shown in Figure 5.5.5 having the darkest blue colours. However, the top 10 most income deprived small areas are in urban areas of Larne and Ballymena. Four of these are in the top 100 (out of 4,537) most income deprived SAs of NI. Eleven SAs in Mid and East Antrim are among the 100 least deprived areas for income (i.e. a rank higher than 4,437).

Employment Sectors

The sectoral mix within Mid and East Antrim is more heavily weighted and reliant on private sector economic activities (76% of total employment), compared to the NI average of 70%. The two largest employing sectors in the private sector are the Manufacturing and Retail sectors, with each currently employing 18% of total workers in the Mid and East Antrim area. Only 24% of the workforce are employed in the public sector compared to the NI average of 30%, with health and social work employing the highest proportion (11%) of workers in the public sector.

Using the UUEPC baseline scenario (the most likely outcome) Mid and East Antrim’s future employment path is expected to follow a negative direction as far as 2022 before a slow recovery to 2017 levels by 2029. The initial downward trajectory is attributed to the medium-term legacy of factory closures coupled with potential adverse impacts arising from Brexit.

This negative direction until 2022 in total employment is anticipated across all three (upper, baseline and lower) scenarios for the Mid and East Antrim area. There is a range from 5,780 job losses in the lower scenario to 2,246 losses in the upper scenario. A significant part of this will be a result of the announced closures in JTI, Michelin and others. UUEPC analysis estimates that the 2,100 direct job

losses from the planned plant closures could have an additional job loss effect of 917 jobs in companies supply chains as a result of significant falls in demand for products and services¹.

Employment may be classified into three sectors: primary, secondary and tertiary. Primary relates to producing raw materials, through agriculture, forestry and extraction of natural resources. The secondary sector takes the input of the primary sector and manufactures finished goods, or goods for use by other businesses, for export, or sale to domestic consumers. Tertiary is primarily concerned with service provision such as public administration, education, health, retailing, and banking.

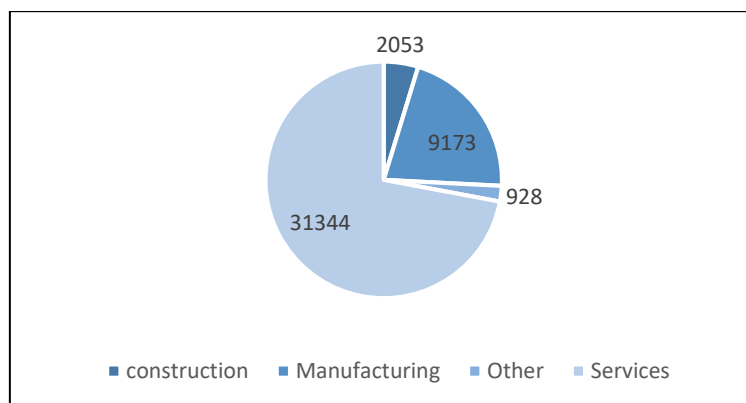
In the period 2001-2011, the employment sector pattern of the three former council areas reflected the NI trend of a fall in the primary sector, with a marked drop in the former Ballymena and Carrickfergus areas. In the tertiary sector, Carrickfergus followed the NI trend with an increase however both Ballymena and Larne experienced a drop in this sector. By 2011, all three legacy districts had a higher percentage of employment in the secondary sector compared to the Northern Ireland average.

Looking at 2011, the largest percentage of jobs in Mid and East Antrim were in the tertiary sector which was similar to Northern Ireland. However, compared to Northern Ireland, a significantly higher percentage of jobs were in manufacturing within the secondary sector. This can be attributed to the presence of a number of large manufacturing companies which had factories within the legacy council areas, particularly in Ballymena. Since 2011 the manufacturing sector in our Council area has been impacted by a number of closures.

The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) is a statutory two yearly survey of employers in Northern, carried out under the Statistics of Trade and Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 1988. Results are published by the Department for Economy. It covers employee jobs but excludes agriculture, the self-employed, HM Armed Forces, private domestic servants, homeworkers and non-employed trainees such as those on internships. It presents information by council area, which is primarily based on the location of the jobs rather than the residence of the employee.

The number of employee jobs for the Council area in September 2015 is presented in Figure 5.5.6. By far the largest sector for employee jobs is in the Service sector with manufacturing the next largest.

Figure 5.5.6: Number of employee jobs by Sector in 2015.

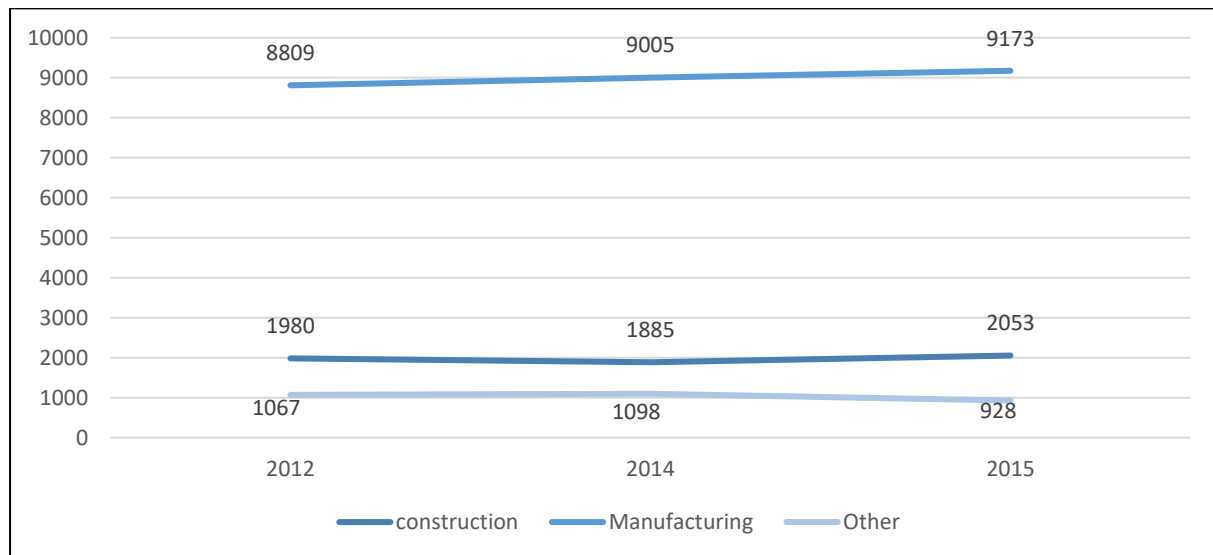


Source: The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES), Department for the Economy.

¹ Using the NISRA produced Manufacturing GVA multiplier of 1.446

Figure 5.5.7 demonstrates that between 2012 and 2015 the number of employee jobs in construction had a slight dip in 2015 but remained relatively constant. The number of employee jobs in manufacturing rose between 2012 and 2015. The number of employee jobs in other fell between 2014 and 2015. During that same time period the number of employee jobs in services rose from 30,690 to 31,344.

Figure 5.5.7: Number of employee jobs in Construction, Manufacturing and other 2012-2015 by Sector



Source: The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES), Department for the Economy.

Source: Business Demography: Office for National Statistics

Earnings from Employment

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings¹ by Local Government Districts is published by NISRA. The 2018 survey results gave the value for those persons living in Mid and East Antrim a median gross annual salary of £22,551, slightly higher than the median gross annual salary for all of NI, which was £22,016 in 2018. The median gross annual salary for those working in the Borough in 2018 was £21,127, slightly lower than for those living in the Borough. This discrepancy in earnings between those living and working in the Borough is due to a tendency for workers to commute out of the Borough for higher earning employment.

Business Start-ups and Success.

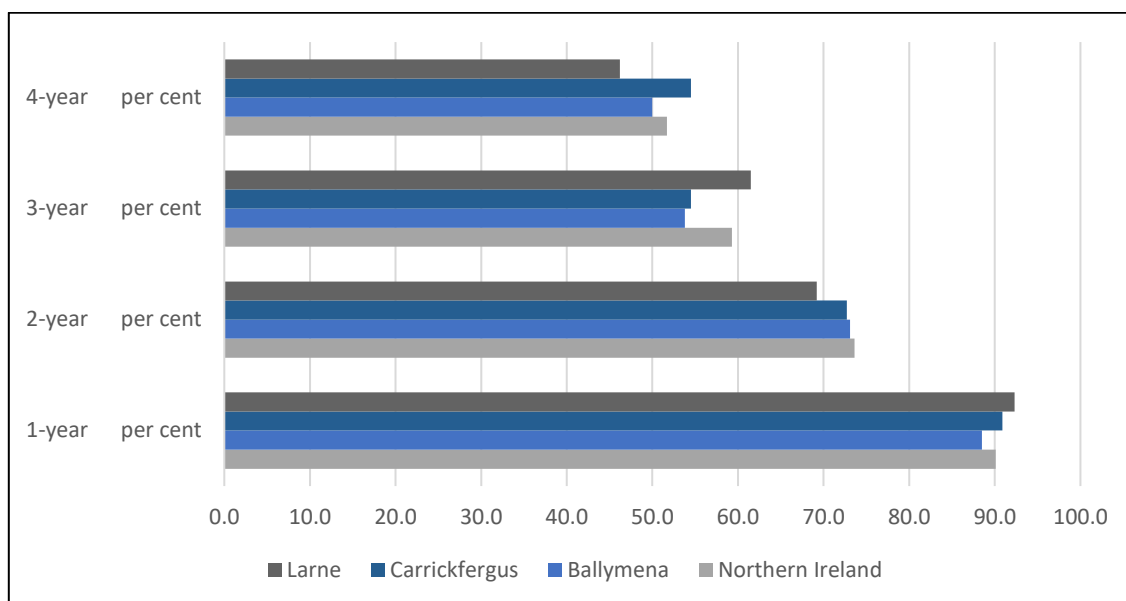
The office for National Statistics publish a bulletin of Business Demography² annually which presents the number of active enterprises and charts the births of new enterprises, and deaths of enterprises. The number of enterprises active in Mid and East Antrim Council area in 2015 was 3,500.

When we consider the enterprises active in 2011 and their survival until 2015, we can see the trend presented below. This provided a baseline which may inform future trends in business survival.

¹ Department for the Economy Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by NI geographies (Provisional), by place of work and place of residence, 2018. Date published: 25 October 2018

² [All data related to Business demography, UK: 2015 - Office for National Statistics](#)

Figure 5.5.8: Four year survival of enterprises in 2011 by percentage of total for Larne, Carrickfergus, Ballymena and Northern Ireland.



In general, business start-up rates for Northern Ireland are relatively low in comparison to other parts of the UK. The Corporate Plan states that *“our priority is growing our economy and we are committed to attracting more investment to Mid and East Antrim, supporting and encouraging our new and existing businesses to grow, and increasing the number of well-paid jobs in our area”*.

Innovation

It is widely recognised that improving the ability of the economy in NI to be innovative is a key factor in improving economic growth and employment. The most recent innovation figures are published in the UK Innovation Survey (UKIS) 2017¹. These show that in 2014-16, fewer NI businesses were innovation active than in 2012-14. 40% of enterprises in NI were estimated to be innovation active in the three year period 2014-16 (down from 45% in 2012-14). This is lower than the equivalent UK figure of 50%, which has also decreased from 53% in 2012-14. NI remains among the least innovation active regions of the UK. Across the UK, large enterprises with 250 or more employees are currently reported as being more likely to engage in some sort of innovation activity, with 63% innovation active, as opposed to 49% of Small-Medium Enterprises. Internal R&D and investment in computer software were the main factors driving innovation in the UK as a whole for the most recent survey period 2014-2016.

Competitiveness

No data is available at Council level on levels of competitiveness. Total external sales by companies in NI to markets outside of NI were estimated to be worth £21.4 billion in 2017, representing a decrease of 10.1% (£2.4 billion) from the previous year. These figures are broken down as £15.7 billion (73.1%) for goods (a decrease of 15.2% on 2016) and £5.8 billion (26.9%) for services (an increase of 7.7% over 2016). External sales account for just under a third (32.1%) of all sales by companies in NI in 2016 (£66.6 billion)².

¹ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy The UK Innovation Survey: Headline Findings 2014 to 2016 (published 18/04/2018)

² NISRA [Northern Ireland Broad Economy Sales and Exports Statistics \(BESSES\): Goods and Services Results 2016 – published 19 June 2019](#)

Vacancy rates

The LDP Position Paper Appendices for Town Centre & Opportunity Sites and related activities covers each of the three towns. The regional vacancy rate in 2014 was 17.7% compared to the UK average of 10.3%.

According to Experian Goad report in October 2012 Ballymena town centre had a 23% vacancy rate. Historic data shows that vacancy rates in Ballymena have been on the rise since 2003. Vacancy levels in Larne have been increasing steadily since 2005 and are particularly high on secondary streets. In May 2013 a survey indicated a rate of 21% vacancy of all premises. In October 2012, 25% of all outlets in Carrickfergus town centre were considered to be vacant. Many were long term vacancies and in a poor state of repair.

More recent vacancy rate data from Analytical Services Units Town Centre Database at April 2016 showed the following rates: Ballymena 22.1%, Larne 22.2% and Carrickfergus 20.5%. This shows a significant improvement for Carrickfergus, slight improvement for Ballymena and decline in Larne between 2012 and 2016.

Ports and Harbours

Ports and harbours are important economic generators and are essential to the operation of a range of different marine and coastal industries. The Port of Larne is renowned as a premier port in Ireland. It handles over 200,000¹ freight units a year and 520,000² passengers. In 2017 it accommodated 138,749³ tourist vehicles. It operates 24 hours per day, seven days a week, with up to seven sailings daily to and from the port of Cairnryan⁴. A former service to Troon ceased operations in 2016⁵.

- The Port has five cargo berths with depths dredged between 5.5 and 7.5m.
- 20 acres of storage area in and around the port.
- Excellent connectivity to the rest of NI and beyond, thanks to the A8 dual carriageway.
- Our quays can take ground-loadings up to 18 tonnes per square meter, making them ideal for project cargoes.
- Licenced areas for handling scrap steel and Solid Recovered Fuels⁶.

The Port of Larne is among the busiest on the Irish Sea. The roll-on roll-off facilities dealt with a wide variety of shipping including the most modern high-speed ferries and the port also has the capacity to handle a large range of bulk and general cargo⁷. Ferries sail from the harbour to in Scotland. Passenger services are operated by P&O Irish Sea which describes the crossings from Larne to Scotland as "the shortest, fastest crossings" due to the close proximity that Larne has to Scotland. The port is located just 30 minutes from Belfast, 2hrs 30 minutes from Dublin and 105 minutes from Scotland. It is an ideal location for haulage / freight businesses, distribution / logistics operators or bulk suppliers and is already home to a number of distribution warehouses.

¹ Port of Larne "over 200,394 freight units a year" (found at www.portoflarne.co.uk (accessed 16/9/2019))

² Port of Larne "over 521,205 passengers a year" (found at www.portoflarne.co.uk (accessed 16/9/2019))

³ NISRA NI Ports Traffic Publication 2017 Table 6 - unit load carrier traffic tourist vehicles Date published: 19 December 2018

⁴ P&O Ferries Timetable (found at <http://www.poferries.com/en/cairnryan-larne/travelling-with-us/timetable> - accessed 16/08/2019)

⁵ BBC News 'P&O Ferries: Larne to Troon route to close with immediate effect' (found at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-35301329> accessed 16/08/2019)

⁶ Port of Larne 'About Us' – Commercial information (found at www.portoflarne.co.uk (accessed 16/9/2019))

⁷ Port of Larne <https://www.portoflarne.co.uk/history>.

The port at Larne is fast becoming the gateway of choice for anyone exporting to or from Ireland. It has outstanding connections via rail and road, especially after the upgrading of the A8 dual carriageway, and is nine miles closer to Scotland than the port at Belfast¹.

There are three marinas in the Borough, located at Carrickfergus and Glenarm on the east coast and Portglenone on the River Bann. Carrickfergus marina is the largest marina in the Borough, with a total of 300 berths² while Glenarm has 40 berths and Portglenone 30 berths. Carnlough harbour also has a small number of visitor berths. The east coast harbours are within a day's sailing from Scotland and the Isle of Man which makes them attractive for small yachts. Carrickfergus marina is dredged to give depths of up to 2.3 metres at low spring tide which also makes it attractive to larger sailing craft and motor boats. The 2016 report 'Sailing Tourism in Scotland'³ estimates the average expenditure per visitor boat night for Scottish marinas is £122 (not including mooring fees). This report also indicates that average party size is 2.9 and the average distance travelled per day is 27.6 nautical miles. Other findings in this report include that a lack of facilities/moorings and pontoons is a key factor in discouraging boat owners from travelling. The report also found that boat owners that wished to visit a location but hadn't, was most commonly due to a lack of facilities in that area.

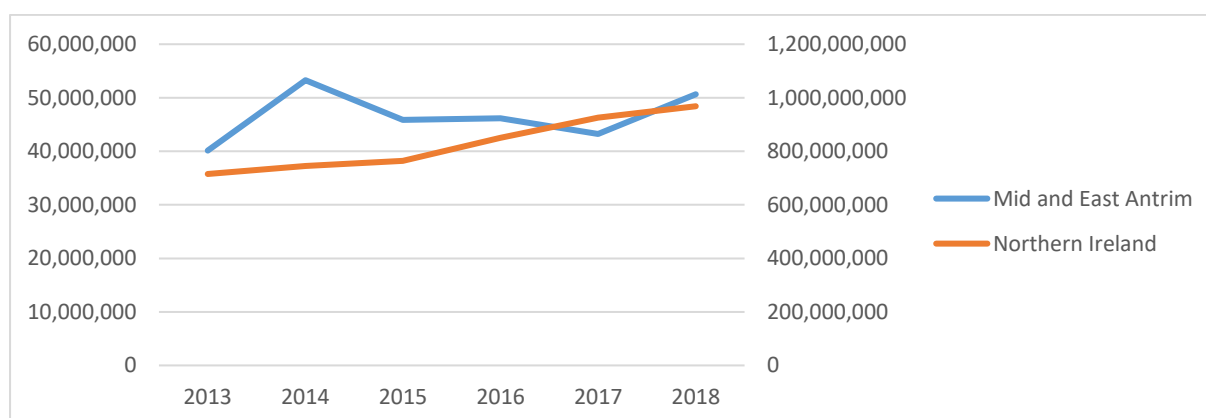
More generally, harbours and marinas can be focal points for settlements. They can also function as an attraction/destination for land-based day trips.

Tourism

In the LDP Technical Supplement 7 Tourism, it is recognised that there is a strong potential for tourism as a source of economic development in the Council area but that this must also meet the principles of sustainable tourism. The paper recognises that the Council area has a wealth of natural heritage and landscape assets.

The NISRA data for tourism⁴ shows that trips overnight by all visitors increased between 2011 and 2015, fell back until 2017 and then saw a 16% increase between 2017 and 2018. 250,138 trips were recorded in 2011 for the Council area and by 2018 the figure stood at 296,441 overnight trips.

Figure 5.5.9: Estimated spend (£) during overnight trips in NI by LGD



Source: NISRA Local government district tourism statistics publications | [Table 4 Estimated spend \(£\) during overnight trips in NI by Local Government District, 2013-2018](#) (Date published: 25 July 2019)

¹ <https://www.larnetimes.co.uk/news/business/highest-freight-figures-boost-port-of-larne>

² Discover Ireland - Carrickfergus Marina, General Information (found at <https://discovernorthernireland.com/Carrickfergus-Marina-Carrickfergus-P9804/>)

³ EKOS Ltd 'Sailing Tourism in Scotland' Report for The Crown Estate, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Scottish Canals December 2016

⁴ Northern Ireland Passenger Survey (NIPS) conducted by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)

However, despite the fluctuation in trips by visitors, the estimated expenditure in the Council area has remained fairly constant, peaking in 2014 at £53 Million. Since then expenditure has dipped but by 2018 it was moving upwards towards the 2014 peak, reaching 50.6 million. When this trend is compared to the estimated spend for NI (Figure 5.5.9), we can see that the Council area has not been able to capitalise financially on the increase in visitor numbers to the same degree as NI as a whole.

Vitality and vibrancy

Vitality and vibrancy of urban and rural settlement centres is recognised as a key aspect of creating the conditions to attract investment, tourism and to improve the quality of life for residents. The evidence above identifies a need to increase the number of working age people living and working in the Borough, and the vitality and vibrancy of settlements could be a future 'pull' factor to those choosing to live, work or invest in the Borough.

5.5.3 Likely Evolution of baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without a new LDP in place the opportunity to make plans for growth in line with recent evidence and to develop a plan led system may be missed.

5.5.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Economy and Employment

- Identifying and zoning appropriate land is a vital part of creating the conditions to sustain economic development that meets employment needs.
- The Borough benefits from a number of key transport corridors including those linked to the Port of Larne gateway.
- Larne, Carrickfergus and Ballymena are important hubs for a wide variety of retail and related facilities and services.
- A cornerstone of the private sector in our Borough is micro-businesses, those employing less than ten staff. There is potential to encourage this sector to develop and innovate.
- Tourism visitor numbers are increasing but opportunities should be sought to maximise the potential spend.
- There is an opportunity to enhance the number of people coming into our Borough to work and to allow residents to work close to home.
- There is a need to ensure that our Borough is attractive to investors and higher skilled people by supporting the vitality and vibrancy of the wider area and facilitating a high quality local environment through appropriate land use, design and layout.
- It is necessary to sustain and improve the vibrancy and vitality of our town centres.

5.6 Material Assets

5.6.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Material assets are referred to in the SEA Directive but their remit is not defined. For the purposes of this report, the material assets sustainability topic covers a range of policy areas, including telecommunications, electrical infrastructure and energy distribution, energy including renewable energy, derelict and contaminated land, and waste management.

Overarching regional and strategic planning policy strives for the sustainable development of land to help ensure the integration of material assets. Growth of infrastructure should be enabled in an efficient and effective manner whilst environmental impacts are minimised. The National Renewable Energy Action Plan for the UK 2010, the Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-15 and beyond, and the NI Waste Management Strategy are all relevant to material assets. The Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment (DETI's Strategic Energy Framework 2010-2020 has at its core decarbonisation of the energy mix. The overriding aim of these plans is sustainable development. The multifunctional use of land is encouraged; significant increases in renewables to the energy mix recommended; and reductions in waste and increases in recycling rates targeted.

Investing in telecommunications, particularly in rural areas and considering the infrastructure required for renewable energy projects and strengthening of the grid for future energy demands is encouraged at the regional level. New gas infrastructure is also supported as the move to gas helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet climate change commitments. Climate change concerns encourage the use of renewables and a move toward a more sustainable energy mix that reduces emissions and improves air quality. Sustainable waste management should focus on the waste management hierarchy and the proximity principle. Impacts should be considered of all types of installation on the environment and a strategic approach to the sustainable development of land could include multiple uses. For example, derelict land could be used to treat waste, which could in turn produce energy for local distribution.

Our Council's Corporate Plan includes the objective to *"be recognised as a leading council, delivering excellent services and facilities through collaborative working, innovation and continuous improvement"*. It also includes performance indicators to increase the percentage of household waste collected that is sent for recycling and reduce the amount of biodegradable Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste that is landfilled.

The Community Plan includes the strategic priority that *"our Borough is the place to do business, developing transport, energy and superfast broadband"* under the 'Sustainable jobs and Tourism' theme.

5.6.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information on material assets is available in the LDP Position Paper on Public Utilities. This topic also overlaps with the Community, Physical Resources and Climate Change topics of this report.

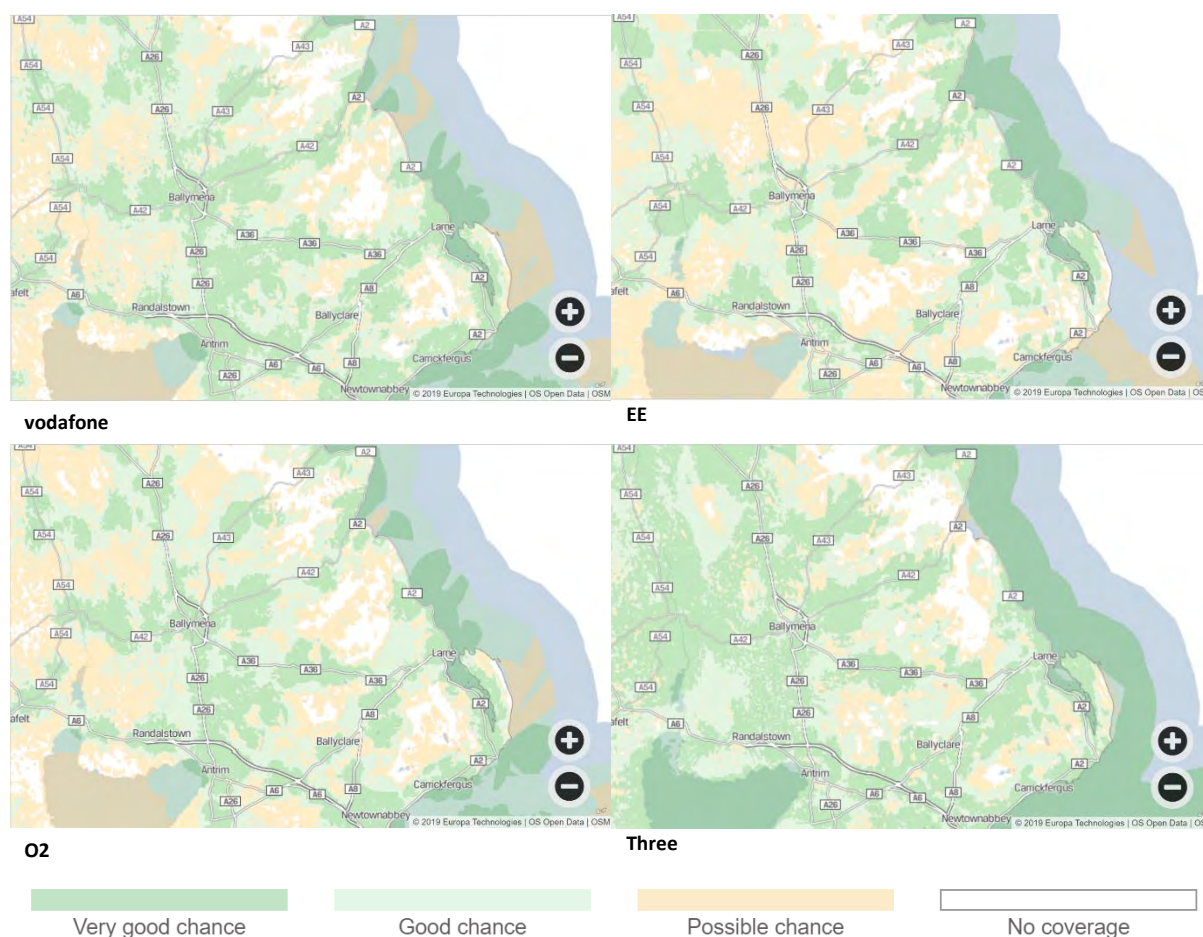
Telecommunications

Overall, telecommunications are adequate across the Borough. They have developed from 2G, the first digital mobile technology, launched in the UK in 1992, 3G, 4G and now 5G which is expected to deliver faster, lower latency mobile broadband, and to enable more revolutionary uses in sectors such as manufacturing, transport and healthcare.

In 2018, mobile data services covered 89% of Northern Ireland. There is on-going focus on developing 4G coverage by network operators and outdoor 4G coverage is now present in 79% of NI¹.

Eighty per cent of Northern Ireland premises have indoor telephone call coverage from all four mobile networks, up from 76% in June 2017. Data coverage is stronger within urban areas of the Borough than coverage within rural areas, which is consistent with the wider NI region².

Figure 5.6.1 levels of Indoor 4G coverage within Mid and East Antrim



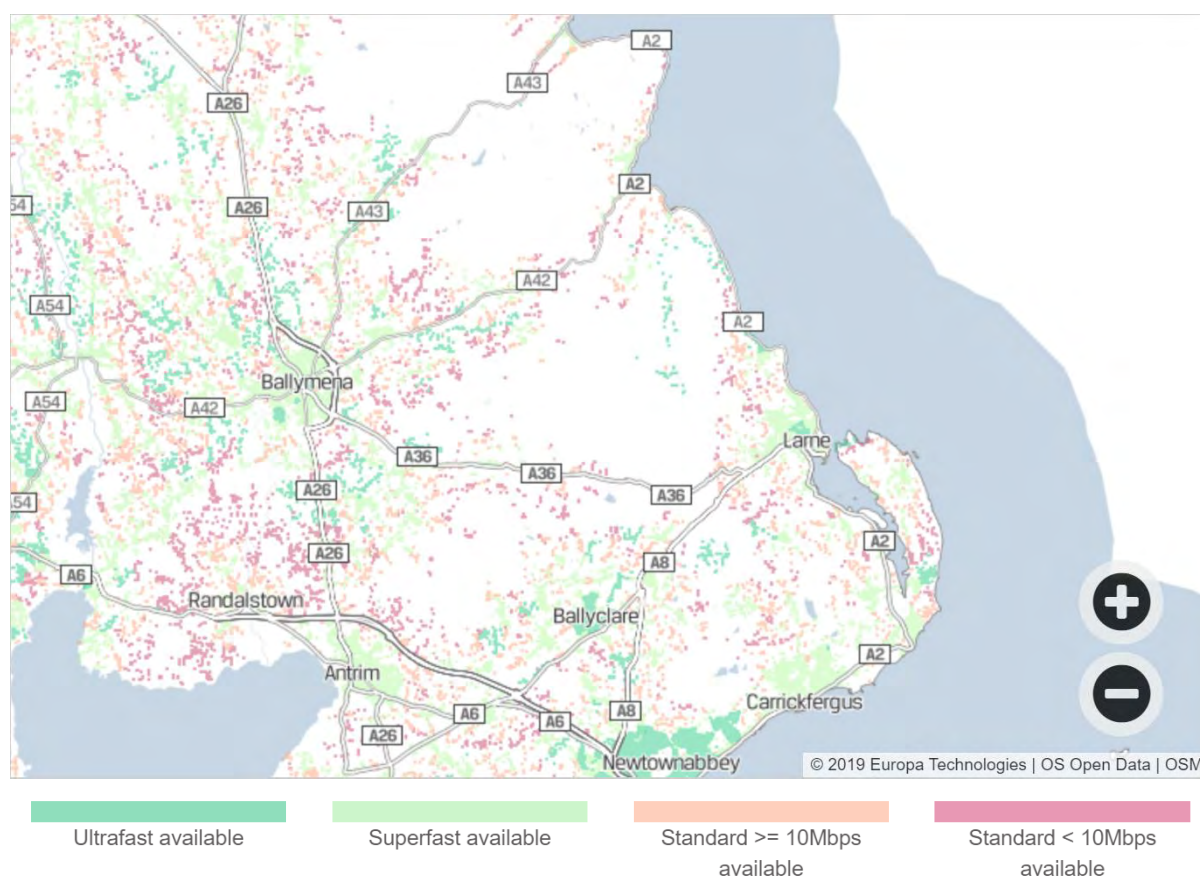
Source: Ofcom Mobile and Broadband Checker 2019

Coverage of mobile services in Northern Ireland has improved in recent years. Over the last year alone, good 4G indoor coverage from all four networks has increased by 10pp to 57% and 61% of major roads, while good 4G geographic coverage has improved to 79%, up from 64% in 2017. Figure 5.6.1 shows the extents of indoor 4g coverage from the four operators.

Broadband services and speeds vary across Northern Ireland between urban and rural areas. This is reflected in the availability of these services by local authority area, with faster services and speeds available in more urban, densely populated areas. Mid and east Antrim Council have 89% coverage of super-fast broadband and only 8% of ultra-fast broadband. In July 2019, the UK Government set a goal to deliver full fibre to 15m premises by 2025 and to all premises in the UK by 2033.

¹ Ofcom: Connected Nations 2018, Northern Ireland

² Ofcom: Connected Nations 2018, Northern Ireland

Figure 5.6.2 Broadband coverage in Mid and East Antrim

Source: Ofcom Mobile and Broadband Checker, 2019.

Energy Supply and Distribution/Electrical Infrastructure

The System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) manages the large-scale electrical transmission infrastructure across the country. It is the independent Transmission System Operator for Northern Ireland and operates 1,500km of transmission power lines and 45,000km of distribution power lines. The SONI website (www.soni.ltd.uk) displays the current energy sources for NI in real time, including connected sources of renewables. Currently all users are connected to the distribution network for their electricity¹.

NI is primarily dependant on fossil fuels for energy supply. There are three major gas and coal/oil power generating sites located at Ballylumford, Coolkeeragh and Kilroot. Two of these, Ballylumford and Kilroot, are located in our Borough. The region is also connected to the Republic of Ireland via three North South electricity interconnectors² located in Enniskillen, Strabane and Tandragee and to the Scottish grid via the Moyle interconnector, also located in our Borough at Islandmagee.

The future security of supply in NI is depend on it capacity to generate, transmit and distribute energy efficiently. It is anticipated that NI will fall into a generation supply deficit in 2021³. The planned closure of Kilroot power station and reduction in capacity at Ballylumford power station

¹ Northern Ireland Electricity: Briefing on Grid Capacity in Northern Ireland in the context of enabling Economic Growth April 2015

² DETI: Energy in Northern Ireland 2016

³ Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, Electricity Sector in Northern Ireland, 2017.

combined with limited capacity of existing transmission line have contributed to an increasing lack of security and stability of supply in NI.

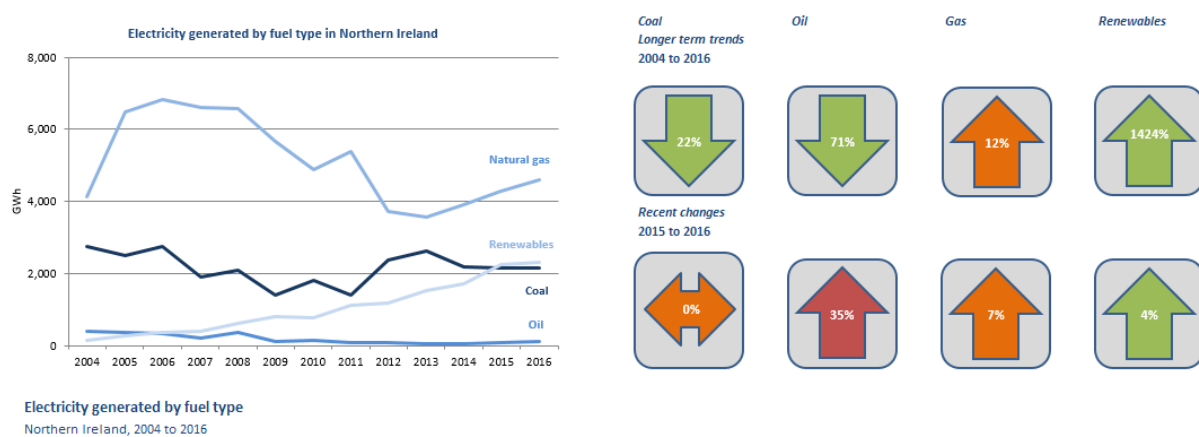
Energy - Natural Gas

The Department for Economy's, Strategic Energy Framework 2010 is committed to extending the natural gas network in the in the region where it is economic to do so. Natural gas has become the main fuel type for electricity generation in NI.

The gas transmission network in Northern Ireland consists of five pipelines, three that are owned by Mutual Energy and two that are owned by Gas Networks Ireland. All the gas that is consumed within Northern Ireland comes through one of those pipes, and that pipe is the interconnector 'Scotland-Northern Ireland Pipeline' (SNIP), meaning all gas in Northern Ireland comes from Scotland.

The domestic gas market in Northern Ireland is quite a lot different to the rest of the United Kingdom. There are only two suppliers in the whole country and only two areas actually have the ability to switch. At present, only Greater Belfast (which includes Greenisland and Carrickfergus) and Larne have the ability to choose who supplies their natural gas¹.

Figure 5.6.3 Northern Ireland Carbon Intensity Indicators 2018



Sourced: DAERA, Carbon Intensity Indicators 2018.

Phoenix Natural Gas is currently extending the natural gas pipeline to an additional 1,600 properties in Whitehead. Over the next two years, work will continue to connect individual properties in Whitehead and will see approximately 8km of pipeline constructed each year, connecting 800 properties each year².

Renewables

The NI Executive endorsed a target of 40% of electricity consumption to be from renewables by 2020. Northern Ireland is currently on its way to meeting this target, which is in support of commitments made under UK climate change legislation. In December 2017, 38.1% of total electricity consumption in Northern Ireland was generated from renewable sources located in NI, with wind power accounting for 84.3% of that renewable energy production³.

¹ <https://selectra.co.uk/energy/guides/distribution/energy-northern-ireland>

² Phoenix Natural Gas – Whitehead Extension Project, www.phoenixnaturalgas.com/projects/whitehead-extension-project

³ Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, Electricity Consumption and renewable generation in Northern Ireland; Year Ending March 2017

Greenhouse gas emissions are also targeted to decrease by 35% on 1990 baseline levels by 2025 so government is trying to move away from fossil fuel dependency¹.

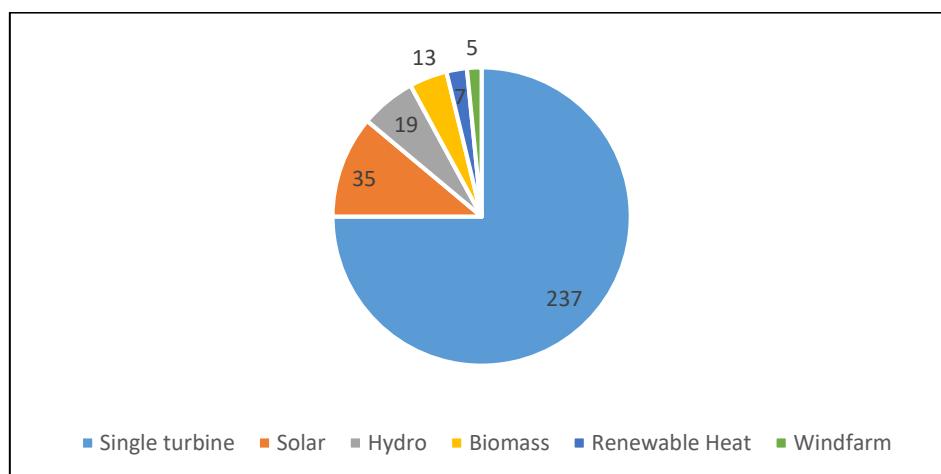
The main sources of renewable energy are the wind, the sun (solar), moving water (hydropower), heat extracted from the air, ground and water (including geothermal energy) and biomass (wood, biodegradable waste and energy crops)². With the growth of renewables in Northern Ireland, the ability of the grid to accommodate new connections is becoming more of an issue. There are several significant renewable energy projects in the Borough and upgrades for existing circuits. These are referred to in the Public Utilities LDP Position Paper. There are however already areas in the Borough at saturation point where new connections are not feasible³.

Of all renewable electricity generated within Northern Ireland over the 12 month period April 2018 to March 2019, 83.0% was generated from wind. This compares to 84.8% for the previous 12 month period (April 2017 to March 2018)⁴

Since 2002, there has been an approval rate of 85% for single turbines in the Borough. Since then there have been ten windfarm applications with an estimated 50% approval rate. Locations are shown seen in Appendix G of the Public Utilities LDP Position Paper.

There was a large increase in renewable energy installation applications between 2009/10 and 2010/11; applications peaked in 2011/12 but, by 2016/17 and also in 2017/18, had fallen back to levels seen in 2004/05. Of all planning applications received in relation to renewable energy over the period 2004/05 - 2017/18, around 8 out of every 10 were for single wind turbines. However, it should be noted that planning permission is required for all wind turbines (including those for domestic purposes, hospitals, factories, farms, schools etc.) whilst solar panels on domestic properties can be installed without the need to apply for planning permission provided certain conditions are met. The large fall seen in applications in 2016/17 is likely due to the Northern Ireland Renewable Obligation (NIRO) scheme closing to micro-NIRO wind in July 2016.⁵

Figure 5.6.4: Number of Approved Renewable Energy Projects 2002 - 2015



Source: Mid and East Antrim Public Utilities Position Paper

¹ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016

² Public Utilities Infrastructure Paper 8 Mid and East Antrim Council.

³ Northern Ireland Electricity 11kV Network Heat Map 2015

⁴ Department of the Economy – Electricity Consumption and Renewable Generation Statistics.

⁵ Energy in Northern Ireland 2018

The capacity of the electric network within the Borough is essential to support the growth of small scale renewable generation in the future. In 2015, 11kV Network Heat Maps produced by Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE), shown in Appendix H of the LDP Position Paper on Public Utilities, indicated that there is potential for connection of additional generation within the Borough, however grid capacity is limited in some areas.

The NI Business Plan, 'Investing for the Future 2017-2024', states that planned investment will be taking place to improve network assets across the region which could see improvements in the Borough.¹ The Renewable Integration Development Plan, Network 25 and Generation Cluster Infrastructure projects will see improvements within the region to enable the connection of renewables.²

There needs to be a diversity of renewables to help ensure sustainability of the energy system. Alternative sources to wind can include solar, hydro, biomass, anaerobic digestion and geothermal. More information on geothermal energy is in the Physical Resources section.

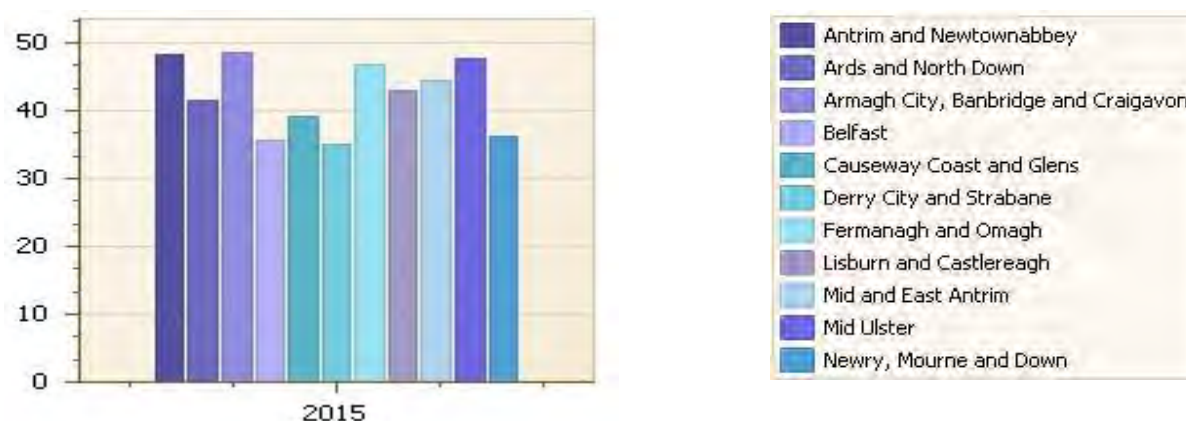
Waste management

Mid and East Antrim is part of the ARC21 regional Waste Management Group, which comprises of six Councils and is responsible for the preparing, monitoring and reviewing of the group's Waste Management Plan. Arc21 account for 59% of the region's population making it the largest Waste Management Group.

Currently there are five recycling centres and 24 bring centres which help ensure that our Council is one of the top five performers for recycling (which includes reuse and composting) of municipal waste.

At the NI level, 46.6 per cent of LAC municipal waste was sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting between January and March 2019. Energy recovery accounted for 21.5 per cent and 29.2 per cent was landfilled. This left 2.7 per cent unaccounted for which was likely to involve moisture and/or gaseous losses, much of which is as a result of a drying process involving mixed municipal waste and operated by a contractor used to varying degrees by several councils.³

Figure 5.6.5: Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste for Reuse, Recycle or Compost (%) (2015)



Source: NINIS

¹ Investing in the future, NIE Networks summary business plans 2017-2024.

² Renewable Integration Status Report 2016

³ DAERA https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/lac-municipal-waste-q4-2018-19-report_0.pdf

Cemetery Provision

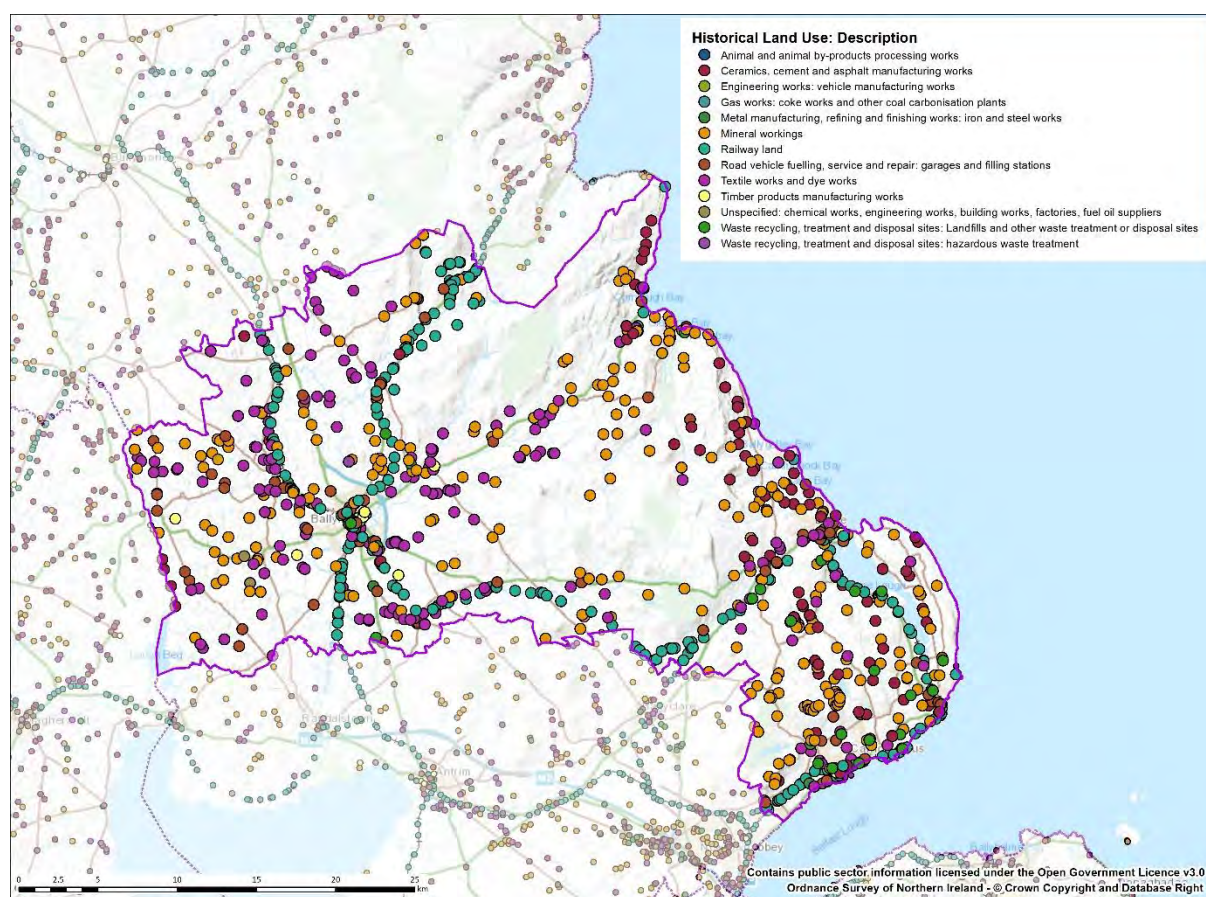
Whilst there is current sufficient cemetery provision in the Ballymena area for the Plan period, capacity is restricted within Carrickfergus and Larne areas, with additional land required for cemetery space during the Plan period.

Derelict/Contaminated Land

The land use Database held by NIEA provides a record of approximately 14,000 sites that have had previous industrial land use(s). The database was originally based on historic maps and records dating from 1834-1960 but it has been updated with NIEA datasets including Industrial Heritage, Waste Management License and Pollution Incidents.

There are 1,117 records for Mid and East Borough Council on the Land Use Database, shown in Figure 5.6.6. Records include the old railway lines and historic mineral and textile works in the area

Figure 5.6.6 Land Use Database- Historical Land Use Records in Mid and East Antrim



Source: DAERA, Historical Land use Database

5.6.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, it may become more difficult to manage provision and integration of material assets sustainably. There may be reduced opportunities to integrate renewable energy projects to the energy mix due to inadequate infrastructure because of a lack of future planning. The same could be said for integration of appropriate waste management facilities based on the proximity principle.

5.6.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Material Assets

- There is a need in some rural areas to improve telecommunications provision to support rural investment and quality of life.
- It is important to consider the location of existing material assets when considering new developments, projects or plans.
- There is a need to facilitate land in sustainable locations to help deliver renewables or waste management and associated infrastructure.
- There is a need to consider potential integration of micro-renewables in new development.
- Wind technology has dominated renewables but more diverse technologies will be needed for a sustainable energy mix.
- It is important to maintain and increase rates of reuse, recycling and composting of waste and to enable future treatment of varying waste streams.
- Derelict/contaminated land sites may be available for appropriate reuse. The remediation of contaminated land can deliver multiple benefits.
- It is necessary to consider the issue of how future cemetery provision can be addressed in the LDP

5.7 Physical Resources

5.7.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The physical resources sustainability theme covers minerals, earth science, geothermal energy, land and soil. Physical resources provide us with the building blocks we need for everyday life and are mostly finite in their supply.

The sustainable management of physical resources is a common theme of regional, strategic and subject planning policy. The need to safeguard sufficient land to provide physical resources into the future is evident. Land is recognised as multifunctional in that it can act as a wildlife corridor and support local biodiversity, whilst providing amenity value, building materials, adaptation for climate change, and enabling removal of water and soil pollution. Adequate amounts of land are required to deliver all of these functions. Some physical resources such as soil can become so contaminated from pollution that they no longer adequately function.

The overarching aims of current government policy and programmes are sustainable development and sustainable land management, as these underpin sustainable economic growth and a sustainable energy supply. Current policy strives to ensure that physical resources are safeguarded for the future and that sufficient local supplies are available. The Department for Economy (DfE) recognises that the concept of sustainability is different within the industry because reserves are finite, but the industry can still play a part in the circular economy and the principles of the waste management hierarchy. Northern Ireland also has a Geodiversity Charter that aims to inform decision makers of the importance of geodiversity to the economy and the environment, as part of the UK Geodiversity Action Plan.

The SPSS aims to minimise the impacts from the minerals industry on local communities and the environment. This is expected through sustainable minerals development that carefully considers impacts on the local area and includes the safe restoration of sites with an appropriate reuse. In Northern Ireland, older mineral workings from the 1970s and 1980s had little emphasis placed on managing their environmental impacts or restoration. Recent changes to planning legislation through the Planning Act (NI) 2011, enables Councils to review old mineral permissions sites (ROMP sites). However, a further Order is needed before Councils can begin this review.

One of the five strategic themes of the Corporate Plan is 'our Environment'. It includes the objective to *'Improve and sustainably manage our environment, protecting it for future generations'*.

Our Council's Community Plan also prioritises sustainable jobs, developing tourism potential and the environment. Protection of the Borough's physical resources will be fundamental to achieving these aims.

5.7.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information for physical resources is presented in the LDP Position Papers for Minerals, Public Utilities and Environmental Assets position papers. This topic also overlaps with the Housing, Economy and Employment, Material Assets, Climate Change, Natural Resources and Landscape sections of this scoping report.

Minerals

As referred to in the LDP Minerals Paper 12, 'minerals are an important natural resource and economic asset because of their importance in providing the raw materials for many forms of

development'. The exploitation and processing of these minerals creates employment, which is of particular importance in rural areas where employment opportunities can be less.¹

The Borough is of regional importance to the minerals industry, with ten quarrying companies and quarries currently active within the Borough. These and peat sites are shown in Appendix 3 of the LDP Minerals Evidence Paper 12. The quarry industry within the Borough employs 396 people and produces 3.2million tonnes of aggregates which equates to an annual value of £13.7 million. The variety of minerals mined for includes aggregates, peat, basalt, chalk and rock salt. The only salt mine in NI is located within the Borough and an important salt reserve has been identified near to Carrickfergus (shown in Figure 5.7.1). A century of salt mining before modern safety standards has led to subsidence areas which need to be appropriately considered within spatial planning.²

Of all 11 Councils in NI, the Borough is the second most important for minerals in monetary terms and the third biggest employer within the minerals industry. The minerals industry is directly linked to economic development and particularly the construction industry³. The DfE's POP consultation response also highlighted the potential for metallic minerals exploration in the Borough⁴.

After an area has been mined, it may become an important earth science site with an educational and geological conservation value. Sites may be worthy of designation and form part of the network of designated sites in the Borough. With or without restoration, these redundant sites can also add to local green/blue infrastructure and provide a local biodiversity value as well as potential for recreational and leisure activities.

Current planning policy aims to minimise the impacts from the minerals industry on local communities and the environment. This can be achieved, in part, through the safe restoration of existing sites with appropriate reuse. In Northern Ireland, older mineral workings had little emphasis placed on their restoration. Lists of sites with older permissions have been produced and provision for the review of older mineral permissions (ROMPS) introduced to The Planning Act (NI) 2011. There are 12 ROMPS in the Borough, which equates to just over 3% of the total number in NI⁵. In the future, it may be feasible to restore these sites for recreational or educational use with potential to add to the local green/blue infrastructure network whilst ensuring sites meet modern standards.

DfE indicated in its consultation comments on the POP⁶ that the area covered by the Mid and East Antrim District Council area is considered prospective for high value metallic minerals which collectively form the suite known as the platinum group minerals. Metals of this group are associated with basalt type lava and are known to occur in other regions of the world where conditions promote the accumulation of economic deposits.

¹ Mid & East Antrim Borough Council's LDP Minerals Development Evidence Paper 12

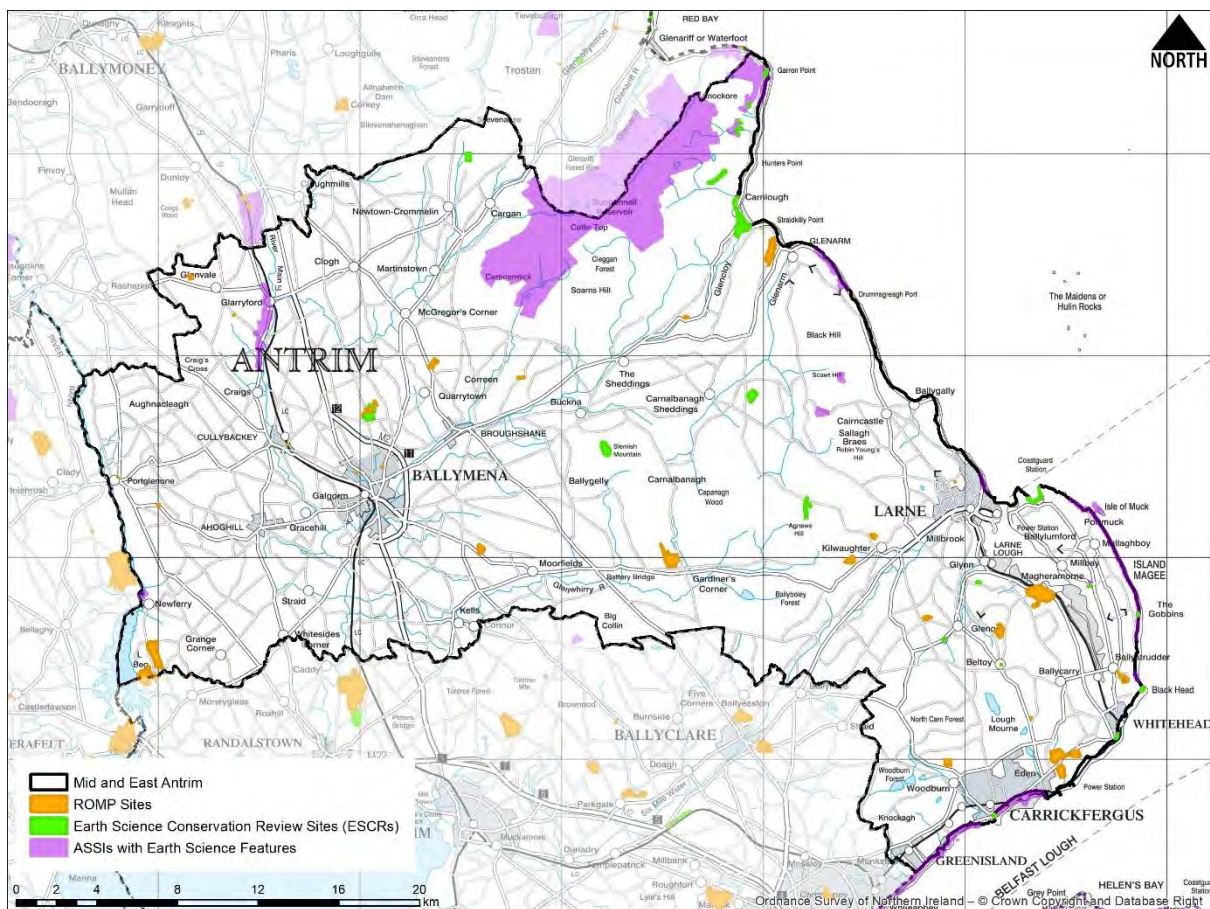
² Mid & East Antrim Borough Council's LDP Minerals Development Evidence Paper 12 (Appendix 2)

³ Mid & East Antrim Borough Council's LDP Minerals Development Evidence Paper 12

⁴ Department for the Economy LDP Consultation Response to Mid and East Antrim LDP October 2017

⁵ Mid & East Antrim Borough Council's LDP Minerals Development Evidence Paper 12 (Appendix 5)

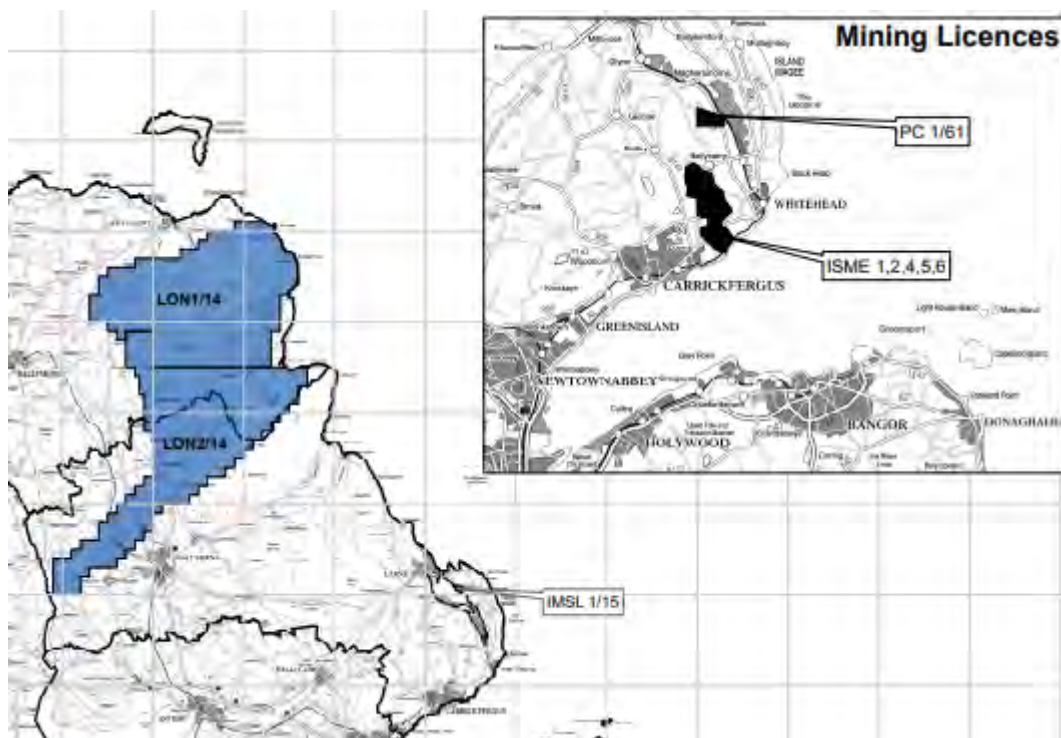
⁶ Department for the Economy | Mid and East Antrim Borough Council - minerals development options - [DfE responses](#) (Date published: 23 October 2017)

Figure 5.7.1: ROMPs, Earth Science Conservation Review Sites and Geological ASSIs

Source: DAERA Digital Datasets

The council area currently has areas under licence for precious metal and base metal exploration (LON2/14 licence area in Figure 5.7.2) and halite exploration for road salt and natural gas storage (ISME1,2,4,5,6, and ISML 1/15). Prospecting licence PC 1/61 is for chalk.

There is one extant petroleum exploration licence in the Borough, PL1/10, which extends from Lough Neagh in the west to Larne Lough and Islandmagee in the east. A 2,000m exploratory borehole was drilled in the licence area in 2016, however it failed to find any hydrocarbon accumulations.

Figure 5.7.2: Mineral Exploration Licences (May 2019)

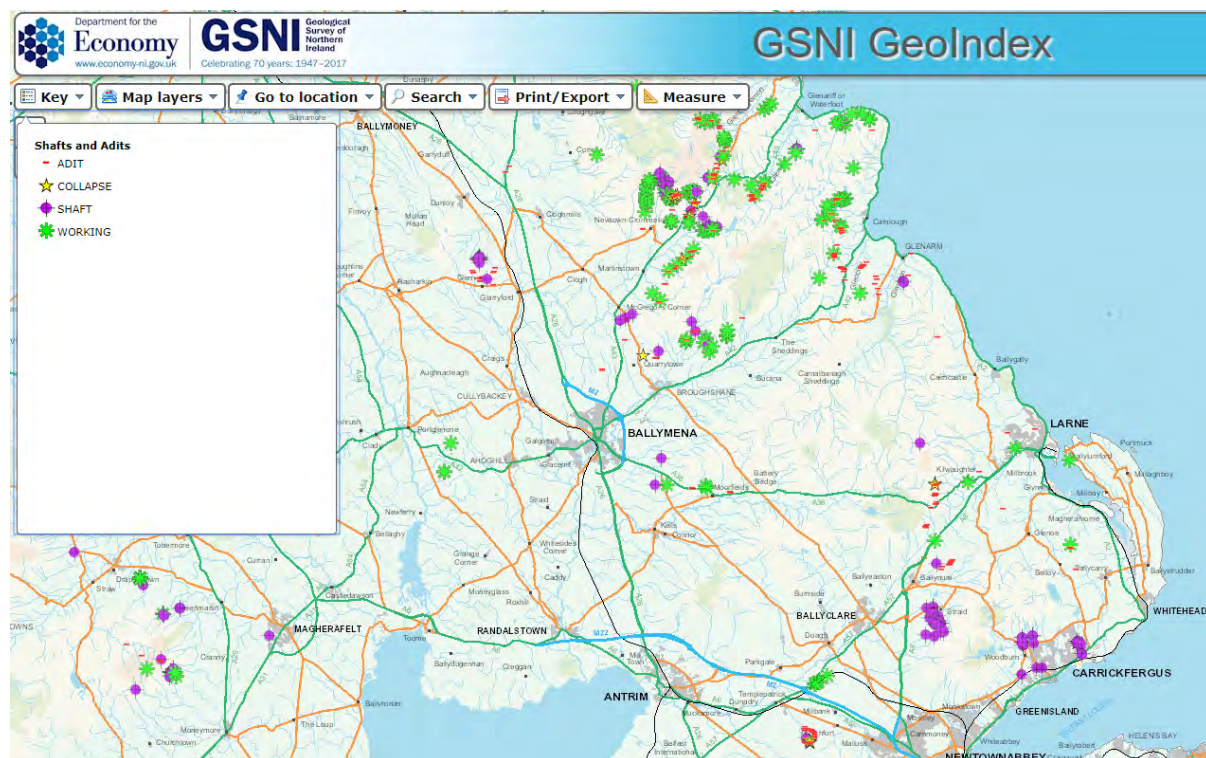
Source: Department for the Economy Exploration and Mining Activity - [Mineral Licensing Map \(with Councils\), May 2019](#)

The Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI) maintains a database of former mine workings, shafts and adits. The DfE indicated in its consultation comments on the POP¹ that there are 492 abandoned mine workings associated with historic salt extraction in the Greater Carrickfergus area and iron/bauxite ore extraction throughout the rest of the borough. An extract from the GSNI's web viewer² on historic mine workings is included in Figure 5.7.3. This shows the distribution of abandoned mines hazards throughout the Borough.

DfE also noted in their 2017 consultation comments that there have been a number of surface collapses associated with abandoned mines throughout the Borough, most notably in the Carrickfergus area. Land within the vicinity of former mine workings may be at risk of instability and subsidence, which should be taken in to consideration when planning new development. The DfE has also indicated that the steep sided glens and parts of the coastline contain areas susceptible to landslide events. Development upon or downslope of these areas is at risk.

¹ Department for the Economy | Mid and East Antrim Borough Council - minerals development options - [DfE responses](#) (Date published: 23 October 2017)

² GSNI Geoindex http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/GSNI_Geoindex/home.html

Figure 5.7.3 Abandoned Mines Hazards

Source: GSNI Geoindex (accessed August 2019)

Earth Science

There are twenty Earth Science Conservation Review sites in the Borough (Figure 5.7.1). These are recognised for various geological features and include natural coastal features as well as disused and active quarries and mines.

There are thirty-nine Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) in the Borough of which sixteen are sites of geological interest. These sites, though protected for their geological value, can also provide habitat for local wildlife and help to conserve local biodiversity. For example, the Outer Belfast Lough ASSI provides habitat for notable plants and is an important wintering site for many species of bird including great crested grebe, oystercatcher and redshank; as well as providing haul out sites for Common and Grey seals¹.

The GSNI published a Geodiversity Charter in 2017², which aims to inform decision makers of the importance of geodiversity to the economy and the environment in NI and contributes towards the delivery of the UK Geodiversity Action Plan. The Charter states that '*an understanding of geomorphological processes is vital in managing geological hazards such as landslides, coastal change and flooding, all of which will undoubtedly increase due to climate change.*' It also recognises that '*[the]... soils, nutrients and natural processes that support Northern Ireland's nationally and internationally important habitats and species will also benefit from a better understanding of geodiversity, assisting with environmental management and protection and ultimately providing a safer and healthier place to live.*' The Charter has identified poor planning, climate change and changing land use as all threats to geodiversity.

¹ DAERA Outer Belfast Lough ASSI citation June 2015

² DfE / Geological Survey of NI: [Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter](#)

Geothermal Energy

Naturally occurring heat is stored in ground layers ranging from core depths to shallow layers. It can be used as a source of heating for buildings and possible electricity. This naturally occurring ground heat is called 'geothermal energy'. Geothermal energy is low carbon, renewable (without fluctuation) and is viable with existing technology. It could become a sustainable part of the future energy mix, if investment and the necessary infrastructure were provided. Consideration of its installation and integration is recommended at an early design stage alongside other infrastructure.

The Lough Neagh basin is a geothermal aquifer that could provide a source of energy for the Borough. The Lough Neagh basin has the potential to act as a source of renewable electricity and heating for domestic and non-domestic buildings. Geothermal energy is evident in NI through ground heat pumps. Since 2002, only seven applications for ground/air/water source heat pumps have been approved within the Borough¹.

Land

The Co-ordination of Information on the Environment (CORINE) project, initiated by the European Commission in 1985, provides a comprehensive picture on land use in the UK and Ireland. CORINE uses high-definition satellite images and detailed local maps to match land use against 44 different land use codes. These can be used to monitor changes in land use over time (reference years are 1990, 2000, 2006 and 2012).

Figure 5.7.4 shows a simplified version of the CORINE land use classifications for the Borough. The detailed land use categories can be arranged into the four general categories of 'Built on', 'Green urban', 'Farmland' and 'Natural'. Currently around 69% of land cover is classified as farmland, slightly lower than the NI average of 72%. Land classed as natural land cover is 26%, which is higher than the NI average of 23%. The proportion of 'built on' land in the Borough is 4%, which is in line with the NI average of 3.5%.

The NI Countryside Survey 2007 found that the main changes in land cover over time were the loss of semi natural habitats to agricultural grassland and rural buildings. The trend for natural land conversion to improved grassland and curtilage was observed in the 1998 survey. Building was mostly on neutral or improved grassland, indicating pressure on agricultural land but semi natural habitat losses were also recorded. The loss of semi natural habitat in lowland areas, where this habitat is already scarce, is a biodiversity issue. The NI Countryside Survey highlighted development pressure on rural land from single rural dwellings.

Agriculture is a major contributor to the Northern Irish Economy² and contributes 1% to total GVA and 3% to employment³. Agriculture will continue to be an important sector of the economy in our Council area.

¹ Mid & East Antrim's LDP Public Utilities Infrastructure Evidence Paper

² Northern Ireland Assembly Briefing Paper (2016): Northern Ireland's Agri-food sector Paper 66/16 NIAR 345-16

³ DAERA (2016): Northern Ireland Agri-Food Sector Key Statistics, Key Facts on Agriculture, Fishing & Forestry

Mid and East Antrim

Land Cover Category	Percentage
CONTINUOUS URBAN FABRIC	0.02%
DISCONTINUOUS URBAN FABRIC	3.08%
INDUSTRIAL OR COMMERCIAL UNITS	0.52%
ROAD AND RAIL NETWORKS	
PORT AREAS	
AIRPORTS	
MINERAL EXTRACTION SITES	
DUMP SITES	
CONSTRUCTION SITES	
GREEN URBAN AREAS	0.60%
SPORT AND LEISURE FACILITIES	
NON-IRRIGATED ARABLE LAND	1.25%
PERMANENTLY IRRIGATED LAND	
RICE FIELDS	
VINEYARDS	
FRUIT TREES AND BERRY PLANTATIONS	
PASTURES	67.43%
COMPLEX CULTIVATION PATTERNS	0.32%
LAND PRINCIPALLY OCCUPIED BY AGRIC	0.54%
BROAD-LEAVED FOREST	0.76%
CONIFEROUS FOREST	2.67%
MIXED FOREST	
NATURAL GRASSLANDS	15.10%
MOORS AND HEATHLAND	3.79%
TRANSITIONAL WOODLAND-SHRUB	0.56%
BEACHES, DUNES, SANDS	
BARE ROCKS	
SPARSELY VEGETATED AREAS	
BURNED AREAS	
INLAND MARSHES	
PEAT BOGS	3.12%
SALT MARSHES	
SALINES	
INTERTIDAL FLATS	
WATER COURSES	
WATER BODIES	0.34%

Soil

Soil quality is not currently protected under any specific legislation in NI, but it is a fundamental physical resource. It acts as a store and source of gases - oxygen, nitrogen and carbon dioxide. It also filters water and provides a base for biodiversity and raw materials. A properly functioning soil should be less vulnerable to erosion and can reduce flooding, filter pollution and store essential nutrients that can support plants and animals. Development can affect soil quality through pollution and erosion. Future changes to the climate will have significant impacts on our soils. Increased seasonal aridity and wetness poses risk to soils, which are vital to a healthy environment¹.

Without an up to date LDP, there may be less opportunity to spatially plan and sustainably manage existing and future physical resources including access to minerals. It may become more difficult to manage local development pressure and avoid inappropriate development. Without an up to date baseline, it is likely that there would be a much higher risk of incompatible land uses arising which could adversely impact upon physical resources.

- Existing mineral reserves should be safeguarded from alternative uses and/or developments that may sterilise their use or impede their accessibility.

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- Older mineral sites (pre-1985) without adequate restoration may be causing damage to the local environment.
- The minerals industry has the potential to support rural communities and businesses when appropriately located and connected to adequate transport routes.
- The older extant Area Plans did not consider Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development which may need to be addressed.
- Some redundant minerals sites may be suitable for restoration and alternative uses, and could contribute to natural heritage, green/blue infrastructure, recreation and education provision.
- There is potential to integrate geothermal energy as a future energy source.
- It is important to balance development of land against its retention as natural land.
- Commercial peat extraction sites are present however, peatlands are important for their ecological value and as water and carbon stores.
- There is a lack of specific legislation protecting soils however soil quality should be considered in land use planning.

5.8 Transport and Accessibility

5.8.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Overarching regional planning policy for Transport aims to deliver a balanced approach to transport infrastructure. Integral to this is an underlying drive to improve transport connectivity, accessibility, efficiency and social inclusivity. Regional policy also aims to reduce our carbon footprint and mitigate and adapt to climate change whilst improving air quality. Some measures to achieve this are directly linked to transport and include reducing emissions from transport, improving energy efficiency and protecting Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).

Encouraging people to use public transport and to consider active travel options like walking and cycling will be key to achieving regional policy outcomes. This is reflected in the policy objectives for transport in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement along with objectives for adequate parking facilities and road safety to help reduce car use. The LDP will also be fundamental to promoting and enabling sustainable transport but a behavioural shift within society is also required, both at home and in the workplace.

One of the strategic outcomes of the draft PfG centres on connecting people and opportunities through infrastructure, which links to providing a sustainable transport system. Improving transport connections, increasing the use of public transport and active travel, increasing environmental sustainability and improving air quality are four indicators to measure progress on this strategic outcome.

Among the five strategic themes of the Corporate Plan are ‘Sustainable Jobs and Tourism’ and ‘Good Health and Wellbeing’ in addition to the Council’s commitment to *“delivering excellent services and facilities through collaborative working, innovation and continuous improvement”*.

Developing transport is included among the outcomes under the ‘Sustainable Jobs and Tourism’ theme of our Community Plan. The Community Plan also recognises that 40% of the population live in smaller settlements and rural communities and that some of these rural communities are particularly isolated with regard to access to services, including transport. Planning for both the wider transport system and local level travel options for people will be integral to the Council achieving its strategic priorities.

5.8.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the LDP Transportation Position Paper. This topic also overlaps with the Health and Wellbeing, Air Quality, Climate Change, Natural Resources and Landscape sections of this report.

Transport Emissions

In Northern Ireland (NI), the transport sector is the second biggest emitter of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) and contributes 23% of total GHG emissions¹. The emissions are a by-product from the combustion of fossil fuels and in spite of increasingly efficient vehicles, emissions have increased since 2014. In NI, the transport sector has shown an increase on baseline levels (1990) of just over 30%². GHGs are linked to a warming climate and the transport sector has a responsibility to reduce

¹ DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

² DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

its emissions. This could be achieved through the planning of transport routes that enable shorter journey times and integration of accessible public and active travel routes.

Road traffic generates nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). This pollutant can cause respiratory issues with prolonged exposure increasing associated risks. In 2017, NO₂ was measured at a Ballykeel/Ballymena site. Based on hourly and annual mean limits, set by the UK Air Quality Strategy, no exceedances were recorded¹. Road transport also contributes to levels of airborne particulate matter (PM₁₀) which can particularly affect people with heart and lung issues. More information is in the Air Quality and Climate Change sections of this report.

Road Transport Routes

There are several main transport corridors within our Borough Council including the M2, A8, A26 and A2. Although there is a relatively small section of motorway (7.3km), there is a substantial amount of other classified roads including important commuter routes². The Council area is important for several main transport routes that facilitate connectivity across the country for people, goods and services.

The A26 is identified in the RDS as a Link Corridor. It connects Ballymena to Coleraine and the north, Antrim to the south, and links on to the M2 Ballymena By-Pass. The A36 links Ballymena to Larne where the A8, a Key Transport Corridor, extends from the Port of Larne towards Newtownabbey. It then joins the M2 with onward connections to Belfast. The M2 and M5 also link from Belfast onto the A2 Shore Road which extends from Whiteabbey, through Greenisland and Carrickfergus, and onward to Larne. Major road dualling schemes on the A8 (Belfast-Larne), the A2 (Greenisland) and the A26 (Glarryford to Dromes Road) have improved journey times and reduced traffic congestion issues. The Borough Council now has the most A-road dual carriageway of all the Councils (37.1km)³.

Car Ownership

In 2018, just under 93,000 vehicles were licensed within the Borough Council however, relative to other Councils, this quantity is the fourth lowest of all Councils⁴. NINIS data for 2017 identified that 80% of households in the Council area had access to at least one vehicle⁵. Relative to other Council areas, the proportion of people without access to a vehicle is relatively high with the Borough Council accounting for the third highest of all Councils. The availability of accessible and efficient public transport is likely to be a priority for these people.

Travel to Work/Study

In the DRD/NISRA Travel Survey for Northern Ireland 2016-2018⁶, car travel is the main mode of travel to school for primary school age children but a quarter of children walk or cycle to school. The main mode of travel to school for secondary age children and adolescents is public transport but a significant number also travel by car (34%). Less than a fifth of secondary age children/adolescents walk or cycle to school, which is a reduction from the primary stage years. Details are shown in Figure 5.8.1.

Figure 5.8.1 Modes of Travel to School

¹ DAERA (2019): Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Annual Report May 2019 Issue 11

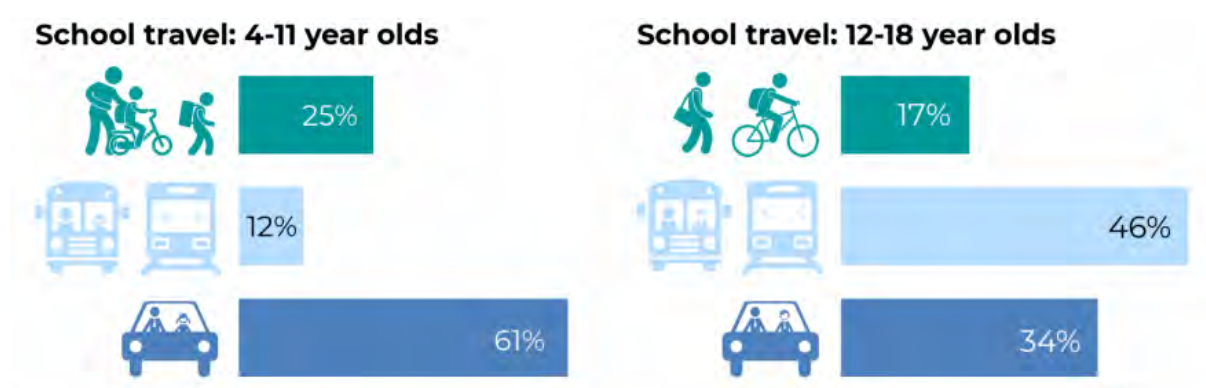
² Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service: Travel & Transport – Road Lengths 2018

³ Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service: Travel & Transport – Road Lengths A Roads: Dual Carriageway Road Length 2018

⁴ Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service: Travel & Transport – Vehicles – Licensed Vehicles 2018

⁵ Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service: People & Places – Car Ownership Access 2017

⁶ Department for Infrastructure Travel Survey for Northern Ireland Headline Report 2016-2018



Source: Travel Survey for Northern Ireland Headline Report 2016-2018

The Census 2011 showed that of all the usual residents of the Borough who were employed or in full-time education, 68.2% travelled to work by vehicle – this figure includes passengers, car shares, taxis and mopeds. The amount of residents and pupils using public transport was 11.19%. The proportion walking to work or school was just under 10% (9.74%). Cycling was significantly less at 0.46%¹. The details are shown in Figure 5.8.2.

Figure 5.8.2: Modes of Travel to Work or Place of Study in Mid and East Antrim Borough Council



Source: Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service: Census 2011: Method of travel to work or place of study KS702NI

Journeys

There is a high dependence on the private car for journeys with 72% of all journeys in the Borough Council made by car². More sustainable modes of transport should be facilitated and encouraged so that people can choose not to use the car. Measures to do this could include park and ride schemes as well as increased access to active and sustainable travel.

Electric Vehicles

In an attempt to help combat climate change, the transport industry has been developing measures to improve fuel efficiency as well as use of alternative fuels. Electric vehicles are now becoming more common because they emit less GHG emissions than petrol or diesel. There are currently 43

¹ Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service: Census 2011: Method of travel to work or place of study KS702NI

² Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's LDP Preparatory Studies Transportation Position Paper September 2016

electrical car-charging points in the Borough - 19 in Ballymena, 6 in Carrickfergus, and 16 in Larne¹. The transport sector is one of the main contributors to GHG emissions in NI and needs to reduce its impact and shift away from fossil fuels. There is likely to be an increased demand for accessible electric vehicle charging points as low emission vehicles become more mainstream. Further information is in the Climate Change section of this report.

Ferry Transport

A key transportation asset in Mid and East Antrim is the Port of Larne - the second largest port in Northern Ireland. There are currently up to seven daily return sailings between Larne and Cairnryan for freight, cars and foot passengers². The RDS refers to the strategic importance of the port as a transport interchange, important for economic development. There has been a small passenger-only service, known as the Islandmagee Ferry, that operated from the Port of Larne, to and from Ballylumford at Islandmagee³.

Public Transport

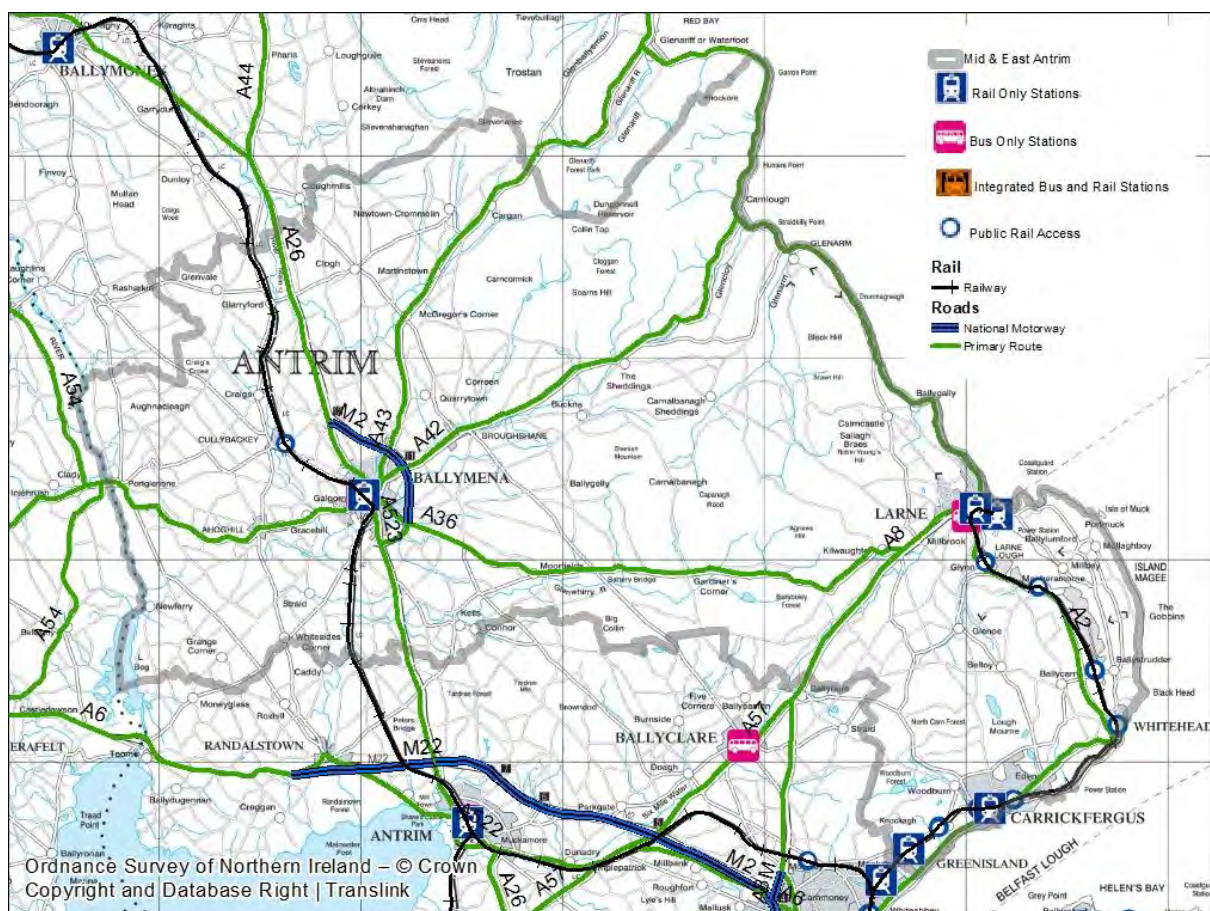
Within Mid and East Antrim, there are bus stations in both Larne and Ballymena (Figure 5.8.3). Public bus services within the Council area are provided primarily by Translink/Ulsterbus. In addition to bus services, Mid and East Antrim is also served by the NI Railways network. Both Ballymena and Cullybackey have train stations along the Belfast - Londonderry line which also facilitates links to Coleraine and Portrush. There are also several train stations throughout Carrickfergus and Larne, which provide a key link to Belfast City Centre and beyond. Many of these train stations benefit from the provision of free park and ride⁴.

¹ <https://www.zap-map.com/locations/carrickfergus-charging-points/>

² P&O Ferries Timetable (found at <http://www.poferries.com/en/cairnryan-larne/travelling-with-us/timetable> - accessed 16/08/2019)

³ Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's LDP Preparatory Studies Transportation Position Paper September 2016

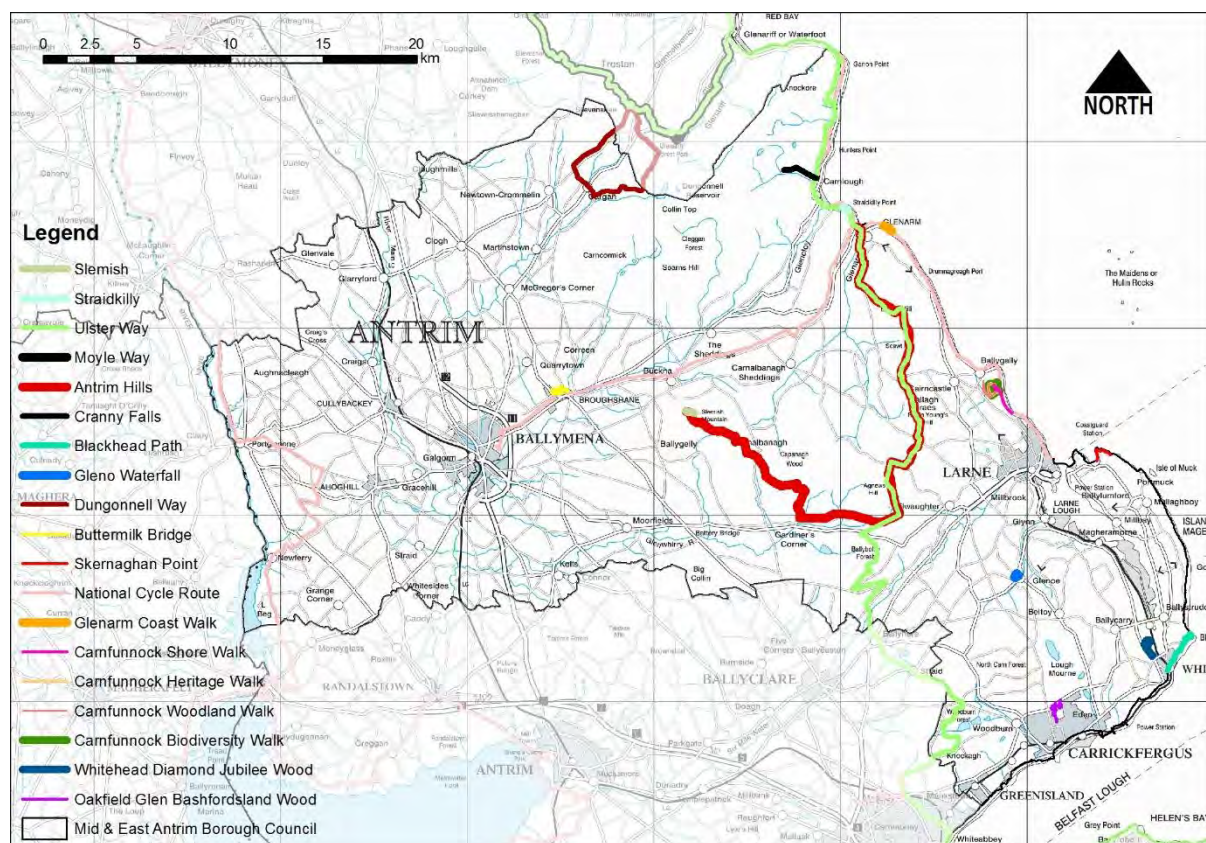
⁴ Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's LDP Preparatory Studies Transportation Position Paper September 2016

Figure 5.8.3: Key Transportation Infrastructure within Mid and East Antrim

Source: Spatial NI | Translink (2015)

Active Travel

Walking and cycling routes can connect communities to local facilities and services, as well as to open space and the wider countryside. The concept of active travel can enable people to access places without using a vehicle but also provide benefits for local air quality and people's health and wellbeing. The LDP can help to encourage and facilitate active travel routes in new developments and projects as well as enhance existing areas.

Figure 5.8.4: Walking and Cycling Routes in the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

Source: Walk NI, Sustrans (Ulster Way link and quality sections shown as one route)

There are 19 established walking routes within the Borough Council including a section of the Ulster Way, which connects into other Council jurisdictions. Access to the Ulster Way enables people to join other long distance walking routes like the Moyle Way. The majority of walking routes are short in distance and several are located in coastal areas. There are several overlapping routes in the Carnfunnock area including heritage and biodiversity trails. The Dungonnell Way is in the uplands and is a circular route that crosses into a neighbouring Council area. Likewise, there are routes within the Council area that overlap such as Slemish, the Antrim Hills Way and the Ulster Way. There is also a national cycle route that crosses the Borough Council from the centre of Ballymena town out to the coast. Another section crosses the west of the Borough Council area and partially follows the River Bann and enables access around either Lough Neagh or north toward the coast. There may be potential to create new walking and cycling routes as well as improve accessibility and connectivity to existing routes.

Greenways

In 2016, the Department for Infrastructure published 'A Strategic Plan for Greenways'¹. It identifies 1000 km of greenway routes made up from potential primary and secondary networks, with much of the disused railway network used to connect people and places. These are shown in Figure 5.8.5.

¹ Department for Infrastructure (DfI) (2016): Exercise-Explore-Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways

Figure 5.8.5: Map of Primary and Secondary Greenway Routes

Source: Department for Infrastructure (DfI) 2016: Exercise - Explore - Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council wants to develop a network of community greenways and pathways that are multifunctional and can enhance existing connectivity¹.

Approval was recently granted for a section of the Ballymena to Cushendall greenway at Glenravel. Development proposals near to designated greenways are expected to provide open space linkages². This should help further connect local communities to facilities and services, neighbouring communities and local green/blue infrastructure.

5.8.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, emissions from the transport sector are less likely to decrease. Without current spatial information, there is likely to be an increased risk of missing opportunities to integrate efficient public transport routes and active travel routes to help people reduce their reliance on the car. Development of land based on older information is unlikely to be able to consider the most sustainable development of land in terms of the most efficient route linkages with shorter journey times, and provision of accessible modes of sustainable and active travel.

5.8.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Transport and Accessibility

- There is a need to reduce pollutant emissions from transport, which could be partly achieved through sustainable transport planning – shorter journey distances, accessible alternatives to the car.

¹ Mid and East Antrim Technical Supplement 4 Open Space, Sport and Leisure

² Mid and East Antrim Open Space & Recreation Position Paper July 2015

- The Council area has several main road, rail and ferry transport routes of strategic importance for their transport connectivity.
- Consideration should be given to those households without access to a vehicle and therefore reliant on public transport, taxis and active travel routes.
- The majority of employees and students travel to work, school or place of study by car although bus and rail services are available across the Council area.
- Measures are needed to help reduce the high reliance on travelling by car and to facilitate increased use of public transport and active travel.
- There is potential to increase access and improve connectivity to existing and new walking and cycling routes, including greenways, with multiple benefits for local communities.

5.9 Air Quality

5.9.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Air quality is an important indicator of local, regional and international environmental conditions as it helps to indicate levels and sources of air pollutants and air pollution trends. Air pollution is both an urban and a rural issue that can affect human health, but when levels of certain substances such as nitrogen, sulphur or ammonia are exceeded, the effects on ecosystems can also be adverse.

DAERA and Councils manage air quality in Northern Ireland in compliance with domestic legislation (the Environment Order 2002, the Air Quality Regulations (NI) 2003 and the Air Quality Standards Regulations (NI) 2010). These stem from European Air Quality Directives but an Air Quality Strategy for Northern Ireland 2007 provides the strategic framework for air quality in NI.

Air quality objectives are set at a regional level and include limits for air pollutants. These are primarily based on ensuring protection of human health and sensitive habitats. Other measures include smoke control areas and Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). Regional policy thus recommends developing policy links between air quality and climate change.

Overarching regional planning guidance highlights agriculture, transport and energy supply as the three sectors contributing most to a warming climate in Northern Ireland. Agricultural land makes up a significant amount of land cover in Northern Ireland; we remain heavily reliant on private car use for journeys; and we are mostly dependent on fossil fuels for our energy supply. All these sources emit air pollutants including greenhouse gas emissions. Air quality does not have a specific planning policy, but under the SPPS it can be a material consideration.

In the draft PfG, there are several outcomes that can be linked to good air quality¹. These include outcomes to live and work sustainably - protecting the environment; to enjoy long healthy, active lives; and to create a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest. Indicators to help us determine progress in achieving all of the draft PfG outcomes include improving air quality, as well as increasing healthy life expectancy, reducing preventable deaths and increasing environmental sustainability. Improving air quality is a fundamental aspect of sustainable development as it is important for the quality of our environment, the health of our society and the sustainability of our economy.

The Council's Corporate Plan has a vision that refers to 'a strong, vibrant, safe... community where people work together to improve the quality of life for all'. One of the Plan's five strategic themes is 'our Environment' which includes the objective to *"Improve and sustainably manage our environment, protecting it for future generations."* Another objective under the environment theme is to, *"Deliver high quality places where people want to live, work and invest"*. 'Good Health and Wellbeing' is another theme of the Corporate Plan with objectives to improve physical health and enable people to live longer. Likewise in the Community Plan 2017, 'Good Health and Wellbeing' is a Planning Theme with outcomes for people to be more physically active, to enjoy longer and healthier lives and for workplaces to be healthy. An important aspect of achieving all of these outcomes, objectives and the Council's overall vision will be maintaining and improving good air quality.

¹ Northern Ireland Executive: Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021

5.9.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information for air quality is presented in the LDP Position Papers and specifically the Environmental Assets and Transportation Papers. This topic overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport and Accessibility, Climate Change, Natural Resources, and the Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage sections of this report.

Air Quality Management Areas and Monitoring

There are currently two active Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the Council area and both are located in Ballymena. Ballykeel AQMA is declared for particulate matter (PM₁₀) and Linenhall Street is declared for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)¹.

There are two continuous air quality monitoring sites in the Borough, both located in Ballymena. Monitoring takes place at the Ballykeel Road site for PM₁₀, sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and NO₂; and at the Antrim Road site for NO₂.

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's 2016 Air Quality Progress Report² indicates that results from automatic NO₂, PM₁₀ and SO₂ monitoring showed that all Air Quality Strategy objectives continued to be met at the Ballymena Ballykeel and Ballymena North Road monitoring sites. However, results from passive NO₂ diffusion tube monitoring showed exceedances of the annual mean Air Quality Strategy objective at three locations; one within the existing Linenhall AQMA, and two outside of any existing AQMAs.

The 2016 Air Quality Progress Report also indicates that road works completed in 2015 at the A2 Shore Road should deliver a net benefit for the majority of properties in regards to improved air quality.

There are also smoke control areas in the Borough. These have been enforced to reduce smoke and other air pollutants/emissions from the burning of fuels, with the aim of improving local air quality.

Information on the Borough's air quality and monitoring can be accessed at www.airqualityni.co.uk where progress reports and screening assessments can also be found.

Air Quality

The active AQMAs have been declared for PM₁₀ and NO₂. Nitric oxide (NO) and NO₂ are primarily released from the combustion of fossil fuels used in transport, energy and industry. These nitrogen oxides (NO_x) can quickly contribute to the formation of acid rain and ozone (O₃), both of which are harmful to the natural and built environment³. Particulate pollution also occurs when fine particles are emitted during combustion of fossil fuels and from road transport. These particles are called 'particulate matter' and can be breathed into the lungs⁴. Impacts on human health are referred to below. The agricultural sector is also evident within the Borough and aerial emissions are primarily ammonia and methane.

Transport Sources

NO₂ is generated from the combustion of fossil fuels and the transport sector is a significant source. The UK Clean Air Strategy has highlighted traffic emissions as one of the top three sources of air

¹ <https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/laqm/aqma>

² Mid and East Antrim Borough Council - 2016 Air Quality Progress report : https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/assets/documents/dc-reports/Mid_and_East_Antrim_2016_Report.pdf

³ www.airqualityni.co.uk

⁴ www.airqualityni.co.uk

pollution problems in Northern Ireland. There are several key transport corridors located within the Borough including the M2, A8, A2 and A26. The rural nature of the Borough also means that the car is heavily relied upon. More information is in the Transport and Accessibility section of this report.

Information and graphs are available from the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2019. It shows that at the regional NI level, mean NO₂, at urban roadside sites, generated by road traffic combustion, shows a decreasing trend from 40.6 µg/m³ in 2012 to 32.3 µg/m³ in 2017¹. Mean NO₂ at urban background areas has also been decreasing from a peak of 22.8 µg/m³ in 2015.

PM₁₀ has generally shown a decreasing trend in urban sites since 2003. PM₁₀ in urban areas can come from road traffic and other fossil fuel combustion sources. Ground level ozone is produced during the chemical reactions of nitrogen oxides from sources such as vehicle emissions and can cause respiratory issues. Urban sites show ozone levels are not in decline but remain variable.

There is a planned phase out of diesel and petrol vehicles by 2040, which should help to significantly reduce air pollutants and improve air quality². As part of the transition toward a cleaner transport system, there are now 43 electric vehicle charging points in the Borough, however only two are 'rapid chargers' at 50kW³.

Agricultural Sources

Ammonia (NH₃) is a gas emitted into the air as a result of many farming activities such as the housing of livestock, the storage and spreading of animal manures and slurries and the use of chemical fertiliser⁴. High emissions are associated with intensive dairy, pig and poultry farming and it has been identified in a UK Clean Air Strategy as one of the main sources of air pollution in NI⁵. Air pollution related to ammonia, and the associated nitrogen deposition, is known to have a damaging impact on sensitive habitats, wider biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, as well as human health. The majority of NI European-designated sites for nature conservation are exceeding their critical levels, the concentration at which environmental damage occurs. Increased (or more intensive) agricultural activities may further exacerbate this widespread issue.

In 2017, 92% of agricultural NH₃ emissions in NI were derived from livestock and 8% from fertilisers⁶. Ammonia is not included as an objective in the Air Quality Regulations but it can be linked to the deterioration of habitats and negative effects on species⁷. Since 2001, NH₃ emissions from livestock have increased by over 11.2% (from 25.7kt in 2011 to 28.6kt in 2017) as the number of cattle, pigs and poultry has increased. Emissions from fertilisers decreased from 3.3kt in 2001 to 1.7kt in 2008 but have subsequently increased to 2.6kt in 2017. More information is in the Climate Change section of this report.

Human Health

There is an important link between air quality and human health. It is estimated that in the United Kingdom, life expectancy is shortened by eight months because of poor air quality⁸. Public Health England⁹ estimates that in NI around 553 deaths annually may be attributed to pollution from

¹ NI Environmental Statistics Report 2019 – data tables – Table 2.1a Annual mean concentration of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), 2011 – 2017, All sites

² Climate NI website

³ ZapMap list of charge points, guide to electric car charging (found at <https://www.zap-map.com/charge-points/>)

⁴ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2019

⁵ BBC News: Clean Air Strategy: Traffic Pollution 'significant problem' in NI. January 2019

⁶ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2019

⁷ Air Pollution Information System UK

⁸ DAERA presentation for draft Programme for Government Air Quality Stakeholder Consultation, August 2016

⁹ Public Health England (2014) *Estimating Local Mortality Burdens Associated with Particulate Air Pollution*, pp. 21

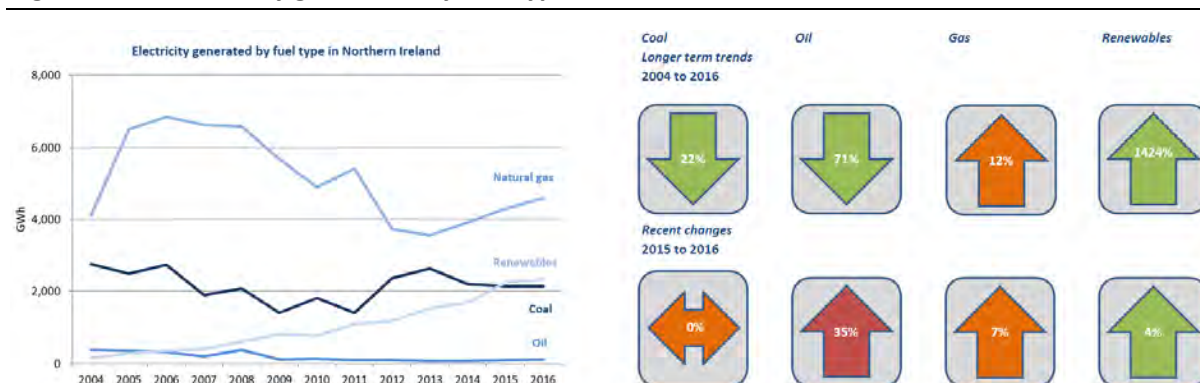
particulates, of which 18, 12 and 10 occur in the legacy Council districts of Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne respectively.

NO₂ can be a severe respiratory irritant and prolonged exposure can be particularly dangerous for children¹. NO_x can readily mix with other chemicals to form acid rain and O₃. Acid rain pollutes land and water systems whilst O₃ at the ground level acts as a respiratory irritant². PM₁₀ can cause heart and lung issues with carcinogenic risks and the majority of PM₁₀ in urban areas is from road transport³. Respiratory disease is one of the three main causes of death in our Council.

Energy Sources

In NI, there has been a rise in the use of natural gas for residential heating and a move away from oil and coal for domestic heating purposes. Electricity generated from renewables has also increased every year since 2001⁴. By 2015/16, nearly 25% of electricity consumed in Northern Ireland came from renewable sources. Wind energy accounted for 90% of the renewable electricity generated⁵. This type of diversification in our energy use means that carbon emissions and other pollutants from fossil fuel combustion have been reducing. More information is in the Material Assets and Climate Change sections of this report.

Figure 5.9.1: Electricity generated by fuel type, 2004-2016



Source: DAERA, Carbon Intensity Indicators 2018

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's 2016 Air Quality Progress Report observed that a large number of individual Biomass boilers were newly operational within the borough due to the prevalence of the government renewal heat incentive. Commercial biomass boiler installations may have the potential to impact the air quality within the Borough and the Progress Report notes that enforcement action under Section 63 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (NI, 2011) was taken against a biomass boiler located within the Borough relating to smoke emissions from the unit. Among the Progress Report's actions is to continue to gather emissions information for the identified biomass installation to determine the impact upon local air quality.

5.9.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there may be the risk of decreasing air quality through inappropriately located development. Without up to date spatial information, there would be fewer opportunities to help maintain or improve air quality. This could include measures to integrate accessible public

¹ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report Issue 10 May 2018

² www.airqualityni.co.uk

³ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report Issue 10 May 2018

⁴ DAERA, Carbon Intensity Indicators 2016

⁵ Mid & East Antrim Borough Council Public Utilities Workshop Consultation Paper

transport routes and new walking and cycling routes. There may also be the risk of losing land that could help maintain local air quality. Together these measures could help reduce reliance on the car and transport emissions.

5.9.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Air Quality

- Key regional transport routes located within our Council contribute to background levels of air pollutants.
- Reliance on the private car for the majority of journeys is high. There is a need to promote and make accessible other modes of transport such as public transport, walking and cycling.
- Currently there are two AQMAs within the Council area. Additional sites in the Ballymena town area may require local measures to reduce nitrogen dioxide levels.
- There are smoke control areas in some parts of the Borough where authorised fuels must be used.
- It is important to consider future air quality when planning the location of new developments and land uses, across both rural and urban areas.
- Measures to help reduce ammonia emissions from the agriculture sector could help to improve air quality in some rural areas.
- Support for appropriate renewables will help further reduce reliance on traditional energy sources that cause air pollution.

5.10 Climate Change

5.10.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Greenhouse gases (GHG) - carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O), methane (CH₄) and fluorinated gases - have been entering the atmosphere at an accelerated rate since the Industrial Revolution. These additional gases are mostly from fossil fuel combustion but also deforestation and agricultural practices. They add to background levels and increase the natural warming of the planet - the 'greenhouse effect'. Climate scientists have estimated that the earth's atmosphere has already warmed from pre-Industrial Revolution times by nearly 1°C and that global sea levels have increased by 15-20 centimetres with thermal expansion and ice loss from glaciers and land¹.

Reducing GHG emissions is the only way to mitigate human-induced climate change so the RDS recommends we reduce our carbon footprint, adapt to climate change and deliver a sustainable and secure energy supply. In the SPPS, climate change is viewed as a central challenge to achieving sustainable development. The SPPS promotes the planning system as a tool to shape new and existing developments to help combat climate change by promoting sustainable patterns of development and transport, with renewables, energy efficiency and green/blue infrastructure accounted for. It details mitigation and adaptation for climate change. Planning Policy Statement 18 'Renewable Energy' (PPS18) sets out policy for renewables in NI. It encourages their integration to improve our security of energy supply, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, and lower our carbon emissions².

An NI National Adaptation Programme (NAP) for climate change was launched in 2014 and an update is due later this year. Preceding UK level Climate Change Risk Assessment Reports have already highlighted the importance of focusing more action and further research on flooding and coastal change, health risks from higher temperatures, water shortages, natural capital, food trade; and new pests, diseases and invasive species. The first NI Adaptation Programme focused on flooding, water, natural capital, agriculture and forestry. Flooding was identified as 'potentially one of the most significant and urgent risks' in NI³.

The NI Executive's draft PfG includes 14 strategic outcomes with 42 indicators of success. One of the outcomes is 'to live and work sustainably – protecting the environment'. There are nine indicators to help achieve progress on this outcome. These include increasing innovation in our economy, increasing use of public transport and active travel, increasing environmental sustainability (by measuring GHGs), increasing household waste recycling, and improving air quality⁴.

In the Council's Corporate Plan, both the Vision and Purpose refer to people working together 'to improve the quality of life for all', and 'to create a better future for all'. A strong and vibrant and safe community will be delivered to residents and visitors and investors. Our Corporate plan also includes the objective that *"we will increase awareness, positive attitudes and action for a clean and green environment"*. The effects of climate change must be adequately considered and appropriately planned for so that this Vision and its objectives will be achieved.

The Community Plan aspires to provide the people of the Borough with a safe community and improving quality of life. Outcomes include an environment that is protected and sustainably managed, and a Borough leading the way for business to start and grow. These outcomes can only be achieved if the local level impacts of climate change are carefully considered. The LDP could help to deliver climate change mitigation and adaptation by protecting carbon stores, providing land for

¹ UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Synthesis Report 2016

² Department of Environment August (2009): Planning Policy Statement 18: Renewable Energy

³ Department of Environment (2014): Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme

⁴ Northern Ireland Executive: Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021

renewables, integrating blue/green infrastructure and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), promoting energy efficient measures for buildings and homes, and enabling shorter journeys and active travel.

5.10.2 Baseline Information

Relevant information can be found across multiple sources including the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS), The NI Environmental Statistics Report, and The NI Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Detailed information has also been provided in the LDP Position Papers for Transportation and Public Utilities. This topic also overlaps with the Health and Wellbeing, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport and Accessibility, Air Quality, Water, Natural Resources and the Historic Environment sections of this report.

International Context

In 1988, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was set up by the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Program. The IPCC's role is to provide Assessment Reports based on scientific and technical information, with response strategies – adaptation and mitigation - to the predicted impacts of human-induced climate change. The IPCC's first assessment report was in 1990 and helped create the international United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The IPCC delivers regular reports on climate change issues and its fourth in 2007, began to integrate climate change with sustainable development policies. The fifth Assessment Report (AR5) was released between 2013 and 2014. In it, levels of GHG are reported as the highest they have been since the pre-industrial era. Atmospheric concentrations of CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O are the highest they have been in the last 800,000 years. Their effects are extremely likely to be the dominant cause of observed global warming since the 1950s. It reports that GHG emissions need to reduce by 40-70% by 2050 to have a likely chance of avoiding the 2°C increase.

In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, known as the Earth Summit, partially led to the UNFCCC - the Global Warming Convention. The UNFCCC led to countries committing to reduce their GHG emissions to help combat climate change under the Kyoto Protocol (1997). The Kyoto Protocol set internationally binding emission reductions. Heavier burdens were placed on developed nations, where the amount of GHG emissions was higher. The United Kingdom (UK) and Ireland were both signatories. Although the Protocol was adopted in the 1990s, the first commitment period did not start until 2008. We are now in the second commitment period, from 2013 to 2020, and an 18% reduction in GHG emissions on 1990 levels is expected¹. The UNFCCC was created to help reduce global warming and cope with its consequences and it remains the key international treaty to do this². The UK is an independent signatory and remains committed to fulfil its international obligations.

In 2016, the UNFCCC met in Paris to discuss strengthening the global response to climate change. With the support of 196 countries, the Paris Agreement was made. It aims to pursue efforts to limit temperature increase to 1.5°C or less on pre-industrial levels. Ambitious GHG reductions from 2020 in Nationally Determined Contributions are requirements of this agreement. In total, 179 out of 197 countries have ratified the Paris Agreement, including the UK and Ireland³.

¹ United Nations Climate Change (UNCC) [The Paris Agreement](https://unfccc.int/) <https://unfccc.int/>

² Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) <http://www.ipcc.ch/index.htm>

³ <https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/status-of-ratification>

UK Context

The UK was the first country to have a legally binding commitment to reduce GHG emissions with the UK Climate Change Act 2008¹. It led to the formation of the independent body, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), and the CCC's Adaptation Sub-Committee. These advise the UK and devolved administrations on carbon budgets and preparing for climate change. The devolved administrations of the United Kingdom (UK) are expected to contribute to the reductions stated in the Climate Change Act, which means by 2050 an 80% reduction of GHG emissions based on 1990 levels should be evident. The latest projections published by DAERA² in December 2017 indicate that GHG emissions will be 31.2% lower in 2030 than in 1990, which is close to the target. The 2008 Act also requires the UK to produce a report every five years on the risks and opportunities from climate change. The first Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) was produced in 2012.

The second CCRA Evidence Report³ highlighted the following six priority risk areas:

- flooding and coastal change
- health and well-being from high temperatures
- water shortages
- natural capital
- food production/trade, and
- new pests/diseases and non-natives

The most recent land and marine climate projections for the UK (UKCP18) were published in November 2018. Prior to the publication of UKCP18, the previous climate projections used were UKCP09, published in December 2009.

Northern Ireland Context

In the UK's CCRA 2017, additional priority risks were identified for NI where more action and further research are needed⁴. How central government plans to address these risks and opportunities is in the second NI Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP) 2019-2024⁵. NI's initial Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2014, identified Councils as 'particularly well placed to raise awareness and provide leadership through their responsibilities', on climate change issues.

The aim of the NICCAP is for, 'A resilient Northern Ireland which will take timely and well-informed decisions to address the socio-economic and environmental impacts of climate change.'

It focuses on five key priority areas:

- natural capital – land/coast/marine/freshwater, ecosystems, soils and biodiversity
- infrastructure services
- people and built environment
- disruption to business and supply chains
- food security/global food production

Of these five priorities, seven strategic outcomes have been identified for NI with associated risks and opportunities also identified. Cumulatively all of the strategic outcomes or 'visions' will increase the resilience of NI to the impacts of climate change including flooding and other extreme weather

¹ Defra 2012: [A Climate Change Risk Assessment for Northern Ireland](#)

² DAERA Statistics and Analytical Services Branch [Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Projections Update](#) published 15/12/2016

³ HM Government January (2017): The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme

events. For example, in the UK, it has been estimated that approximately 2000 deaths per year can be attributed to the effects of heat¹, with this figure likely to increase with predicted temperature increases and exposure to sun.

NI Climate Scenarios

Climate change is one of the top four environmental concerns amongst the general public, with 27% of households reporting it in 2017/18². According to the UKCP18, by 2100, winters and summers will both be warmer; winters will have more precipitation and summers will have less. However, natural variations mean that some cold winters, some dry winters, some cool summers and some wet summers will still occur and this may need to be factored into decision-making. Sea level rise at Belfast will be 0.18 to 0.64 metres higher than the 1981-2000 average in the mid-range emissions scenario; and extreme weather events will be more likely³. For example, over a month's worth of rain fell in a few hours at the end of July 2018, after a month of very hot weather due to a heatwave over northern Europe⁴. The top ten warmest years in the UK have been recorded since 1990⁵.

Queens University Belfast manages nine climate-monitoring stations across NI for temperature and precipitation. Climate projections informed by this monitoring predict that average temperatures will increase and become progressively warmer toward the end of the 21st century. Temperature increase will occur in all seasons, with inland areas showing a larger degree of warming than coastal areas. Summers will be drier and winters wetter but overall precipitation will fall slightly⁶. The NI Environmental Statistics Report 2019 also reports an increasing average temperature over the last 100 years.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In 2017, NI accounted for 4.3% of UK GHG emissions. These were estimated to be equivalent to 20 million tonnes of CO₂. CO₂ emissions accounted for 68% of all GHG emissions in Northern Ireland. It was the most common gas emitted from most sectors but not agriculture, or waste management. Methane (CH₄) was a more significant GHG from both of these sectors because of livestock and landfill. Nitrous oxide (N₂O) was the other significant GHG emission from the agriculture sector. This is a difficult GHG to both measure and reduce. NI accounts for a much larger share of the UK's emissions of these gases due to the economic importance of agriculture in NI⁷. Overall, there was a decrease in GHG emissions of 3% compared to 2016 and the longer-term trend showed a decrease of 18% compared to the 1990 baseline year⁸.

The largest sectors in terms of emissions in 2017 were agriculture (27%), transport (23%), energy supply (17%), residential (13%) and business (12%). GHG emissions from these sectors are by-products from farming practices, vehicle emissions and the general burning of fossil fuels for energy/electricity or heating. Most sectors have shown a decreasing trend in emissions since the base year. The largest decreases have been in the energy supply, residential and waste management sectors. These were driven by improvements in energy efficiency, fuel switching from coal to natural gas, which became available in the late 1990s, and the introduction of methane capture and oxidation systems in landfill management⁹. Between 2016 and 2017, GHG emissions decreased most

¹ UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report: Summary for Northern Ireland

² DAERA (May 2019): The Northern Ireland Environmental Statistic Annual Report 2019 Issue: 11 – Figure 1.7

³ Department of Environment (2014): Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme

⁴ Climate Northern Ireland eBulletin Issue 67 August 2018

⁵ International Journal of Climatology: The State of the UK Climate 2017 Volume 38 Issue S2

⁶ Mullan et al (2012): Developing site-specific future temperature scenarios for Northern Ireland: addressing key issues employing a statistical downscaling approach. International Journal of Climatology, 32(13): 2007-2019; and presentation from Dr D. Mullan QUB

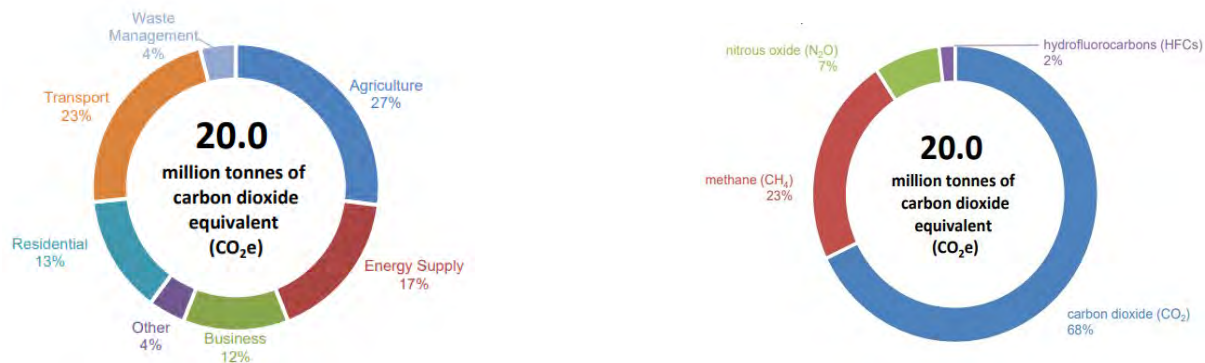
⁷ Defra 2012: [A Climate Change Risk Assessment for Northern Ireland](#)

⁸ DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

⁹ DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

from the energy supply sector (15.1%) but increases were evident from transport (+0.4%), agriculture (+1.2%), and land use change(+9.8%).

Figure 5.10.1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions in NI 2017 - sector and gas



Source: NI Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin (2019)

The transport and agriculture sectors both showed higher emissions in 2017 than in the baseline year with a 30.2% increase from the transport sector due to more vehicles on the road and a 2% increase from the agriculture sector due to more livestock. Four other sectors are also accountable for GHG emissions. These are industrial processes, land use change, public and waste management. Of these, the land use change sector has shown a 23% increase in emissions from the baseline year. This reflects conversions as well as losses from semi-natural land cover to developed land¹.

The NI Executive's target to reduce GHG emissions on 1990 levels by at least 35% by 2025 is in place². The draft PfG's outcome 'to live and work sustainably – protecting the environment' uses GHG emissions as an indicator of progress toward meeting this outcome. It uses NI's 2014 figure for MtCO₂e and based on this, we are currently neither failing nor succeeding to meet that measure and outcome³.

Greenhouse Gas Emitting Sectors

Agriculture

In 2017, the agriculture sector continued to be the main contributor of GHG emissions in Northern Ireland, totalling 27% of all emissions and an increase of 2% on baseline levels. Livestock and nitrogen fertiliser are two sources and account for 92% and 8% of all ammonia (NH₃) emissions⁴. The agriculture sector is also the main source of CH₄ and N₂O, accounting for 85% and 90% of total emissions. Although the sector emits a relatively low amount of CO₂, it emits N₂O to a significant level. Farming is an important part of NI's economy so there is a responsibility to develop effective measures that will help reduce GHG emissions like N₂O and NH₃ even if they are difficult to estimate.

According to NINIS, there are 1793 farms in the Council area and these include cattle, sheep, pig and poultry⁵. This is the fourth lowest of all the Councils and fifth lowest in terms of area. Measures to reduce GHG emissions could include steps to improve soil management and avoid soil erosion. More information is in the Physical Resources section of this report.

¹ DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

² www.theccc.org.uk

³ DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

⁴ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report – 2019

⁵ Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service: Agriculture & Environment - Farm Census (administrative geographies) 2018

Transport

In 2017, the transport sector accounted for 23% of all GHG emissions in NI and an increase of 30.2% on baseline levels. This reflects the reliance people have in NI for motorised vehicles and also reflects the rural nature of the country. It is a significant contributor of CO₂ but also nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) emitted from the combustion of fossil fuels. NO₂ can cause respiratory issues and is partly why in the UK from 2040, all vehicles will be electric or hybrid, as diesel and petrol vehicles will be banned¹. By 2050, all cars in the UK are likely to be ultra-low emission vehicles. New transport and residential developments need to be encouraged to consider future changes in the transport system. Likewise, the LDP should be used to help reduce GHG emissions from transport by providing accessible walking and cycling routes as well as adequate public transport options. Spatially planning land use to provide the most effective local and regional level travel routes, should help to reduce car dependency and increase sustainable and active travel. More information is in the Transport and Accessibility, and Air Quality sections of this report.

Energy Supply

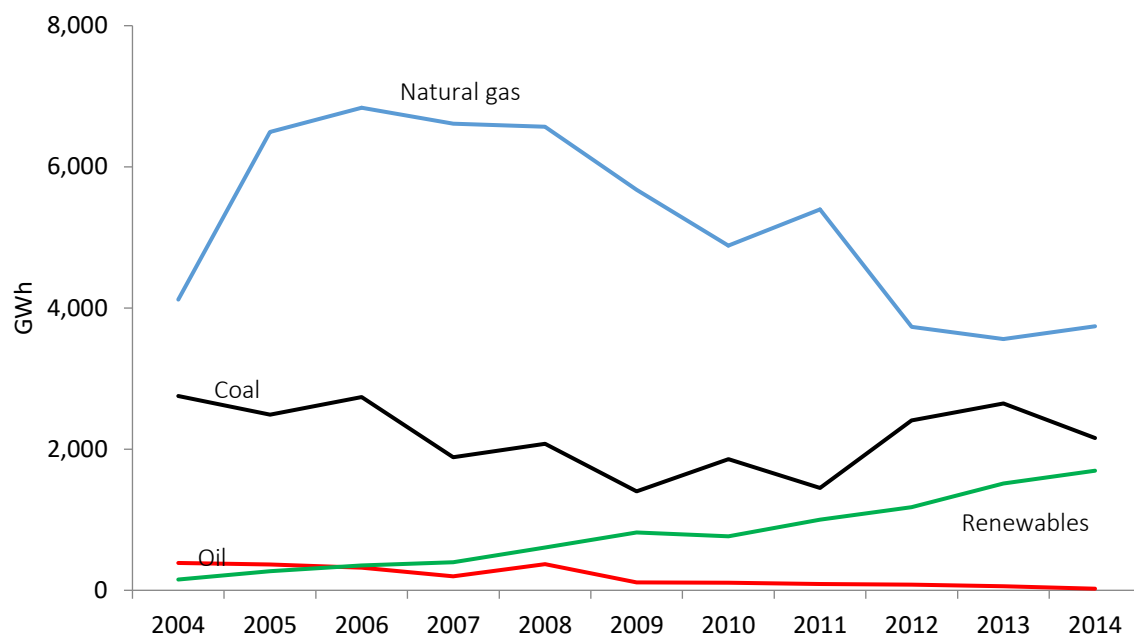
The energy sector (energy generation and heat production) has been one of the main contributors to reductions in GHG emissions with a 15% decrease in 2017 from 2016². This is due to the switch from coal and oil to natural gas; improved energy efficiency and the uptake in renewables³. Two out Northern Ireland's three currently operating power stations are located within the Borough. Kilroot is fuelled by coal or heavy fuel oil and Ballylumford is gas powered, but both power stations are fossil fuelled and therefore sources of GHG emissions. Gas is less carbon intensive and more energy efficient than coal and oil, so preferred in terms of GHG emissions and efficiency. Planning permission was granted in March 2019 for a new 480MW gas-fired power station to be located at the Belfast Harbour Estate.

The change from coal and oil has helped to reduce GHG emissions from the sector. As policy directs the energy market toward reduced GHG emissions and a low carbon future, changes in sources and production will have to occur. These include diversity of renewables, battery storage and carbon capture projects, and a grid that can enable multiple renewable connections including for prosumers, i.e. small-scale producers. More information is in the Material Assets section of this report.

¹ www.climatenorthernireland.org

² DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

³ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016 Issue 8 March 2016

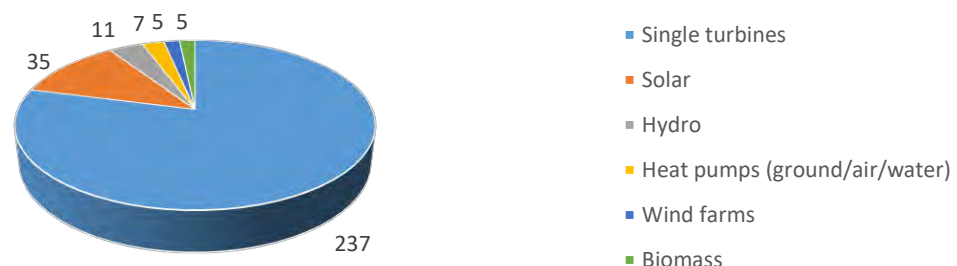
Figure 5.10.2 Electricity generated by Fuel Type

Source: DAERA, Carbon Intensity Indicators 2016

Renewable Energy

Renewable energy is not reliant upon fossil fuel combustion and can help reduce GHG emissions from the energy sector because it uses natural energy with a low or zero carbon footprint. The NI Executive endorsed a target of 40% of electricity consumption to be from renewables by 2020 whilst the UK has a target to reduce GHG emissions from 1990 baseline levels by 80% by 2050 (UK Climate Change Act). In 2016, Northern Ireland ranked second in the UK for renewable energy production¹, behind Scotland and in 2017/18, 36.4% of NI's electricity needs was from renewable sources².

In our Borough, wind and solar are the most evident renewables by application numbers and approvals but biomass, hydro and renewable heat (ground/air/water) are the least evident.

Figure 5.10.3: Approvals for renewable energy projects since 2002 (Mid and East Antrim BC)

Source: Mid and East Antrim LDP Public Utilities Workshop

There is a wide distribution of single turbine approvals across the Borough with a higher density of turbines located in the southeast (Appendix G of the 'Public Utilities' LDP Position Paper). However,

¹ Department for the Economy (June 2018): Energy in Northern Ireland 2018

² DAERA (May 2019): The Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Annual Report 2019 Issue: 11 - Figure 2.10

the number of operational turbines is lower than the number of approved, as turbine installation has been constrained by the feasibility of new grid connections¹. More information is in the Material Assets section of this report.

Residential

The residential sector is one of the top contributors to GHG emissions. IN NI, energy supply remains heavily dependent on fossil fuels for home heating but in recent years, there has been a transition away from coal and oil to gas. The 2011 Census reported 63.7% of households in the Borough using oil but only 14.6% using gas². Emissions from houses can be linked to not just their source of fuel heating but also their energy efficiency, the materials used to build them and their location to key services. The LDP could be used to help facilitate and encourage lower carbon lifestyles and help to reduce overall GHG emissions from the sector - environmentally sustainable design. Requiring green building design within the LDPs could help encourage promotion of measures that reduce GHG emissions but also help adapt to the impacts of climate change. Measures could include green roofs, passive solar design, natural lighting, access to renewables, planting greenery, incorporating Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and connecting to active travel routes.

Waste Management

The waste management sector is responsible for 4% of GHG emissions and has seen a 56.8% decrease in GHG emissions from 1990 to 2017³. Methane is a powerful GHG and the dominant GHG emitted from the waste management sector due to landfilling practices⁴. There has been a decreasing trend in emissions from the sector since the 1990 baseline year due to the closure of landfills and methane capture.

Currently there are five recycling centres and 24 bring centres in the council and no currently active landfill sites. The recycling and bring centres have helped enable a 51.66% rate of reusing/recycling/composting of municipal waste in 2017⁵. This is above the NI average of 47.48%. More information is in the Material Assets section of this report.

Impacts of climate change

Flooding

Increased incidences of flooding are one of the predicted impacts of climate change. This is expected due to increased levels of precipitation, flash storm events, storm surges and higher sea levels. Flooding has been identified as '*potentially one of the most significant and urgent risks*' to NI⁶. It can occur near waterbodies but also from excess surface water. It is becoming increasingly accepted that having fully functional coastal and wetland ecosystems helps to absorb the impacts from flooding and storm surges⁷.

Development in flood risk areas not only places it at risk but can increase flood risk on adjacent sites and downstream, as well as increase pressure on natural floodplains. This places risk on both the natural and built environment but one in ten homes in the UK have been built in a flood risk area⁸. The introduction of SuDS within the built environment is a key way to provide sustainable flood

¹ Mid & East Antrim Borough Council's LDP Public Utilities Position Paper

² NINIS: Census 2011 – Central Heating: KS404NI (administrative geographies)

³ DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

⁴ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report – 2019

⁵ NINIS Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Recycling (administrative geographies) 2017

⁶ DAERA Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2014

⁷ SEPA (2016) Natural Flood Management Handbook

⁸ www.climatenorthernireland.org.uk

relief to homes affected by adverse weather conditions. SuDS not only enables surface water to be minimised whilst protecting the natural and built environment but can also add to local biodiversity and improve the quality of public realm. SuDS are adaptable to changing weather conditions compared to regular underground drains¹. One of the draft PfG outcomes is to '*connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure*' and this could be supported by avoiding development in or near to flood risk areas and integrating SuDS.

Coastal flooding and erosion

A substantial amount of NI's coastline is located in the Borough, totalling 62 miles. The coastline of the Borough is flanked by the North Channel and it encompasses Larne Lough and Belfast Lough, with several landscape and environmental designations. It is predicted that climate change will exacerbate coastal flooding from storm surges, higher sea levels, increased storm events and coastal erosion. Any areas already vulnerable to erosion or land instability are likely to become more vulnerable.

A 'Baseline Study and Gap Analysis of Coastal Erosion in Northern Ireland', which was jointly commissioned with the Department for Infrastructure was published in January 2019. Amongst the study's aims are to identify the operational needs of both government bodies and local authorities in terms of information required to inform coastal decision-making and identify key considerations to inform the development of policy on coastal erosion. It has included a high-level preliminary vulnerability assessment of coastal erosion along the NI coast. In respect of our Borough, the study has noted that along the Antrim Coast, erosion is periodic and difficult to predict. Block falls, slope failures, mudslides and landslips have all been recorded, particularly along the coastline between Larne and Drains Bay. Although there is a low risk of erosion, the presence of main roads along the Antrim Coast means that this is still an important hazard.

Along the Belfast Lough coast there are some areas of erosion resulting in vertical scarps where the geology changes to mudstones to the south of the Islandmagee peninsula close to Blackhead. The coastline between Blackhead and Belfast is predominately armoured due to the presence of railways and roads, however, some narrow beaches are present and could be at risk of erosion. In respect of Larne Lough, the study notes that sea loughs are usually dominated by low energy features and are generally more influenced by coastal flooding than coastal erosion. Larne Lough has a low risk of coastal erosion due to its low wave energy².

Biodiversity loss

Climate change is expected to impact on local biodiversity as changing climatic factors will cause habitats to alter and species to move³. These changes could lead to habitat loss and in other areas, non-native species may be able to thrive and outcompete native species and habitats. Buffer zones around nature conservation sites and green/blue infrastructure (G/BI) around priority habitats should be considered to aid movement of species due to climate change.

Health

The predicted effects of climate change include higher temperatures, milder winters, higher intensities of rainfall and increased frequency of storm events. All of these weather events bring

¹ Ashley, RM; Walker, AL; D'Arcy, B *et al.* (5 more authors) (2015): UK Sustainable Drainage Systems: past, present and future. Proceedings of ICE - Civil Engineering, 168 (3). pp. 125-130

² DAERA, DfI & Amey Consulting with HR Wallingford (2019): Baseline Study and Gap Analysis of Coastal Erosion Risk Management NI

³ Carroll, M.J.; Williams, M.A. & Bradbury, R.B. (2015): The Nature of Climate Change: Europe's Wildlife at Risk. Research Report 55. RSPB Centre for Conservation Science, Sandy.

with them potential risks to human health. With the increasing average temperatures and predicted increases in periods of hot weather, some people may become increasingly vulnerable to heat related illnesses. There is an opportunity with the LDP to develop policies that can facilitate and encourage integration of adaptation measures for climate change by encouraging environmentally sustainable design measures that may provide shade and cool areas, use passive solar design, store rainwater and integrate active travel routes. The SPPS 2035 reinforces how planning can help mitigate and adapt towards climate change, particularly through problems such as extreme heat, which can affect the public's health¹.

5.10.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a LDP, there are likely to be fewer opportunities to reduce GHG emissions by integrating sustainable development patterns that would facilitate and encourage low carbon lifestyles. It could become increasingly difficult to integrate accessible sustainable and active travel routes and to locate appropriate renewable energy projects in the most sustainable locations in relation to both infrastructure and users. Likewise, there could be fewer opportunities to develop more resilient communities that can adapt to the impacts of climate change – flooding, erosion, biodiversity loss, heat and water shortages.

5.10.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Climate Change

- There is the need to encourage a transition to a low carbon future.
- Agriculture, transport and energy supply are significant contributors to GHG emissions and opportunities to reduce these within the scope of the LDP should be considered.
- The LDP should consider delivery of appropriate sources of renewable energy.
- Habitats, including floodplains and peatlands, act as natural mitigation and adaptation measures for the impacts of climate change and should be protected.
- Measures should be considered to help provide and encourage delivery of energy efficient buildings/projects as well as adaptation measures like SuDS and green/blue infrastructure.

¹ Strategic Planning Policy Statement 2035

5.11 Water

5.11.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

This topic encompasses water as a resource for ecological services, water supply and treatment. It also considers the management of water storage and flow, flood risk and measures to avoid or manage flood risk.

European Directives and regional legislation, plans and strategies seek to protect the quality and supply of water to maintain natural resources and protect human health. The 'Water Framework Directive' (2000/60/EC) requires waterbodies to be protected from deterioration and, where necessary and practicable, to be restored to 'good' status. The 'Groundwater Daughter Directive' (2006/118/EC) includes criteria for the assessment of 'good' chemical status and for identifying and reversing upward trends in pollution of groundwater. The Nitrate Directive (91/676/EEC) and Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive (96/61/EC) also require the implementation of standards for the control and prevention of pollution of water by nitrates from agricultural sources and phosphorus and other pollutants from agricultural, industrial and waste water sources.

The Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) (91/271/EEC) is designed to reduce the pollution of freshwater, estuarine and coastal waters by domestic sewage and industrial wastewater (collectively known as urban waste water). The Directive sets minimum standards for the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water. Minimum standards for the provision of sewerage systems and treatment of sewage are set by the Directive according to the population served by sewage treatment works, and the sensitivity of receiving waters. The 'Floods Directive' (2007/60/EC) requires flood risk to be assessed and mapped and management plans to be developed for the most significant flood risk areas.

At the Northern Ireland level, each of these Directives has been transposed into local legislation in order to facilitate their implementation. These include regulations to prevent pollution, to control the use of water through either abstraction or impoundment and to protect water supplies. There are also a number of pieces of drainage legislation to control water levels and flows.

Three River Basin Districts (RBD) have been identified in Northern Ireland under the Water Framework Directive (WFD): the North Eastern (NE), the Neagh - Bann (NB) and the North Western (NW) RBDs. River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the WFD, taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile, as well as wetlands which are directly associated with ground or surface water. In 2013, separate EU Directives for the protection of waters supporting shellfish and freshwater fish and to control the discharge of certain polluting substances were subsumed into the WFD, to allow the legislation covering water quality to be streamlined.

Under the WFD, each member state must also create and maintain a register of protected areas. The register consists of an inventory of protected area sites representing the protected area categories outlined below:

- Waters used for the abstraction of drinking water (drinking water protected areas);
- Areas designated to protect economically significant aquatic species (these are areas designated under the former Freshwater Fish and Shellfish Directives);
- Recreational waters designated under the Bathing Water Quality Directive (2006/7/EC);

- Nutrient Sensitive Areas (comprising nitrate vulnerable zones designated under the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and areas designated as sensitive under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC); and
- Areas designated for the protection of habitats or species (Natura 2000 sites) under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). These also include Ramsar Sites (Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention).

The Water Framework Directive includes coastal waters; whilst the Marine Strategy Framework Directive includes the marine area. As Mid and East Antrim is connected to the marine area via its coastline and watercourses protection of water quality on land and in coastal areas will also benefit the marine area. Marine policies are also considered under the 'Natural Environment' topic (Section 5.12) in this scoping report.

Every six years, DAERA, in partnership with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), produces a River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for each RBD in NI. The second and current RBMP cycle extends from 2015 - 2021. The WFD requires action to meet good ecological and chemical status and prevent deterioration of our water bodies by 2027. Each RBMP therefore sets out the current state of our water environment and the measures to be put in place to achieve further improvements to the water environment over their six year period. Mid and East Antrim Borough extends across two of the three River Basin Districts, the North Eastern and the Neagh Bann and therefore two RBMPs are relevant.

It is essential that RBMPs are integrated with a wide range of strategies and initiatives impacting on the water environment in NI. This exploits commonality across regional, national and European wide requirements and directives, ensuring efficient and cost effective delivery. A Long Term Water Strategy has been developed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in partnership with Northern Ireland Water (NI Water), DAERA and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). The Strategy aims to encourage a sustainable and integrated approach to managing the different water needs within a catchment, while promoting regional development without compromising the environment or increasing flood risk.

DAERA is working with the agricultural sector to promote good practice in nutrient management and safer, more effective slurry spreading. The Nitrates Action Programme has been a key element in providing safeguards for the water environment since 2007 and farmers' cooperation has been a key factor in the success of this scheme. The Nitrates Directive has been applied across all of NI using the total territory approach. This is the main tool for reducing diffuse pollution through the Nitrates Action Programme and Nutrient Management Plans. This has delivered significant improvements to water quality in the last 10-15 years, reducing water quality failures due to nutrients from around 60% to 40%. An equivalent reduction of a further 20% is required by 2021 to meet WFD requirements.

The 'Bathing Water Quality Directive' (2006/7/EC) complements the WFD by setting quality standards for a number of parameters to safeguard public health and protect the environment. The most important of these are the standards relating to the coliform and streptococcal groups of bacteria, which, in general, can be taken as an indication of the amount of sewage or other faecal contaminants present. In addition to monitoring the bathing waters, DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division monitors rivers which run into the sea at beaches. Pollution problems at beaches often arise from within river catchments.

The Floods Directive, transposed through The Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) in 2009, has led to the identification of 20 Significant Flood Risk Areas (SFRA) in NI

and the preparation of three Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP). The FRMPs have been developed to align with the six year cycle of the WFD and each FRMP corresponds to a RBD. Each FRMP highlights hazards and risks in the SFRA from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. The FRMPs identify the measures that will be undertaken over their six year period to address flooding and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together with communities to reduce the flood risk. Mid and East Antrim Borough is covered by two separate FRMPs.

The fundamental policy message arising from the SPPS is that the most effective means of managing flood risk is to avoid the risk, by locating new buildings and infrastructure outside flood risk areas. The LDP should ensure that land identified as being at risk of flooding is not zoned for development. Such development would be at an unacceptable risk of flooding, may cause flooding elsewhere and may impair the natural function of the floodplain in storing flood water. The Council should adopt a precautionary approach to the identification of land through the LDP process and the determination of development proposals, in those areas susceptible to flooding where there is a lack of precise information on present day flood risk or climate change flood risk.

The RDS encourages the implementation of protective measures for water resources, including:

- Adopt grey water recycling;
- Minimise development in areas at risk from flooding from rivers, the sea and surface water run-off;
- Promote a more sustainable approach to the provision of water and sewerage services and flood risk management;
- Integrate water and land-use planning;
- Manage future water demand; and
- Encourage sustainable surface water management.

The SPPS states that planning authorities ‘*should encourage developers to use sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) as the preferred drainage solution*’. The NIEA has published ‘*A Strategy for Promoting the Use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) within Northern Ireland*’, which also encourages the incorporation of measures to ameliorate the impacts of development on water quality and flow.

Our Corporate Plan 2019-2023 includes the objective “*to improve and sustainably manage our environment, protecting it for future generations*”. Our Community Plan recognises that the Borough provides a wide range of opportunities for sport and leisure, including freshwater and sea fishing, and watersports at marinas in Carrickfergus, Glenarm and Portglenone. One of its three strategic priorities is that “*the natural environment and built heritage of our Borough is protected and sustainably managed*”. Among the measures for success are “*more environmental standards achieved in the Borough, including Green Flags and Blue Flags*”.

5.11.2 Baseline information

River Basin Management Plans

The WFD requires action to meet ‘good’ (or better) ecological and chemical status and prevent deterioration of our water bodies by 2027. ‘Good’ status is assessed using a broad range of parameters for water quality (such as nutrients and oxygen levels); aquatic biology (including plants, aquatic insects and fish) and physical environment (such as river flows and habitat). Classification of water bodies assists in planning what measures might be required for improvements. The WFD also recognises that some water bodies have been changed to such a degree that they can no longer be restored to their original condition without compromising their current use. These are called heavily

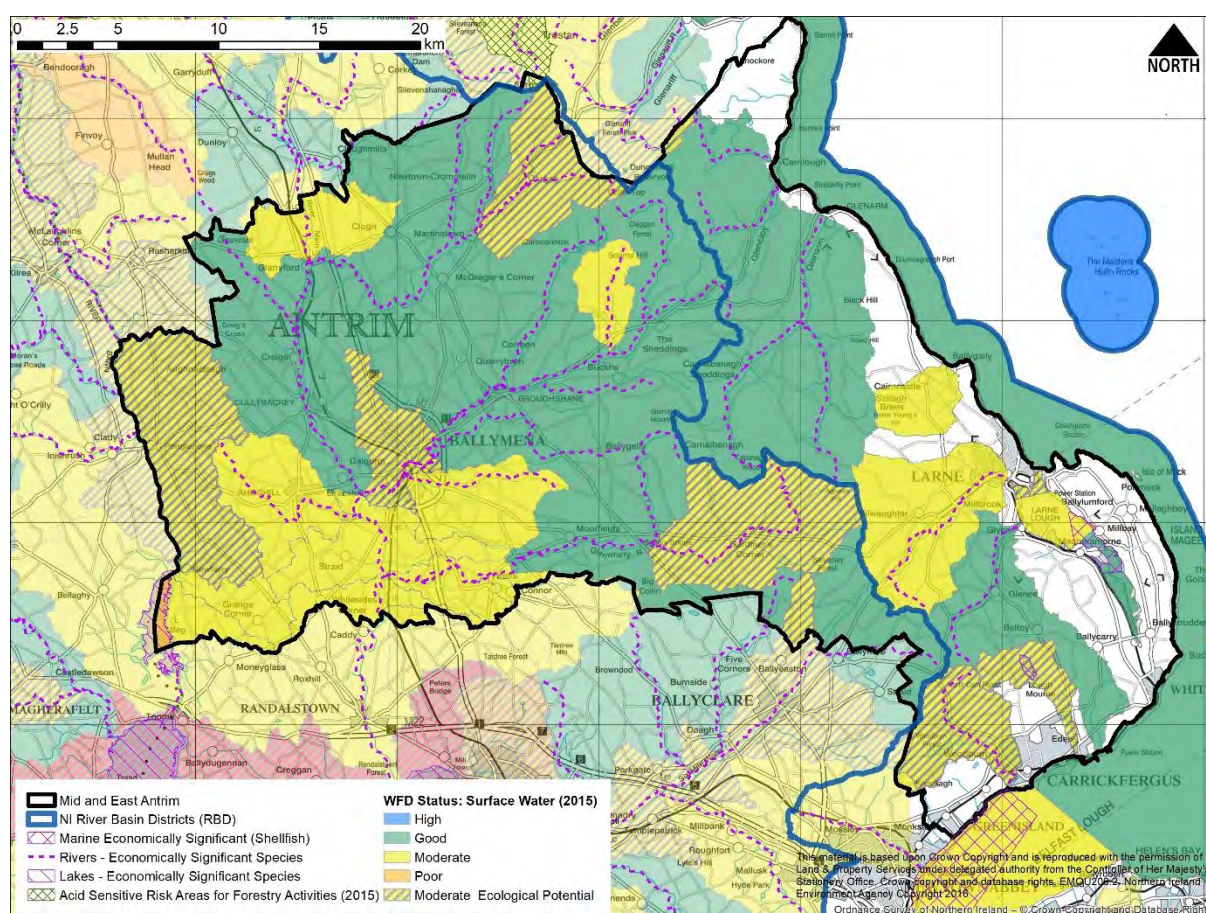
modified (HMWBs) or artificial water bodies (AWBs). HMWBs and AWBs are classified according to their ecological potential rather than status, with the objective to achieve 'good ecological potential' (GEP) by 2027. The water quality status figures published at the conclusion of the first cycle of RBMP in 2015 showed that 37% of NI's water bodies met 'good' status. Classification tools and standards, as well as water body boundaries have changed during the first River Basin Cycle, therefore it's not possible to make a direct comparison between 2009 and 2015 data.

Mid and East Antrim Borough falls under two of the RBMPs published for Northern Ireland, i.e. the North-Eastern and the Neagh Bann (RBDs). The boundaries of the RBDs are shown in blue in Figure 5.11.1.

Within Mid and East Antrim Borough (shown outlined in black in Figure 5.11.1) the principal river systems are:

- The River Braid and River Main (including tributaries Kells and Clough waters) which drain into Lough Neagh, in the NB RBD. A small portion of the catchment of Six Mile Water is also within the Borough.
- The Woodburn, Copeland and Kilroot Rivers which drain into Belfast Lough and the Inver and Glynn Rivers, which drain into Larne Lough in the NE RBD. There are also many smaller catchments draining into the North Channel, including Ballygalley Burn, Glenarm, Glencloy, and Carnlough Rivers.

Figure 5.11.1: Water Framework Directive overall classification, 2015



Source: DAERA WMU Digital Dataset Downloads (Accessed 03/09/19)

There are 48 classified river waterbodies with a catchment area of more than 0.5km in the Borough and two classified lake waterbodies. Nine of these are artificial or heavily modified waterbodies. Some watercourses in the Borough have not been assigned a catchment status, as the watercourse catchments are below the size threshold (10km²) for characterisation. These areas are shown as white/transparent in Figure 5.11.1.

Figure 5.11.1 shows the overall ecological status classification of the river and lake waterbodies within the Borough at the conclusion of the first WFD cycle in 2015. These results are also summarised in Table 5.11.1.

Table 5.11.1: Summary of 2015 overall classification of river and lake water bodies for MEABC

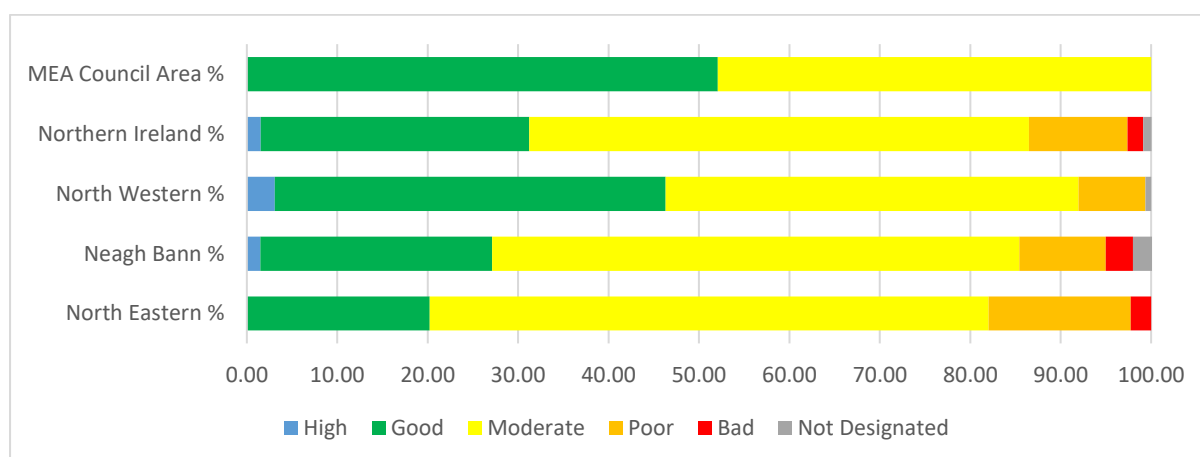
River Water Bodies		Lake Water Bodies		Heavily Modified Water Bodies*	
40	Total Number of RWB	1	Total Number of LWB	9	Total Number of HMWB
0	High Eco. Status	0	High Eco. Status	0	Good Eco. Potential
25	Good Eco. Status	0	Good Eco. Status	9	Moderate Eco. Potential
15	Moderate Eco. Status	0	Moderate Eco. Status	0	Poor Eco. Potential
0	Poor Eco. Status	1	Poor Eco. Status	0	Bad Eco. Potential
0	Bad Eco. Status	0	Bad Eco. Status		
0	No data / unclassified				

*includes river and lake waterbodies

Source: DAERA WMU Digital Dataset Downloads (Accessed 04/09/19)

Mid and East Antrim Borough had slightly better river water quality in 2015 than the overall Northern Ireland average (Figure 5.11.2). 'Good' status was achieved by just over half of all rivers (52%), compared to 31.22% for all river water bodies in Northern Ireland but no rivers achieved 'high' status. The remaining 48% of river waterbodies in Mid and East Antrim were classified as 'moderate' and are therefore currently failing to meet the required standard. There are no rivers with 'poor' or 'bad' ecological status.

Figure 5.11.2: Water Framework Directive overall classification (% River Waterbodies), 2015



Source: DAERA WMU Digital Datasets and Northern Ireland Reported Water Body Status & Objective Figures 2015 (Published 07/11/2017)

There are nine heavily modified river and lake waterbodies in Mid and East Antrim (one lake and eight rivers). All of the heavily modified waterbodies were classified in 2015 as having 'moderate' ecological potential and are therefore failing to meet the required standard.

Mid and East Antrim adjoins six coastal waterbodies, one of which (Larne Lough North) is also heavily modified due to the presence of the Port of Larne. The coastal waterbody surrounding the Maiden Islands is around 5km offshore. These are listed in Table 5.11.2.

Table 5.11.2: Summary of 2015 overall classification of coastal and transitional water bodies

Waterbody Name	Status (2015)	RBD
Larne Lough North	MODERATE EP	North Eastern
Larne Lough Mid	MODERATE	North Eastern
Larne Lough South	GOOD	North Eastern
North Channel	GOOD	North Eastern
Belfast Lough Outer	GOOD	North Eastern
Belfast Lough Inner	MODERATE	North Eastern
Maiden Islands (offshore)	HIGH	North Eastern

Three out of the six adjoining coastal waterbodies achieved 'good' status in 2015. Three have achieved 'moderate' status (or moderate ecological potential). There are designated Shellfish Areas in Larne Lough (Mid and South) and Belfast Lough Inner.

As part of the River Basin Planning process, a Programme of Measures (POMs)¹ has been established for each RBD to detail the improvements required to meet 'Good' status, the actions required and the delivery mechanisms. The POMs aims to address the key pressures by concentrating efforts on those pressures that pose the greatest threat to the water environment.

DAERA has identified two significant sources of pressure preventing water bodies from achieving good status in the North Eastern and Neagh Bann RBDs. These are diffuse pressures from agricultural sources and point source pressures from urban wastewater and development. Other pressures may include reductions in water quantity and flow, the physical condition of the water environment (in respect of man made changes to the natural habitat of rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters), the presence and spread of invasive alien species and any other factors that affect fish populations and habitat.

Nutrient enrichment has been identified in both the North Eastern and Neagh Bann RBDs as a principal reason for failure in lake, transitional and coastal waterbodies as it is linked to failures in diatoms, macrophytes and soluble reactive phosphorus, which have occurred in many waterbodies either individually or in combination.

At the NI level there has been a gradual trend towards fewer and less severe pollution incidents and improved compliance for private and trade discharge consents since 2001.

At the half way stage of each cycle of the Water Framework Directive there is a requirement to report to the European Commission on the implementation of the plan and progress on the measures set out within Northern Ireland's River Basin Districts. Interim results reported in late 2018 have indicated that while there have been some improvements in status since the 2015 figures were published, there have also been some catchments which have deteriorated in quality.

¹ DAERA List of second cycle supporting documents for 2nd cycle River Basin Management Plans 2015. Date published: 03 August 2017. <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/list-second-cycle-supporting-documents-2nd-cycle-river-basin-management-plans-2015>

For the Braid and Main local management area three water bodies deteriorated in status. This change is connected to increases in Soluble Reactive Phosphate and Dissolved Oxygen. Both of these parameters are connected to an increase in nutrients within the waterway which is associated with diffuse agricultural pressures and domestic pressures - both rural and discharges of WwTWs. Industry also contributes, however there have been fewer pollution incidents and these tend to be less severe.

Within the Lower Bann local management area all of the water bodies within the Mid and east Antrim area remain unchanged.

Four water bodies from the Six Mile Water local management area feature partly with the Mid and East Antrim boundary. The Doagh River's status remains at good. The Six Mile Water (Ballyclare) deteriorates on account of the fish status. Six Mile Water (Millikenstown) and the Castle Water deteriorate for Soluble Reactive Phosphate. These two waterbodies are predominantly rural and the increase in nutrients is of concern. It is likely related to agriculture and domestic pressures.

Within Glens and Rathlin local management area there has been no change within the Mid and East Antrim area.

Within the Larne Lough local management area the Glynn River catchment declined for Soluble Reactive Phosphate; the Larne Inver catchment improved for Fish and Larne Lough South declined on account of new data on Macro Algae.

No River Water Bodies within Belfast Lough LMA declined or improved in status from 2015.

The theme of increasing Soluble Reactive Phosphate is evident throughout and means to remediate should feed into local development plans. The LDP should consider if developments have adequate treatment of nutrients - either for single dwelling developments in rural areas; or whether the works and network has the capacity to handle increase loads within areas served by the sewer network. Agriculture, unless properly managed, has the capacity to greatly impact on nutrients which could impact both on water quality and European sites.

Two European funded (Interreg VA) projects are currently active which have the objective of improving water quality and include catchments and waters within Mid and East Antrim:

- Co-operation Across Borders for Biodiversity (CABB) - a three-country, six-partner conservation project that will improve habitats for birds, butterflies and plants across Northern Ireland, Ireland and the west coast of Scotland.
- EU SWIM (System for Bathing Water Quality Monitoring) - a cross-border research programme for developing a system for live monitoring of bathing water quality.

Other projects include the Six Mile Water Trust riverfly project.

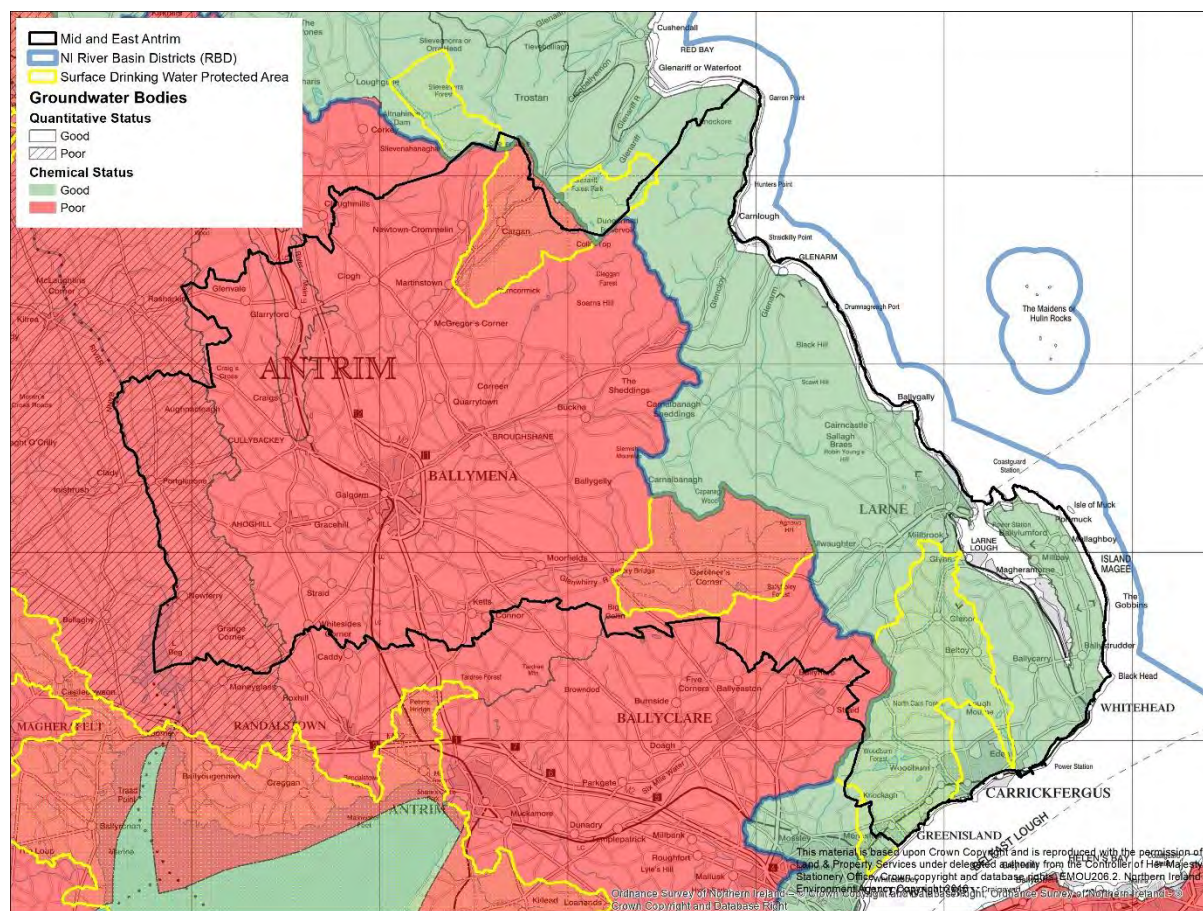
Groundwater

There are eight groundwater bodies intersecting Mid and East Antrim (Figure 5.11.3). Of these, four were classified as overall 'good' status in 2015 and four were classified as having 'poor' status.

The main pressure in the Antrim and Ballymena groundwater bodies is diffuse phosphorus which in turn contributes to phosphorus loading in surface water because of groundwater baseflow contributions. Possible sources include agricultural or septic tanks. A pesticide has led to a failure in the Ballymena groundwater body. Trichloroethene has been detected above Drinking Water Standard and threshold value (equal to 75 % of the Drinking Water Standard) in a well in Ballymena

town. The Coleraine-Kilrea groundwater body is at poor quantitative status due to saline intrusion detected in Coleraine town.

Figure 5.11.3: Groundwater Status, 2015



Source: DAERA WMU Digital Dataset Downloads (Accessed 02/03/18)

Drinking Water Protected Areas

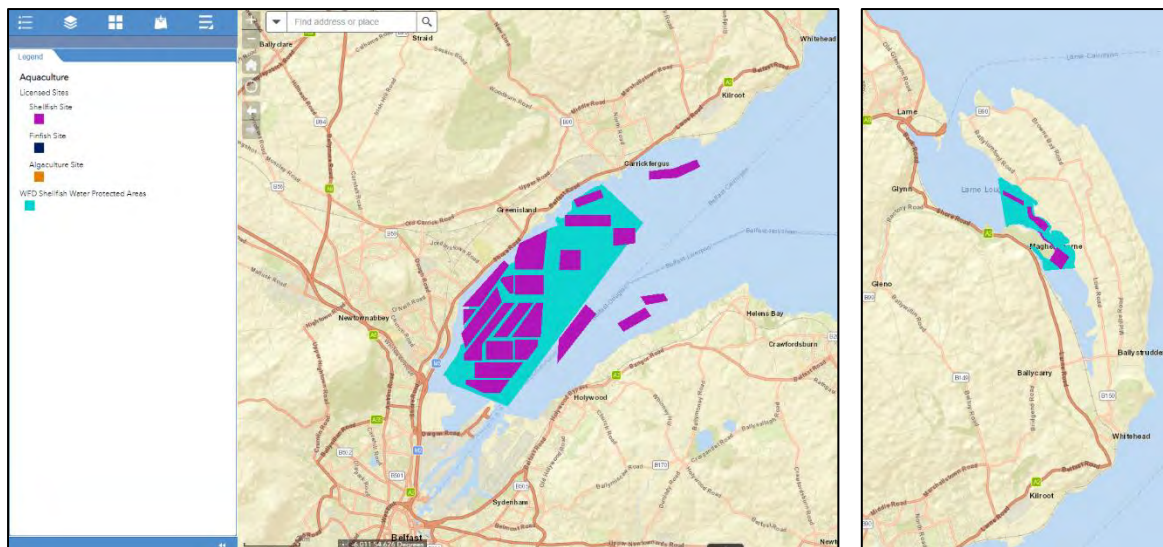
There are three river catchments that are drinking water protected areas for surface water. These are used for the abstraction of drinking water and supplying Water Treatment Works (WTW) in the Borough:

- NE RBD - Dungannon WTW Catchments
- NE RBD - Dorisland WTW Catchments
- NB RBD - Killylane WTW Catchments

All groundwater bodies in Mid and East Antrim are also on the Register of Protected Areas.

Economically Significant Aquatic Species - Shellfish

There are two Shellfish Water Protected Areas adjacent to the Council boundary, one in Larne Lough and one in Belfast Lough. These are shown in Figure 5.11.4. There are 21 sites in Belfast Lough licensed for aquaculture, all which are for the harvesting of mussels. All but four of these sites are located within the Shellfish water. Four sites in the Shellfish water of Larne Lough are licensed for the cultivation of mussels, native oysters or pacific oysters.

Figure 5.11.4: Aquaculture & Shellfish

Source: DAERA Northern Ireland Marine Mapviewer <https://apps.diera-ni.gov.uk/marinemapviewer/>

Shellfish Water Protected Areas have a guideline microbiological standard for shellfish flesh which is set in the Water Framework Directive (Priority Substances and Classification) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. This guideline standard requires that 75% of samples contain ≤ 230 E. coli per 100ml of shellfish flesh and intervalvular liquid. Monitoring for the microbiological shellfish classification is carried out by the Food Standards Agency in NI. The Belfast Lough Shellfish Water has not achieved compliance with Guideline E. Coli Standard in flesh in any of the years from 2008-2018¹ and shellfish cultivated must therefore be treated to remove contamination before consumption. The Larne Lough Shellfish Water achieved compliance in 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2013 however since 2014 it has not achieved compliance².

A Pollution Reduction Programme³ for Belfast Lough was published in 2015. It identifies over forty potential point pollution sources around inner Belfast Lough. These include combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharge points, Waste water Treatment Works (WwTW) discharges and waste water pumping stations.

All the WwTWs discharging to Belfast Lough have been upgraded in the past 10 years to provide either secondary treatment and in some cases Nitrogen removal. No other improvements or upgrades have been identified for any of the WwTWs discharging to Belfast Lough in NI Water's PC15 funding programme which runs to 2021, however monitoring of all combined sewage overflows within 2km of Shellfish Water Protected Areas is to be introduced by NI Water by 2021.

A Pollution Reduction Programme⁴ for Larne Lough was also published in 2015. The programme identifies the urban areas around the Lough as the main potential source of microbiological contamination. It also identifies four potential point pollution sources around inner Larne Lough. These include Waste water Treatment Works (WwTW) discharges and waste water pumping stations. The Ballystrudder and Ballycarry WwTWs were upgraded in 2012 and their effluent

¹ DAERA Northern Ireland environmental statistics report 2019 (Date published: 30 May 2019)

² DAERA Northern Ireland environmental statistics report 2019 (Date published: 30 May 2019)

³ DAERA Pollution Reduction Programmes 2015 <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/pollution-reduction-programmes-2015>

⁴ DAERA Pollution Reduction Programmes 2015 <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/pollution-reduction-programmes-2015>

discharges are now pumped to a new outfall at Cloughfin (outside the Lough). Only storm water from these works is discharged to the Lough.

Higher annual rainfall with more intense episodes may increase loads of diffuse pollutants from both urban and rural areas to the sea and increase the risk of the failure of microbiological standards in both shellfish and bathing waters. These weather patterns are likely to occur more frequently in the future, due to the effects of climate change (see section 5.10).

Economically Significant Aquatic Species - Freshwater Fish

Mid and East Antrim has approximately 320km of rivers on the protected areas register for freshwater fish. These include the Braid and Maine River systems, the Glynn and Larne Rivers and the Glenarm, Glencloy and Carnlough Rivers. There are also two lakes in Mid and East Antrim on the protected areas register (Lough Beg and Lough Mourne). Only 6 out of the 19 (32%) river waterbodies in the NE RBD that are monitored for fish population or habitat achieved 'good' or 'high' status for this element over the first WFD planning cycle. In the NB RBD the figure was 13 out of 37 (35%). Failures in fish ecology can indicate a wide range of pressures, such as from physical modifications or abstraction and flow regulation.

Nutrient Sensitive Areas

A total territory approach has been adopted in NI for the Nitrates Directives. There are four Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive sensitive areas in Mid and East Antrim:

- NE RBD - Catchment area of Lough Neagh, Catchment area of Lower Bann; and
- NB RBD - Catchment area of Inner Belfast Lough, Inner Belfast Lough.

There has been a trend toward significant reductions in mean nitrate concentrations in groundwater. Long-term trends show that average nitrate concentrations in rivers in NI are predominantly decreasing or stable over the 20-year period, 1992-2012, which may be attributed to the measures implemented through the Nitrates Action Programme so that levels are well within EU standards.

Bathing Waters

Mid and East Antrim currently has three beaches designated under the Bathing Water Quality Directive¹. Designated beaches are monitored through the bathing season and a bathing water profile is published annually to allow the public to make an informed choice before bathing. DAERA maintains an interactive NI Beach Water Quality Map which reports on beach water quality and from which the bathing water profile for each beach can be accessed². Each Profile gives detailed information on the physical characteristics of each bathing water and describes their pollution risk.

Threats to bathing water quality for bathing waters are broadly divided into three categories waste water (sewage) treatment works discharges, waste water systems in urban areas and rural source pollution, including agriculture. Other threats include dogs, horses, litter and fly tipping. The bathing water results from the 2015, 2016 and 2017 seasons are summarised below in Table 5.11.2.

¹ DAERA 'About bathing water quality' <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/bathing-water-quality>

² DAERA NI Northern Ireland Beach Bathing Water Quality Map (found at <http://arcg.is/1aggrC>)

Table 5.11.3: Bathing Water Quality Overall Classifications 2015 - 2018

	2018	2017	2016	2015
Ballygalley	Good	Good	Good	Good
Brown's Bay	Good	Good	Excellent	Good
Carnlough	Good	Sufficient	Good	Sufficient

Source: DAERA Bathing Water Profiles, May 2019

Flood Risk

The implementation of the EU “Floods Directive” (2007/060/EC) has resulted in strategic flood risk assessment and mapping being carried out for all of NI and the publication of detailed Flood Hazard and Risk Maps¹ for the areas determined to be at potential significant flood risk. These maps are continuously updated and are accessible from the DfI website by searching for “Flood Maps NI”.

Two settlements in Mid and East Antrim were identified as SFRA for the first cycle FRMPs 2015-2021. They are Ballymena (in the NB RBD) and Carrickfergus (in the NE RBD). Four settlements were identified as having a moderate risk of flooding and were classified as Areas for Further Study. These are: Ahoghill and Gracehill in the NB RBD and Larne and Ballygalley in the NE RBD. Ballyclare, Glenavy and Randalstown in the NB RBD and Whitehouse in the NE RBD.

Flood risk is further discussed in Position Paper 8, ‘Public Utilities Infrastructure’.

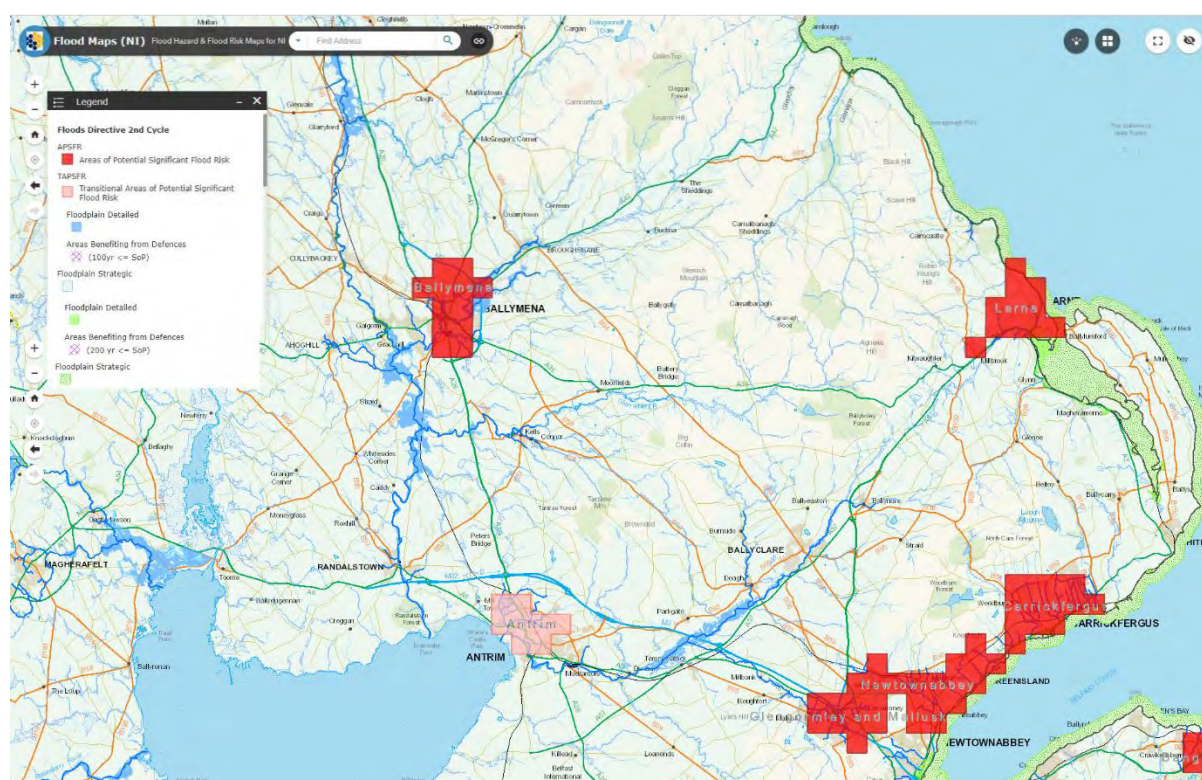
The Floods Directive aims to manage flood risk by:

- **Prevention:** avoiding construction of houses and industries in flood-prone areas; by adapting future developments to the risk of flooding; and by promoting appropriate land-use, agricultural and forestry practices.
- **Protection:** taking measures, both structural and non-structural, to reduce the likelihood and impact of floods.
- **Preparedness:** informing the public about flood risk and what to do in the event of a flood. The Ballymoney Road/ Leighinmohr Avenue / Phoenix Fields areas of Ballymena have been identified by DfI Rivers as being suitable for inclusion in a programme of community engagement to deliver flood warning and informing initiatives to help increase Community Resilience against flooding. Broughshane and Ahoghill are also Regional Community Resilience Group Pilot Project Communities.

The multi-layered strategic Flood Hazard and Risk Maps provide information on flood defences, historical flood events and predicted extreme flood events for river and coastal flooding as well as the potential for surface water flooding. Additional information is available in Flood Maps NI showing the indicative areas within the 1 per cent AEP² floodplain (0.5 percent for coastal), taking account of the impacts of climate change.

¹ Flood Maps (NI) is accessible through the DfI Mapping Portal <http://dfi-ni.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>

² AEP Annual Exceedance Probability – the 1% AEP floodplain outline for rivers has a 1 per cent or greater chance of flooding in any given year (also referred to as a 100 year flood event).

Figure 5.11.5: Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk (2nd FRMP Cycle)

Source Department for Infrastructure (Rivers) - Flood Maps (NI) (accessed 04/09/2019)

The second cycle of FRMPs will commence in 2021 and the Northern Ireland Flood Risk Assessment (NIFRA) 2018¹ has identified 12 Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk (APSFR) and a further nine 'Transitional Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk' (TAPSFR) in NI. In the 2nd Cycle FRMP, it is proposed that Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne will be identified as APSFR. No areas of the Borough have been identified as a TAPSFR. Ahoghill is identified as a flood risk area but is considered in the NIFRA 2018 to be beneath the threshold under which a flood risk area should be identified as 'significant' in the context of NI.

The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2012)² has noted that, based upon projected sea level rise, the frequency of coastal flooding events is expected to increase significantly. At Bangor, for example, a tidal level with a current return period of 100 years (1% probability) will have a return period of less than 10 years if mean sea levels increase by 0.35m. This figure is within the range published in the UK Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP18) for the decade beginning 2080, under the RCP4.5 (medium) climate change scenario³.

DfI Rivers has indicated that it is beginning a programme of modelling and updating the coastal flood risk mapping for NI to accommodate UKCP09 climate change sea level rise projections while noting that UKCP18 projections have also been published in November 2018. Further information on coastal erosion and associated issues due to rising sea levels and increased frequency of storm events is included in the Climate Change section of this report.

¹ DfI (Rivers) [Northern Ireland Flood Risk Assessment \(NIFRA\) 2018](#) (Date published: 21 December 2018)

² DEFRA UK 2012 Climate Change Risk Assessment - A climate change risk assessment for Northern Ireland (Figure 9)

³ Met Office (2018) [UKCP18 Marine report November 2018](#)

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

Increasingly, reliance on traditional drainage systems is proving inadequate to address the issue of storm drainage. Alone, such systems may not cope with the demands made by new development, in addition to the more intense and increasingly unpredictable rainfall arising from climate change. The SPPS (para. 6.118) advocates SuDS as the preferred drainage solution for new development, noting that such systems *'have been shown to be more effective than traditional piped drainage in reducing surface water flooding as well as providing other environmental, economic and social benefits'*.

While planning policy encourages SuDS, it does not currently make it a requirement for new development and to date SuDS have rarely been used in NI¹, although SuDS principles are included in the design of new road schemes. In January 2019 the Welsh Government made the inclusion of SuDS mandatory in new development. It has published information indicating that the capital costs of SuDS solutions on new developments are lower than the capital costs of comparable traditional piped drainage solutions. It also states that evidence shows that operational and maintenance costs also tend to be lower for SuDS².

In consultation carried out for this Scoping Report, the NIEA has indicated that, in the design of SuDS, surface water should be dealt with as close as possible to where it falls as rain (source control). The use of two or more SuDS components can be used for the optimal solution for:

- Managing rainfall to mimic natural drainage by:
 - reducing runoff rates;
 - reducing additional runoff volumes and frequencies; and
 - encouraging natural groundwater recharge.
- Minimising impacts on quantity and quality of runoff by:
 - reducing pollution and protecting the quality of receiving waters;
 - preventing direct discharge of spillage; and
 - reducing the volume of surface waste runoff to sewers.
- Maximising amenity and biodiversity opportunity by:
 - contributing to the amenity and aesthetic value of the development; and
 - providing habitat for wildlife and biodiversity

Examples of localised source control measures include green roofs, permeable paving and soakaways, while larger passive treatment areas such as ponds and wetlands can be incorporated into wider green-blue infrastructure (see Section 5.8).

Water Supply

Information on water supply, quantity and quality is not reported at Council level and must be extracted from regional data sets or trends described at a NI level. Some of this has been presented in the 'Public Utilities' Position Paper.

¹ NI Assembly Research and Information Service Paper 31st May 2016 (found at <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/globalassets/documents/raise/publications/2016-2021/2016/infrastructure/3816.pdf>)

² Welsh Government Written Statement - Implementing sustainable drainage systems on new developments (found at <https://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2017/sustainable-drainage/?lang=en>) Last updated 16 November 2017

The provision of water supply in Northern Ireland is the responsibility of NI Water. There are six water supply zones wholly or partially within Mid and East Antrim¹:

- ZN0302 Dungonnell Glarryford
- ZN0303 Dunore Point Ballymena
- ZN0401 Dunore Point Antrim
- ZN0402 Killylane Ballynure
- ZS0109 Dorisland Whiteabbey
- ZS0201 Dorisland Carrick

Source : NI Water Annual Report on Water Quality. Appendix 3 Mid and East Antrim District Council (2018)

Two Water Treatment Works (WTW) are located within Mid and East Antrim; Dorisland (Carrickfergus) and Killylane (Larne).

Significant investment in water treatment works, service reservoirs and mains distribution has resulted in improvements in compliance across NI with the drinking water standards, from 99.22% in 2004 to 99.90% in 2018². The most recent Drinking Water Annual Quality Report (2018) lists 27 Capital Works Programmes affecting Mid and East Antrim. These include pipe replacement programmes, water mains improvement and rehabilitation and works to improve resilience to pressures on supply, such as drought and freeze-thaw events.

NI Water and its partners / stakeholders the RSPB and the NIEA have developed a SCaMP (Sustainable Catchment Management Planning) NI strategy to improve the quality and reliability of the water received at NI Water's raw water abstraction points. In addition to improving water quality, SCaMP also focuses on protecting and enhancing the natural environment. NI Water and its partners / stakeholders the RSPB and the NIEA have developed a SCAMP (Sustainable Catchment Management Planning) NI strategy to improve the quality and reliability of the water received at NI Water's raw water abstraction points. In addition to improving water quality, SCAMP also focuses on protecting and enhancing the natural environment. One such SCAMP project is underway on the Garron Plateau and is further discussed in section 5.12.2. This catchment management approach, adopted previously by water companies in England, has proven to be more sustainable and more cost effective than dealing with water quality issues at the treatment works.

This catchment management approach, adopted previously by water companies in England, has proven to be more sustainable and more cost effective than dealing with water quality issues at the treatment works.

Reservoirs

There are 22 impoundments and reservoirs in Mid and East Antrim which are "controlled reservoirs" (i.e. an impoundment $\geq 10,000$ cubic metres). These are detailed in Part C of Appendix I of the draft Plan Strategy. Many of these reservoirs are in, or close to, rural settlements. Flood risk mapping of controlled reservoirs for emergency planning has been carried out by DfI (Rivers)³.

Wastewater Treatment

The provision of wastewater treatment works (WwTWs) in the Plan Area is also the responsibility of NI Water. NI Water has provided the Council with information on the current capacity of WwTWs serving the district as well as an estimate of future capacity based on applying a settlement growth factor of 10%, 20% and 25%. It is recognised that there are both WwTW capacity and pipe capacity constraints in some of our settlements.

¹ NI Water – Drinking Water Quality Report 2018 (found at <https://www.niwater.com/drinking-water/>)

² <https://www.niwater.com/drinking-water/> (accessed 15 May 2018)

³ Reservoir Flood Mapping for Emergency Planning on DfI Mapping Portal <http://dfi-ni.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>

New development relying on non-mains sewerage may, individually or cumulatively, increase the risk of pollution. It is therefore important to protect water resources from the actual or potential polluting effects of onsite treatment plants. As such, the Council's preferred option for non-mains sewerage is a package Sewage Treatment Plant, as this is considered to be a more effective system in treating sewage and thus reducing the risk of pollution. However, package plants would need to comply with NI Water standards and provide treatment to the required standards for a NIEA discharge consent as demonstrated by 12 months of monitoring data. NI Water has indicated in correspondence received as part of the Scoping Report update in 2019 that there are also issues with the potential effects of this policy with regard to its sustainability and impact upon NI Water's already constrained funding model, i.e. the potential addition of further small wastewater assets for management by NI Water.

Consideration will need to be given to the compatibility of new development in proximity to WwTW facilities. NI Water shall advise through planning consultation - both site assessments for the next phase of LDP and through day-to-day planning applications/Pre-Development Enquiries (PDEs) - whether a proposal lies within an Odour Consultation Zone. The purpose of this zone is to trigger a proportionate assessment of odour nuisance risk and may or may not involve dispersion modelling. NI Water will object to development proposals within Odour Consultation Zones unless an appropriate evidence based odour assessment determines low risk at critical receptors.

The Council will continue to work closely with NI Water in its LDP production as the location and capacity of planned and existing waste water treatment works may have an influence on the distribution of proposed development in towns and villages. NI Water operates a six year business plan called a Price Control. The current Price Control, known as PC15, spans the period 2015/16 to 2020/21. NI Water's business planning activities for the next Price Control, PC21 (2021/22 to 2026/27) will start during 2018/19.

The Living with Water Programme is a programme to develop a strategic drainage infrastructure plan that will manage the flooding risk in Belfast, address the risk of infraction proceedings under the Water Framework and Urban Waste Water Treatment Directives in respect of Belfast Lough, and support economic growth. Some parts of the Borough may fall under this programme.

5.11.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without the LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. The Area Plans were, however, prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. They were not informed by the pressures on our environment that exist today.

In the absence of a new plan there will be less certainty about the need for supply or treatment of water, therefore infrastructure may not be developed in the most efficient manner. There is a risk that cumulative effects from development will counteract the goals of plans such as the 2015 River Basin Management Plans and the draft Marine Plan, to achieve good ecological status and good environmental status. While planning policies address issues such as flood risk, the opportunity to take a more strategic approach would be missed. There is a risk that taking decisions in the absence of an up to date plan could result in development that does not make the most sustainable use of infrastructure or which subsequently requires further measures to address knock on effects.

The plan will enable space for surface water management to be identified when zoning land. LDP policy could require, either generally or for specific zonings, that measures to minimise surface water runoff at source are considered early in the design stage of any new development.

5.11.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Water

- Availability of water supply is not considered to be a likely constraint to development during the LDP period, however measures to make more efficient use of water should be promoted.
- It is predicted that the risk and extent of flooding, particularly coastal flooding, will be increased by climate change.
- Constructed flood alleviation and defence measures are expensive and should be avoided.
- Development should be planned to avoid areas at significant risk from flooding, now or in the future, or where development may increase the flood risk elsewhere.
- There are benefits in retaining and restoring natural flood plains and watercourses as a form of flood alleviation - this can support objectives of the Water Framework Directive.
- LDP proposals should be compatible with the Flood Risk Management Plans.
- There are considered to be risks in potential inundation zones below reservoirs. Requirements relating to impounded water have not yet been fully implemented in legislation.
- Development may lead to contaminated runoff which may cause pollution.
- Development may change the rate of surface water runoff or alter the capacity of a receiving watercourse which in turn has the potential to increase flood risk.
- Sustainable drainage (SuDS) measures should be incorporated and maintained in new development and redevelopment or regeneration schemes.
- There are both WWTW capacity and pipe capacity constraints in some of our settlements.
- Developments without access to mains sewers can incorporate sewage treatment on site. However, it is important that there is capacity for safe disposal of treated discharges and for maintenance of the treatment system to ensure that it remains effective in the long term.
- Other wastes may also cause water pollution at the point where they are used or disposed of, e.g. wastes from livestock production, food processing or primary treatment such as sewage or anaerobic digesters.
- River water quality in the Borough is slightly better than the NI average, however almost half of river waterbodies in the Council area did not meet 'good' water quality status in 2015.
- The Shellfish waters in Belfast Lough and Larne Lough are not meeting Water Framework Directive microbiological targets.
- Marine water quality at Belfast Lough and Larne Lough Coast is not meeting 'good' standard.
- Bathing water quality is good or excellent at two out of three of the Council's bathing beaches but Carnlough's bathing water rated only 'sufficient' in 2017 and 2015.

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5.12 Natural Resources

5.12.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Natural resources covers biodiversity, fauna, flora, green/blue infrastructure (G/BI) and ecosystem services (ES). It includes intertidal and coastal zones as well as the wider marine area. Natural resources are protected in our regional policy which aims to conserve, protect and enhance our natural environment using a spatial approach. It also aims to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate mitigation and adaptation to climate change whilst improving air quality.

The Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009 and the Marine Act (NI) 2013 require planning authorities to consider the UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS) and the NI Marine Plan when preparing their Local Development Plans (LDPs). The Marine Plan for NI will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of our marine area through a strategic framework with spatial elements. It will consist of a series of policy statements covering cross-cutting marine planning issues that apply to all decision making in the marine area and to relevant sectors. It will not bring forward new policies governed by other departments but will align with and contribute to the policy objectives for key marine activities as set out in the UK MPS and will support and complement existing plans and policies. A draft Marine Plan for NI was consulted on during 2018.

One of the aims of the draft Programme for Government (dPFG) is for a society to live and work sustainably - whilst protecting the environment. Indicators to monitor success include increasing environmental sustainability, improving the country's attractiveness as a destination and improving air quality. Between the dPFG and Northern Ireland's Sustainable Development Strategy, the benefits of protecting the natural environment for goods and services, and an improved quality of life, are clear.

Regional strategies and policy highlight the diversity of Northern Ireland's natural environment. They provide protection of designated sites, species, habitats and other natural features as assets and directly link these to economic, social and environmental benefits. Planning Policy Statement 2: Natural Heritage sets out policy for protection of the natural environment from internationally important sites to local nature conservation sites and areas with priority habitats and species¹. Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) can also help to conserve local biodiversity as well as involve people and communities in biodiversity projects. The Council has a LBAP called 'A Wealth of Wildlife', which coordinates conservation action across the Borough.

One mechanism to help achieve future protection of our natural resources is the Local Development Plan (LDP). The Plan can help to protect the natural heritage resource of the borough and promote ecological networks by integrating parks, street trees, canals, lakes and other green/blue infrastructure (G/BI), to help connect open/green space and natural features/habitats together. Together these measures can deliver regional policy and should help to protect the natural environment and ecosystem services, as well as support climate change adaptation.

In the Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2023, there are five strategic themes to help ensure that the Council delivers for the people who live, work and invest in the Borough. One of these themes 'Our Environment' has four objectives. These include to 'deliver high quality places where people want to live, work and invest...'; *'improve and sustainably manage our environment, protecting it for future*

¹ Department of the Environment (2013): Planning Policy Statement 2: Natural Heritage

generations’; and to ‘encourage people to value our natural environment and built heritage, by enhancing responsible access to it and promoting the benefits it offers for our health and wellbeing’.

‘Our Environment’ is also a main theme of the Community Plan and includes the outcomes: *‘the natural environment and built heritage of our Borough is protected and sustainably managed’; ‘people enjoy easy access to our Borough’s natural environment and built heritage’; and ‘people value our Borough’s natural environment and built heritage and behave responsibly towards it’.* The importance of the natural environment and the positive impact it can have on people’s health and wellbeing is evident.

The Council itself also has a statutory duty under The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011 to ‘further the conservation of biodiversity in exercising any functions’. Sustainable management and protection of the natural environment will be fundamental to biodiversity conservation and achieving the outcomes of both the Corporate and Community Plans.

5.12.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented for natural resources in the LDP Position Papers and specifically the Environmental Assets paper. This topic also overlaps with the Health and Wellbeing, Housing, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport and Accessibility, Air Quality, Climate Change, Water, Landscape and Historic Environment sections of this report.

Nature Conservation Sites

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council covers an area of 104, 511kilometres with a significant section of coastline stretching for 100km¹. There is a rich, natural heritage of habitats, species, ecosystems, natural processes and earth science sites². These are protected by a significant number of International, European, regional and local level nature conservation designations. Together these sites create an ecological network of G/BI across the Borough and help to define the most important areas for nature conservation. At the same time, they can also provide for amenity interests.

The Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) covers an extensive area of land within the Borough including most of the coastline. It is shared with the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. More information is in the Landscape section of this report. There are a significant number of designated nature conservation sites shown below in Figure 5.12.1. A section of Lough Beg is located within the Borough and all of Larne Lough whilst Belfast Lough lies adjacent to the Borough’s southern coastline. All of the loughs are Important Bird Areas (IBAs), Ramsars and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) - highlighting their importance for wetland birds and habitats. All of the loughs are also Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) with habitats and species of regional conservation importance. There is a proposed East Coast Marine SPA along most of the Borough’s coastline; from Belfast Lough in the south, to Straidkilly Point in the north. This is in addition to the North Channel Special Area of Conservation and the Maidens SAC, both located in the same coastal waters. The Outer Belfast Lough Inshore Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) is also located near to the Council. The Borough Council must consider its location in relation to the coastal and marine designations.

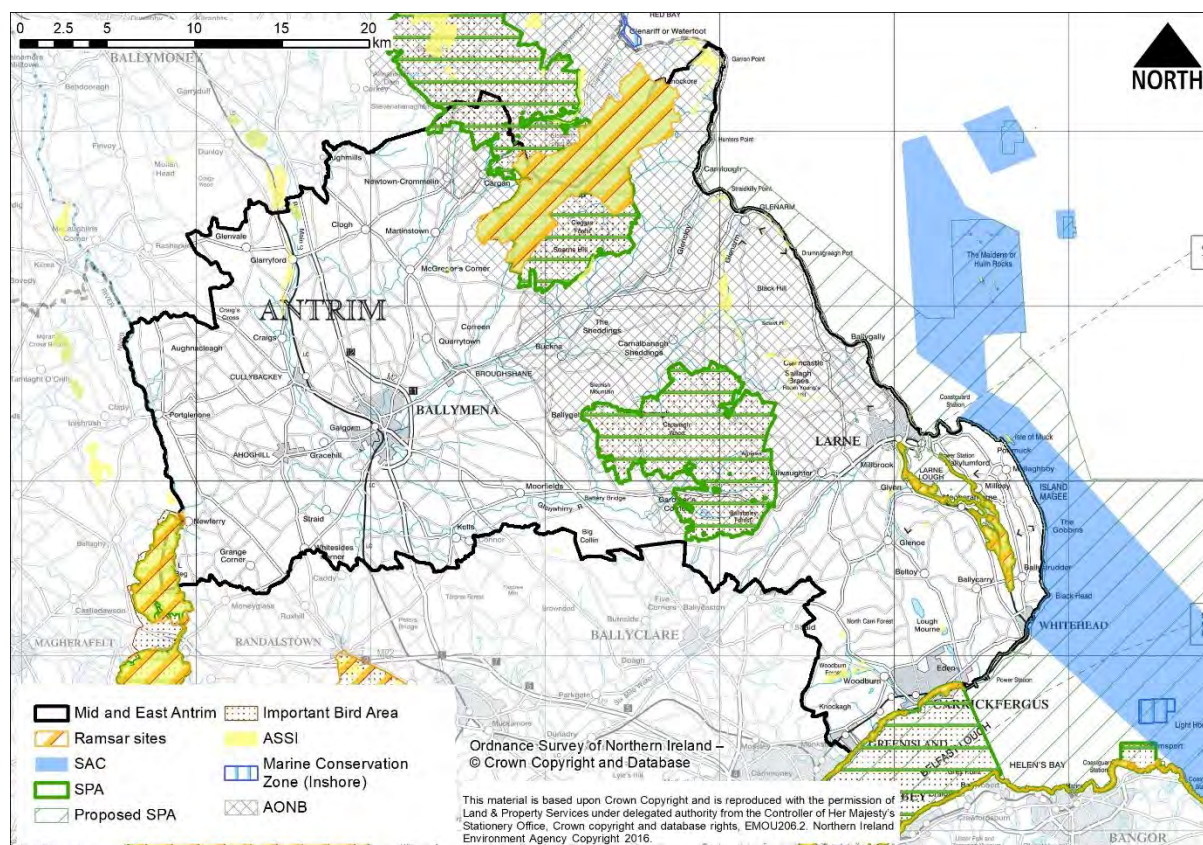
There are also terrestrial IBAs, Rs, SPAs, SACs and ASSIs with several located in the uplands of the Antrim Hills. The Garron Plateau is an important area of intact blanket bog and a designated R, SAC and ASSI. Other ASSIs are located across the Council area including Frosses Bog on the River Main,

¹ Mid & East Antrim Borough Council’s LDP Environmental Assets Position Paper 2015

² Ibid.

Glenarm Woods, and around Sallagh Braes helping to conserve priority habitats. There are several ASSIs identified for their bryophyte assemblages also located in the south of the Borough. It is particularly important that all types of development are carefully considered against the need to protect the integrity of these sites.

Figure 5.12.1: Nature Conservation Designations of International, National and Regional Importance



Source: DAERA Digital Datasets

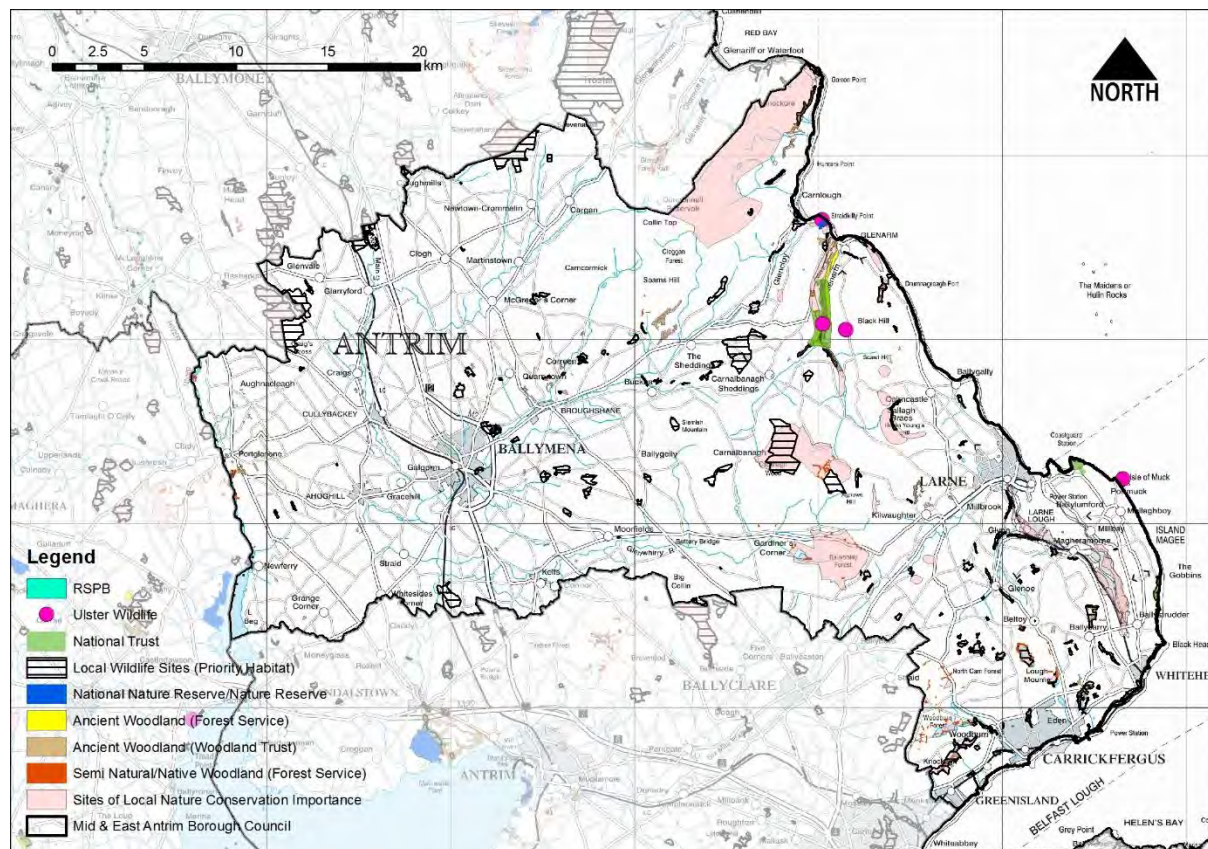
The relationship between the designations of International and European importance and the LDP are described in more detail in the Habitats Regulations Assessment Report, which has been published alongside the LDP draft Plan Strategy.

Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs) are located in the east of the Borough with relatively large SLNCIs located at Garron and in the Antrim Hills as well as at Sallagh Braes and in and around Larne Lough. There are several SLNCIs within the hinterlands of Greenisland, Carrickfergus and Whitehead but an absence across the rest of the Borough where there are likely to be equivalent sites. In total, there are 71 SLNCIs¹ in Mid and East Antrim, including one offshore site at Muck Island and one below the high water mark at Browns Bay. In addition to these locally important sites, there are several areas including nature reserves managed by either Ulster Wildlife, the National Trust (NT), or the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). All these sites protect priority habitat and species with some, such as the RSPB islands, supporting nationally important breeding populations of tern species. Tracts of semi natural and native woodland are evident in the

¹ Source: DOE GIS data Provided to Councils in 2014 by DAERA as part of the Review of Public Administration. 48 sites are located in the area covered by the Larne Area Plan, identified within it as 'Nature Conservation Sites' and 23 sites are in the draft BMAP area.

Antrim Hills, Glenarm and around the Woodburn area. Ancient woodland records are also evident in the Borough particularly north of Broughshane and around Ballycarry. Ancient woodland is a unique habitat with a rich biodiversity formed over hundreds of years. It covers only 2% of land in the UK¹ and is a priority habitat. Many of the local level designations overlap and several sites are located adjacent to other designations but there are many isolated areas of priority habitat. Although widely dispersed across the Borough, all of these local level sites are important in conserving local biodiversity levels. Local level nature conservation sites including nature reserves and ancient woodland records are shown in Figure 5.12.2.

Figure 5.12.2: Local Level Nature Conservation Sites and Ancient/Native Woodland



Source: DAERA Digital Datasets, Forest Service, Woodland Trust, Ulster Wildlife, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, National Trust

Biodiversity

A Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)² has been published by the Borough Council. It focuses on the following habitats: coast, grasslands, trees and woods; rivers, lakes and reservoirs; lowland raised bogs, uplands and blanket bogs, and urban and industrial areas. Our Borough benefits from a 'rich natural heritage' and supports a variety of bird, plant, animal and marine life. There are substantial waterways including the Rivers Maine and Braid, with smaller waterways running from these. Several fish species found in the rivers are of conservation concern, making the sustainable management of the waterways even more important.

¹ Woodland Trust – Ancient Woodland (found at <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/about-us/ancient-woodland-restoration/ancient-woodland/what-is-ancient-woodland/>)

² Mid & East Antrim Borough Council: A Wealth of Wildlife Local Biodiversity Action Plan

The LBAP has identified the main threats to local biodiversity as:

- degradation of habitats from development – industry, housing, infrastructure, peat extraction, agriculture
- the spread of non-native species
- over exploitation of plant and animal species
- pollution from farming, roads, industry, nuisance pollution and
- climate change.

In the State of Nature Report 2019¹, it was indicated that NI's biodiversity is declining and 11% of species on the whole island of Ireland are at threat of extinction. Climate change is referred to as one of the main drivers of change in NI but in addition to the threats referred to in the LBAP, woodland management and freshwater management is also listed². Although agricultural management is one of the threats to biodiversity, it is also seen as one of the biggest opportunities to have a positive impact on nature.

The LBAP also refers to the benefits derived from biodiversity - 'ecosystem services'. Further information on ecosystem services is below.

The LBAP commits to three objectives to:

- help conserve habitats and species
- raise awareness of local biodiversity, and
- involve people in biodiversity projects and develop partnerships.

The State of Nature 2019 also reported growing support for nature conservation in the UK with an increase of 46% in volunteer hours since 2000.

These aims should help the Council deliver its legal obligations to help conserve biodiversity within its functions³. LBAPs are an appropriate measure to help achieve the biodiversity duty and they can provide an opportunity for locally important biodiversity sites to be conserved. In addition, the SPPS encourages biodiversity to be considered as a feature of plans and designs⁴.

Green/blue infrastructure

In the SPPS, LDPs are referred to as a means to plan for and integrate the natural environment into neighbourhoods. It encourages biodiversity to be considered as a feature of plans and designs⁵. All green and blue features can be considered G/BI including ponds, gardens, allotments, rivers, parks and Sustainable Drainage Systems. G/BI can be used to connect habitats together across landscapes. When planned for and integrated, G/BI can help maintain and enhance local biodiversity by conserving or adding to existing wildlife corridors or creating new ecological links. G/BI can bring value to local biodiversity as well as people's health and quality of life, including mitigating and adapting to climate change⁶. For example, G/BI may be a floodplain or a carbon/water store and its conservation and enhancement within planning should help to strengthen natural resilience. In addition, G/BI is often multifunctional land with possibilities for incorporation of active travel routes.

¹ [State of Nature Report A Summary for Northern Ireland 2019](#)

² [State of Nature Infographic](#)

³ The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (WANE) 2011

⁴ DoE (September 2015): Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) Planning for Sustainable Development

⁵ DoE (September 2015): Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) Planning for Sustainable Development

⁶ Mid and East Antrim Open Space & Recreation Position Paper July 2015

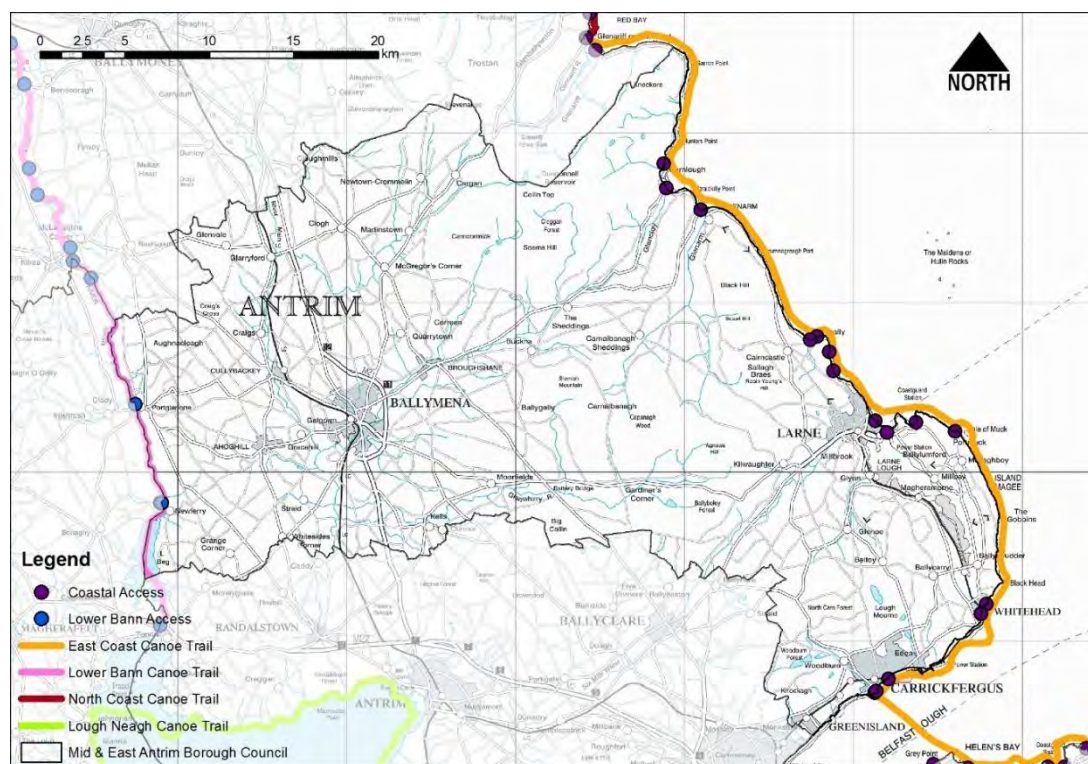
Open Space

Open space, can include 'less formal passive complementary areas' such as woodlands and parks, allotments, amenity green spaces, green corridors and historic parks, gardens and demesnes¹. Open space is any open space of public value including land that provides recreational opportunities and/or visual amenity. The SPPS refers to the importance of providing easy access for all people to open space so that people can take part in outdoor sport or recreation, or just to be outside in nature. The value of open space can be enhanced by linking to other areas and by integrating an effective 'green network'². The movement of species is facilitated by planning to connect open spaces together. This should also make the local environment more resilient to flooding, erosion and threats to local biodiversity. When open space is G/BI, it can provide multiple uses and facilitate the movement of people and provide convenient access to the natural environment. In the Community Plan, the environment is one of five themes under which there is an outcome to provide people with easy access to the borough's natural environment. More information is in the Transport and Accessibility, and Climate Change sections of this report.

Canoe NI

The Council is located between Lough Beg and the Antrim coast where Larne Lough and Belfast Lough are located. Canoe NI is part of Outdoor Recreation NI and helps to ensure safe access to NI's canoe trails. Numerous trails are located around the full length of the coast and the main loughs but from within our Council, the Lower Bann and the East Coast canoe trails can both be accessed. From these a Lough Neagh or North Coast trail can both be accessed. These and access points are shown in Figure 5.12.3.

Figure 5.12.3: Accessible Canoe Trails from Mid and East Antrim Borough Council



Source: Canoe NI

¹ Mid and East Antrim Open Space & Recreation Position Paper July 2015

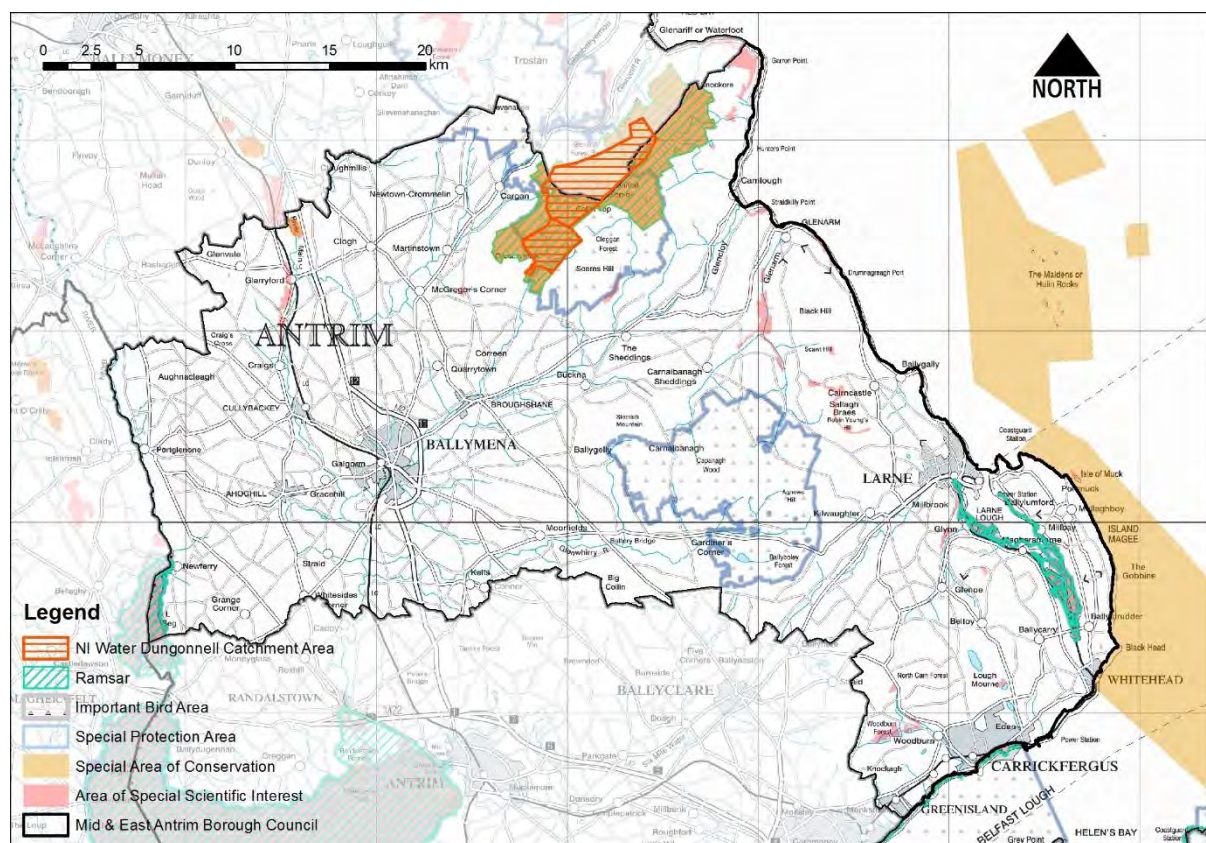
² Ibid.

Ecosystem Services

In recent years, the natural environment has become increasingly recognised for the range of beneficial services that it provides. The provision of these benefits is referred to in the SPSS as 'ecosystem services' (ES) and defined as 'the processes by which the environment produces resources used by people that are often taken for granted'. These include providing food and materials, regulation for example through water and carbon storage, supporting processes such as the water cycle, and meeting other needs for people such as recreation and enjoyment. The SPSS recommends that ES be adequately considered in plan making, as an integral part of sustainable development.

An example of an ES project located in our Council area is the Garron Plateau Bog Restoration Project¹. This was started in 2013 by NI Water (NIW) to restore an area of intact blanket bog back to favourable condition. The primary aim was to improve the quality of water from the bog to the NIW Dungonnell treatment works. The restoration plan improved water quality at the plant, which reduced treatment costs to NIW but the project also restored the bog, which increased its ability to capture greenhouse gases whilst enhancing local biodiversity levels. Partnership working between NIW, RSPB, NIEA, local farmers and other stakeholders, is helping to conserve Garron Plateau for its ES.

Figure 5.12.4: Garron Plateau Ecosystem Services Project



Source: DAERA Digital Datasets, The RSPB

¹ NI Water - Garron Plateau Bog Restoration Project (found at <https://www.niwater.com/garron-plateau-bog-restoration-project.aspx>)

5.12.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there would likely be an increased risk of inappropriate development with adverse impacts on the Borough's natural heritage resource. Without up to date spatial information, it is likely to become increasingly difficult to protect both designated and locally important nature conservation sites from habitat loss, degradation and pollution. Likewise, it may become increasingly difficult to integrate effective G/BI at the local level and other measures such as ES that can help to combat climate change. With a new plan, a consistent approach to the spatial protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment as a key asset, would be more feasible.

5.12.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Natural Resources

- There are a significant number of terrestrial, coastal and marine conservation sites across the Borough to help protect, conserve and enhance its natural heritage.
- There is a LBAP for the Council area that the LDP can take account of with information on coastal areas, grasslands, woodlands, waterbodies, bogs, and urban and industrial areas.
- The Garron Plateau is a designated Ramsar, SAC and ASSI where partnership working is already providing ecosystem services by protecting and conserving a significant area of intact blanket bog.
- Integrating green/blue infrastructure, including greenways, can benefit people's health and wellbeing by enabling and encouraging people to walk, run or cycle in the outdoors.
- The Marine Plan should be taken into account as plan preparation progresses to ensure that the LDP aligns.

5.13 Landscape

5.13.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Landscape protection in Northern Ireland is evident at the regional level with a key aim in the RDS to protect and enhance the environment for its own sake. The environment in Northern Ireland is seen as one of its greatest assets and regional policy encourages protection of natural heritage assets and landscape character.

The SPSS recognises the importance of the countryside as a significant asset. It aims to avoid inappropriate development and provide a high standard of landscape protection that also reflects regional and local differences. Protection of landscape as a consideration is evident within several subject policies including development in the countryside, minerals, open space, sport and outdoor recreation, renewable energy, telecommunications and other utilities. It also recognises the importance of the coastline in terms of landscape value. Almost half of the Planning Policy Statements, which provide more specific guidance for development, include specific requirements to conserve landscape. DAERA has also published supplementary planning guidance for 'Wind Energy Development in Northern Ireland's Landscapes'. There is also 'Building on Tradition' – A Sustainable Design Guide for the Northern Ireland Countryside. Planning Policy Statement 8 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation refers to a broad range of open spaces of public value that can be considered important aspects of local landscape character and people's well-being – forest parks, amenity green space, green corridors, natural and semi-natural green spaces and allotments.

Much of what is valued in a landscape is a blend of natural features and social and cultural history. It is the viewer's perception that provides an intrinsic value. This can help to define a region and provide a sense of place. All of this is in keeping with the European Landscape Convention (ELC), also known as The Florence Convention. It aims to protect, manage and plan for all landscapes, including everyday or degraded ones. It aims for integration of landscape into planning policy and to help reconnect people with place¹.

In the Executive's draft Programme for Government 2016-2021, strategic outcomes include creating 'a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest' and for people to 'live and work sustainably - whilst protecting the environment'. One of the draft PfG indicators to measure success of its outcomes includes improving the attractiveness of the country as a destination. In turn, this is measured by total spend by external visitors which directly links to tourism. Protecting landscape by conserving it as an asset and supporting measures to maintain and enhance it will be fundamental to sustainably managing landscape as both an environmental and an economic resource. Landscape is increasingly being realised in economic terms as an asset for tourism or as a motivator to encourage people to purchase a home or to invest in a new location.

Through the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order (Northern Ireland) 1985 (NCALO) the finest landscape areas can be designated as either Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or National Parks with management measures required for conservation and recreation. The Borough Council benefits from having the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB indicating the landscape value of the area.

One of the five strategic themes of the Corporate Plan is 'Our Environment'. It includes the objective to *'deliver high quality places where people want to live, work and invest, using the Local Development Plan, regeneration and excellence in leadership'*. An attractive Borough is also a key

¹<https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/policy/13732-2/>

part of delivering one of the other Corporate Plan's strategic themes of 'Sustainable Jobs and Tourism', which includes the objective to *'create a compelling tourism and economic proposition by developing and investing in our unique heritage and assets'*.

The Community Plan recognises that one of the features which sets Mid and East Antrim apart from other Council areas is its natural environment. *'Blessed with a huge variety of natural resources, the area spans the wild and rugged beauty of the Antrim coastline, along with Slemish mountain and many areas of parks and open countryside for everyone to enjoy.'* Preservation and enhancement of the Borough's landscape will contribute to the conservation of the diverse natural environment found within the Council area.

5.13.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information on landscape has been provided in the Environmental Assets Position Paper for the LDP. This topic also overlaps with the Health & Wellbeing, Economy & Employment, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Natural Resources, Climate Change, and the Historic Environment sections of this report.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

AONBs are designated for their landscape value and in the MEA Borough, a significant area of land (706 000 hectares), is designated as the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB. It was designated in 1988 for its geological, cultural, natural and built heritage¹. The AONB is shared with a neighbouring Council and spreads eastward from the centre of the Borough towards the coast. It is dominated by a high undulating plateau rising to over 500m – the Antrim Plateau. There are a series of deep glens running across it towards the sea where gentle bays and blunt headlands are located. The area also has enclosed farmland and exposed moorland as well as the prominent Slemish Mountain. The main aim of the AONB is 'to protect and enhance the landscape quality for the benefit of those who live there and for those visitors who come to enjoy it.'²

To help deliver on this, there is an Antrim Coast and Glens AONB Management Plan 2008-2018 from the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust³. The Management Plan helps to effectively plan for the future care of the AONB and helps to coordinate work with priorities identified for all the different stakeholders involved. The Plan aims to not only conserve and enhance its features but also its culture.

One tier below the AONB designation are Areas of Scenic Quality (ASQ). There are three within the Borough Council. These are the Lower Bann Valley, the Carrickfergus Escarpment, and Islandmagee. All three ASQs are recognised for their regional and local landscape value. The Carrickfergus Escarpment and Islandmagee are also Areas of High Scenic Value (AoHSV). These important areas for landscape value help to protect and enhance the setting of the Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area⁴.

Landscape Character Areas

Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) were designated under the NI Landscape Character Assessment (2000). There are 130 LCAs in Northern Ireland. These LCAs were based on local conditions including landform and use but also geology, and cultural and ecological features⁵.

¹ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/antrim-coast-and-glens-aonb>

² Mid & East Antrim Borough Council's Environmental Assets Position Paper 2015

³ Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust (2008): Antrim Coast & Glens AONB Management Plan 2008-2018

⁴ Mid & East Antrim Borough Council's Environmental Assets Position Paper 2015

⁵ www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/landscape-character-northern-ireland

Eighteen LCAs are located either wholly or partially within the Borough (Figure 5.13.1). The LCAs vary in their ability to absorb development¹. They range in character from the undulating land on the lower slopes of the Tardree and Six Mile Water Slopes LCA; to the basalt headlands and cliffs, with expansive sea views of the Larne Coast LCA². Each LCA has its own report, which identifies pressures on landscape and guidelines for their sustainable management. Since 2000, the type of likely development pressure to be considered on landscape has evolved – for example, renewables.

The LCAs provide important information to guide landscape management and any new development in those areas. It is evident from the principles for landscape management and integration of new development that in some LCAs there could be the risk of further development adversely affecting local character through the loss of hedgerows and stone walls, scattered housing, larger developments, commercial forestry and inappropriately sited development³.

Regional Landscape Character Areas

The Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA) was published in 2016 and divides the country into 26 distinct areas known as Regional Landscape Character Areas (RLCAs). These provide a more strategic approach to landscape than the LCAs and are based upon information to do with people, place, nature, culture and perception. There are six RLCAs located wholly or partially within the Borough Council⁴. These are the Lough Neagh Basin, the Lower Bann Valley, the Maine and Braid River Valleys, the Antrim Plateau and Glens, the South Antrim Hills and Six Mile Water, and the Belfast Lough and Islandmagee. These range in character from the wetlands of Lough Beg, to valley landscapes with rolling farmland and drumlins, to the remote and undeveloped uplands of the Antrim Plateau down to cliff lined shores. The Antrim Plateau and Glens RLCA, and the Maine and Braid River Valleys RLCA, cover a significant proportion of the Borough Council. Descriptions for each include subjects like location, setting, key characteristics, forces/ indicators of change, and ecosystem services (ES)⁵. The inclusion of ES within a landscape related designation is important as it highlights the multiple benefits feasible from an area primarily conserved for its landscape value. More information on ES is in the Natural Resources section of this report.

Although development pressure can be a threat to landscape, the RLCAs have identified ‘forces for change’. In addition to the various types of development like housing and minerals that can pose risks to landscape character, climate change, loss of field boundaries, renewable energy, plant disease, coastal processes, marine development, peat cutting and forestry have also been identified. The Antrim Coast and Glens AONB Management Plan and Action Plan are referred to as possible forces of positive impacts on the AONB landscape⁶.

¹ Mid & East Antrim Borough Council's Environmental Assets Position Paper 2015

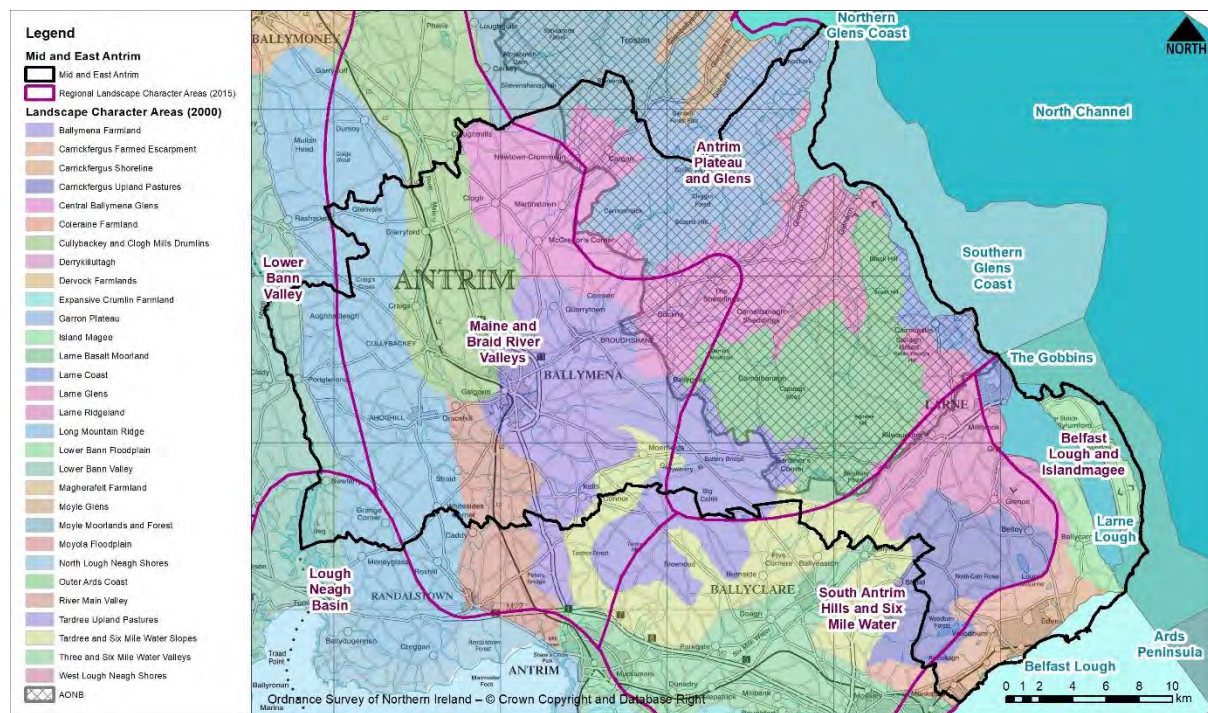
² <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/search/type/publication?query=LCA>

³ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/landscape-character-northern-ireland>

⁴ Mid & East Antrim Borough Council's Environmental Assets Position Paper 2015

⁵ DAERA NIRLCA <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/regional-landscape-character-areas-map-viewer>

⁶ DAERA NIRLCA <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/regional-landscape-character-areas-map-viewer>

Figure 5.13.1: Landscape and Seascape Designations for Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

Source: DAERA Digital Datasets

DAERA envisages that the NIRLCA will provide the context for more detailed local assessments to be brought forward in LDPs. Councils will decide whether to bring forward an up-to-date evidence base through new LCAs, or, to rely on the original LCAs, while taking account of changes brought about by recent developments¹.

Regional Seascape Character Areas

In 2014, the Northern Ireland Regional Seascape Character Assessment was published with 24 Seascape Character Areas (SCAs), to provide a strategic understanding of the different areas along the coast and how these interact with neighbouring terrestrial areas and the people that live there. The Borough Council has an extensive length of coastline at just under 100 kms, with four Seascape Character Areas (SCAs). These are the Southern Glens Coast SCA, the Gobbins SCA, the Larne Lough SCA, and the Belfast Lough SCA. These distinctive areas encompass cliffs, islands, scenic coastlines, beaches and inshore waters along with prominent industrial buildings and historic settlements.

Local Landscape Policy Areas

Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) protect landscape features within or near to settlements that are important for their local significance, amenity value or landscape quality. LLPAs can also include features important for their historical or cultural value, as well as the setting, which helps to protect the feature from visual intrusion. There were 16 LLPAs in the legacy Carrickfergus Borough Council but none were identified in the legacy Ballymena or Larne Area Plans.

Development Pressure

The Borough Council has a substantial area of rural land and during the last decade, development pressure from the spatial distribution of single rural dwellings and from wind energy projects

¹ Mid & East Antrim Borough Council's Environmental Assets Position Paper 2015

including single turbines and windfarms¹. Applications for single rural dwellings declined by more than 50% between 2004/05 and 2014/15 but the rate of approvals remained relatively stable at 98% and 96% respectively. There has been higher development pressure within the legacy Ballymena Council rural area and two specific areas of higher pressure within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.

Similar to single housing applications, planning proposals for single turbines within the Borough significantly increased between 2002/03 and 2012/13, with 1 application and 44 applications respectively. Approval rates remained high with a 100% approval rate in 2002/03 and 93% in 2012/13. In 2014/15, the number of single turbine applications was still as high (44) but the approval rate had dropped to 68%².

Wind farm applications were less evident but in 2014, five applications were submitted and only two approved. However, prior to 2014/15, there had been a 100% approval rate for a total of five windfarm applications. Higher development pressure for wind energy is evident in the western, northern and north-eastern areas of the legacy Ballymena Council. Some other areas are evident near Larne, Carrickfergus, between Ballymena and Kells, and within the AONB. It is important that appropriate development can be delivered whilst rural communities remain supported and the natural environment protected for its natural heritage and/or landscape value. More information is in the Housing, Material Assets and Climate Change sections of this report.

5.13.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there could be an increased risk of losing or degrading landscape character due to over development and inappropriate siting and design of structures. It could become increasingly difficult to spatially manage new development in the context of current landscape character that may have already been adversely affected by new technologies and recent developments. Likewise, there could be a higher risk of negative impacts on landscape in areas particularly sensitive to change because of the evolving type and amount of development pressure. It is also likely that local level opportunities to enhance landscape would be missed.

5.13.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Landscape

- There is a wide variety of landscape designations across the Borough Council including one AONB, three ASQ, two AoHSV, 18 LCAs, six RLCAs, and four Seascape Character Areas; as well as 16 LLPAs.
- There is an opportunity to designate local areas of landscape quality across the entire Borough.
- There is a need to consider a variety of measures for different development pressures within the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB and in other landscape designations that are particularly sensitive to landscape change.
- The Antrim Coast & Glens AONB is located across two Council areas and a co-ordinated approach between Councils and various stakeholders will help deliver its Management Plan and Action Plan.
- It is important to protect, conserve and enhance landscape character even when areas may have been degraded.
- The protection of wildlife corridors, field boundaries, natural and built features, as well as green/blue infrastructure should help to conserve landscape character.

¹ Mid & East Antrim Borough Council's Development Pressure Analysis Position Paper December 2015

² Mid & East Antrim Borough Council's Development Pressure Analysis Position Paper December 2015

5.14 Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

5.14.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe 1992 and the European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe 1987 (known respectively as the 'Valetta Convention' and the 'Granada Convention') place responsibility on member states to consider the conservation of archaeological resources and to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. The Xi'an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas (2005) aims to contribute through legislation, policies, planning processes and management to better protect and conserve the world's heritage structures, sites and areas in their settings. The Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (2005) place a requirement to enhance the value of cultural heritage through its identification, study, interpretation, protection, conservation and presentation. It also requires member states to promote cultural heritage protection as a central factor in the mutually supporting objectives of sustainable development, cultural diversity and contemporary creativity.

In the regional context PPS 6: Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage, along with its addendum, sets out planning policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and built heritage features. Supplementary planning guidance in the form of booklets incorporating local policies, design guides and baseline audits are published for Conservation Areas.

The regional strategic objectives set out in the SPPS are to:

- Secure the protection, conservation, and, where possible, the enhancement of our built and archaeological heritage.
- Promote sustainable development and environmental stewardship with regard to our built and archaeological heritage.
- Encourage the link between conservation and economic prosperity.

More specific policy is set out in items 6.28 and 6.29 of the SPPS. These link directly with the aims of the above-mentioned European Conventions.

The overarching policy of the SPPS recognises that townscape, built heritage, archaeology and cultural heritage form an important part of the character and appearance of our towns, villages, small settlements and countryside. These elements contribute to the sense of place in our towns, villages and smaller settlements and are part of what is unique about places in the Borough. They make places more attractive to either live in or visit.

They are also part of our culture and can contribute to our quality of life. The historic environment has the potential to benefit our community and our economy in terms of tourism and regeneration. Reuse of listed or locally important buildings can contribute to urban and rural renaissance, which can help vitality and footfall in settlement centres, supporting the local economy

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2023 includes the objective '*to encourage people to value our natural environment and built heritage*', it also includes the objective '*to create a compelling tourism and economic proposition by developing and investing in our unique heritage and assets*'. Key projects include the aim to develop the Belfast Region City Deal with partners and advocate for investment in heritage assets, public realm, and the rebranding of Carrickfergus.

The Community Plan 2017-2032 includes the outcomes:

- People value our borough's natural environment and built heritage and behave responsibly towards it;
- People enjoy easy access to our borough's natural environment and built heritage; and
- The natural environment and built heritage of our borough is protected and sustainably managed.

The community plan also aims to include the action of implementing a Tourism Strategy to develop the Causeway Coastal Route, cultural and heritage assets, and build the region's image, brand and awareness in domestic, all-Ireland, UK and international markets

5.14.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the LDP Preparatory Studies Discussion Papers including 'Paper 6: 'Environmental Assets' and Paper 7: 'Tourism'. The Historic Environment Division (HED) of the Department for Communities (DfC) has also published its digital datasets of the historic environment online¹ and has created a Historic Environment Web Map Viewer². It has also published Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Historic Environment³ and Guidance on Setting and the Historic Environment⁴. This topic overlaps with the Economy and Employment and Landscape topics.

Overview

The historic environment in Mid and East Antrim includes a wealth of built heritage assets. These range from the state maintained historic monument of Carrickfergus Castle, a Norman fortified castle built by John de Courcy in 1177, Glenarm Castle, a beautiful Jacobean style mansion set in an AONB and home to the Earls of Antrim for over 400 years, and Galgorm Castle which was constructed in 1618 by Sir Faithful Fortescue and is recognised as one of the finest examples of early Jacobean architecture in Ireland. The historic upland landscape of Knockdhu contains a wide array of prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and monuments.

Listed Buildings

There are a total of approximately 525 Listed Buildings¹ in the Borough, ten of which have been assigned Grade A status. These include Glenarm Castle, Ballygally Castle, Red Hall, the former Gasworks at Carrickfergus and the Moravian Church and surrounding buildings at Gracehill. These are documented in the LDP Position Paper 5; Environmental Assets. A further 75 (approx.) buildings are on the listed building register, but are 'record only'.

Buildings at Risk

The Ulster Architecture and Heritage Society in conjunction with the Department for Communities (DfC), has compiled an online list of Built Heritage at Risk in Northern Ireland (BHARNI)⁵. The BHARNI register contains a selection of listed buildings, scheduled monuments and other historic structures, ranging from dwellings to large industrial complexes, which are may not have a sustainable future without intervention. It highlights the vulnerability of our historic built environment and will act as a

¹ Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date updated 30 August 2019)

² Department for Communities Historic Environment MapViewer <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/historic-environment-map-viewer>

³ Department for Communities Historic Environment Division - Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Historic Environment (Date published: 03 July 2018)

⁴ Department for Communities Historic Environment Division - Guidance on Setting and the Historic Environment (Date published: 12 February 2018)

⁵ Department for Communities Buildings at Risk Register for Northern Ireland (accessed 13/10/2017)

catalyst for its restoration and reuse. Within the Borough there are a total of 29 'buildings at risk'. Some examples of buildings at risk include: the former bishop's house at Kilroot, Prospect House in Carrickfergus, Cairndhu House at Ballygalley and the Methodist Church in Cullybackey.

Sites and Monuments Record

Mid and East Antrim has a rich record of archaeological sites and historic monuments. Scheduled Areas are archaeological and historic sites and monuments that are afforded protection under Article 3 of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 and there are 159¹ such Scheduled Areas in the Borough, containing 164 sites and monuments (Figure 5.14.1). Two further sites, surrounding a Church and Graveyard at Dundermot, Drumnacross and an Enclosure at Loughconnelly are currently proposed for scheduling. The Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) maintained by the Historic Environment Division (HED) of the DfC lists a further 1,306¹ unscheduled Sites and Monuments located across the Borough. The Record is regularly updated and includes features such as battle sites, cairns, ecclesiastical sites, megalithic tombs, raths, standing stones and stone circles and more modern features such as a World War I coastal battery, World War II storage buildings and a cold war nuclear bunker. More sites may potentially be discovered through archaeological work, during development operations or through agricultural activity. The Borough has seven Monuments in State Care, which are listed below:

Name	Location (townland)
Dalway's Bawn (part of) - (C17th Bawn)	Ballyhill
Harryville Motte (Motte and Bailey)	Ballykeel
Ballylumford Dolmen, Druid's Cottage Cromlech (Portal Tomb)	Ballylumford
Carrickfergus Castle	Carrickfergus
Carrickfergus Gas Works	Carrickfergus
Joymount to St. Bride's & Irish Gate Area: Town walls (part of)	Carrickfergus
Olderfleet Castle, the Curran Castle	Curran and Drumliss

Source: NI Sites and Monuments Record DfC Environment Digital Datasets (Date updated 30 August 2019)

Areas of Special Archaeological Interest

There is one Area of Special Archaeological Interest (ASAI) in the Borough, at Knockdhu (Figure 5.14.1). The unique historic upland landscape of Knockdhu contains a wide array of prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and monuments. At its southern extent it is dominated by the dramatically set, scheduled inland promontory fort at Knockdhu, which provides expansive views over the surrounding landscape. The interactions of this site with the historic landscape and surrounding natural environment, including far ranging visuals toward other monuments, landforms, seascape and skylines, including the distinctive upland coastal topography and landscape of the Antrim Plateau as it meets and visually interacts with the Antrim Coast and Glens, are particularly important.

Area of Archaeological Potential

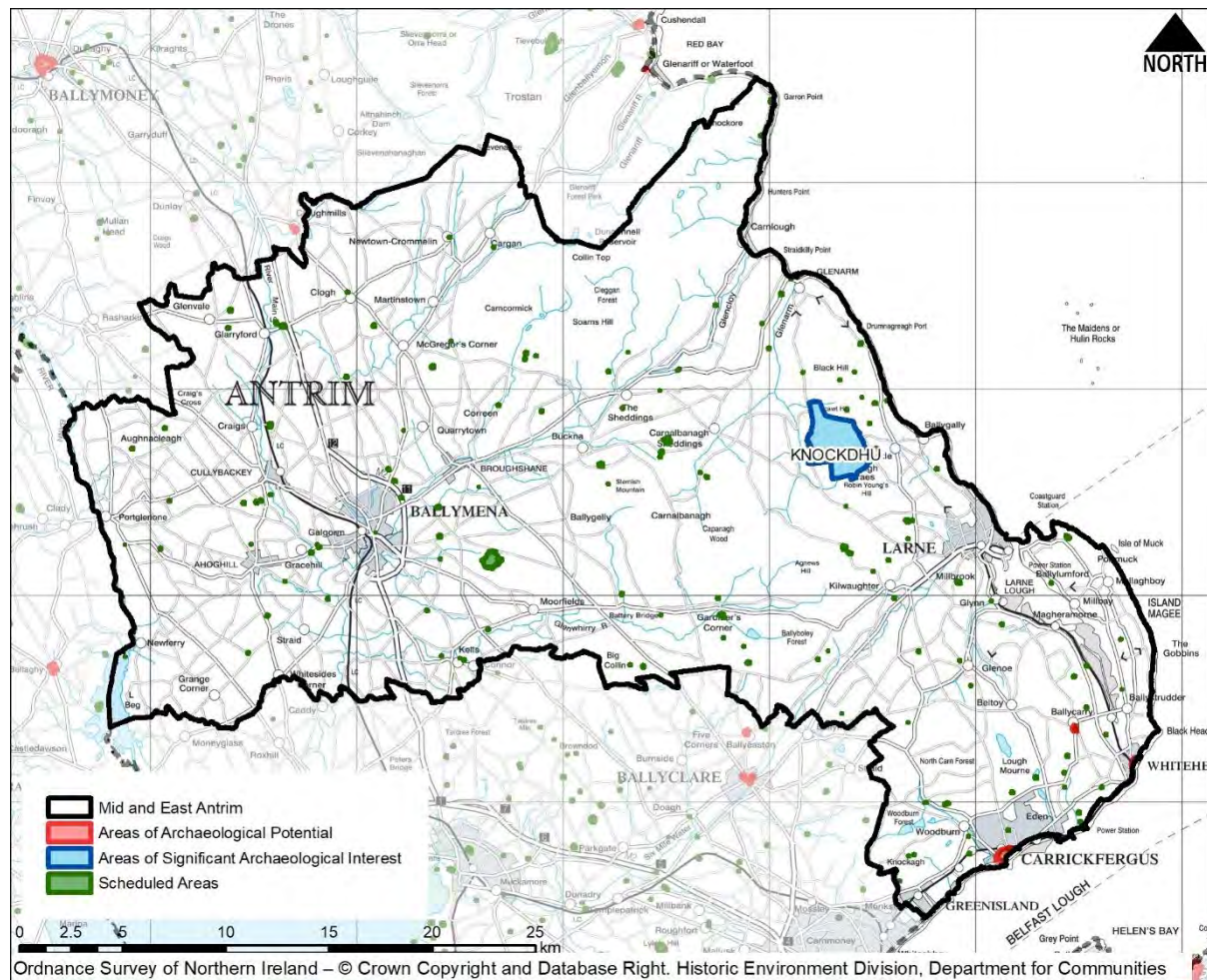
There are three settlements in Mid and East Antrim with identified Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAP). These are Ballycarry, Carrickfergus and Whitehead².

¹ Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date updated 30 August 2019)

² Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date updated 30 August 2019)

The Gazetteer of Nucleated Historic Settlements is the result of a program of work within the DfC to identify historic settlement centres and from these, in some cases, identify new AAP or modify existing AAP. The draft Gazetteer includes 31 entries within the Borough, of which only one does not have an existing AAP associated. These include areas of Broughshane, Clough, Larne, Glenarm and Newtown Crommelin. The LDP will consider the designation of new ASAI and AAP through consultation with the DfC at the LPP stage.

Figure 5.14.1: Historic Environment: ASAI, AAP and Scheduled Zones



Source: DfC Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date updated 30 August 2019)

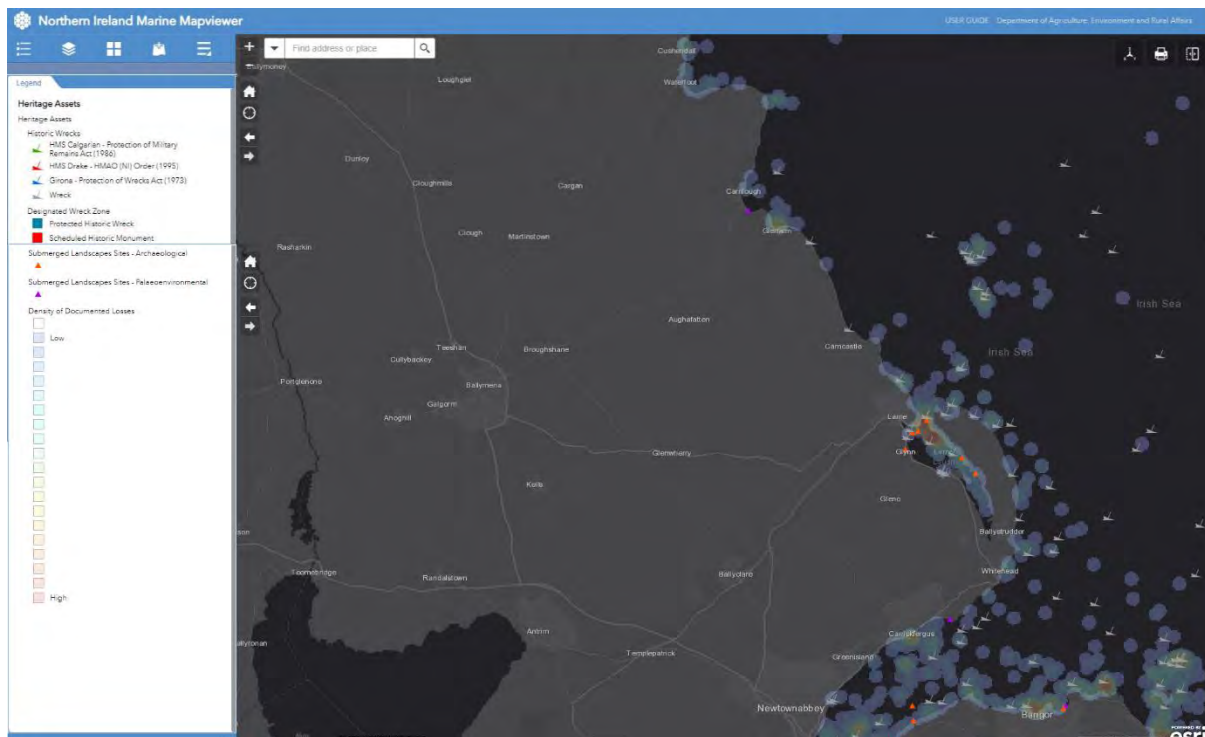
Marine Historic Environment

The nature of our coastline has resulted in several areas with high densities of documented marine losses (see Figure 5.14.2), in particular at the entrance to Larne Lough and at Carrickfergus.

Around 26 historic shipwrecks are known to be located within 2km of our coastline, however almost 300 more documented shipwrecks remain unlocated. Historic shipwrecks may receive protected status the Protection of Wrecks Act (1973) while the wreckage of military aircraft and designated military vessels may be protected via the Protection of Military Remains Act (1986). Wrecks may also be designated as a Scheduled Historic Monument under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order (1995). As yet, none of the wrecks in the waters offshore from Mid and East Antrim Borough have received protected status.

Submerged Landscape Sites include palaeoenvironmental peat and wood artefacts dating from between eight and eleven thousand years before present which were discovered at Carnlough and Kilroot. Submerged archaeological finds dating from the Mesolithic and Stone Age periods have also been discovered at several sites surrounding Larne Lough in Larne and Islandmagee. Intertidal or offshore development, such as undersea cables and pipelines, offshore wind farms or tidal/wave energy arrays, has the potential to discover new evidence of the marine historic environment.

Figure 5.14.2: Marine Historic Environment - Shipwrecks and Submerged Archaeology



Source: DAERA Northern Ireland Marine Map Viewer (accessed 02/08/2019)

Industrial Heritage

The Borough also contains a wealth of remains from the industrial past, which are reminders of the economic as well as the social development of the area. Sites of industrial heritage can be found not only in the city and main towns, but also in rural locations. They include many remnants of the former flax and linen industries, mills and mill races, limestone quarries and kilns, salt mines, gasworks and gasometers. They also include many small bridges, quays and harbours in the coastal area.

There are numerous bridges, tunnels and other engineering features remaining from the former Belfast and Northern Counties Railway and Midland Railways and narrow gauge railways running from Ballymena to Larne Harbour, Retreat (for Cushendall and Red Bay) and Carnlough, which serviced the minerals industry in the late 19th Century and ran up to 1940. As discussed in section 5.8, parts of these former railway routes are under consideration for the development of new greenways.

Carrickfergus Gas Works is a site of industrial heritage importance which has been designated as a State Care Monument, however there are many other sites which do not have any special designation and consequently may not have any protection.

Defence Heritage

Mid and East Antrim contains many defence heritage assets, largely associated with World War II, many of which are focused around the coast and along the Ballymena - Carnlough corridor. Defence heritage assets include air raid shelters, anti-aircraft batteries, observation posts, refugee camps and a prepared demolition scheme. There is also a nuclear bunker, commissioned in the 1980s, located at Broughshane.

Historic Parks and Gardens

Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes reflect planned and managed landscape enhancement carried out since the 17th Century. Mid and East Antrim has a total of 10 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes on the Register which are considered to be of exceptional importance within Northern Ireland. These include 572 hectares (ha) at Glenarm Castle, 162 ha at Castle Dobbs and 123 ha at Red Hall. A further nine supplementary sites have also been identified as having a high level of interest and are included as an appendix to the main Register.

HPG Register	HPG Supplementary Register
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Carnfunnock Country Park ▪ Castle Dobbs ▪ Chaine Park ▪ Drumalis ▪ Drumnasole House ▪ Glenarm Castle ▪ Hill Mount ▪ Magheramorne House (hotel) ▪ Peoples Park Ballymena ▪ Red Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cairndhu ▪ Cleggan Lodge ▪ Craigdun ▪ Garron Tower ▪ Glebe House ▪ Kilwaughter Castle ▪ Portglenone House ▪ Sea Park ▪ Random Cottage

Source: DfC Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date updated 30 August 2019)

Conservation Areas

A Conservation Area is an area deemed to be of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve and enhance, as designated under Article 50 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991. Mid and East Antrim has a total of five Conservation Areas. They are:

- Carrickfergus
- Glenarm,
- Gracehill
- Whitehead
- Carnlough

The locations of these Conservation Areas are shown on Figure 6 of the LDP Preparatory Studies paper 6: 'Environmental Assets'.

Great importance is attached to the preservation of the existing character and appearance of such areas allied to the promotion of their economic wellbeing. There is evidence of incremental erosion of historical/architectural character and appearance within some of the designated Conservation Areas.

Areas of Townscape Character

Areas of Townscape and Village Character are designated by the Council through the local development plan with accompanying local policies for the control of development within these areas. There are currently five Areas of Townscape Character (ATC) within Mid and East Antrim. These are Belfast Road (CS 12) and Larne Road (CS 13) Carrickfergus, Greenisland (GD 05) and Shore Road Greenisland (GD06), and Galgorm Road, Ballymena. There are currently no designated Areas

of Village Character (AVC) in the Borough. As part of the LDP preparation process, the boundaries of all existing ATC designations will be reviewed at LPP. Additional areas may be identified.

Local Landscape Policy Areas

The features or combination of features that contribute to the environmental quality, integrity or character of a Local Landscape Policy Area (LLPA) are specific to individual settlements and differ from place to place. Within Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's extant area plans, LLPAs are only designated in the Carrickfergus area through the draft BMAP and there are sixteen such areas. The Local Policies Plan will review these and consider LLPA designations elsewhere in the Borough.

5.14.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without the LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, extant Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied. HED would continue to enhance the monuments and buildings record to include new sites and information, and to recognise new assets or changes in the designated status of existing assets. Stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. However, in the absence of a new plan, opportunities to consider the historical and cultural assets in future growth plans and place-shaping may be missed.

There are a number of strategic heritage assets in Mid and East Antrim, dating from Mesolithic periods through to World War II. Without a new LDP in place, opportunities to designate new ASAI and to identify new AAP might be missed. Opportunities might also be missed to take advantage of the potential that archaeological, industrial, and defence heritage assets have as part of our tourism industry, leading to reduced economic benefits for local communities. The protection, conservation and regeneration of historic places can contribute to wellbeing in society through providing people with enjoyment, inspiration, learning opportunities, mental and physical health benefits, and a sense of place and identity.

There is also a risk of incremental erosion of landscape or townscape character or quality. Development might have a significant impact on the historic environment and/or people's enjoyment of it. In the absence of a LDP the 'setting' of historic assets or places, which may extend far beyond the boundary or curtilage of the site, may not be taken into consideration. A new LDP is an opportunity to consider the reasons for these issues and identify the positive role that planning can play.

5.14.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

- The Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage plays a role in maintaining and enhancing the sense of place in our settlements and rural locations.
- This can be supported by building design that recognises historic environment evidence in both urban and rural locations.
- The historical and archaeological interest connected to Carrickfergus Castle is of regional significance for tourism.
- Further opportunities could be explored to link heritage assets with tourism and to encourage use / reuse of resources for community / education activities.
- Heritage assets are at risk from neglect, decay, development pressures and vacancy.
- 'Buildings at Risk' should continue to be identified and efforts made by the relevant authority to maintain their regular use and/or support their restoration.
- The innovative reuse of existing historic building stock should be promoted.
- The Borough's rich cultural and industrial heritage assets can contribute to a high quality built environment that helps to create attractive places for living, investing in and visiting.

- Protecting built heritage features and recognising their value extends beyond listing and enforcement. Consideration should be given to the setting of those features, along with the scale and context of surrounding buildings.
- The Borough has a rich archaeological heritage. This could be further explored through identifying new Areas of Archaeological Potential.
- The setting and landscape of the ASAs and any potential new ASAs should be preserved. Many archaeological settings are associated with particular landscapes, such as hill tops, ridges and drumlins.
- Undesignated marine Heritage Assets such as Shipwrecks and Submerged Landscape Sites, whilst not statutorily protected, must be given appropriate evaluation and consideration.
- The Borough has a rich industrial heritage through its flax production, its 18th and 19th Century transport engineering and defence heritage associated with World Wars I & II.
- Appreciating the value of built heritage should also apply to new buildings.
- There is ongoing loss of certain non-designated heritage assets such as historic farmsteads and buildings in the countryside, industrial and defence heritage, and historic shopfronts in some towns and settlements. Non-designated buildings which are of heritage or architectural importance in the context of overall landscape, townscape or heritage value should be recognised for their role in conserving these settings.
- There is evidence of incremental erosion of historical and architectural character and appearance within some of the designated Conservation Areas.
- There may be opportunities to maintain or reflect historic routeways and townland boundaries.
- Traffic pollution, air quality and noise pollution may adversely affect the historic environment.
- Climate change may cause long term impacts on the historic environment, particularly along the coast.

6 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

6.1 The Sustainability Objectives

Sustainability objectives have been identified through consideration of international, national, regional and local policies, plans, programmes and strategies; baseline information at regional and, where available, at local level and apparent trends. The objectives follow with a short rationale and description of what each seeks to achieve. There are several overlaps between objectives which support each other.

The objective for sustainable development in Mid and East Antrim Borough Council is to...

1...improve health and wellbeing.

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 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 environment 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 seascapes 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.

6.2 Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives

A comparison has been drawn between all of the sustainability objectives in Appendix 3 to identify any conflict between sustainability objectives. No sustainability appraisal objectives were considered to be incompatible with the rest of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. Some objectives were considered to have uncertain relationships with each other.

6.3 Compatibility of draft Plan Strategy Objectives

The Vision and Objectives for the LDP have been compared with the Sustainability Appraisal objectives to assess how they are aligned. This is presented in the SA Report (Appendix 2) and helps establish whether the approach to the LDP is in accordance with the principles of sustainability.

6.4 Difficulties Encountered in Compiling the Scoping Report

Predicting effects always involves an element of uncertainty or a need for assumptions to be made. The ability to predict effects is also limited by gaps in the baseline and understanding of future trends. Technical Supplements to the draft Plan Strategy were being prepared simultaneously to the Scoping Report and consequently some of the updated information presented within the Technical Supplements was not available at the time the Scoping Report was drafted. As an iterative process, the SA may have different sources of available information than the Plan team, and vice versa. A record of the assumptions made and uncertainties encountered during the Sustainability Appraisal process are included in the reports.

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 Mid and East Antrim Borough Council LDP is presented in Section 1 of the SA Report. Appendix 4 of the SA Scoping Report outlines the relationship with other plans, programmes, policies and strategies.
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. Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report presents the Key Sustainability Issues.
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	The environmental characteristics of the Borough 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 discusses 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.
6. The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and	Likely significant effects are described in Sections 3 and 4 of the SA Report. They are reported in the context of the sustainability

Requirement	Location
<p>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>appraisal framework included in Appendix 5 of the SA Scoping Report.</p> <p>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: Sustainability Objectives and Relationship To SEA Topics

The objectives for sustainable development are to...	SEA Directive Topic
1...improve health and wellbeing.	Population Human Health
2...strengthen society.	Cultural Heritage Population
3...provide good quality, sustainable housing.	Population Human Health
4...enable access to high quality education.	Population
5...enable sustainable economic growth.	Population Human Health
6...manage material assets sustainably.	Material Assets
7...protect physical resources and use sustainably.	Material Assets Soil
8...encourage active and sustainable travel.	Human Health Population Climate change
9...improve air quality	Air
10...reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	Climate change
11...protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	Water
12...protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	Biodiversity Flora Fauna
13...maintain and enhance landscape character.	Landscape
14...protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	Cultural Heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage

APPENDIX 3: Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives

Sustainability Objectives	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 and cultural heritage.
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.	✓	0	0	0	✓									
7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓								
8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0							
9 Improve air quality.	✓	✓	✓	0	?	✓	✓	✓						
10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	✓	✓	✓	0	?	✓	✓	✓	✓					
11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	✓	0	✓	0	?	✓	✓	0	✓	✓				
12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	✓	✓	0	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	✓	✓	0	0	✓	?	?	0	✓	✓	✓	✓		
14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	0	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Compatible	✓	No relationship	0	Uncertain relationship	?	Incompatible	✗
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APPENDIX 4: Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

This is a list of Policies, Plans and Programmes and Strategies that have been considered in scoping the Sustainability Appraisal. It will be updated at each stage of plan preparation.

A number of overarching Sustainable Development and Cross Cutting publications are presented first. Following these, the publications are listed according to the most relevant topic. Some may apply to two or more topics but, where possible, duplication has been avoided.

‘Current Lead’ refers to the department or organisation currently responsible for the publication and is not necessarily the body responsible for preparation of the publication. For each publication, a summary of the key objectives, requirements or advice is given with emphasis on what is most relevant to our LDP. A short comment is included on the implications of these for our LDP and/or how they have, or will be, addressed in plan preparation.

Acknowledgement is given to previous work carried out by Mid Ulster District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and the Strategic Planning Division of the Department for Infrastructure which formed part of the source information for this review of plans, policies and programmes.

	Title	Year	Spatial Scale	Current Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Sustainable Development	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	2015	International	UN	Seeks to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. It also aims to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities. Expressed through 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets.	Through the influence of the sustainability appraisal the LDP seeks to contribute to these goals where they are within the scope of development planning.
Sustainable Development	Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Cohesion Policy 2014-2020	2014	Europe	EC	Almost 70% of the EU population lives in an urban area, and these areas generate more than two thirds of the EU's GDP. However, they are also the places where persistent problems such as unemployment, segregation and poverty, as well as severe environmental pressures, are concentrated. Measures concerning physical urban renewal should be combined with measures promoting education, economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection.	The policy sets out principles for integrated sustainable urban development.
Sustainable Development	General Union Environmental Action Plan (2020)	2013	Europe	EC	This will guide European environment policy until 2020 but has a longer term vision: "In 2050, we live well, within the planet's ecological limits. Our prosperity and healthy environment stem from an innovative, circular economy where nothing is wasted and where natural resources are managed sustainably, and biodiversity is protected, valued and restored in ways that enhance our society's resilience. Our low-carbon growth has long been decoupled from resource use, setting the pace for a safe and sustainable global society." It identifies three key objectives: to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital; to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy; to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing.	The LDP should support the four key areas of work set out in the EAP.
Sustainable Development	Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive)	2008	Europe	EC	The aim of the MSFD is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe. It aims to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) of the EU's marine waters by 2020 and to protect the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend. It is the first EU legislative instrument related to the protection of marine biodiversity, as it contains the explicit regulatory objective that "biodiversity is maintained by 2020", as the cornerstone for achieving GES.	The Directive establishes 11 GES Descriptors relating to biological diversity, non-indigenous species, commercially exploited fish and shellfish, food webs, eutrophication, sea floor integrity, hydrographical conditions, contaminants, contaminants in fish, litter and noise. The LDP may have an influence on the marine area and consideration should be given to its effect on these descriptors.
Sustainable Development	The Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)	2004	Europe	EC	The Environmental Liability Directive (ELD) has the objective of making operators of activities which cause environmental damage financially liable for that damage (the 'polluter pays' principle). It imposes duties on operators of economic activities to take immediate steps to prevent damage if there is an imminent threat, and to control damage which is occurring so as to limit its effects.	The LDP will take account of this Directive and local relevant legislation.
Sustainable Development	Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and	2001	Europe	EC	Provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.	The LDP will take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive at the national level. Requirements of the Directive will be addressed through the Sustainability Appraisals.

	programmes on the environment					
Sustainable Development	A Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development	2001	Europe	EC	A framework for a long-term vision of sustainability in which economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection go hand in hand and are mutually supporting. Particular environmental protection objectives include increasing the use of clean energy and natural resources to combat climate change, reducing noise and air pollution through promotion of sustainable transport, and conserving and managing the overall use of water and air.	This Strategy aligns with many of the objectives of the LDP including those related to transport and natural heritage, as well as renewable energy. In applying the policy requirements of the SPSS the LDP will also contribute to the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.
Sustainable Development	UK Marine Policy Statement	2011	UK	Four Nations (DAERA)	The MPS facilitates and supports the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives. These are to: Promote sustainable economic development; Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects; Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and our heritage assets; and Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues. Currently it is also the policy document to be used for decision making for any proposal which affects, or might affect, the NI marine area. It will be used in conjunction with the Marine Plan for NI, once the Marine Plan is published and adopted in its final form.	Any development arising from the LDP will need to be in conformity with the MPS and NI Marine Plan (once the latter is adopted) in order to protect the marine environment, inclusive of the historic environment and heritage assets. Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 state that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise". A public authority must have regard to the appropriate marine policy documents in taking any decision which relates to the exercise of any function capable of affecting the whole or any part of the UK marine area, but which is not an authorisation or enforcement decision.
Sustainable Development	Securing the Future - delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy	2005	UK	Four Nations (DAERA)	The Strategy takes account of developments since the 1999 Strategy, both domestically and internationally; the changed structure of government in the UK with devolution to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; greater emphasis on delivery at regional level and the new relationship between government and local authorities. The five guiding principles are: living within environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance and using sound science responsibly. Four agreed priorities are sustainable consumption and production, climate change, natural resource protection and sustainable communities.	The SPSS has a strong sustainable development theme, which aligns with the priorities of this Strategy, most notably in terms of climate change, renewable energy, sustainable consumption, waste management etc. In complying with the SPSS and carrying out sustainability appraisal the LDP will support this.
Sustainable Development	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	2009	UK	UK Gov.	The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 provides the legal mechanism to help ensure clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas by putting in place a new system for improved management and protection of the marine and coastal environment.	Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 states that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise".
Sustainable Development	Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 Establishing a Framework for Maritime Spatial Planning (Marine Spatial Planning Directive).	2014	NI	Council of Europe	Competition for maritime space - for renewable energy equipment, aquaculture and other uses - has highlighted the need to manage our waters more coherently. Aims include: Reduce conflicts between sectors and create synergies between different activities. Encourage investment - by creating predictability, transparency and clearer rules. Increase cross-border cooperation - between EU countries to develop energy grids, shipping lanes, pipelines, submarine cables and other activities, but also to develop coherent networks of protected areas. Protect the environment - through early identification of impact and opportunities for multiple use of space.	Identification of potential conflict areas and considering developments that have potential for connectivity with the marine area will contribute to this.

Sustainable Development	(draft) Marine Plan for Northern Ireland	2018	NI	DAERA	The Marine Plan for NI will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of the NI marine area. The Plan contains a series of policy statements covering cross-cutting marine planning issues that apply to all decision making in the marine area and to relevant sectors. It will align with and contribute to policy objectives for key marine activities as set out in the UK MPS and will support and complement existing plans and policies. These policies will be used by public authorities in taking decisions which affect or might affect the marine area. The draft Marine Plan was published for consultation in April 2018.	Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 states that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise". Public authorities must explain any decision not made in line with an adopted marine plan or the MPS. The Marine Plan uses an ecosystem based approach that will assist public authorities in managing the competing demands on the marine area in a more sustainable manner. Achieving sustainable development is at the core of the Marine Plan.
Sustainable Development	DOE Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS): Planning for Sustainable Development	2015	NI	DfI	Sets out the Department's regional strategic policies for securing the orderly and consistent development of land in Northern Ireland. Planning authorities should pursue social and economic priorities alongside the careful management of our built and natural environments in order to achieve sustainable development. The SPPS sets out five core planning principles: Improving health and wellbeing; Creating and enhancing shared space; Supporting sustainable economic growth; Supporting good design and positive place making; and Preserving and improving the built and natural environment.	The provisions of the SPPS must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans, and are also material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.
Sustainable Development	Draft Northern Ireland Marine Position Paper	2012	NI	DAERA	The Position Paper set out the Executive's objectives and lead departments for the sustainable development of the marine area including energy production and infrastructure development; tourism and recreation; port development; sewerage services; flood risk management and drainage; integrated coastal zone management; climate change; coastal change; and protection of the historic environment. It was intended to identify the policy context within which a Northern Ireland Marine Plan will be developed. The status of this document is not clear.	LDP proposals and policies may directly support natural and cultural heritage aspects of Marine Position Paper, or have an indirect relationship, for example regarding outdoor recreation, access, transportation and sustainable development.
Sustainable Development	Regional Development Strategy 2035	2012	NI	DfI	This document provides an overarching strategic planning framework influencing spatial development for the Region up to 2035, facilitating and guiding the public and private sectors. Taken into account are key drivers such as population growth and movement, demographic change, increasing number of households, transportation needs etc. It addresses economic, social and environmental issues aimed at achieving sustainable development and social cohesion. The eight aims of the RDS are to: Support strong, sustainable growth for the benefit of all parts of NI; Strengthen Belfast as the regional economic driver and Derry/Londonderry as the principal city of the North West; Support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential; Promote development which improves the health and wellbeing of communities; Improve connectivity to enhance the movement of people, goods, energy and information between places; Protect and enhance the environment for its own sake; Take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaption to climate change; and Strengthen links between north and south, east and west, with Europe and the rest of the world. The RDS contains a Spatial Framework and Strategic guidelines.	The LDP will support the RDS as part of the wider Government policy framework and should therefore be closely aligned with its objectives.
Sustainable	Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021	2016	NI	NI Executive	The PFG contains 14 strategic outcomes which touch on every aspect of government, including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and confident and peaceful communities. The	The LDP is required to support delivery of the Programme for Government. How it achieves this will be assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal.

					outcomes are supported by 48 indicators which will show how the Executive is performing in relation to the outcomes and will provide a basis to monitor progress. In due course, the Programme for Government will provide the strategic context for other key Executive strategy documents, including the Investment Strategy, the Economic Strategy and a Social Strategy.	
Sustainable Development	Focus on the Future - Sustainable Development Implementation Plan	2011	NI	NI Executive	While this implementation plan has expired some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. DHSSPS committed to liaise with DOE Planners on the benefits of Health Impact Assessments and their potential to assist in encouraging the development of Healthy Urban Environments. DOE proposed to make legislation to enable the designation of National Parks by 2012.	The health impact assessment approach is not a statutory requirement but will be considered if there is development on this during plan preparation. Health and wellbeing is considered through sustainability appraisal.
Sustainable	Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006	2006	NI	NI Executive	Requires departments and district councils to exercise their functions in the manner they consider best calculated to promote the achievement of sustainable development.	Implementing sustainability appraisal throughout plan preparation will help achieve this requirement.
Sustainable Development	Everyone's Involved - Sustainable Development Strategy (May 2010)	2010	NI	DAERA	Everyone's Involved - Sustainable Development Strategy, aims to put in place economic, social and environmental measures to ensure that we can continue to grow our economy, improve our society and communities and utilise our natural resources in an environmentally sustainable manner. The Strategy also intends to strengthen the framework to address global issues such as climate change and sets out the following six principles: living within environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy, just and equal society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; using sound science responsibly; and promoting opportunity and innovation.	Plan objectives largely support the strategy and the sustainability appraisal will help shape proposals to be sustainable.
Sustainable Development	Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013	2013	NI	UK Gov.	The Marine Act sets out a new framework for Northern Ireland's seas based on: a system of marine planning that will balance conservation, energy and resource needs; improved management for marine nature conservation and the streamlining of marine licensing for some electricity projects. The Marine Act applies to the Northern Ireland inshore region comprising of the territorial sea out to twelve nautical miles. This area includes all the tidal rivers and sea loughs (including Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough).	Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 states that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise"
Other Cross-Cutting	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982)	1982	International	United Nations	The Law of the Sea Convention defines the rights and responsibilities of nations with respect to their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources. The Convention sets out basic principles for the protection of underwater cultural heritage. Amongst its main principles are an obligation to preserve underwater cultural heritage, with in situ preservation as first option, and a ban on its inappropriate commercial exploitation.	The Convention sets the framework for protecting underwater cultural heritage at sea. Signatories 'have a duty to protect objects of an archaeological and historical nature found at sea and shall cooperate for this purpose'. The LDP should have regard for this principle.
Other Cross-Cutting	European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)	1999	Europe	EC	Economic and social cohesion across the community. Conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage. Balanced competitiveness between different tiers of government.	Through the influence of the sustainability appraisal the LDP should make a contribution towards fulfilling the goals of the ESDP.
Other Cross-Cutting	Aarhus Convention - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 1998	1998	Europe	UNECE	The Aarhus Convention and its Protocol empower people with the rights to access easily information, participate effectively in decision-making in environmental matters and to seek justice if their rights were violated. They protect every person's right to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and wellbeing. Ratified in UK in 2005. Established a	The plan will achieve this through the consultation process, as outlined in the Statement of Community Involvement. Ensure that public are involved and consulted at all relevant stages of SA production. This should be reflected in the Statement of the Community Involvement

					number of rights of the public with regard to the environment. Local authorities should provide for: The right of everyone to receive environmental information; The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision making; The right to challenge in a court of law public decisions that have been made without respecting the two rights above or environmental law in general.	
Other Cross-Cutting	Rural White Paper Action Plan	2012	NI	DAERA	This document sets out the vision for NI's rural areas and the actions which Departments will take in support of achieving that vision and to help ensure the future sustainability of rural areas. The vision includes vibrant and strong rural communities; improved infrastructure, transport and key services; strong community infrastructure which can avail of economic, social and cultural opportunities; and better linkages between rural and urban areas.	Policies are proposed in relation to sustainable development in the countryside, transport and land use. Planning policy will promote sustainable development, wellbeing and economic development which are aligned with the vision for rural areas. There does seem to be a focus on town centres and city centre vitality, which could take attention away from rural issues. The LDP objectives support this. It sets out to support vibrant rural communities, facilitate development of new, accessible, community facilities, and improve connectivity between/within settlements in terms of telecommunications and transport infrastructure in particular. The Plan will promote sustainable development, wellbeing and economic development which are aligned with the vision for rural areas.
Other Cross-Cutting	Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2018	2018	NI	DAERA	Report on a range of environmental indicators and provide links to government strategies.	Regionally significant provides strategic clarity on climate change issues.
Other Cross-Cutting	Our Passion, Our Place - Northern Ireland Environment Agency Strategic Priorities 2012 to 2022	2012	NI	DAERA	The plan outlines the strategic direction for NIEA. Four priority areas: healthy natural environment, people and places, sustainable economic growth and using resources well with a series of strategic goals. In respect of development planning NIEA will make sure planning decisions and business practices are guided by sound environmental principles and apply a risk based approach to its regulatory activities. Provide timely and authoritative input to strategic planning and development projects. Adopt an ecosystems approach in the advice it provides.	The majority of the sustainability appraisal objectives can be linked to the strategic aims of this document. NIEA advice and evidence will be used to inform plan preparation.
Other Cross-Cutting	The Environmental Liability (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (as amended)	2009	NI	DAERA	Implements the Environmental Liability Directive in Northern Ireland and introduces financial liability on the 'polluter pays' principle for environmental damage which has significant adverse effects on reaching or maintaining favourable conservation status of species and natural habitats protected under EC legislation; damage that significantly adversely affects the ecological, chemical and/or quantitative status and/or ecological potential of waters falling within the scope of the water framework directive; land contamination that creates a significant risk of human health being adversely affected as a result of direct or indirect introduction in, on or under land of substances, preparations, organisms and micro-organisms. Note subject to amendments.	Development arising from the LDP will be subject to these regulations with the operator being responsible for liability should damage within the terms of these regulations occur.
Other Cross-Cutting	A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland	1993	NI	DfI	In seeking to protect the environment and encourage sustainable development the PSRNI set out policies to meet the development needs of the rural area. The majority have been superseded by PPSs and SPSS however Strategic Policies 2, 3, 4 and 18 still apply relating to Towns, Villages, Regeneration of Rural Settlements and Design in Towns and Villages.	The remaining provisions of 'A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland' will be cancelled when all eleven councils have adopted a new Plan Strategy for the whole of their council area. However, to ensure that there is continuity in planning policy for taking planning decisions whilst councils bring forward operational policies tailored to local circumstances within new LDPs, transitional arrangements shall apply.

Other Cross-Cutting	Framework for Co-operation Spatial Strategies of Northern Ireland & the Republic of Ireland	2010	NI & RoI	DfI	This document examines the key planning challenges faced by both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland and discusses the potential for co-operation in spatial planning. It sets out a framework for cooperation at different levels within the public sector which should result in mutual benefits. These benefits can be at the local border area level and at the wider level. Four priority areas for cooperation are: Enhancing Competitiveness, Competitive Places (i.e. linked cross-border cities), Environmental Quality and Spatial Analysis.	At the local level it will be important that the guidance in the RDS and [Irish] NSS is incorporated into regional planning guidelines, development plans, community plans and regeneration schemes and that there is support for cross border projects and initiatives for both urban and rural areas. Integrated planning processes at the local level, where agencies and authorities in both jurisdictions work together on a cross border basis, are essential in enhancing the potential and quality of strategic places on the island, that straddle such cross-border locations.
Other Cross-Cutting	Delivering our Future, Valuing our Soils: A Sustainable Agricultural Land Management Strategy for Northern Ireland	2016	NI	independent Expert Working Group on Sustainable Land Management	Improving the health of Northern Ireland's agricultural soils is the central focus of this strategy. Healthier soils will deliver better yields of crops and grass which are higher in quality. This will provide the raw material necessary for the increased productivity and profitability envisaged by 'Going for Growth' and will also deliver environmental improvement simultaneously.	This strategy document is mainly targeted at agricultural practitioners adopting more sustainable land use practices. It contains some information on best practice for sustainable land management which may be translatable to the use of public lands, e.g. blue/green infrastructure and enhancement of biodiversity.
Other Cross-Cutting	Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011	2011	NI	NI Executive	Part 2 of the act details the requirements of local development plans and Section 5 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires those who exercise any function in relation to local development plans to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development. 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 LDP will take account of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. This scoping report forms part of the SA process.
Other Cross-Cutting	Building a Better Future: The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011-2021 (ISNI)	2011	NI	NI Executive	The Investment Strategy sets out the forward programme for investment in public infrastructure. It identifies priority areas for investment in sustainable 21st century infrastructure and is intended to assist government and private sector partners to plan ahead. The 'Procurement Pipeline' identifies 197 infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.	The 'Procurement Pipeline' available on the home page identifies infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.
Other Cross-Cutting	Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, Equality of opportunity	1998	NI	NI Executive	Section 75 promotes 'equality of opportunity' which means that everyone in society should be able to compete on equal terms. All government departments, agencies and councils must also give the nine key groups consideration when creating a policy. These are people with different religious belief, people of political opinion, people of different racial groups, people of different ages, people of different marital status, people of different sexual orientation, men and women generally, people with a disability and people without, people with dependants and people without	The council is required to ensure that their local development plans are prepared in accordance with Section 75 statutory obligations. Consequently, a council will have to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) to determine if there will be any potential impacts upon Section 75 groups as a result of the policies and proposals contained in their local development plans.
Health & Wellbeing	Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise (the Environmental Noise Directive (END))	2002	Europe	Council of Europe	The END is the main EU instrument to identify noise pollution levels and to trigger the necessary action both at Member State and at EU level. It focuses on three action areas: (1) the determination of exposure to environmental noise (2) ensuring that information on environmental noise and its effects is made available to the public (3) preventing and reducing environmental noise where necessary and preserving environmental noise quality where it is good	The Directive applies to noise to which humans are exposed, particularly in built-up areas, in public parks or other quiet areas in an agglomeration, in quiet areas in open country, near schools, hospitals and other noise-sensitive buildings and areas. It does not apply to noise that is caused by the exposed person himself, noise from domestic activities, noise created by neighbours, noise at work places or noise inside means of transport or due to military activities in military areas.
Health &	Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland Strategy	2009	NI	DfC	The Strategy's vision of "a culture of lifelong enjoyment and quality, quantity and access to places for sport" is a key input to the two primary development outcomes of increased participation in sport and physical	This is supported by the inclusion of Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation in the Subject Policies list for the SPPS, which must be taken into account in the LDP.

	for Sport and Recreation, 2009-2019				recreation and improved sporting performances. In particular, the Strategy will ensure that every person in Northern Ireland has access to a range of new, improved and shared world-class and locally available sports facilities. The Strategy outlines a broad Government commitment to sport and physical recreation. It sets key strategic priorities for sports and physical recreation over the 10 year period; informing future investment by all stakeholders across the public, private and community/voluntary sectors underpinning three areas: 'Participation', 'Performance' and 'Places'. The successful delivery of the Strategy requires stakeholders to reflect the Strategy in their business and development plans.	
Health & Wellbeing	A Fitter Future For All - Outcomes framework 2015 - 2019	2015	NI	DoH	Following a review of the first years of the plan an updated framework has been published for 2015-2019.	Creating a safe environment to encourage and promote increased physical activity.
Health & Wellbeing	Making Life Better: A Whole Strategic Framework for Public Health 2013-2023 Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (June 2014)	2013	NI	DoH	The strategic framework for public health designed to provide direction for policies and actions to improve the health and well being of people in Northern Ireland and to reduce health inequalities. The framework is not just about actions and programmes at government level, but also provides direction for work at both regional and local levels with public agencies, including local government, local communities and others, working in partnership. Through strength of coordination and partnership, the framework will seek to create the conditions for individuals and communities to take control of their own lives, and move towards a vision for Northern Ireland where all people are enabled and supported in achieving their full health and wellbeing potential.	Many aspects are directly relevant for example promoting age friendly environments and Quiet Areas.
Health & Wellbeing	Connected Health Economy	2013	NI	DoH	Developing a connected health economy: the economy and jobs initiative included a number of measures to help support economic growth, including a commitment to establish a Task and Finish Group under the remit of the Connected Health and Prosperity Board, to exploit the economic opportunities from the health and social care (HSC) sector.	This may inform future economic investment in the health and social care sector.
Health & Wellbeing	A Fitter Future For All: Framework for Preventing and Addressing Overweight and Obesity in Northern Ireland	2012	NI	DoH	Fitter Future for All is a framework to help reduce the harm related to overweight and obesity. This framework aims to: empower the population of Northern Ireland to make health choices, reduce the risk of overweight and obesity related diseases and improve health and wellbeing, by creating an environment that supports and promotes a physically active lifestyle and a healthy diet. New outcomes to aid implementation of the framework over the 2015-19 period have been developed.	Creating a safe environment to encourage and promote increased physical activity.
Health & Wellbeing	Transforming Your Care Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety	2011	NI	DoH	Twelve major principles for change including: providing the right care in the right place at the right time; population-based planning of services; ensuring sustainability of service provision; incentivising innovation at a local level. 99 separate proposals for change across the range of health and social care services. There is a Strategic Implementation Plan and Population Plan for each Health Care Trust.	Can inform where facilities may be required to improve access to and quality of health services.
Health & Wellbeing	Northern Ireland's Road Safety Strategy to 2020	2011	NI	DfI	Sets out the vision and presents measures for improving road safety in Northern Ireland up to 2020, including targets for reductions in deaths and serious injuries to be achieved over that period. Key Challenges include:	The LDP may have scope to contribute to addressing the challenges in its transport, infrastructure and rural development policies.

Health & Wellbeing	The Planning (Hazardous Substances) (No.2) Regulations (NI) 2015	2015	NI	DfI	The Regulations transpose Directive 2012/18/EU (The 'Seveso III Directive') on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances in respect of land-use planning in Northern Ireland.	The LDP must take account of the aims of the Directive in planning policies and decisions, including maintaining appropriate safety distances between major hazard sites (referred to as establishments") and other development and protecting areas of natural sensitivity.
Health & Wellbeing	Noise Policy Statement for Northern Ireland	2014	NI	DAERA	Through the effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise the Noise Policy aims to: (1.) Avoid or mitigate significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life; (2.) Mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and (3.) Where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life.	These LDP can help with applying the shared principles that underpin the Executive's Sustainable Development Strategy: 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.
Health & Wellbeing	Planning Policy Statement 8 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (DOE 2004)	2004	NI	DfI	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection of open space, in association with residential development and the use of land for sport and outdoor recreation, and advises on the treatment of these issues in development plans.	Six policies are incorporated in SPPS. Incorporation of the policies will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Health & Wellbeing	Transforming your Care: Strategic Implementation Plan	2013	NI	HSCNI	This Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) describes a planned approach for the delivery of the TYC proposals over the next 3 to 5 years (starting from 2011/12 baseline). Section 4.2 sets out the key commitments and the major changes which will drive service transformation. Main themes for each of the Programmes of Care over the next 3 to 5 years across the 5 Local Commissioning Group (LCG) areas are presented in section 4.4. At the heart of this are the 5 local Population Plans, which provide the building blocks for this SIP. These set out in detail the service transformation initiatives for delivery of the TYC proposals for each of these local areas. There will be continuing focus on reducing delayed discharge from hospital with investment in community infrastructure.	Identifies need for health infrastructure, including for community care.
Health & Wellbeing	The Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006	2006	NI	NI Executive	Transposes into NI legislation the requirements of the European Noise Directive (END). The three main actions that the END requires of Member States are to: (1) determine the noise exposure of the population through noise mapping (2) make information on environmental noise and its effects available to the public (3) establish Action Plans based on the mapping results. The END requires that noise mapping and action planning be completed every five years. The END also requires Member States to 'preserve environmental noise quality where it is good' through the identification and protection of designated Quiet Areas within agglomerations (urban areas with a minimum population density).	Existing 'quiet areas' must be preserved. Further areas could be identified and designated. Zoning of residential areas should have regard for existing noise generators such as roads, rail, airports and industry.
Health & Wellbeing	Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 - 2024.	2014	NI	Outdoor NI	This strategy aims to generate approximately £25 Million to the local economy per annum as a direct result of mountain biking by 2024.	Informs on a potential source of outdoor recreational activity and tourism opportunity. Also relevant to the topic of economy and employment.
Health & Wellbeing	Northern Health and Social Care Trust Population Plan	2013	Regional	NHSCT	This sets out in detail the service transformation initiatives for delivery of the TYC proposals for this trust area. It includes the capital implications and requirements over the 3 year planning period. There will be continuing focus on reducing delayed discharge from hospital with investment in community infrastructure.	Although expired may inform unmet infrastructure requirements.
Health & Wellbeing	Out to Play in Mid and East Antrim - A strategy to shape the future of children and young people's play throughout	2018	Council	Mid and East Antrim	The draft Play Strategy recognises the the role of play in contributing to stable and sustainable community relations. It aims to To provide a range of high quality accessible play	PPS 7 highlights the need for developers to consider the play needs of future residents within development plans. The LDP will play a role in terms of planning open space i.e. adequate provision for green and blue infrastructure, identifying and designating areas of open space etc. The key themes in this strategy will enable the

	Mid and East Antrim Borough up to 2022 - Draft				spaces and facilities across the Borough. The strategy has four key themes: 1. Play Space for All, 2. Play in the Community, 3. Play Programmes and 4. Awareness and Outreach.	Council to plan play services and the future development of fixed and no fixed play. The draft strategy notes that land use planners should ensure a sufficient level of Open Space to enable residents of all ages to participate in sports and games with an emphasis on access for children to play grounds and other play space.
Strengthening Society	Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016	2016	NI	DAERA	The Act received Royal Assent in May 2016 and once commenced in 2017 will place a duty on public authorities, including district councils, to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans and designing and delivering public services. It also requires public authorities to provide information to DAERA on how they have fulfilled this duty on an annual basis to be published in a monitoring report to be laid before the Assembly.	Rural needs have been fully considered in plan preparation, assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal and appropriate provisions are or will be included in the plan.
Strengthening Society	Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing	2015	NI	DAERA	The objective is to ensure robust consideration and integration of rural issues at the outset of the policy making process. It should help to ensure fair and equitable treatment for rural areas through the development of policies which are proportionate to need.	The LDP can support the objective to provide for vital and vibrant rural communities whilst protecting the countryside in which they live, by accommodating sustainable growth within the countryside proportionate to the extent of existing rural communities.
Strengthening Society	Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation	2012	NI	DAERA	This framework sets out the goals, objectives, priority action areas and outcomes for the Programme for Government commitment to bring forward a package of measures to help target the root causes of social isolation and help those in poverty in rural areas. In addition it aims to provide the necessary tools to identify the needs of vulnerable people/groups in rural areas, develop programmes/interventions to help alleviate poverty/social isolation and complement/add value to existing government strategies intended to tackle these issues.	Plan preparation includes consideration of the needs of those living in small settlements and the countryside to ensure that they have access to suitable and affordable housing as well as facilities. The Sustainability Appraisal incorporates Rural Proofing.
Strengthening Society	Community Safety action plan 2015 to 2017	2015	NI	DoJ	The action plan includes an action for the DOE and councils: to support a sense of pride and ownership within neighbourhoods, to address the disorder (graffiti, litter, vandalism) that acts as a signal for ASB by contributing to the development of legislative framework to deal with the growing amenity problems associated with dilapidated or unsightly buildings and neglected sites.	The LDP may have scope to contribute to addressing this through place shaping.
Strengthening Society	Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities: A Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012-2017	2012	NI	DoJ	Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities' sets the direction for reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime in Northern Ireland over the next five years. It builds on the positive progress made in recent years in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, both by continuing to focus on what works, as well as a stronger emphasis on the guiding principle that prevention is better than cure. This Strategy provides the overall direction for community safety in Northern Ireland, and will help guide the work of a range of stakeholders including the Executive, local government, the voluntary and community sector and local communities.	The LDP will take account of this Strategy. It can help support objectives to accommodate cultural differences between Catholic and Protestant communities whilst promoting "shared spaces" to bring people together with equality and opportunity.
Strengthening Society	Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework	2013	NI	DfC	This Policy Framework sets out the Department's policy objectives for urban regeneration and community development in Northern Ireland for at least the next decade. It will provide a clear strategic direction for the Department and inform its partners in central and local government and in the voluntary and community sector. The Framework sets out four Policy Objectives that will form the basis of any future policy or programme development in urban regeneration and community development: 1. To tackle area-based deprivation. 2. To strengthen the competitiveness of our towns and cities. 3. To improve linkages between	This Policy Framework is wide-reaching in terms of the subjects it covers, for example Policy Objective 3 contains key actions relating to environmental improvement, protection and improvement of (historic) buildings and open spaces and developing an integrated transport network, whilst other Objective actions include development of commercial sites. LDP objectives may align with this framework, in particular strengthening the hubs, improving connectivity and facilitating community development. The LDP can indirectly support aims of the policy by, for example,

					areas of need and areas of opportunity. 4. To develop more cohesive and engaged communities. It also contains a set of four Supporting Actions: 1. We will maximise the potential of regeneration and community development by supporting an evidence- based policy environment. 2. We will maximise the resources available to regeneration and community development by supporting an innovative financial environment. 3. We will support the development of skilled and knowledgeable practitioners in regeneration and community development. 4. We will promote an effective and efficient voluntary and community sector	accommodating development for disadvantaged groups, such as the elderly and disabled, with emphasis on 'sustainable growth', facilitating new community facilities and promoting 'shared spaces'. Also relevant to the topic of economy and employment.
Strengthening Society	Together: Building a United Community 2016/17 Update Report	2016	NI	EO	The Strategy outlines how we in Government, in communities and as individuals will work together to build a united community and facilitate change in the key priorities of: Our children and young people; Our shared community; Our safe community; and Our cultural expression.	By creating and shaping places spaces that are accessible and welcoming to all the plan will support this strategy. In some areas there will be specific requirements to address Interface Barriers.
Strengthening Society	[draft] Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Strategy 2017-2027	2017	NI	NI Executive	The Strategy recognises that the wellbeing of our children and young people is central to the development of a progressive, cohesive and prosperous society. It has identified eight factors which contribute towards wellbeing. These are physical and mental health, the enjoyment of play and leisure, learning and achievement, living in safety and with stability, economic and environmental wellbeing, a positive contribution to society, living in a society which respects their rights, living in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted.	The LDP can complement many of the aims of this strategy. For example, policies may help with the Strategy's objective to provide all children, including those with a disability and those living in marginalised, vulnerable or disadvantaged situations, with safe, accessible, inclusive spaces for play.
Strengthening Society	Active Ageing Strategy 2016-2021	2016	NI	NI Executive	The Active Ageing Strategy highlights how much older people contribute to the quality of life in communities; it draws attention to the issues hindering some older people from living more actively; it stresses their rights, value and contribution and challenges all forms of ageism: the negative stereotyping of older people. The Strategy is designed to make a real difference to the quality of life of older people to enable as many people as possible to enjoy the benefits and rewards of life for as long as possible. A draft series of indicators has been proposed to monitor and evaluate progress. Once finalised, this set of indicators will be used to demonstrate progress under each outcome and will be the main method we will use to measure the effects of implementation of the Strategy.	This strategy has five strategic aims: 1. Independence 2. Participation 3. Care 4. Self fulfilment 5. Dignity. Measures indicated within the strategy that are relevant to the LDP include the co-ordinated delivery of suitable warm housing, timely and reliable transport provision, user-friendly information and the active participation and citizenship of older people in decision-making on policies and the provision of services. Aims also include supporting older people to develop to the fullest of their potential by providing education, training, leisure and cultural opportunities.
Strengthening Society	NIHE Good Relations Plan	2007	NI	NIHE	The Housing Executive commits to Respond quickly and effectively to the needs of people in danger as a result of community conflict; Work in partnership with others to address the complex housing needs of a divided society; Respect the rights of people who choose to live where they wish; Facilitate and encourage mixed housing as far as this is practicable, desirable and safe.	The LDP can help to promote and encourage mixed housing and shared spaces, to help bring people from different communities together.
Strengthening Society	NIHE - Race Relations Policy	2006	NI	NIHE	The five Race Relations Policy themes can be summarised as follows; Mainstreaming black and minority ethnic issues in policy development; Racial harassment and intimidation; Promoting black and minority ethnic social inclusion; Community participation and development; and Migrant worker issues.	The LDP can help to promote and encourage social inclusion.
Strengthening Society	The Child Poverty Strategy	2016	NI	EO	The four high-level outcomes are, that: Families experience economic wellbeing; Children in poverty learn and achieve; Children in poverty are healthy; and Children in poverty live in safe, secure and stable environments. Indicators of success against these outcomes include those relating to employment levels in households with children, levels of obesity, hospital admissions for accidents at home or on the road and	Promotion of employment opportunities, provision for housing, increasing accessibility and creating safer environments will contribute to the objectives of this strategy.

					number of homeless families. Some of the most relevant actions to spatial planning are: Create jobs; Upskill the workforce and support young people and their family members into higher skilled, more secure and better paid employment; Reduce living costs; Ensure childcare is accessible and affordable; Promote health and wellbeing; Promote child, road, home and community safety.	
Strengthening Society	Together: Building a United Community	2013	NI	EO	The strategy outlines how government, community and individuals will work together to build a united community and achieve change against the following key priorities: our children and young people; our shared community; our safe community; and our cultural expression. Its vision is 'a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance'. Includes a commitment to Create a 10-year Programme to reduce, and remove by 2023, all interface barriers including an Interface Barrier Support Package	By creating and shaping places spaces that are accessible and welcoming to all the plan will support this strategy. In some areas there will be specific requirements to address Interface Barriers.
Strengthening Society	Delivering Social Change framework	2012	NI	EO	The DSC framework was established to deliver a sustained reduction in poverty and associated issues across all ages and to improve children and young people's health, wellbeing and life opportunities. A Delivering Social Change Fund was established to support The Social Investment Fund; The Delivering Social Change Signature Programmes; Childcare. The six initial Signature Programmes included support for Family Support Hubs; Nurture Units, Social Enterprise Hubs. Three new Signature Programmes announced in 2014 include support for people with dementia and their families and carers; early intervention services for young families and expansion of shared education, supporting schools to share resources and people. The Social Investment Fund is under a separate entry in this register.	The programme has resulted in some new and proposed community facilities that should be considered in plan preparation. It may identify needs for new facilities. The Social Investment Fund is under a separate entry in this register. Also relevant to the topics of Education and Skills Economy and Employment.
Strengthening Society	Social Investment Fund	2011	NI	EO	The Social Investment Fund (SIF) was set up to deliver social change. It aims to make life better for people living in targeted areas by reducing poverty, unemployment and physical deterioration. The fund will run until March 2020 and all funding has been committed to projects prioritised by local Steering Groups. Some funding will capital support to enhance or create community and employment facilities.	Will however inform existing and proposed facilities that should be considered in plan preparation.
Strengthening Society	Lifetime Opportunities - Government's Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for Northern Ireland	2006	NI	EO	As part of the Northern Ireland Executive's commitment to tackling poverty and social exclusion this document outlined what would be done by the Northern Ireland departments and the Northern Ireland Office in working towards its overall objectives of: working towards the elimination of poverty and social exclusion in Northern Ireland by 2020; and halving child poverty by 2010 on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020. The strategy is structured into four key life stages - Early Years (0 - 4), Children and Young People (5 - 16), Working Age Adults and Older Citizens. Each of the life stages is expressed in terms of an overarching goal followed by a series of long-term targets that will work towards achieving the goal. This strategy overlaps with some more recent strategies but continues to be reported on.	Identifies the conditions for bringing people out of poverty including fuel, employment, older people and those in the rural community and for promotion inclusion for all. LDPs proposals and policies consider these needs and support delivery against them.

Housing	Design and Access Statements - A guide for Northern Ireland	2015	NI	Dfi	Planning applications meeting certain criteria must be accompanied by a design and access statement. These include: An application which is a major development, or where any part of the development is in a designated area; and development consisting of - (i) the provision of one or more dwelling houses, or (ii) the provision of a building or buildings where the floor space created by the development is 100m ² or more.	Provides for early consideration of the need and provision for open space, access and landscaping and addressing external factors such as noise and traffic safety. Also relevant to the topics of Health and Wellbeing and Travel and Transport.
Housing	Planning Policy Statement 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside	2010	NI	Dfi	PPS 21 sets out planning policies for development in the countryside. For the purpose of this document the countryside is defined as land lying outside of settlement limits as identified in development plans. The provisions of this document apply to all areas of Northern Ireland's countryside.	A series of 16 policies which allow for development in the countryside in tightly defined circumstances. Many of these are carried forward through the SPPS. The LDP will have to comply with these and other regional policy in any variation of these policies. Also relevant to the topic of strengthening society.
Housing	Planning Policy Statement 7 (Addendum): Safeguarding the Character of Established Residential Areas	2010	NI	Dfi	This document is a second addendum to PPS 7 'Quality Residential Environments' and must be read in conjunction with the policies contained within this PPS and within the previous addendum - 'Residential Extensions and Alterations' (published in March 2008). The addendum provides additional planning policies on the protection of local character, environmental quality and residential amenity within established residential areas, villages and smaller settlements. It also sets out regional policy on the conversion of existing buildings to flats or apartments. In addition, the addendum contains policy to promote greater use of permeable paving within new residential developments to reduce the risk of flooding from surface water run-off.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Housing	Planning Policy Statement 7 (Addendum): Residential Extensions and Alterations	2008	NI	Dfi	This document is a further Addendum to PPS 7 'Quality Residential Environments' and must be read in conjunction with the policies contained within that PPS. The Addendum provides an additional planning policy for the extension and/or alteration of a dwellinghouse or flat, including those in multiple occupancy. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development and the Quality Initiative. However, it should be noted that unlike the other policies of PPS 7, the policy contained in this Addendum will apply to all dwellinghouses or flats throughout the Region, including single dwellings in the countryside.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Housing	Planning Policy Statement 12 Housing in Settlements	2005	NI	Dfi	PPS 12: Housing in Settlements Planning Policy Statement 12 'Housing in Settlements' has been prepared to assist in the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy to guide the future pattern on housing by managing future housing growth and distribution, support urban renaissance and achieve balanced communities. Development management policy for affordable housing is still contained within Planning Policy Statement 12 'Housing in Settlements' (PPS 12), published in July 2005. Under transitional arrangements, until a Plan Strategy is adopted, PPS 12 is still a material consideration for deciding planning applications. PPS 12 contains a development management policy, Policy HS 2, which "will be applied where a need for social housing is established through a local housing needs assessment and the development plan for the area has not provided for it."	The LDP will take into consideration the policy provisions of those documents retained under the transitional arrangements. PPS policies that have not been consolidated into the SPPS will cease to be a material consideration in assessing planning applications for LGDs once each Council adopts their new LDP Plan Strategy. It is therefore necessary that any existing PPS policies the Council wish to continue to apply once the Plan Strategy is in place will need to be replaced through the inclusion of relevant, locally tailored policies within the new Plan Strategy.
Housing	PPS 7: Quality Residential Environments	2001	NI	Dfi	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for achieving quality in new residential development and advises on the treatment of this issue in development plans with a requirement for a Concept Master Plan for large developments.	This requires that all residential development is of good quality and sustainable and does result in unacceptable damage to the local character, environmental quality or residential amenity of these areas. The process of sustainability appraisal will help ensure this.

Housing	Creating Places: Achieving Quality in Residential Developments incorporating guidance on layout and access	2000	NI	DfI	Aims to promote: More sustainable patterns of living, working and travelling, more effective integration between land-use planning and transport, the creation of attractive places in which people are happy to live, work and take their leisure.	Supplementary planning guidance - the creation of attractive residential environments with a genuine sense of place is a prerequisite to achieving sustainability.
Housing	Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland Action Plan Update September 2015	2015	NI	DfC	This is a midterm update on the progress in delivering the 'Facing the Future' Housing Strategy. The strategy is centred on a vision that everyone should have the opportunity to access good quality housing at a reasonable cost. This update shows that, despite a challenging economic environment, the majority of the actions are on track for delivery by 2017.	The LDP can help to support many of the actions identified in the action plan, such as: introducing developer contributions, developing work on energy efficiency, increasing the availability of smaller social housing units and other initiatives for encouraging town and city centre regeneration such as living over shops.
Housing	Northern Ireland Empty Homes Strategy and Action Plan 2013 - 2018	2013	NI	DfC	The Empty Homes Strategy is to ensure that the number of empty properties is kept to a minimum and to identify new opportunities to encourage owners to bring them back into use.	The LDP can help to support these objectives.
Housing	Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 -2017	2012	NI	DfC	This Housing Strategy identifies four roles for government and five themes to help meet housing needs while supporting the most vulnerable. The themes are: 1. Ensuring access to decent, affordable, sustainable homes across all tenures; 2. Meeting housing needs and supporting the most vulnerable; 3. Housing and Welfare Reform; 4. Driving regeneration & sustaining communities through housing; and 5. Getting the structures right. This strategy sets out how the government intends to fulfil the objectives over the next five years. The strategy also envisages housing playing a role in driving regeneration within communities, particularly those suffering from blight and population decline.	These themes align with a number of aspects of the LDP and sustainability appraisal, namely sustainable development, economic development, quality residential environments, etc. The strategy may complement a number of aspects of the proposed LDP, such as the provision of new homes which meets the needs of various groups, such as families, the elderly, and disabled. The strategy may put pressure on the environmental aspects of the LDP such as natural heritage, archaeology, flood risk, etc. A balance will need to be found through considered planning decisions.
Housing	Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland Action Plan	2012	NI	DfC	The action plan for the 'Facing the Future' Housing Strategy follows on from the consultation on the draft strategy in 2012. It identifies a new, fifth role for government and sets out the 33 actions that will work towards achievement of each theme. The plan aims help the department to work towards five high-level outcomes: 1. Better housing management, with a more efficient and targeted use of resources; 2. Better regulation, with an increased focus on the interests of tenants and citizens, and reduced red tape; 3. Greater flexibility and responsiveness, as circumstances and market conditions change; 4. Continued fairness for citizens, regardless of tenure and consistent with the need to support those who are most vulnerable; and 5. Implementing new structures that can support the above outcomes.	The LDP can help to support many of the actions identified in the action plan, such as: introducing developer contributions, developing work on energy efficiency, increasing the availability of smaller social housing units and other initiatives for encouraging town and city centre regeneration such as living over shops.
Housing	Delivering Sustainable Healthy Homes in Northern Ireland, NIHE, TPCA, Belfast Healthy Cities (March 2016)	2016	NI	NIHE	Guidance and good practice on how planning, health, housing and energy professionals can use new planning powers and responsibilities for community planning to support integrated local approaches to sustainable homes and communities, for energy and health and wellbeing.	This guidance will be taken into account in the preparation of the LDP.
Housing	Social Housing Development Programme, Unmet Social Housing Need Prospectus	2016	NI	NIHE	The prospectus provides information for housing associations and developers in respect of locations where there is unmet social housing need or shortages of development sites contained in the published SHDP. These are locations where the Housing Executive would consider suitable proposals/schemes.	This assessment informs potential requirements for social housing which can in turn inform the LDP.
Housing	NIHE Social housing Development Programme	2015	NI	NIHE	5. Getting the structures right. This strategy sets out how the government intends to fulfil the objectives over the next five years. The	The LDP will take account of ongoing annual reporting and the prospectus will inform social housing zonings within the plan area.

	(SHDP) - 2015/16 - 2017/18				strategy also envisages housing playing a fourth role in driving regeneration within communities, particularly those suffering from blight and population decline.	
Housing	Housing Executive Environmental Policy	2015	NI	NIHE	Includes commitments to prevent pollution of air, land and water; support initiatives to develop sustainable local communities; and enhance and protect biodiversity cross all Housing Executive landholdings.	The LDP can help to support these commitments.
Housing	Housing Executive Corporate Plan - Regional Services	2015	NI	NIHE	Objective 1 Identification of housing requirements across Northern Ireland; Objective 2 Investing in homes and neighbourhoods; Objective 3 Improving People's Homes; Objective 4 Transforming people's lives; Objective 5 Enabling sustainable neighbourhoods.	The LDP can help to support these objectives.
Housing	Housing Executive Community Involvement Strategy	2015	NI	NIHE	This strategy includes the vision "to give residents a real say in making their neighbourhoods better places in which to live".	The LDP can support this strategy by providing an opportunity to cooperate in place shaping.
Housing	Housing Executive Corporate Plan - Landlord Services	2015	NI	NIHE	Objective 1 Delivering quality services; Objective 2 Delivering better homes; Objective 3 Fostering vibrant communities	The LDP can help to support these objectives.
Housing	Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 - 2017	2012	NI	NIHE	In response to the statutory duty (the Housing (NI) Order 1988 as amended) to produce a homelessness strategy, our strategic approach remains focused on addressing the issues that lead to homelessness as well as meeting the temporary and permanent accommodation needs of those who present as homeless.	In enabling housing need to be addressed, the LDP will contribute to delivery of the objectives of this strategy.
Housing	The Belfast Metropolitan Housing Market Area: a local housing system analysis	2011	Regional	NIHE	This report commissioned by NIHE presents the findings of a study into the structure of the Belfast Metropolitan HMA. A housing market area is defined as a geographical area where most people both live and work and where most people moving home (without changing job) seek a house. HMAs can overlap, and often do not marry well with local authority boundaries. Moreover, they are dynamic and HMA boundaries can change over time.	Movement patterns to work inform housing need. Over time the Belfast HMA has been extending its influence northwards and southwards into adjacent TTWAs. It now includes all of Larne local government district (LGD), and all but 1 ward of Antrim LGD
Housing	Mid and East Antrim - Housing Investment Plan - Annual Update 2016, NIHE	2016	Council	NIHE	NIHE has prepared four year Housing Investment Plans for each Council to provide a long term, holistic, cross tenure look at local housing markets. The Housing Investment Plans set out ten outcomes under five themes, which performance can be measured against. The themes are Identify and meet housing need and demand; Improving People's homes; Transforming people's lives; Enabling sustainable neighbourhoods; Delivering quality services.	The HIP is an important evidence base for the LDP and will help facilitate discussion on housing issues within each district. In addition, a purpose of the HIP is to inform Councils on the various programmes and initiatives the Housing Executive and Housing Associations are developing to meet local housing needs.
Housing	Draft Sustainable Rural Communities: a review of the housing executive's Rural Housing Policy, NIHE (Jan 2016)	2016	Council	NIHE	Stated vision 'Housing services working in partnership to enable and support vibrant, shared and sustainable rural communities and provide economic, social and environmental benefits in rural areas'. The Housing Executive's contribution to supporting sustainable rural communities focuses on two key elements: planning, enabling and improving rural homes; and supporting and investing in rural people. Based on this the following five policy objectives are proposed: 1) To plan and enable the provision of affordable homes which meet rural housing needs; 2) To improve the condition of rural housing stock and reduce fuel poverty; 3) To provide housing support to vulnerable people in rural areas; 4) To contribute to the development of safe, cohesive and engaged rural neighbourhoods; 5) To work in partnership with others to assist in rural development. Consultation to Mar 2016, Final document due Oct 2016.	The LDP should facilitate this strategy in a manner consistent with other regional policies. The LDP will support this. It sets out to support vibrant rural communities, facilitate development of new, accessible, community facilities, and improve connectivity between/within settlements in terms of telecommunications and transport infrastructure in particular. It aims to provide for 15,000 new homes by 2030 in a range of housing capable of meeting the needs of families, the elderly disabled and single people at accessible locations. It recognises the needs of both growing families and carers of the elderly and disabled.

Housing	Annual Housing Need Assessment Publication - Mid and East Antrim, (January 2016)	2016	Council	NIHE	In order to assist the new planning authorities, the Housing Executive now provides each council area with annual HNAs for their area to facilitate the application of Policy HS 2 of PPS 12. This document represents the Housing Executive's annual HNA showing the Social, Supported and Traveller housing need for Mid and East Antrim Borough over the next 5 years, based on March 2015 waiting list data. In addition, the report identifies affordability trends for first time buyers.	The SPSS states that the Housing Needs Assessment (HNA)'provides an evidence base that must be taken into consideration in the allocation, through the development plan, of land required to facilitate the right mix of housing tenures including open market and special housing needs such as affordable housing, social housing, supported housing and travellers' accommodation. The HNA will influence how Local Development Plans facilitate a reasonable mix and balance of housing tenures and types.'
Housing	Housing Investment Plan 2015-2019 Mid and East Antrim	2015	Council	NIHE	NIHE has prepared four year Housing Investment Plans for each Council to provide a long term, holistic, cross tenure look at local housing markets. The Housing Investment Plans set out ten outcomes under five themes, which performance can be measured against. The themes are Identify and meet housing need and demand; Improving People's homes; Transforming people's lives; Enabling sustainable neighbourhoods; Delivering quality services.	The HIP is an important evidence base for the LDP and will help facilitate discussion on housing issues within each district. In addition, a purpose of the HIP is to inform Councils on the various programmes and initiatives the Housing Executive and Housing Associations are developing to meet local housing needs. This strategy aligns with a number of aspects of the proposed LDP, namely objective (a) (iv) 'To provide for 15,000 new homes by 2030 via a range of housing to meet the needs of families, the elderly, and disabled'. The strategy may put pressure on the environmental aspects of the LDP such as natural heritage, archaeology, flood risk, etc. Similarly, the LDP may inhibit house building due to environmental or design constraints. A balance will need to be found through considered planning decisions.
Housing	Housing Investment Plan 2015-2019	2015	Council	NIHE	NIHE has prepared four year Housing Investment Plans for each Council to provide a long term, holistic, cross tenure look at local housing markets. The Housing Investment Plans set out ten outcomes under five themes, which performance can be measured against. The themes are Identify and meet housing need and demand; Improving People's homes; Transforming people's lives; Enabling sustainable neighbourhoods; Delivering quality services.	The HIP is an important evidence base for the LDP and will help facilitate discussion on housing issues within each district. In addition, a purpose of the HIP is to inform Councils on the various programmes and initiatives the Housing Executive and Housing Associations are developing to meet local housing needs.
Housing	Northern Ireland Housing Market Areas	2010	Council	NIHE	This report commissioned by NIHE presents the findings of a study into the structure of housing market areas (HMA) across Northern Ireland. A housing market area is defined as a geographical area where most people both live and work and where most people moving home (without changing job) seek a house. HMA can overlap, and often do not marry well with local authority boundaries. Moreover, they are dynamic and HMA boundaries can change over time. 11 major HMAs were identified as operating across Northern Ireland: Belfast, Craigavon, Newry, Ballymena, Coleraine, Derry, Strabane, Omagh, Mid-Ulster, Dungannon and Enniskillen.	Movement patterns to work can help to inform housing need. Reports for each HMA were prepared in 2011-2013 and are available on the home page.
Education & Skills	Department of Education Annual Business Plan 2016/2017	2016	NI	DE	This Plan contains a number of goals including 'Improving the Wellbeing of Children and Young People' - includes rights, play and participation, 'Raising Standards for All - includes early years and childcare, 'Closing the Performance Gap, Increasing Access and Equality' - includes Special Education Needs; youth work and sustainable schools, and 'Improving the learning environment'. The plan aims to make sure that strategic investment supports the delivery of the area plans; that the premises in which young people grow and learn are safe, fit for purpose and conducive to learning; and that the environment provides opportunities for sharing and for building a more cohesive society. The Plan supports a number of indicators in the draft PfG for education.	This is a short term plan that is relevant to the facilities required for e.g. childcare, early years, primary and secondary school, special educational needs and youth. There is no current Corporate Plan for the Department. Regional education policies, programmes, strategies and action plans may be influenced and supported by spatial planning. Also relevant to the topic of Strengthening Society.

Education & Skills	Every school a good school - a policy for school improvement	2009	NI	DE	Mainly focused on delivery of quality education meeting needs of pupils. Recognises that school premises are a resource that could be better used by local communities and that providing for increased community use of school premises can be an effective way of building links between schools and their local communities. Legislation already provides for schools to make their premises available to outside groups and the Department wants to encourage more community use of school premises. Commits to identifying and disseminating good practice with a particular focus on community use of schools to help schools in building stronger links with their parents and local communities.	Creates the conditions for increased use of schools for community benefit which should be considered in planning for communities.
Education & Skills	Schools for the Future: A Policy for Sustainable Schools	2009	NI	DE	The policy has as its vision an estate of educationally sustainable schools planned on an area basis, with focus on sharing and collaboration. It provides a framework for early consideration of emerging problems and possible remedial action to address questions of viability. The primary objective of the policy is to ensure that all children get a first class education in fit for purpose facilities, regardless of background or where they live. The policy sets out six criteria to be considered in assessing a school's educational viability, as follows: quality educational experience; stable enrolment trends; sound financial position; strong leadership and management; accessibility; strong links with the community.	The LDP should enable development/expansion of school facilities where required to meet the needs of the policy.
Education & Skills	Development Control Advice Note 13: Crèches, Day Nurseries and Pre-School Play Groups	1993	NI	DfI	The purpose of this Advice Note is to give general guidance to intending developers, their professional advisors and agents. It is designed to provide advice on the Planning criteria to be applied when an application for this form of development is being considered. It is not a specific statement of Departmental policy but rather one of advice and guidance.	If this is the most up to date advice on the topic it should be considered in LDP preparation however noting that there may be changes in the sector that also need to be taken into account.
Education & Skills	Education Authority Interim Strategic Plan 2017-2027	2018	NI	EA	The interim Strategic Plan 2017-2027 outlines what EA will do over the next decade to achieve key goals, deliver consistently high-quality services to the community across Northern Ireland and produce positive outcomes for all children and young people. It will be supported by a three-year Corporate Plan and annual business plans which will enable EA to incorporate new priorities and respond to new challenges as they arise. The Strategic Plan has five main objectives 1) Meeting the learning needs of our children and young people 2) Providing excellent education support services 3) Developing all our people to carry out their jobs successfully 4) Managing our resources effectively and efficiently 5) Nurturing leadership across the EA to give clear direction in a dynamic and complex environment.	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies. The LDP should enable development /expansion of education facilities where required.
Education & Skills	Providing Pathways - Strategic Area Plan for Schools 2017-2020	2017	NI	Education Authority	The plan identifies the challenges for the education system throughout each Local Government District (LGD) area. The challenges include reducing or increasing the number of available places in schools, matching provision to population trends, addressing school provision which is not sustainable and improving the quality of provision. In some areas of Northern Ireland there are too many school places for the size of the population, while in other areas, there are not enough places. Area planning aims to establish a network of viable schools that are of the right type, the right size, located in the right place, and have a focus on raising standards. Therefore, the aim of area planning is to ensure that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum in sustainable, fit-for-purpose schools.	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies.

Education & Skills	Education Authority Annual Action Plan 2017-2018	2017	NI	Education Authority	The Education Authority Action Plans will provide details of the proposed actions to be taken to address key strategic issues in local areas and at local schools, all of which will be subject to detailed consultation. This Annual Action Plan covers the period April 2017 to March 2018 and identifies those schools for which developments are proposed. The Annual Action Plan includes schools where sustainability is now an issue but, also, includes some schools that are sustainable, as it is these schools who may form part of the solution to sustainability issues in other schools or areas.	The Action Plans can help inform the LDP on the areas where sustainability of schools is an issue and areas where there are insufficient places available to accommodate the local population.
Economy & Employment	Blue Growth	2012	Europe	EC	Blue Growth is the long term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors as a whole. Seas and oceans are drivers for the European economy and have great potential for innovation and growth. It is the maritime contribution to achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The 'blue' economy represents roughly 5.4 million jobs and generates a gross added value of almost €500 billion a year. However, further growth is possible in a number of areas which are highlighted within the strategy. The EC considers that by, for example, supporting innovative SMEs, and encouraging innovative products and solutions, Europe can unlock the untapped potential for growth in its blue economy while safeguarding biodiversity and protecting the environment through traditional sectors such as maritime transport and maritime and coastal tourism as well as growing and emerging sectors, such as ocean renewable energy and blue biotechnology.	This may inform LDP policies relating to economy and energy but has the potential to conflict with sustainable use of natural resources.
Economy & Employment	Europe 2020 Economic Strategy	2010	Europe	EC	Europe 2020 is the European Union's ten-year jobs and growth strategy. It was launched in 2010 to create the conditions for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Five headline targets have been agreed for the EU to achieve by the end of 2020. These cover employment; research and development; climate/energy; education; social inclusion and poverty reduction and targets are set for each for example on energy efficiency.	LDP objectives and supporting policies are likely to support delivery of this strategy.
Economy & Employment	Going for Growth - A Strategic Action Plan	2014	NI	DAERA	In May 2012, DARD and DETI appointed the industry led Agri-Food Strategy Board (AFSB) to make recommendations in respect of the growth targets, strategic priorities and actions to be included in that Plan. The report, Going for Growth, includes more than 100 recommendations aimed at accelerating the growth of farming, fishing and food and drink processing in Northern Ireland to 2020 and beyond. In response the NI Executive has agreed an action plan, outlining actions to be progressed across relevant Departments and Agencies.	This action plan committed to centralised and more streamlined processing for poultry house planning applications while DOE was the planning authority. The 'Commitment to supporting Sustainable Use of Poultry Litter' loan scheme may address some of the environmental effects of pig and poultry production and also lead to new development.
Economy & Employment	DETI (2010) Draft Northern Ireland Tourism Strategy	2010	NI	DfE	The original 2010 draft is not available. The vision was to: create the new NI experience; get it on everyone's destination wish list; and double the income earned from tourism by 2020. The draft strategy, had the aim of providing the strategic direction for the development of NI's tourism experience to the year 2020 and a targeted Action Plan to deliver it. At the core of the strategy was the intention to grow income from visitor numbers with tourist revenue increased from £536 million in 2010 to £1 billion by 2020. An updated draft strategy, is currently being developed by The Department for the Economy and was due for consultation by the end of 2016, however the absence of Ministers has delayed public	By encouraging sustainable development, the LDP may also indirectly support development that enables tourism e.g. visitor centres, attractions, services, transport etc. As with any development, environmental considerations will need to be considered.

					consultation on, and therefore finalisation of, the draft Strategy within the original timescale.	
Economy & Employment	A Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020	2010	NI	DfE	Aims to provide strategic direction and targets for the development of NI's tourism experience to the year 2020 and a targeted Action Plan to deliver it. At the core of the strategy was the intention to grow income from visitor numbers with tourist revenue increased from £536 million in 2010 to £1 billion by 2020.	The Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 identified nine key tourism destinations. The LDP can indirectly support development that enables tourism.
Economy & Employment	Economy 2030: an Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland [DRAFT]	2017	NI	DfE	This strategy sets out a plan to turn Northern Ireland into one of the world's most innovative and competitive small advanced economies. "Our ambition to build a globally competitive economy will be based around the following five priority pillars for growth: Accelerating Innovation and Research; Enhancing Education, Skills and Employability; Driving Inclusive, Sustainable Growth; Succeeding in Global Markets; Building the Best Economic Infrastructure.	The LDP can help support opportunities that are most likely to lead to strong and sustained economic growth
Economy	Planning Policy Statement 16 Tourism	2013	NI	DfI	Policies in relation to tourism and safeguarding tourism assets.	Retention of some or all of these policies will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Economy & Employment	Planning Policy Statement 4 - Planning and Economic Development (DOE 2010)	2010	NI	DfI	Policies for sustainable economic development and stipulates how these can be brought forward in development plans.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Economy & Employment	Northern Ireland Economic Strategy : Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity. Building a better Future	2012	NI	NI Executive	Sets out how the Executive plans to grow a prosperous local economy over the short, medium and longer term to 2030. The economic vision for 2030 is: 'An economy characterised by a sustainable and growing private sector, where a greater number of firms compete in global markets and there is growing employment and prosperity for all'. There is an emphasis on redressing a dependency on the public sector through the following: stimulate innovation, R&D and creativity so that we widen and deepen our export base; improve the skills and employability of the entire workforce so that people can progress up the skills ladder, thereby delivering higher productivity and increased social inclusion; compete effectively within the global economy and be internationally regarded as a good place to live and do business; encourage business growth and increase the potential of our local companies, including within the social and rural economies; and develop a modern and sustainable economic infrastructure that supports economic growth.	The LDP can support this strategy by enabling economic growth and shaping an environment with sustainable infrastructure that attracts investment and supports innovation.
Economy & Employment	Economic Strategy Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity - Building a better Future	2012	NI	NI Executive	The overarching goal of this Strategy is to improve the economic competitiveness of the Northern Ireland economy. In order to achieve this, we are committed to strengthening our competitiveness through a focus on export led economic growth. This means we are prioritising the need to deepen and diversify our export base in order to increase employment and wealth across Northern Ireland. The key drivers of this will be innovation, R&D and the skills of our workforce.	The LDP can support this strategy by enabling economic growth and shaping an environment with sustainable infrastructure that attracts investment and supports innovation. Also relevant to the topic of education and skills.
Material Assets	Renewable energy Directive 2009 EC2009/28/EC2	2009	Europe	EC	The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU to limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and promote cleaner transport. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 - to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets. All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020.	The LDP will take account of the Directive.

Material Assets	Directive 2008/98/EC on waste	2008	Europe	EC	Establishes the five tier hierarchy of waste. This waste hierarchy aims to encourage the management of waste materials in order to reduce the amount of waste materials produced, and to recover maximum value from the wastes that are produced. It encourages the prevention of waste, followed by the reuse and refurbishment of goods, then value recovery through recycling and composting. Waste disposal should only be used when no option further up the hierarchy is possible. Prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness. The recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation. Recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without using processes that could harm the environment.	The LDP will reflect the Waste Hierarchy approach to Waste management. The LDP will provide for appropriate waste management facilities. The LDP will bring forward policies in regards of renewable energy including biomass. The LDP should make appropriate actions reflecting the need to manage wastes according to this directive.
Material Assets	Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste	1999	Europe	EC	Prevent or reduce negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills. The objective of the Directive is to prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment, in particular on surface water, groundwater, soil, air, and on human health from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills. The Landfill Directive defines the different categories of waste (municipal waste, hazardous waste, non-hazardous waste and inert waste) and applies to all landfills, defined as waste disposal sites for the deposit of waste onto or into land. Landfills are divided into three classes: landfills for hazardous waste; landfills for non-hazardous waste; landfills for inert waste.	The LDP will take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies contained in the SPSS.
Material Assets	Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste	1994	Europe	EC	Harmonise the packaging waste system of Member States. Reduce the environmental impact of packaging waste.	The LDP will take account of the Directive.
Material Assets	National Renewable Energy Action Plan for the United Kingdom	2010	UK	BEIS	Aims to provide a framework which enables the land based and rural sectors to realise the potential opportunities in the development of renewable energy. Focus is on assisting meeting targets for renewable energy production at a regional, national and EU level in a balanced and sustainable way. Other key objectives of the development include energy security, emissions reductions and wider economic advantages.	Policies relating to renewable energy are proposed, helping to meet the objectives of this plan. Design and sustainable development policies should also encourage renewable energy as part of these developments. Planning decisions will have to balance need for renewables with environmental concerns and it may be that the need for renewable developments is outweighed by environmental protection.
Material Assets	The UK Renewable Energy Strategy	2009	UK	BEIS	This UK Roadmap shows where we are now; analysis of how deployment may evolve by 2020, together with separate estimates of the market's view of the potential; and the actions required to set us on the path to achieve the deployment levels anticipated in our analysis. While renewable deployment across all technologies will be important, the Roadmap focuses in particular on the technologies that have either the greatest potential to help the UK meet the 2020 target in a cost effective and sustainable way, or offer great potential for the decades that follow. These are Onshore wind, Offshore wind, Marine energy, Biomass electricity, Biomass heat, Ground source and air source heat pumps and Renewable transport.	The LDP should take into account evidence that informs future energy needs and renewable provision.
Material Assets	Renewable Energy in the Land Based Sector A way forward. Interim Renewable Energy Action Plan 2013/14	2013	NI	DAERA	Follow up to the Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010. Strategic aim to Promote sustainable farming and forestry practices to deliver greater resource efficiency and reduced environmental impact, by supporting the sector to make a contribution to and benefit from renewable energy opportunities. Focus on enabling the land based and rural sectors to	LDP preparation will have to balance need for renewables with environmental concerns and it may be that the need for renewable developments is outweighed by environmental protection.

					realise the potential opportunities in the development of renewable energy through capacity building, research and promotion of opportunities.	
Material Assets	Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (ORED) for Ireland	2010	RoI	DCCA	The ORED identifies the opportunity for the sustainable development of Ireland's offshore renewable energy resources and sets out key principles, policy actions and enablers for delivery of Ireland's significant potential in this area. Three high level goals have been identified for the ORED: Ireland harnesses the market opportunities presented by offshore renewable energy to achieve economic development, growth and jobs; Increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing offshore renewable energy; Offshore renewable energy developments do not adversely impact our rich marine environment and its living and non-living resources.	This plan will not affect or be affected by the LDP directly. However, developments arising under the LDP could have an impact on the capacity available in Ireland. Developments in Ireland could also affect NI resources, particularly marine or coastal environments.
Material Assets	Envisioning the Future: Considering Energy in Northern Ireland to 2050	2015	NI	DfE	A vision of what might happen by 2050: the outcomes are neither a prediction nor a plan and the study does not, therefore, propose a strategy. Instead, the vision is intended to guide thinking on what can be achieved in 2050 and what early decisions and activities may be needed to support development towards 2050.	Evidence that informs future energy needs and provision.
Material Assets	Draft Onshore Renewable Electricity Action Plan	2013	NI	DfE	The aim of the Action Plan is to maximise the amount of renewable electricity generated from onshore renewable sources in order to enhance diversity and security of supply, reduce carbon emissions, contribute to the 40% renewable electricity target by 2020 and beyond and develop business and employment opportunities for Northern Ireland companies.	Provision in the LDP to support delivery of this will need to align with the renewable energy subject policy of the SPPS, though it could conflict with the natural heritage and other environmental policies.
Material Assets	Offshore Renewable Energy Strategic Action Plan 2012-2020	2012	NI	DfE	The overall aim of the ORESAP is; to optimise the amount of renewable electricity sustainably generated from offshore wind and marine renewable resources in Northern Ireland's waters in order to enhance diversity and security of supply, reduce carbon emissions, contribute to the 40% renewable electricity target by 2020 and beyond and develop business and employment opportunities for NI companies. The associated development opportunity is for up to 900 MW of offshore wind and 300 MW from tidal resources in Northern Ireland waters by 2020.	Provision in the LDP to support delivery of this will need to align with the renewable energy subject policy of the SPPS, though it could conflict with the natural heritage and other environmental policies.
Material Assets	DETI (2012) Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-2015	2012	NI	DfE	The Action Plan aims to assist with the implementation of the Strategic Energy Framework (2010-2020). DETI set out numerous "main actions for the future" regarding renewables and other aspects of sustainable energy. Of particular relevance are the commitments to: Contribute to the growth of the NI sustainable energy sector (through Invest NI) to 8.9% of NI GVA by 2015; Work with DOE, developers, planners and those responsible for environmental consents to ensure that the need for renewable energy to address the environmental impacts of climate change is recognised, that good quality applications are made and that clear, consistent and proportionate procedures are in place for the consenting of renewable installations; Undertake "capacity studies" (including landscape capacity study, ecological study and bird migration study, with DOE and others) in order to determine with more accuracy how much development could be accommodated in different locations across Northern Ireland before significant cumulative effects start to emerge; Develop a continuous monitoring framework (with DOE and others) where the key potential cumulative effects identified from the	A number of socio-economic objectives are included in the Action Plan requiring the development of facilities and service infrastructure, as well as proposing funding for additional development such as renewables or farm diversification.

					assessment are reviewed on a regular basis in response to growth of the onshore wind industry. There are also a number of socio-economic commitments, such as supporting construction of electricity network or refurbishing schools with renewable technologies for example.	
Material Assets	DETI (2010) Energy: A Strategic Framework for Northern Ireland	2010	NI	DfE	Contains goals and targets, but does not include the detail of how targets could be achieved. It does aim to ensure future access to secure, competitively priced and sustainable energy supplies for all of NI. Also it provides a direction for NI energy policy over the next ten years concentrating on key areas of electricity, natural gas and renewable energy sources. Under review in 2016.	Renewable and sustainable development policies will indirectly accord with this framework, by providing for renewable development. There may be a conflict between this framework and environmental policies (natural heritage, cultural heritage, flood risk etc.) when it comes to developing gas facilities and electrical networks.
Material Assets	The Revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy "Delivering Resource Efficiency"	2013	NI	DAERA	The revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy sets the policy framework for the management of waste in Northern Ireland, and contains actions and targets to meet EU Directive requirements and the Department's Programme for Government commitments. It builds on and retains the core principles of the 2006 Strategy, and places a renewed emphasis on the Waste Hierarchy. The new Strategy moves the emphasis of waste management in Northern Ireland from resource management, with landfill diversion as the key driver, to resource efficiency i.e. using resources in the most effective way while minimising the impact of their use on the environment.	The SPPS supports this strategy, namely with development making sustainable use of available resources and having a sustainable approach to waste designed in. Waste management is one of the Subject Policies. The economic considerations of the SPPS will support 'green jobs' and ensure that the economy will benefit from planning decisions. Improved waste management will be good for the environment. The LDP is therefore likely to support this strategy, namely with development making sustainable use of available resources and having a sustainable approach to waste designed in. The economic considerations of the LDP will support employment and ensure that the economy will benefit from planning decisions. Improved waste management will be good for the environment.
Material Assets	Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Supplementary Planning Guidance Wind Energy Development in Northern Ireland's Landscapes.	2010	NI	DfI	The SPG provides broad, strategic guidance in relation to the visual and landscape impacts of wind energy development. The guidance is based on the sensitivity of Northern Ireland's landscapes to wind energy development and contains an assessment of each of the 130 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) in Northern Ireland by referencing the characteristics and values associated with each LCA.	Informs the relative capacity for wind energy in respect of landscape. Also relevant to the topic of landscape.
Material Assets	Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Anaerobic Digestion	2010	NI	DfI	The SPG provides additional advice and guidance specific to Anaerobic Digestion (AD) to complement the background information already set out in the Best Practice Guidance to PPS 18. AD proposals raise a number of planning issues including visual and landscape impacts arising from industrial scale plant/buildings; potential odour impacts, air emissions, noise impacts, and traffic impacts.	LDP policies in respect of development in the countryside, waste and landscape may influence the future development of these facilities. Also relevant to the topic of landscape.
Material Assets	Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009)	2009	NI	DfI	Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 18 sets out the planning policy for development that generates energy from renewable resources. The PPS aims to facilitate the siting of renewable energy generating facilities in appropriate locations within the built and natural environments.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Material Assets	Planning Policy Statement 10 Telecommunications	2002	NI	DfI	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for telecommunications development. It embodies the Government's commitment to facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunications systems whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum. The PPS also addresses health issues associated with telecommunications development.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Material Assets	Planning Policy Statement 11 Planning and Waste Management (DOE 2002)	2002	NI	DfI	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the development of waste management facilities. It seeks to promote the highest environmental standards in development proposals for waste management facilities and includes guidance on the issues likely to be	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.

					considered in the determination of planning applications. In addition, it explains the relationship between the planning system and authorities responsible for the regulation and management of waste.	
Material Assets	The Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997	1997	NI	NI Executive	Implements the European Commission (EC) Framework on Waste in NI. The Order makes a number of provisions such as: transfer of responsibility for waste regulation from the district councils to the Department of Environment (DOE), focused within the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) introduction of measures designed to increase control over the processing and handling of waste including Waste Management Licensing, Duty of Care, Registration of Carriers, Special Waste and Producer Responsibility introduction of measures relating to the identification of contaminated land, designation of special sites, duties of enforcing authorities to require remediation, determination of appropriate persons to bear responsibility for remediation, liability of contaminating substances which escape to other land and contaminated land registers.	The Contaminated Land regime which is set out in Part 3 of the Waste Management and Contaminated Land Order (Northern Ireland) 1997, has been enacted but is not yet in force. Also relevant to the topic of physical resources.
Material Assets	arc21 Waste Management Plan	2014	Regional	arc21	This Waste Management Plan has been prepared by the arc21 Region in fulfilment of its councils' obligations under Article 23 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. Under Article 23, District Councils have a duty to prepare Waste Management Plans for the forward planning of waste management requirements for collecting, recovering, treating and disposing of controlled waste within the Region. The Plan provides a framework for waste management provision and a regional network of facilities for all controlled wastes within the arc21 Region. It establishes the overall need for waste management capacity and details the proposed arrangements to deal with the wastes produced in a sustainable manner.	There is a need to accommodate investment in waste management.
Physical Resources	The Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection	2006	Europe	Council of Europe	In September 2006 the Commission adopted a Soil Thematic Strategy including a proposal for a Soil Framework Directive. This originated from the need to ensure a sustainable use of soils and protect their function in a comprehensive manner in a context of increasing pressure and degradation of soils across the EU.	The commitment to sustainable soil use is in line with the Seventh Environment Action Programme, (7th EAP) which provides that by 2020 "land is managed sustainably in the Union, soil is adequately protected and the remediation of contaminated sites is well underway" and commits the EU and its Member States to "increasing efforts to reduce soil erosion and increase organic matter, to remediate contaminated sites and to enhance the integration of land use aspects into coordinated decision-making involving all relevant levels of government, supported by the adoption of targets on soil and on land as a resource, and land planning objectives".
Physical Resources	UK Geodiversity Action Plan	2011	UK	Natural England	The UKGAP sets out a framework for geodiversity action across the UK. It encompasses six themes: 1. Furthering our understanding of geodiversity, 2. Influencing planning policy, legislation and development design, 3. Gathering and maintaining information on our geodiversity, 4. Conserving and managing our geodiversity, 5. Inspiring people to value and care for our geodiversity, 6. Sustaining resources for our geodiversity.	Geodiversity can play a role in planning for and mitigating the effects of climate change, coastal erosion and flooding. It can also help support Ecosystem Services such as soil formation, flood management, pollution control, mineral resources and the enjoyment of our environment. The LDP should recognise that geodiversity is cross-cutting across several themes including transport, housing, mineral extraction and waste. It should also recognise the sustainable socio-economic benefits that geodiversity brings for people and the cultural services it provides across a range of sectors and social agenda (for example, contributing to sense of place and a healthy lifestyle). Geodiversity information can help to

						support the delivery of wider environmental and landscape initiatives (including landscape characterisation and delivery of the European Landscape Convention).
Physical Resources	Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter Action Plan	2017-2020	NI	Joint initiative	The Northern Ireland Geodiversity Charter recognises that geodiversity is an integral and vital part of our environment, economy, heritage and future sustainable development. It is necessary that our geodiversity is safeguarded and managed appropriately for current and future generations	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies. Also relevant to the topics of natural resources and landscape.
Travel & Transport	Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways	2016	NI	DfI	Sets out the plans for a network of greenways, connecting towns and cities to the villages and countryside from east to west and north to south across all eleven councils. Objectives include: improving health and wellbeing, increasing access to greenways, improving safety, improving social inclusion, economic development.	Greenways can produce both environmental and social benefits, because they are easily accessible and can bring nature and people together. The development of traffic free infrastructure, particularly greenways, can also have a positive impact on social inclusion and encouraging new and harder to reach groups to take up cycling and walking. The LDP can help to support these objectives. Also relevant to the topics of health and wellbeing, natural resources and landscape.
Travel & Transport	Strategic Park & Ride Delivery Programme 2016-2020 (Draft)	2016	NI	DfI	Department is currently developing a Strategic Park & Ride Delivery Programme for the next four years which will deliver additional Park & Ride and Park & Share spaces	May inform policies relating to provision of park and ride facilities and connectivity between transport modes.
Travel & Transport	Department for Infrastructure Strategic Plan for Greenways	2016	NI	DfI	This is the base report for 'Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic plan for Greenways'. It presents a strategic approach and overview to the development of a shared greenway network which is planned at a regional level and allows people to link to places locally, regionally and nationally by active modes of travel.	Greenways can produce both environmental and social benefits, because they are easily accessible and can bring nature and people together. The development of traffic free infrastructure, particularly greenways, can also have a positive impact on social inclusion and encouraging new and harder to reach groups to take up cycling and walking. The LDP can help to support these objectives. Also relevant to the topics of Health and Wellbeing, Natural Resources and Landscape.
Travel & Transport	Planning Policy Statement 3 - Access, Movement and Parking (2005) & PPS3 clarification (DOE 2006)	2005	NI	DfI	Policies for vehicular and pedestrian access, transport assessments, the protection of transport routes and parking. Provides for a sustainable transport system which promotes road safety.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Travel & Transport	Northern Ireland Changing Gear: A Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland	2015	NI	DfI	The Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland is the first step in achieving the Minister's vision for cycling. It aims to set out progressively how we can transform Northern Ireland into a place where travelling by bicycle is a healthy, every day activity. It will be supported by a Bicycle Strategy Delivery Plan which will outline specific time bound actions to realise this vision. It takes a 3 pillar approach: 'Build' [a comprehensive network for the bicycle], 'Support' [People who choose to travel by bicycle] and 'Promote' [The bicycle as a mode of transport for everyday journeys].	This strategy is closely linked with 'Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways'. The LDP can help to support the objectives of the strategy by supporting the establishment of new or improved cycle routes and cycling infrastructure.
Travel & Transport	Railway Investment Prioritisation Strategy May 2014	2015	NI	DfI	The Strategy sets out the strategic direction for future railway investment over the next 20 years and the high level initiatives that need to be delivered to support the Strategy. Objectives include: maintain and improve passenger capacity, remove bottlenecks and assist development along TEN-T (Trans European) core network corridor; enhance or extend TEN-T comprehensive network. The Strategy will also look at new halts and opportunities to develop out-of-town rail-based park and ride at new halts.	The LDP can support aspects of the Strategy, such as the aim to build additional park and ride facilities and station upgrades/ refurbishment which include enhancing accessibility and safety features.
Travel	Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future - A New	2011	NI	DfI	How the Department will develop regional transportation beyond 2015, when the current transport plans reach their conclusion. The new	The SPPS includes seven Subject Policies specific to transport and others that address the 'High Level Transport Aims' and 'Strategic

	Approach to Regional Transportation.				approach to regional transportation complements the Regional Development Strategy and aims to achieve the transportation vision: “to have a modern, sustainable, safe transportation system which benefits society, the economy and the environment and which actively contributes to social inclusion and everyone’s quality of life.” The new approach starts with the assumption that the decision to travel has been made. It seeks to provide the infrastructure and services that will ensure that travel and transport are as sustainable as possible.	Objectives of Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future', so in meeting the requirements of the SPPS the requirements of this strategy will also be met. Planning to enable people to live and work near the services and facilities they require and policies that allow more people to work from home will support this strategy and the LDP will also need to consider any requirement for new or improved transport infrastructure. The LDP will support this Plan. The need for new or improved infrastructure will need to be assessed against environmental policies, though following good design and sustainable development should achieve the best possible solutions to the need.
Travel & Transport	Sub-Regional Transport Plan (SRTP)	2007	NI	Dfi	While this implementation plan has expired, some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. The Sub-Regional Transport Plan deals with the transport needs of the whole of Northern Ireland with the exception of the Belfast Metropolitan Area and the rail and trunk road networks which are covered in earlier transport plans. The purpose of the SRTP is to study the needs of the designated areas in detail and to confirm a package of transport schemes, consistent with the general principles and indicative levels of spend in the RTS. This package of schemes and initiatives must aim to service the future transport demands taking account of financial allocation, planned developments and any changes in Government policy.	Although expired, the STRP may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.
Travel & Transport	Planning Policy Statement 13 Transportation and Land Use	2005	NI	Dfi	Assists in bringing forward the integration of transportation and land use as per the RDS.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Travel & Transport	Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan 2015	2004	NI	Dfi	While this implementation plan has expired, some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. The RSTN of Northern Ireland comprises the complete rail network, five Key Transport Corridors (KTCs), four Link Corridors, the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Corridors and the remainder of the trunk road network. The Plan consists of proposals for the maintenance, management and development of this transport network up to the end of 2015.	Although expired, the RTSN may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.
Travel & Transport	Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) for Northern Ireland 2002-2012	2002	NI	Dfi	The Regional Transport Strategy for Northern Ireland 2002-2012 for identifies strategic transportation investment priorities and considers potential funding sources and affordability of planned initiatives over the strategy period.	Although expired, and replaced by 'Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future', the RTS may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.
Travel & Transport	Translink Strategy 'Get on Board' 2016-2021	2016	NI	Translink	Translink's plan to transform public transport and support the growth and prosperity of Northern Ireland. 'Get on Board' has been developed in the context of the Regional Development Strategy 2035 and The New Approach to Regional Transportation. It aims to deliver a transformation in public transport, providing integrated services which connect people, enhance the economy and improve the environment, enabling a thriving Northern Ireland" Incorporates a number of key goals including: Making services inclusive and accessible to all; Working with all stakeholders to support social inclusion in local communities; Support modal shift toward sustainable transport; and Forging partnerships to deliver cost effective and integrated travel solutions to rural communities.	The LDP will support this strategy and will consider measures to make public transport services and sustainable transport more accessible and more integrated with other transport modes.
Travel	Network Utilisation Strategy, Translink NI	2015	NI	Translink	The Network Utilisation Strategy (NUS) seeks to find a balance between supply and demand. It sets out a long Term vision for rail in Northern	Indicates potential future investment in railway infrastructure.

	Railways, (Published October 2015)				Ireland for the next 30 years. It provides the evidence base to support targeted investment in infrastructure, rolling stock and services such that the network is fit for the purpose of supporting the growth of the Northern Ireland economy.	
Travel & Transport	Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BMTP)	2004	Regional		While this implementation plan has expired some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. A local transport plan for the Belfast Metropolitan Area (BMA). The Plan takes forward the strategic initiatives of the Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) for Northern Ireland 2002-2012. The Plan is divided into four themes: provision for walking and cycling, public transport measures, highway measures and management measures. The overall objective is to deliver an integrated transport network.	The BMTP is integrated with the 2015 Development Plan for the BMA (BMAP), with the plans being developed in parallel. The LDP will supersede BMAP for the part of our plan area to which it applied. Although expired, the BMTP may inform unmet infrastructure requirements in the former BMA Plan area.
Air Quality	Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)	2010	Europe	EC	The IED aims to achieve a high level of protection of human health and the environment taken as a whole by reducing harmful industrial emissions across the EU, in particular through better application of Best Available Techniques (BAT). Installations undertaking the industrial activities listed in Annex I of the IED are required to operate in accordance with a permit (granted by the authorities in the Member States). The integrated approach means that the permits must take into account the whole environmental performance of the plant, covering e.g. emissions to air, water and land, generation of waste, use of raw materials, energy efficiency, noise, prevention of accidents, and restoration of the site upon closure. For certain activities, i.e. large combustion plants, waste incineration and co-incineration plants, solvent using activities and titanium dioxide production, the IED also sets EU wide emission limit values for selected pollutants.	Location of land for industrial use should be considered in relation to people and sensitive environmental receptors.
Air Quality	Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe	2008	Europe	EC	This Directive merged most of existing legislation into a single directive with no change to existing air quality objectives and added new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles). Establishes the need to reduce pollution to levels which minimise harmful effects on human health, paying particular attention to sensitive populations, and the environment as a whole, to improve the monitoring and assessment of air quality including the deposition of pollutants and to provide information to the public. Emissions of harmful air pollutants should be avoided, prevented or reduced.	The LDP should consider the implications of new development on air pollution and take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies contained in the SPPS.
Air Quality	Defra, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and DOE (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	2007	UK	Four Nations (DAERA)	This updated strategy sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues; sets out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved; introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles and identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives. It includes the requirement, under the local air quality management, for every local authority to regularly review and assess air quality in their area which is a statutory requirement under the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002. If national objectives are not met, or at risk of not being met, the local authority concerned must declare an air quality management area and prepare an air quality action plan. This identifies measures that will be introduced in pursuit of the objectives and can have implications for planning.	Local Plans can affect air quality in a number of ways, including through what development is proposed and where, and the encouragement given to sustainable transport. Therefore in plan making, it is important to take into account air quality management areas and other areas where there could be specific requirements or limitations on new development because of air quality. Drawing on the review of air quality carried out for the local air quality management regime, the LDP needs to consider the potential cumulative impact of a number of smaller developments on air quality as well as the effect of more substantial developments; the impact of point sources of air pollution (pollution that originates from one place); and ways in which new development would be appropriate in locations where air quality is or likely to be a concern and not give rise to unacceptable risks from pollution.

Climate Change	The Paris Agreement	2015	International	UN	The Paris agreement which entered into force in November 2016 provides an international framework to hold the increase in global temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to keep the more stringent target of below 1.5 degrees in sight. The agreement provides a broad framework for countries to work together, share information and build experience to increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience. It aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change. To reach these ambitious goals, appropriate financial flows, a new technology framework and an enhanced capacity building framework will be put in place, thus supporting action by developing countries and the most vulnerable countries, in line with their own national objectives. The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. This includes requirements that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
Climate Change	The Kyoto Protocol Adopted 1997, came into force in 2005.	2005	International	UN	The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which commits its Parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets. Recognizing that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity, the Protocol places a heavier burden on developed nations under the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities." The protocol looks at limiting the emission of harmful greenhouse gases. Parties committed to reduce GHG emissions by at least 18 percent below 1990 levels in the eight-year period from 2013 to 2020. It was updated by the Doha Amendment in 2012.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
Climate Change	The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	1994	International	UN	The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994 and has near-universal membership. The UNFCCC is a “Rio Convention”, one of three adopted at the “Rio Earth Summit” in 1992. Its sister Rio Conventions are the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification. It now also incorporates the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Preventing “dangerous” human interference with the climate system is the ultimate aim of the UNFCCC.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
Climate Change	2030 Framework for climate and energy	2014	Europe	EC	EU-wide targets aim to help the EU achieve a more competitive, secure and sustainable energy system and to meet its long-term 2050 greenhouse gas reductions target. The strategy sends a strong signal to the market, encouraging private investment in new pipelines, electricity networks, and low-carbon technology. Targets for 2030 are a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels; at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption; at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.	Local Plans can affect air quality in a number of ways, including through what development is proposed and where, incorporation of energy efficiency, enabling renewable energy and encouraging sustainable transport. Also relevant to the topics of Air Quality and Material Assets.
Climate Change	The EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change	2013	Europe	EC	The EU Adaptation Strategy encourages all Member States to adopt comprehensive adaptation strategies. It 'Climate-proofs' action at EU level by promoting adaptation actions which include mainstreaming of climate change (mitigation and adaptation) into EU sector policies and funds, including marine and inland water issues, forestry, agriculture,	This Strategy aligns with the climate change focus of the SPPS. Adaptation to climate change should be considered for LDP proposals.

					biodiversity, infrastructure and buildings, but also migration and social issues. It supports better informed decision-making through Climate-ADAPT a platform which provides several useful resources to support adaptation policy and decision making, such as a toolset for adaptation planning and promotion of green infrastructure and ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation. Comprises a series of documents on adaption in different situations such as coastal and marine, infrastructure and rural development.	
Climate Change	Directive 2012 on the energy efficiency 2012/27/EU	2012	Europe	EC	Under the Energy Efficiency Directive EU countries make energy efficient renovations to at least 3% of buildings owned and occupied by central government; EU governments should only purchase buildings which are highly energy efficient; EU countries must draw-up long-term national building renovation strategies which can be included in their National Energy Efficiency Action Plans.	The need for energy efficiency will influence the design of new and renovated buildings.
Climate Change	Directive 2010 on the energy performance of buildings 2010/31/EU	2010	Europe	EC	Under the existing Energy Performance of Buildings Directive energy performance certificates are to be included in all advertisements for the sale or rental of buildings; EU countries must establish inspection schemes for heating and air conditioning systems or put in place measures with equivalent effect; all new buildings must be nearly zero energy buildings by 31 December 2020 (public buildings by 31 December 2018); EU countries must set minimum energy performance requirements for new buildings, for the major renovation of buildings and for the replacement or retrofit of building elements (heating and cooling systems, roofs, walls, etc.); EU countries have to draw up lists of national financial measures to improve the energy efficiency of buildings. In 2016 the Commission proposed an update to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive to help promote the use of smart technology in buildings and to streamline the existing rules.	The need for energy efficiency will influence the design of new and renovated buildings.
Climate Change	Industrial Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency Roadmaps	2015	UK	BEIS	Reports that set out potential pathways for the eight most heat-intensive industrial sectors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency. The cross-sectoral report suggests clustering as a long term strategy to deliver energy savings and more efficient use of waste and by-products.	Zoning and enabling infrastructure investments (in roads, ports, pipelines, etc.) would strengthen existing clusters and enable new ones to develop.
Climate Change	The State of the UK Climate 2017	2017	UK	RMET	The report provides a 10-year “snapshot” of the most recent experience of the UK’s climate and how that compares to historical records. This means differences between 2008–2017 and the baseline reference averages may reflect shorter-term decadal variations as well as long-term trends. These data are presented to show what has happened in recent years, not necessarily what is expected to happen in a changing climate.	Informative because of National Significance
Climate Change	Climate Change Act 2008	2008	UK	UK Gov.	Covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland established a legislative framework to enable the reduction of UK GHG emissions by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050 and by 34% by 2020. It also introduced legally binding five-year carbon budgets, which set a ceiling on the levels of GHGs the UK can emit on course to the longer-term target. The Climate Change Act 2008 covers all of the UK with targets set at the UK level. Climate Change Risk Assessment is a statutory requirement of the Act.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
Climate Change	UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence	2017	NI	CCC	The objective of the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) is to inform adaptation policy by assessing the current and future risks and opportunities posed by the impacts of climate for NI to the year 2100. The	The SPPS states that no development should take place in areas known to be at risk from coastal erosion. The SPPS promotes and encourages developers to use SuDS and also indicates that Councils

	Report, Summary for Northern Ireland				main finding is that extreme weather is still predominant among potential risks related to climate change but that other risks, such as water scarcity are becoming increasingly important. Highlights need for more strategic planning for increased water scarcity in vulnerable locations, including re-evaluation of land use options and if necessary investment in storage infrastructure to maximise use of surplus winter rainfall. Notes that land use planning is mainly based upon protecting prime agricultural land from development, on the assumption that prime land will remain in current locations into the future which may not be the case. Advises that more action is needed to manage current risks to people from cold temperatures through addressing fuel poverty. Highlights that there have been requests for new sea defence structures around the coast. There will need to be a system in place to decide which areas must be protected and where realignment is more appropriate however no shoreline management plans or other policies that assess and plan for changes to coastal communities have been developed for Northern Ireland.	should continue to promote the use of SuDS through their Local Development Plans. The SPPS recognises the importance of peatlands to Northern Ireland for biodiversity, water and carbon storage. The LDP will need to consider areas at risk from coastal erosion and vulnerable to flooding and to promote use of SuDS and protect peatlands. Measures that help to reduce fuel poverty can help address some social impacts of cold temperatures. Some infrastructure such as clean and waste water treatment may be vulnerable to flooding and therefore may need to be modified or relocated.
Climate Change	The appropriateness of a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act - December 2015 Update	2015	NI	CCC	In October 2015 the Northern Ireland Executive Minister asked the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) to provide an update on a CCC report produced in 2011 on 'The appropriateness of a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act' to inform the case for bringing forward Northern Ireland climate change legislation in the next Assembly term. The Committee concluded that the range of circumstances that are unique to Northern Ireland suggest local legislation is appropriate. However, the benefits of specific legislation only outweigh the costs if it is possible to pass local legislation without adding undue additional costs on to the Northern Ireland Executive, ministries or the wider economy.	None at present but a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act (Bill) could influence future plans.
Climate Change	Planning in the Coastal Area: A developer's guide to planning considerations and environmental responsibilities	2017	NI	DAERA	This guidance document aims to explain how some onshore development may impact on the marine environment. It also describes the legislative and regulatory framework within which we manage our marine area. This document aims to outline how development along our coast can be managed in an integrated manner and how potential impacts of onshore development on the marine environment can be avoided or mitigated through early engagement and collaborative working.	This document has been produced to assist planning authorities, applicants and agents in their understanding of land and sea interactions. In addition, as planning legislation extends to the mean low water mark, there is an area of overlapping responsibilities in the intertidal area. The LDP should aim to align with legislation on the marine environment to achieve an integrated approach to the management of the intertidal area along the coastline.
Climate Change	Efficient Farming Cuts Greenhouse Gases Implementation Plan 2016-2020	2013	NI	DAERA	The plan is focused on encouraging the implementation of a series of on-farm efficiency measures which can improve farm performance and reduce the carbon intensity of local food production and signposts the support available to facilitate this.	Aspects of relevant to planning are promotion of renewable energy, nutrient management including anaerobic digestion, energy efficiency and ventilation in livestock building.
Climate Change	National Adaptation Framework: Planning for a Climate Resilient Ireland	2012	RoI	DCCAE	Ireland's first statutory National Adaptation Framework sets out a pathway to achieving a more resilient economy and society which is capable of dealing with the enormous challenges climate change is likely to present. This Framework, and its constituent Sectoral Adaptation Plans, will inform the significant capital investment in flood adaptation measures to be made over the lifetime of the Ten-Year Capital Plan.	Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI plans will support this. This will result in due course to the development of sectoral and local government Adaptation Strategies in Ireland which will also need to be taken into account to ensure that development in Northern Ireland does not conflict. A National Climate Change Adaptation Framework to build on and supersede this framework is being developed for publication by December 2017 and this will also need to be considered.
Climate Change	Discussion Paper - Proposals for Taking Forward NI Climate Change	2015	NI	DAERA	The aim of a NI Climate Change Bill which is still in development is to establish a long-term framework for future action on climate change to drive greater efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and so help	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.

	Legislation - DOE on 1 December 2015				ensure that Northern Ireland is better prepared to adapt to the impacts of unavoidable climate change. Proposals include: setting a long term target of 80% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050 (compared to 1990 baseline levels); setting interim targets that are consistent with achieving the 2050 targets; placing a duty to set limits in 5-year carbon budgets on the total amounts of GHG emissions that can be emitted in NI.	
Climate Change	Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP). 2014-2019	2014	NI	DAERA	Contains the Northern Ireland Executive's response to the risks and opportunities identified in the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) for Northern Ireland, which was published in January 2012, as part of the overall UK CCRA. The Adaptation Programme provides the strategic objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, the proposals and policies by which each department will meet these objectives, and the timescales associated with the proposals and policies identified in the period up to 2019. The priority areas are flooding, natural environment, water and agriculture and forestry.	The LDP will need to consider areas at risk from coastal erosion and vulnerable to flooding. It may consider indirect measures to reduce flood risk such as the use of SuDS and protecting peatlands. Some infrastructure such as clean and waste water treatment will be more vulnerable to flooding therefore may need to be modified or relocated.
Climate Change	Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action Plan (revised 2016/17 Mitigation Plan)	2012	NI	DAERA	This document sets out a Cross-Departmental Action Plan to tackle the established strategies together, including how Northern Ireland is and will continue to reduce its carbon footprint. Specifically how the Programme for Government target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by 2025 will be delivered. Status is not clear as not available on any departmental website. Plan has been updated with a Mitigation Action Plan in 2016/17	Encouraging sustainable development, good standards of design, renewable energy and overall sustainability will contribute to this action plan. Though a push on economic development could inhibit a reduction in greenhouse gases, the application of sustainability principles in development will lead to more efficient infrastructure. Scope for protection of or increase of carbon sinks in soil and trees.
Climate Change	The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015	2015	RoI	Irish Parliament	Ireland's national policy in response to climate change is determined, in part, by legislation. In particular, Ireland's first-ever dedicated climate change law, the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, provides for the making of: five-yearly National Mitigation Plans to specify the policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and a National Adaptation Framework to specify the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change.	While the legislation is for Ireland measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI policy and strategies will also support the objectives of this legislation.
Climate Change	Climate Action and Low-Carbon Development - National Policy Position Ireland	2014	RoI	Irish Parliament	The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050. Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.	Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI plans will also support this.
Water	Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources	2012	Europe	EC	The "Blueprint" outlines actions that concentrate on better implementation of current water legislation, integration of water policy objectives into other policies, and filling the gaps in particular as regards water quantity and efficiency. The objective is to ensure that a sufficient quantity of good quality water is available for people's needs, the economy and the environment throughout the EU.	The Blueprint is expected to drive EU water policy over the long term. It is reflected in Sustainable Water.
Water	Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks	2007	Europe	EC	Directive aims to reduce and manage risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity and applies to inland waters as well as all coastal waters across the whole territory of the EU. It required identifying the relevant river basins and associated coastal areas at risk of flooding, drawing up flood maps and establishing flood risk management plans focused on prevention,	Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive. Integrating flood risk management into development planning will contribute to compliance with this directive.

					protection and preparedness between 2011 and 2015. This has been coordinated with Water Framework Directive River Basin Planning.	
Water	Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC	2006	Europe	EC	The directive requires each country to identify its most popular bathing waters for regular testing. In Northern Ireland 23 sites are formally identified. It requires Member States to monitor and assess the bathing water for at least two parameters and to inform the public about bathing water quality and beach management, through bathing water profiles.	Designated bathing waters will be taken into account in plan preparation. These sites represent assets for health and wellbeing and tourism.
Water	The Water Framework Directive - EU Directive 2000/60/EC (the Water Framework Directive)	2000	Europe	EC	Introduces 'good status', a more rigorous water quality standard. The Directive requires 'River Basin Management Plans' which should influence Development Plans and be influenced by them.	Contribute, wherever possible and appropriate, to achievement of water targets. Plan policies on the design, location of development & sustainable water management to ensure that the LDP does not create adverse pressures on the aquatic environment.
Water	Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption	1998	Europe	EC	Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.	This is reflected in 'Sustainable Water' (see below).
Water	Directive 91/676/EEC on nitrates from agricultural sources.	1991	Europe	EC	The Directive seeks to reduce the level of water pollution caused by the run off of nitrates into waterways/ground water from agricultural sources. In particular, it is about promoting better management of animal manures, chemical nitrogen fertilisers and other nitrogen-containing materials spread onto the land.	The LDP will take account of the Directive. The SEA will consider the likely significant effect of the plan on the aquatic environment.
Water	Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment	1991	Europe	EC	Protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.	This is reflected in 'Sustainable Water' (see below).
Water	Northern Ireland Message on Water	2011	NI	DfI, DAERA	In 2011 the UKCIP (formerly UK Climate Impacts Programme) decided to create a number of messages which could be used to engage with policy makers across the UK. NI Water, NIEA and Rivers Agency worked together to help prepare a headline message for Northern Ireland focused on Water and climate impacts. This describes the potential impacts of climate change on flood risk and stormwater capacity and identifies the need for investment to provide capacity to store and transfer surface water. This includes measures to deal with surface water runoff such as sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). It also considers potential effects on water quality and supply which may require the construction of more impounding reservoirs and raw water transfer pipelines.	Highlights potential long term problems and relating to water supply and flow including flooding investment needs to mitigate these.
Water	Planning Policy Statement 15 (Revised) - Planning and Flood Risk	2014	NI	DfI	Planning policies to minimise and manage flood risk to people, property and the environment.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Water	Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015-2040)	2016	NI	DfI	The Strategy presents a framework for action which will facilitate implementation of a range of initiatives aimed at delivering the long term vision to have a sustainable water sector in Northern Ireland. The following four high level aims have been developed by government to cover the key water needs within a catchment and they form the chapters of the Long-Term Water Strategy: provide high quality sustainable supplies of drinking water to households, industry and agriculture; manage flood risk and drainage in a sustainable manner; achieve the environmental requirements of the Water Framework Directive in a sustainable manner; provide sustainable reliable water and sewerage services that meet customers' needs. A strategy implementation action plan will now be prepared containing actions aimed at delivering the high level proposed measures in the Strategy.	The strategy will inform the provision of infrastructure for water supply and treatment and approaches to flood risk management and environmental protection which will all inform the spatial capacity for development. The plan will need to enable development of infrastructure for example by accommodating investment in power, water and sewerage infrastructure in the interests of public health and to support measures relating to flood risk management and environmental protection.

Water	Social and environmental guidance for Water and Sewerage Services (2015-2021)	2014	NI	Dfi	The purpose of this document is to provide the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation with guidance on the key environmental and social policies the Minister for Regional Development expects it to contribute to in carrying out its role in regulating the water industry during the 2015-21 period. Sets out how NI Water should deliver to meet International, National and Local legislative and strategic commitments.	The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.
Water	Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016	2016	NI	NI Executive	The Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 confers a power on NI Water to require the construction of sustainable drainage systems as a condition of agreeing to adopt a drain or sewer. The Act also introduces new restrictions to the right to connect surface water sewers to the public sewer network. NI Water is able to take account of upstream sustainable drainage systems and is also able to refuse connection to the public sewer network if other suitable alternative means of dealing with surface water exist or could reasonably be provided. Suitable alternative means of dealing with surface water can include natural features or other arrangements known as soft sustainable drainage systems.	The overall aim of the Act is to make sustainable drainage the preferred option for dealing with surface water in all new developments, where possible. This aim should be reflected in all Local Development Plans.
Water	Reservoirs Act (Northern Ireland) 2015	2015	NI	NI Executive	The Reservoirs Act aims to ensure that reservoirs are managed and operated to minimise any risk of flooding due to an uncontrolled release of water resulting from dam failure and therefore protecting people, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. The legislation will apply to reservoirs that are capable of holding 10,000 cubic metres or more of water above the natural level of the surrounding land. These reservoirs will be known as 'controlled reservoirs'.	Reservoirs falling under this Act may require to be identified in the LDP.
Water	Our Strategy for NI Water	2014	NI	NIW	Sets out NI Water's long term strategy for providing water and wastewater services to customers in Northern Ireland. Its goal is 'to provide a range of essential services and associated contact channels which meet the rising expectations of our customers.' The strategy outlines the key challenges and opportunities facing the Northern Ireland water industry in the years to come. It outlines aspirations for customers in 2040 and priorities to 2020/21. Some of the priorities Invest available funding to minimise constraints in development caused by lack of capacity at wastewater treatment works and in sewerage networks. Prioritise investment to address issues in the sewerage system which lead to flooding from sewers. Increase the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). Invest in key water and wastewater treatment works and other critical sites to improve flood resilience. Expand use of sustainable wastewater treatment solutions which protect the environment, improve carbon efficiency and reduce operating costs. Undertake a focused programme of repair and renewal in relation to gravity sewers, CSO structures, pumping stations and syphons. Invest to improve our ability to transfer water from one area to another, remove bottlenecks and increase storage capacity.	The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.
Water	PC 15 NIW's Draft Expenditure Plan 2015-2021	2015	NI	NIW	This sets out NI waters long term strategy for providing water and wastewater services customers throughout Northern Ireland. Over the 6-year PC15 period investment will include 9 water treatment works schemes and upgrades to 19 large wastewater treatment works and 45 small works.	The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.

Water	NI Water Water Resources Management Plan 2012	2012	NI	NIW	The Water Resources Management Plan explains how NIW intends to meet the drinking water needs of the population of Northern Ireland over the period 2010 to 2035. The WRMP takes into account expected demands from forecast changes in population, housing and water usage and incorporates any predicted changes to our climate. The WRMP will be complemented by the company's Drought Plan (not published) that will set out the short-term operational steps that the company will take if a drought develops which increases the risk to security of supplies and whether capital investment is needed to mitigate such events. It provides a strategic plan for managing water resources by setting the framework at the Water Resource Zone level within which investment decisions should be taken. Investment at smaller spatial scales will still need to be justified through other more local studies, such as trunk main studies, detailed zonal studies and targeted leakage initiatives. Preparation of a Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan is currently under way.	The LDP may need to accommodate water supply infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply.
Water	Flood Maps (NI)	2011	NI	DfI - Rivers Agency	Flood Maps highlights the areas throughout Northern Ireland that are prone to flooding and its potential adverse impacts. The map is designed to: help Rivers Agency and others to plan and manage our work to reduce flood risk; encourage people living and working in areas prone to flooding to find out more and take appropriate action; inform anyone applying for planning permission if flooding is likely to be an important consideration.	Provides information on vulnerability to flooding throughout Northern Ireland which informs constraints on development,
Water	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for NI	2011	NI	DfI - Rivers Agency	A key objective of the PFRA was to identify areas of potentially significant flood risk for which detailed flood maps would be produced. On the basis of the PFRA, it was determined that detailed flood maps should be produced for 20 Significant Flood Risk Areas and 49 Areas for Further Study and this work was completed as required by the EU Directive in December 2013.	Identifies areas of potentially significant flood risk which informs constraints on development.
Water	Eel management plan: North Eastern River Basin District	2010	Regional	DAERA	Measures to be carried out for the recovery of the stock of European eel including mitigation of hydropower and other barriers to passage.	May inform policies relating to hydropower and in river works. Also relevant to the topic of natural resources.
Water	Pollution Reduction Programme - Belfast Lough	2015	Regional	DAERA	Programme established in order to reduce pollution in designated shellfish waters.	Consider any designated shellfish waters and actions required for the pollution reduction programme.
Water	North Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2015 - 2021	2015	Regional	DAERA	River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD), taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile. This plan aims to: Provide at least good status for all water bodies; Prevent deterioration in status; Promote sustainable development; Achieve specific standards for protected areas. The north eastern river basin district (NE RBD) covers an area of around 4000 km ² , including 1000km ² of marine waters. It takes in large parts of Counties Antrim and Down and a smaller portion of Londonderry. The principal river systems are the Lagan, Bush and Quoile as well as the smaller systems draining from the glens of Antrim, and the County Down Coastline. The NE RBD has an extensive coastline including Larne, Belfast and Strangford Loughs, with Lough Mourne, Clea Lakes and Silent Valley the main lakes.	The objectives of this plan will be taken into account in plan preparation so that development does not adversely affect its delivery. The siting and extent of development and measures to prevent pollution can help support delivery of the River Basin Management Plan objectives. Good water quality and aquatic habitats contribute to health and wellbeing and the economy.

Water	Neagh Bann River Basin Management Plan 2015 - 2021	2015	Regional	DAERA	<p>River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD), taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile. This plan aims to: Provide at least good status for all water bodies; Prevent deterioration in status; Promote sustainable development; Achieve specific standards for protected areas. The Neagh Bann river basin district (NB RBD) covers an area of around 5740 km². It includes all of County Armagh, large parts of Counties Antrim, Londonderry, Down and Tyrone and a small area of County Fermanagh.</p> <p>The principal river system is the Bann, with its tributaries the Moyola, Ballinderry, Blackwater, Six Mile Water and Main. The Newry river system drains into Carlingford Lough. Lough Neagh, located in the centre of the district is the main lake, with other smaller ones include Lough Fea, Portmore, Ross and Beg. This district has a limited coastline to the north where the River Bann enters the Atlantic and to the south where the Newry system enters Carlingford Lough.</p>	The objectives will be taken into account in LDP preparation so that development does not adversely affect its delivery. The siting and extent of development and measures to prevent pollution can help support delivery of the River Basin Management Plan objectives. Good water quality and aquatic habitats contribute to health and wellbeing and the economy.
Water	Neagh Bann River Basin Flood Risk Management Plans 2015	2015	Regional	DfI - Rivers Agency	The Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) is aimed at reducing the potential adverse consequences of significant floods on human health, economic activity, cultural heritage and the environment. There are three FRMPs which together highlight the flood hazards and risks in the 20 most significant flood risk areas in Northern Ireland from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. The plans identify the measures that will be undertaken over the next 6 years and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together and with communities to reduce the flood risks.	One of the aims of the FRMP is to inform the development planning process to ensure, as far as possible, that new zonings within local development plans are located outside flood risk areas. Northern Ireland's planning policies, informed by PPS15 and the SPPS adopt a precautionary approach to development that aims to prevent future development that may be at risk of flooding or which may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. This will be reflected in the LDP.
Water	North Eastern River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan 2015 DARD	2015	Regional	DfI - Rivers Agency	The Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) is aimed at reducing the potential adverse consequences of significant floods on human health, economic activity, cultural heritage and the environment. There are three FRMPs which together highlight the flood hazards and risks in the 20 most significant flood risk areas in Northern Ireland from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. The plans identify the measures that will be undertaken over the next 6 years and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together and with communities to reduce the flood risks.	One of the aims of the FRMP is to inform the development planning process to ensure, as far as possible, that new zonings within local development plans are located outside flood risk areas. Northern Ireland's planning policies, informed by PPS15 and the SPPS adopt a precautionary approach to development that aims to prevent future development that may be at risk of flooding or which may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. This will be reflected in the LDP.
Water	Garron Plateau Sustainable Catchment Area Management Plan (SCAMP)	2014	Local	RSPB	The project is a management plan for 2000 ha of the Garron Plateau ASSI which is owned by NI Water. The project aims to restore the ASSI, secure habitat for wildlife, improve water quality and maximise the bog's potential as a vital carbon store. As a by-product the programme is also expected to improve raw water quality at the treatment works.	LDP can provide policy support for sustainable catchment management. Good water quality and aquatic habitats contribute to health and wellbeing and the economy. Also relevant to the topic of natural resources.
Natural Resources	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Commission Precautionary Approach Agreement	1982	International	NASCO	NASCO and its Contracting Parties agree to adopt and apply a Precautionary Approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of salmon in order to protect the resource and preserve the environments in which it lives. Accordingly, NASCO and its Contracting Parties should be more cautious when information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate. The absence of adequate scientific information should not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures.	The LDP will take account of this. Increased fisheries resource will result in increased angling opportunities in the council area with the economic and social benefits this will bring.

Natural Resources	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Commission Convention For The Conservation Of Salmon In The North Atlantic Ocean	1982	International	NASCO	Aims to promote the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean through international co-operation.	The LDP will take account of this. DAERA is the lead authority in NI to take this forward and reports annually to the commission as to status of populations and actions taken to maintain and enhance them. Increased fisheries resource will result in increased angling opportunities in the council area with the economic and social benefits this will bring.
Natural Resources	The Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2024	2016	International	Ramsar Convention	The Fourth Ramsar Strategic plan lays out a new vision under the Convention mission, with four overall goals and 19 specific targets which are designed to support the efforts of Parties, partners and other stakeholders in preventing, stopping and reversing the global decline of wetlands. The strategic goals are Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss And Degradation; Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network; Wisely Using All Wetlands; Enhancing Implementation.	These objectives are reflected in NI strategies and plans.
Natural Resources	The Ramsar Convention. The convention of Wetland of International Importance (1971 and amendments)	1971	International	Ramsar Convention	Seeks to protect and conserve wetlands, particularly those established as a habitat for waterfowl. The Convention uses a broad definition of wetlands which includes all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, estuaries, tidal flats, and all human-made sites such as artificial coastal lagoons.	The LDP must reflect the Ramsar designations, and the need to protect and conserve them. Many Ramsar designated sites are also SACs or SPAs.
Natural Resources	Action Plan for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic Area	2013	Europe	EC	The strategy for the Atlantic covers coastal, territorial and jurisdictional waters of five EU Member States and focuses on: Managing human activities that must deliver a healthy and productive ecosystem, through developing fisheries and aquaculture but also forecasting future change in oceanic circulation and climate; Reducing Europe's carbon footprint through climate change mitigation, for example expansion of offshore wind farms and tidal technology in the Atlantic, but also changes in maritime transport will contribute to carbon reduction; Developing the sustainable exploitation of the Atlantic's seafloor natural resources; and Prepare for threats and emergencies in the Atlantic whether caused by accidents, natural disasters or criminal activity such as oil spills. It promotes the implementation of climate change mitigation and seeks economic and social progress in conjunction with a healthy environment.	There is potential for the LDP to support the objectives of this plan through its own coastal, marine, industrial or natural heritage policies. However, due to the interconnectivity of marine habitats, it is possible for developments or proposals arising under the LDP to have negative impacts on the wider European marine resource, its species and dependent businesses or individuals.
Natural Resources	EU Biodiversity Strategy	2011	Europe	EC	The EU Biodiversity Strategy aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU and help stop global biodiversity loss by 2020. It reflects the commitments taken by the EU in 2010, within the international Convention on Biological Diversity. The six targets to address the main drivers of biodiversity loss, and reduce the main pressures on nature and ecosystem services include protect species and habitats, maintain and restore ecosystems and combat invasive alien species. The strategy promotes the increased use of green infrastructure. A 2015 European Parliament Resolution on the mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 'notes that the 2020 targets will not be achieved without additional, substantial and continuous efforts' and among many statements 'Stresses that habitat destruction is the most important factor driving biodiversity loss and is a particular priority when it comes to addressing this loss' and 'Deplores the fact that, in Europe, around a quarter of wild species are at risk of extinction and many ecosystems are degraded, giving rise to severe social and economic damage for the EU.'	Natural heritage policies which will afford some protection from inappropriate development are included in the SPSS which informs the context for the LDP.

Natural Resources	Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (Codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended)	2009	Europe	EC	The Directive provides a framework for the conservation and management of, and human interactions with, wild birds in Europe. It sets broad objectives for a wide range of activities, although the precise legal mechanisms for their achievement are at the discretion of each Member State. In Northern Ireland, the provisions of the Birds Directive are implemented through the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, and The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & etc.) Regulations 1995.	Any development project or plan likely to have a significant effect (either directly or indirectly) on a Natura 2000 site must be subject to assessment. This will be taken into account through consideration of all SPAs and by Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP.
Natural Resources	European Eel Regulation 2007 (EC) No 1100/2007	2007	Europe	EC	Aims to establish measures for the recovery of the stock of European Eel and requires member states to prepare and implement eel management plans. As a result, eel fisheries are now managed under long-term plans drawn up by the EU countries at river-basin level.	The LDP will take account of any plan arising from the Regulations
Natural Resources	Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	1992	Europe	EC	The main aim of the Habitats Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species listed on the Annexes to the Directive at a favourable conservation status, introducing robust protection for those habitats and species of European importance. The Directive creates a network of sites in Europe for the conservation of biodiversity. In applying these measures Member States are required to take account of economic, social and cultural requirements, as well as regional and local characteristics. These sites are designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (collectively known as 'Natura 2000' sites).	Any development project or plan likely to have a significant effect (either directly or indirectly) on a Natura 2000 site must be subject to assessment. This will be taken into account through consideration of all SACs and by Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP.
Natural Resources	Ireland's Marine Strategy Framework Directive Article 19 Report Initial Assessment, GES and Targets and Indicators	2013	RoI	DECLG, MI	The first step in the implementation of the MSFD in Ireland was an Initial Assessment of Ireland's marine waters and establishment of a comprehensive set of environmental targets and associated indicators for the marine waters so as to guide progress towards achieving Good Environmental Status. Each state is required to ensure they take appropriate action by 2020 to maintain or achieve Good Environmental Status.	Should an LDP have specific proposals for its coastline, including facilitating developments that utilise the marine environment, these could be either supportive or in conflict with the objectives of the Directive.
Natural Resources	Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter: safeguarding our rocks and landscape	2017	NI	DfE	Guidance document that sets out a clear ambition to recognise geodiversity as a vital and integral part of the economy, environment heritage and future sustainable development. This is necessary to safeguard and manage geodiversity for both current and future generations.	May inform decision making and support policy at strategic level for the conservation management of geodiversity.
Natural Resources	Valuing Nature - A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020	2015	NI	DAERA	A strategy for Northern Ireland to meet its international obligations and local targets to protect biodiversity and ensure that the environment can continue to support our people and economy. Contains 57 actions to impact positively on the loss of biodiversity up to 2020.	Actions include: Restoring ancient woodland and encouraging peatland and wetland habitat restoration with emphasis on an ecosystems approach. LDP proposals and policies should support delivery of actions where appropriate.
Natural Resources	Strategy for Marine Protected Areas in the Northern Ireland Inshore Region	2014	NI	DAERA	Aims to help protect and improve ecosystems in the Northern Ireland inshore region (i.e. within 12 nautical miles) and fulfil international and national legal obligations through a network of Marine Protected Areas (SACs, SPAs, ASSIs, Ramsar sites and Marine Conservation Zones). The Department will develop, in consultation with stakeholders, recommendations for management actions and measures necessary to deliver the conservation objectives for MCZ features.	Public authorities have a duty, when carrying out their functions and when permitting others to carry out regulated activities in relation to MCZs, to ensure that such activities are undertaken in a way that furthers the conservation objectives of a site, or where this is not possible least hinders the achievement of these objectives. This will be taken into account in preparing LDP proposals.
Natural Resources	DOE (2013) Northern Ireland Invasive Species Strategy	2013	NI	DAERA	In response to the threats posed by invasive alien species the Department of Environment published 'An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Northern Ireland'. The aim of the Strategy is to minimise the risk posed, and reduce the negative impacts caused, by invasive alien species in Northern Ireland.	Invasive species may be a constraint for some sites and consideration will need to be given to measures to minimise the risks caused by invasive species.

Natural Resource	Planning Policy Statement 2 - Planning and Nature Conservation	2013	NI	DfI	Policies for the conservation of natural heritage.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Natural Resources	Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000	2013	NI	DAERA	The Prioritised Action Framework sets out the prioritised actions for managing the Natura 2000 network to be taken to address unfavourable conservation status of habitats in Annex I and species in Annex II of the Habitats Directive and Annex 1 of the Birds Directive. These are intended to help achieve the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2000. Priorities include measures such as agri-environmental schemes and an ecosystems approach. It states that the Department will publish guidance ...to advise developers and other key stakeholders ..., especially those who regulate development, to encourage them to minimise adverse impacts on habitats and species and to provide for biodiversity where possible.	This will be taken into account through Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP and planning proposals carried out under it which may have a significant effect on site selection features of European sites. Any advice from the Department will be taken into account.
Natural Resources	An Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006 - 2026	2006	NI	DAERA	Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) aims to establish sustainable levels of economic and social activity in coastal areas while protecting the coastal environment. ICZM seeks to reconcile the different policies that have an effect on the coast and to establish a framework that facilitates the integration of the interests and responsibilities of those involved in the development, management and use of the coast.	LDP proposals and policies may directly support natural and cultural heritage aspects of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy, or have an indirect relationship, for example regarding outdoor recreation, access, transportation and sustainable development.
Natural Resources	All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020	2015	NI & RoI	National Biodiversity Data Centre	The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is about all of us, from farmers to local authorities, to schools, gardeners and businesses, coming together to try to create an Ireland where pollinators can survive and thrive.	Councils can play a leading role in implementing the Plan by making their land more pollinator friendly. This Plan contains guidance on what actions Councils can take, of which the most important is to identify and protect existing areas that are already good for pollinators.
Natural Resources	The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002	2002		UK Gov.	Covers several environmental issues, including pollution prevention control, assessment and management of air quality, and designation of areas of special scientific interest (ASSIs).	The LDP must reflect the ASSI designations, and the need to protect and conserve them. It should also have regard for the need to regulate activities which are capable of causing any environmental pollution.
Natural Resources	Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1995	1985	NI	UK Gov.	Makes provision with respect to nature conservation, enjoyment and conservation of the countryside, and amenity lands. Places particular emphasis on the establishment of a network of Areas of Special Scientific Interest and Nature Reserves. Nature Reserves including (National, Marine and Local Nature Reserves) are declared under this legislation, as well as ASSIs and some AONBs.	The LDP must reflect the existing designations, and the need to protect and conserve them.
Landscape	European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)	2000	Europe	COE	The European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues. It covers all landscapes, including natural, managed, urban and peri-urban areas, and special, everyday and also degraded landscape. Articles 5 and 6 commit signatory states to a number of actions which include the need to recognise landscapes in law, to establish policies aimed at landscape planning, protection and management and the integration of landscape into other policy areas.	The LDP should support the aims of the convention, seeking to protect, manage and enhance the landscape.
Landscape	Protection of Wrecks Act 1973	1973	UK	DCMS/DfC	The Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 (c.33) is an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom which provides protection for designated shipwrecks. Section 1 of the act provides for wrecks to be designated because of historical, archaeological or artistic value. Section 2 provides for	Wrecks and wreckage assessed to be of historical, archaeological or artistic importance can be protected by way of site specific designation. It is an offence to carry out certain activities within a defined area surrounding a designated wreck, unless a licence for those activities has been obtained through DfC HED. Spatial scale:

					designation of dangerous sites. Wreck sites must have a known location in order to be designated.	UK. Current lead: DCMS/DfC. The Local Plan should take into account any current or future designated historic shipwrecks.
Landscape	Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment	2016	NI	DAERA	The purpose of the Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA) is to provide an evidence base which can be used equally by planners, developers and the public. It describes forces for change through climate change, land use, agriculture, energy and invasive species and outlines the types of ecosystem services provided in each region. The assessment provides a strategic overview of the landscape and subdivides the countryside into 26 Regional Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) based upon information on people and place and the combinations of nature, culture and perception which make each part of Northern Ireland unique. This evidence base can be used to enable informed decisions to be made about the future protection, management and sustainable development of Northern Ireland's landscapes and can be complemented by more detailed local studies.	The RLCA is not policy, but it provides analysis of all of Northern Ireland Landscapes at a regional level which provides further evidence to inform the LDP. It helps to indicate the linkages between the landscape and other assets, such as the historic environment and natural resources. Landscape character assessments and review of these is regarded as being important to inform the understanding of "place" and positive place making. Also relevant to the topics of natural resources and historic environment.
Landscape	Northern Ireland Seascape Character Assessment	2014	NI	DAERA	Twenty-four different regional seascape character areas have been identified round the coast of Northern Ireland. The Seascape Character Assessment describes these areas, their key characteristics and the different influences that mould each as a unique part of the coastline.	This can inform planning of development in the coastal zone. The description and mapping of regional seascape character can provide evidence to assist in responding to the increasing demands being placed upon the related marine and terrestrial environments. This can also help to inform the planning, design and management of a range of projects taking place on and around the coastline.
Landscape	Northern Ireland's Landscape Charter	2014	NI	DAERA	Invites organisations and individuals to sign the charter and commit to delivering its vision by approaches including the following: adopt and promote best practice to ensure all development works with and enhances sense of place; ensure sense of place is central to all decision making about landscape and empower people locally to be involved.	This requires consideration of all landscapes to enhance them, respect sense of place and promote sympathetic design.
Landscape	Building on Tradition: A sustainable Design Guide for the NI Countryside	2012	NI	DfI	Building on Tradition: A Sustainable Design Guide for the Northern Ireland Countryside' provides assistance to all those involved with sustainable development in the Northern Ireland countryside to understand the requirements of PPS21. The guide promotes quality and sustainable building design in Northern Ireland's countryside.	This can be used to inform siting and design standards for development in the countryside to achieve better landscape integration.
Landscape	Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment	2000	NI	DAERA	The Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment subdivided the countryside into 130 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), each based upon local patterns of geology, landform, land use, cultural and ecological features. For each LCA, the key characteristics were described and an analysis of landscape condition and its sensitivity to change was made. While the original assessment was published in 2000 many landscape character areas have been updated more recently.	This is not policy but it provides a comprehensive analysis of all of Northern Ireland Landscapes, including their vulnerability and sensitivity to change which informs the state of the landscape, capacity for development and areas meriting protection. Also relevant to the topics of natural resources and historic environment.
Historic Environment	Xi'an Declaration On The Conservation Of The Setting Of Heritage Structures, Sites And Areas	2005	International	ICMOS	To contribute through legislation, policies, planning processes and management to better protect and conserve the world's heritage structures, sites and areas in their settings.	LDP can assist with implementing the measures outlined in the agreement: Acknowledging the contribution of setting to the significance of heritage monuments, sites and areas; Understanding, documenting and interpreting the settings in diverse contexts; Developing planning tools and practices to conserve and manage settings; Monitoring and managing change affecting setting; Working with local, interdisciplinary and international communities for co-operation and awareness in conserving and managing setting.
Historic Environ	UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the	2001	International	UNESCO	The Convention sets out basic principles for the protection of underwater cultural heritage. Amongst its main principles are an obligation to preserve underwater cultural heritage, with in situ preservation as first	The Local Plan will recognise the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for underwater archaeology.

	Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)				option, and a ban on its inappropriate commercial exploitation. While the UK has not ratified the Convention, it publicly supports the majority of its articles and has publicly recognised the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for archaeology	
Historic Environment	Rules annexed to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)	2001	International	UNESCO	The Annex to the 2001 Convention contains detailed practical guidelines entitled "Rules concerning activities directed at underwater cultural heritage. They are highly useful and widely recognised and applied by underwater archaeologists. The Rules contain regulations as to: how a project is to be designed; the competence and the qualifications required for persons undertaking interventions; planning the funding of excavation projects; documentation of archaeological excavations under water; and methodologies on conservation and site management.	The Local Plan will recognise the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for underwater archaeology.
Historic Environment	The Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)	1972	International	UNESCO	The most significant feature of the 1972 World Heritage Convention is that it links together in a single document the concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties. The Convention recognises the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two. The programme catalogues, names, and conserves sites of outstanding cultural or natural importance to the common culture and heritage of humanity. To be selected, a World Heritage Site must be an already classified landmark, unique in some respect as a geographically and historically identifiable place having special cultural or physical significance (such as an ancient ruin or historical structure, building, city, complex, desert, forest, island, lake, monument, mountain, or wilderness area). It may signify a remarkable accomplishment of humanity, and serve as evidence of our intellectual history on the planet.	This convention is the mechanism for the identification and establishment of World Heritage Sites. There is currently one WHS in NI. The LDP may recognise sites which are of sufficient national or global importance to merit their inclusion on the Tentative List for World Heritage Sites. The LDP may help support the actions required for sites to receive nomination to the Tentative List by preserving or enhancing their cultural heritage or natural heritage value.
Historic Environment	European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992)	1992	Europe	COE	The new text (revision of the 1969 London Convention) makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. It is concerned in particular with arrangements to be made for co-operation among archaeologists and town and regional planners in order to ensure optimum conservation of archaeological heritage. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. Protection of the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be investigated archaeologically both on land and underwater. Creation of archaeological reserves and conservation of excavated sites.	Consideration should be given to conservation of archaeological resources including potential archaeological reserves. Article 5 seeks the integrated conservation of archaeological heritage through its consideration in the preparation of local development plans and the creation of planning policies designed to ensure well balanced strategies for the protection, conservation and enhancement of sites of archaeological interest; and highlights the need of devising plans to avoid adverse impact.
Historic Environment	The European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention)	1985	Europe	COE	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.	Consideration should be given to conservation of architectural resources. Article 5 includes an undertaking to prohibit the removal, in whole or in part, of any protected monument, except where the material safeguarding of such monuments makes removal imperative. Article 10 states the protection of architectural heritage as an essential town and country planning objective and ensure that this requirement is taken into account at all stages, both in the drawing up of development plans and in the procedures for authorising work.
Historic Environ	Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage	2005	Europe	Council of Europe	The Faro Convention emphasises the important aspects of heritage as they relate to human rights and democracy. It promotes a wider understanding of heritage and its relationship to communities and	Member States agree to emphasise the value and potential of cultural heritage wisely used as a resource for sustainable development and quality of life in a constantly evolving society.

	for Society (Faro Convention, 2005)				society. The Convention encourages us to recognise that objects and places are not, in themselves, what is important about cultural heritage. They are important because of the meanings and uses that people attach to them and the values they represent.	Examples of specific implications with regard to LDP include Article 5b "enhance the value of the cultural heritage through its identification, study, interpretation, protection, conservation and presentation"; Article 5e "Promote cultural heritage protection as a central factor in the mutually supporting objectives of sustainable development, cultural diversity and contemporary creativity"; Article 8d "Promote the objective of quality in contemporary additions to the environment without endangering its cultural values"; and Article 9a "Promote respect for the integrity of the cultural heritage by ensuring that decisions about change include an understanding of the cultural values involved".
Historic Environment	Protection of Military Remains Act 1986	1986	UK	UK Gov.	Under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 all aircraft that have crashed whilst in military service are automatically protected. Maritime vessels (e.g. ships and boats) lost during military service are not automatically protected. The MoD can, however, designate wrecks lost within the last 200 years, whose position is known, as 'controlled sites', and can designate named vessels lost on or after 4th August 1914 (Britain's entry into World War I), whose location is unknown, as 'protected places'. It is not necessary to demonstrate the presence of human remains for wrecks to be designated as either 'controlled sites' or 'protected places'. It also covers vessels of a foreign state e.g., German U-Boats	This may apply to military shipwrecks and aircraft discovered in the nearshore area and the larger freshwater lakes of NI.
Historic Environment	Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Historic Environment	2018	NI	DfC	Offers advice on historic environment considerations during the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment process, including examples of the baseline evidence which should be considered through the different stages of screening, scoping, assessment, and reporting. It also provides guidance on the implementation of historic environment legislation, the relevant policy in the Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS) and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS).	The LDP and the SA of the LDP will take cognisance of this guidance.
Historic Environment	Guidance on Guidance on Setting and the Historic Environment	2018	NI	DfC	The guidance includes a definition of setting, identifies those key aspects of setting which can contribute to the significance of a heritage asset, and outlines a three-stage process for assessing the impacts of change upon setting. It is hoped that the content of this document will assist planning authorities and applicants, heritage consultants and other stakeholders achieve a consistent approach when considering setting and the historic environment in Northern Ireland.	The LDP and the SA of the LDP will take cognisance of this guidance.
Historic Environment	Historic Buildings of Local Importance: A guide to their Identification and Protection	2017	NI	DfC	This good practice guide aims to assist councils achieve a consistent approach when identifying and protecting Historic Buildings of Local Importance.	One way to protect unlisted historic buildings of local importance is to include a policy in the Local Development Plan.
Historic Environment	Regeneration: The Value of our Built Heritage. Position Paper 2017	2017	NI	DfC	This paper sets out the potential value of effective architectural regeneration throughout our villages, towns and cities. It highlights Northern Ireland's unique architectural heritage as well as the social and economic value of older building stock, and the added qualities it can bring to our communities.	Paper recommends that heritage buildings are incorporated and made a priority in new council community planning. The protection and promotion of Heritage should be integrated into community plans and new planning policy. Policy needs to be integrated and support building users.
Historic Environment	Planning Policy Statement 23 - Enabling Development	2014	NI	DfI	PPS23 sets out planning policy for assessing proposals for Enabling Development in support of the re-use, restoration or refurbishment of heritage assets such as historic buildings, scheduled monuments, industrial heritage and historic parks, gardens and demesnes. It provides	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.

					a policy to maintain and enhance the standard of a wide range of community facilities in Northern Ireland including cultural, educational, social, health, built heritage and leisure facilities and the restoration and creation of wildlife habitat.	
Historic Environment	Living Places - An Urban Stewardship and Design Guide for NI	2014	NI	DfI	Aims to establish the key principles behind good place making to inform those involved in the process of managing (stewardship) and making (design) urban places, with a view to raising standards across Northern Ireland. The focus of the guide is urban areas, by which is meant all of our cities, towns, villages and neighbourhoods. It recognises the wider economic, cultural and community benefits of achieving excellence in the stewardship and design of these important places, be they existing or newly proposed.	Principles inform spatial, design and policy measures that can be incorporated in the LDP to maximise contribution to strengthening society, protecting cultural heritage, promoting wellbeing, enhancing access and creating economic growth.
Historic Environment	Study of the economic value of Northern Ireland's historic environment	2012	NI	DfC	The purpose of this study is to help make the case for investment in the Northern Ireland historic environment. The four objectives of the study are to: (1.) Determine the current value of economic activity generated by Northern Ireland's historic environment and its distribution; (2.) Gauge the level of historic environment-related employment in Northern Ireland, including indirect employment, the distribution of this employment, and its relative importance compared with other sectors; (3.) Conduct a credible analysis of the wider community benefits that Northern Ireland's historical environment provides to the economy using a series of case studies, and (4.) Make an assessment of the potential for the use of Northern Ireland's historic environment to aid sustainable growth of the economy and make recommendations as to how this could be realised.	This document can help to inform the LDP and identify areas where links can be made between the Historic Environment and other themes, e.g. community, economic development, tourism, etc.
Historic Environment	Planning Policy Statement 6 - Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage (and Addendum ATC)	1999	NI	DfI	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and features of the built heritage.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies. It should be noted that some of the policy text of PPS 6 has been superseded by policy in the SPPS, for example SPPS para. 6.11.
Historic Environment	Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995	1995	NI	DfC HED	Article 3 of this Order provides for the scheduling of monuments for protection. Monuments are selected for scheduling on the basis of published criteria, which are found in Annex B of Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS 6): Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage (1999).	There is a requirement for Scheduled Monument Consent for works within Scheduled Monument designated areas. This would be a consideration in zoning ground including or immediate to scheduled areas.
Historic Environment	Protocol for the Care of the Government Historic Estate Northern Ireland Guidance February 2012	2012	NI	DfC	A document set out by the Executive explaining how departments and agencies will put their commitment into practice for caring and protecting historic estates. Includes protecting heritage assets through regular condition surveys, maintenance and renovation using appropriately experienced practitioners and working to keep buildings in active use.	This document is recommended as good practice for councils to adopt.
Area Plans	Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015	2015	Regional	DCs	The aim of the Plan is to provide a planning framework which is in general conformity with the RDS in facilitating sustainable growth and a high quality of development in the Belfast Metropolitan Area throughout the Plan period, whilst protecting and, where appropriate, enhancing the natural and man-made environment of the Plan Area. The Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan adopted in September 2014 was subsequently quashed as a result of a judgment of the Court of Appeal delivered in May 2017.	The LDP will supersede BMAP for the part of our plan area to which it applied. Its preparation involved recent consideration of a wide range of planning issues, preparation of policies and detailed spatial zoning all of which were subject to strategic environmental assessment and habitats regulations assessment. It is therefore an important evidence base.
Area Plans	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Local Development	January 2017	Council	Antrim and Newtownabbey	Consultation paper designed to stimulate debate and encourage feedback on key issues of strategic significance which are likely to influence the direction of the Council's new Local Development Plan. In so doing, it will	A council may have regard to other plans and topic based strategies e.g. transport, recreation and economic development, as considered relevant and which may also have cross boundary implications for

	Plan 2030 Preferred Options Paper			Borough Council	help to inform the first stage of the Local Development Plan, the Plan Strategy.	its neighbouring council. A council should therefore also ensure that its strategy is not in conflict with the DPDs of neighbouring councils by assessing any likely cross boundary implications of policies and proposals contained in its DPD to help ensure its compatibility with that of the neighbouring council and facilitate an integrated and coordinated approach to the implementation of higher level regional planning aims and objectives. The LDP should have regard for and should not conflict with the Development Plan Documents of neighbouring councils.
Area Plans	Belfast City Council Local Development Plan Draft Plan Strategy	September 2018	Council	Belfast City Council	The draft Plan Strategy sets out the overall aspirations for the future development of Belfast and policies to be used in assessing planning applications.	A council may have regard to other plans and topic based strategies e.g. transport, recreation and economic development, as considered relevant and which may also have cross boundary implications for its neighbouring council. A council should therefore also ensure that its strategy is not in conflict with the DPDs of neighbouring councils by assessing any likely cross boundary implications of policies and proposals contained in its DPD to help ensure its compatibility with that of the neighbouring council and facilitate an integrated and coordinated approach to the implementation of higher level regional planning aims and objectives. The LDP should have regard for and should not conflict with the Development Plan Documents of neighbouring councils.
Area Plans	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Local Development Plan 2030 Preferred Options Paper	June 2018	Council	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	Consultation paper designed to stimulate debate and encourage feedback on key issues of strategic significance which are likely to influence the direction of the Council's new Local Development Plan. In so doing, it will help to inform the first stage of the Local Development Plan, the Plan Strategy.	A council may have regard to other plans and topic based strategies e.g. transport, recreation and economic development, as considered relevant and which may also have cross boundary implications for its neighbouring council. A council should therefore also ensure that its strategy is not in conflict with the DPDs of neighbouring councils by assessing any likely cross boundary implications of policies and proposals contained in its DPD to help ensure its compatibility with that of the neighbouring council and facilitate an integrated and coordinated approach to the implementation of higher level regional planning aims and objectives. The LDP should have regard for and should not conflict with the Development Plan Documents of neighbouring councils.
Area Plans	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Local Development Plan Preferred Options Paper	June 2017	Council	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council	Consultation paper designed to stimulate debate and encourage feedback on key issues of strategic significance which are likely to influence the direction of the Council's new Local Development Plan. In so doing, it will help to inform the first stage of the Local Development Plan, the Plan Strategy.	A council may have regard to other plans and topic based strategies e.g. transport, recreation and economic development, as considered relevant and which may also have cross boundary implications for its neighbouring council. A council should therefore also ensure that its strategy is not in conflict with the DPDs of neighbouring councils by assessing any likely cross boundary implications of policies and proposals contained in its DPD to help ensure its compatibility with that of the neighbouring council and facilitate an integrated and coordinated approach to the implementation of higher level regional planning aims and objectives. The LDP should have regard for and should not conflict with the Development Plan Documents of neighbouring councils.
Area Plans	Mid Ulster District Council Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy	February 2019	Council	Mid Ulster District Council	The Plan Strategy is the first stage of a two stage LDP for the district. It sets out the strategic objectives of Mid Ulster District Council and informs all stakeholders of the policy framework against which all proposals will	A council may have regard to other plans and topic based strategies e.g. transport, recreation and economic development, as considered relevant and which may also have cross boundary implications for its neighbouring council. A council should therefore also ensure that

					be assessed. The draft Plan Strategy will be subjected to public consultation and independent examination before adoption.	its strategy is not in conflict with the DPDs of neighbouring councils by assessing any likely cross boundary implications of policies and proposals contained in its DPD to help ensure its compatibility with that of the neighbouring council and facilitate an integrated and coordinated approach to the implementation of higher level regional planning aims and objectives. The LDP should have regard for and should not conflict with the Development Plan Documents of neighbouring councils.
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APPENDIX 5: Consultation Body Comments on the Scoping Report

SA Topic	No.	Date	Comments	Outcomes
General - Plans, Policies, Programmes & Strategies	1	13/02/2017	<p>Cumulative impacts should be considered at the Environmental Reporting stage.</p> <p>The EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive, the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, the Marine Act (NI) 2013, UK Marine Policy Statement</p> <p>The relevant River Basin Management Plans - the Neagh Bann and the North East River Basin Management Plans</p> <p>Sustainable Water - A Long Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland and NI Waters Infrastructure Investment Strategy</p> <p>Consideration and awareness of international conventions, local legislation and policies that protect historic environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cumulative impacts have been considered and are reported in Section 4 of the SA Report. These have been referred to in Appendix 4, and where appropriate to do so, in the most relevant topic in Chapter 5.
Health & Wellbeing - Noise Marine/Coastal	3		<p>Noise maps from DAERA should be referred to and Quiet Areas. There is also a Noise Policy from DAERA.</p> <p>The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the Marine Act (NI) 2013 require planning authorities to consider the UK Marine Policy Statement and the NI Marine Plan when preparing their Local Development Plans. DAERA recommend reference to this consideration through the SA objectives. Under Health & Wellbeing, the potential benefits of access to river and water frontage should be considered.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These have been referred to in Appendix 4, and where appropriate to do so, in the most relevant topic in Chapter 5.
Air Quality	2		<p>Recent Air Quality reports and any Air Quality Action Plans should be referred to and any trends in monitoring of air pollutants. Air Quality Management Areas, Smoke control Areas and any other measures as part of LAQM should be checked for. Also the Air Pollution in Northern Ireland report can be referenced. LAQM PG NI (09) applicable.</p> <p>Considering both current and future road traffic levels is recommended.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A variety of these sources were used in the SA Air Quality section. Presence of AQMAs referred to but not locations. <p>Note that the www.airqualityni.gov.uk site is out of date with some information and this is an on-going issue for Councils. Also the most recent Air Pollution report is dated 2015 and not yet published for 2016.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes and vehicles, and types of journey made are referred to in the Transport section, which is cross-referenced to from the Air Quality section. Transport routes and reliance on car also referred to in Air Quality. Updated the Likely Evolution section to help reflect potential future traffic levels. This aspect is also noted for future plan stages.

SA Topic	No.	Date	Comments	Outcomes
Natural Resources	4		Overlap with other sections of the report highlighted. Biodiversity, blue/green infrastructure, designated and protected sites and landscape all referred to. DAERA sources referred to include GIS layers and the NI Environmental Statistics Report, but also the State of the Environment and National Ecosystems Assessment Chapter 18.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated reference to overlap with other sections to include water. All these areas have been covered under Natural Resources but Landscape is in its own SA section. Some DAERA references may not always be used but noted to inform future updates where appropriate.
Natural Resources - Marine/Coastal	5		The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the Marine Act (NI) 2013 require planning authorities to consider the UK Marine Policy Statement and the NI Marine Plan when preparing their Local Development Plans. DAERA recommend reference to this consideration through the SA objectives. Under natural resources, the potential impacts on the marine environment should be considered. Intertidal/coastal and marine references in Table 5.1 are welcomed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several marine sites are referred to and illustrated. Also a cycle route that follows the coastline is referred to as part of blue/green infrastructure.
Climate change	9		Appraisal prompts should include reference to coastal flooding, land instability and coastal erosion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted for future appraisal work. Vulnerability to storm events has been included in the guide as a concise prompt. Floodplains and adaptation measures were referred to in the Climate change section and erosion was referred to under Physical Resources. Biodiversity and blue infrastructure also referred to in Natural Resources section of the report.

SA Topic	No.	Date	Comments	Outcomes
Water	6		<p>The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the Marine Act (NI) 2013 require planning authorities to consider the UK Marine Policy Statement and the NI Marine Plan when preparing their Local Development Plans. DAERA recommend reference to this consideration through the SA objectives. Under Water, the potential impacts on the marine environment should be considered.</p> <p>The Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plans are important to consider. The relevant plans are the Neagh Bann and the North East River Basin Management Plans. Any supplementary plan published under regulation 16 should also be considered. These are seen as key to implementing the WFD. An integrated approach should be achieved covering groundwater and all surface water bodies including coastal out to one nautical mile. A Programme of Measures for the area identifies diffuse agricultural sources, and point sources from wastewater treatment and industrial discharges as the main risks to achieving “good” status.</p> <p>All the wastewater treatment works should be identified and current capacity over the lifetime of the plan predicted. Environmental performance should be referred to as well. This should be aligned with the NI Waters Infrastructure Investment Strategy. It is noted that mitigation may be required to align zoning and release of land with availability of adequate wastewater treatment works.</p> <p>Is the Larne Lough Shellfish Water Protected Area covered? Three bathing waters may need to be referred to - Carnlough, Ballygalley, Brown’s Bay</p> <p>Updated information can be obtained from nieawaterinfo@doeni.gov.uk</p> <p>DAERA suggest splitting water into water quality and resources, and flood risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant aspects of the marine environment have been described, effects will be included in the SA. This includes bathing waters. Section 5.11 includes discussion on WFD and RBMP baseline information. This includes shellfish waters Details referred to have been included in Appendix 4 and/or Water or Natural Heritage topics. General information on WwTW capacity has been included in chapter 5.11. Specific information on WwTW capacity has been sought and used to inform the HRA. Flooding has been addressed under the water and climate change topics and was fully considered in appraisal. SES will retain the main reference to flooding within water, with the agreement of DfI Rivers Agency.
Landscape	7		<p>The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the Marine Act (NI) 2013 require planning authorities to consider the UK Marine Policy Statement and the NI Marine Plan when preparing their Local Development Plans. DAERA recommend reference to this consideration through the SA objectives. Under Water, the potential impacts on the marine environment should be considered.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seascape is included as part of the Landscape section and local development pressures also referred to. Aspects of the marine environment have been incorporated into the baseline and impacts on the marine environment will be considered.

SA Topic	No.	Date	Comments	Outcomes
Historic Environment & Cultural Heritage	8		<p>Table 5.1 could include marine archaeology</p> <p>The SA objective should read, “protect, conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage”.</p> <p>The NI Monuments and Buildings Record (NIMBR) should be used as a source of information. GIS layers for Scheduled and State Care monuments, Sites and Monuments Record, Industrial Heritage, Historic Parks and Gardens and Demesnes, Battle sites, Defence Heritage, ASAIs and AAPs from www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/historic-environment-digital-datasets The NIMBR can be visited for excavation information. Marine historic environment can be requested from rorv.mcneary@daera-ni.gov.uk Nucleated Historic Settlements can be found from HED at http://arcg.is/2daPCpn and current and candidate ASAIs can be viewed. Note that historic OS mapping of sites may not yet be within HED records.</p> <p>One specific zone of concern for HED is the historic town of Carrickfergus where below ground complex and extensive archaeological remains and historic fabric are known to exist. NIMBR has information on excavations MBR-enquiries@communities-ni.gov.uk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine archaeology will be further considered at LPP. The Sustainability objective has been updated and evidence referred to summarised. This will be updated as plan preparation progresses and inform future spatial designations and policies.
Material Assets Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	9	04/09/2017	<p>Waste Water Treatment Capacity servicing smaller housing areas and the issues involved with higher growth rates.</p> <p>Protecting natural resources and biodiversity refers to the international obligations but does not refer to the Councils duty of Care under ‘The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011’. The Local Mid and East Antrim Local Biodiversity Action Plan should also be noted.</p> <p>Matrix highlights that the provision of housing has no relationship with natural resources or enhancement of the landscape character and a positive relationship with the protection of water. It could be argued that badly sited housing and associated septic tanks in the countryside have the potential to have a negative /uncertain impact on sustainability objectives.</p> <p>The Gobbins is an Opportunity Area for Tourism development, but it may also fall into the vulnerable or sensitive category. The Gobbins is a designated Area of Special Scientific Interest for breeding seabirds.</p> <p>There is always the possibility of impacts on natural resources, landscape and the water environment if housing is located in areas of natural heritage or landscape importance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WwTW capacity has been included in the HRA and throughout the SA. The effect of non-mains waste water disposal has been considered in the SA of the draft Plan Information on the WANE Act has been included in section 5.12. The Gobbins has not been brought forward as a Tourism Opportunity Area in the draft Plan Strategy.

APPENDIX 6: Sustainability Appraisal Guide

1. The objective for sustainable development is to improve health and wellbeing.	
Rationale	
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. 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.	
Key Sustainability Issues	
Refer to 5.1.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Health and Wellbeing	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improve and facilitate access to health care b) Reduce response times for the emergency services c) Provide opportunities for and encourage healthy lifestyles and physical activities for all ages d) Enable people to grow their own food e) Create open space that people can use f) Avoid/reduce noise levels that may affect people g) Promote good mental health h) Provide social meeting places i) Increase social contact and intergenerational contact j) Increase the sense of safety k) Support family cohesion l) Reduce the risk of traffic accidents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> m) Reduce access to health care n) Increase response times for the emergency services o) Discourage healthy/active lifestyles p) Reduce open and accessible space q) Increase noise levels that may affect health r) Reduce good mental health s) Reduce the number of meeting places t) Decrease social contact and intergenerational contact u) Decrease the sense of safety v) Reduce family cohesion w) Increase the risk of traffic accidents

2. The objective for sustainable development is to strengthen society

Rationale

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.

Key Sustainability Issues

Refer to 5.2.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Community

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Promote inclusion of all groups b) Retain, create, or enhance shared space c) Increase accessibility to shared space d) Promote positive social interaction e) Give rural communities appropriate access to facilities and services f) Reduce the factors causing inequalities g) Meet identified needs that will reduce inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> h) Inhibit inclusion of all groups i) Shared space reduced or deteriorates j) Decrease accessibility to shared space k) Decrease positive social interaction l) Rural communities less appropriate access to facilities and services m) Exacerbate the factors causing inequalities n) Maintains or increases inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities

3. The objective for sustainable development is to provide good quality, sustainable housing.

Rationale

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 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.

Key Sustainability Issues

Refer to 5.3.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Housing

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects

- a) Encourage/enable low carbon homes
- b) Encourage/enable life-time homes with potential for adaptability - wheelchair access
- c) Encourage/ enable affordable housing
- d) reduce homelessness
- e) Meet the needs of specific groups e.g. single people, families, retired people, ethnic minorities, disabled
- f) Reduce the number of unfit homes
- g) Provide housing which meets locally identified needs (in terms of type, tenure and size)
- h) Encourage the building of life-time homes with potential for adaptability, such as wheelchair access
- i) Provide a mix of housing types
- j) Help to reuse vacant dwellings

Negative Effects

- k) Doesn't promote energy efficiency
- l) Homes not suited for lifetime use with potential for adaptability
- m) Reduced affordable housing
- n) Increase homelessness
- o) Does not meet the needs of specific groups e.g. single people, families, retired people, ethnic minorities, disabled
- p) Does not meet local need for housing type/quantity
- q) Doesn't help to reuse vacant dwellings

4. The objective for sustainable development is to enable access to high quality education

Rationale

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.

Key Sustainability Issues

Refer to 5.4.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Education and Skills

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Improve education level and employability of the population	f) Does not help improve education level and employability of the population
b) Promote access to education and skills training	g) Decrease access to education and skills training
c) Help rural community's access education and skills training	h) Makes rural community's access education and skills training harder
d) Improve opportunities for multiple use of facilities	i) Under use of public facilities
e) Help educational establishments to provide modern sustainable accommodation	j) Inhibit provision of suitable educational facilities

5. The objective for sustainable development is to enable sustainable economic growth.

Rationale

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.

Key Sustainability Issues

Refer to 5.5.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Economy and Employment

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects

- a) Support innovation and competitiveness within the local economy
- b) Support creation of a range of job types that are accessible especially to areas of greatest deprivation
- c) Support enhancement of the skills base.
- d) Help make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest
- e) Make the best use of location
- f) Ensures the vitality and vibrancy of city and town centres can be improved
- g) Increases the number of people coming to the Borough to work
- h) Maximise economic benefits of sustainable tourism
- i) Effects are spread throughout the year

Negative Effects

- j) Does not promote innovation and competitiveness within the local economy
- k) Does not support creation of a range of job types that are accessible especially to areas of greatest deprivation
- l) Does not support enhancement of the skills base.
- m) Does not help make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest
- n) Does not make the best use of location
- o) Vitality and vibrancy of city and town centres may decline.
- p) Decreases the number of people coming to the Borough to work
- q) Does not enable use of tourism assets.
- r) Effects are seasonal/ restricted to certain months

6. The objective for sustainable development is to manage material assets sustainably.

Rationale

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.

Key Sustainability Issues

Refer to 5.6.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Material Assets

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Sufficient transmission/distribution lines b) Infrastructure which is fit for purpose c) Enable renewable energy production/connections d) Decreasing proportion of waste to landfill e) Recycling/composting facilitated/improved for people and business f) Encourage/facilitate reuse of resources g) Waste production per household reduces h) Reduce the amount of contaminated/derelict land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Insufficient transmission/distribution lines j) Infrastructure not fit for purpose k) Does not enable renewable energy production l) Proportion of waste to landfill not decreasing m) Recycling is not made easier n) Recycling rates do not increase o) Composting rates do not increase p) Does not encourage reuse of resources q) Waste production per household does not reduce r) Does not reduce the amount of contaminated or derelict land

7. The objective for sustainable development is to protect physical resources and use sustainably.

Rationale

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.

Key Sustainability Issues

Refer to 5.7.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Physical Resources

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Earth science features remain protected b) Enable the minerals industry to operate sustainably c) Enable materials to be locally sourced where available d) Retain potential future use/benefit of physical resources (education/tourism/recreation/biodiversity) e) Enable future development of geothermal energy f) Avoid increase of curtilage cover in the area g) Retain semi natural land cover/biodiversity h) Avoid soil erosion/pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Earth science features not protected j) Reduce ability for minerals industry to operate sustainably k) Materials cannot be locally sourced l) Does not protect potential future use/benefit of physical resources (education/tourism/recreation/biodiversity) m) May inhibit future use of geothermal energy n) Increases loss of semi natural land to curtilage o) Reduce semi natural land cover/biodiversity p) Cause soil erosion/pollution

8. The objective for sustainable development is to encourage active and sustainable travel.

Rationale

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.

Key Sustainability Issues

Refer to 5.8.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Transport and Accessibility

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Encourage modal shift to active travel and sustainable b) Improve access to and efficiency of public transport c) Benefit those without access to a vehicle d) Retain, create, or enhance walking and cycle routes e) Will help reduce traffic congestion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> f) Does not promote modal shift to active and sustainable travel g) Unlikely to improve access and efficiency of public transport h) Unlikely to benefit those without access to a vehicle i) Does not retain, create, or enhance walking and cycle routes j) Unlikely to reduce traffic congestion

9. The objective for sustainable development is to improve air quality.

Rationale

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.

Key Sustainability Issues

Refer to 5.9.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Air Quality

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects

- a) Likely to improve air quality
- b) Reduce emissions of key pollutants
- c) Reduce transport emissions
- d) Will other modes of transport than the car be encouraged/feasible
- e) Avoid increase of ammonia emissions (near to sensitive receptors)
- f) Help achieve objectives of an AQMA (if applicable)

Negative Effects

- g) Unlikely to improve air quality
- h) Unlikely to reduce emissions of key pollutants
- i) Unlikely to reduce transport emissions
- j) Maintains/ increases car use
- k) Maintain/ increase ammonia emissions, especially near to sensitive receptors
- l) Unlikely to help meet AQMA objectives (if applicable)

10. The objective for sustainable development is to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.

Rationale

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.

Key Sustainability Issues

Refer to 5.10.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Climate Change

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Will reduce greenhouse gas emissions b) Likely to reduce energy consumption c) Increase/ support/ promote/ enable renewable energy d) Protect or enhance habitats that capture carbon and/or water - peatlands/wetlands/floodplains e) Increase/encourage other forms of transport than the car - cycling/walking f) Reduce polluting forms of transport g) Reduce emissions from the agricultural sector h) Incorporate measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change i) Reduce the risk of storm damage to property j) Increase resilience of built and natural environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> k) Likely to increase greenhouse gas emissions l) Unlikely to reduce energy consumption m) Restricts/ inhibits/ detracts from renewable energy n) Inhibit or diminish habitats the capture carbon o) Damage or diminish floodplains p) Maintain reliance on vehicles and discourage public transport, walking and cycling q) Maintain and increase polluting from transport r) Maintain and increase emissions from livestock s) Does not consider adaptation or mitigation for climate change t) Does not reduce the risk of damage to property from storm events u) May reduce resilience of the built and natural environment

11. The objective for sustainable development is to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.

Rationale

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.

Key Sustainability Issues

Refer to 5.11.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Water

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improve the quality of surface and ground water (including coastal waters) to meet objectives b) Lead to more efficient use of water c) Minimise risks from flooding d) Avoid the need for flood defence e) Protect or enhance floodplains f) Maintain water flows for good ecological quality g) Result in discharges that change the temperature of the receiving water h) Protect aquatic food resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Reduce the quality of surface and ground water j) Lead to waster of water k) Increase risk of flooding (now or in future) l) Risk creating a need for flood defence m) Reduce the extent or holding capacity of floodplains n) Water flows/ temperature not suitable for good ecological quality o) Unsustainable impacts on aquatic food resources

12. The objective for sustainable development is to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.

Rationale

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 environment as well as protection of green and blue infrastructure to enhance the services that natural resources provide.

Key Sustainability Issues

Refer to 5.12.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Natural Resources.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Protect/ enhance local biodiversity b) Protect/enhance existing/potential wildlife corridors c) Protect/ enhance designated sites and buffers d) Protect/ enhance locally important sites and buffers e) Protect/ enhance green/blue infrastructure (G/BI) f) Increase G/BI g) Support/provide ecosystem services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> h) Loss of local biodiversity i) Damage/interrupt existing or potential wildlife corridors j) Damage designated sites and their buffers k) Locally important sites and buffers damaged l) Reduce/remove G/BI m) Reduce/deteriorate ecosystem services

13. The objective for sustainable development is to maintain and enhance landscape character.

Rationale

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 seascapes and to protect and enhance open spaces and the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors.

Key Sustainability Issues

Refer to 5.13.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Landscape

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Minimise visual intrusion b) Protect and/ or enhance the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors c) Protect areas designated for landscape d) Avoid major impacts on coastal views (if applicable) e) Sensitively integrate new development to protect/ enhance local distinctiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> f) Increase any visual intrusion g) Detract from the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors h) Damage areas designated for landscape i) Degrade coastal views (if applicable) j) Lose local distinctiveness through new developments which do not enhance or protect the character of the area

14. The objective for sustainable development is to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.

Rationale

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.

Key Sustainability Issues

Refer to 5.14.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Conserve and enhance historic and cultural environment b) Allow 'sense of place' to be conserved in townscape and rural settings c) Allow archaeological features to be assessed, recorded and preserved d) Preserve and enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets e) Support access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment f) Protect/enhance distinctiveness and sense of place g) Provide for clearer assessment of impacts of development on complex and extensive archaeological sites immediate to settlements h) Provide opportunities for cultural activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Loss of historic and cultural environment j) Lose 'sense of place' in townscape and rural settings k) Archaeological features not assessed, recorded and preserved l) Damage the setting of cultural heritage assets m) Reduce access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment n) Loss of distinctiveness and sense of place o) Reduced clarity and protection of complex and extensive archaeological sites through the impacts of developments p) Decrease opportunities for cultural activities