



By email to [planning@midandeantrim.gov.uk](mailto:planning@midandeantrim.gov.uk)

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To Sandra Adams, Head of Mid & East Antrim Borough Council LDP Team and FAO Head of Planning:

Many thanks for your invitation to respond to the council's Proposed Modifications to the Draft Plan Strategy. The Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) for Architecture and the Built Environment (NI) would like to congratulate the team on publication of this comprehensive document, which reflects a significant amount of work and research by Mid & East Antrim Borough Council. We are pleased to be invited to be a part of the consultation process.

We are aware however that a written response by its nature can only be of limited value and would like to highlight the valuable resource directly available to you in the form of our members.

We have already undertaken some worthwhile Design Workshops with the council in Carrickfergus, and look forward to building on this engagement in the future.

The Ministerial Advisory Group for Architecture and the Built Environment exists to uphold and promote the standards set out in Northern Ireland's Architecture and Built Environment Policy.

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**RAISING EXPECTATIONS**

**MEA-DPS-PMC09**



The Group comprises a Chair and eight experienced members drawn from the professions of architecture, landscape architecture, heritage and academic research. In addition we have 40 Expert Advisor members from across the UK and Ireland with wide ranging experience in related fields such as transport, planning and commercial development.

MAG is independent and available to offer support and advice to councils and clients on an 'as requested' basis, with a shared aim of making places better for the people that use them. Recently we have been working together with other councils to finalise their LDPs and we have been invited to continue this process with some councils, including Belfast City Council, as they move towards developing more detailed Design Policy.

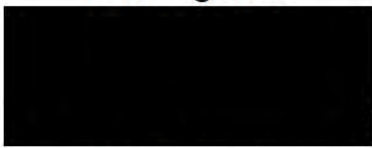
MAG also offers Design Reviews and workshops at any stage in the design process of development that will affect our towns and villages. Engaging directly with the council and design team has the potential to achieve the best possible outcome. Projects are reviewed by MAG in an unbiased and holistic way, looking not only at the design of individual buildings, but at their setting in their urban or rural context, pedestrian and traffic routes and their potential for positively impacting their communities in a wider context.

We would like to continue to offer you MAG's engagement with the council – we have a dedicated MAG Member, Nicola Waddington, who would be happy

to meet with you to discuss possible areas of interest further. Once we have an idea of the areas you would find most valuable, we could schedule a workshop with your staff, with a small group of MAG members with relevant expertise. If you would like to discuss any possibilities of working with MAG further, please do contact us at [magsecretariat@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:magsecretariat@communities-ni.gov.uk)

Do let us know if this proposal would be of interest, and we can set about making the necessary arrangements.

Kind regards,



**MAG Secretariat**