

Consultation:

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

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Representation:

My View

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Please indicate if you would like your representation to be dealt with by

Written (choose this procedure to have your representation considered in written form only)

Cover Letter

Local resident of the area, tactical urbanism , environmentalist and urban planner. I have represented volunteer and community groups in the area such as Larne Renovation Generation and Ballygally Biodiversity Group. I currently work for a fibre broadband network provider [REDACTED]

Comments:

Vision and Strategic Objectives

Chapter or Policy: 4. Vision and Strategic Objectives

Tests of Soundness: General comment

Place Making Role? - What makes each of the 36 settlements unique? What is unique about Larne, Ballymena and Carrickfergus? (Town Identity)

Answer this question for the 3 Main towns:

What is _____ town famous for? (History, main industry/economic driver, town centre metrics, famous people, activities/festivals)

3 Important elements to this Place Making key points

1. Sustainable Economic Growth

To support and sustain town centres.

Support tourism as a key growth sector.

2. Building Sustainable Communities

Shared space

Health and Wellbeing

Health education and sport

Quality public spaces

3. safeguarding our Natural Environment

To protect, conserve and enhance environmental quality

Protect areas of high quality landscape

New emerging sectors? What emerging sectors have you identified that could be attracted the area? e.g. A.I, Geographic Information System technology, App development, sustainable and organic farming, etc...

Protect assets of quality and diversity of the natural and historical environment - identify all assets and map their boundaries.

Main opinion:

Identifying the 3 Main towns key aspects. Town Identity

Spatial Growth Strategy

Chapter or Policy: 5. Spatial Growth Strategy and Countryside Strate... » 5.1 Spatial Growth Strategy

Tests of Soundness: General comment

What happens if the Regional Development Spatial strategy may be wrong?

Carrickfergus given satellite town identity to feed the growth of Belfast. Is this not concerning for Mid and East Antrim Area i.e. Carrickfergus Town

How will be able manage movement of people when they all be working in Belfast. Major impact on roads network.

No guarantee of investment in jobs for Carrick from Belfast Metropolitan Area.

Identify town uniqueness should be key in defining what industries to target for each main town area.

Main focus on the 3 Main Towns.

Urban Greening for Sustainability and public transport quality and quantity is a key aspect.

Facilitating sustainable development should be a priority within all areas not just rural areas (SFG13,14). Make that clear for SFG1,4,5,10,11,12,15)

Delivery of Spatial Growth Strategy delivered by following:

Strategic Housing Allocation Strategy

Economic Development Strategy

Retail Strategy

Tourism Strategy

Transport Strategy

Open Space Strategy

No mention of a climate change strategy, biodiversity strategy, environment strategy playing any part. Why?

Housing Allocation Strategy may not be indicative of actual growth as people will go where the quality of life, job opportunities, etc are.

Mixed Developments prioritized all areas. Housing plus business

Town Centres need a breakdown done for number of businesses and type of businesses in order to identify unique properties from each town centre and to see where gaps could be missing

Town Centres should be a priority tourism asset. At least in the 3 Main towns. Heritage, history, activities and main areas of economic growth. Identifying tourism growth areas should include town centres.

Chasing tourism will be our downfall. Need to balance with other sectors. Larne Town is the best at (What)

Need to identify areas around public transportation hubs for searching for sustainable economic development areas and identify tourism areas. e.g. Magheramorne train station - Magheramorne Quarry, Magheramorne Peninsula, The old Cement Mill, Magheramorne House, etc....

Green links, Green way important for Transport Strategy. Building a Walkable City/Town is very important. (Jeff Speck book)and

Eradicate invasive species like Japanese Knotweed, etc. Considerable costs involved. Areas that need prioritized in protecting vs others.

Environmental Assets and Concerns need identified

Chapter or Policy: 11. Safeguarding our Natural Environment

Tests of Soundness: General comment

No biodiversity officer for the Council area. How will be able to Safeguard our Natural Environment?

Need to identify areas that contribute highly towards fighting climate change, and areas of high biodiversity. Then create significant buffers around these to prevent development in these areas to a bare minimum.

Priority species lists for each of these areas. e.g. RAMSAR sites like Larne Lough.

Species of concern also need identified in these areas. e.g. Grey Squirrel, Giant Hogweed, etc...

Identify species that have declined significantly over the last 25 years (1 generation) and see what can be done to help them.

Will Council announce that we are in a climate crisis. And announce plans to mitigate e.g. ban single use plastics by 2030, announce renewable energy incentives, etc...

Will Council adopt a conservation species (at risk species) as the areas species mascot? Like what other councils have done e.g. Antrim and Newtownabbey adopted the Swift.

Identify invasive species concern checklist for each environmental asset area.

Smallest section in the LDP document raises concerns on the abilities and expertise of Mid and East Antrim Council to Safeguard the natural environment. How will your organisation accommodate the concerns i have?

Main opinion:

Concerns over the abilities and expertise of the Council area to cover my concerns for safeguarding the natural environment.

Documents Attached: No

Boundaries Captured on Map: No