



Sustainability Appraisal - Scoping Report

(Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Preferred
Options Paper)

Local Development Plan

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**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council

This Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report has been prepared by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council.

How to comment

If you wish to comment on this report please do so by one of the following methods:

- The online survey to the Preferred Options Paper and online survey to the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report available on the Council's website; or
- The Preferred Options Paper Response Form and Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report Response Form are also available on the Council's website and can be returned by email or by post.

We welcome comments 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 elected representatives and from a wide spectrum of groups who have particular interests in Mid and East Antrim as they will bring a special knowledge to the table and may wish to influence the Local Development Plan so as to address their area of interest. 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

The consultation for the Preferred Options Paper and this supporting report runs from 14 June to 6 September 2017.

Contact Details

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

By online survey:

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1 Non-technical Summary

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.
- Consult on the scope and method of the Sustainability Appraisal.

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

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

- 1...improve health and well-being.
- 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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Glossary

BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
CCC	Committee on Climate Change
COE	Council of Europe
DAERA	The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DCs	District Councils
DE	The Department of Education
DEA	District Electoral Area
DfE	The Department for the Economy
DfI	The Department for Infrastructure
DoH	The Department of Health
DoJ	The Department of Justice
EC	European Commission
EO	The Executive Office
Four Nations	Devolved Administrations and English Government (NI Lead Department indicated in brackets)
HED	Historic Environment Division
HSCB	Health and Social Care Board
LDP	Local Development Plan
LNP	Lough Neagh Partnership
NA	Not Applicable
NASCO	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
NHST	Northern Health and Social Care Trust
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
NIW	Northern Ireland Water
RDS	Regional Development Strategy
SA	Sustainability appraisal
SPPS	Strategic Planning Policy Statement
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
UK Gov.	UK Government
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

2 Introduction

2.1 Purpose of this Scoping Report

This scoping report is the first formal output of the Sustainability Appraisal process for our Local Development Plan. It presents information about the topics being assessed under the Sustainability Appraisal which incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment. 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 our Local Development Plan.

2.2 Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Local Development Plan

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

2.3 Sustainable Development

The Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy - 'Everyone's Involved'¹, published in May 2010, stated 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 Local Development Plans to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development.

Sustainability Appraisal is the approach used to promote sustainable development within Local Development Plans by evaluating the social, environmental and economic effects of all aspects of the Local Development Plan throughout its preparation.

2.4 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 [Northern Ireland Executive \(2010\) Everyone's Involved- Sustainable Development Strategy.](#)

2.5 Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

The approach in this report is informed by [Development Plan Practice Note 04 on Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment](#)². Sustainability Appraisal therefore refers to an integrated approach which fully incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment and fulfils the requirements for both Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment. Appendices 1 and 2 demonstrate how Strategic Environmental Assessment has been addressed.

2.6 Stages in Sustainability Appraisal

The key stages of Sustainability Appraisal are summarised below with their location. Those areas shaded in grey will be reported on at a later stage.

Table 2.1: 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	Chapter 6
	Consult the Consultation Body on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.	Appendix 5
	Identify environmental issues and challenges	Chapter 6
	Develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework	Chapter 7
	Produce draft Scoping Report and share with stakeholders	Refer to 3.3
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.	Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report
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
Stage C	Sustainability Appraisal Report to document the appraisal process and findings.	Not at this stage

² [Department of the Environment \(2015\) Development Plan Practice Note 04: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment](#)

Stage D	Consultation with the public, environmental authorities and any EU member state affected on the Sustainability Appraisal report and draft plan	Not at this stage
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.	Not at this stage
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.	Not at this stage

Source: After Development Plan Practice Note 05, DOE 2015

2.7 Other Assessments

2.7.1 Habitats Regulations Assessment

Habitats Regulations Assessment 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, Special Protection Areas) as a result of plans and policies in the Local Development Plan; this is also carried out for Ramsar sites. Baseline information for Habitats Regulations Assessment is included in the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report. A draft Habitats Regulations Assessment will be published for consultation with the Draft Plan Strategy and Draft Local Policies Plan. A final Habitats Regulations Assessment will be published when each of these are adopted.

2.7.2 Rural Proofing

The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 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 and A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 for Public Authorities, May 2017. 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 and, where appropriate, adjustments are made to take account of particular rural circumstances.

This Scoping Report directly 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, for example health, education and infrastructure. Key issues for the Borough include some specific to rural communities and the appraisal prompts include questions about how a proposal will meet the needs of rural populations or 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. A rural proofing checklist, reflecting the Rural Needs Impact Assessment Template May 2017, will be included in the Sustainability Appraisal for Plan Strategy

2.8 Scoping Report Structure

Chapter 3 details the proposed approach to Sustainability Appraisal while Chapter 4 provides an overview of plan preparation. Chapter 5 gives an overview of the baseline information and each topic is reported on in Chapter 6 with the context, relevant baseline information, trends, key issues and the implications for the Local Development Plan. Chapter 7 presents the Sustainability Framework and outlines the next steps in the Sustainability Appraisal.

3 Sustainability Appraisal: The Approach

3.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the overall approach taken to Sustainability Appraisal throughout the Local Development Plan preparation process. Chapters 5 to 7 are the application of this approach for the Scoping Report for our Local Development Plan.

3.2 Principles

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

Role

Sustainability Appraisal is a tool to aid plan making which identifies potential effects of options, how they may be mitigated and informs the most appropriate option. It does not however give a 'right' answer and is not the decision-making mechanism.

Integrated

Sustainability Appraisal is an essential part of the plan making process which 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 changes brought about to ensure sustainability of the Local Development Plan.

Shared Information

Where appropriate, data collected for other purposes such as Local Development Plan Preparatory Papers or Community Planning is utilised for evidence or for future monitoring.

Relevant

The Sustainability Appraisal 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 Local Development Plan.

Connected

The Local Development Plan may be influenced by or have an impact on neighbouring areas. This Sustainability Appraisal considers strategies and plans beyond the Council area where there is potential for significant positive or negative effects. Neighbouring councils will be invited to comment on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report and Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Proportionate

The Sustainability Appraisal avoids 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 Sustainability Appraisal, including the Scoping Report will be updated during plan preparation to ensure that it reflects current policies, plans and programmes and recent data.

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.

3.3 Involving Others

Informal and formal consultation with stakeholders and the public is an essential part of Sustainability Appraisal to ensure that the topics and issues have been fully considered. The first formal consultation required is with the Consultation Body on this Scoping Report. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) acts as the lead for the Consultation Body and was consulted on the outline of this Scoping Report in January 2017.

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council adjoins Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Mid Ulster District Council, and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council. These councils will be invited to comment on the Preferred Options Paper and Sustainability Appraisal Reports.

Experts with general and local knowledge of all topics have been consulted to inform the preparation of each section of Chapter 6. Statutory consultees are invited to comment on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report. A register of consultation responses is being maintained and is presented in Appendix 5.

The public will be formally consulted on the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report, together with this Scoping Report, during consultation on the Preferred Options Paper. There will also be public consultation on the Draft Sustainability Appraisal Reports which will accompany the Draft Plan Strategy and Draft Local Policies Plan. Representations at public consultation that are relevant to the Sustainability Appraisal will be reviewed. Where necessary the Sustainability Appraisal reports will be revised in response to representations and to any changes to the Preferred Options, Plan Strategy or Local Policies Plan.

3.4 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 Chapter 5 and the evidence base is presented in Chapter 6.

The evidence base was prepared using relevant 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 will be reviewed and updated at each stage of appraisal.

3.5 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal 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 Sustainability Appraisal Framework consists of Sustainability Objectives with prompts which are used to assess plan proposals. It is presented in the form of an Appraisal Guide in Appendix 6. All stages of plan-making will be assessed using this Framework which may be updated as this Scoping Report is updated. The draft Sustainability Appraisal Reports will include proposed indicators for monitoring any significant effects of delivery of the Local Development Plan in relation to the Sustainability Objectives.

3.6 Significant Effects

The Sustainability Appraisal 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 taking account of the extent of the effect spatially and in time.

3.7 Assessment Method

The key stages are:

- Appraisal of options and reasonable alternatives for Preferred Options Paper
- Appraisal of Plan Strategy
- Local Policies Plan

The proposed method for the appraisal of each part of the Local Development Plan follows.

3.8 Appraisal of options and reasonable alternatives for Preferred Options Paper

In the Preferred Options Paper, strategic proposals will be presented with options for delivery. The options will be reasonable alternatives where these can be identified. The Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report accompanying the Preferred Options Paper will evaluate these options using the appraisal matrix shown in Table 3.1. The matrix includes:

- The plan topic and delivery options to be assessed
- A score indicating the nature of the effect for each option and alternative in the short, medium and long term for each Sustainability Objective with an explanation of why the score was given. A summary comparing the options and their alternatives in relation to the Sustainability Objectives.
- Identification of any mitigation recommended to address negative effects and measures where appropriate to enhance positive effects.

Table 3.1: Outline Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

Key Issue	Title											
	Option A:				Option B:				Option C:			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1. Sustainability Objective												
2. Sustainability Objective												
3. Sustainability Objective												
Summary: Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives The preferred approach Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects												

Table 3.2: Scoring and definitions for Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

Score		Description
++	Significant Positive	Proposal would greatly help to achieve the objective
+	Minor Positive	Proposal would slightly help to achieve the objective
0	Neutral / no effect / negligible effect	Proposal would not affect the objective
-	Minor Negative	Proposal would slightly conflict with the objective
--	Significant Negative	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 option is implemented; insufficient information is 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

3.9 Plan Strategy

The proposals in the Plan Strategy will be reviewed and the Sustainability Appraisal updated to reflect any changes from the previous stage. This will be published as a Sustainability Appraisal Report in support of the consultation on the Plan Strategy.

3.10 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 Sustainability Appraisal Framework and a Sustainability Appraisal Report will be published as part of the consultation on these papers.

3.11 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.

4 Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Local Development Plan

4.1 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 Local Development Plan (LDP) by a Council for its district, which will (when adopted) replace current development plans. The Local Development Plan 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 well-being 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.

4.2 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 2015-2019; in particular to those strategic objectives such as 'Growing the Economy', 'Developing our Tourism Potential', and 'Building stronger, safe and healthy Communities', 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 4.1. These Plan objectives will also link in to the 14 objectives for sustainable development being brought forward through the Sustainability Appraisal 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 Regional Development Strategy (RDS) and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS).

The new Local Development Plan for the Council will replace the former Ballymena Area Plan 1986-2001 (not currently available online), the Larne Area Plan 1984-2010 and Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (includes Carrickfergus area) in so far as it applies to the Mid and East Antrim Council area.

Following publication of the Preferred Options Paper, the Plan will be produced in two parts consisting firstly of a Plan Strategy followed by a Local Policies Plan. The Plan Strategy will set the aims, objectives, growth strategy and strategic policies applicable to our Council. The Local Policies Plan will provide site specific policies and proposals, including settlement limits, land use zonings and environmental designations.

4.3 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.midandeantrim.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.

4.4 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 Council. The Borough extends to 104,511 hectares (1045 km²) from the Antrim Coast in the east to the River Bann in the west.

The Borough consists of seven District Electoral Areas (DEAs) and on Census day 2011 the population was approximately 135,338, which was 7.5% of the Northern Ireland total. 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.

NISRA population projections published on 25th May 2016, estimate that the population of the Borough is expected to grow from 137,223 in 2015 to 142,164 in 2030, a population increase of just under 5,000 (3.5%)

Figure 4.1: Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Area and Existing Settlements



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5 Overview of the Baseline Evidence

5.1 Presentation of Baseline Evidence

The baseline evidence is presented in Chapter 6 for fourteen topics which span the social, economic and environmental themes. Many topics overlap therefore Table 5.1 outlines the scope of each topic to clarify where information is presented.

Table 5.1: Scope of Sustainability Topics

Topic	Includes
1. Health and Wellbeing	Health profile, physical activity, access to health care, quiet areas, noise.
2. Community	Community identity, shared space, social inclusion, crime prevention and community safety, good relations
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 and soil (include land use), geothermal
8. Transport and Accessibility	Public, private transport, traffic, efficient movement
9. Air	Air quality and short term changes (aspects relating to climate are covered in Climatic Factors)
10. Climatic factors	Implications of climate change, mitigation and adaptation
11. Water	Water quality and resources, levels (flood risk)
12. Natural Resources	Biodiversity, fauna, flora, green and blue infrastructure, ecosystems services. Includes intertidal and coastal zones as well as marine environment. Access to open space and outdoor recreation.
13. Landscape	Landscape, seascape and countryside/rural area
14. Historic Environment and Cultural Resources	Historic environment, archaeology (including marine), built heritage, townscape and cultural heritage assets.

Each topic will be presented using the same structure, and the headings are explained below:

- Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies
- Baseline Information
- Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan
- Key Sustainability Issues

5.2 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 our Local Development Plan. 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 Local Development Plan;

- to reflect sustainability themes contained in regional policies and strategies;
- to identify any other sustainability issues that might influence the preparation of the plan;
- to highlight whether other policies, plans or programmes might give rise to cumulative effects when combined with our Local Development Plan.

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

5.3 Strategic Context

The following regional strategies are overarching and form a backdrop to our Local Development Plan. Each is introduced here and key relevant aspects are described in more detail under each topic in Chapter 6.

5.3.1 Regional Development Strategy

The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) provides a strategic and long term perspective on the future development of Northern Ireland up to 2035 to deliver the spatial aspects of the Programme for Government. It contains regional guidance to provide policy direction in relation to the economy, society and environment. It complements the Sustainable Development Strategy and sets the context for policy and development decisions in order to achieve sustainable development throughout the region.

The RDS recognises the important role of Belfast in generating regional prosperity and that Derry is the focus for economic growth in the North West. However, to ensure all areas benefit from economic growth, it also reflects the Programme for Government approach of balanced sub-regional growth and recognises the importance of key settlements as centres for growth and prosperity. The RDS has a statutory basis, is material to decisions on individual planning applications and appeals, and Councils must take account of the RDS when drawing up their Local Development Plans.

5.3.2 Strategic Planning Policy Statement

The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) provides an overarching statement of the general regional planning principles underlying the reformed plan led system. It provides a planning policy framework which must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans and the provisions are also material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.

The SPPS outlines a number of core principles underpinning the reformed planning system in Northern Ireland. These are:

- improving health and well-being;
- creating and enhancing shared space;
- supporting the economy;
- supporting good design and positive place-making;
- preserving and improving the built and natural environment.

The latter part of the SPPS contains 72 Regional Strategic Objectives across 16 subject areas in addition to the introduction of new policy for retailing.

5.3.3 Sustainable Development Strategy

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

5.3.4 Draft Programme for Government

The Programme for Government (PfG) is the highest level strategic document of the Executive setting out the priorities that it will pursue in the current Assembly mandate, and the most significant actions it will take to address them. The draft PfG 2016-21 was consulted on in summer 2016.

The draft PfG 2016-21 contains 14 Strategic Outcomes supported by 42 Indicators. The outcomes touch on every aspect of government, including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and confident and peaceful communities and are intended to meet statutory obligations and to make real improvements to the quality of life of citizens.

5.3.5 Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019 -‘Realising our Potential’

Our Corporate Plan sets out the Council’s vision, aims and ambitions for the Borough over the four-year period, along with the key principles needed to realise our vision of “Mid and East Antrim working together to create a better future for all”.

Strategic priorities in the Corporate Plan are identified under five key themes:

- Growing the economy;
- Developing our tourism potential;
- Building stronger, safe and healthy communities;
- Delivering excellent services; and
- Developing a high-performing Council.

The Corporate Plan acknowledges that the LDP, along with the Community Plan and the Integrated Economic Development Strategy, will be key mechanisms to assist in meeting our Council’s priorities.

5.3.6 Community Planning

The new duty of Community Planning came into operation on 1st April 2015 and requires councils to act as the lead for community planning in their areas, in partnership with the community and service providers. This will result in a long term vision for the social, environmental and economic well-being of our area and its citizens. The Community Plan also aims to promote community cohesion and improve the quality of life for all of our citizens. It will integrate service and function delivery and set out the future direction for development within our Council area. The LDP will support delivery of the spatial aspects of the Community Plan. Putting People First, The Mid and East Antrim Community Plan³ was published in April 2017.

³ <https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/resident/community-planning>

5.4 Baseline Information

A desk-based review has been undertaken to identify baseline conditions in Mid and East Antrim Borough Council area. Each sustainability topic is presented in Chapter 6 with a review of relevant current information available. Where it has not been possible to provide council specific information, information for Northern Ireland has been used and where there are critical data gaps these are identified.

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

- Population Paper
- Population Paper Appendices and Maps Population Projections
- 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](#)

The baseline topics for Sustainability Appraisal have a wider scope than the Local Development Plan evidence gathering requirements. Data sources in [Local Development Plans: Environmental Evidence and Information DAERA 2017](#) have been referred to including the [Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report DAERA 2016](#).

In addition to the LDP and Community Plan evidence papers, we have used evidence presented on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency website. NISRA is the principal source of official statistics and social research on Northern Ireland. 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.

5.5 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 Chapter 6. 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: Ballymena Area Plan (1986-2001) which was in preparation almost 30 years ago, the Larne Area Plan 2010 and the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) 2015 which included Carrickfergus, include some that are well past their notional end dates. Due to the varying ages of the 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.

5.6 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 mainly ones 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.

5.7 Sustainability Objectives

The key sustainability issues inform one or more sustainability objectives for each topic. These are presented in Chapter 7 with a short rationale and description of what each objective seeks to achieve. There are several overlaps between objectives which support each other.

6 Baseline Evidence

6.1 Health and Well-being

6.1.1 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 well-being. Measures seek to prolong healthy life and reduce preventable deaths. Contributors to this are 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 and therefore there are programmes such as Delivering Social Change, an Executive programme that seek to reduce inequalities. Northern Ireland strategies are supportive of international strategies and the Sustainable Development Strategy.

Part of supporting good health is encouraging physical activity and 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 an environment and specific facilities to encourage increased physical activity. 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.

Transforming your Care: Strategic Implementation Plan and the Northern Health and Social Care Trust 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 well-being 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. Actions can be grouped by those to improve and maintain good environmental quality in terms of air and water quality and noise; those that enhance the capacity of our physical infrastructure to protect, support and provide access to healthy and active living and well-being through for example creating environments that promote social interaction and mental well-being, are safe for all ages and incentivise physical activity. The SPPS reflects this in particular through six regional strategic objectives requiring safeguarding, provision of and accessibility for all to open space with high standards of design.

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 agglomerations (urban areas with a minimum population density). DAERA has developed its own approach to the identification and designation of Quiet Areas set out in Policy guidance on the identification, designation and management of quiet areas (September 2016). Noise action plans for roads, railways, industry and Belfast International Airport were published in 2010.

Our Council Vision is 'Mid and East Antrim: Working together to create a better future for all.' One of the five integrated strategic priorities for delivering this vision is 'Building Stronger, Safe and Healthy Communities'. 'We want vibrant, safe and healthy communities for all our citizens, and the Council's lead role in developing the Community Plan for our area will be key to delivering this. Continuing to work with our communities we will secure a better quality of life, improved health and wellbeing and protection of our green and clean

Borough. However, we also want to enable and empower our communities to drive improvements themselves and build stronger and sustainable communities as a result.'

Of the five objectives in support of this strategic priority the following are particularly relevant to health and well-being. '1. Through the Community Plan ensure greater integration of public services at a local level driven through partnership, collaboration and effective local working. 2. Improve and support the health and wellbeing of our people and communities through our services. 3. Protect and enhance an attractive, safe and sustainable environment.' A play strategy is to be developed for the whole Council to build on Carrickfergus Borough Play Strategy 2013 – 2016.

'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.

6.1.2 Baseline Information

Data has been sourced from our Community Planning Baseline Report October 2016, papers prepared for the Community Plan Good Health and Well-being 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.

Overview

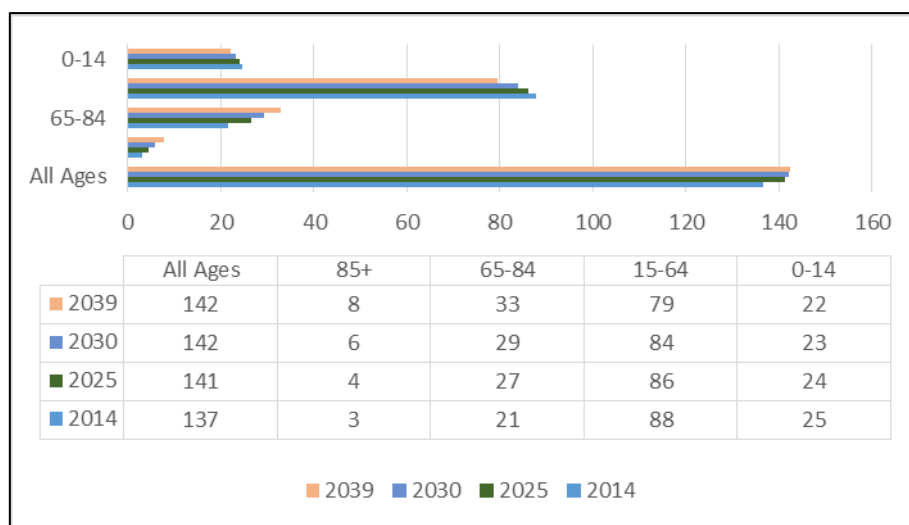
Positive indicators for health and well-being in Mid and East Antrim are that the Council is in the top quartile in NI for childhood obesity, and for suicide and self-harm. We have the lowest hospital admission rate across the councils and lowest percentage of patients on the mental health register. 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. The following figure illustrates the projected population for the Borough which show a much greater increase in older age groups. Using 2014 based population projections, the population in Mid and East Antrim is projected to increase by 3% by 2025 and 4% by 2030, from 2014 estimates. Those aged 65-84 are projected to increase by 24% by 2025 and 37% by 2030 with higher rates of increase in the 85+ age bracket predicted of 53% and 95%. This will increase the requirement for late and end of life care.

Figure 6.1.1: Population Projections for Mid and East Antrim by Age Band (1000s)



Source: Northern Ireland Population Projections (2014 Based) (NISRA)

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

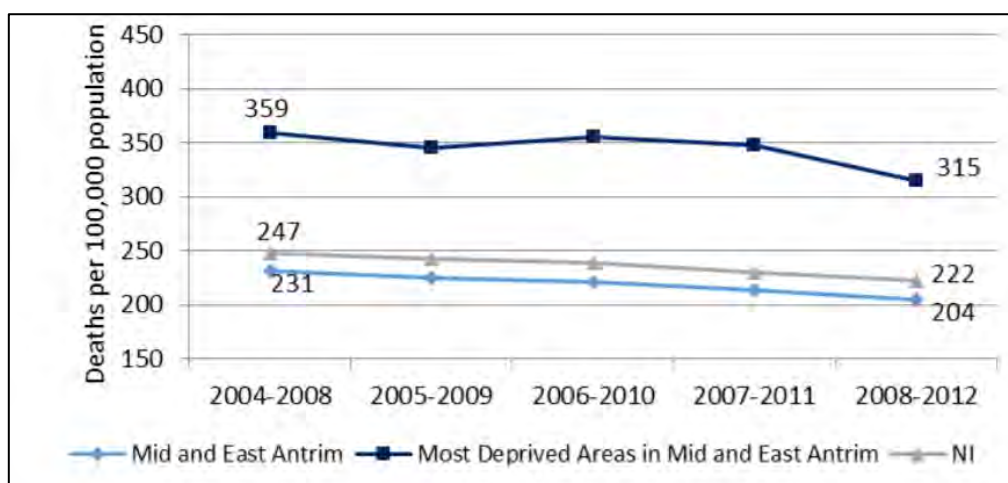
The three main causes of deaths in our Borough in 2014 accounted for 70% of all deaths. These were cancer, circulatory disease and respiratory disease. The rate for cancers was lower than that for NI but for circulatory and respiratory disease was higher.

Table 6.1.1: Causes of Death in Mid and East Antrim

Cause of Death	2012	2013	2014	
			Mid and East Antrim	<i>NI</i>
Malignant Neoplasms - cancer	27.49	28.66	27.85	<i>29.45</i>
Circulatory Diseases - heart disease, stroke, blood clots	28.95	27.13	26.65	<i>25.34</i>
Respiratory Diseases - pneumonia, asthma, bronchitis, influenza	12.37	13.52	15.08	<i>13.65</i>
External Causes - road traffic accidents, falls	4.81	4.62	4.80	<i>4.78</i>
Deaths from suicide and undetermined intent - fires, poisoning, assault	1.80	1.86	1.46	<i>1.83</i>
Other	24.57	24.21	24.16	<i>24.96</i>

Source: NINIS Making Life Better Profile for Mid and East Antrim

The death rates in Figure 6.1.2 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 be 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 6.1.2: 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.

Figure 6.1.3: Standardised Admission Rate (2008/09 – 2012/13)

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

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. Sunnyslands, Killycrot, Craigy Hill, Moat, Castle Demesne and Harryville.

Table 6.1.2: 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

Physical activity has not been specifically recorded at a council level however at the Northern Ireland level it has increased from a very low level in 2011 of 34% to 53% in 2013. 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. Northern Health and Social Care Trust showed similar results to Northern Ireland however the level of activity is still far below recommended levels.

Table 6.1.3: Percentage of Population meeting Recommended Physical Activity levels 2013/14

		Less than 30 minutes of exercise per week	30-59 minutes per week	60-149 minutes per week	A least 150 minutes per week (recommended)
Overall		28	5	14	53
Gender	Male	23	5	12	60
	Female	32	5	15	48
Urban/Rural	Urban	28	5	14	53
	Rural	29	6	14	51
Health and Social Care Trust	Belfast	28	4	16	52
	Northern	25	6	15	54
	South Eastern	25	4	12	59
	Southern	32	4	13	51
	Western	33	7	15	45
Deprivation	Most Deprived	37	5	15	43
	Q2	33	5	12	50
	Q3	26	5	15	53
	Q4	22	5	15	57
	Least Deprived	22	5	13	60

Source: Health Survey Northern Ireland 2013/14

Data for time spent outdoors, based on 491 people in the Borough, shows that there is a much greater level of outdoor activity than for Northern Ireland as a whole ranking second for this measure of physical activity.

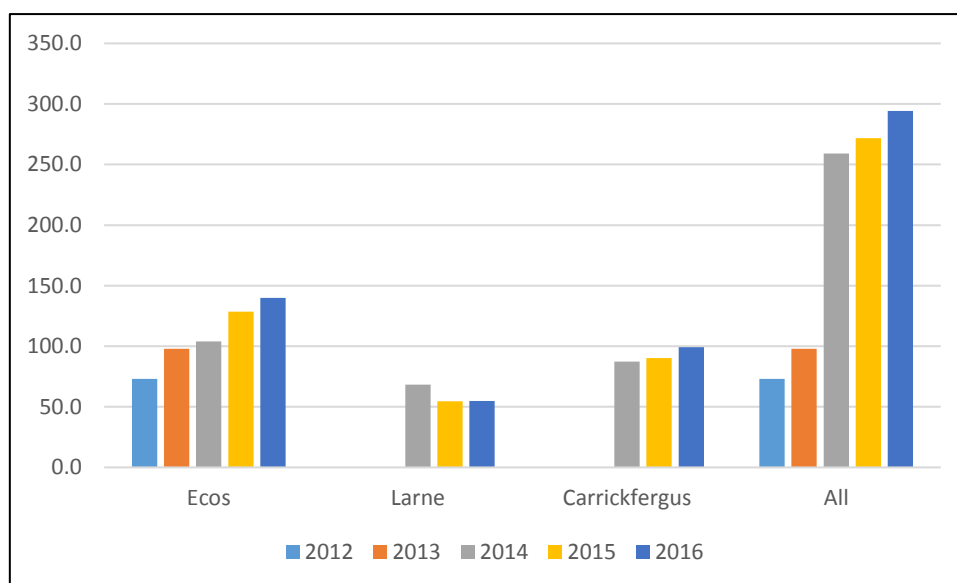
Table 6.1.4: Outdoor Leisure Time 2014/15

	Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Once a week or more (%)	Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Less frequent than once a week (%)	Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Never (%)	Base
Northern Ireland	65	23	11	6,628
Mid and East Antrim	75	21	4	491

Source: Continuous Household Survey via Central Survey Unit, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

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 6.1.4: Average weekly participants at parkruns in Mid and East Antrim



Source: parkrun.org.uk

Children and physical activity

The following information is from A Question of Sport, Research Update 107, by Dirk Schubotz, Katrina Lloyd and Martina McKnight 2016 and Are children getting the opportunities to realise their right to play?, Research Update 98, by Laura McQuade, Susan Kehoe and Lesley Emerson 2015.

These found that almost one third of P7 children, but less than one in ten 16-year olds meet the target of 60 minutes of physical activity per day therefore there are large proportions of children who are 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 studies 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.

Diet

Health Survey Northern Ireland data suggest that over 2010 to 2016 there has been little change in the composition of the diet with for example 51% of respondents consuming biscuits and 28% consuming sweets and sugary fizzy drinks on most days of the week. The most recent data showed that 37% of respondents consume five or more portions of fruit and vegetables per day.

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. Regarding breastfeeding on discharge, in 2013 45% of mothers were breastfeeding on discharge in Mid and East Antrim which was slightly lower than NI as a whole (46%).

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.

Table 6.1.5: ONS Personal Wellbeing Measure (2014/15) Measured from 0-10, where 10 is most positive and 0 is least positive.

Personal Wellbeing Measures	Mid and East Antrim	NI
Life Satisfaction	8.17	7.90
Worthwhile	8.28	8.10
Happiness	8.03	7.75
Anxiety	2.33	2.78

Source: Office of National Statistics

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).

Noise maps have been produced based on 2011 data for the following sources and are available at www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/noise

- major roads - roads with more than 3 million vehicle passages annually
- major railways - railways with more than 30,000 train passages annually
- major airports - airports with more than 50,000 movements annually
- agglomerations - urban areas with more than 100,000 inhabitants, taking into account the above sources and additionally, other roads, railways, aircraft movements and industrial premises

These will be reviewed to inform the next update of this report where appropriate. DAERA designated three quiet areas in September 2016 one of which is 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, Craigy 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 Hospital, 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.

Table 6.1.6: Ambulance Median Response Times

	Median Response Time (Minutes/Seconds)				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Northern Ireland	6.3	6.29	5.5	6.51	6.48
Antrim and Newtownabbey	7.02	7.22	6.26	7.28	7.08
Ards and North Down	6.47	6.28	6.29	7.34	7.19
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	6.47	7.09	6.19	7.02	7.28
Belfast	5.4	5.4	4.58	6.03	5.59
Causeway Coast and Glens	8.53	8.49	8.09	8.58	9.01
Derry City and Strabane	5.53	6.19	5.12	5.47	6.1
Fermanagh and Omagh	7.01	6.11	5.45	6.46	6.18
Lisburn and Castlereagh	6.22	6.02	5.4	6.24	6.33
Mid and East Antrim	7.27	6.55	6.1	7.11	7.18
Mid Ulster	8.14	8.18	8.24	9.27	9.41
Newry, Mourne and Down	7.25	7.11	6.24	8.06	7.48

Source: NI Ambulance Service

At 1st April 2016 there were 93 General Practitioners working within 27 Practices in Mid and East Antrim. The average GP list size (1,520) was higher than NI as a whole (1,417). There were also 27 dental surgeries. 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.

There are proposals for additional health facilities, subject to funding, including replacement of Larne and Ballymena Adult Centre, refurbishment of Ballee Children's Home (dates to be determined) – re-use of vacant building in Ballymena, replacement of Slemish House, Children's Centre and provision of fit for purpose accommodation linked to re-use of Braid Valley site.

Inequalities

The Health Inequalities Regional Report 2016 compares trends in indicators of health across deprivation levels and between urban and rural populations. The data is at the Northern Ireland level and shows that for many indicators there is a large gap with significantly worse conditions for the most deprived. The largest inequality gaps were for teenage birth rate, admission rates for alcohol related causes, death due to drug misuse, alcohol related causes and smoking during pregnancy. The most notable widening of gaps was for teenage birth rate, smoking during pregnancy, death due to drug misuse and admissions for respiratory illness. This is

reflected in 2008 data for the Borough which found that the teenage birth rate was 72% higher in the most deprived areas.

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 Sunnyslans are the four most deprived areas in Mid and East Antrim.

Health Survey Northern Ireland

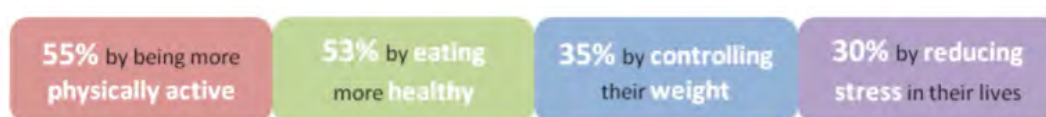
Health Survey Northern Ireland is a Department of Health survey that has run every year from April 2010 across Northern Ireland. Only differences that are statistically significant are reported and results are based on responses from 4,144 individuals, it cannot be reported at LGD level. Some findings that can inform trends or provide a basis for future comparison follow. A decline in the general health rating was observed with increasing age, with respondents in the 75 years and over age group more than four times as likely to report 'bad' or 'very bad' health (13%) compared with those in the 16- 24 years age group (3%).

Around one-fifth (19%) of respondents showed signs of a possible mental health problem (GHQ score >4), consistent with previous rates back to 2005/06. Respondents in the most deprived areas (30%) were twice as likely to record a high GHQ12 score as those in the least deprived areas (15%).

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.

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 6.1.5: 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.

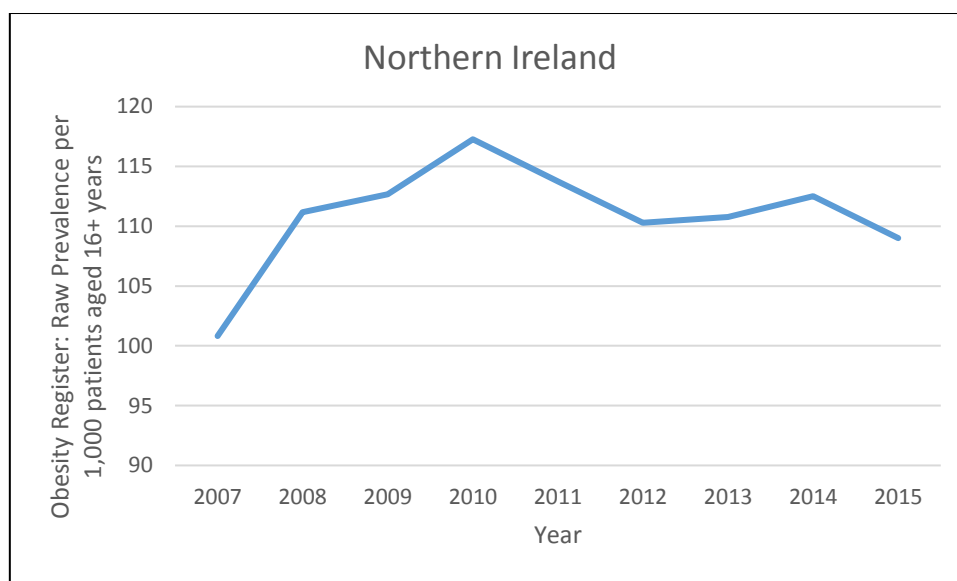
Around half of respondents (45%) reported having three to five people close to them that could be counted on if they had serious personal problems, while almost all respondents (98%) reported having at least one. Over a third of respondents aged 16 to 24 years (37%) stated it would be easy or very easy 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, overall, 60% of adults were either overweight (35%) or obese (25%). The percentage of adults classed as obese or overweight has increased from the level of 56% reported in 1997, although has remained at a similar level since 2005/06. Globally, around 39% of adults aged 18 and over were overweight in 2014, the equivalent for Europe was 58.6%.

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

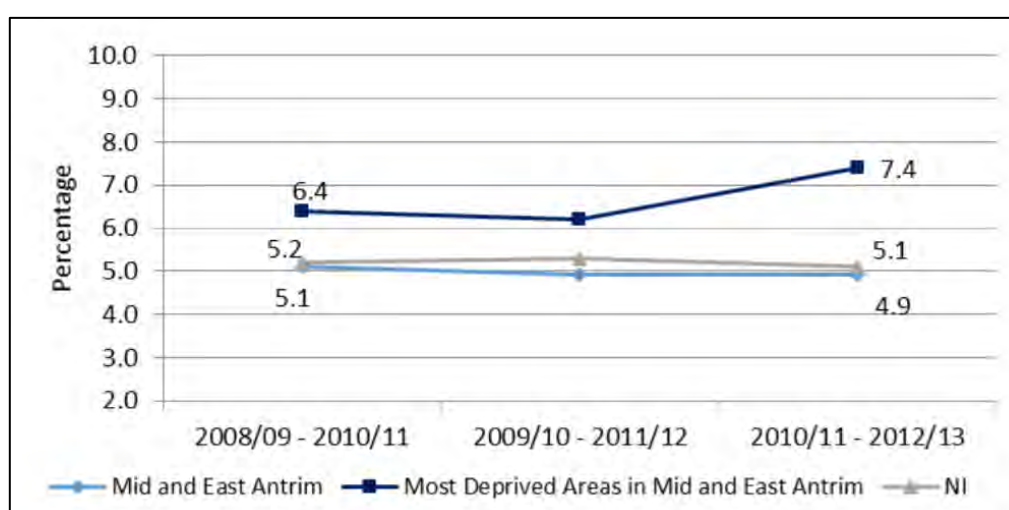
Figure 6.1.6: Over 16 Obesity prevalence Northern Ireland



Source: NINIS Disease Prevalence (Quality Outcomes Framework) (administrative geographies)

Of children (age 2 -15) 21% were classed as overweight and 7% as obese which has not changed since 2005/06. Childhood Obesity Rates for children (Figure 6.1.7) have been similar to the NI rates in the Borough but can be seen to be 50% worse in the most deprived areas (7.4% compared to 4.9%).

Figure 6.1.7: Childhood Obesity Rate of P1 Pupils



Source: Public Health Information and Research Branch, DoH

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.

Table 6.1.7: 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

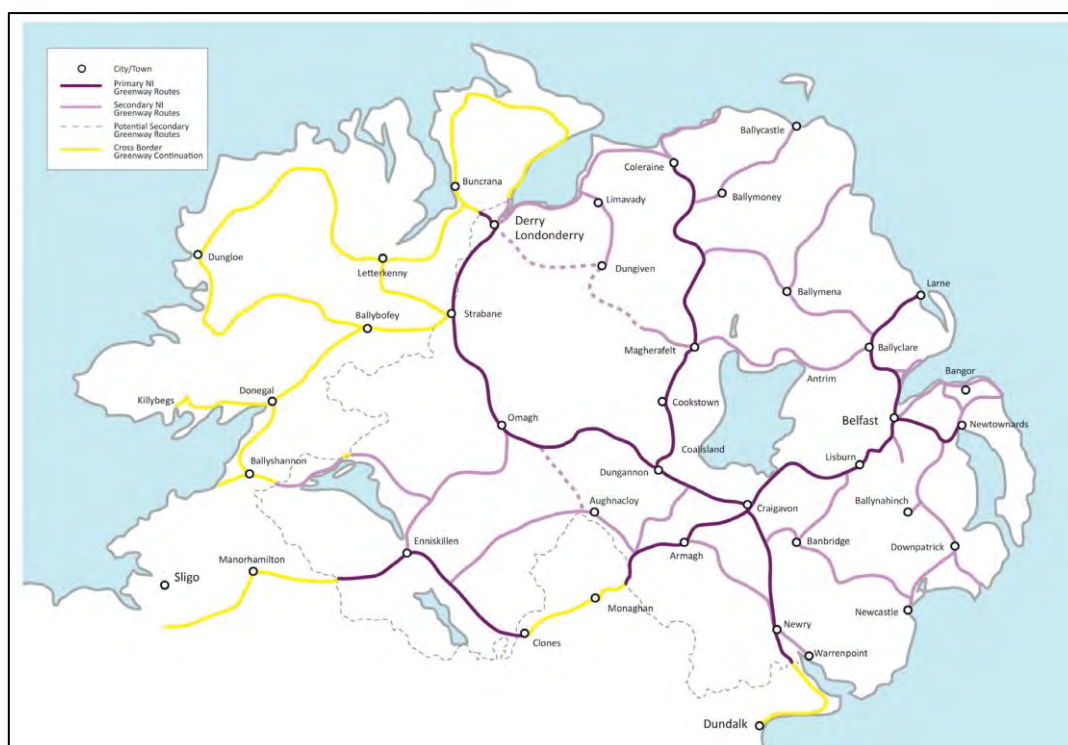
Source: NIFRS Fire and Rescue Service Information

Greenways

Plans have been published for a network of greenways in Exercise – Explore – Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways, November 2016, Department for Infrastructure, connecting towns and cities to the villages and countryside from east to west and north to south across all eleven councils. It aims to bring back into use much of the disused railway network and give people ready access to a safe traffic-free environment for health, active travel and leisure. This Strategic Plan for Greenways identifies routes that should be explored to develop a Primary Greenway Network from which a Secondary Greenway Network could progressively extend across the region. Figure 6.1.8 illustrates strategic proposals by the Department for Infrastructure to develop or enhance greenways.

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council is keen to progress greenways within the Borough and has commissioned an Infrastructure Strategic Plan for Greenisland to Monkstown Greenway. There is also potential for a Ballymena to Cushendall Greenway although this is subject to a feasibility study.

Figure 6.1.8: Map of Primary and Secondary Greenway Routes



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

There are many sports grounds, parks and open spaces, a wide variety of environmental designations from local to international importance, footpaths and cycle routes, and other recreational assets in the Council area. These are detailed in the LDP Position Papers on Open Space and Recreation, Environmental Assets, and Tourism. Almost three-quarters of residents in Mid and East Antrim access the natural environment at least once a week which is the third highest across the 11 councils highlighting the importance of these spaces.

6.1.3 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 well-being 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.

6.1.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Health and Well-being

- The population is predicted to rise to 142,164 by the year 2030 with a slowing growth rate over that period.
- Trends indicate an aging population with the number of people over 65 years expected to reach 25% of the total population by 2030. Many older people have to live on low incomes and may have disabilities and reduced mobility.
- There is 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.

- The increase in the proportion of older people in the population will increase the requirement for care.
- Many people are dependent on carers in the home or local community.
- In some respects the overall health and wellbeing of the area 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.
- However Mid and East Antrim has high prevalence rates for diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity and heart disease. Main causes of deaths are cancer, heart disease and respiratory disease which account for 70% of all deaths.
- There is an inequality in health with all measures of health being significantly worse in the most deprived areas.
- Good spatial planning can 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 in the Borough, as well as in Northern Ireland and the UK are high by global standards reflecting poor diet and a relatively sedentary lifestyle.
- Levels of physical activity are relatively high in Mid and East Antrim 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.
- In particular there is a need for children to have accessible play opportunities in places where they feel safe.
- Also there will be a need to enable older people to engage in physical activity to prolong their healthy lives.
- Development should be sited and designed to connect with greenways where possible.
- Noise and environmental quality are not identified as being significant adverse effects at present however they can impact on health and therefore environmental quality should be improved, or sustained where it is good, to minimise adverse health impacts.
- There are health benefits from protecting and enhancing biodiversity.
- Ambulance response times have been increasing across Northern Ireland; the location of and access to emergency services can impact on response times.
- There is a need to plan the relative location of industry and housing, open space and public facilities to minimise use conflicts.
- 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.

6.2 Community

6.2.1 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 ‘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 our 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.

Together: Building a United Community is another Executive programme and 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’. It includes a commitment to create a 10-year Programme to reduce, and remove by 2023, all interface barriers including an Interface Barrier Support Package. Our Council has developed a Good Relations programme 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 includes an 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 ‘Mid and East Antrim: Working together to create a better future for all.’ One of the five integrated strategic priorities for delivering this vision is ‘Building Stronger, Safe and Healthy Communities’. “We want vibrant, safe and healthy communities for all our citizens, and the Council’s lead role in developing the Community Plan for our area will be key to delivering this. Continuing to work with our communities we will secure a better quality of life, improved health and wellbeing and protection of our green and clean Borough. However, we also want to enable and empower our communities to drive improvements themselves and build stronger and sustainable communities as a result.”

Of the five objectives in support of this strategic priority the following are particularly relevant to the strengthening society topic. “Increase the capability and confidence of the community sector to become more self-sustainable” and “Promote equality of opportunity, good relations, and social inclusion to support a better quality of life for all.”

Mid and East Antrim's Community Plan, April 2017, places a high priority on Community Safety and Cohesion, one of five Themes.

6.2.2 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 webpage. The Population Paper and Population Paper Appendices include tables and maps illustrating much of the following data at the more detailed Super Output Areas.

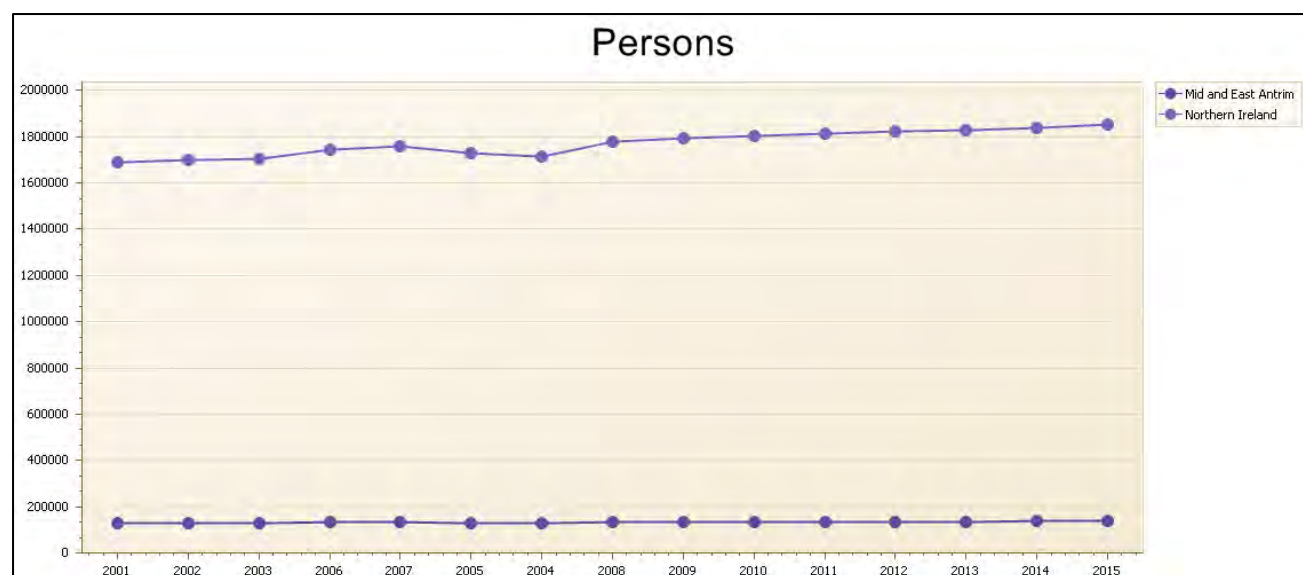
Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service data in general and its Area Profile for Mid and East Antrim at January 2017 have been important data sources. The baseline data also refers to the 2011 Equality Awareness Survey which measured attitudes towards specific equality groups and perceptions 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

At the time of the 2011 Census the population of Mid and East Antrim district was 135,338. Mid and East Antrim accounts for 7.5% of the total NI population and the population density, at the census, was 1.29 usual residents per hectare, just below the NI average of 1.34.

What the data tells us about population change is summarised here however the future impact on housing is considered in more detail in 6.3. The rate of population growth has been lower than that for Northern Ireland as a whole with an increase just below 10,000 between 2001 and 2015.

Figure 6.2.1: Population Growth 2001 – 2015



Source: NISRA Population Totals (administrative geographies)

The rate of population growth from 2015 to 2030 is set to be significantly lower at 3.7% than the NI rate of growth which is predicted to be around 7%. 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.

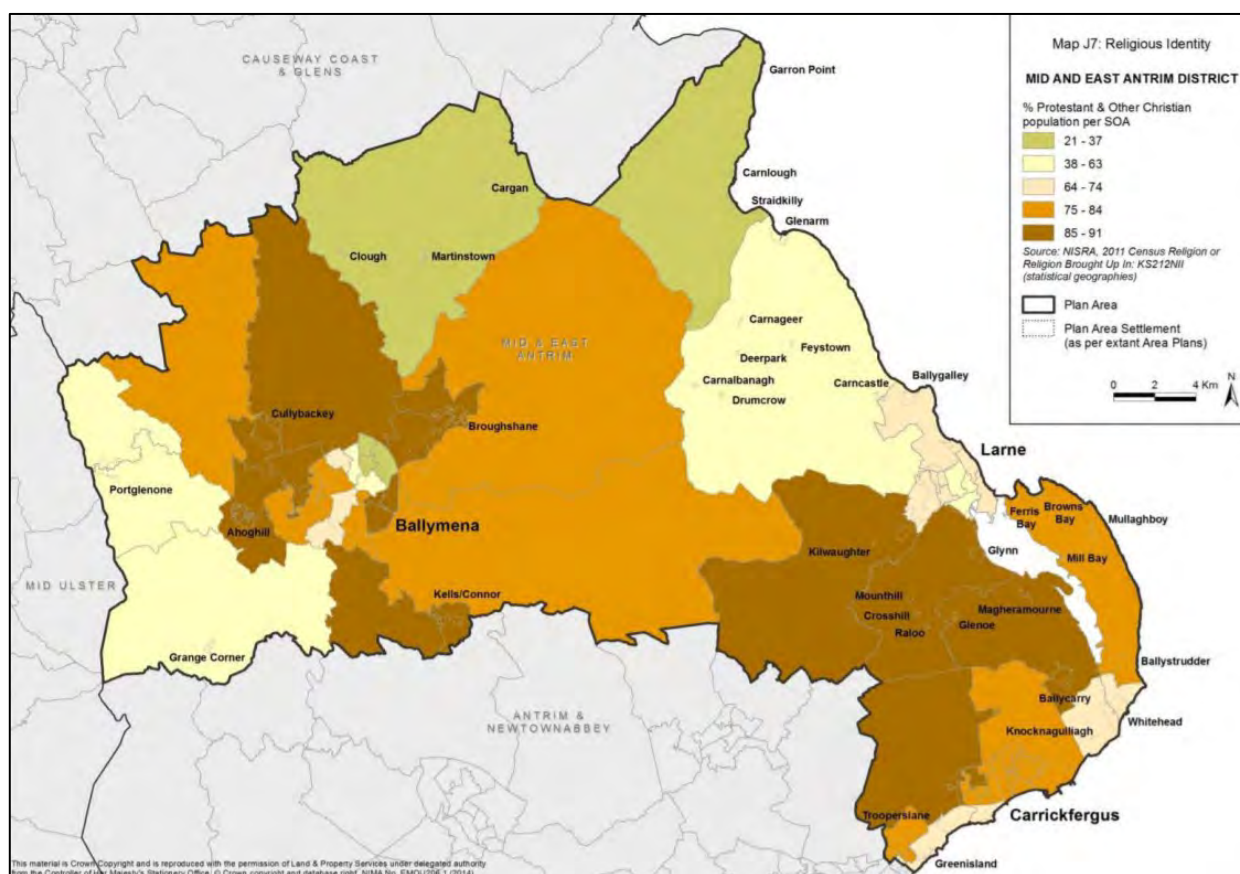
At the 2011 Census, in the Borough 19.76% were 0-15 years, 63.69% were 16-64 years and 16.54% were 65+ years. The number of children has slightly declined since 2001 and the proportion of children under 16

remains just below the NI level. The following Super Output Areas (SOAs) have a higher proportion of children – Kilwaughter 1, Dunclug, Eden 1 and Northland while these SOAs have a higher proportion of people over 65 – Gardenmore, Boneybefore, Academy, Ballyloughan and Craigy Hill. The working population has remained quite level since 2001 and is now slightly below the NI level. The number of pensioners has been above the NI average and numbers have increased and are projected to rise by 20.67% between 2008 and 2030.

Religious belief

In 2011, 72.88% of the Mid and East Antrim population belonged to or were brought up Protestant/Other Christian, 19.34% Catholic and 6.97% no religion. The proportion of Catholics was much lower than the Northern Ireland level and Protestant and other Christians much higher. Those of other religions (0.72%) were fewer than for Northern Ireland (0.82%) and the number reporting no religion was significantly higher 12.64% (10.11% NI). Figure 6.2.2 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 6.2.2: Religious Identity



Source: NISRA Census 2011

Political opinion

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. This shows that the level of support for unionist parties was much higher than for nationalist and other parties or independents. There is likely to be variation across the Council area however recent data is not readily available.

Racial group

In 2011, 90.88% of the usual population were from NI, 4.75% from Rest of UK, 0.81% from ROI, 2.19 from Rest of EU and 1.37% from outside EU.

Table 6.2.1: Ethnic Group Mid and East Antrim in comparison to Northern Ireland

LGD2014	Northern Ireland	Mid and East Antrim
Ethnic group: White (%)	98.21	98.97
Ethnic group: Chinese (%)	0.35	0.20
Ethnic group: Irish Traveller (%)	0.07	0.07
Ethnic group: Asian (%)	0.71	0.35
Ethnic group: Black (%)	0.20	0.07
Ethnic group: Mixed (%)	0.33	0.25
Ethnic group: Other (%)	0.13	0.08

Source: NISRA Census 2011

Table 6.2.1 presents 2011 data on ethnicity and 6.2.2 on country of birth. This shows that the non-white population of 1.03% is much lower than the Northern Ireland level of 1.79% and the Chinese, Asian and Black groups have significantly lower representation than elsewhere in Northern Ireland. The 2011 Census recorded 92 Irish Travellers in the area.

Mid and East Antrim has a lower proportion, 9.12% (11.16% NI) of its population born outside Northern Ireland. The 2011 Equality Awareness Survey found that, although attitudes towards the different groups were generally positive, negative attitudes existed towards Travellers (30%) and Eastern European migrant workers (21%).

Table 6.2.2: Country of birth Mid and East Antrim in comparison to Northern Ireland

LGD2014	Northern Ireland	Mid and East Antrim
All usual residents	1810863	135,338
Country of birth: Northern Ireland (%)	88.84	90.88
Country of birth: Rest of UK (%)	4.57	4.75
Country of birth: Republic of Ireland (%)	2.09	0.81
Country of birth: Rest of EU	2.51	2.19
Country of birth: Other (%)	1.99	1.37

Source: NISRA Census 2011

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.

Sexual orientation

Data on sexual orientation is not available at local government level and there are no direct measures therefore while it can be assumed that the population includes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons there is no indicator of the proportion of the population represented by these groups. The 2011 Equality Awareness Survey did illustrate negative attitudes towards transgender persons (22%) and although negative

attitudes towards lesbian, gay or bisexual persons decreased from 21% in 2008 to 15% in 2011 the change was to neutral rather than positive views.

Gender

In 2011, 48.7% of Mid and East Antrim District were Male and 51.3% were Female this was similar to the NI population.

Persons with a disability and persons without

The numbers of people claiming benefits on grounds of disability has increased to 12,440 mirroring the NI trend. The combination of increasing life expectancy with declining disability free life expectancy is likely to lead to a significant increase in the numbers of people with a disability.

Figure 6.2.3: Disability Living Allowance Recipients



Source: Matching Intelligence and Data Analysis Services (MIDAS)

Table 6.2.3: 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

Source: NISRA Disability Free Life Expectancy (administrative geographies)

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.

Figure 6.2.4: Projected one adult households with children

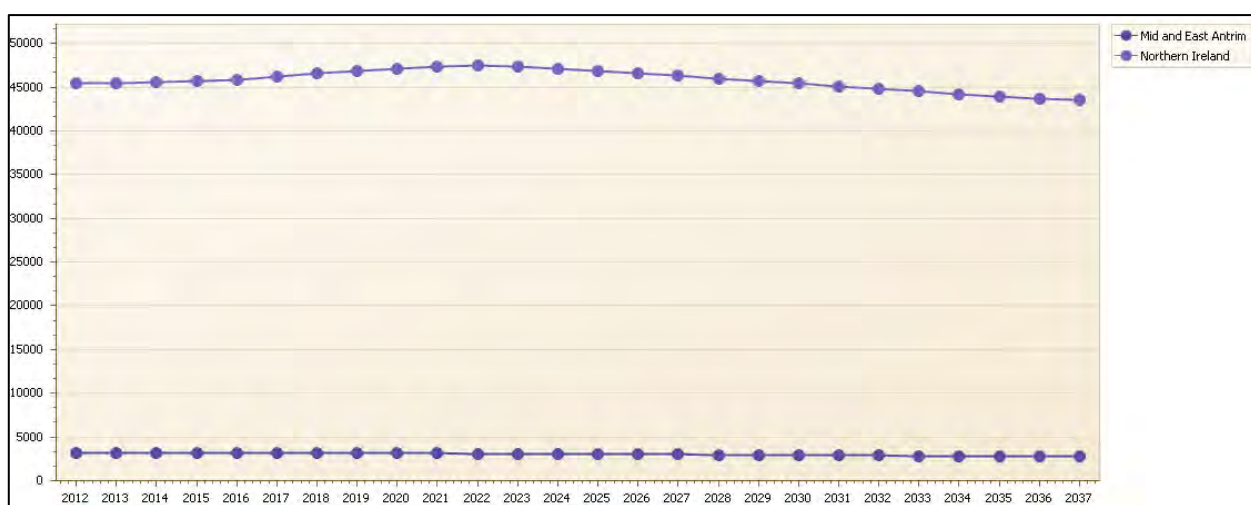


Figure 6.2.5: Projected other households with children

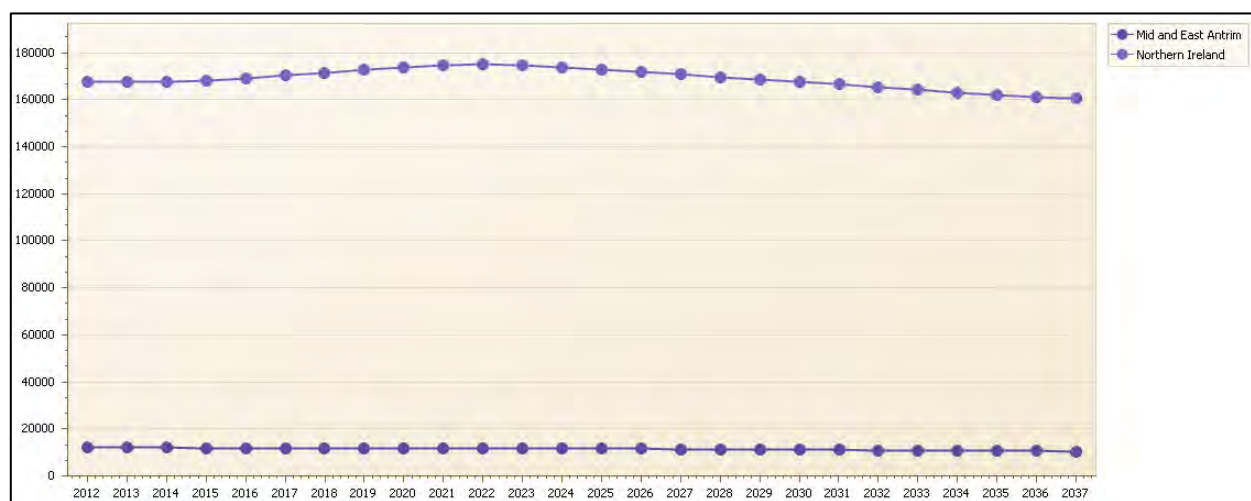


Figure 6.2.6: Projected two adult households with children

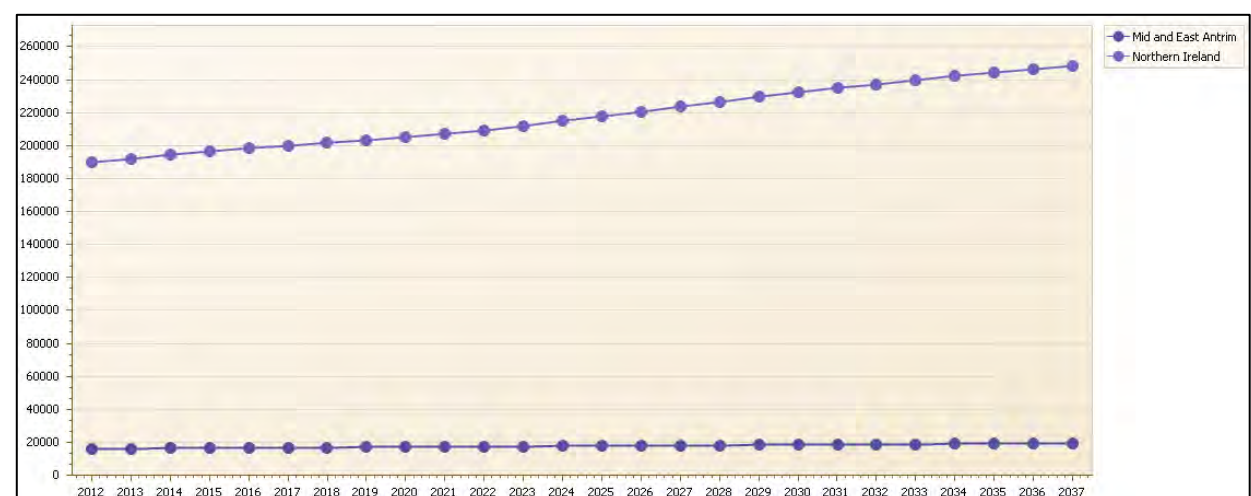
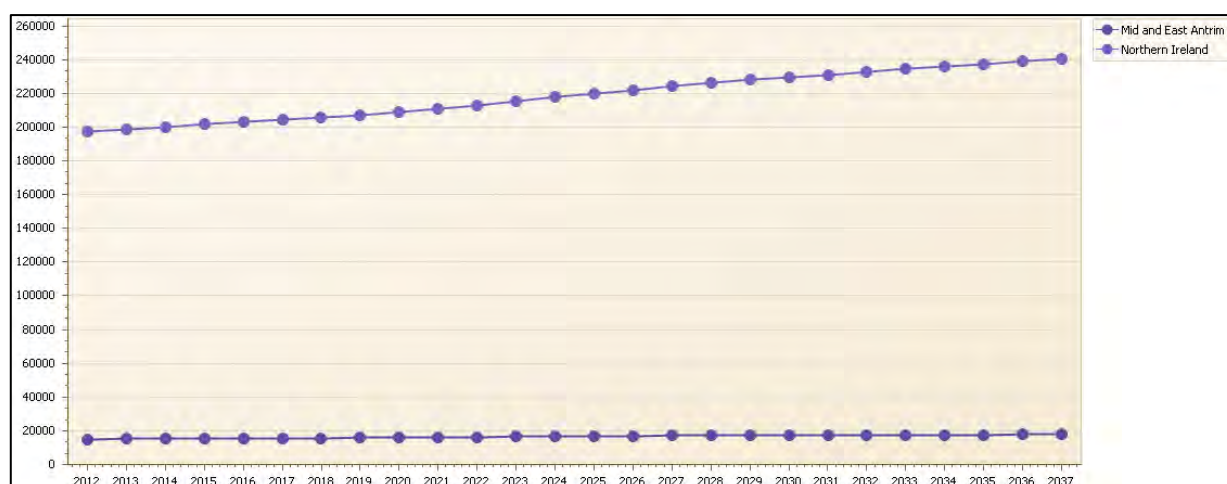


Figure 6.2.7: Projected single person households



Source: Figure 6.2.4-7 NISRA Household projections by type: 2012-based (administrative geographies)

Deprivation

Mid and East Antrim is ranked 6 out of the 11 new councils in the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010. Two Super output areas in Mid and East Antrim are within the top 11% most deprived in NI – Northland (93) in Carrickfergus and Ballee (94) in Ballymena.

The highest concentrations of deprivation with respect to proximity to services in Mid and East Antrim District were Glenarm, Island Magee, Carnlough, Glenravel, Grange, Glenwherry, Dunminning and Slemish.

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 (SOA) in Mid and East Antrim.

The most deprived SOAs for crime and disorder in Mid and East Antrim were Dunclug (Ranked 16 in NI) Castle Demesne, Killycrot and Ballyloran. Deprivation in employment, health and disability, education, skills and training is more concentrated in Northland and Ballee.

Table 6.2.4: Deprivation ranks for Mid and East Antrim 2010 (lower is more deprived) by SOA

Rank in Mid & East Antrim District	Super Output Area	District	MDM SCORE	RANK OF MDM (where 1 is most deprived)
1	Northland	Carrickfergus	41.05	106
2	Ballee	Ballymena	37.24	137
3	Ballykeel	Ballymena	35.65	150
4	Ballyloran	Larne	34.56	159
5	Love Lane	Carrickfergus	33.71	164
6	Moat	Ballymena	30.90	195
7	Craig Hill	Larne	30.43	198
8	Fair Green	Ballymena	30.40	199
9	Dunclug	Ballymena	30.11	206
10	Castle Demesne	Ballymena	29.78	210
11	Gortalee	Carrickfergus	29.71	212
12	Camlough	Larne	29.45	215
13	Antville	Larne	29.04	223
14	Sunnylands	Carrickfergus	29.02	224
15	Central	Larne	27.01	255
16	Clipperstown	Carrickfergus	25.75	281
17	Blackcave	Larne	24.99	294
18	Killycrot	Carrickfergus	22.25	338
19	Harryville	Ballymena	21.83	348
20	Glenarm	Larne	20.34	380
21	Town Parks	Larne	19.45	400
22	Portglenone 2	Ballymena	16.98	469
23	Kells 1	Ballymena	16.82	476
24	Cullybackey	Ballymena	16.05	492
25	Glenravel	Ballymena	16.05	494
26	Harbour	Larne	15.44	507
27	Island Magee	Larne	14.75	527
28	Portglenone 1	Ballymena	14.50	534
29	Victoria	Carrickfergus	12.77	580
30	Slemish	Ballymena	11.94	602
31	Gardenmore	Larne	11.80	606
32	Dunminning	Ballymena	11.69	608
33	Kilwaughter 2	Larne	11.63	610
34	Glynn	Larne	11.44	617
35	Ahoghill 1	Ballymena	11.33	618
36	Blackhead	Carrickfergus	11.14	631
37	Ballycarry	Larne	10.96	636
38	Grange	Ballymena	10.92	639
39	Glenwhirry	Ballymena	10.80	642
40	Milebush	Carrickfergus	10.19	657
41	Park	Ballymena	9.63	674
42	Broughshane 2	Ballymena	9.30	693
43	Kells 2	Ballymena	9.02	702
44	Broughshane 1	Ballymena	8.71	706
45	Greenisland	Carrickfergus	8.68	709
46	Craigwarren	Ballymena	8.58	714
47	Summerfield	Ballymena	8.55	715
48	Eden 2	Carrickfergus	7.84	743
49	Burleigh Hill 1	Carrickfergus	7.70	748
50	Whitehead	Carrickfergus	7.49	752
51	Woodburn	Carrickfergus	7.45	754
52	Ahoghill 2	Ballymena	7.08	766
53	Carncastle	Larne	6.76	775
54	Academy	Ballymena	6.60	777
55	Eden 1	Carrickfergus	6.50	780
56	Burleigh Hill 2	Carrickfergus	6.28	783
57	Kilwaughter 1	Larne	6.08	789
58	Galgorm 1	Ballymena	5.86	794
59	Boneybefore	Carrickfergus	5.58	801
60	Knockagh	Carrickfergus	4.74	829
61	Ballyloughan	Ballymena	4.56	840
62	Galgorm 2	Ballymena	4.06	847
63	Bluefield 2	Carrickfergus	4.01	851
64	Bluefield 1	Carrickfergus	3.67	864
65	Ardeevin	Ballymena	3.64	865

Source: NISRA Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 Summary Measures

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. Almost half of the population in Ballymena District lived in Ballymena town and this urban bias is even greater in 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. Comparable statistics at settlement level are not yet available from the 2011 Census. 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 6.2.5: Population and Household Distribution in Mid and East Antrim - 2011

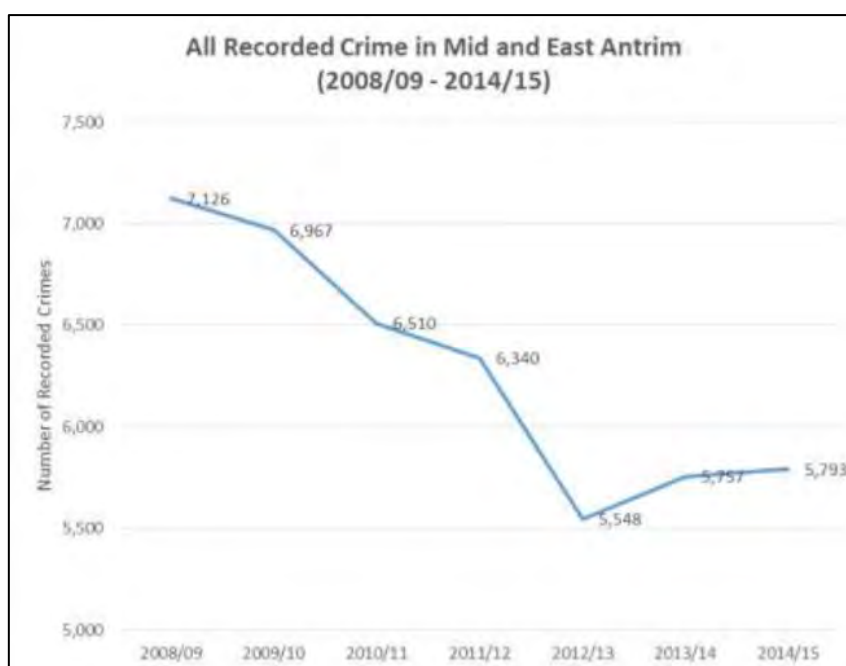
	Ballymena District		Larne District		Carrickfergus District		Mid and East Antrim	
	Population	Households	Population	Households	Population	Households	Population	Households
Main Towns	46.0%	48.8%	58.1%	61.3%	71.3%	71.2%	56.2%	58.5%
Local Towns	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	23.7%	24.4%	6.8%	7.3%
Villages	20.1%	21.2%	18.3%	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

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

Crime

In 2014/15, 5,793 crimes were recorded in Mid and East Antrim. This was a decrease of 19% on the 2008/09 figure compared to a decline of 5% across NI. 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. There was a 3.5% increase in road casualties (fatalities and serious injuries) from 2013 to 2015 in however this compares to a wider NI average which increased by 6.0% over the same period.

Figure 6.2.8: All Recorded Crime in Mid and East Antrim 2008/09 to 2014/15



Source: PSNI

Community Facilities

The LDP plan 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.

There are 27 community centres located throughout Mid and East Antrim, 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.

6.2.3 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.

6.2.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Community

- There will be a growing population and the plan will need to meet the need for more dwellings.
- One fifth of the population is under 16 years although this proportion will decline 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.
- The proportion married is above the NI average and the proportion single is below the NI average.
- There is a trend of an increase in the number of single people and single 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 in issues many areas.
- The highest concentrations of deprivation with respect to proximity to services in Mid and East District were 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 and income levels.
- There is a need to plan for and meet the needs of diverse groups in the Council area, this may include allowing for facilities to meet specific needs.
- Some parts of Mid and East Antrim have populations which predominantly reflect one religion or political opinion.
- The needs and experience of different parts of Mid and East Antrim's society differ and are best expressed by representatives of the range of groups. Some of this may be gained through the Community Planning process and also through being proactive in inviting comment on and participation in plan preparation from all groups.
- There will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability.
- The community is not ethnically diverse, however the needs of minority groups should be taken into account.
- There will continue to be a need for childcare facilities, nursery, primary and secondary schools, particularly in the short term, as well as access to community and leisure facilities.

6.3 Housing

6.3.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Housing encompasses the overall provision of and make up of housing and its location. Good quality sustainable housing is a fundamental need of society and can make a significant positive contribution to the character of our built environment. It is the role of the LDP to proactively facilitate the delivery of homes to meet the full range of future housing needs.

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 social housing.

Good quality housing is essential to safety and well-being. Availability of appropriate housing and access to community and social services influences the independence and quality of life of older people. New homes should be capable of being lifetime homes and be built to wheelchair accessible standards. Good quality housing developments promote well-being 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 recognizes that housing growth needs to be managed to achieve sustainable patterns of residential development. This will be achieved through promoting more sustainable housing development within existing urban areas, and ensuring that there is an adequate and available supply of quality housing for all. 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.

Our Corporate Plan identifies Building Stronger, Safe and Healthy Communities as one of our Strategic Priorities. Our Community Plan has three themes that relate to housing and living environments: Good Health and Well-being, Community Safety and Cohesion, and Environment.

6.3.2 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.

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 homes and 2.4% other.
- Dwelling Prices – Cost of a typical home in the Borough is £118,689 the 4th lowest of all council's in NI (NI House Price Index Oct - Dec 2016)
- Age (Elderly) – 16.5% of the MEA population is 65+ years – compared to NI proportion of 14.5%;
- Age (Elderly) – It is expected that over 25% of MEA population will be aged 65+ by 2030;
- Age (Children) – 19.7% 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;
- Social Housing Needs – MEA will require 842 social housing units between 2016 and 2021 spread over 13 settlements;
- Social Housing Needs – Areas of greatest need include Ballymena town (434 units), Carrickfergus town (220 units), Broughshane (51 units), Ahoghill (35 units) and Cullybackey (20 units);
- Social Housing Needs – Some 86% of the social housing waiting list comprise single, elderly and small family households and there is a high requirement for 1 and 2 bedroom dwellings; 57% of those on the list are in housing stress;
- Social Housing Needs – MEA will require 570 intermediate housing units between 2015 and 2025;
- Homelessness – Levels of homelessness have been steadily falling since 2009/10, but are significantly higher in the former Ballymena district, than in the former Larne and Carrickfergus districts;

Affordable Housing

Affordable Housing Needs – 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.

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 2011 provided a comprehensive picture of the dwelling stock and its condition in 2011 for Northern Ireland and each of the 26 legacy Councils. This survey estimated that 42.0% of households in Northern Ireland were in fuel poverty. For households where the Household Reference Person was aged 60-74 years, 52% of households were in fuel poverty rising to 66% where the Household Reference Person was aged 75+ years.

Table 6.3.1 shows that, relative to NI as a whole, all three of the former council districts had high levels of fuel poverty with the prevalence in Larne being over 50%.

Table 6.3.1: Fuel Poverty

	Number of households	Percentage Fuel Poor
Ballymena	20,270	47-51%
Carrickfergus	13, 234	43-46%
Larne	10, 859	52-56%

Source: NIHE Housing Conditions Survey 2011

Affordable Housing

Housing Market Review and Perspectives 2014 – 2017 reports that, although housing in Mid and East Antrim Borough Council has a relatively low standardised price it was the district showing the greatest increase in the price index in the twelve months up to Q3 2016 indicating that affordability is a potential issue.

Table 6.3.2: Northern Ireland House Price Index Quarter 3 2016 (administrative geographies)

LGD2014	Index (Quarter 3 2016)	Percentage Change on Previous Quarter	Percentage Change over 12 months	Standardised Price (Quarter 3 2016)
Lisburn and Castlereagh	111.2	0.0%	5.9%	£149,269
Ards and North Down	106.4	0.1%	2.1%	£142,826
Antrim and Newtownabbey	113.3	1.8%	7.3%	£130,268
Newry, Mourne and Down	114.8	3.9%	6.3%	£129,142
Causeway Coast and Glens	115.4	2.0%	4.9%	£124,574
Mid Ulster	110.1	3.6%	5.7%	£123,102
Belfast	111.6	-0.9%	4.5%	£117,897
Mid and East Antrim	113.8	1.2%	8.5%	£117,849
Fermanagh and Omagh	117.9	2.8%	6.4%	£112,980
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	111.2	-0.9%	5.3%	£109,654
Derry City and Strabane	110.6	2.2%	6.7%	£104,689
Northern Ireland	111.9	0.8%	5.4%	£124,093

Source: NIHE 2016

Unfit dwellings and Decent Homes

The 2011 Housing Condition Survey shows a small increase in unfitness across Northern Ireland associated with an increase in the rate of vacancy, particularly in isolated rural areas. In 2011 the respective levels of unfit homes were 6% in Ballymena, 5% in Carrickfergus and 7% in Larne.

‘Decent homes’ considers a range of factors beyond unfitness including meeting modern standards. Those houses that failed to meet this standard were 12-13% in Ballymena, 5-8% in Carrickfergus and 14% in Larne. Taking account of the NI average (11.4%) the condition of housing remains important as a consideration in planning policy and provision for housing.

Living Environment Deprivation - Housing Access and Housing Quality

The Northern Ireland Deprivation Measure 2010: Living Environment Domain identifies areas experiencing deprivation in terms of the quality of housing, access to suitable housing and the outdoor physical environment. It comprises four indicators: the number of houses failing the Decent Homes Standard; number of houses failing the Housing Health and Safety Rating System; Number of Homelessness acceptances; and Outdoor Physical Environment.

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.

6.3.3 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.

6.3.4 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 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 housing for housing designed for single, elderly and small family households (86% of those on the social housing waiting list). There is a high requirement for 1 and 2 bedroom dwellings.
- There is a requirement for 570 intermediate housing units between 2015 and 2025 and the greatest social housing need is concentrated in Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Broughshane, Cullybackey and Ahoghill.
- It is expected that 25% of MEA population will be aged 65+ by 2030. A growing 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.
- There will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability.
- 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 reduce the problems of fuel poverty.
- Affordable housing is required for a variety of housing types and sizes and, despite former Carrickfergus and Larne districts having a high level of affordable homes in 2012, 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.

6.4 Education and Skills

6.4.1 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 and the overall vision of the Department of 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 Department of Education introduced the Sustainable Schools Policy followed by an area planning process in 2011 which is 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.

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

Our Corporate Plan recognises that educational facilities are an important part of the offer that the area can make to quality of life in the Borough. Within the theme of Community and Culture our Corporate Plan identifies the role that council facilities can play as local developmental, education and entertainment hubs. It further recognises that the Education Sector as a partner in delivery of their strategic themes. ‘Progress in education and improving aspirations for all’ is one of the priority themes in our Community Plan.

6.4.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the LDP Position Paper Education Health and Community Facilities.

The Department of Education (DE) has overall responsibility for education policy and the Education Authority (EA) oversees the delivery of education, youth and library services. Within the context of our Council the North Eastern Regional Office of the EA, the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education are the key players.

Pre-school Education

For Nursery provision there are 27 nursery schools or units within the former Ballymena district with just over 50% located in the town and the majority of the remainder located in villages. Carrickfergus has 14 nursery

schools and units within its former district with more than half of these located within or associated with a primary school. In the former Larne district there are 13 nursery schools or units and half of these are located within a primary school.

Primary School Education

There are 27 primary schools within the former Ballymena District and ten of these are located within the town, eight are located in a village and nine are situated in a rural area. In 2015/2016 there was spare capacity of 910 spaces within primary schools across Ballymena. This can be broken down as follows, 910 spare spaces in controlled primary schools and 57 spare spaces in grant maintained integrated primary schools. However, there is a deficit of 57 spaces in maintained primary schools. In the former district of Carrickfergus there are 13 primary schools with ten of these located throughout the town, two in Greenisland and one in Whitehead. There was spare capacity of 760 spaces and the majority of these were within Controlled Primary Schools in 2015/2016. Within the former Larne district there are 18 primary schools with seven of these in the town, eight in a village or small settlement and three in the rural area. In 2015/2016 there was spare capacity of 920 places and the majority of these (610) were located within Maintained Primary Schools.

Post Primary Education

There are seven post primary schools within Ballymena district, all of these with the exception of Cullybackey College are located within Ballymena. Overall, for the 2015/2016 period, there was spare capacity of 266 post primary school places. The majority of these places (238) were attributed to one Maintained Secondary School, St. Patricks College, Ballymena. Cambridge House (a Controlled Grammar School), had the second highest number of spare places (126). The remaining schools within Ballymena were oversubscribed, and therefore these had a deficit of space capacity. The largest deficit was at the Voluntary Grammar School, St. Louis' (77).

There are four post primary schools within Carrickfergus district, and these are all located within the town. In 2015/2016 there was spare capacity of 387 post primary places. All of these spare places were located within the Controlled Secondary Schools of Carrickfergus College and Downshire School. There was a deficit of spaces within both Grant Maintained Integrated (Ulidia Integrated College) and also Controlled Grammar School (Carrickfergus Grammar). There are three post primary schools within the Larne district, two of which are located within the town and the third is located in the rural area outside Carnlough. In 2015/2016 there were 211 spare places, the majority of which were located within the Controlled Secondary School (Larne High School).

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.

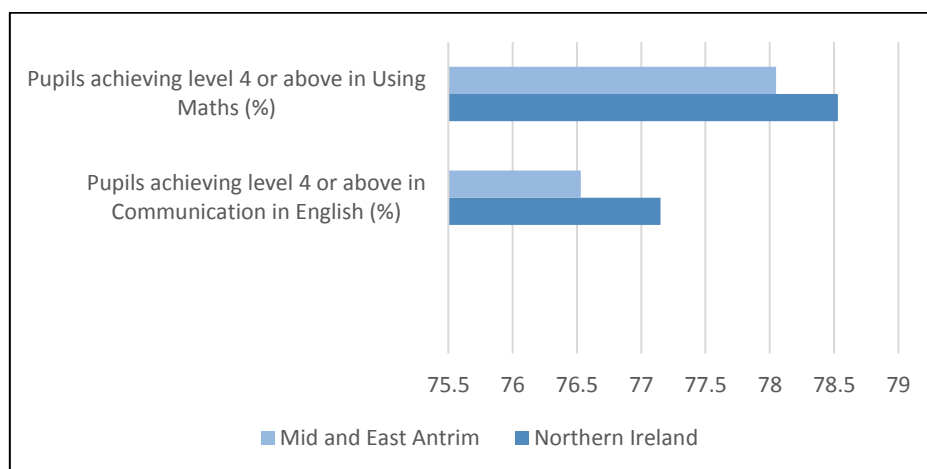
Special Education

There is one special school in Ballymena. In 2015/2016 Education Authority figures show Castle Tower School was at 98% capacity. There is one special school in Larne, with 2015/2016 Education Authority figures showing a deficit of places of Roddensvale School. There are no special schools within Carrickfergus.

Educational Attainment

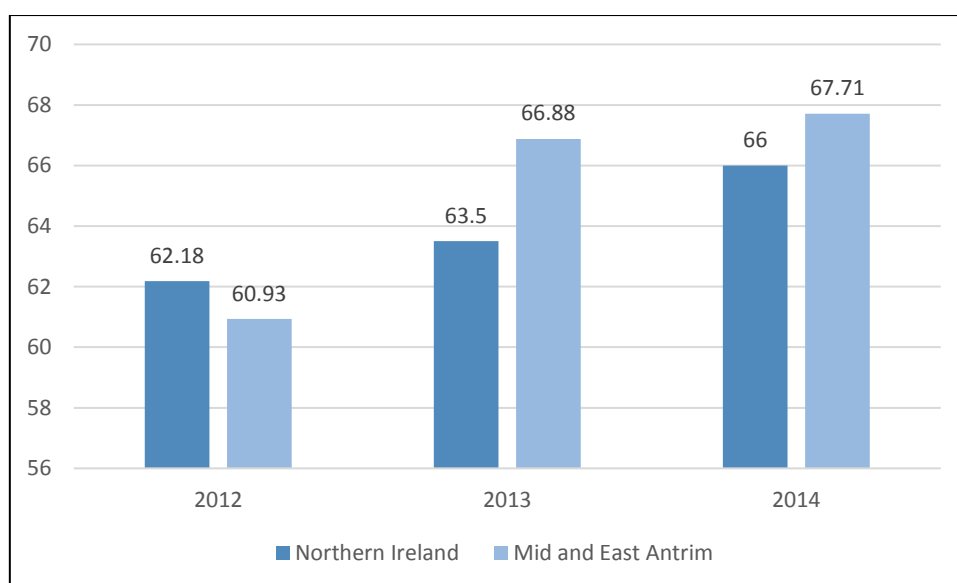
The figure below shows the primary school Key Stage 2 attainment results for 2012. This is the main primary school attainment measure. It shows that Mid and East Antrim was around half a percentage point behind the Northern Ireland figure for both Communication in English, and in using Maths.

Figure 6.4.1: Percentage of primary school children reaching level 4 in Key Stage 2 Assessment at Primary School in Mid and East Antrim and Northern Ireland.



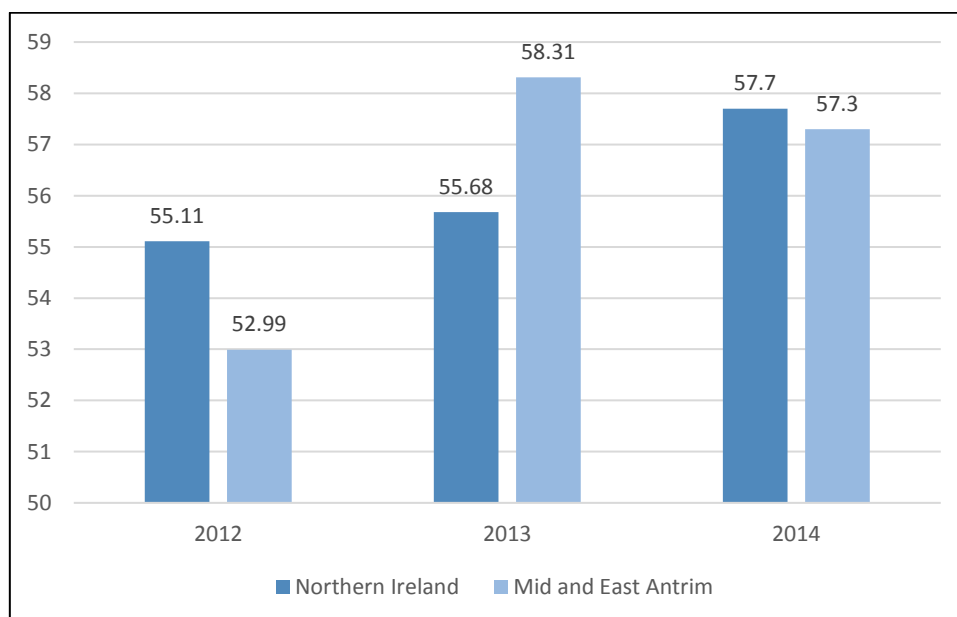
When we consider post-primary attainment the figure below demonstrates that between 2012 and 2014, schools in the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council area showed an increase in the percentage of students attaining five or more GCSE's at grade A*-C including Maths and English over the period.

Figure 6.4.2: Percentage of school-leavers who achieved at least 5 GCSE's including Maths and English between 2012 and 2014, in Mid and East Antrim and Northern Ireland.



Attainment at A level is also shown in Figure 6.4.3. There was an improvement in A-level attainment between 2012 and 2013 in the Borough, but this slightly dropped in 2014.

Figure 6.4.3: Percentage of school-leavers who achieved at least 2 A Levels or equivalent including Math and English between 2012 and 2014 in Mid and East Antrim and Northern Ireland.



Source: Figures 6.4.1-6.4.3 Department of Education Northern Ireland

Attainment variation

Our Council area has overall demonstrated a good level of achievement in post-primary qualifications. However if we consider the data for GCSE attainment, by individual DEAs in 2014/2015, whereas the average for the Council area was 67.71%, we see variation and Knockagh, Carrick Castle and Ballymena fall below the NI average for that year.

Table 6.4.1: Percentage of school-leavers who achieved 5 GCSE's A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths % in 2012-2014 for DEAs in Mid and East Antrim

District Electoral Area	Achieved 5 GCSE's A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths % in 2014/2015.
Larne Lough	66.5
Knockagh	64.9
Coast Road	68.6
Carrick Castle	64.4
Braid	71.2
Bannside	76.8
Ballymena	60.0
Northern Ireland	66.0

Source: NINIS

Higher and Further Education Enrolments

Table 6.4.2 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 6.4.2: Percentage of school-leavers who entered higher or further education after post-primary school in the Mid and East Antrim and Northern Ireland.

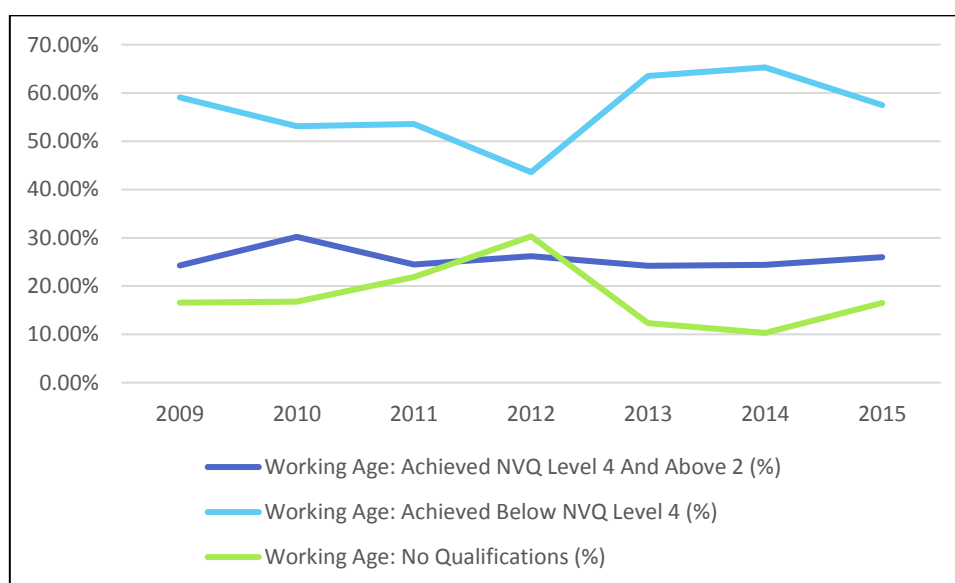
	2012		2013		2014	
	Destination: Higher Education (%)	Destination: Further Education (%)	Destination: Higher Education (%)	Destination: Further Education (%)	Destination: Higher Education (%)	Destination: Further Education (%)
Northern Ireland	42.65	34.43	41.81	35.39	42.3	35
Mid and East Antrim	40.14	33.27	43.07	34.45	43.58	32.35

Source: Department of Education Northern Ireland

Skills Level of Working age population

The figure below shows the level of qualifications of the working age population in Mid and East Antrim Borough Council area and shows that while the proportion with Level 4 and above has remained around 25% the numbers with lower or no qualifications has fluctuated with 45 – 65% having lower qualifications and 10 – 30% with no qualifications.

Figure 6.4.4: Mid and East Antrim Working Age Population Skills Levels 2009-2015



Source: NINIS Economic Activity and Qualifications (administrative geographies)

6.4.3 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.

6.4.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Education and Skills

- In some areas of our Borough 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 our Borough has a high level of educational achievement at all levels this is not consistent between DEAs.

6.5 Economy and Employment

6.5.1 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.

In particular, policy recognises the priority in Northern Ireland to raise competitiveness through increased export, and identifying 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.

Within 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.

Our Corporate Plan identified the Economy and Tourism as two of the four key aspects of our area. It recognises that the Borough has a strong strategic position for commerce, being close to both major airports, the Port of Larne within the Borough and the Port of Belfast.

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 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.

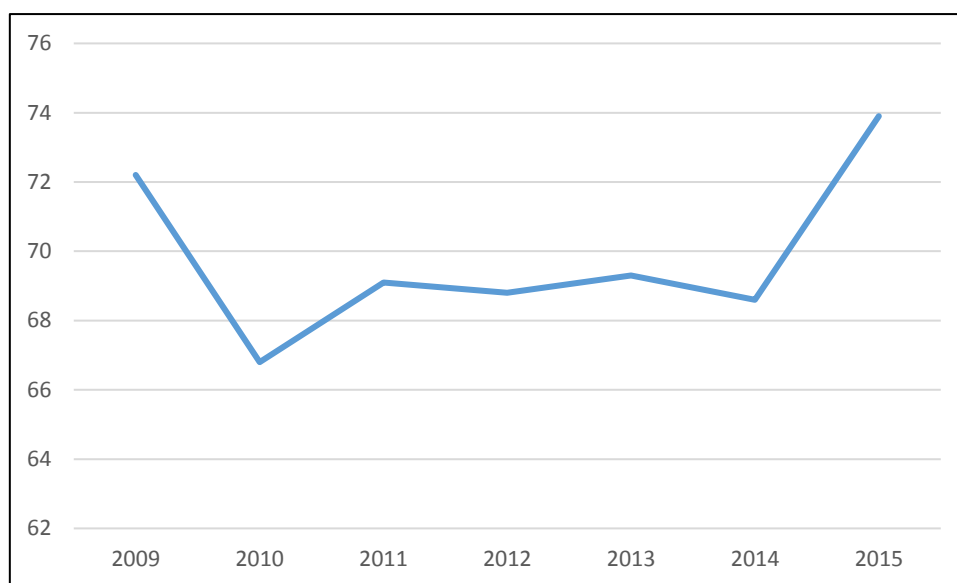
6.5.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in Mid and East Antrim District Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies: 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 6.5.1: Level of Working Age Employment 2009-2015 in Mid and East Antrim



Source: NINIS Economic Activity and Qualifications (administrative geographies)

Proportion of People in 'Good Jobs'

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by Local Government Districts is published by the Department for the Economy. The 2016 (provisional) survey⁴ gave the value for Mid and East Antrim Borough of mean gross annual pay of £25,743 compared to the figure for Northern Ireland which is £24,601. The figure for median gross annual pay for Mid and East Antrim is £21,727 and the same figure for Northern Ireland is £20,953.

Key Sectors

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.

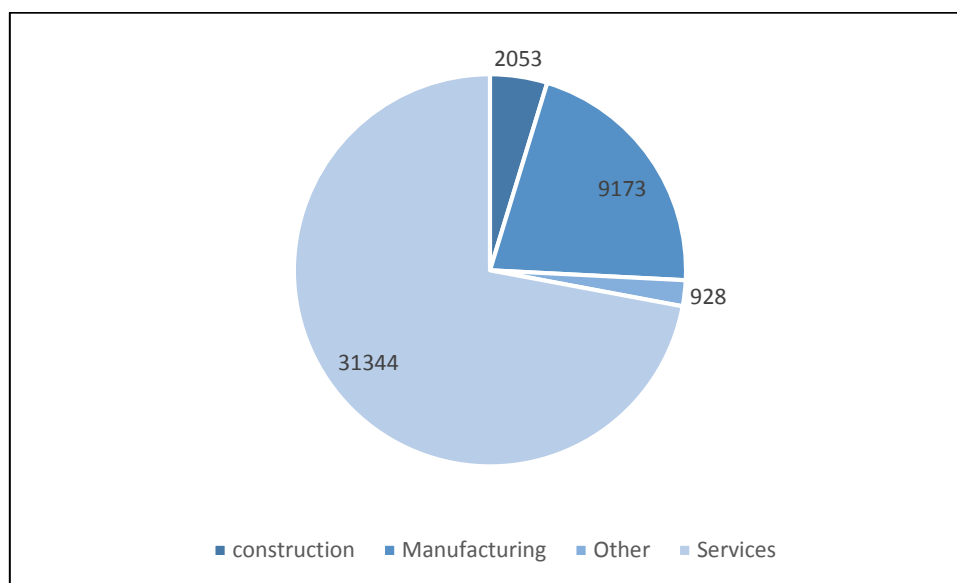
The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) is a statutory two yearly survey of employers in Northern, carried out under the Statistics of Trade and Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 1988. Results

⁴ [Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings: 2016 \(provisional\) Local Government District by place of work: Department for the Economy 2016](#)

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 6.5.2. By far the largest sector for employee jobs is in the Service sector with manufacturing the next largest.

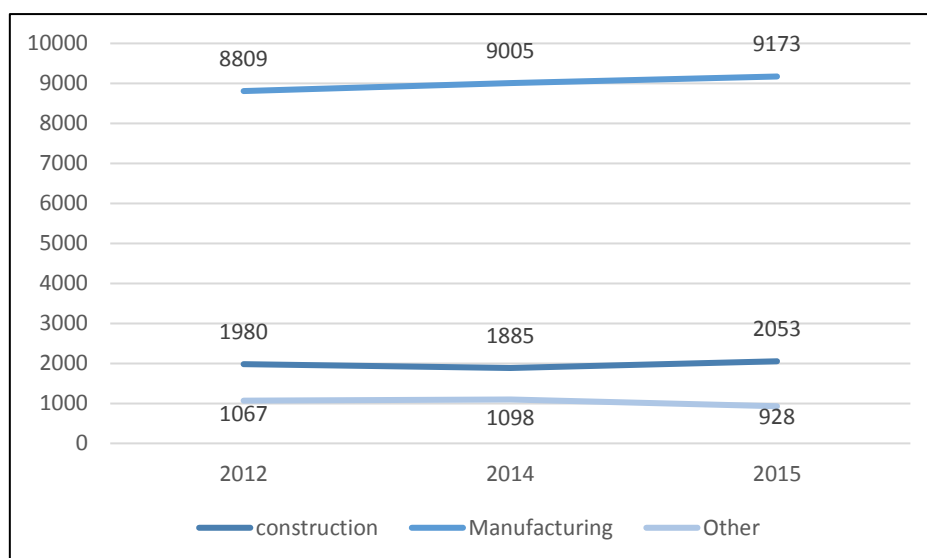
Figure 6.5.2: Number of employee jobs by Sector in 2015.



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

Figure 6.5.3 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 6.5.3: Number of employee jobs in Construction, Manufacturing and other 2012-2015 by Sector



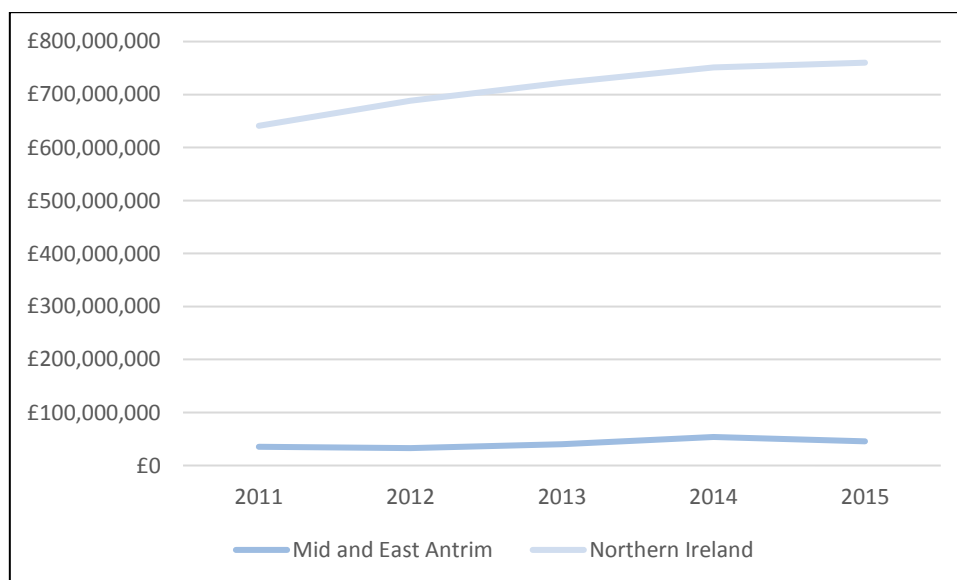
Source: The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES), Department for the Economy.

Tourism

In the LDP Tourism Position Paper 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 tourism shows that trips by all visitors increased between 2011 and 2015. 250,138 trips were recorded in 2011 for the Council area, and this began to rise from 2013 to 382,224 trips in 2015. This equates to an increase in visitor trips of 53% during that period.

Figure 6.5.4: Estimated spend during overnight trips in NI by Local Government District 2011-2015



Figures derived from the Northern Ireland Passenger Survey (NIPS) conducted by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)

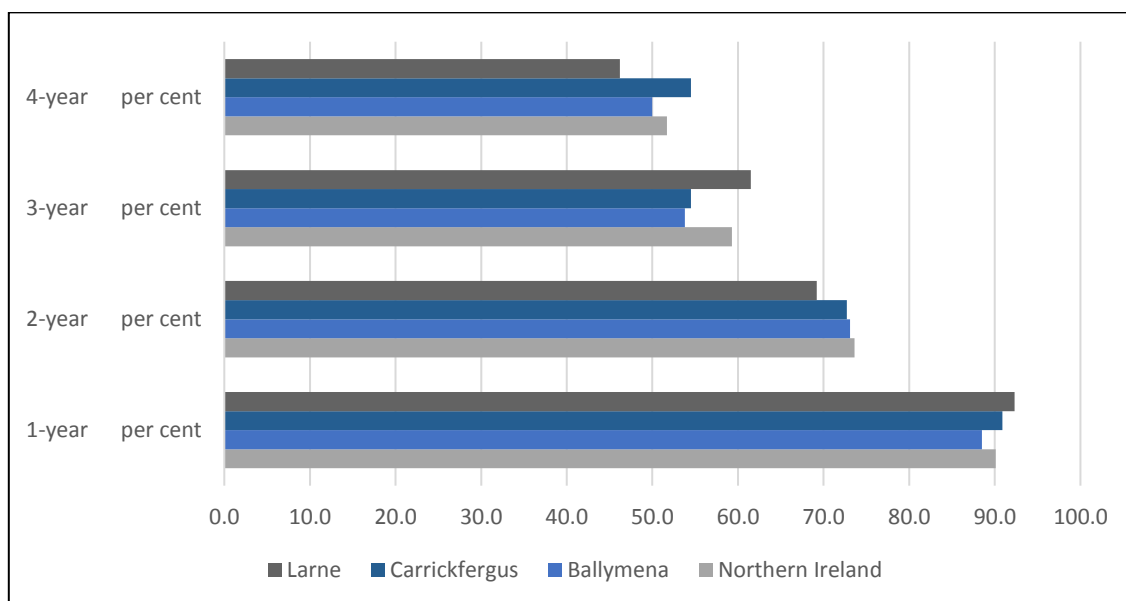
However, despite this increase in trips by visitors, the estimated expenditure in the Council area has remained fairly constant. When this trend is compared to the estimated spend for Northern Ireland (Figure 6.5.4), we can see that the Council area has not been able to capitalise financially on the increase in visitor numbers to the same degree as Northern Ireland as a whole.

Rate of start-up/death of business

The office for National Statistics publish a bulletin of Business Demography⁵ 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.

Figure 6.5.5: Four year survival of enterprises in 2011 by percentage of total for Larne, Carrickfergus, Ballymena and Northern Ireland.



Source: Business Demography: Office for National Statistics

Innovation

It is widely recognised that improving the ability of the economy in Northern Ireland to be innovative is a key factor in improving economic growth and employment. The most recent innovation figures are presented in the UK Innovation Survey (UKIS) 2013 Northern Ireland Results. The results of the 2013 UKIS and revised results from the 2011 UKIS show that 40% of Northern Ireland enterprises were innovation active in 2010-12. The equivalent UK figure was 45% in 2010-12. At 40%, Northern Ireland was the least innovation active country in the UK whilst a comparison with the rest of Great Britain showed Northern Ireland had moved from second least innovation active in the 2011 UKIS to the least innovative in the 2013 UKIS. Large enterprises with 250 or more employees were more likely to engage in some sort of innovation activity, with 48% innovation active, as opposed to 40% of SMEs. This pattern held at the UK level (50% among large enterprises compared to 45% among SMEs). Improving the quality of goods or services was the main factor driving innovation in Northern Ireland and the UK as a whole.

Competitiveness

There is no data currently at council level on level of competitiveness. Total external sales by companies in Northern Ireland were estimated to be worth £22.5 billion in 2014, representing an increase of 2.1% (£458 million) over the year. This figure exceeds the previously recorded peak in 2013 (£22.0 billion), and external

⁵ [All data related to Business demography, UK: 2015 - Office for National Statistics](#)

sales and are therefore at their highest over the time series presented. This represents just over a third (34.1%) of all sales by companies in Northern Ireland in 2014 (£65.8 billion).

Vacancy rates

The LDP position paper for Retailing 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.

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.

6.5.3 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.

6.5.4 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.
- 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.
- 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.

6.6 Material Assets

6.6.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The material assets sustainability theme covers a range of policy areas, including telecommunications, electrical infrastructure, renewable energy, derelict/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 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 recognises the Local Development Plan (LDP) as a means to promote the Borough as a place to invest, work and live in. It has five strategic priorities including growing the economy and delivering excellent services, as well as building safer and healthier communities. Our Council is a lead partner in the development of the Community Plan. To help achieve these priorities it will be essential for our Council to plan for the adequate provision and integration of material assets.

6.6.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information on material assets is available in the LDP position papers and specifically in the LDP Public Utilities position paper. This topic also overlaps with the Physical Resources and Climate Change topics.

Telecommunications/Electrical Infrastructure

Overall telecommunications is adequate across the Borough for both 2G and 3G from four main providers. A higher percentage of premises in Ballymena and Larne have access to 2G than 3G, whilst in Carrickfergus a slightly higher percentage of premises have access to 3G than 2G. In general, there is less geographical coverage for 3G than 2G and some rural areas have no coverage. Superfast broadband availability is very good with an average of 87% of premises in each main town having access.

The System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) manages the large-scale electrical transmission infrastructure across the country. SONI presents a live link to the current energy mix for Northern Ireland and connected sources of power generation including renewables at www.soni.ltd.uk. More information on new grid connections is included under Renewables below.

Energy Supply

Two of the three power stations in Northern Ireland are located in our Council. These are Ballylumford and Kilroot. Ballylumford runs on gas whilst Kilroot is dual coal and oil. Associated infrastructure means people

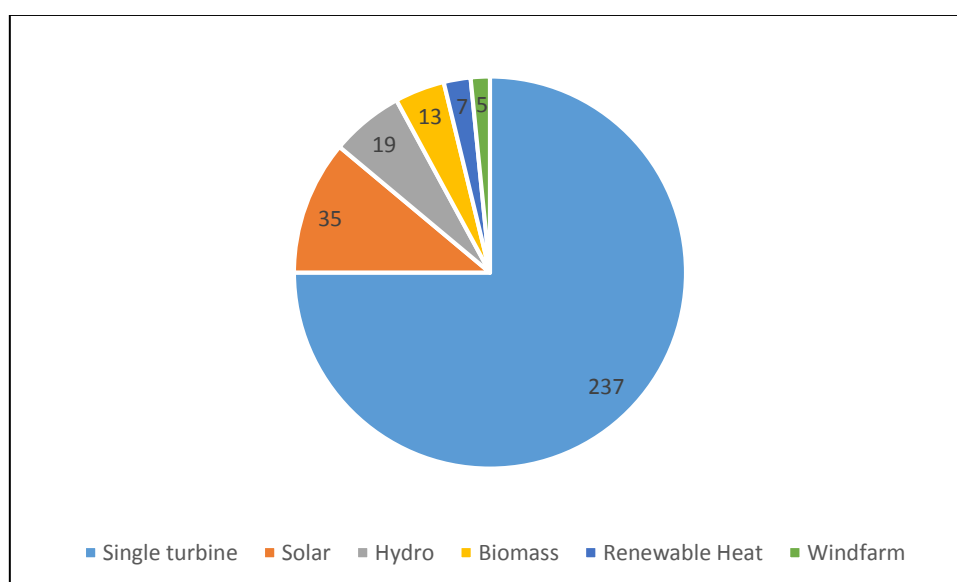
and businesses located in the Borough can benefit from access to these sources of power. Projects for underground gas storage also exist in the Borough.

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. 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 dependency⁶. 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 Position Paper. There are however already areas in the Borough at saturation point where new connections are not feasible⁷.

In Northern Ireland wind energy is the most developed renewable with 90% of all renewable energy in 2015/16 being sourced from wind. 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 can be seen in the Appendices of the Public Utilities position paper.

Figure 6.6.1: Number of Approved Renewable Energy Projects since 2002



Source: Mid and East Antrim Public Utilities Position Paper

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. In Northern Ireland, financial incentives to support the uptake of renewables have ceased.

Waste management

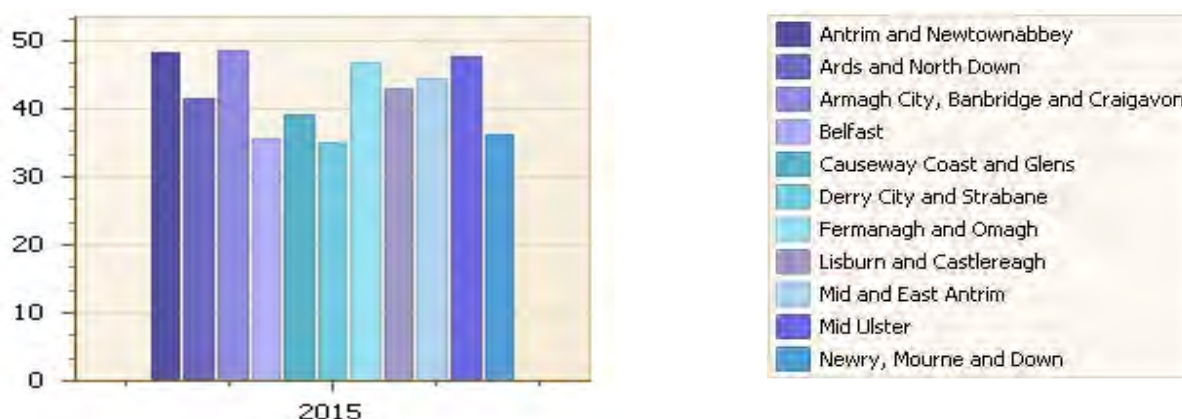
The Borough is part of the Arc21 regional waste management group. Between the Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy and the Arc21 Plan, the approach to sustainable management of all wastes produced is

⁶ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016

⁷ Northern Ireland Electricity 11kV Network Heat Map 2015

assessed. 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.

Figure 6.6.2: Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste for Reuse, Recycle or Compost (%)



Source: NINIS

6.6.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, it may become more difficult to sustainably manage provision and integration of material assets. 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.

6.6.4 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 safeguard land, including derelict and contaminated land, in sustainable locations to help integrate renewables or waste management and associated infrastructure.
- There may be opportunities to support community based renewable projects.
- There is a need to consider potential integration of geothermal energy.
- Wind technology has dominated renewables but a diverse technologies will be needed for a sustainable energy mix; these might include solar, tidal, biomass, hydroelectric, anaerobic.
- There is currently no financial support for the uptake of renewables since the NI Renewables Obligations ceased in early 2017.
- It is important to maintain and increase rates of reuse, recycling and composting of waste and to enable future treatment of varying waste streams.

6.7 Physical Resources

6.7.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The physical resources sustainability theme covers minerals, earth science sites, 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. Our protection of physical resources can be a clear indicator of how sustainable our society is.

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 connective wildlife corridor; provide amenity value, building resources, adaptation for climate change; remove water and soil pollution; support biodiversity and create landscape character. 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 will 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.

Our Council aims for a better future for all. It views the Local Development Plan as a means to help ensure that people will want to invest, work and live within the Borough, whilst the natural environment is protected. Strategic objectives include growing the economy and developing our tourism potential. 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.

6.7.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information for physical resources is presented in the LDP position papers and specifically in the Minerals, Public Utilities and Environmental Assets position papers. This section also overlaps with the Material Assets and Natural Resources topics.

Minerals

Our Borough is of regional importance to the minerals industry, with nine active quarries and three peat bogs. From mines in Carrickfergus, we also supply salt for the entire home market as well as export. The industry in our Borough employs just under 400 people and generates an annual turnover of £13.7 million to the economy.

Aggregates, bauxite and peat are referred to in the legacy Ballymena Area Plan and basalt, aggregates, chalk, rock salt, and peat are referred to in the legacy Larne Area Plan. The Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan, under which Carrickfergus was considered, refers to salt mining.

Mineral production is directly linked to the construction industry so any major developments could cause an increase in both mineral production and employment numbers. The Borough is the second most important for minerals in monetary terms and the third biggest employer within the sector.

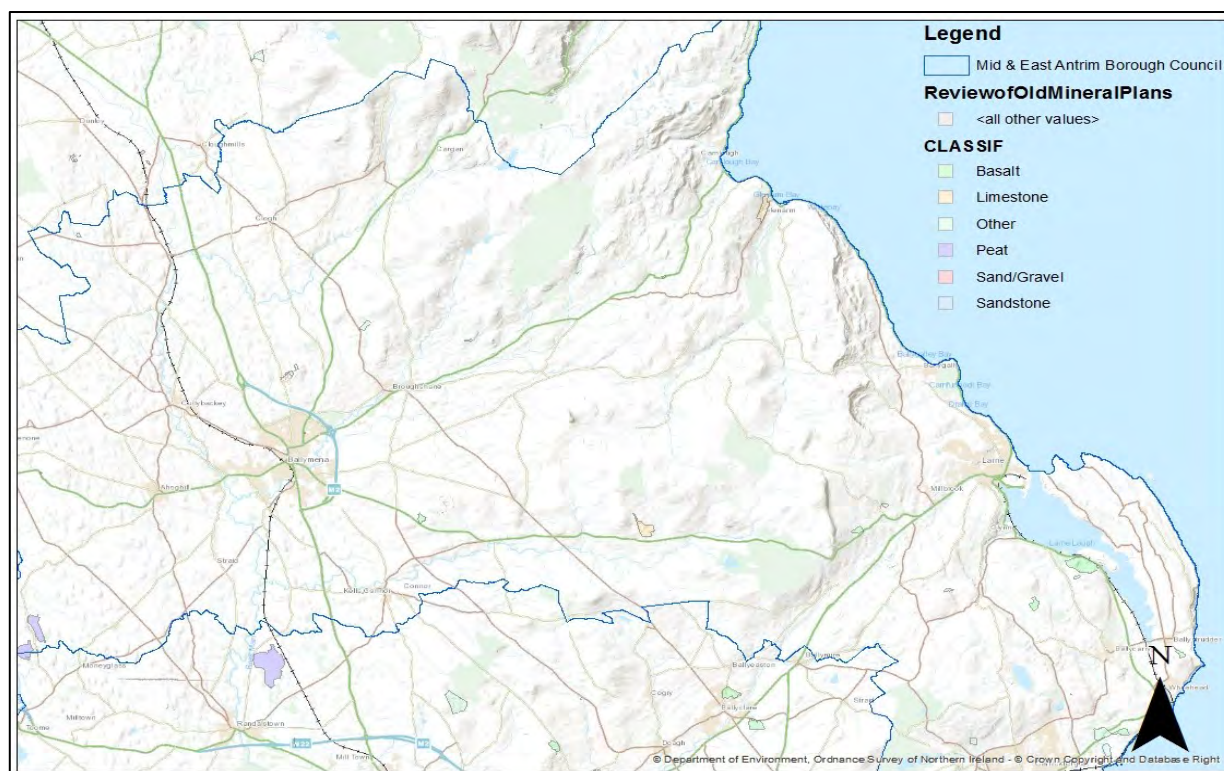
The minerals map for County Antrim and Belfast can be accessed at <http://nora.nerc.ac.uk>. It shows the extent of igneous and meta-igneous rock, sand and gravel deposits in the Borough. A full map is presented in Appendix 1 of the Minerals Development Position Paper.

After an area has been mined, it may become an important resource for earth science, research, recreation and nature conservation. 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 become part of blue/green infrastructure, helping to connect habitats and species across the wider landscape and maintaining local biodiversity.

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 planning legislation.

Figure 6.7.1: ROMP sites for Mid and East Antrim Borough Council



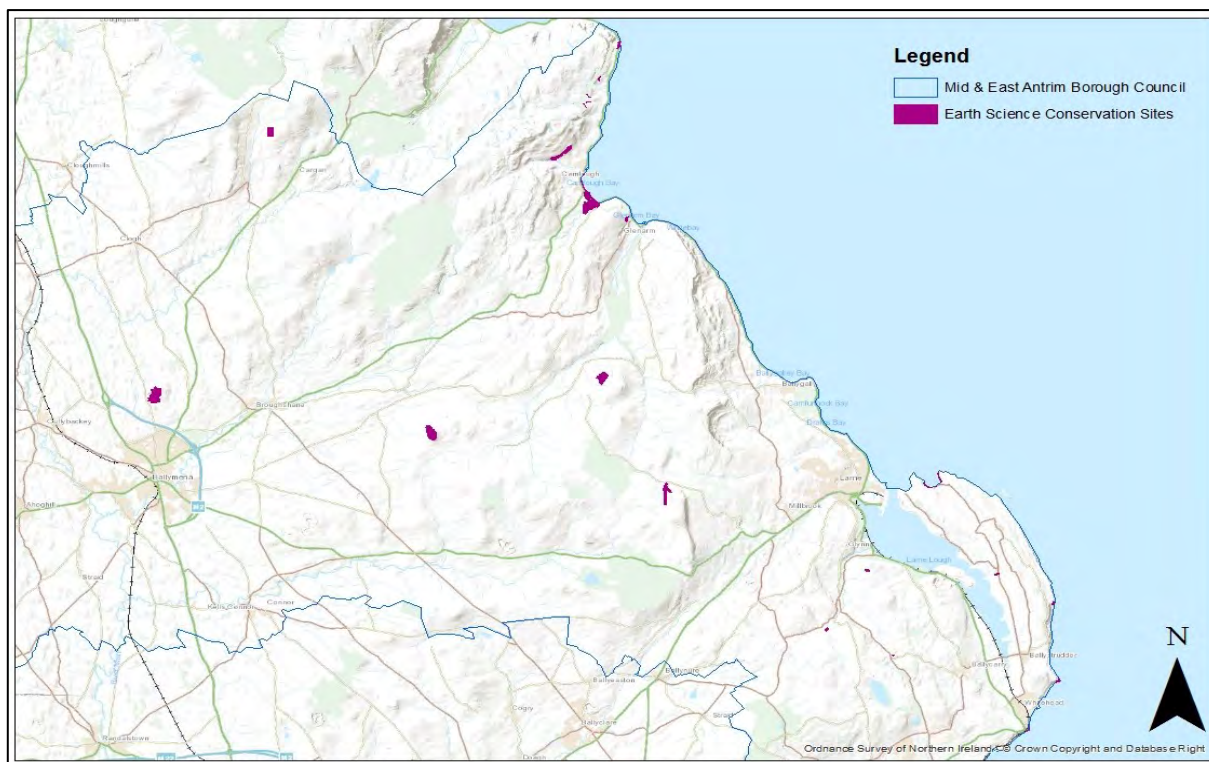
Source: DAERA

Earth Science

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

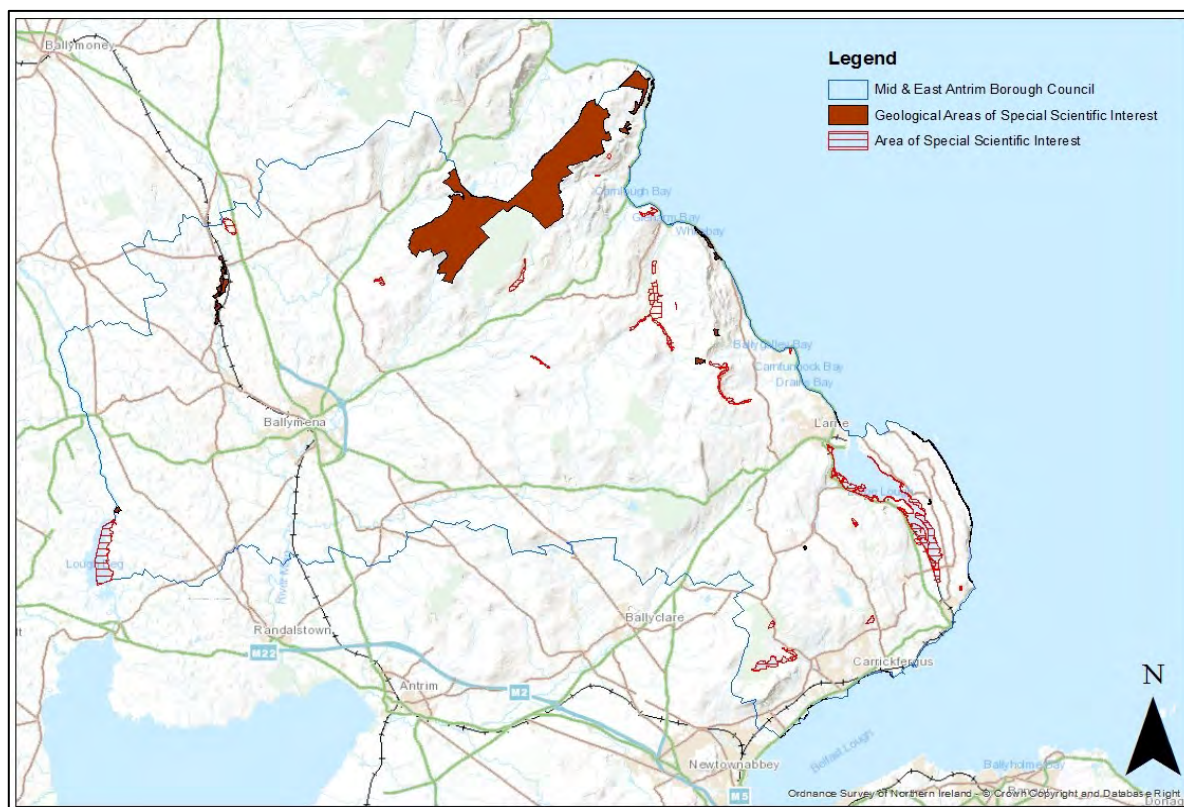
There are thirty-nine Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) in the Borough and sixteen are sites of geological interest. These sites though protected for their geological value can also provide habitat for local wildlife and help to maintain local biodiversity. For example, the Outer Belfast Lough geological ASSI provides habitat for many species of bird including black-tailed godwit, great crested grebe and redshank.

Figure 6.7.2: Earth Science Conservation Sites in Mid and East Antrim Borough Council



Source: Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)

Figure 6.7.3: Geological Areas of Special Scientific Interest in Mid and East Antrim Borough Council



Source: Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)

Geothermal Energy

The Lough Neagh basin is a geothermal aquifer that could provide a source of energy for the Borough. Naturally occurring heat is stored in the ground within the basin. This source of heat has the potential to act as a source of renewable energy for electricity and to provide heating for buildings.

Geothermal energy could become a viable 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 UK National Renewable Energy Action Plan refers to ground heat and the Strategic Energy Framework (SEF)⁸ discusses shallow geothermal energy. Since 2002, there have been seven approvals for ground/water/air source heat pumps.

Land

Agriculture is a major contributor to the Northern Irish Economy⁹ and contributes 1% to total GVA and 3% to employment¹⁰. Agriculture will continue to be an important sector of the economy in our Council area.

Renewables

There continues to be pressure to accommodate renewables and the infrastructure required to connect projects to the grid. This is in spite of a recent decline in applications. Renewables can be compatible with other land uses such as farming and can continue to enable access to areas but they can also take up large areas of land.

Currently wind is the dominant source of renewable electricity generation in Northern Ireland (Energy in Northern Ireland 2016, DETI) but because of weather, the supply can be intermittent. In 2015, 25% of electricity used in Northern Ireland was from renewable sources. A target was set in 2010 for 40% of Northern Ireland's electricity consumption to be from renewable sources by 2020. A diverse mix of renewables will be required to help meet this target and the 2050 target under the UK Climate Change Act. Technological development is needed to help move toward this target and a low carbon future. This is evident in plans like the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan.

Cemetery Provision

Land is required for cemetery provision in the legacy Larne and Carrickfergus Council areas.

Rural Housing

Although the Borough is predominantly rural, there do not appear to be areas with significant pressure for rural dwellings. The highest pressure is located in the rural area of the legacy Ballymena Council. Overall, there has been a downward trend in applications for rural houses since 2006.

Land cover

The Northern Ireland Countryside Survey (NICS) 2007¹¹ found that the main changes in land cover were the loss of semi natural habitats to agricultural grassland and rural buildings. The trends for land conversion to improved grassland and curtilage was observed since the 1998 survey. Building was mostly on neutral or improved grassland indicating the pressure on agricultural land but semi natural habitat losses were also recorded. The loss of semi natural habitat in lowland areas, where they are already minimally present, is a biodiversity issue.

⁸ DETI (2010): Strategic Energy Framework for Northern Ireland

⁹ Northern Ireland Assembly Briefing Paper (2016): Northern Ireland's agri-food sector Paper 66/16 NIAR 345-16

¹⁰ DAERA (2016): Northern Ireland Agri-Food Sector Key Statistics, Key Facts on Agriculture, Fishing & Forestry

¹¹ Cooper, A. *et al* (2009) Northern Ireland Countryside Survey (2007): Broad Habitat Change 1998-2007. Northern Ireland Environment Agency Research and Development Series No. 09/06

Soil

A proper functioning soil should be able to minimise erosion, reduce flooding, filter pollution and store essential nutrients that can support plants and animals.

6.7.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan there could be less opportunity to spatially plan and manage existing and future physical resources and avoid environmental damage. It may become more difficult to manage local development pressures for land and to avoid inappropriate development, pollution or erosion. For example, there could be fewer opportunities to designate areas of constraint on mineral development or types of land use.

6.7.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Physical Resources

- Existing mineral reserves should be safeguarded from alternative uses and/or developments that may sterilise their use or impede their accessibility.
- 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 if appropriately located with adequate transport routes.
- There are no Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development in the former Ballymena Council area or the Carrickfergus District of the Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area which may need to be addressed.
- Some redundant minerals sites may be suitable for restoration and alternative uses, for example for education or recreation, and contribute to natural heritage and blue/green infrastructure.
- There is potential to integrate geothermal energy as a future energy source.
- It is important to balance local development pressure on land and the need to continue to be able to deliver for renewables, agriculture and rural housing.
- There is a need for land for cemetery provision.
- Commercial peat extraction sites are present in the Borough however peatlands are important for ecological value and as water and carbon stores.
- Soil quality across the Borough should be protected using effective conservation measures due to a lack of specific legislation protecting soils at a regional or local level.

6.8 Transport and Accessibility

6.8.1 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.

The draft Programme for Government (dPfG) has 14 strategic outcomes. One is based 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.

Our Council's corporate vision for the future includes strategic priorities to grow the economy, develop tourism potential and build safer and healthier communities, as well as delivering excellent services to all people and communities. Infrastructure, including transport, is one of the strategic priorities for the Sustainable Jobs and Tourism theme of our Community Plan. Planning for both the wider transport system and local level travel options for people will be integral to the Council achieving its strategic priorities.

6.8.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the LDP Transportation position paper. This topic also overlaps with Health and Well-being, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Natural Resources.

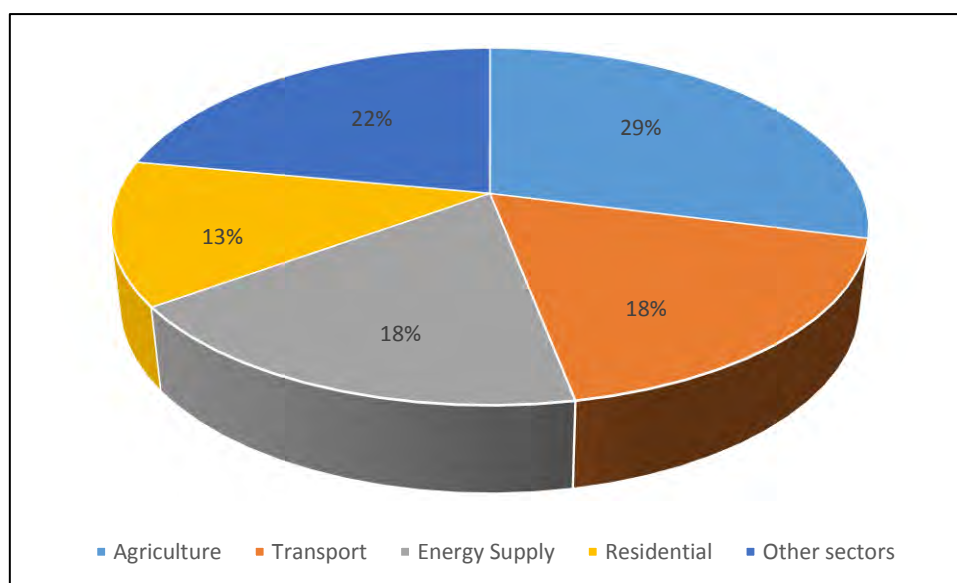
Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In Northern Ireland, the most common greenhouse gas (GHG) emission is carbon dioxide (CO₂). Other emissions are evident but CO₂ was reported in the 2016 DAERA Environmental Statistics Report as accounting for nearly 70% of all GHG emissions.

In Northern Ireland, the transport sector is one of the top four emitters of GHGs at 18% of total GHG emissions. This is equal to emissions from the energy supply sector and higher than those emitted from the residential sector.

Emissions are a by-product from the burning of fossil fuels and although there is a government target to reduce GHG emissions by 35% on 1990 levels by 2025, the transport sector has not shown a declining trend. Additional information and graphs are available from the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016.

Figure 6.8.1: Main Greenhouse Gas Emitting Sectors in Northern Ireland



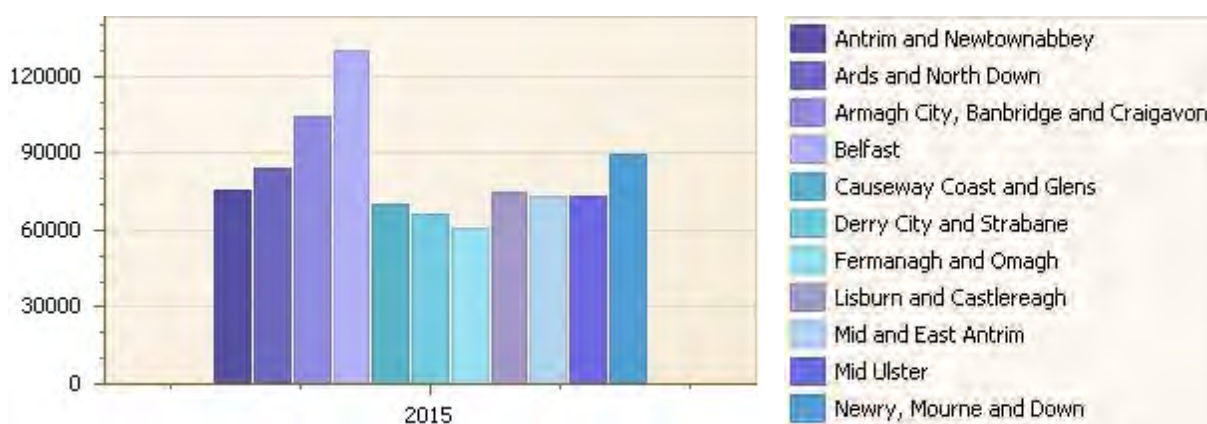
Source: Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016 (DAERA)

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) generated by road traffic combustion has not decreased since 2012. Levels in urban areas have generally increased and there is no evidence of a decline in NO₂ emissions. Ground level ozone can result from the chemical reactions of nitrogen oxides from sources such as vehicle emissions. Urban sites show ozone levels are variable but not reducing. Further information on transport emissions is provided in the Climatic Factors topic.

Roads and Cars

There are major transport routes through our Borough including the M2, A8, A2 and A26. The Borough has the fourth highest amount of A road dual carriageway within it at nearly 30 km. The rural nature of our Borough also means that there is a substantial amount of unclassified roads present at just under 1000kms. Although a relatively small amount of motorway is present at just over seven kilometres the Borough remains important for several major commuting routes that go beyond the Borough's boundary. Our Borough is middle of the range for the number of licensed vehicles with just under 73,000 cars registered.

Figure 6.8.2: Licensed Cars 2015



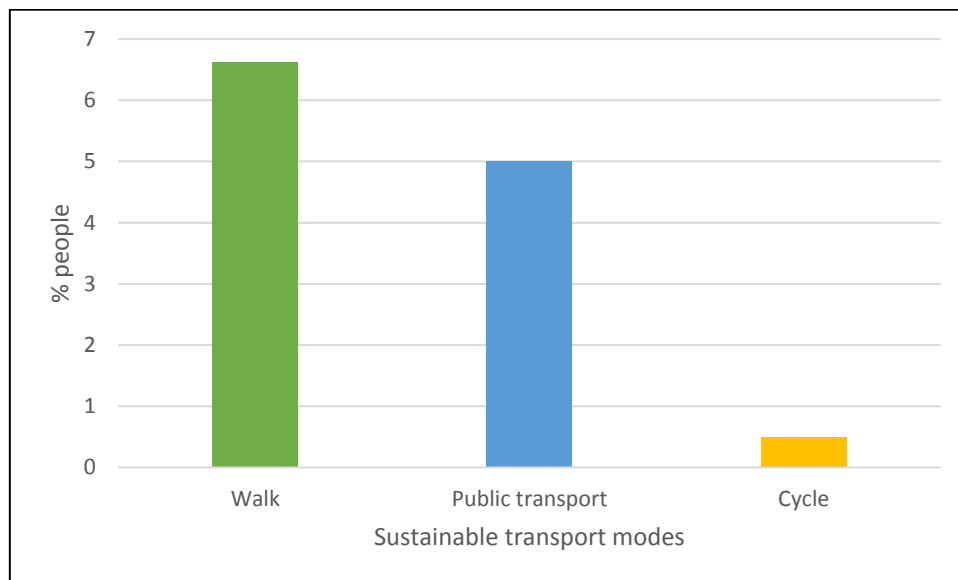
Source: NINIS

Journeys

Over 80% of households in the Borough have access to one or more vehicle. Our Borough has a high dependence on the private car for journeys with 72% of all journeys by car.

Currently 12% of people in employment use either public transport (5%), walk (6.63%) or cycle (0.5%) to work. This is in spite of rail and bus services in all of the Borough's three main towns. It is known that there are a lack of services for east-west routes.

Figure 6.8.3: Sustainable Travel to Work Options in Mid and East Antrim Borough Council



Source: Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's Transport Workshop 2016 – unpublished paper

These figures reflect the general situation in Northern Ireland where there is a high dependence on the car for journeys. More sustainable modes of transport need to be promoted so that people can choose not to use the car and benefit from alternative options for standard journeys such as adequate parking at rail/bus stations, park and ride schemes and accessible active travel networks.

6.8.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan it could become more difficult to integrate sustainable travel options to new and existing developments to enable people to reduce their reliance on the car. Without a new plan with up to date information, there may be a risk of missing opportunities to integrate active travel routes alongside other planning measures such as blue/green infrastructure. In addition, development of land based on older information may not be able to consider the most sustainable development of current land in terms of shorter journey times, efficient route linkages and provision of accessible alternative modes of sustainable and active travel.

6.8.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Transport and Accessibility

- The Council is strategically located with several key road and rail transport routes passing through it.
- Public transport options between settlements are limited and where public transport is available, journeys can often be lengthy with poor connections for onward travel.
- Reliance on the car is high in both urban and rural areas and measures are needed across the Borough to enable people to reduce car use.
- There is strong reliance on car travel for work however 32.5% of MEA residents travel less than 5km to work.

- There is a need to consider modes of travel for employees when planning new places of employment including public transport, walking and cycling.
- An integrated active travel network across the Borough could support health and well-being as well as reducing GHG emissions.

6.9 Air Quality

6.9.1 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.

The Department 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 Northern Ireland (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 (AQMA).

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. Regional policy thus recommends developing policy links between air quality and climate change and fully supports an air quality strategy.

In the draft Programme for Government (dPFG) there are several outcomes that can be linked to good air quality. These include outcomes to live and work sustainably; to live healthy and active lives; and to create a place that people want to live, work and visit. Air quality does not have a specific planning policy but under the SPPS, it can be a material consideration. Maintaining good air quality is an important aspect of sustainable development as it is fundamental to the quality of our environment, society and the economy. The dPFG has set improving air quality as an indicator of achieving its outcomes.

Our Council's vision for the future as stated in the Corporate Plan is 'to create a better future for all' and to use planning to help deliver positive outcomes for people. The intent is to use planning as a means to promote Mid and East Antrim Borough Council as a place to invest, work and live in. An important aspect of this vision will be maintaining and improving good air quality. 'Our Environment' theme of our Community Plan aims for 'Increasing awareness, positive attitudes and action for a clean safe, protected, vibrant environment' with the strategic priority for Assets 'The natural environment and built heritage of our borough is protected and sustainably managed'.

6.9.2 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 also overlaps with Climatic Factors and Health and Well-being.

Air Pollution

Information on current air quality can be accessed at www.airqualityni.co.uk where recent progress reports and screening assessments can also be found. There are two continuous monitoring sites located in Ballymena. Monitoring takes place at the Ballykeel Road site for particulate matter (PM₁₀), sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide; and at the Antrim Road site for nitrogen dioxide. Objectives continue to be met at both sites. There are also some smoke control areas in the Borough. These have been enforced to reduce smoke and other air pollutants/emissions from burning fuels, with the aim of improving local air quality.

Air Quality Management Areas

There are currently two active Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council for PM₁₀ and nitrogen dioxide¹². These are both located in the Ballymena town area; one is in Ballykeel and the other is in Linenhall Street¹³. Particulate matter is fine air borne material that can come from road traffic, industry and construction sources. Due to its fine size, it can cause respiratory issues. Nitrogen dioxide is primarily from traffic or industrial sources and can be a severe respiratory irritant. Nitrogen oxides can readily mix with other chemicals to form acid rain or other pollutants like ground level ozone. Nitrogen dioxide was exceeded at the Linenhall site but both AQMAs are recommended to stay in place. Two additional sites were found where nitrogen dioxide levels exceeded accepted levels. These sites are outside existing AQMAs but will continue to be monitored.

Transport

There are major transport routes through the Borough including the M2, A8, A2 and A26. The Borough has the fourth highest amount of A road dual carriageway within it at nearly 30 km. Although a relatively small amount of motorway length at just over seven km is present, our Borough is important for several major commuting routes that go beyond the Council boundary. The rural nature of our Borough also means that there is a substantial amount of unclassified roads present at just under 1000kms. It is evident that the car is heavily relied upon across our Borough in both urban and rural areas. Of all journeys made, 72% are by car.

Human Health

There is an important link between air quality and human health. Recent Departmental figures for Northern Ireland indicate that 553 deaths can be attributed to particulate matter, and 330 to nitrogen dioxide. Particulate matter pollution is composed of fine particles from natural and man-made sources; pollen, sand dust, road traffic, coal burning, and construction work are all potential sources¹⁴. It is currently estimated that in the United Kingdom, life expectancy is shortened by eight months because of poor air quality¹⁵. Respiratory disease was one of the three main causes of death in our Council in 2014 and as a percentage of deaths was higher than for NI as a whole.

Emissions - transport

Additional information and graphs are available from the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016. It shows that nitrogen dioxide, generated by road traffic combustion, has not decreased since 2012. Levels in urban areas have generally increased since 2004. No declining trend is evident.

Particulate matter has generally shown a decreasing trend in urban sites since 2003. Particulate matter 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.

Emissions – agriculture

In Northern Ireland, ammonia emissions have been reported as 93% from livestock and 7% from the application of fertilizers. Trends for declines in emissions from livestock on a UK basis may not be reflected in Northern Ireland because cattle numbers have declined by a much lesser extent, whilst pig and poultry numbers have increased. Ammonia emissions from livestock have been increasing since 2010. Ammonia emissions from fertilizer use has significantly reduced by 39% but overall ammonia emissions have only fallen

¹² Mid & East Antrim Borough Council (2016): Updating and Screening Assessment 2015

¹³ Please note the AQMA information on the www.airqualityni.co.uk site is not up to date and the Screening Assessment 2015 should be used instead.

¹⁴ www.airqualityni.co.uk

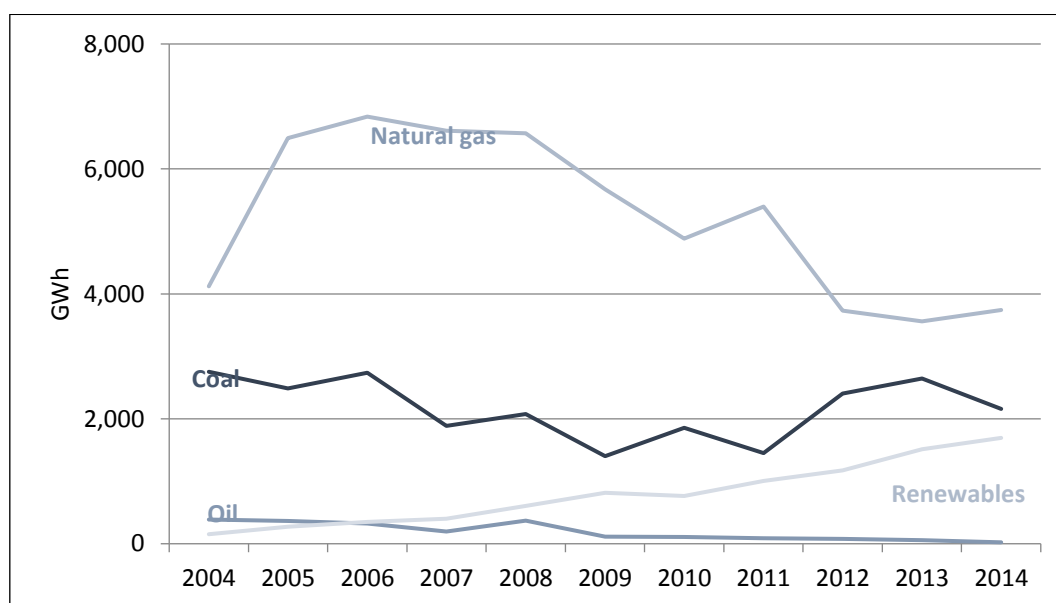
¹⁵ DAERA held draft Programme for Government Air Quality Stakeholder Consultation, August 2016

by 5%. This indicates other sources of ammonia emissions¹⁶. Ammonia is not included as an objective in the Air Quality Regulations but it is linked to deterioration of habitats.

Emissions – electricity generation

In Northern Ireland, electricity supplied from renewables has generally increased every year since 2001. By 2015/16, nearly 25% of electricity consumed in Northern Ireland came from renewable sources. Wind energy accounted for 90% of the electricity generated¹⁷. This type of diversification in our energy use means that carbon emissions and other pollutants from fossil fuel combustion have been reducing¹⁸.

Figure 6.9.1: Electricity generated by fuel type



Source: DAERA, Carbon Intensity Indicators 2016

6.9.3 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 inappropriate development. There could be less opportunity to influence development to help maintain or improve air quality. This could include opportunities to integrate sustainable and active travel options like new bus stops or walking and cycling routes. Together these measures could help reduce reliance on the car and reduce transport emissions. Without a new plan in place, there could also be an increased risk of losing land that could enable measures to help maintain and improve air quality.

6.9.4 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.

¹⁶ DAERA (2016): Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016 Issue 8

¹⁷ Mid & East Antrim Borough Council Public Utilities Workshop Consultation Paper

¹⁸ There has also been a rise in domestic gas heating and a move away from oil or coal for domestic heating purposes.

- Additional sites in the Ballymena town area may require local measures to reduce nitrogen dioxide levels.
- It is important to consider future air quality when planning the location of new developments and land uses, across both rural and urban areas.
- There is a need to promote and make accessible other modes of transport to the car such as public transport, walking and cycling.
- There is a need to continue to support renewables in appropriate locations to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants.

6.10 Climatic Factors

6.10.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The typical weather conditions of an area are based on natural variabilities that create the climate. These variabilities can cause extreme weather events but also normal or expected conditions. It is only when there is a shift in the usual weather patterns and climate, that the term “climate change” should be applied.

During the last few decades, concerns about the global climate have been linked to the effect that human activities have had on it. Carbon and sulphur dioxide from fossil fuel combustion, and nitrogen oxides and methane from deforestation, transport and agriculture, have all been entering the atmosphere. These additional gases add to the natural background levels already present, which increases the natural warming of the planet known as the “greenhouse effect”. This is the cause of anthropogenic climate change, which is climate change influenced by man.

In 2014 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) carried out an assessment of climate science. It stated that anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are the highest they have ever been since the pre-industrial era. Atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxides are the highest they have ever been in the last 800 000 years. Their effects are extremely likely to be the dominant cause of observed warming since the 1950s.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) met in Paris 2015. It agreed ambitious GHG reductions from 2020 in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to limit global warming to no more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century. The Paris Agreement also encourages efforts to be pursued to limit temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. It aims for a low carbon future based on sustainable development.

The RDS recommends we reduce our carbon footprint, adapt to climate change and deliver a sustainable and secure energy supply. Reducing GHG emissions is the only way to mitigate climate change. 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, renewables, energy efficiency and using the natural environment as blue/green infrastructure.

The first UK National Adaptation Programme (NAP) was published in July 2013 for each devolved administration and Northern Ireland’s NAP was launched in 2014. The Northern Ireland NAP informed the SPPS, which details mitigation and adaptation for climate change. In the SPPS, sustainable patterns of development and transport are recommended. This should help reduce the need to use cars and enable people to access public transport and walk or cycle.

The devolved administrations of the United Kingdom (UK) are expected to contribute to the reductions stated in the UK Climate Change Act 2008; by 2050 an 80% reduction of GHG emissions based on 1990 levels. To help meet the 2050 target, the Northern Ireland Executive has set a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on 1990 levels by at least 35% by 2025¹⁹. The Cross Departmental Working Group for Climate Change (CDWGCC) has produced annual reports detailing progress toward meeting this target. The fifth report in 2016 suggests GHG emissions (excluding the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry sector) will be 34.1% lower in 2025 than in 1990 which is close to the target. The 2nd Northern Ireland Climate Change

¹⁹ www.theccc.org.uk

Adaptation Programme (NICCAP) (2018-2023) will provide local level evidence with targeted local adaptation information.

In 2015, a motion was brought to the Northern Ireland Assembly to introduce a Climate Change Bill and 74% of respondents favoured a domestic based piece of climate change legislation.

In 2015/16, the CDWGCC agreed 37 actions in an Action Plan to address climate change. Twelve actions were taken forward and a future action plan was proposed to be agreed in 2017.

Our Council's goal is to work together to create a better future for all. The Community Plan aspires to provide the people of the Borough with a safe community and an 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 deliver climate change mitigation and adaptation by protecting carbon stores, providing land for 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.

6.10.2 Baseline Information

Baseline climate change information can be found at a regional level from Departmental sources such as the Carbon Intensity Indicators and the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016. Detailed information has also been provided in the LDP position papers including the Transportation and Public Utilities papers. This topic overlaps with the Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport, Air Quality and Natural Resources topics.

Global context

The IPCC Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report, presents historical trends for increasing emissions of GHG, contributors to temperature change and trends in average temperatures and sea levels, GHGs include carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, ozone and methane. Climate scientists have estimated that the earth's atmosphere has already warmed from pre-industrial Revolution times by nearly 1°C. Global sea levels have increased by 15-20 centimetres with thermal expansion and ice loss from glaciers and land²⁰.

UK Context

The second Climate Change Risk Assessment Evidence Report is due to be presented to Parliament in 2017. The Adaptation Sub Committee (ASC) has prepared the independent evidence report which sets out the latest risks and opportunities to the UK from climate change. An interim report has been published entitled The UK Synthesis Report 2017.

The priority areas identified to be managed for climate change risks are flooding and coastal change, high temperatures, risks to natural capital, water shortages, impacts on global food system and risks from new and emerging pests/diseases.

Northern Ireland Context

There are nine climate-monitoring stations across Northern Ireland (NI) managed by Queens University²¹ for temperature and precipitation. Research informed by this monitoring predicts that increases in temperature will be evident across Northern Ireland becoming increasingly warmer toward the end of the 21st century.

²⁰ UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Synthesis Report 2016

²¹ D.Mullan@qub.ac.uk; [http://pure.qub.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/donal-mullan\(8fb7a607-4799-49a1-a5f4-7f32c0aa8665\).html](http://pure.qub.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/donal-mullan(8fb7a607-4799-49a1-a5f4-7f32c0aa8665).html)

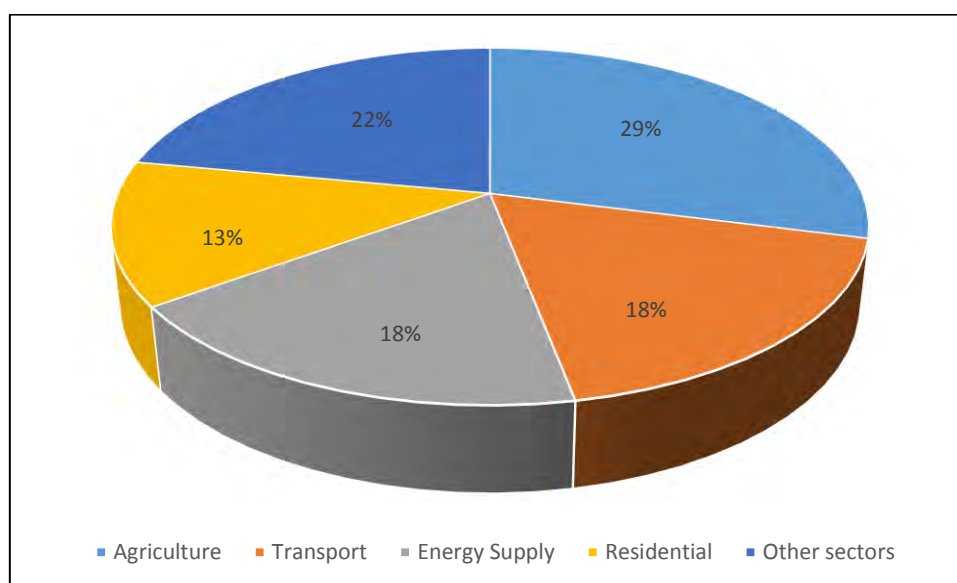
Overall precipitation is projected to fall slightly, winter is projected to be wetter and the summer to be drier. The Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016 also presents annual trends for temperature and rainfall that show increasing annual temperatures and decreasing rainfall in summer months.

Northern Ireland accounted for 4% of the total UK GHG emissions in Northern Ireland in 2013. This is high relative to the contribution made to gross domestic product (2.1%) and the proportion of the UK population (2.8%). Estimated GHG emissions were 22.4 million tonnes of CO₂ and had decreased by 16% compared to baseline levels in 1990. In contrast, the UK as a whole reduced emissions by 30%.

Carbon dioxide accounted for 67% of all GHG emissions. It was the most common gas emitted, with the transport, energy supply and residential sectors the largest contributors. Northern Ireland contributed 3.2% of the UK's total carbon dioxide emissions. Methane was the highest emission from the agriculture and waste management sectors as a by-product and accounted for 21% of the total GHG emissions. 85% of all methane emissions came from agriculture. Nitrous oxide from soils was the other significant gas emitted by the agriculture sector accounting for 90% of all agricultural emissions. Northern Ireland accounted for a much larger share of the UK's emissions of these gases due to the importance of agriculture in the Northern Ireland economy.

Agriculture, transport, energy supply and residential were the top four sectors in terms of GHG emissions in Northern Ireland. These emissions are a by-product either from livestock and farming practices, or from the burning of fossil fuels. Most sectors show a long-term decreasing trend in emissions with the largest decreases in energy supply, waste management and residential sectors. There is a government target to reduce GHG emissions by 35% on 1990 levels by 2025.

Figure 6.10.1: Main Greenhouse Gas Emitting Sectors in Northern Ireland

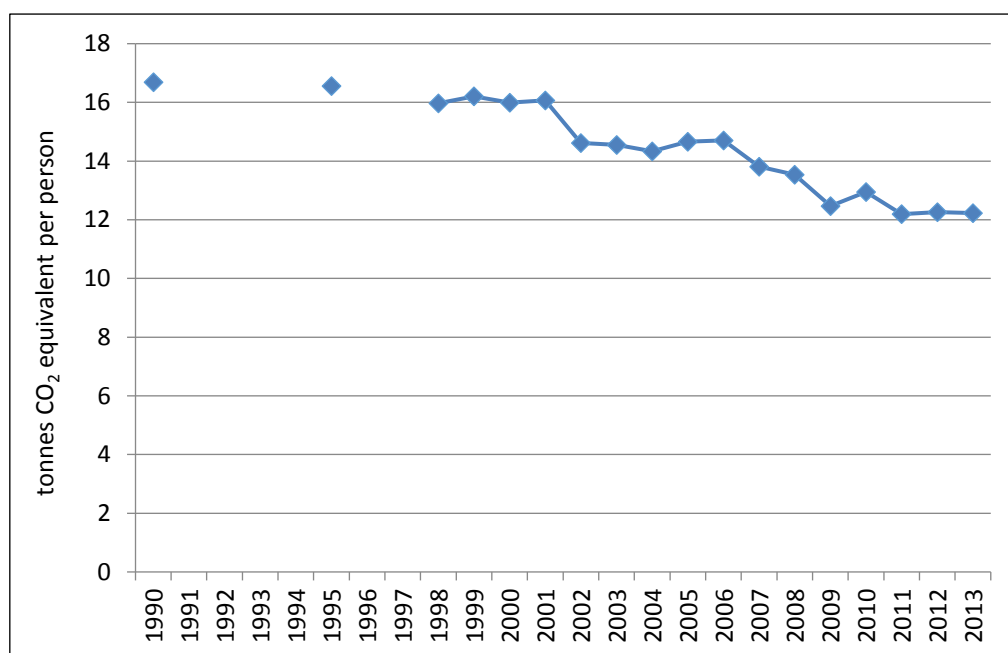


Source: Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016

A set of Carbon Intensity Indicators has been developed to help government track carbon reduction policies. These indicators show a reduction in GHG emissions in terms of intensity, as opposed to absolute figures. Emissions intensity demonstrates the amount of carbon dioxide generated per unit of output. Note that most of the trends, which cover the power (energy), buildings (housing), industry, transport, agriculture and waste sectors, are positive i.e. declining emissions. Although population growth and economic growth are the two main drivers of climate change, the Carbon Intensity Indicators show that in Northern Ireland, greenhouse gas

emissions decreased by 16% from 1990 to 2013 whilst the population increased by 15% and the economy also increased.

Figure 6.10.2: Greenhouse gas Emissions per Capita



Source: DAERA, Carbon Intensity Indicators

Energy

Two out of three of the country's power stations are located within the Borough. Kilroot is dual coal and oil fuelled and Ballylumford is gas powered but both power stations are fossil fuelled and therefore sources of GHG emissions. As changes in policy direct the energy market toward reduced greenhouse gas emissions and a low carbon future, changes in the emissions of both power stations have already occurred. There is also a project at Kilroot to install a large battery to store excess energy generated from renewable sources, most notably wind.

In Northern Ireland, the amount of electricity generated at any time by source can be accessed at www.soni.ltd.uk.

Transport

There are major transport routes through our Borough including the M2, A8, A2 and A26. The Borough has the fourth highest amount of A road dual carriageway within it at nearly 30 km. The rural nature of our Borough also means that there is a substantial amount of unclassified roads present at just under 1000kms. Although a relatively small amount of motorway is present at just over seven kilometres the Borough remains important for several major commuting routes that go beyond the Borough's boundary. Our Borough is middle of the range for the number of licensed vehicles with just under 73,000 cars registered.

Residential

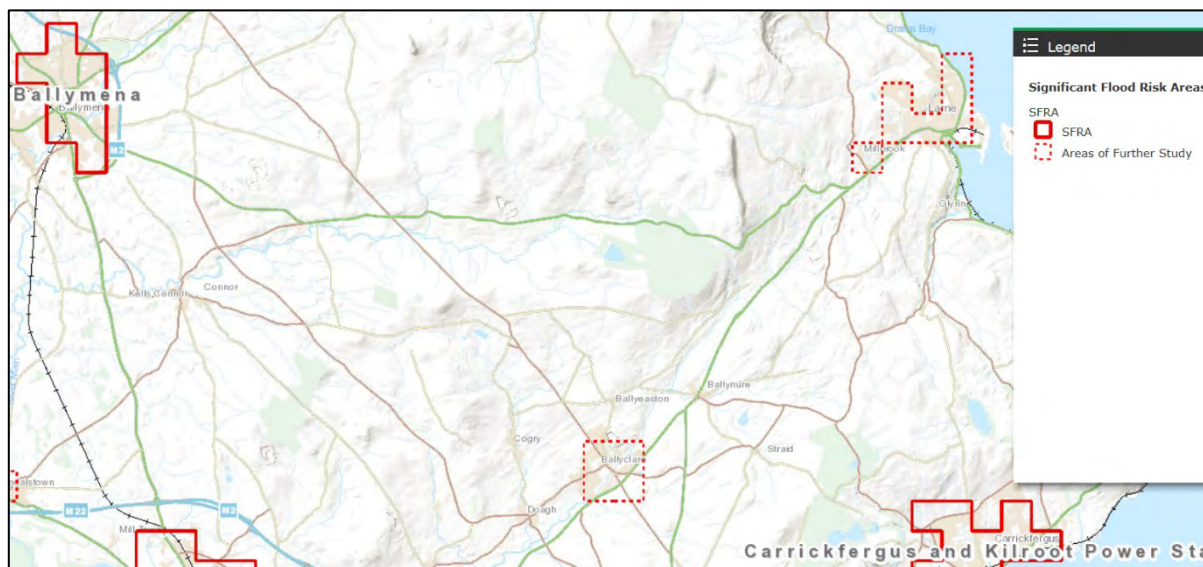
Northern Ireland remains heavily dependent on fossil fuels for home heating. In recent years, there has been a transition away from coal and oil to gas. Gas is less carbon intensive and more energy efficient so preferred to other fossil fuels. Gas infrastructure is in place across the Borough and the main gas pipeline from Scotland connects to the Borough's coastline at Islandmagee. There is an underground gas storage project also planned for this location which could enable a short-term supply of gas to the country should an emergency arise.

Flooding

One of the effects of climate change is increased incidences of flooding in areas already prone and in new areas. This is in part due to increased levels of winter precipitation and flash storm events. Adjacent

development may increase pressure on flood plains. Areas at risk of significant flooding include Ballymena and Carrickfergus while Larne is an area for further study. Climate NI²² reported that, within recent years, one in ten homes in the UK have been built in flood risk areas.

Figure 6.10.3: Areas of Significant Flood Risk in the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council



Source: Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Flood Maps NI

Future predictions show flood risk along rivers and the coast and also from surface water. Potentially all the main towns of the Borough could be affected.

Renewable Energy

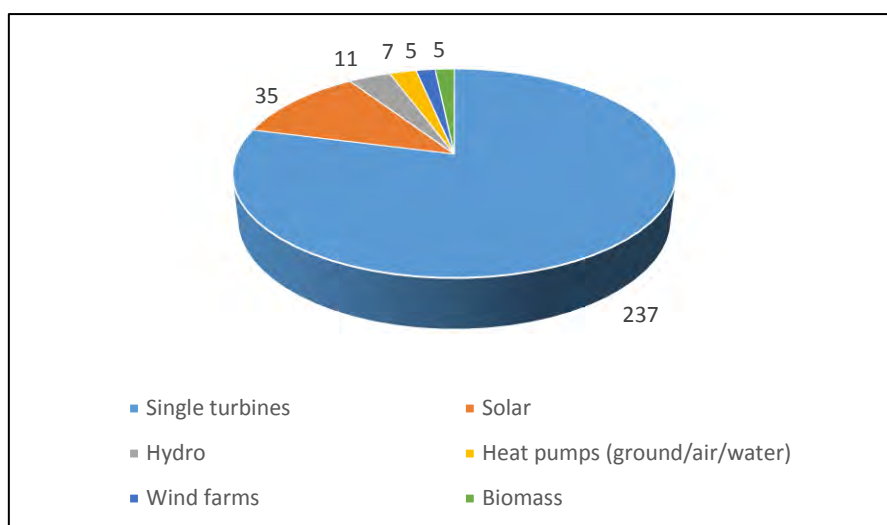
The System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) provides a 24-hour visual of energy production and distribution across the grid which can be viewed at www.soni.ltd.uk. There is also a breakdown of the fuel mix, which includes sources of renewable energy.

Renewables can help reduce GHG emissions from the energy sector. Figures for 2015/16 show that a quarter of electricity consumption in Northern Ireland was from renewable sources but a target of 40% of electricity consumption to be from renewables by 2020, was agreed by the NI Executive in 2010.

In our Borough, wind and solar are the most evident in application numbers and approvals whilst biomass, hydro and renewable heat (ground/air/water) are the least evident. This reflects the general situation in Northern Ireland.

²² <http://www.climateinthernireland.org.uk/>

Figure 6.10.4: Approvals for renewable energy projects since 2002 in Mid and East Antrim BC



Source: 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 but there are areas where new connections to the grid are not feasible at present.

6.10.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan there could be fewer opportunities to apply land use planning to help reduce GHG emissions by integrating sustainable development patterns and transport options, and energy efficient building design. Without an up to date plan it could become increasingly difficult to locate renewable energy projects in the most sustainable locations in relation to both infrastructure and users. There may also be a higher risk of developing areas prone to flooding and less opportunities to integrate measures such as sustainable drainage systems, new walking/cycling/public transport options and decentralised renewables.

With local development pressure, it could become more difficult to avoid loss of habitats that act as important water and carbon stores, and help to reduce the causes and impacts of climate change. Without a plan providing certainty on availability of land, renewable energy developers may not be able to invest. Likewise, the area could be less attractive to investors who wish to promote their sustainability credentials.

6.10.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Climatic Factors

- There is a need for our Borough to futureproof itself for a low carbon future in anticipation of future energy and climate change policies.
- Agriculture is a significant contributor to GHG emissions and opportunities to reduce emissions within the scope of the LDP need to be considered.
- Planning could help encourage efficient building design to reduce GHG emissions.
- Planning could also promote adaptation measures like sustainable drainage systems and green infrastructure.
- There is a need to provide active and sustainable travel options across the Borough to help reduce reliance on the car and reduce emissions.
- It is important to protect habitats, including floodplains and peatlands, which act as natural mitigation and adaptation measures for climate change.
- It is important to consider the need to improve electrical infrastructure to accommodate new grid connections for renewable energy sources and enable small scale production.

6.11 Water

6.11.1 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 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) sets the groundwater quality standard at 50 mg NO₃/l. Under the Nitrates Directive, Northern Ireland must monitor surface waters for nitrate pollution against a mandatory standard of 50 mg NO₃/l. The European Flood Directive 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 there are regulations in place to implement these directives. 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.

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 as well as wetlands which are directly associated with ground or surface water.

While this covers coastal waters marine policies are further considered under the natural environment topic. The protection of shellfish waters is subsumed under the WFD and a Marine Plan Pollution Reduction Programme published for Larne Lough in 2015. The Bathing Water Directive sets quality standards for a number of measures. 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 the other faecal contaminants present. In addition to monitoring the bathing waters, DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division monitors any rivers, which run into the sea at beaches. Pollution problems at beaches often arise from within river catchments.

Every six years, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) produces a river basin management plan for each river basin district within Northern Ireland. This is produced in partnership with the Department for Infrastructure (DFI). The second planning cycle covers the period from December 2015 - December 2021. Mid and East Antrim includes areas covered by River Basin Management Plans for the North East and for Neagh Bann. The Strategy for Promoting the Use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) encourages the incorporation of measures to ameliorate the impacts of development on water quality and flow.

Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) are a requirement of the European Union Floods Directive. Article 7 of the Directive required each member state to prepare Flood Risk Management Plans by December 2015. The FRMPs for Northern Ireland highlight the flood hazards and risks in the 20 most Significant Flood Risk Areas from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. They identify the measures that will be undertaken over the next six years to address flooding and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together with communities to reduce the flood risks. Mid and East Antrim includes areas covered by FRMPs for the North East and for Neagh Bann.

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 the flood risk area. 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 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 includes protective measures such as

- 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.
- Encourage sustainable surface water management.

Our Corporate Plan includes a Strategic Priority 'Developing our tourism potential' with one objective being 'Safeguard our tourism assets including the natural environment'. Our Community Plan, includes 'Our Environment' as one of five Themes. The Outcomes in support of this include 'The natural environment of our Borough is protected and sustainably managed' and 'People value the Borough's natural environment and behave responsibly towards it.'

6.11.2 Baseline information

River Basin Management Plans

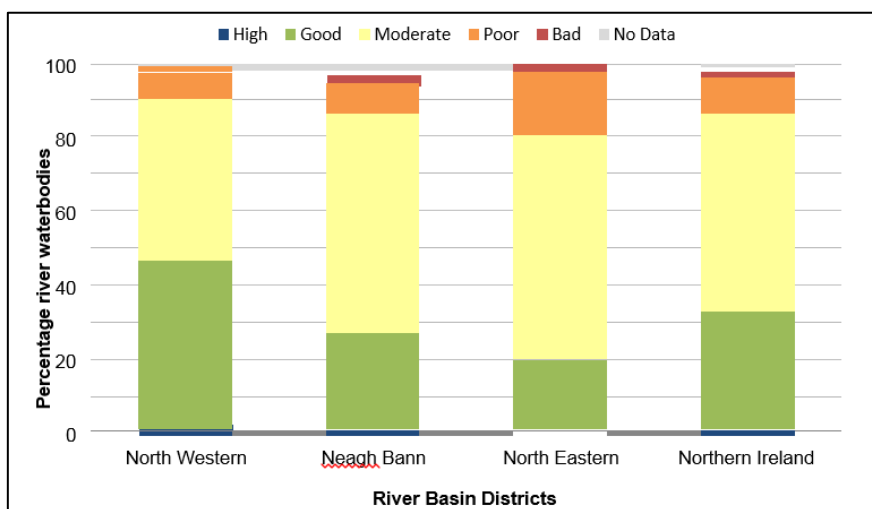
The WFD requires action to meet good ecological and chemical status and prevent deterioration of our water bodies by 2027. Good status is assessed using a broad range of parameters for water quality (such as nutrients and oxygen levels); aquatic biology (including plants, aquatic insects and fish) and physical environment (such as river flows and habitat). WFD also recognises that some water bodies will have been changed to such a degree that they can no longer be restored to their original condition without compromising their current use. They are called heavily modified (HMWBs) or artificial water bodies (AWBs). HMWB's and AWB's are classified as ecological potential rather than status with the objective to achieve good ecological potential (GEP) by 2027. The Northern Ireland figures for status of all our water bodies show that 37% met good status in 2015. Classification tools and standards, as well as water body boundaries have changed during the first River Basin Cycle therefore a direct comparison between 2009 and 2015 data cannot be made.

Mid and East Antrim falls within two River Basin Management Plans (December 2015), Neagh Bann and North East. The principal river systems in Neagh Bann River Basin District (RBD) are River Braid and River Main which drain into Lough Neagh. The North East RBD includes the Woodburn, Copeland and Kilroot Rivers draining into Inner and Outer Belfast Lough coastal water bodies and the Inver and Glynn Rivers draining into Larne Lough (Inner, Outer and Mid) coastal water bodies. Ballygalley Burn, Glenarm, Glencloy, and Carnlough Rivers drain into the North Channel coastal water body. The council area encompasses two classified lake water bodies – Lough Beg in Neagh Bann RBD and Lough Mourne in North East RBD.

North Eastern River Basin District had significantly worse river water quality in 2015 by comparison to the whole of Northern Ireland. High or good quality was 20% compared to 32.7% for all river water bodies in Northern Ireland. Neagh Bann River Basin District had similar river water quality in 2015 by comparison to the whole of Northern Ireland although high or good quality was 28% compared to 32.7% for Northern Ireland. At

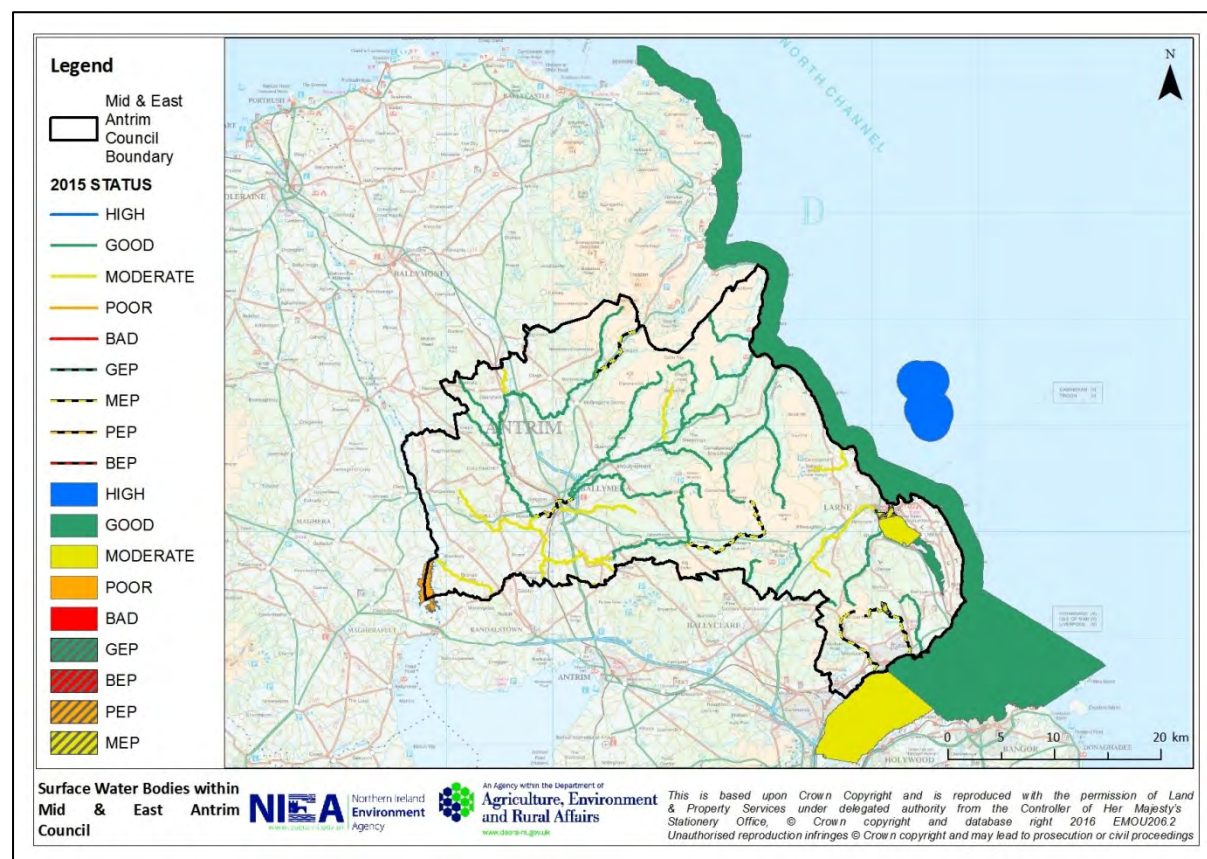
the Northern Ireland level there has been a gradual trend towards fewer and less severe pollution incidents and improved compliance for private and trade discharge consents since 2001.

Figure 6.11.1: Water Framework Directive overall classification (% river waterbodies), 2015



Source: North Eastern River Basin Management Plans, December 2015

Figure 6.11.2: 2015 status of surface water bodies within Mid and East Antrim



Source: DAERA 2017

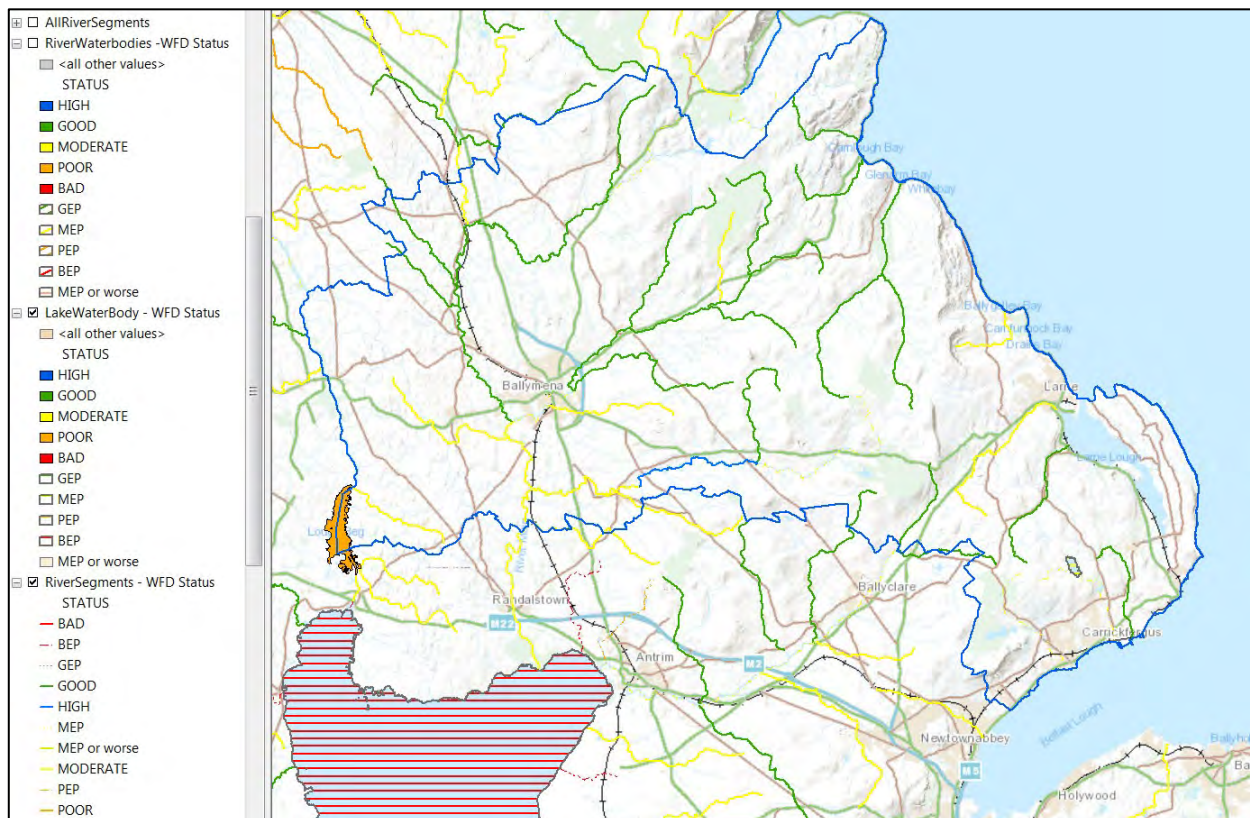
Table 6.11.1: Summary of 2015 classification of surface water bodies within Mid and East Antrim

2015 WFD Classification	Rivers (km)	Lakes (no of water bodies)	Transitional (no of water bodies)	Coastal (no of water bodies)
High				1
Good	362.25			3
Moderate	139.75			2
Poor		1		
Bad				
GEP				
MEP	88.15	1		1
PEP				
BEP				

Source: DAERA 2017

This shows that 61% of rivers in Mid and East Antrim are classified as good or high and 25% as moderate. It is notable that three of the seven coastal water bodies have either moderate, or moderate ecological potential which is a potential concern for Larne Lough Shellfish Water Protected Area. The most significant sources of pressure preventing water bodies in this area from achieving good status are diffuse pressures from agricultural sources and point source pressures from WWTWs, urban wastewater and development and industrial discharges.

Figure 6.11.3: River Status 2015

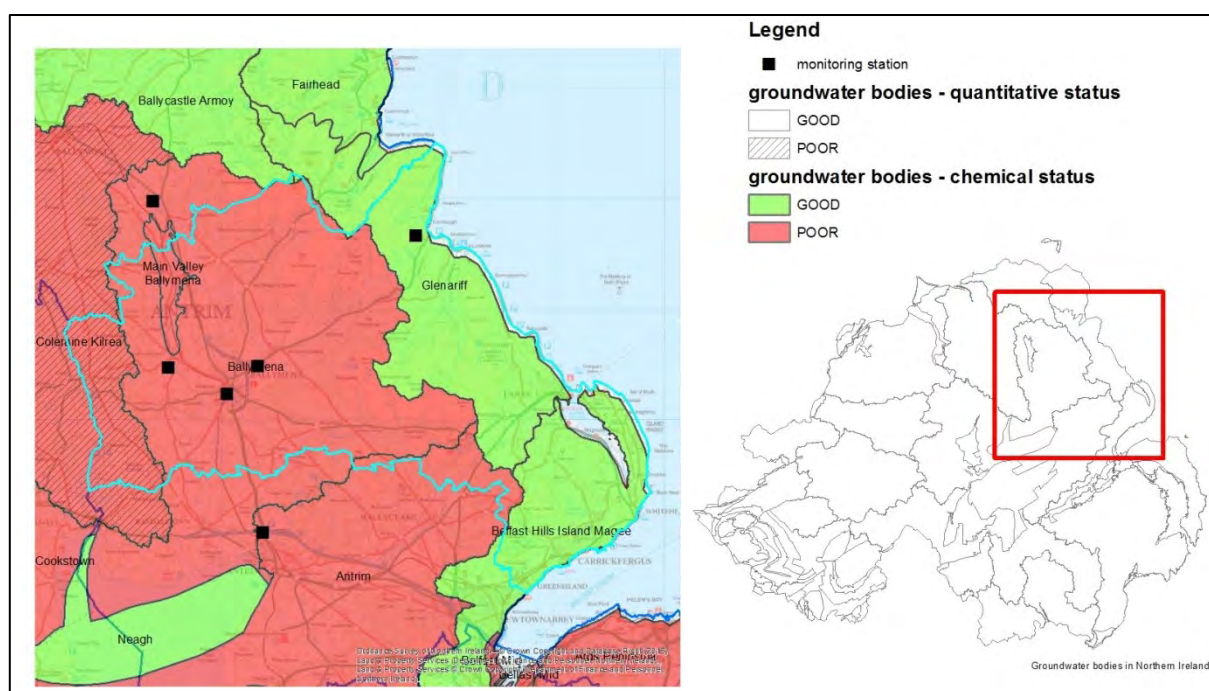


Source: DAERA Water Management Unit Digital Water Datasets, © Crown Copyright and Database Right

Groundwater

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 6.11.4: Groundwater Status



Source: DAERA Water Management Unit Digital Water Datasets, © Crown Copyright and Database Right

Flood Risk

The EU “Floods Directive” (2007/060/EC) came into force on the 26th November 2007 and aimed to establish a framework that will contribute to reducing the impact of flooding on communities and the environment. The Rivers Agency (Department for Infrastructure) undertook a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for all Northern Ireland in 2011. Areas of significant flood were identified, and [Flood Hazard and Risk Maps](#) produced by Rivers Agency, which are continuously updated.

The Flood Directive manages 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 multi-layered strategic flood 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 maps representing the 1 in 100 year flood risk taking account of the impacts of climate change.

At present there are three proposals in Mid and East Antrim area to carry out improvement schemes on watercourses/flood defences. It is important to note that subject to viability, flood alleviation schemes can take several years from identification of the requirement through to completion of works. The proposed schemes in Mid and East Antrim are:

- Carnlough Flood Alleviation Scheme – upgrading existing culvert to alleviate flooding issue at Housing Executive properties;
- Carnlough Floodwall Repairs at Marine Road – carrying out improvement work to existing flood defence; and
- Ahoghill – Village Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme – Design is underway by Rivers Agency section and a business case is being reviewed.

NI Water is, in addition, taking the lead to develop a multi-agency project to reduce the risk of flooding in the Toome Road area of Ballymena.

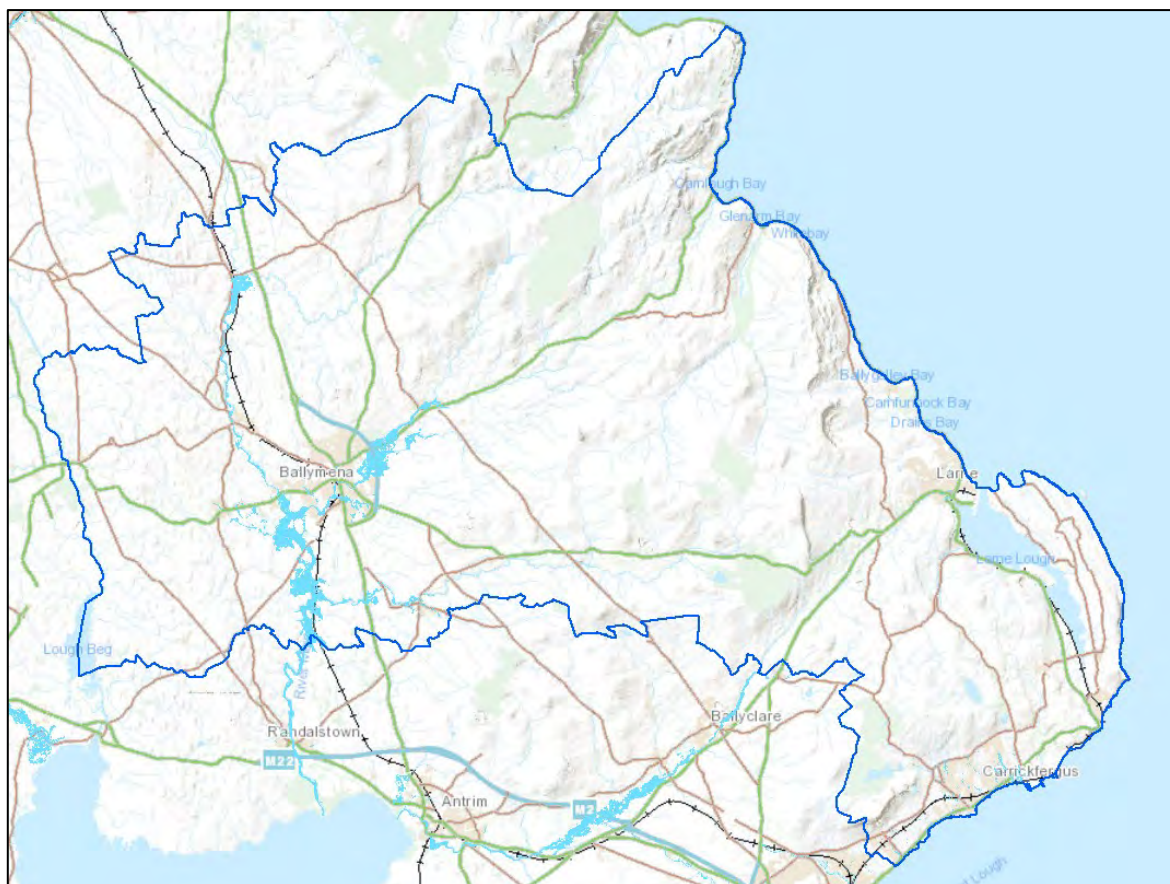
Minor works which have also been proposed for the area include drainage infrastructure:

- Carnlough – New Pipeline and channel improvements
- Ballyvallyagh – Replacement accommodation bridge
- Broughshane – Shoal removal
- Portglenone – Grille upgrade

Settlements that have areas considered to be at significant risk of flooding in the Council area are Ahoghill, Gracehill, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne and Ballygally. They are included in the suite of Flood Hazard and Risk maps for Northern Ireland. Settlements that are being considered in the Council area for further study in relation to Flood Risk are Ahoghill, Ballygally, Gracehill and Larne.

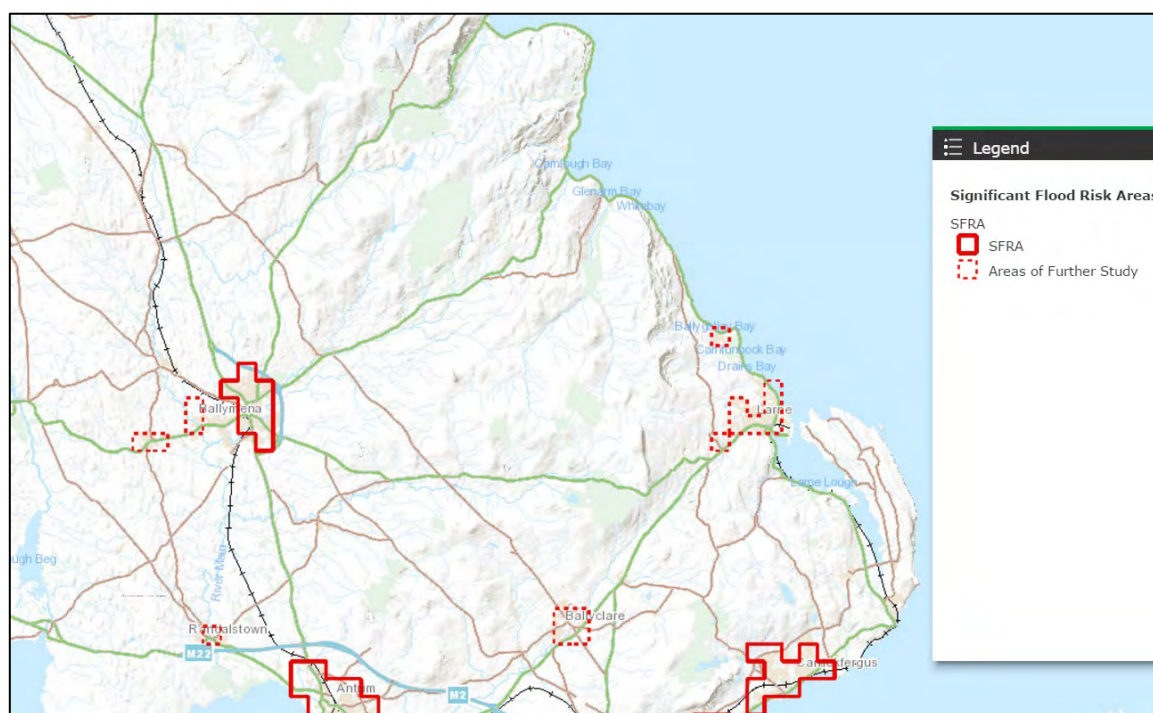
Lands that are currently defended by Flood defences within the Council area are in Ballymena, Galgorm, Cullybackey, Glarryford, Kells and Connor, Lisnacrogher and McGregor's Corner.

Figure 6.11.5: Flood modelling for rivers and surface water Q100 Climate change



Source: Flood Maps (NI) © Crown Copyright and Database Right

Figure 6.11.6: Significant Flood Risk Areas and areas where flood risk needs to be further assessed



Source: Flood Maps (NI) © Crown Copyright and Database Right

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 Northern Ireland level. Some of this has been presented in the Public Utilities Evidence Paper.

Significant investment in water treatment works, service reservoirs and mains distribution has resulted in improvements in compliance across Northern Ireland with the drinking water standards, from 99.22% in 2004 to 99.86% in 2014. 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 Northern Ireland 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.

The provision of water supply in Northern Ireland is the responsibility of NI Water. Mid and East Antrim is supplied with water from ten Impounding Reservoirs/Loughs and four Water Treatment Works. NI Water is satisfied with the sufficiency of the water supply to the Council area over the LDP period. A multi-million pound investment is currently nearing completion at Dorisland WTW to ensure the adequacy of water quality. Further to this treatability studies will be undertaken at both Dorisland WTW and Killylane within the current Business Plan period (2015-2021) to ensure high water quality and distribution standards are maintained.

Table 6.11.2: Existing Water Supply for Mid and East Antrim

Impounding Reservoirs/Loughs	Water Treatment Works
Dungonnell (Cargan)	Dungonnell WTW
Copeland (Carrickfergus)	
Dorisland (Carrickfergus)	Dorisland WTW
Loughmourne (Carrickfergus)	
North Woodburn (Carrickfergus)	
South Woodburn Lower (Carrickfergus)	
South Woodburn Middle (Carrickfergus)	
South Woodburn Upper (Carrickfergus)	
Killylane (Larne)	Killylane WTW
Lough Neagh	Dunore Point WTW
Quoile Lower (Broughshane) [Out of Service]	
Quoile Upper (Broughshane) [Out of Service]	

Source: NI Water

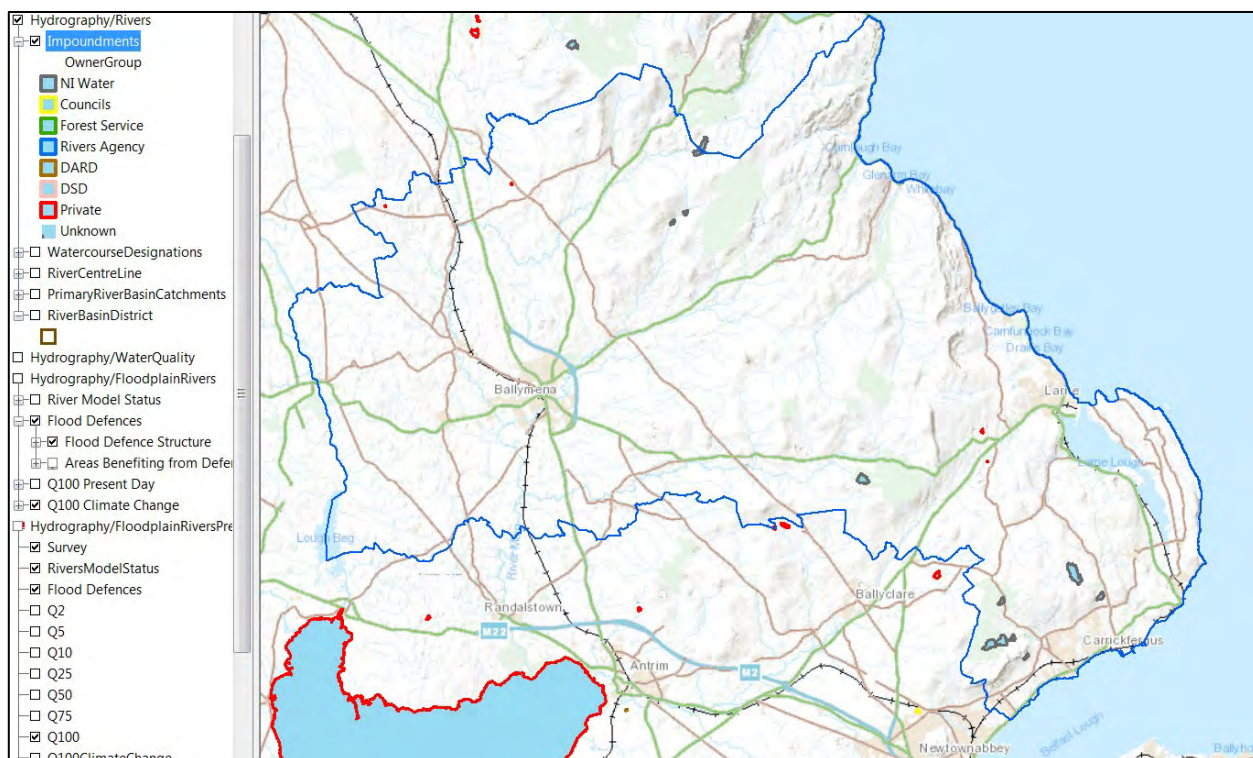
Reservoirs

In the Mid and East Antrim area, there are 18 “controlled reservoirs” (i.e. an impoundment $\geq 10,000$ cubic metres) and these are detailed in the table below. Most of these reservoirs are in, or close to, rural settlements.

Table 6.11.3: Controlled Reservoirs Mid and East Antrim

NAME OF RESERVOIR	LOCATION
Clough	Cloughmills
Duneoin Road	Glarryford
Dungonnell	Cargan
Glenrock	Rasharkin
Killylane	Larne
Kilwaughter Pond	Larne
Lough Mourne	Carrickfergus
Newmills Hydro	Ballycarry
North Woodburn	Carrickfergus
Quoile Lower	Broughshane
Quoile Upper	Broughshane
Raloo Trout fishery	Larne
South Woodburn Lower	Carrickfergus
South Woodburn Middle	Carrickfergus
South Woodburn Upper	Carrickfergus
Wild Life Ponds	Carrickfergus
Copeland	Carrickfergus
Dorisland	Carrickfergus

Figure 6.11.7: Water Impoundments



Source: DAERA Water Management Unit Digital Water Datasets, © Crown Copyright and Database Right

Wastewater Treatment

The provision of wastewater treatment works (WWTWs) in the Plan Area is also the responsibility of NI Water. Table 6.11.4 provides an indication of current 'Headroom' status as well as an estimation of future capacity based on applying a settlements growth factors of 3%, 10% and 17% for the Plan duration. NI Water refreshes the planning capacity status for each WWTW on an annual basis. Based on the information provided, there would seem to be widespread sewerage capacity constraints for works serving smaller settlements with a population equivalent of 50 – 250 persons. Although there is limited capacity at the vast majority of these small works (13 out of 15), this capacity may not accommodate all proposed properties within significant multi-unit developments. Therefore the NI Water default position is to class these works as 'Capacity Limited – Restrictions on New Connections' and NI Water will assess each multi-unit application in accordance with available capacity at the respective receiving works. Whilst there is current capacity in most works serving populations greater than 250, capacity is currently not available at Cargan, Grange and Moorfields.

Proximity to existing WWTWs will also be a factor in considering the location of new development land as part of the LDP. When selecting land for development, it is generally desirable to avoid land which is near existing treatment works as these can have adverse amenity impacts. Guidelines are in place between the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and NI Water regarding what can be considered acceptable distances between development and WWTW's. For example, a WWTW with a design equivalent population of 5,000 should not be within 300m of inhabited development.

Shellfish Protected Area

Larne Lough contains a Shellfish Water Protected Area.

The Price Control (PC) process is the mechanism through which NI Water is funded in order to deliver its priorities and plans for the period of the Price Control. PC 15 runs for six years from April 2015 to March 2021. There are no further upgrades or improvements relating to Larne Lough for Larne WWTW, Ballystrudder WWTW or Ballycarry WWTW however monitoring of all combined sewage overflows within 2km of Shellfish Water Protected Areas is to be introduced by NI Water during the PC15 period.

Bathing Waters

































The Bathing Water Directive requires a Profile to be prepared for each bathing water. These documents are designed to help the public make an informed choice before bathing. Each Profile gives detailed information on the physical characteristic of each bathing water while assessing the pollution risk to each site. An interactive [NI Beach Water Quality Map](#) summarising the bathing water quality can be accessed through the DAERA website. The following bathing waters are within our council area.

Table 6.11.4: Bathing Waters in Mid and East Antrim

Bathing water	2016 Classification
Brown's Bay	Excellent
Carnlough	Good
Ballygally	Good

Source: DAERA

Table 6.11.4: Capacity of Wastewater Treatment Works in Mid and East Antrim

Wastewater Treatment Works	Current Planning Status	Estimation of Capacity based on Growth Factor			Comment
		3%	10%	17%	
Ballystrudder		✓	✓	✓	Ballystrudder catchment includes Whitehead
Carrickfergus		✓	⊖	×	
Ballylumford Cottages		⊖	⊖	⊖	No.27 on Rural Wastewater Improvement Programme Priority List for upgrade.
Greenisland		✓	✓	✓	
Mullaghboy		✓	⊖	×	
Larne		✓	✓	✓	Larne catchment includes Carncastle, Ballygalley, Glynn and part of Magheramorne
Ballycarry		✓	✓	✓	
Ballynafie		×	×	×	
Buckna		⊖	⊖	⊖	
Cargan		×	×	×	
Carnalbanagh		⊖	⊖	⊖	
Clogh		⊖	⊖	×	
Craigwarren		⊖	⊖	⊖	
Duneany		⊖	⊖	⊖	
Glarryford		⊖	⊖	⊖	
Glenoe		✓	✓	✓	
Grange (Taylorstown)		×	×	×	No.3 on Additional Funding Priority List for upgrade during PC15 period (2015-2021).
Killygore		⊖	⊖	⊖	
Magheramourne		⊖	⊖	⊖	No.46 on Rural Wastewater Improvement Programme Priority List for upgrade.
Martinstown		×	×	×	
Moorfields		×	×	×	No.21 on Additional Funding Priority List for upgrade during PC15 period (2015-2021).
Mounthill		⊖	⊖	⊖	Mounthill catchment includes Crosshill.
Newtown-Crommelin		×	×	×	No.18 on Rural Wastewater Improvement Programme Priority List for upgrade.
Portglenone		✓	✓	⊖	
Procklis		⊖	⊖	⊖	
Slaght		⊖	⊖	⊖	
Straid (Ballymena)		⊖	⊖	⊖	
Ballymena		✓	✓	✓	Ballymena catchment includes Broughshane, Cullybackey, Ahoghill, Kells & Connor and
Tully Road		✓	✓	✓	Tully Road catchment includes Carnlough, Glenarm & Straidkilly.
Milltown					There is no public sewerage network serving Milltown Settlement.
Raloo					There is no public sewerage network serving Raloo Settlement.
<div> <div> Key to Current Planning Status  New connections permitted - Capacity Available  Restriction on new connections - Capacity Limited  New connections refused - No Capacity </div> <div> Key to Local Development Planning ✓ Works has 'Reasonable Capacity' ⊖ Works is 'At or reaching Capacity' × Works has 'Insufficient Capacity' </div> </div>					

Source: NI Water

6.11.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

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 to achieve good ecological 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 schemes are put in place at design stage so as to minimise surface water runoff. It is preferable that a range of Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) solutions be employed as these are more sustainable and often less costly than using traditional piped infrastructure. They also offer multiple benefits such as biodiversity and amenity provision. Examples are green roofs, permeable paving, soakaways, ponds and wetlands.

6.11.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Water

- There were no water scarcity issues in Northern Ireland 2005 – 2015 and demand has decreased by almost 11% between 2009 and 2015.
- The lack of water supply is not considered likely to be a constraint to development during the LDP period however measures to make more efficient use of water should be promoted.
- 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.
- Climate change will increase the risk and extent of flooding.
- Plan proposals should be compatible with the Flood Risk Management Plans published by Rivers Agency in December 2015.
- A safety issue arises because there are not currently legal requirements relating to impounded water therefore there are considered to be risks in potential inundation zones below reservoirs.
- Development may lead to contaminated runoff which may cause pollution; the rate of surface water runoff may change or the capacity of a receiving watercourse may be altered 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.
- Whilst there is current capacity in most WWTWs serving populations greater than 250 water treatment remains a constraint for many settlements; further capacity is currently not available at Cargan, Grange and Moorfields.
- Developments without access to mains sewers can incorporate sewage treatment on site but 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 long term.
- Other wastes may also cause pollution at the point where they are disposed of or utilised. Wastes from livestock, food processing or primary treatment such as sewage or anaerobic digestors have the potential to cause pollution elsewhere.

6.12 Natural Resources

6.12.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Natural resources covers biodiversity, fauna, flora, green and blue infrastructure and ecosystems services. It includes intertidal and coastal zones as well as marine environment. This topic overlaps with the Health and Wellbeing, Transport, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Air Quality, Climate Change and Landscape sections of this report. Natural resources are protected at a regional level through spatial planning policy which aims to conserve, protect and enhance our natural environment. 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 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. The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland 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 Marine Policy Statement and will support and complement existing plans and policies. A draft Marine Plan was proposed to be published in late 2016.

One of the aims of the draft Programme for Government is for a society to live and work sustainably, whilst protecting the environment. Indicators include increasing environmental sustainability and improving the country's attractiveness as a destination. Between the draft Programme for Government 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.

Our strategic planning policy highlights the diversity of Northern Ireland's natural environment. It provides protection of designated sites, species, habitats and other natural features as assets and directly links these to economic, social and environmental benefits. Plans such as Biodiversity Action Plans aim to protect the natural environment but also ensure provision of its recreational and biodiversity value.

One mechanism to help achieve future protection of our natural resources is the Local Development Plan (LDP). The Plan can integrate natural heritage features, promote ecological networks and green/blue infrastructure to help connect open space and natural habitats. These measures deliver regional policy and should help to protect the natural environment and ecosystem services, as well as provide climate change adaptation.

Our Corporate Plan intends to use planning to protect the natural environment and aims to create a better future for all. Two of the Plan's five strategic priorities aim to develop tourism potential and build healthy communities. Fundamental to the achievement of all of these outcomes will be protection of the Borough's natural resources. Our Community Plan has five key themes, one of which is 'Our environment'. Strategic priorities include the protection and sustainable management of the natural environment, with accessibility for people who value it.

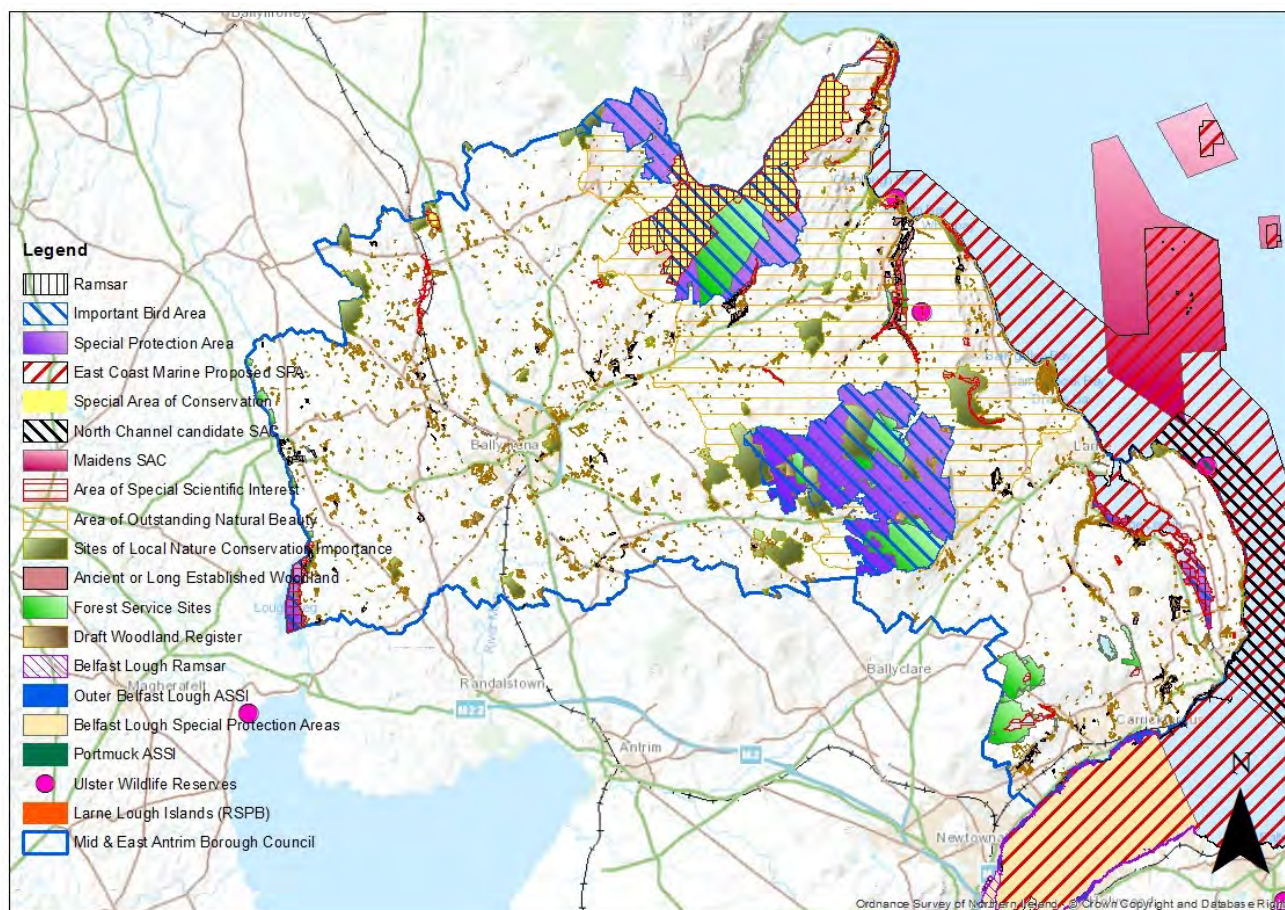
6.12.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented for natural resources in the LDP position papers and specifically in the Environmental Assets paper. There is also overlap with the Health and Well-being, Physical Resources, Material Assets, Air, Climatic Factors, Water and Landscape topics of this report.

Nature Conservation Sites

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council has a variety of habitats and species that are protected under International, European, regional and local level designations. Together these nature conservation sites create a network across the Borough and help to define the most important areas for nature conservation and amenity interests as well as adding to green infrastructure.

Figure 6.12.1: Natural Resources in Mid and East Antrim Borough Council



Source: Forest Service, Woodland Trust, Ulster Wildlife and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

There are several designations of International and European importance predominantly located in the central northeast and east of the Borough, as well as on Larne Lough and Lough Beg. The relationship between these sites and the LDP area is described in more detail in the Habitats Regulations Assessment Baseline Report presented in Appendix 3 of the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report.

The Borough has ancient and long established woodland, again mostly located to the northeast and east but there is a wide distribution of regionally and locally important nature conservation sites across the Borough. The Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) covers a significant area from the centre of the Borough to the coast. There are also marine sites including the Maidens Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the proposed East Coast Marine Special Protection Area and North Channel SAC. Belfast Lough designations are adjacent to our Council boundary and an inshore Marine Conservation Zone (not mapped above) lies east of the Borough in Belfast Lough.

Development Pressure

Our Borough has a substantial area of rural land and has experienced developmental pressure for single dwellings in the last decade, most evidently within the legacy Ballymena Council. Applications for single rural

dwellings have significantly declined since 2006 but the rate of approvals has remained stable. This information is in the Development Pressure Analysis paper, which indicates some areas of higher pressure but in general the effective application of PPS21 and designated site protection.

Our Borough has also experienced development pressure from renewable energy projects including single turbines and windfarms. There has been an increase in single turbine applications since 2002 and a high approval rate until 2014. Wind farm applications have been less evident in the Borough but in 2014, five applications were submitted. Approval rates for turbines and windfarms both dropped significantly in 2014/15. Other renewable sources are becoming more evident in Northern Ireland including solar, anaerobic digestion, small hydro schemes and marine projects.

Biodiversity

A Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)²³ has been published for Mid and East Antrim. It focuses on the 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 wide variety of bird, plant and marine life because of the numerous habitats present. There are areas in the Borough with semi-natural grassland; remnants of semi-natural or ancient woodland; and bog areas with specialised plants and birds. There are also substantial waterways running through the Borough including the Rivers Maine and Braid, with smaller waterways running east and south. Several fish species found in the rivers are of conservation concern, which makes sustainable management of waterways even more important.

There is also a duty on public bodies to conserve biodiversity under domestic legislation²⁴. The Local Biodiversity Action Plan commits the Borough to three main aims - to protect key habitats and species; raise awareness of local biodiversity; and involve people in projects and partnerships.

Blue/green infrastructure

All blue and green spaces and features i.e. gardens, allotments, golf courses, streams, lakes and planted treelines, can be classified as blue/green infrastructure. Planning can use blue/green infrastructure to connect natural resources and open spaces together across landscapes. Blue/green infrastructure can provide habitat and wildlife corridors for species but also an amenity value and recreational use for people. Walking and cycling routes can sometimes also be integrated. Blue/green infrastructure is promoted in the SPPS.

Open Space

Open space, as defined in PPS 8, may serve as blue/green infrastructure, i.e. parks, village greens, canals, rivers and allotments. Open space can also encompass artificial sports pitches, civic spaces and hard surfaced pedestrianised areas, which do not count as blue/green infrastructure. Natural infrastructure can be used to help improve connectivity between these areas.

Access

One aspect of connecting habitats and open spaces together is to enable the movement of species but also to enable convenient access for people to their natural environment. Easy access to the natural environment is a proposed outcome of our Council's Community Plan and this could be supported by providing adequate and accessible walk and cycle ways within the natural environment.

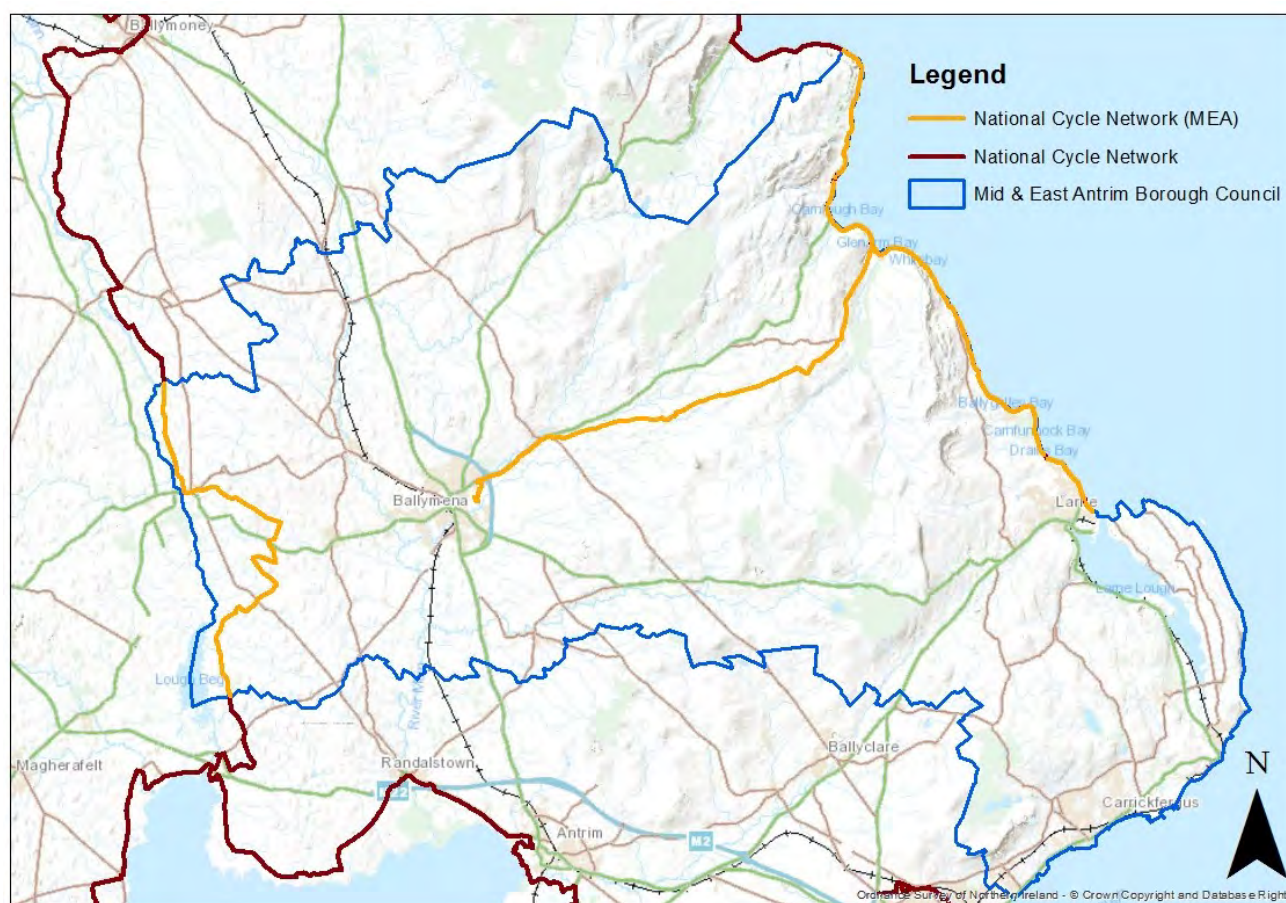
²³ <https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/downloads/lbap-mea-final.pdf>

²⁴ The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (WANE) 2011

In Northern Ireland, walking is cited as the most popular physical activity for adults. Cycling is much lower but both activities can be also be alternative transport modes to the car. Walking and cycling can be promoted within green infrastructure planning and is expected as a consideration of future developments and projects under Local Development Plans. Waterways and the coast, where public access is permitted, provide natural routes which enable access alongside and in freshwater and marine environments.

Various cycle routes are present within our Borough including national routes linking Ballymena town to the Antrim coastline, and the west of the Borough to a circular route around Lough Neagh.

Figure 6.12.2: National Cycle Routes in Mid and East Antrim Borough Council



Source: Sustrans

The Open Space and Recreation LDP position paper²⁵ also lists walk and cycle ways in the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council.

Community Greenways

Community greenways enable access for people in urbanised areas into the natural environment. Four were created under the legacy Carrickfergus Council and the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan and are shown in the Appendices of the Open Space Position Paper.

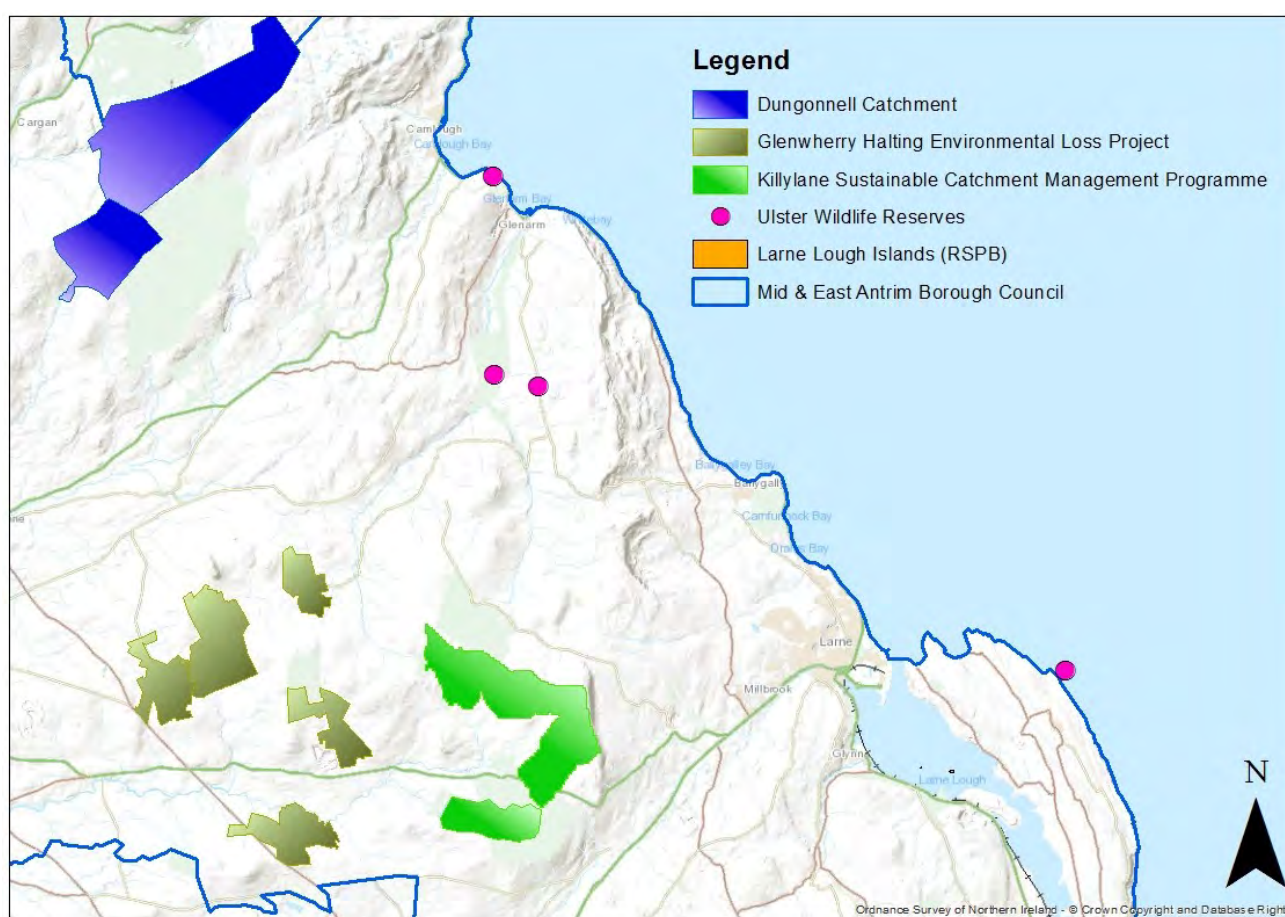
²⁵ https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/downloads/06_Open_Space_Recreation_Position_paper_FINAL_July_2015.pdf

Ecosystem Services

In recent years, the natural environment has become increasingly recognised for the beneficial services that it provides. There are various definitions of ecosystems services but broadly the concept considers all of the benefits provided by ecosystems. 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 Garron Plateau area of upland blanket bog captures, stores and filters rainwater, which is used by Northern Ireland Water. The natural bog habitat helps to retain this resource and cleans pollutants from it. At the same time, the peat acts as a natural carbon store, which helps to mitigate emissions of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas linked to a warming climate. The bog habitat is globally rare and its conservation is an objective of the LBAP because it supports specialised plants, birds and insects, and stores carbon and water. Partnership working across the Garron Plateau is helping to conserve it for its various ecosystem services.

Figure 6.12.3: Ecosystem Services Project Areas and NGO Managed Reserves in Mid and East Antrim BC



Source: Ulster Wildlife, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

6.12.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan there is the risk that development may occur in inappropriate locations. This could be in an area prone to flooding, or land that could be part of a wider green infrastructure network. Wildlife corridors and nature conservation sites could become more vulnerable to local development pressures and there could be less biodiversity opportunities without an ability to spatially protect the Borough's natural resources.

6.12.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Natural Resources

- There are a significant number of nature conservation sites across the Borough with several located to the north-east, and some designations that protect the coastline and offshore marine sites.
- The LDP should take account of priority habitats and species identified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.
- The Garron Plateau has several nature conservation designations and presents a unique opportunity for partnership working to help maintain an upland peatland site and the provision of ecosystem services.
- Integrating blue/green infrastructure, including community greenways, is promoted by planning policy and can benefit people's health by enabling access to the natural environment and encouraging active travel.
- The Marine Plan should be taken into account as plan preparation progresses to ensure that the LDP aligns where appropriate.

6.13 Landscape

6.13.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

This topic overlaps with the Natural Resources and Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage sections of this report. 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 SPPS 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.

If areas of a unique landscape or amenity value are present, then the new LDP could include designated policy areas such as Special Countryside Areas (SCAs) or Areas of High Scenic Value (AoHSV) to conserve landscape character at a local level. This is in keeping with the aims of the European Landscape Convention, which encourages countries to consider protection of everyday landscapes.

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. Landscape is increasingly being realised in economic terms as an asset for tourism but also as a motivator to encourage people to purchase a home or to invest in a new location.

Our Council's Corporate Plan aims to create a better future for all and is interlinked to the Community Plan. The Council has five key strategic priorities including growing the economy, developing tourism and building healthy communities. Preservation and enhancement of the Borough's landscape will contribute to these priorities.

6.13.2 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 Natural Resources topic.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Our Borough has a large area of land designated as the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB. This is one of eight AONBs in Northern Ireland. Together the AONBs provide some of the most valued landscapes in the country. The AONB spreads east from the centre of the Borough towards the coast and encompasses much of the coastline. The AONB is shared with a neighbouring Council.

Figure 6.13.1: Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Source: DAERA

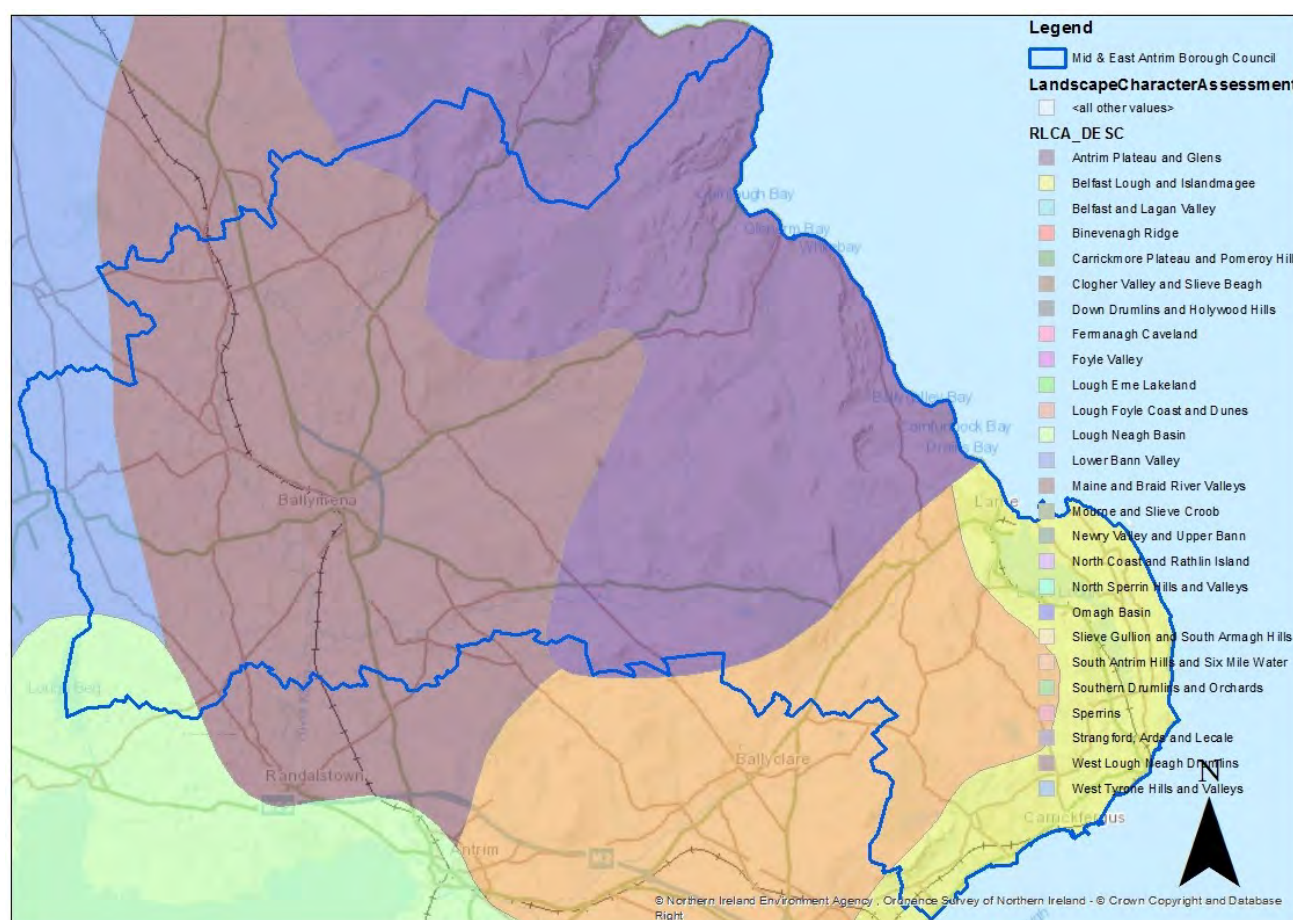
Landscape Character

The Borough is covered by 20 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) under the Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment (NILCA). These were assessed in 1999 but since then there has been substantial development in both urban and rural areas which has impacted on local landscape character. Further information can be found at www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/landscape-character-northern-ireland.

Regional Landscape Character

The Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA) was consulted on in 2015 and divides the country into 26 distinct areas known as RLCAs, which provide a regional and strategic overview of landscape character. Several are located within the Borough and are Lough Neagh Basin, Lower Bann Valley, the Maine and Braid River Valleys, Antrim Plateau and Glens, South Antrim Hills and Six Mile Water and Belfast Lough and Islandmagee.

Figure 6.13.2: Regional Landscape Character Areas for Mid and East Antrim Borough Council



Source: DAERA

These RLCA's range in character from farmed valleys to upland plateaus to cliff lined shores. There are also areas with urban development, industry, and infrastructure. The Antrim Plateau and Glens, and the Maine and Braid River Valleys cover the majority of the land across our Council. More information can be found on the DAERA website.

Seascape

In 2014, the Northern Ireland Regional Seascape Character Assessment (NIRSCA) was published with 24 areas. It provides a strategic overview of seascapes, which are unique geographic areas of sea, coast and land. There are four Seascape Character Areas (SCAs) within our Council area. These are the Southern Glens Coast SCA, the Gobbins SCA, Larne Lough SCA and Belfast Lough SCA. These distinctive areas encompass cliffs, islands, scenic coastlines, beaches and inshore waters along with prominent industrial buildings and historic settlements. More information can be found from the DAERA website.

Development Pressure

There is some evidence of localised development pressure for single dwellings within the AONB and on its margins. Likewise, there is localised pressure from single turbines and wind farms within the AONB, and around Carrickfergus and Islandmagee. The Borough also has a substantial length of coastline at just under 100kms. There are varying levels of sensitivity to physical change along its length and so it is important to consider landscape issues at a local level as well as a strategic one.

Potential risks to our seascapes come from the potential effects of climate change including natural erosion but also from the defensive infrastructure often thought necessary to abate erosion and flooding. As on land

there is also possible local pressure from potential renewable energy projects. The seascapes attract visitors to our Borough but this in itself can add to local development pressure for adequate transport and provision of hospitality and leisure facilities.

6.13.3 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 landscapes from over development or inappropriate siting of structures. It could become more difficult to spatially manage new development in the context of local landscape settings and features. Without an up to date plan there could be a higher risk of missing opportunities to enhance landscapes with links to local blue/green infrastructure.

6.13.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Landscape

- There is a wide variety of landscape types across the Council including an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), 26 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), six Regional Landscape Character Areas (RLCAs) and four Seascape Character Areas.
- It is important to protect, conserve and enhance landscape including degraded areas.
- There is a need to enable designation of local areas of landscape quality where appropriate.
- There is a need to consider local measures to address development pressures within the AONB and in areas particularly sensitive to landscape change.
- The protection of ecological networks and blue/green infrastructure can also benefit landscape.
- The AONB presents an opportunity for partnership working with another Council and other stakeholders.

6.14 Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

6.14.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Overarching policy recognises that townscape, built heritage, archaeology and cultural heritage form an important part of the character and appearance of our cities, towns, villages, small settlements and countryside. They are also part of our culture and can contribute to our quality of life. Historic and Cultural resources have the potential to benefit our community and our economy in terms of tourism and regeneration. They contribute to the sense of place in our towns, villages and smaller settlements and are part of what is unique about places in the Council.

Regional guidance recognises that quality natural assets, interesting architecture, and built heritage can contribute to a feeling of being somewhere unique, which contribute to the tourism offer. Reuse of both listed and locally important buildings can contribute to urban and rural renaissance, which can help vitality and footfall in settlement centres, supporting the local economy.

The policy objectives in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) include:

- 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.

Our Corporate Plan identifies Heritage and Culture as one of the four key aspects of our area. It recognises some of the built heritage assets of significance, and also the strong American and Ulster-Scots connections. It also notes the importance of the traditions of language in the Council area, which has been influenced by both Irish and Ulster-Scots. Our Corporate Plan has five strategic priorities, the second is to develop tourism potential which includes the objective to 'Safeguard our tourism assets including the natural and built environment'. The third strategic priority is to build strong, safe and healthy communities. This includes the objective to 'Protect and enhance an attractive, safe and sustainable environment'.

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.' Part of its plan to achieve this aim is to develop the Causeway Coastal Route, cultural and heritage assets, and building the region's image, brand and awareness in domestic, all-Ireland, UK and international markets.

6.14.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in Position Paper 5; Environmental Assets July 2015

Overview

We have a wealth of built heritage assets ranging 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. As the planning authority, we must pursue economic and social priorities while safeguarding our heritage assets. Our Borough contains the following historic assets.

Listed Buildings

We have a total of 637 Listed Buildings, 10 of which are Grade A such as St. Nicholas' Church of Ireland Church, Galgorm Castle and The Brewhouse in Ballycarry.

Buildings at Risk

The Ulster Architecture and Heritage Society in conjunction with the Department for Communities, compiles a list of buildings considered to be at risk in Northern Ireland. These are buildings and monuments of architectural and historic interest whose future seems threatened and may be suitable for restoration and repair. While these are not exclusively 'listed' buildings, the vast majority are.

Sites and Monuments Record

Mid and East Antrim has eight State Care Monuments:

- Harryville Motte
- Olderfleet Castle
- Druid's Altar
- Dalway's Bawn
- Carrickfergus Castle
- Carrickfergus Town Walls
- Carrickfergus Gas Works
- Castle Lug (Clogh-na-Larty), Carrickfergus

There are 157 Scheduled Monuments and 1292 Unscheduled Monuments located across the Borough and include heritage assets such as the Scheduled Medieval Motte located in Dungall, Ballymena. Potentially, more sites may be discovered through archaeological work, during development operations or through agricultural activity.

Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest

There is one area of significant archaeological interest at Knockdhu.

Area of Archaeological Potential

There are three areas of archaeological potential. These are:

- Carrickfergus Area of Archaeological Potential.
- Whitehead Area of Archaeological Potential.
- Ballycarry Area of Archaeological Potential.

In Carrickfergus a below ground complex and extensive archaeological remains and historic fabric are known to exist. The new LDP will consider the designation of new Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest and Areas of Archaeological Potential in the Borough, through consultation with the Department for Communities.

Industrial Heritage

Our Borough 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 in the main towns, and also in rural locations and include quarries and lime kilns, beetling mills, corn mills and flax mills, and bridges, quays and harbours. Carrickfergus Gas Works is a site of industrial heritage importance which has been designated as a State Care Monument, however there are many others, which do not have any special designation and therefore protection.

Defence Heritage

Our Borough is particularly rich in defence heritage associated with the World War II including, air raid shelter sites and coastal observation posts. In Carrickfergus there a coastal artillery search light site and a number of sites of heavy anti-aircraft batteries.

Historic Parks and Gardens

Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes reflect planned and managed landscape enhancement carried out since the 17th Century. The Borough has a total of 20 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes on the Register, 12 that can be considered of exceptional importance within Northern Ireland, with the remaining eight supplementary sites having been identified as having a high level of interest.

Table 6.14.1: Registered Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes

Important Northern Ireland sites	Supplementary sites
Castle Dobbs	Sea Park
Red Hall	Garron Tower
Magheramorne House (Hotel)	Cleggan Lodge
Galgorm Castle	Criagdun
Drumalis	Glebe House
Chaine Park	Portglenone House
Peoples Park Ballymena	Random Cottage
Carnfunnock Country Park	Cairndhu
Hill Mount	
Glenarm Castle	
Drumnasole House	
Kilwaughter Castle	

Conservation Areas

Our Borough has a total of five Conservation Areas designated in Carrickfergus, Whitehead, Glenarm, Carnlough and Gracehill. There is evidence of incremental erosion of historical/architectural character and appearance within some of the designated Conservation Areas.

Areas of Townscape Character

A total of five Areas of Townscape Character are designated. These are Belfast Road (CS 12) and Larne Road (CS 13) Carrickfergus, Greenisland (GD 05) and Shore Road Greenisland (GD06), and Galgorm Road, Ballymena.

Local Landscape Policy Areas

There are 16 Local Landscape Policy Areas.

Table 6.14.2: Local Landscape Policy Areas

CS 15 Castle Dobbs	CS 23 Woodburn River/The Mount
CS 16 Castle Rocklands	GD 07 Upper Road
CS 17 Charles Shiels	GD 08 West of Greenisland (portion of)
CS 18 Eden	GD 09 Seapark
CS 19 Oakfield Glen	WD 06 Whitehead
CS 20 Prince William	WD 07 Chester Avenue and Marine Parade
CS 21 Prospect Glen	WD 08 Beach Road
CS 22 Prospect Road	WD 09 Cable Road

6.14.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without a new LDP in place opportunities to designate new areas of significant archaeological interest and areas of archaeological potential in the LDP might be missed. Opportunities to consider archaeological, industrial, and defence heritage assets as a part of the tourism and visitor offer might be missed. The

protection, conservation and regeneration of historic places can lead to an economic and tourism benefit, which can help local communities which may not be taken advantage of. It has been recognised that there is evidence of incremental erosion of historic/architectural character and appearance within some of the designated conservation areas. A new LDP is an opportunity to consider the reasons for this and identify the positive role that planning can play.

6.14.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

- Historic and Cultural resources play a role in maintaining and enhancing the sense of place, in settlements and in rural locations.
- Our Borough has a rich archaeological heritage, and this could be further explored through new areas of archaeological potential.
Our Borough has a rich industrial heritage both in the main settlements and also in rural locations and defence heritage associated with World War II.
- Our Borough's rich heritage asset could provide greater opportunity as a resource for tourism. The presence of regionally important historic buildings such as Carrickfergus Castle is a key economic and tourism strength.
- There is evidence of incremental erosion of historical and architectural character and appearance within some of the designated Conservation Areas.
- 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.
- Climate change may cause long term impacts on the historic environment, particularly along the coast.

7 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

7.1 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 well-being.

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 minimize 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 minimize 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 car use and increasing other forms of transport. Better access to public transport and opportunities for active travel make travel more affordable with added health benefits and also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Measures that help reduce car use and improve accessibility to encourage a shift to travel by 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 lessen 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.

Built 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.

7.2 Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives

A comparison has been drawn between all of the Sustainability Objectives to identify any conflicts between them and is presented in Appendix 3. No Sustainability Objectives were considered to be incompatible with the rest of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. In some cases, however the effect is uncertain. The Sustainability Objectives will therefore be reviewed at the next stage and the rationale updated to address this uncertainty.

7.3 Next Steps

This scoping report provides the Sustainability Appraisal Framework that has been used to appraise the Preferred Options Paper and prepare the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report. The Scoping Report will be reviewed and updated at each subsequent step of plan preparation to reflect new context and baseline information.

APPENDIX 1: COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Schedule 2 of the 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 Scoping Report or the Sustainability Appraisal Interim 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 Local Development Plan (LDP) is presented in Chapter 4. Appendix 4 outlines the relationship with other plans, programmes and policies.
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 Chapter 6, under topic sections and each section highlights the likely evolution of the baseline without the LDP.
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	The environmental characteristics of the Council area are outlined in Chapter 6. More detail will be added to this at Plan Strategy stage.
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(9) and the Habitats Directive.	Chapter 6 identifies environmental problems and Appendix 3 of the Interim Report outlines sites to which the Directives apply and potential pathways and effects that could arise from development. This baseline information is the starting point for the draft Habitats Regulations Appraisal which will be published with the draft Plan Strategy.
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.	Appendix 4 outlines the relationship with other plans, programmes and policies. Each section of Chapter 6 outlines the main policy themes for that topic.
6. The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as – (i) biodiversity; (ii) population;	These issues are all covered in the 14 sustainability objectives in the Sustainability Appraisal Framework used to assess the options and reported in Appendix 5 of the SA Interim Report. Interrelationships are covered in Chapter 2 of the SA Interim Report.

Requirement	Location
(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).	
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.	This is considered in the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report Chapter 3 and in the matrices presented in Appendix 5.
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.	Chapter 2 of the SA Interim Report considers this in general and Chapter 3 and Appendix 5 provide more detail on the options appraised and assumptions and limitations encountered in the appraisal.
9. A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 16.	Not required at this stage
10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.	A non-technical summary is provided at the opening of this report.

APPENDIX 2: SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AND RELATIONSHIP TO SEA TOPICS

The objectives for sustainable development are to...	SEA Directive Topic
1...improve health and well-being.	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 Climatic Factors
9...improve air quality	Air
10...reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	Climatic Factors
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 well-being.	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 well-being.														
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	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Compatible	✓	No relationship	0	Uncertain relationship	?	Incompatible	✗
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APPENDIX 4: REVIEW OF POLICIES, PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES

Introduction

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. Some additional documents, including local plans, may be referred to in the plan evidence papers or the body of the Scoping Report and these will be incorporated in this table in the updated scoping report which will accompany the draft Plan Strategy.

A number of cross cutting publications are presented first. Following that the publications are listed according to the most relevant topic. Some may apply to two or more topics but duplication is avoided where appropriate. While planning policy statements are referred to more detail on these can be found in our Preferred Options Paper.

Year is the year of publication and scale indicates the spatial area it applies to. The lead is the department or organisation currently responsible for the publication and was not necessarily the one 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 Local Development Plan (LDP). A short comment is included on the implications of these for our LDP and/or how they 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	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
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.
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 well-being; 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.
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 well-being 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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
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 principles of integrated sustainable urban development are addressed through LDP and Sustainability Objectives.
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 4 key areas of work set out in the EAP.
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.
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 SPPS the LDP will also contribute to the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.
Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment	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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
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 SPPS 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 SPPS and carrying out sustainability appraisal the plan will support this.
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 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.	The LDP is required to support delivery of the Programme for Government. How it achieves this will be assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal.
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 well-being is considered through sustainability appraisal.
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.
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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
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 well-being. Ratified in UK in 2005. Established a 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.	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 is reflected in the Statement of the Community Involvement
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.
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.
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 SPPS 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

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					circumstances within new LDPs, transitional arrangements apply.
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.
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.
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 AND WELL-BEING					
Policy Guidance on the Identification, Designation and Management of Quiet Areas	2016	NI	DAERA	Advises on implementation of the European Noise Directive, set out criteria for identifying quiet areas	Councils can protect Quiet Areas by: 1. bringing forward bespoke policy in their local development plans; and 2. managing development through determining planning applications.
Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Recreation, 2009-2019	2009	NI	DfC	The Strategy's vision is "a culture of lifelong enjoyment and quality, quantity and access to places for sport is a key development input to the two primary development outcomes of increased participation in sport and physical 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. Its vision is for "...a culture of lifelong enjoyment and success in sport...." 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	This is supported by the inclusion of Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation in the Subject Policies list for the SPSS which must be taken into account.

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				Strategy requires stakeholders to reflect the Strategy in their business and development plans. At the core of the Strategy is to ensure that every person in Northern Ireland has access to a range of new, improved and shared world-class and locally available sports facilities.	
Design and Access Statements - A guide for Northern Ireland	2015	NI	DfI	The following planning applications must be accompanied by a D&AS: An application which is a major development; or where any part of the development is in a designated area, 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.
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.	Retained however six policies are incorporated in SPPS.
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.
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.
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 well-being potential.	Many aspects are directly relevant for example promoting age friendly environments and Quiet Areas.
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	Creating a safe environment to encourage and promote increased physical activity.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				physically active lifestyle and a healthy diet. New outcomes to aid implementation of the framework over the 2015-19 period have been developed.	
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.
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). Sets out the key commitments and the major changes which will drive service transformation in Section 4.2. Presents the big themes for each of the Programmes of Care over the next 3 to 5 years across the 5 Local Commissioning Group (LCG) areas (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 the 5 local areas. In terms of the changes in capital infrastructure needed to fully implement TYC, the Population Plans will require a detailed working up of 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.	Identifies need for infrastructure including for community care.
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' identifies 197 infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.
COMMUNITY					
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	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.

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				basis to be published in a monitoring report to be laid before the Assembly.	
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.	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. The Sustainability Appraisal will incorporate Rural Proofing.
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.	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. The Sustainability Appraisal will incorporate Rural Proofing.
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 will incorporate Rural Proofing.
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 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	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. This is therefore aligned with the SPPS in many areas.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				knowledgeable practitioners in regeneration and community development. 4. We will promote an effective and efficient voluntary and community sector	
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.	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.
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.
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.
The Child Poverty Strategy	2016	NI	EO	The four high-level outcomes are, that: Families experience economic well-being; 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 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 well-being; Promote child, road, home and community safety.	Promotion of employment opportunities, provision for housing, increasing accessibility and creating safer environments will contribute to the objectives of this strategy.

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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.
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, well-being 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.
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 of inclusion for all. LDPs proposals and policies consider these needs and support delivery against them.
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	Promotion of inclusion and shared space is considered through sustainability appraisal and LDP preparation.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	
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; Migrant worker issues	This broadly aligns with listed objective (a) (vii) which 'seeks to bring people together with equality and opportunity'.
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.
Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 -2017	2012	NI	DfC	Government has three main roles in relation to housing: Helping to create the right conditions for a stable and sustainable housing market that supports economic growth and prosperity; Providing support for individuals and families to access housing, particularly the most vulnerable in society; and Setting minimum standards for the quality of new and existing homes and for how rented housing is managed. This strategy sets out how we intend to fulfil these roles over the next five years. The strategy also envisages housing playing a fourth role in driving regeneration within communities, particularly those suffering from blight and population decline.	This strategy aligns with a number of aspects of the proposed SPPS, namely sustainable development, economic development, quality residential environments, etc. The strategy may put pressure on the environmental aspects of the SPPS, such as natural heritage, archaeology, flood risk, etc. Similarly, the SPPS may inhibit house building due to environmental or design constraints. A balance will need to be found through considered planning decisions.
Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland Action Plan Update September 2015	2012	NI	DfC	The action plan includes 33 actions relating to the supply and quality of housing across all sectors.	This strategy aligns with a number of aspects of the proposed SPPS, namely sustainable development, economic development, quality residential environments, etc. The strategy may put pressure on the environmental aspects of the SPPS, such as natural heritage, archaeology, flood risk, etc. Similarly, the SPPS may inhibit house building due to environmental or design constraints. A balance will need to be found through considered planning decisions. This strategy aligns with a number of aspects of the proposed LDP, namely objective (a) (iv) 'To provide for 10,950 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,

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					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.
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.	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.
Annual Housing Need Assessment Publication - Mid & East Antrim, (January 2016)	2016	MEA	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 SPPS 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.'
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.	Taken into account in preparation of the LDP.
Draft Sustainable Rural Communities: a review of the housing executive's Rural Housing Policy, NIHE (Jan 2016)	2016	MEA	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.

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Mid and East Antrim - Housing Investment Plan - Annual Update 2016, NIHE	2016	MEA	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.
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 informs potential requirements for social housing which can inform the LDP.
Housing Executive Community Involvement Strategy	2015	NI	NIHE	Vision: ... to give residents a real say in making their neighbourhoods better places in which to live.	Opportunity to cooperate in place shaping.
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 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 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 Investment Plan 2015-2019 Mid and East Antrim	2015	MEA	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.
NIHE Social housing Development Programme	2015	NI	NIHE	The Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) is a three year rolling programme of planned social housing construction and provision. The SHDP is split into three individual programme years and is a	The LDP will take account of ongoing annual reporting and the prospectus will be used to inform provision for social housing within the plan area.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
(SHDP) - 2015/16 – 2017/18				mechanism used by the Department to inform social housing funding investment decisions. The SHDP is the outcome of a formulation and assembly exercise undertaken by Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). Responsibility for the actual development of social housing for rent rests with registered Housing Associations. The 3-Year SHDP is published together with an Unmet Social Housing Need Prospectus. The Prospectus is an integral part of the SHDP formulation process, which recurs on an annual basis. The Prospectus document highlights areas throughout Northern Ireland with the greatest level of un-met housing need and a current shortage of acquired development sites. The Housing Executive would welcome development proposals for these areas.	
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.
The Belfast Metropolitan Housing Market Area: a local housing system analysis	2011	Sub-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
Northern Ireland Housing Market Areas	2010	MEA	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 inform housing need. Reports for each HMA were prepared in 2011-2013.
EDUCATION AND SKILLS					
Department of Education Annual Business Plan 2016/2017	2016	NI	DE	Corporate Goal 1: Improving the Well-Being of Children and Young People – includes rights, play and participation. Corporate Goal 2: Raising Standards for All – includes early years and childcare. Corporate Goal 3: Closing the Performance Gap, Increasing Access and Equality – includes	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

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				Special Education Needs; youth work and sustainable schools. Corporate Goal 5 is Improving the learning environment – making 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. This Corporate Goal supports the draft PfG Indicator 13: Improve the quality of education.	Plan for the Department. DE has agreed to provide a comprehensive list of all regional policies, programmes, strategies and action plans which may be influenced and supported by spatial planning by councils, these will be added to the register.
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.
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.
Development Control Advice Note 13: Crèches, Day Nurseries and Pre-School Play Groups	1993	NI	Dfl	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.
ECONOMY AND 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	Committed to centralised and more streamlined processing for poultry house planning applications while DOE was the planning authority. Commitment to supporting Sustainable Use of

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	Poultry Litter loan scheme may address some of the environmental effects of pig and poultry production and also lead to new development.
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.	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.
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.
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.
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.
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	LDP objectives and supporting policies are likely to be support delivery of this strategy.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				development; climate/energy; education; social inclusion and poverty reduction and targets are set for each for example on energy efficiency.	
Economic Strategy Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity	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.
MATERIAL ASSETS					
arc21 Waste Management Plan	2014	Sub-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.
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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
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.	Evidence that informs future energy needs and renewable provision.
Marine Act (NI) 2013	2013	NI	DAERA	An Act to provide for marine plans in relation to the Northern Ireland inshore region; to provide for marine conservation zones (MCZs) in that region; to make further provision in relation to marine licensing for certain electricity works in that region; and for connected purposes	Need to take account of the NI Marine Plan once published.
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 realise the potential opportunities in the development of renewable energy through capacity building, research and promotion of opportunities.	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'.
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 proposed focus of the SPPS is likely to support 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.
Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	2009	UK	DEFRA/Marine Management Organisation	An Act to make provision in relation to marine functions and activities; to make provision about migratory and freshwater fish; to make provision for and in connection with the establishment of an English coastal walking route and of rights of access to land near the English coast; to enable the making of Assembly Measures in relation to Welsh coastal	Where there is overlap with NI this will be reflected in e.g. the NI Marine Plan.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				routes for recreational journeys and rights of access to land near the Welsh coast; to make further provision in relation to Natural England and the Countryside Council for Wales; to make provision in relation to works which are detrimental to navigation; to amend the Harbours Act 1964; and for connected purposes.	
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.
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.
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 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.	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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
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.
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.
Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Supplementary Planning Guidance Anaerobic Digestion	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 policies relating to renewable energy.
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.
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.
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	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				a minimum. The PPS also addresses health issues associated with telecommunications development.	
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 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.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
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.
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.
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.
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	The LDP will take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies contained in the SPSS.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	
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.
EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive	2014	Europe	EC	Maritime spatial planning (MSP) works across borders and sectors to ensure human activities at sea take place in an efficient, safe and sustainable way. It requires establishment of MSPs by 2021.	The NI MSP will need to be taken into account.
TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY					
Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future - A New Approach to Regional Transportation.	2011	Regional	DfI	How the Department will develop regional transportation beyond 2015, when the current transport plans reach their conclusion. The new 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.	The SPPS includes seven Subject Policies specific to transport and others that address the High Level Transport Aims and Strategic 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.
Planning Policy Statement 13 Transportation and Land Use	2005	NI	DfI	Assists in bringing forward the integration of transportation and landuse as per the RDS.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
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.
AIR QUALITY					
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	Local Plans can affect air quality in a number of ways, including through what development is

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	proposed and where, incorporation of energy efficiency, enabling renewable energy and encouraging sustainable transport.
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.
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 the LDP on air pollution and take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies contained in the SPPS.
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	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

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	the local air quality management regime, the Local Plan 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.
CLIMATIC FACTORS					
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.
UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report, Summary for Northern Ireland	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 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. SPPS states that no development should take place in areas known to be at risk from coastal erosion. SPPS promotes and encourages developers to use SUDS and also indicates that council's	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 reduce fuel poverty will address some social impacts of cold temperatures. Some infrastructure such as clean and waste water treatment will be more vulnerable to flooding therefore may need to be modified or relocated.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				should continue to promote the use of SUDS through their Local Development Plans. SPPS recognises the importance of peatlands to Northern Ireland for biodiversity, water and carbon storage.	
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.
Discussion Paper – Proposals for Taking Forward NI Climate Change Legislation - DOE on 1 December 2015	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 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.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
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 and to promote use of SuDS and protect peatlands. Some infrastructure such as clean and waste water treatment will be more vulnerable to flooding therefore may need to be modified or relocated.
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.

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Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action 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.	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.
National Climate Change Adaptation Framework: Building Resilience to Climate Change	2012	Rol	DHPCLG	Ireland's first National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (NCCAF) aims to ensure that adaptation actions are taken across key sectors and also at local level to reduce Ireland's vulnerability to climate change. The NCCAF requires the development and implementation of sectoral and local adaptation plans which will form part of the national response to the impacts of climate change. Each relevant Government Department (or State Agency, where appropriate) is required to prepare adaptation plans for their sectors. 12 Sectors were identified in total including Transport, Flood Defence, Agriculture and Energy. The objectives are: providing the policy context for a strategic national adaptation response to climate change; promoting dialogue and understanding of adaptation issues; identifying and promoting adaptation solutions; and committing to actions to support the adaptation process.	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.
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.
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, 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	This Strategy aligns with the climate change focus of the SPPS. Adaptation to climate change should be considered for LDP proposals.

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				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.	
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 on new and renovated buildings.
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 on new and renovated buildings.
The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015	2015	Rol	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 Action and Low-Carbon Development - National Policy Position Ireland	2014	Rol	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	Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI plans will also support this.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.	
Climate Change Act 2008	2008	UK	UK Gov.	Covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland established a legislative framework to enable the <i>reduction of UK GHG emissions by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050 and by 34% by 2020</i> . 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.
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.
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 greenhouses gases. Parties committed to reduce GHG emissions by at least 18 percent below 1990 levels in the eight-year	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				period from 2013 to 2020. It was updated by the Doha Amendment in 2012.	
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.
WATER					
Pollution Reduction Programme - Larne Lough	2015	Sub-Regional	DAERA	Pollution Reduction Programmes were established under the Shellfish Waters in order to reduce pollution in designated shellfish waters. As the Shellfish Waters Directive has been repealed and subsumed into the Water Framework Directive, the Programme will be reviewed in 2018, in line with the midterm of the second River Basin Cycle under Water Framework Directive (WFD). All Shellfish Water Protected Areas must be managed to ensure that they meet their objectives under WFD and meet at least Class B status under the EU Hygiene Regulations, whilst making progress towards the WFD guideline standard.	Consider any designated shellfish waters and actions required for the pollution reduction programme.
Eel management plan: North East River Basin District	2010	Sub-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.
Eel management plan: Neagh Bann International River Basin District	2010	International	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.
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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
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.
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.
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,
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.
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.
Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks	2007	Europe	EC	Directive aims is 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	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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				associated coastal areas at risk of flooding, drawing up flood maps and establishing flood risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness between 2011 and 2015. This has been coordinated with Water Framework Directive River Basin Planning.	
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 Members 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 well-being and tourism.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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	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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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 Urban Drainage Solutions. 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.	
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 underway with a target for publication in 2017.	The LDP may need to accommodate water supply infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply. The Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan due to be published in 2017 should also be considered.
NATURAL RESOURCES					
Marine Plan for Northern Ireland (in preparation)	Not applicable	NI	DAERA	The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland 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 Marine Policy Statement and will support	Public authorities taking authorisation or enforcement decisions, which affect or might affect the marine area, must do so in line with marine policy documents, such as Marine Plans and the Marine Policy Statement (MPS), unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise. A public authority must explain any decision not made in line with an adopted plan or the MPS.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				and complement existing plans and policies. A draft Marine Plan is proposed to be published in late 2016.	
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 240 hectares of ancient woodland and delivering peatland and wetland habitat restoration around the Lough Neagh basin with emphasis on an ecosystems approach. LDP proposals and policies should support delivery of these actions where appropriate.
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.
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.
Marine Act (NI) 2013	2013	NI	DAERA	An Act to provide for marine plans in relation to the Northern Ireland inshore region; to provide for marine conservation zones (MCZs) in that region; to make further provision in relation to marine licensing for certain electricity works in that region; and for connected purposes	Need to take account of the NI Marine Plan once published.
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 DAERA will be taken into account.
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	LDP proposals and policies may directly support natural and cultural heritage aspects of Marine

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	Position Paper, or have an indirect relationship, for example regarding outdoor recreation, access, transportation and sustainable development.
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.
Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	2009	UK	DEFRA/Marine Management Organisation	An Act to make provision in relation to marine functions and activities; to make provision about migratory and freshwater fish; to make provision for and in connection with the establishment of an English coastal walking route and of rights of access to land near the English coast; to enable the making of Assembly Measures in relation to Welsh coastal routes for recreational journeys and rights of access to land near the Welsh coast; to make further provision in relation to Natural England and the Countryside Council for Wales; to make provision in relation to works which are detrimental to navigation; to amend the Harbours Act 1964; and for connected purposes.	Where there is overlap with NI will be reflected in e.g. the NI Marine Plan.
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.
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	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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				promotes the implementation of climate change mitigation and seeks economic and social progress in conjunction with a healthy environment.	
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.
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.
Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (Codified version of	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	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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Directive 79/409/EEC as amended)				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.	This will be taken into account through consideration of all SPAs and by Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP.
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
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.
EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive	2014	Europe	EC	Maritime spatial planning (MSP) works across borders and sectors to ensure human activities at sea take place in an efficient, safe and sustainable way. It requires establishment of MSPs by 2021.	The NI MSP will need to be taken into account.
UK Marine Policy Statement	2011	UK	Four Nations (DAERA)	The MPS will facilitate and support the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives and thereby: 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	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.
North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Commission Convention For The	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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Conservation Of Salmon In The North Atlantic Ocean					
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.
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.
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.
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.
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	This 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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	
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.
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.
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, landuse, 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.
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.
Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Supplementary Planning Guidance Wind Energy Development in	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	Informs the relative capacity for wind energy in respect of landscape.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Northern Ireland's Landscapes.				Character Areas (LCAs) in Northern Ireland by referencing the characteristics and values associated with each LCA.	
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE					
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992)	1992	Europe	COE	The new text (revision of the 1985 Granada 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.
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 well-being, enhancing access and creating economic growth.

APPENDIX 5: CONSULTATION BODY COMMENTS ON THE SCOPING REPORT TEMPLATE

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>	<p>Noted</p> <p>These have been referred to in Appendix 4, and where appropriate to do so, in the most relevant topic in Chapter 6.</p>
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>	<p>These have been referred to in Appendix 4, and where appropriate to do so, in the most relevant topic in Chapter 6.</p>
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>	<p>A variety of these sources were used in the SA Air Quality section. Presence of AQMAs referred to but not locations.</p> <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> <p>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.</p> <p>Updated the Likely Evolution section to help reflect potential future traffic levels. This aspect is also noted for future plan stages.</p>

SA Topic	No.	Date	Comments	Outcomes
Natural Resources	4		<p>Overlap with other sections of the report highlighted.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Updated reference to overlap with other sections to include water.</p> <p>All these areas have been covered under Natural Resources but Landscape is in its own SA section.</p> <p>Some DAERA references may not always be used but noted to inform future updates where appropriate.</p>
Natural Resources – Marine/Coastal	5		<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 natural resources, the potential impacts on the marine environment should be considered.</p> <p>Intertidal/coastal and marine references in Table 5.1 are welcomed</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Noted</p>
Climatic Factors	9		<p>Appraisal prompts should include reference to coastal flooding, land instability and coastal erosion.</p>	<p>Noted for future appraisal work and coastal erosion/flooding included in Natural Resources section of guide as a prompt.</p> <p>Floodplains and adaptation measures were referred to in the Climatic Factors section and erosion was referred to under Physical Resources. Biodiversity and blue infrastructure also referred to in Natural Resources section of the report.</p>
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</p>	<p>Details referred to have been included in Appendix 4 and/or Water or Natural Heritage topics.</p> <p>Flooding has been addressed under the water and climatic factors topics and was fully considered in appraisal.</p> <p>SES will retain the main reference to flooding within water, with the agreement of DfI Rivers Agency.</p>

SA Topic	No.	Date	Comments	Outcomes
			<p>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, Ballygally, 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>	
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>	<p>Seascape is included as part of the Landscape section and local development pressures also referred to.</p> <p>Noted</p>
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 rory.mcneary@daera-ni.gov.uk Nucleated Historic Settlements can be found from HED at http://arcg.is/2daPCpn and current and candidate</p>	<p>Marine archaeology will be further considered at LPP.</p> <p>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.</p>

SA Topic	No.	Date	Comments	Outcomes
			<p>ASAs 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>	

APPENDIX 6: SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL GUIDE FOR MID AND EAST ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL PREFERRED OPTIONS PAPER

1. The objective for sustainable development is to improve health and well-being.
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 minimize 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The population is predicted to rise to 142,164 by the year 2030 with a slowing growth rate over that period. • Trends indicate an aging population with the number of people over 65 years expected to reach 25% of the total population by 2030. Many older people have to live on low incomes and may have disabilities and reduced mobility. • There is 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. • The increase in the proportion of older people in the population will increase the requirement for care. • Many people are dependent on carers in the home or local community. • In some respects the overall health and wellbeing of the area 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. • However Mid and East Antrim has high prevalence rates for diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity and heart disease. Main causes of deaths are cancer, heart disease and respiratory disease which account for 70% of all deaths. • There is an inequality in health with all measures of health being significantly worse in the most deprived areas. • Good spatial planning can 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 in the Borough, as well as in Northern Ireland and the UK are high by global standards reflecting poor diet and a relatively sedentary lifestyle. • Levels of physical activity are relatively high in Mid and East Antrim 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. • In particular there is a need for children to have accessible play opportunities in places where they feel safe. • Also there will be a need to enable older people to engage in physical activity to prolong their healthy lives. • Development should be sited and designed to connect with greenways where possible. • Noise and environmental quality are not identified as being significant adverse effects at present however they can impact on health and therefore environmental quality should be improved, or sustained where it is good, to minimise adverse health impacts. • There are health benefits from protecting and enhancing biodiversity. • Ambulance response times have been increasing across Northern Ireland; the location of and access to emergency services can impact on response times.

- There is a need to plan the relative location of industry and housing, open space and public facilities to minimise use conflicts.
- 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.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Improve access to health care b) Reduce response times for the emergency services c) Encourage healthy lifestyles d) Enable people to grow their own food e) Create open space with public access f) Provide opportunities for and encourage physical activity for all g) Avoid or reduce noise impacts that may affect health h) Provide 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	m) Reduce access to health care n) Increase response times for the emergency services o) Discourage healthy lifestyles p) Reduce open space with public access q) Increase noise impacts that may affect health r) Reduce meeting places s) Decrease social contact and intergenerational contact t) Decrease the sense of safety u) Reduce family cohesion v) 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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a growing population and the plan will need to meet the need for more dwellings. • One fifth of the population is under 16 years although this proportion will decline 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. • The proportion married is above the NI average and the proportion single is below the NI average. • There is a trend of an increase in the number of single people and single 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 in issues many areas. • The highest concentrations of deprivation with respect to proximity to services in Mid and East District were 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 and income levels. • There is a need to plan for and meet the needs of diverse groups in the Council area, this may include allowing for facilities to meet specific needs. • Some parts of Mid and East Antrim have populations which predominantly reflect one religion or political opinion. • The needs and experience of different parts of Mid and East Antrim's society differ and are best expressed by representatives of the range of groups. Some of this may be gained through the Community Planning process and also through being proactive in inviting comment on and participation in plan preparation from all groups. • There will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability. • The community is not ethnically diverse, however the needs of minority groups should be taken into account. • There will continue to be a need for childcare facilities, nursery, primary and secondary schools, particularly in the short term, as well as access to community and leisure facilities. 	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
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	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 access to facilities and services m) Exacerbate the factors causing inequalities

g) Meet identified needs that will reduce inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities	n) Maintains or increases inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities
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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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 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 housing for housing designed for single, elderly and small family households (86% of those on the social housing waiting list). There is a high requirement for 1 and 2 bedroom dwellings. • There is a requirement for 570 intermediate housing units between 2015 and 2025 and the greatest social housing need is concentrated in Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Broughshane, Cullybackey and Ahoghill. • It is expected that 25% of MEA population will be aged 65+ by 2030. A growing 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. • There will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability. • 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 reduce the problems of fuel poverty. • Affordable housing is required for a variety of housing types and sizes and, despite former Carrickfergus and Larne districts having a high level of affordable homes in 2012, 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. 	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Encourage low carbon homes b) Encourage the building of life-time homes with potential for adaptability, such as wheelchair access c) Encourage 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) Provide a mix of housing types	i) Decrease energy efficiency j) Homes not suited for lifetime use k) Reduced affordable housing l) Increase homelessness m) Does not meet the needs of specific groups e.g. single people, families, retired people, ethnic minorities, disabled n) Does not meet local need for housing type/quantity

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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In some areas of our Borough 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 our Borough has a high level of educational achievement at all levels this is not consistent between DEAs. 	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Improve education level and employability of the population b) Promote access to education c) Promote access to skills training d) Help rural communities access education and skills training e) Improve opportunities for multiple use of facilities f) Help educational establishments to provide modern sustainable accommodation	g) Does not help improve education level and employability of the population h) Decrease access to education and skills training i) Makes rural communities access education and skills training harder j) Under use of public facilities k) 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 startups, 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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and zoning appropriate land is a vital part of creating the conditions to sustain economic development that meets employment needs. 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. 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. 	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Support innovation and competitiveness within the local economy b) Ensure sufficient land supply in appropriate locations for economic growth c) Support creation of a range of job types that are accessible especially to areas of greatest deprivation d) Support enhancement of the skills base. e) Help make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest f) Ensure the vitality and vibrancy of town centres can be improved g) Increase the number of people coming to the borough to work h) Maximise economic benefits of sustainable tourism	i) Does not promote innovation and competitiveness within the local economy j) Does not support creation of a range of job types that are accessible especially to areas of greatest deprivation k) Does not support enhancement of the skills base. l) Does not help make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest m) Vitality and vibrancy of town centres may decline. n) Does not increase the number of people coming to the borough to work o) Does not enable use of tourism assets.

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 minimize 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

- 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 safeguard land, including derelict and contaminated land, in sustainable locations to help integrate renewables or waste management and associated infrastructure.
- There may be opportunities to support community based renewable projects.
- There is a need to consider potential integration of geothermal energy.
- Wind technology has dominated renewables but a diverse technologies will be needed for a sustainable energy mix; these might include solar, tidal, biomass, hydroelectric, anaerobic.
- There is currently no financial support for the uptake of renewables since the NI Renewables Obligations ceased in early 2017.
- It is important to maintain and increase rates of reuse, recycling and composting of waste and to enable future treatment of varying waste streams.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects

- Proportion of waste to landfill decreases
- Makes recycling easier
- Recycling rates likely to increase
- Composting rates continue to increase
- Encourages increased reuse of resources
- Waste production figures per household reduce
- Sufficient transmission/distribution lines
- Infrastructure is fit for purpose
- Enables renewable energy production
- Reduces the amount of contaminated or derelict land

Negative Effects

- Recycling rates do not increase
- The proportion of waste to landfill does not decrease
- Composting rates do not continue to increase
- Insufficient transmission/distribution lines
- Infrastructure not fit for purpose
- Does not enable renewable energy production

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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing mineral reserves should be safeguarded from alternative uses and/or developments that may sterilise their use or impede their accessibility. 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 if appropriately located with adequate transport routes. There are no Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development in the former Ballymena Council area or the Carrickfergus District of the Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area which may need to be addressed. Some redundant minerals sites may be suitable for restoration and alternative uses, for example for education or recreation, and contribute to natural heritage and blue/green infrastructure. There is potential to integrate geothermal energy as a future energy source. It is important to balance local development pressure on land and the need to continue to be able to deliver for renewables, agriculture and rural housing. There is a need for land for cemetery provision. Commercial peat extraction sites are present in the Borough however peatlands are important for ecological value and as water and carbon stores. Soil quality across the Borough should be protected using effective conservation measures due to a lack of specific legislation protecting soils at a regional or local level. 	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Earth science features remain protected b) Enable the minerals industry to operate sustainably c) Retain potential future use/benefit of physical resources (education/tourism/recreation/biodiversity) d) Enables materials to be locally sourced where available e) Allow for the future use of geothermal energy f) Minimises loss of greenfield sites g) Retain semi natural land cover/biodiversity h) Avoid soil erosion/pollution	i) Earth science features not protected j) Reduce ability for minerals industry to operate sustainably k) Does not protect potential future use/benefit of physical resources (education/tourism/recreation/biodiversity) l) Inhibits for the future use of geothermal energy m) Reduce semi natural land cover/biodiversity n) 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 car use and increasing other forms of transport. Better access to public transport and opportunities for active travel make travel more affordable with added health benefits and also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Measures that help reduce car use and improve accessibility to encourage a shift to travel by public transport, walking and cycling will contribute to this goal.	
Key Sustainability Issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council is strategically located with several key road and rail transport routes passing through it. • Public transport options between settlements are limited and where public transport is available, journeys can often be lengthy with poor connections for onward travel. • Reliance on the car is high in both urban and rural areas and measures are needed across the Borough to enable people to reduce car use. • There is strong reliance on car travel for work however 32.5% of MEA residents travel less than 5km to work. • There is a need to consider modes of travel for employees when planning new places of employment including public transport, walking and cycling. • An integrated active travel network across the Borough could support health and well-being as well as reducing GHG emissions. 	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Encourage modal shift to active travel b) Enhance access to and efficiency of public transport c) Benefit those without access to cars d) Retain, create, or enhance walking and cycle routes	e) Does not promote modal shift to active travel f) Does not enhance access to and efficiency of public transport g) Does not benefit those without access to cars h) Does not retain, create, or enhance walking and cycle routes

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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Additional sites in the Ballymena town area may require local measures to reduce nitrogen dioxide levels. • It is important to consider future air quality when planning the location of new developments and land uses, across both rural and urban areas. • There is a need to promote and make accessible other modes of transport to the car such as public transport, walking and cycling. • There is a need to continue to support renewables in appropriate locations to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants. 	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Improve air quality b) Reduce emissions of key pollutants c) Reduce transport emissions d) Encourage other modes of transport than the car e) Avoid increase of ammonia emissions (near to sensitive receptors) f) Help achieve the objectives of any Air Quality Management Plan	g) Reduce air quality h) Increase emissions of key pollutants i) Increase transport emissions j) Maintain/increase car use k) Increase ammonia emissions (near to sensitive receptors) l) Air Quality Management Plan may not be achieved.

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 lessen greenhouse gas emissions however adaption is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change.	
Key Sustainability Issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for our Borough to futureproof itself for a low carbon future in anticipation of future energy and climate change policies. • Agriculture is a significant contributor to GHG emissions and opportunities to reduce emissions within the scope of the LDP need to be considered. • Planning could help encourage efficient building design to reduce GHG emissions. • Planning could also promote adaptation measures like sustainable drainage systems and green infrastructure. • There is a need to provide active and sustainable travel options across the Borough to help reduce reliance on the car and reduce emissions. • It is important to protect habitats, including floodplains and peatlands, which act as natural mitigation and adaptation measures for climate change. • It is important to consider the need to improve electrical infrastructure to accommodate new grid connections for renewable energy sources and enable small scale production. 	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions b) Reduce energy consumption c) Increase the proportion of renewable energy d) Protect or enhance habitats that capture carbon e) Protect or enhance floodplains f) Avoid/reduces risks of coastal flooding/erosion g) Avoid increasing risk of land instability h) Increase/encourage other forms of transport than the car – public transport, cycling/walking i) Reduce polluting forms of transport j) Reduce emissions from livestock production k) Incorporate measures to adapt to climate change	l) Increase greenhouse gas emissions m) Increase energy consumption n) Does not increase the proportion of renewable energy o) Damage/loss of habitats that capture carbon p) Reduce the extent or holding capacity of floodplains q) Increase the risks of coastal flooding/erosion r) Increase risk of land instability s) Discourage active travel t) Increase polluting forms of transport u) Does not allow for adaptation to climate change

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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no water scarcity issues in Northern Ireland 2005 – 2015 and demand has decreased by almost 11% between 2009 and 2015. • The lack of water supply is not considered likely to be a constraint to development during the LDP period however measures to make more efficient use of water should be promoted. • 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. • Climate change will increase the risk and extent of flooding. • Plan proposals should be compatible with the Flood Risk Management Plans published by Rivers Agency in December 2015. • A safety issue arises because there are not currently legal requirements relating to impounded water therefore there are considered to be risks in potential inundation zones below reservoirs. • Development may lead to contaminated runoff which may cause pollution; the rate of surface water runoff may change or the capacity of a receiving watercourse may be altered 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. • Whilst there is current capacity in most WWTWs serving populations greater than 250 water treatment remains a constraint for many settlements; further capacity is currently not available at Cargan, Grange and Moorfields. • Developments without access to mains sewers can incorporate sewage treatment on site but 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 long term. • Other wastes may also cause pollution at the point where they are disposed of or utilised. Wastes from livestock, food processing or primary treatment such as sewage or anaerobic digestors have the potential to cause pollution elsewhere. 	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Improve the quality of surface and ground water 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) Protect aquatic food resources	h) Reduce quality of surface and ground water i) Fail to meet water quality objectives j) Lead to waste of water k) Increase risks from flooding (now or in future) l) Risk creating a need for flood defence m) Reduce the extent or holding capacity of floodplains

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n) Water flows/temperature not suitable for good ecological quality. o) Unsustainable impacts on aquatic food resources
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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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a significant number of nature conservation sites across the Borough with several located to the north-east, and some designations that protect the coastline and offshore marine sites. • The LDP should take account of priority habitats and species identified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. • The Garron Plateau has several nature conservation designations and presents a unique opportunity for partnership working to help maintain an upland peatland site and the provision of ecosystem services. • Integrating blue/green infrastructure, including community greenways, is promoted by planning policy and can benefit people's health by enabling access to the natural environment and encouraging active travel. • The Marine Plan should be taken into account as plan preparation progresses to ensure that the LDP aligns where appropriate. 	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Protect or enhance local biodiversity b) Protect or enhance existing or potential wildlife corridors c) Protect or enhance designated sites and their buffers d) Locally important sites and buffers are protected e) Protect or enhance blue/green infrastructure (B/GI) and open space f) Enable access to open space and B/GI g) Support/provide ecosystem services h) Incorporate blue/green infrastructure in development i) Coastal and marine ecosystems are protected	j) Loss of local biodiversity k) Damage/interrupt existing or potential wildlife corridors l) Damage designated site and their buffers m) Locally important sites and buffers damaged n) Remove or damage blue/green infrastructure o) Block or remove access to B/GI or open space p) Reduce ecosystem services q) Coastal and marine ecosystems may be damaged.

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 to protect and enhance open spaces and the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors.	
Key Sustainability Issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a wide variety of landscape types across the Council including an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), 26 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), six Regional Landscape Character Areas (RLCAs) and four Seascape Character Areas. • It is important to protect, conserve and enhance landscape including degraded areas. • There is a need to enable designation of local areas of landscape quality where appropriate. • There is a need to consider local measures to address development pressures within the AONB and in areas particularly sensitive to landscape change. • The protection of ecological networks and blue/green infrastructure can also benefit landscape. • The AONB presents an opportunity for partnership working with another Council and other stakeholders. 	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Minimise visual intrusion b) Protect or enhance the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors c) Protect areas designated for landscape d) Avoid major impacts on views to the coast e) Integrate new development to protect and enhance local distinctiveness f) Halt the loss or fragmentation of 'tranquil areas'	g) Increase visual intrusion h) Detract from the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors i) Areas designated for landscape not protected j) Major impact on views to the coast k) New development not integrated to protect and enhance local distinctiveness l) Reduce the number/extent of tranquil areas

14. The objective for sustainable development is to protect, conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage.	
Rationale	
Built 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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic and Cultural resources play a role in maintaining and enhancing the sense of place, in settlements and in rural locations. • Our Borough has a rich archaeological heritage, and this could be further explored through new areas of archaeological potential. Our Borough has a rich industrial heritage both in the main settlements and also in rural locations and defence heritage associated with World War II. • Our Borough's rich heritage asset could provide greater opportunity as a resource for tourism. The presence of regionally important historic buildings such as Carrickfergus Castle is a key economic and tourism strength. • There is evidence of incremental erosion of historical and architectural character and appearance within some of the designated Conservation Areas. • 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. • Climate change may cause long term impacts on the historic environment, particularly along the coast. 	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Protect and conserve built and cultural heritage b) Enhance built and cultural heritage c) Allow 'sense of place' to be conserved in townscape and rural settings d) Protect and enhance local distinctiveness e) Allow archaeological features to be assessed, recorded and preserved f) Preserve and enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets g) Support access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment h) Enable assessment of impacts of development on complex and extensive archaeological sites adjacent to settlements i) Provide opportunities for cultural activities	j) Loss of built and cultural heritage k) Lose 'sense of place' in townscape and rural settings l) Reduce local distinctiveness m) Archaeological features not assessed, recorded and preserved n) Damage the setting of cultural heritage assets o) Reduce access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment p) Impacts of development on complex and extensive archaeological sites adjacent to settlements not understood q) Decrease opportunities for cultural activities



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