

**Consultation:**  
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Local Development Plan  
Draft Plan Strategy 2030

**Representation:**  
Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust

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**Unique Reference Number:** MEA-C10-4

**Date Created:** 10.12.2019 - 1:57pm

**Status:** Submitted

**Date Submitted:** 10.12.2019 - 2:32pm

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## Cover Letter

The Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust was established in May 2002 as a partnership body with the responsibility of promoting and enhancing the unique qualities of the Causeway Coast and Glens area. Within the Trust's boundary, which encompasses an area of more than 3400 km<sup>2</sup>, there exists a wide variety of scenic landscapes, important wildlife resources and a rich cultural heritage.

Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust's Business Strategy are:

To develop sustainable and effective partnerships

To raise awareness of the unique and special qualities/character, in both landscape and heritage terms (natural, built and cultural) of the 3 AONBs and their surrounding area

To deliver an excellent protected area management provision for the CCGHT geographical area

To ensure best practice in sustainable development principles throughout the CCGHT geographical area

To deliver a sustainable, efficient and effective core activity/management for CCGHT

The Antrim Coast & Glens AONB was designated in 1988 under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (NI) Order. It includes Rathlin Island, the Glens of Antrim and the coastal area between Larne and Ballycastle. There is no doubt this area contains some of the most beautiful and varied scenery in Northern Ireland.

CCGHT provide a secretariat service to the Antrim Coast and Glens Management Forum.

This response reflects both CCGHTs Board and the AONB Management Forums input.

## Comments:

### 11.1 Natural Environment

**Chapter or Policy:** 11. Safeguarding our Natural Environment

**Tests of Soundness:** General comment

The management forum supports all policies relating to the Natural Environment that are applicable to the defined area of the AONB (NAT1, NAT2, NAT3, NAT4, NAT5). However, AONBs are not explicitly incorporated into any of the Natural Heritage policies within the LDP Draft Plan Strategy. As “the policy aims will be delivered primarily through the strategic policies” (NAT1 to NAT5) it is imperative that AONBs are appropriately referenced within these policies, in addition to Strategies including CS5. Policy NAT3 prohibits development which will adversely affect the integrity, habitat network or special interest of ASSIs, Nature Reserves, National Nature Reserves & Marine Conservation Zones. In addition there should be a specific policy for the AONB.

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## 10.1 Historic Environment

**Chapter or Policy:** 10. Stewardship of our Built Environment and Crea...

**Tests of Soundness:** General comment

The management forum supports all policies relating to the Historic Environment that are applicable to the defined area of the AONB. In particular, policies relating to the Conservation Areas in Carnlough and Glenarm are strongly supported. (HE1, HE2, HE3, HE4, HE5, HE6, HE8 and HE9).

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## 7.3 Tourism

**Chapter or Policy:** 7. Sustainable Economic Growth

**Tests of Soundness:** General comment

The Antrim Coast & Glens AONB Management Forum recognises the economic benefits of tourism development and also recognises the need to protect special places to promote further tourism. The AONB is recognised in the Strategy Plan as “Sensitive” and that tourism development “should be strictly controlled to respect local environment and characteristics of the area”. The management group therefore welcomes the balanced approach of the policy relating to Tourism Strategy (SGS8). Furthermore, the management forum supports the policies relating to the safeguarding of tourism assets and the development of tourism activities in the countryside. (Policies TOU1, TOU3, TOU4, TOU6, TOU7 and TOU8).

The route of the potential greenways in and adjacent to the AONB should be protected from development. (Policy OSL2).

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## Housing

**Chapter or Policy:** 8. Building Sustainable Communities » 8.1 Housing

**Tests of Soundness:** General comment

CCGHT believes that Strategy CS2 (Exception b) should be strengthened and amended by adding the following words “sympathetic in character.”

There is a recognised need for housing, and particularly social housing in the countryside, within the AONB. It is preferable to have appropriate massing of housing as opposed to unfettered development of single housing units in the countryside. The proposal for the development of new small settlements at Buckna and Newtowncrommelin is therefore acceptable. However, any development should be sited in a manner sympathetic to the landscape and appropriate vernacular design and materials should be used as laid out in the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB Design Guide. (Policies SGS2, HOU16)

## Sustainable Development 5.9 and 5.10

**Chapter or Policy:** 5. Spatial Growth Strategy and Countryside Strate... » 5.9 Countryside Strategy

**Tests of Soundness:** General comment

CCGHT welcomes the balanced policies relating to sustainable development in the countryside, the protection of Special Countryside Areas and development at risk from land instability or coastal erosion (Strategies CS1, CS2 and CS9).

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### 5.9 - High Structures

**Chapter or Policy:** 5. Spatial Growth Strategy and Countryside Strate... » 5.9 Countryside Strategy

**Tests of Soundness:** General comment

Due to its exceptional landscape quality the entire AONB should be designated as an area of Constraint on High Structures. Permission for the erection of high structures should be limited to structures required for agricultural and telecommunications purposes. Exceptionally, wind turbines may be permitted where they do not have an adverse impact on the landscape. (Strategy CS3)

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### AONB

**Chapter or Policy:** 5. Spatial Growth Strategy and Countryside Strate... » 5.9 Countryside Strategy

**Tests of Soundness:** General comment

The AONB was established under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order (NI) 1985 (NCALO). In the development of the Plan Strategy, full cognisance should be given to the requirements of this Order, and in particular, the objectives of the AONB designation.

As the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB crosses two council boundaries and was designated as a single entity, following in-depth landscape assessment and extensive consultation, Mid and East Antrim and Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Councils should adopt consistent & robust policies in their Local Development Plans relating to the AONB. (Strategy CS5)

The AONB has been designated because of its outstanding landscape quality and is considered to be of national importance. Development policies should apply consistently across the AONB, taking into account landscape sensitivity and the needs of local communities. (Strategy CS5)

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**Documents Attached:** No

**Boundaries Captured on Map:** No