



Local Development Plan 2030

Plan Timetable 2017

www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk



**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council

Getting in touch

Should you have a planning query, you can contact the Council's Planning Section in any of the following ways:

By email to:

planning@midandeantrim.gov.uk

By post / visit to:

Planning Department
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
County Hall
182 Galgorm Road
Ballymena
BT42 1QF

By telephone:

0300 200 7830

This document can be downloaded from the Council website at:

www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/planning-development/planning/local-development-plan

It can also be made available for viewing in the Council Planning Office for those who do not have online access.

Should you require a copy of this Timetable in an alternative format, it can be made available on request in large print, audio format or Braille. It may also be made available in other languages to meet the needs of those for whom English is not their first language.

Further information about all the Council's

Planning responsibilities can be found on our website:

www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/planning

1 Introduction

1.1

The purpose of this timetable is to set the key stages and the indicative timescale for the formulation of the Mid and East Antrim Local Development Plan 2030 (LDP).

1.2

The Timetable has been prepared within the legislative context of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. This legislation requires the Council to prepare and keep under review a timetable for the preparation and adoption of its LDP.

1.3

The timetable has been approved by resolution of the Council and agreed with the Department for Infrastructure in accordance with Regulation 7 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

2 Purpose of the Local Development Plan

2.1

The fundamental purpose of the LDP is to inform the public, statutory authorities, developers, landowners and other interested parties of the planning policy framework and land use proposals that will guide development decisions within the Borough up to the end of the plan period in 2030.

2.2

The LDP will take account of the Council's Corporate Plan, Community Plan and other Council strategies so that its objectives and land use based policies and proposals reflect the shared vision for the Borough and its communities. The LDP will also be shaped through consultation with communities, stakeholders and the public, in accordance with the arrangements set out in the **Council's** Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)¹.

2.3

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 Regional Development Strategy (RDS), the Sustainable Development Strategy, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and the suite of Planning Policy Statements. The LDP is expected to implement at local (Borough) level, the strategic regional planning policy objectives of the RDS and SPPS.

¹ The Statement of Community Involvement is published in tandem with the Plan Timetable

3 The Local Development Process

3.1

The LDP will be produced in two stages and will comprise of two separate documents, which together will shape development within the Borough from final adoption, through to the year 2030.

3.2

The first LDP document will be the Plan Strategy. The Plan Strategy will define the strategic planning objectives for the future development of the Borough. It will include a range of strategic policies to facilitate and manage development and also a spatial strategy that will indicate in broad terms the locations where different types of development will be promoted and areas where development (or specific types of development) will be restricted in order to safeguard interests of acknowledged importance (such as high quality / sensitive landscapes).

3.3

As a prerequisite to the formulation of the Plan Strategy, the Council will identify a number of key issues in the Plan area that have emerged through the initial evidence gathering phase of the LDP. A Preferred Options Paper (POP) will then be brought forward at an early stage in the process that will define a range of options for addressing these key issues, including the **Council's preferred option. The POP will be** subject to public consultation and stakeholder engagement in accordance with the provisions set out **in the Council's SCI. The outcome of this** will inform the emerging Plan Strategy, which itself will be subject to public consultation and independent examination.

3.4

The second LDP document will be the Local Policies Plan (LPP). This will be prepared within the context of the adopted Plan Strategy and will include a range of site specific policies, designations and proposals associated with such matters as definition of settlement limits, land use zonings and environmental designations. The LPP is intended to deliver the strategic policies and spatial strategy contained within the LDP Plan Strategy. As with the Plan Strategy, the LPP will be subject to public consultation and independent examination.

3.5

A Sustainability Appraisal of the LDP will commence at the same time as the Plan and run in tandem with it. The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal is to ensure that due account is taken of social, economic and environmental considerations throughout the Plan process, so as to facilitate the delivery of sustainable development through the LDP. Reports from the various stages of the Sustainability Appraisal will be published at key stages of the Plan preparation as detailed in the Timetable at Appendix 1.

4 Status of the Local Development Plan

4.1

The LDP will, on final adoption, replace the current development plans applying to the Borough as well as the current operational planning policies contained in the various Planning Policy Statements published by DOE. The development or area plans to be replaced are:

- **Ballymena Area Plan 1986-2001**
- **Larne Area Plan 2010**
- **Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015** (insofar as it relates to the former Carrickfergus Borough Council area).

3.6

Statutory requirements for other assessments to be carried out and integrated within the overall Plan process, include the following:

- **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**

SEA is subsumed within the Sustainability Appraisal but, subject to screening, is specifically required in order to examine the environmental effects of the Plan proposals;

- **Habitats Regulations Assessment**

Considers the potential impact of LDP policies and proposals on European nature conservation sites;

- **Equality Impact Assessment**

Screening is required to assess if the LDP is likely to have differential impacts on specific sections of the community. If so, an Equality Impact Assessment needs to be undertaken and mitigation measures considered, as necessary;

- **Rural Proofing**

Rural Proofing is the process by which all major policies and proposals (including LDPs) are assessed to determine whether they will have a differential impact on rural areas. If so, potential mitigation measures need to be considered.

5 The timetable

5.1

The Plan timetable has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and is set out in Appendix 1.

5.2

The timetable details the various actions applicable to key stages in the LDP process and which must be completed if the Plan is to meet legislative requirements and various tests of 'soundness'. It also includes those actions that relate to the assessments referred to in paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6.

5.3

The timetable sets out indicative dates for a number of the key stages in the production of the LDP. The indicative nature of these dates recognises that there are many factors that could potentially impact upon the timescale for delivery of the LDP.

6 Monitoring and review

6.1

It is proposed that the following arrangements be adopted for the monitoring and review of progress on the LDP relative to the Plan timetable:

I. Establishment of a Working Group within Council. It is envisaged that this will be the high level co-ordinating body that will ensure oversight and strategic input on behalf of the whole community, as well as from planning professionals.

II. A work programme will be presented to the Steering Group for each key stage of the Plan process.

III. Papers will be presented to the Planning Committee on a regular basis regarding various aspects of the LDP, relevant to the particular stage in the process.

IV. An annual monitoring report will be produced to inform Council Members and the Department for Communities on progress in meeting the Plan timetable and identifying the causes of any significant delay.

6.2

In the event that the Plan timetable requires amendment, Council has the power under the Planning Act 2011, to publish a revised timetable. Any amendments will be publicised and made available on the **Council's website**: www.midandeantrim.gov.uk

6.3

Further to paragraph 6.2, a revised Plan timetable was approved by resolution of Council on 2 May 2017 and subsequently by the Department for Infrastructure on 2 June 2017. The revised Plan timetable is shown in Appendix 1.

Appendix 1 - Timetable

Local Development Plan process : key stages	Sustainability appraisal & other assessments & key actions	Indicative timeframe
KEY STAGE 1 – Plan Preparation		
Publication of statement of community involvement		August 2016
Publication of original Plan timetable		August 2016
Stakeholder and councillor and community plan engagement on key issues	Invite comments from consultation body (NIEA) on draft Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report	August 2016 – March 2017
Publication of Revised Plan Timetable		June 2017
Publication of Preferred Options Paper Statutory public consultation (proposed 12 weeks)	Publication of SA Scoping + Interim Report Screening for EQIA Baseline Habitats Regulations Assessment	June 2017
	Prepare Public Consultation report on Responses to POP	November 2017
KEY STAGE 2 – Plan Strategy		
Publication of draft Plan Strategy Statutory public consultation (8 weeks for representations followed by eight-weeks for counter-representations)	Publication of SA Appraisal Report (incorporating SEA) Publication of drafts of HRA, EQIA and Rural Proofing Assessment, where relevant	3 rd Quarter 2018
Independent examination		2 nd Quarter 2019
Adoption of plan strategy	Publication of SA Adoption Report (incorporating SEA) Publication of HRA, EQIA and RPA where relevant	1 st Quarter 2020
KEY STAGE 3 – Local Policies Plan		
Publication of draft Local Policies Plan Statutory public consultation (eight-weeks for representations followed by eight-weeks for counter representations)	Publication of SA Appraisal Report (incorporating SEA) Publication of drafts of HRA, EQIA and Rural Proofing Assessment, where relevant	3 rd Quarter 2020
Independent examination		1 st Quarter 2021
Adoption of Local Policies Plan	Publication of SA Adoption Report (incorporating SEA) Publication of HRA, EQIA and RPA where relevant	Last quarter 2021
KEY STAGE 4 – Monitoring & Review		
Monitoring and Review of LDP (annual monitoring and five-year review) Preparation of supplementary planning documents	Monitoring of SA and Other Assessments	Ongoing



**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Mid and East Antrim

Borough Council

County Hall

182 Galgorm Road

Ballymena

BT42 1QF

Tel: 0300 200 7830

planning@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/planning