



# Sustainability Appraisal - Interim Report

(Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Preferred  
Options Paper)

Local Development Plan

[www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/planning](http://www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/planning)



**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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## Non-technical Summary

### Mid and East Antrim Borough Council 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?

Sustainability Appraisal is a statutory process being carried out alongside preparation of Mid & East Antrim Borough Council's Local Development Plan. Local planning authorities use Sustainability Appraisal to assess plans against a set of sustainability objectives developed in consultation with stakeholders. This assessment identifies the relative environmental, social and economic performance of local development plan options and evaluates which of these may be the best option in terms of sustainable development.

### What is the purpose of this document?

The purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report is to:

- Document the appraisal of options and alternatives against a sustainability framework consisting of fourteen objectives, which has helped to determine our preferred options
- Identify where there are significant effects of a preferred option and, where these are negative effects, identify how these could be addressed.
- Present any cumulative effects identified in the appraisal.
- Present any assumptions used in the appraisal, including assessing the significance of effects.

### Sustainability Objectives for Mid & East Antrim Borough Council Local Development Plan

The objectives for sustainable development 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, protect, conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage.

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## Glossary

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
DEA	District Electoral Area
DfI	The Department for Infrastructure
LDP	Local Development Plan
LNP	Lough Neagh Partnership
NA	Not Applicable
NIW	Northern Ireland Water
PfG	Programme for Government (draft)
RDS	Regional Development Strategy
SA	Sustainability appraisal
SPPS	Strategic Planning Policy Statement
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of this Sustainability Interim Report

This interim report is part of the Sustainability Appraisal process for the Mid & East Antrim Borough Council Local Development Plan (LDP). It documents the appraisal of options and alternatives against a sustainability framework consisting of fourteen objectives, which has helped to determine our preferred options. This process identifies where there are significant effects of a preferred option and, where these are negative effects, identifies how these could be addressed.

## 1.2 Mid & East Antrim Borough Council Local Development Plan

This section is covered in more detail in Chapter 4 of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and in depth in the Preferred Options Paper (POP).

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. Our Local Development Plan will comprise two development plan documents;

- The Plan Strategy (PS); and
- The Local Policies Plan (LPP).

Our 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 our council's community plan.

### 1.2.1 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 1.2. 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.

### **1.2.2 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](http://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 is 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 was carried out in accordance with legislative requirements and with the commitments stated in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement published on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

### **1.2.3 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 km<sup>2</sup>) 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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%)

### 1.3 Sustainability Appraisal Context

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.

Section 25 of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 requires that all NI Departments and a council, in exercising their functions, act in the way they consider best calculated to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

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The approach in this report is informed by Development Plan Practice Note 04: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment<sup>1</sup>. Sustainability Appraisal therefore refers to an integrated approach which fully incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment (DOE, 2015) and fulfils the requirements for both Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

### **1.3.3 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 and Special Protection Areas) as a result of plans and policies in the Local Development Plan, this is also carried out for Ramsar sites. An initial Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening is available in this report in Appendix 3. 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.

### **1.3.4 Rural Proofing**

The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, for which the proposed commencement date, as it applies to Government Departments and District Councils is 1 June 2017, 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 DAERA provides advice on carrying it out in Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing. 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.

The Scoping Report directly considers policy for rural populations and how our LDP could affect them in the Community topic. Where available, data on rural populations is also included under other topics, for example health, education and infrastructure. Key issues for our Council 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. Where measures that could either enhance positive or reduce negative effects have been identified these have been recorded.

As plan preparation progresses and more detail emerges about proposals, how they will be implemented and where they will be located, rural issues can be considered in more depth. A rural proofing checklist, reflecting the advice in Thinking Rural, will be included in the Sustainability Appraisal for Plan Strategy.

## **1.4 Interim Report Structure**

The report continues with Chapter 2 which presents our approach to carrying out and documenting the sustainability appraisal of the Preferred Options Paper, including how we assessed the significance of effects, and the limitations and difficulties that we encountered. Chapter 3 summarises the appraisal findings, and Chapter 4 presents the impact of the preferred options on all of the sustainability objectives. Chapter 5 outlines the next steps in the process. A number of appendices are referred to in the report and provide further detail.

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<sup>1</sup> [Department of the Environment \(2015\) Development Plan Practice Note 04: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment Amend footnote numbers to 2 and 3](#)

## 2. Sustainability Appraisal: The Approach

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the overall approach taken to carry out sustainability appraisal for the Preferred Options Paper. The tools for this appraisal were developed in accordance with Development Plan Practice Note 04.

### 2.2 Strategic Context

The following regional or local strategies and plans are overarching and form a backdrop to the Local Development Plan. These were considered in preparation of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework.

#### 2.2.1 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 Londonderry 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.

#### 2.2.2 Strategic Planning Policy Statement

The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) - Planning for Sustainable Development 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.

#### 2.2.3 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.

#### 2.2.4 Draft Programme for Government (PfG)

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.

#### 2.2.5 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 the council area. The Local Development Plan will support delivery of the spatial aspects of our Community Plan.

## 2.3 Sustainability Appraisal and the LDP

The SEA Directive requires assessment of the likely significant effects of implementing the plan, and 'reasonable alternatives'. Developing options and alternatives is an important part of both the plan-making and sustainability appraisal process. For the Preferred Options Paper the reasonable alternatives are the different options put forward during the preparation of the paper.

The sustainability objectives are developed from the themes identified in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, presented as Key Sustainability Issues. These themes have been considered from an early stage in the development of options to help ensure that any adverse effects of proposals were identified as early as possible.

### 2.3.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

The Sustainability Appraisal Framework was developed with input from a number of stakeholders. It consists of fourteen sustainability objectives with supporting criteria which have been used to assess the Preferred Options Paper.

The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report allowed the Key Sustainability Issues for the Council to be identified, and these helped to inform the appraisal prompts and to guide the appraisal. The Sustainability Objectives are presented below. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework comprising is presented in Appendix 2.

### 2.3.2 The Sustainability Objectives

The objectives for sustainable development for Mid & East Antrim Borough 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, protect, conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage.

The rationale for and scope of each of these objectives is detailed in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and can also be found in Appendix 2.

### 2.3.3 Assessment Method

The options with their reasonable alternatives were assessed using the appraisal matrix shown in Table 2.1 and scoring in Table 2.2. 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 2.1: Outline Sustainability Appraisal Matrix**

Key Issue	Topic Title											
	Option 1A:				Option 1B:				Option 1C:			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1. Sustainability Objective												
2. Sustainability Objective												
3. Sustainability Objective												
4. Sustainability Objective												
<b>Summary</b> Summary and comparison of approaches against the sustainability objectives The preferred approach Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects												

**Table 2.2: Scoring and definitions for Sustainability Appraisal Matrix**

Score	Description	
<b>++</b>	Significant Positive	Proposal would greatly help to achieve the objective
<b>+</b>	Minor Positive	Proposal would slightly help to achieve the objective
<b>0</b>	Neutral / no effect / negligible effect	Proposal would not affect the objective
<b>-</b>	Minor Negative	Proposal would slightly conflict with the objective
<b>--</b>	Significant Negative	Proposal would greatly conflict with the objective
<b>?</b>	Uncertain	The effect cannot be predicted because <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the approach has an uncertain relationship to the objective; or</li> <li>• the relationship is dependent on the way in which the option is implemented;</li> <li>• insufficient information is available to enable an appraisal to be made.</li> </ul>
ST	Short Term	Up to five years
MT	Medium Term	Five to 15 years
LT	Long term	Over 15 years

### **2.3.4 The Appraisal Meeting and Write-Up**

Appraisal of the options presented in the Preferred Options Paper was carried out in March 2017. The appraisal panel comprised of Mid & East Antrim Borough Council planning and economic development officers, along with the Shared Environmental Service team.

Appraisals were carried out using the agreed Sustainability Appraisal Framework, and scores with explanations were recorded in the appraisal matrices, presented in Appendix 5. For each issue all options were appraised in terms of how the option would either support or conflict with the sustainability objectives. Following this the matrices were written up, reviewed with planning officers and finalised to incorporate any amendments. A summary of the findings of the appraisal is presented in Chapter 3.

### **2.3.5 Assessing the Significance of Effects**

The Sustainability Appraisal assessed 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.

Sustainable development is an underlying principle of plan preparation therefore for the majority of issues the positive effects of all options already outweigh the negative effects and no options were put forward which were considered to have a significant negative effect for any sustainability objective. In appraising the options some ways in which negative effects could be reduced or offset and positive effects could be enhanced were identified and these are presented where applicable.

### **2.3.6 Consideration of Potential Mitigation Measures**

The SEA Directive requires consideration of 'measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme'. These are referred to as mitigation measures, and can include recommendations for improving beneficial effects.

### **2.3.7 Appraisal limitations and assumptions**

The assessment reflects baseline information from the Local Development Plan evidence papers, information provided by consultees, and the experience and judgement of the panel carrying out the appraisal meeting. There is uncertainty in some cases about how a given approach would be implemented due to insufficient detail about the proposal which is a consequence of this early and strategic stage. Where necessary 'uncertain' was recorded and a note made of further information that could inform future appraisal. For some options the approach has an uncertain relationship with the sustainability objective or it could have both positive and negative effects. In these situations 'uncertain' was recorded and potential impacts noted in the explanation paragraph. Sometimes the same score has been given for the effects of different options however more subtle differences may be described in the explanations.

During the appraisal of each option, where possible, effects were predicted. However it was found that in some cases, the effect will depend upon the type of development and the exact location. Many of the proposals affect multiple locations and locations for which boundaries have not been defined which makes it hard to determine at this stage whether overall effects are likely to be negative or positive. Some approaches represent a continuation of a previous policy however each option was considered on its own merits in line with the characteristics of the baseline for the relevant sustainability objective.

Consideration has been given to the timescale in which an effect may be seen. In many cases it is hard to predict at this stage of plan development when an effect is likely to be apparent therefore the score is often the same for short, medium and long term. If appropriate, short, medium and long term scores will be differentiated at a later stage of assessment. The sustainability appraisal at Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan will take account of all additional and updated information available at that time.

### **2.3.8 Cumulative Effects**

Consideration must be given to any cumulative effects of proposals during plan preparation. These include potential cumulative effects within the plan and in combination with other relevant plans and strategies. Chapter 4 describes the cumulative effects of the preferred options. As more detail emerges of plan proposals cumulative effects will be considered.



### 2.3.9 Compatibility of 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 of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. 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.

### 2.3.10 Compatibility of Sustainability Objectives with Mid & East Antrim Borough Council LDP Vision, Strategic Objectives and Overarching Principles.

Chapter 4 of the POP presents and invites comment on the proposed vision strategic objectives and overarching principles of objectives for the LDP. The vision is 'Mid and East Antrim will be shaped by high quality, sustainable and connected places for people to live, work, enjoy, invest and visit, so as to improve the quality of life for all.' There are eleven economic strategic objectives under the LDP topic areas 'Sustainable Economic Growth' and 'Transportation, Infrastructure and Connectivity'. There are eleven social strategic objectives under an overall title 'Building Sustainable Communities'. There are ten environmental strategic objectives under the LDP topic areas of 'Stewardship of our Built Environment and Creating Places' and 'Protecting and Accessing our Natural Environment'.

An initial overview finds that there are many of the LDP objectives that specifically support the sustainability objectives for example LDP social objective (d) relating to housing, or the economic objective (j) which considers the use of energy, water, waste and mineral resources in an efficient manner. Almost all of the sustainability objectives are clearly supported by the LDP objectives.

There are some LDP objectives which could conflict with sustainability objectives if implemented in isolation without the balance of other LDP objectives and policies. For example economic objectives for job creation and attracting new businesses could have adverse effects on natural heritage and water resources. The POP includes specific issues to ensure a balanced approach and invites comment on its approach to reviewing and bringing forward policy. In the process of finalising the LDP vision and objectives they will be reviewed to assess their compatibility with the sustainability objectives individually and cumulatively.

Table 2.3 shows an assessment of the compatibility between the Sustainability objectives and the LDP Vision and Overarching Principles.

**Table 2.3: Compatibility of the Sustainability objectives and the LDP Vision and Overarching Principles**

Sustainability Appraisal Framework	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.
LDP Vision	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Promoting High Quality Design	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Promoting Accessibility and Connectivity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	0
Promoting Legibility and a Quality Public Realm	✓	✓	0	0	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	✓
Promoting Community Health and Wellbeing	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	✓
Promoting Inclusive Communities	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓
Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Natural Environment	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Compatible	✓	No relationship	0	Uncertain relationship	?	Incompatible	✗
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### 3: Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Findings

#### Key Issue 1: Developer Contributions

(Chapter 4: Vision, Objectives, Overarching Principles)

##### Preferred Option 1(a): Provide strategic policy on developer contributions through the Local Development Plan

This option would mean developing a policy that would clarify the types and threshold sizes of development for which developer contributions are required, the anticipated level of contribution and any exemptions. It would apply across the Borough.

This option would provide a high level of certainty for developers and others involved in the development process at an early stage.

The policy details brought forward under this option will be important as an excessive level of developer contribution may deter investment in development.

The resource demands placed upon Council (and indirectly, the rate payer) in the administration of developer contributions needs to be factored in to any decision to proceed with this option.

##### Alternative Options

##### Option 1 (b): Developer contributions to be stipulated for sites zoned for housing and / or economic development through the Local Policies Plan, and not sought elsewhere

This option would only secure developer contributions for the development of sites zoned through the LDP. However, it would provide certainty in regard to such sites and may be a lower cost than Option (a) in regard to administration, given the finite number of sites.

This option may also offer greater scope than Option (a) to secure developer contributions in 'kind', rather than cash – for example to secure direct provision of a children's play area.

However, this option could be seen as a missed opportunity to capture developer contributions linked with applications outside of zoned sites (potentially including large scale windfall development).

This option may have limited applicability as most zonings will be selected in areas where existing infrastructure is adequate to service the anticipated development, hence there may be little justification to seek developer contributions.

##### Option 1 (c): Developer contributions to be negotiated on a site by site basis at the time of any planning application

This option would secure developer contributions that would be negotiated between Council and developers on a case by case basis. Whilst it would provide for a greater degree of flexibility than other options, it would provide less certainty up front for developers and others.

As with Option (b) there may be more scope to secure developer contributions in 'kind'.

However, this option may also give potential for greater inconsistency in the approach to securing developer contributions and may offer less transparency than other options.

##### Option 1 (d): Do not seek developer contributions under any circumstances

This option would essentially maintain the status quo. Whilst legislation to enable the planning authority to seek planning agreements (with or without developer contributions) has been in place since the Planning Order 1991, the power has not been widely used. This may be because the imposition of conditions is often simpler and less costly to administer and, unlike a planning agreement, is subject to appeal.

However, this option could be seen as a missed opportunity to capture developer contributions in the appropriate circumstances.

Whilst this option could be seen as the least likely to deter investment, it could also have the net result of stifling certain development schemes which could potentially end up being refused planning permission because of the lack of a joined up approach between developer and Council to address the obstacles thwarting the project.

### Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
1A	+	+	+	+	+	++	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
1B	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
1C	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
1D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Similar scoring across Options A to C with positive scores for all of these options on several objectives including health, society, housing, education, economic growth, active travel, air quality, climate change, water resources, natural resources and built/cultural heritage. Option A was considered to have a significantly positive effect for material assets as it could support (local) infrastructure projects. Option C would be less able to deliver than the other two options as much would depend on the approach taken on a case-by-case basis and the quality of both negotiations and wording of planning conditions or agreements. Option A was considered to deliver more than the other options on the objectives for health, society, housing, education, economic growth, material assets, active travel, air quality, climate change and built/cultural heritage. Option B is deemed to deliver slightly more on objectives for water and natural resources.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Key site requirements; local representative involvement; management agreements; planning conditions; planning agreements; consideration of site conditions in preparing proposals.

## Key Issue 2: Settlement Hierarchy

(Chapter 5: Spatial Growth Strategy)

### Preferred Option

Option 2 (a): Adopt a new settlement hierarchy for the Borough, which includes amending the settlement hierarchy within the existing area plans through re-classification of existing settlements, addition of new settlements and de-designation of selected small settlements (see Table 3.2.1)

This would mean a new four tier hierarchy that identifies three main towns, six small towns, ten villages and seventeen small settlements.

This option retains Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne at the top tier of the hierarchy as the three main towns. It also provides for re-classification of selected villages to small towns i.e. Ahoghill, Broughshane, Cullybackey and Portglenone and for the re-classification of the small settlement of Martinstown to a village. In addition, eight new candidate small settlements are proposed.

This option would also de-designate twelve existing small settlements as it has been found that these settlements do not appear to have grown and offer little in the way of service provision. Some even lack any physical cohesion in the existing built form and any type of focal point that might indicate any sense of place. Also, due to the proximity of the existing small settlement of Trooperslane to the existing development limits of Carrickfergus town it is proposed that it is subsumed into Carrickfergus.

This approach will omit the inconsistencies between the settlement hierarchies of the three legacy councils. It will provide a holistic and consistent approach across the Borough therefore ensuring a more equitable and sustainable approach to future growth and development.

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**Table 3.2.1 Proposed Settlement Hierarchy for Mid & East Antrim Borough Council**

---

Settlement Hierarchy		
Main Towns	Ballymena Carrickfergus Larne	
Small Towns	Greenisland Whitehead Ahoghill Broughshane Cullybackey Portglenone	
Villages	Cargan Clough Kells/Connor Martinstown	Ballycarry Ballygalley Ballystrudder Carnlough Glenarm Glynn



Small Settlements	Grange Corner	Carnalbanagh
	Newtowncrommelin	Carncastle
	Moorefields	Crosshill
	Buckna	Glenoe
	Glarryford	Magheramorne
	Woodgreen	Mounthill
	Milltown	Mullaghboy
	Slaght	Raloo
	Craigwarren	

## Alternative Options

### Option 2 (b): Retain existing settlement hierarchy within existing area plans (see Table 3.2.2).

The existing settlement hierarchy was established through three separate Area Plans which were adopted at different times over a 27 year period. The Ballymena Area Plan 1986-2001 and the Larne Area Plan 2010 are now well past their notional end-by dates and were prepared before the introduction of the first version of the RDS and in very different social and economic climates. To carry this option forward would not take account of the RDS and would lead to settlement designation inconsistencies across the Borough. Retaining the existing settlement hierarchy would mean settlements would remain in the same tier of the hierarchy despite changes to their population, facilities and public transport. For example some existing small settlements that do not have facilities nor infrastructure to support further development would be retained. In addition, adopting such an approach would preclude the consideration of new candidate small settlements.

**Table 3.2.2: Existing settlement hierarchy in existing area plans for former Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne Districts**

Settlement Hierarchy	Ballymena	Larne	Carrickfergus
Main Towns	Ballymena	Larne	Carrickfergus
Local Towns			Whitehead Greenisland
Villages	Ahoghill Broughshane Cargan Clough Cullybackey Kells/Connor Portglenone	Ballycarry Ballygalley Ballystrudder Carnlough Glenarm Glynn	
Small Settlements	Grange Corner Martinstown	Browns Bay Carnageer Carnalbanagh Carncastle Crosshill Deerpark Drumcrow Ferris Bay Feystown Garron Point Glenoe Kilwaughter	Knocknagulliagh Trooperslane

		Magheramorne Mill Bay Mounthill Mullaghboy Raloo Straidkilly	
--	--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

Option 2 (c): Amend existing settlement hierarchy within existing area plans through re-classification of existing settlements and addition of new settlements (see Table 3.2.3).

No settlements would be de-designated under this option. This would lead to the retention of existing small settlements particularly in the former Larne Borough Council district that do not have the facilities nor infrastructure to support sustainable growth.

**Table 3.2.3: Existing Settlement Hierarchy amended with re-classification of existing settlements and addition of new settlements**

Settlement Hierarchy	Ballymena	Larne	Carrickfergus
Main Towns	Ballymena	Larne	Carrickfergus
Small Towns/ Local Towns	Ahoghill Broughshane Cullybackey Portglenone		Whitehead Greenisland
Villages	Cargan Clough Kells/Connor Martinstown	Ballycarry Ballygalley Ballystrudder Carnlough Glenarm Glynn	
Small Settlements	Grange Corner Newtoncrommelin Moorefields Buckna Glarryford Woodgreen Milltown Slaght Craigwarren	Carnalbanagh Carncastle Crosshill Glenoe Magheramorne Mounthill Mullaghboy Browns Bay Carnageer Deerpark Drumcrow Ferris Bay Feystown Garron Point Kilwaughter Mill Bay Raloo Straidkilly	Knocknagulliagh Trooperslane

Note: *Green*: elevated settlements *Purple*: new candidate settlements

## Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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	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	12... protect natural resources and enhance	13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.
2A	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	0	+	+	+	?
2B	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	?	0	-	-	-	-
2C	0	+	-	0	+	0	0	-	?	0	-	-	-	?

Option B does not demonstrate a positive contribution to any sustainability objective and, together with option C, it has potential negative effects for housing, sustainable travel, water and natural resources, landscape and the historic environment (option B) due to the recognition of more settlements than in option A. Options A and C each have positive benefits for strengthening society although for different reasons. Likewise they are positive for economic growth with A favouring towns while C favours the rural economy. Option 2A, which focuses more on larger settlements and will provide for more efficient use of land, infrastructure and resources, scored positively for these objectives and also for society, housing, education, economic growth, material assets, physical resources, active travel, water resources, natural resources and landscape character. Option 2A provides the opportunity to have a hierarchy that more sustainably represents current populations, facilities and services.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Other government policies; mitigation, settlement development limits, housing allocations, climate change adaption measures, planning conditions, water conservation measures, building design guides, conservation guidelines, biodiversity enhancement measures, other planning policy.

## Key Issue 3: Spatial Growth Strategy

### (Chapter 5: Spatial Growth Strategy)

Focus major population growth and economic development in the three main towns of Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne, strengthening their roles as the prime locations for business, retail, housing, administration, leisure and cultural facilities within the Borough. Facilitate appropriate growth in our small towns to provide opportunities for business, retail, housing and services. Sustain rural communities living in and around villages and small settlements and facilitate sustainable development in the open countryside, balancing the need to protect the environment and rural character while sustaining a strong and vibrant rural community.

### Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

This options has been appraised for its likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
3A	++	+	+	+	+	++	+	++	?	?	+	+	++	0

This option scored positive against most objectives. The option reflects the Regional Development Strategy, the settlement hierarchy and their approach to land zoning. This option scored positive against most objectives. The option reflects the Regional Development Strategy, the settlement hierarchy and their approach to land zoning.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Planning conditions, biodiversity enhancement measures, other planning policies, landscape associated designations (local landscape policy areas and landscape wedges), traffic calming measures, active travel options i.e. green infrastructure, compatible adjacent land uses, no development in floodplains, building design guides, local building/design conservation measures, green building design.

## Key Issue 4: Housing Allocation Strategy

(Chapter 5: Spatial Growth Strategy)

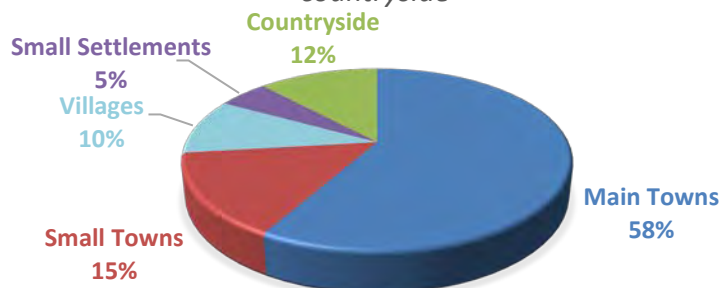
### Preferred Option

**Option 4 (a): Maintain the status quo in terms of housing allocation based on the proportion of households living in main towns and small towns at the time of the 2011 Census and increase the percentage of housing growth to villages and small settlements at the expense of the open countryside.**

Therefore allocate 58.5% of the projected HGI figure to main towns, 14.9% to Small Towns, 9.6% to Villages, 5% to small settlements and 12% to the Countryside. This would result in an allocation of 3,645 houses between the main towns, 928 across the small towns, 598 to the villages, 312 to the small settlements and 748 across the open countryside.

Under this option the main towns and small towns will receive a housing allocation based on the existing share of households in the 2011 Census, the percentage of housing to be allocated to villages and small settlement however, will be increased above this existing share at the expense of the open countryside. This option aims to conform with the RDS in that most housing growth is directed to the main towns of Ballymena, Larne and Carrickfergus whilst ensuring that the needs of the rural community are met in a sustainable manner. By directly more housing growth to villages and small settlements than the other options, this preferred option also supports that element of the Spatial Growth Strategy to, 'sustain rural communities living in and around villages and small settlements'.

**Option 4 (a)**  
*Increase villages and Small Settlements at the expense of open countryside*



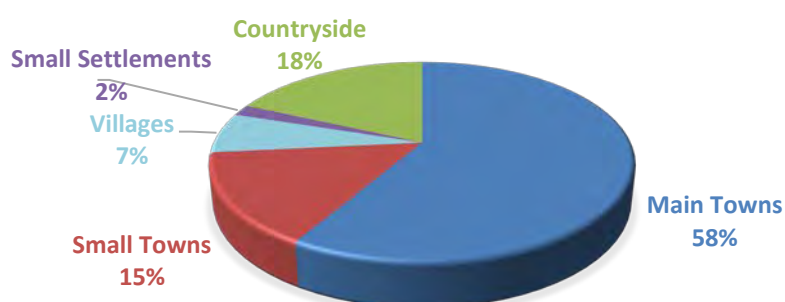
## Alternative Options

**Option 4 (b):** Maintain the status quo in terms of housing allocation based on the proportion of households living in the main towns, small towns, villages, small settlements and countryside at the time of the 2011 Census.

Therefore allocate 58.5% of the projected HGI figure to main towns, 14.9% to small towns, 6.6% to villages, 1.8% to small settlements and 18.2% to the countryside. This means that each settlement would be allocated a share of the new housing allocation based on its existing share of households in 2011, with the countryside receiving the remainder.

This option is in general conformity with the RDS which states that housing development should be principally located in the main hubs of Ballymena and Larne and within Carrickfergus to support its role within the Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area. However, the percentage of housing allocation in the open countryside exceeds that of small towns and is contrary to the RDS which seeks to promote housing in existing urban areas. This options encourages more sustainable development in areas that have facilities, services and infrastructure to support the population however the high percentage allocation in the Countryside could be deemed unsustainable.

**Option 4 (b)**  
*Status Quo - based on location of 2011 Households in the Borough*



**Option 4 (c):** Increase the ability to meet the RDS 60% brownfield target in settlements over 5,000.

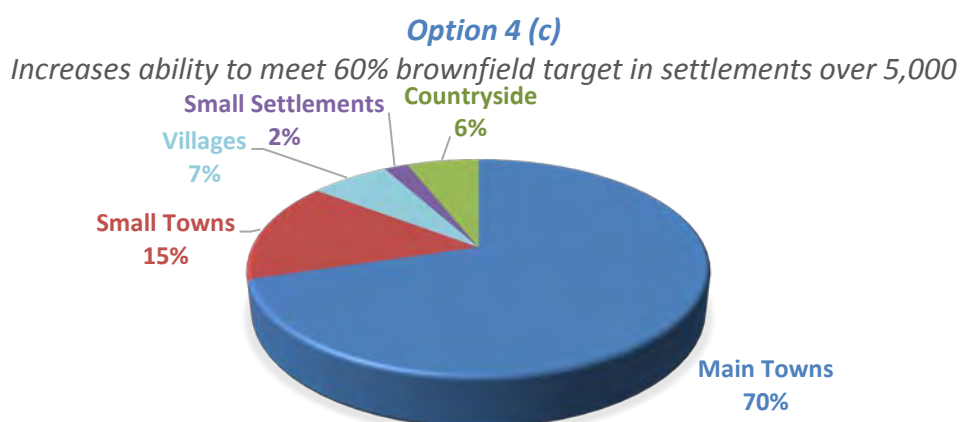
Therefore allocate 70% of the projected HGI figure to main towns, 14.9% to small towns, 6.6% to villages, 2.5% to small settlements and 6% to the countryside.

This option is the most proactive in terms of following the RDS direction to channel most housing growth to the main urban centres as well as going some way to meeting the RDS regional target of 60% of new housing to be located within appropriate brownfield sites within the footprint of settlements greater than 5,000 population. In Mid & East Antrim this includes the three main towns of Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne and the small town of Greenisland. As not all land within the existing development limits of these settlements is brownfield nor within the urban footprint it is necessary to set a housing allocation percentage to the main towns in excess of 60% in order to go some way to meeting



this target. Further studies of the existing amount of brownfield land within the urban footprints of these four settlements will be necessary to ascertain how close to the 60% target can realistically be achieved.

In this option the share to the small towns, villages and small settlements remains substantially the same as the proportion of households in these settlements at the time of 2011 Census, while the allocation to the open countryside is significantly reduced.



### Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
4A	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	+	+	?
4B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	+	0	?
4C	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	+	+	?

All options scored similarly to each other against each objective with positive scores for all options against health and wellbeing, housing, education, economy, material assets, physical resources, active travel and natural resources. There were uncertainties for all options against air quality, climate change, water resources and built/cultural heritage. Option C may be able to deliver slightly more on several objectives such as housing, material assets, natural resources and landscape but there is a lack of emphasis on the rural communities. Option 4A is preferable as it presents a fairer distribution of housing across the hierarchy with growth still focused on the main hubs where services/facilities can support the populations but not to the detriment of the rural area.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

## Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Key site requirements; mitigation for pollution pathways; enhanced infrastructural works; biodiversity enhancement measures; management plans; landscaping plans; site mitigation – planning conditions; landscape planning policy, blue/green infrastructure in housing concept plans, efficiency measures in building designs.

## Key Issue 5: Hierarchy of Centres

(Chapter 5: Spatial Growth Strategy)

### Preferred Option

Option 5 (a): Align the Hierarchy of Centres with the proposed settlement hierarchy, but also include district and/or local centres

**Table 3.5.1: Proposed Hierarchy of Centres to align with the proposed settlement hierarchy for Mid and East Antrim but also to include district and local centres**

Hierarchy of Centres		
Main Towns	Ballymena Carrickfergus Larne	
Small Towns	Greenisland Whitehead Ahoghill Broughshane Cullybackey Portglenone	
Villages	Cargan Clough Kells/Connor Martinstown	Ballycarry Ballygalley Ballystrudder Carnlough Glenarm Glynn
District/Local Centres	Redlands (Larne) Waterfront Marina (Carrickfergus) Braidwater Retail Park (Ballymena) Larne town centre south of Harbour Highway Galgorm (Ballymena) Harryville (Ballymena)	

This option would enable the LDP to bring forward a full network and hierarchy of centres to reflect the specific circumstances of Mid and East Antrim. The three main towns of Ballymena, Larne and Carrickfergus would be promoted as the first choice locations for uses similar to tier one in the hierarchy of centres (see Table 5.9 in the Preferred Options Paper).

In keeping with the proposed settlement hierarchy, the preferred option would acknowledge the proposed re-classification of Ahoghill, Broughshane, Cullybackey and Portglenone from villages to small towns as well as the re-categorisation of Greenisland and Whitehead from 'local towns' to 'small towns'. These settlements would be promoted as suitable locations for uses similar to tier two of the hierarchy of centres (see Table 5.9 in the Preferred Options Paper).

Established clusters of retail and associated uses which are located outside of designated town centre boundaries (e.g. Galgorm and parts of Harryville in Ballymena and Redlands in Larne) may have potential to be designated as district or local “centres”. Appropriate uses are specified in Table 5.9 in the Preferred Options Paper.

This option could also provide opportunity to re-designate, as local or district centres, some areas currently within established town centre boundaries, if considered appropriate. For example areas cut off from the town centre by major roads such as Braidwater Retail Park (Ballymena), Land to the south of Harbour Highway (Larne) and the Castle and Waterfront Area (Carrickfergus)

### Policy Implications

This option will enable us to tailor policy to introduce a sequential approach in relation to retailing and other town centre uses. This will mean that such developments will have to demonstrate that there is no appropriate site within the desired town centre before they can be permitted to locate on an edge of centre or out of centre site.

It would also enable us to tailor policy which would aim to retain and consolidate existing district and local centres as a focus for local everyday shopping, ensuring their role is complementary to the role and function of other settlements at higher levels in the Hierarchy of centres.

### Alternative Options

Option 5 (b): Align the Hierarchy of centres with the proposed Settlement Hierarchy for Mid and East Antrim

**Table 3.5.2: Proposed Hierarchy of centres to align with the proposed settlement hierarchy for Mid and East Antrim**

Hierarchy of Centres		
Main Towns	Ballymena Carrickfergus Larne	
Small Towns	Greenisland Whitehead Ahoghill Broughshane Cullybackey Portglenone	
Villages	Cargan Clough Kells/Connor Martinstown	Ballycarry Ballygalley Ballystrudder Carnlough Glenarm Glynn

Option 5 (c): Designate only Ballymena, Larne and Carrickfergus town centres (as designated or amended) as the main focus of retail development and have minimal intervention by the LDP below this level.

**Table 3.5.3: Proposed Hierarchy of centres**

Hierarchy of Centres	
Main Towns	Ballymena Carrickfergus

## Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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	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	12... protect natural resources and enhance	13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.
5A	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
5B	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
5C	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	?	?	0	0	0	+

The three options have negligible or uncertain effects on the majority of sustainability objectives but all are likely to contribute positively to the historic environment. Option A also was considered to have a positive effect on encouraging active and sustainable travel. All of the options could have positive impact on economic growth but option A is likely to have a significantly positive effect.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Retail analysis; criteria for district and local centres; key site requirements if appropriate.

## Key Issue 6: Location of Class B1 Business Uses

(Chapter 6: Sustainable Economic Growth)

### Preferred Option

**Option 6 (a): Allow such development in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres, and within economic development zonings (or identified parts thereof) as part of a sequential approach**

This would ensure a flexible approach to facilitating businesses within these sectors across our Borough, whilst also capturing appropriate opportunities to enhance the vitality and viability of our town centres.

### Policy Implications

This option will enable us to tailor policy to introduce a sequential approach in relation to offices, call centres and Research and Development (R&D) facilities. This will mean that new proposals will have to demonstrate that there is no appropriate site with the town centre, district centre or local centre, before they can be located within an economic development zoning.

### Alternative Options

**Option 6 (b): Restrict Class B1 Business uses to Town Centres only.**

This option promotes and enhances the vitality of economic viability of town centre locations, with an increased opportunity to create a mixed use town centre synergy. It recognises the town centres as important hubs for a mix of

land uses and activities, consistent with the RDS. Suitable buildings in town centres may be available or capable of adaption to meet these needs. This option may, however, potentially be seen to deter investment where town centres are lacking appropriate space or infrastructure for offices and call centres. Due to the priority to promote economic growth throughout the life of the Plan, it may be advantageous to have a more flexible approach to offer a choice of suitable locations.

**Option 6 (c): Only allow such development in Town Centres, and District and Local Centres that may be brought forward through the Plan.**

This option takes account of established district and local centres which are accessible and well connected, with the availability of adequate infrastructure, retail and service provision. It ensures a more even distribution of economic development across our Borough. However, district and local centres may not offer the same size or choice of buildings as town centres, which may restrict the amount of space available for future expansion of businesses in these centres.

**Option 6 (d): Allow such development anywhere within settlement limits where a need can be demonstrated.**

This option provides maximum flexibility and provides for the varying needs of different types of scale of business use and more responsive to specialised needs. This option has the potential to detract investment from the town centres and lead to unsustainable development within areas which may not have the capacity to deal with the size and scale of an office or call centre, having cumulative impacts on transport, housing and infrastructure. This option would place greater reliance on dealing with applications on a case by case basis with planning officers having to determine what size and scale of development would be appropriate within each settlement limit. This in turn would result in greater uncertainty for developers than other Plan-led options.

**Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives**

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:



	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.
6A	0	+	0	0	++	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
6B	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	++	0	0	0	+	0	+
6C	0	+	0	0	++	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	+
6D	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0

Fairly similar scoring of options against the objectives with no negative outcomes. Options A and C scored significantly positive against economy, whilst B and C scored significantly positive against active travel. Options A, B and C scored positive for society, economy, material assets, physical resources, active travel, natural resources and built/cultural heritage. Option D also scored positive against economy, physical resources, active travel, natural resources and built/cultural heritage. Overall Option A is thought to be able to deliver slightly more for this planning issue and in particular for society, economy and natural resources, because of its wider scope of influence and as mitigation is feasible.

#### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

#### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

#### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Key site requirements; biodiversity enhancement measures - wildlife corridors, boundary planting; design guides – green building design/conservation guides; Economic Appraisal report/studies; business cases meeting local level criteria i.e. links to active travel options; partnership working with public transport provider around commuting times; employer led travel schemes; mitigation i.e. planning conditions, other planning policy.

## Key Issue 7: Availability of start-up and grow-on business space across the Borough

(Chapter 6: Sustainable Economic Growth)

### Preferred Option

**Option 7 (a): Provide for start-up and grow-on business space within economic development land/zonings by identifying land to be used specifically for start-up and grow-on business space, and utilise redundant buildings or land last used for economic development within settlements.**

This option allows us to identify new economic development land within settlements, and if appropriate on the edge of settlements, specifically for these types of businesses. We would also identify vacant or redundant land and buildings last used as economic and employment land in appropriate and accessible locations which would be suitable for conversion to small business start-up work space to help stimulate local enterprise and investment in these areas.

We will also continue to support appropriate rural development opportunities and maintain an appropriate level of sustainable economic development in the countryside. This will be facilitated through bringing forward in the LDP the relevant economic development in the countryside policies currently contained with PPS 4 and PPS 21.

## Policy Implications

Policy will support the re-use of previously developed economic development sites and buildings to help meet the needs of particular economic sectors, as well as ensuring that land is zoned specifically for the provision of start-up and grow-on business space.

## Alternative Options

### Option 7 (b): Only utilise redundant buildings or land last used for economic development.

This option would ensure land previously used for economic development is retained and utilised. It would also ensure the provision of additional economic development land for start-up and grow-on business space, above that in existing economic development zoned sites. Located within settlements, these sites usually benefit from good accessibility and adequate infrastructure provision. Sites could potentially accommodate varying numbers and sizes of small start-up / grow-on business units. The disadvantage of this option, however, is that there is only a limited number of redundant sites or land/buildings formerly used for economic development. Without the identification of new economic development land, the scope to meet 'start up' / 'grow on' business space need under this option is limited.

### Option 7 (c): Only provide for start-up and grow-on business space specifically within economic development land/zonings by identifying land to be used specifically for start-up and grow-on business space.

This option would enable specific provision for start-up / grow on business space within zonings, thereby providing certainty for this type of development. However, this option would involve setting aside land within zonings without certainty that development would take place to utilise these key land reserves for economic development. Serviced sites within zonings may also not be financially viable to such small scale enterprises. In addition, depending on the nature of existing economic activity on the zoned land, there could be incompatibility issues.

### Option 7 (d): Tailor policies to enable a more flexible approach in the countryside

This option has the potential to see more rural business and encourage entrepreneurship and business 'start-ups' outwith farm diversification and the existing PPS 4 policies and make a further contribution to the rural economy. However, this could 'open the door' to businesses expanding into major developments in rural areas, resulting in adverse impacts on transport, infrastructure, service provision, residential amenity and the environment. There is a reduced potential to enhance vitality and vibrancy of town centres or settlements which could have accommodated those start up / grow on businesses. There is also a missed opportunity for Council to strengthen income through rateable income base.

## Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
7A	0	+	0	0	++	++	++	+	0	0	?	+	0	+

7B	0	+	0	0	++	++	++	+	0	0	?	+	0	+
7C	0	+	0	0	++	+	+	+	0	0	?	0	0	+
7D	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	?	?	?	0	0

Some quite different scorings across options and against the objectives. Option D scored least favourably with negative outcomes for economy, material assets, physical resources and active travel, and uncertainties for climate change, water and natural resources. Options B, C and D had similar scorings with positives for society and active travel. Positive outcomes were also scored for natural resources and built/cultural heritage but over varying timeframes. Significant positive outcomes were also scored for all options against economy and for options A and B against material assets and physical resources. Overall Option A, with its wider scope of influence and potential to deliver benefits, particularly for economy, material assets, physical resources, active travel and natural resources, is the most sustainable.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Key site requirements - links with local transport system and/or active travel routes; site specific mitigation measures i.e. climate change adaptation measures; design guides; planning conditions – boundary planting, noise control measures; biodiversity enhancement measures; other planning policies.

## Key Issue 8: Alternative Uses on land zoned for Economic Development

### (Chapter 6: Sustainable Economic Growth)

#### Preferred Option

Option 8 (a): Allow alternative compatible economic uses/business falling outside Part B 'Industrial and Business Uses' within zoned economic development land. This would include for the sale or display of motor vehicles; as a scrapyards; or a yard for the storage or distribution of minerals; or the breaking of motor vehicles.

This option would offer greater flexibility for other uses over and above what is defined under Part B 'Industrial and Business Uses'. It would also provide for uses that are likely to be compatible with most industrial and business uses, yet difficult to accommodate elsewhere. The onus would then be on the applicant to provide evidence that the proposed business use is appropriate to be situated within economic development land and compatible with other business uses within the zoning.

#### Policy Implications

Policy will be more flexible permitting alternative compatible business uses to the traditional Class B Industrial and business uses within economic development zonings. Policy will also be clear that retail, commercial leisure and other uses which are not considered appropriate within land zoned for economic development will not be permitted.

#### Alternative Options

Option 8 (b): Safeguard land zoned for economic development use for industrial, business and storage and distribution uses only (currently defined in Part B 'Industrial and Business Uses' of the Planning (Use Classes) Order (NI) 2015).

This option would reduce the scope for incompatibility between Part B 'Industrial and Business Uses' and other uses within economic development zonings. Protecting economic development land from other types of development would

also provide more certainty of the availability of such land for economic development purposes. The disadvantages of this option are that the retention of this land for economic development for 'Industrial and Business Uses' only could be seen as potentially reducing flexibility and responsiveness to market demand for other uses. There are also likely to be difficulties in accommodating 'non-conforming' uses (e.g. leisure development requiring large space and car parking) in alternative areas within settlements.

### Option 8 (c): Allow retail, commercial leisure and other alternative uses falling outside Part B 'Industrial and Business Uses' within zoned economic development land.

Commercial leisure uses have already been developed in existing industrial estates throughout our Borough and there is growing pressure for out of town centre retail development on land zoned for economic development. Such development types should primarily be located within town centres or within close proximity to such, however economic development land is an attractive place for retail and these other uses as there is generally a higher provision of parking, and lower rental and rates in comparison to town centres. The only advantage of this option is that it facilitates some form of economic development on land that in many cases has not been utilised for the industrial and business purposes intended. However, with this option there would be a depletion in the reserves of economic development land and reduced employment opportunities may ensue in the longer term. There is also likely to be major incompatible issues due to the range of uses being permitted e.g. increased traffic congestion and reduced safety standards, as well as an adverse impact on town centres.

### Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
8A	+	0	0	0	++	+	+	?	0	0	0	0	0	0
8B	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	?	0	0	0	0	0	0
8C	-	0	0	0	- -	+	?	-	0	0	0	0	0	0

The options only scored against several objectives – health and wellbeing, economy, material assets, physical resources and active travel. Option C was the least favourable with negative scores for health and wellbeing and active travel; and a significant negative for economy. Options A and B have similar scorings against all objectives but Option A is the preferable option as it delivers more for the sustainability appraisal objectives and is considered to have significant positive effects for the economy.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

A likely significant effect was identified for enabling sustainable economic growth, for option 8C.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Key site requirements; biodiversity enhancement measures; mitigation – planning conditions; partnership working with public transport provider; economic incentives for investment in key areas.

## Key Issue 9: Range of town centre uses

(Chapter 6: Sustainable Economic Growth)

### Preferred Option

**Option 9 (a): Define a Primary Retail Core (within some or all town centres) accompanied by policy to substantially protect and promote retail uses on ground floor frontages in these areas. Designate specific sites in the town centres for mixed use development (retail and other town centre uses).**

This option would seek to strengthen the retail offer in core streets for the overall benefit of the town centre, whilst directing uses such as leisure and entertainment, which do not require a location within the core area, to other appropriate locations within or at the edge of the town centre. In conjunction with this, this option will seek to ensure that appropriate sites within the town centre boundary are designated to provide a diverse offer and mix of uses when being developed or re-developed, to reflect local circumstances. Such opportunity sites will be assessed to gauge the best mix of town centre uses, taking account of a range of planning related criteria and other factors such as economic viability.

### Policy Implications

This preferred option will require a new bespoke policy as none of the main towns in Mid and East Antrim have Primary Retail Cores designated in their extant plans. This would enable us to direct new retail uses to core shopping streets. It will also give us the opportunity to tailor policy to manage situations where there are pressures for changes of use which might threaten to undermine the primary retail function of the core areas. For example such policy could be applied where there is a clustering of non-retail uses or where the area overall is tending to be dominated by non-retail uses. This option would require new policy to be set out in the Plan Strategy so as to enable the designation of opportunity sites in the town centres through the Local Policies Plan. The appropriate mix of town centre uses for each site would be indicated through key site requirements (KSR's). This will provide certainty upfront to developers.

### Alternative Options

**Option 9 (b): Set out strategic criteria applicable to all town centres in relation to the protection and enhancement of diversity of uses, including retail and main town centre uses.**

This option seeks to provide for a diverse offer and mix of uses in town centres (such as cultural, housing, leisure, community facilities and business), which reflect local circumstances however mixed use proposals would be anticipated regardless of the location within the town centre. This could act to the detriment of retail core areas where vitality and vibrancy could be compromised through the dilution of the retail offer by allowing other non-retail uses.

**Option 9 (c): Define Primary Retail Cores in some or all town centres accompanied by policy to substantially protect and promote retail uses on ground floor frontages in these areas.**

This option has potential to strengthen the retail offer in core streets for the overall benefit of the town centre. Uses such as leisure and entertainment which do not require a location within the core area can be directed to other appropriate locations within or at the edge of the town centre. This option does not however encourage mixed use development on sites which lie outside the primary retail core which are within the town centre boundary.

**Option 9 (d): Designate specific sites in town centres for mixed use development (retail and other town centre uses).**

This option will seek to ensure that appropriate sites within the town centre boundary are designated to provide a diverse offer and mix of uses when being developed or re-developed, to reflect local circumstances. Such opportunity sites will be assessed to gauge the best mix of town centre uses, taking account of a range of planning related criteria and other factors such as economic viability. This option will also provide certainty upfront to developers as key site requirements could be attached to zoned development opportunity sites in the Local Policies Plan advising of specific mixed use requirements for each individual site. However this option alone could act to the detriment of retail core

areas where vitality and vibrancy could be compromised through the dilution of the retail offer by allowing other non-retail uses.

**Option 9 (e): Have minimal Plan intervention allowing flexibility by assessing planning applications on their merits.**

Although this option gives developers maximum flexibility in responding to market conditions it would not actively promote retail diversity or enhance diversity in the range of town centre uses appropriate to each town. This option does not take account of SPPS guidance that the LDP should support and sustain vibrant town centres through promoting retail and retail related uses in retail core areas. It therefore may not result in the optimum utilisation of development opportunity sites.

## Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
9A	0	+	+	0	++	0	0	++	?	0	0	0	0	+
9B	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
9C	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
9D	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
9E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Option A makes a positive contribution to several objectives and, through the combination of promoting a retail core and suitable mixed uses, it could make a significant contribution to economic growth and sustainable transport in the long term perhaps in the medium term. Options B, C and D can all contribute to the objectives for strengthening society, enabling sustainable economic growth, active and sustainable travel and the protecting the historic environment. Option E with minimal plan intervention will not contribute to delivery of the sustainability objectives and is considered to have a neutral effect.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Criteria for primary retail core and sites for mixed use; related policies and key site requirements; design considerations; stakeholder engagement.

## Key Issue 10: Protecting and promoting other town centre uses

(Chapter 6: Sustainable Economic Growth)

### Preferred Option

**Option 10 (a): Facilitate residential use through the protection of existing housing areas and/or include housing as part of the development mix in opportunity sites. Facilitate Class B1 Business Uses on upper floor levels in town centres.**

This option would protect the existing town centre housing stock for established communities and provide opportunity for adding to the town centre housing stock through provision as part of mixed use development on suitable opportunity sites. Facilitating town centre living is likely to enhance the vitality of the area, help to stimulate the evening economy and reduce vandalism.



The second part of this option to facilitate Class B1 Business Uses in the town centre, increases the opportunity to create town centre synergy through mixed land uses and activities, and, to underpin the economic vitality and viability of town centres by increasing footfall during office hours. The BMA Office Strategy includes Policy OF 1 which promotes Carrickfergus town centre as a main location for expanding service employment within the district. The rationale being that as town centres (mostly) lie at the heart of local transport networks, office development would support sustainable development through offering greater opportunity to avail of public transport services. Other benefits considered likely to accrue, relate to more efficient use of buildings, less vacancy and more jobs in the town centre.

### Policy implications

The first part of this option would require new policy to be set out in the Plan Strategy so as to enable designations of protected housing areas in the town centre through the Local Policies Plan.

This second part of this option would require amended wording to policy PED 1 of PPS 4 to promote a town centre first for Class B1 uses with a sequential approach to be applied for such proposals outside the town centre.

### Alternative Options

#### **Option 10 (b): Facilitate residential use through protection of existing housing areas and/or include housing as part of the development mix in opportunity sites.**

This option would protect the existing town centre housing stock for established communities and provide opportunity for adding to the town centre housing stock through provision as part of mixed use development on suitable opportunity sites. Facilitating town centre living is likely to enhance the vitality of the area, help to stimulate the evening economy and reduce vandalism. However it is a missed opportunity to strengthen the economic vitality and viability of town centres by increasing footfall during office hours with additional town centre office workers in addition to promoting and protecting town centre housing stock.

#### **Option 10 (c): Facilitate Class B1 Business Uses on upper floor levels in town centres (other than Class A2 uses), call centres, and research and development facilities.**

This option to facilitate Class B1 business uses in the town centre helps the economic vitality and viability of town centres by increasing footfall during office hours. The BMA Office Strategy includes Policy OF 1 which promotes Carrickfergus town centre (and Bangor) as a main location for expanding service employment within the district. The rationale being that as town centres (mostly) lie at the heart of local transport networks, office development would support sustainable development through offering greater opportunity to avail of public transport services. Other benefits considered likely to accrue, relate to more efficient use of buildings, less vacancy and more jobs in the town centre. However it is a missed opportunity to protect and promote town centre housing which would enhance the vitality of the area, help to stimulate the evening economy and reduce vandalism.

#### **Option 10 (d): Restrict these 'other' uses so as to reduce competition for land/buildings in the town centre, focusing on retailing and associated uses.**

Although this option would maximise choice for larger retail and other town centre uses it is a missed opportunity to encourage additional footfall into the town centre during office hours by office workers and in the evening by residents, as well as potentially reducing the use of the car as town centre office workers may choose public transport when it is so readily accessible to their place of work.

#### **Option 10 (e): Have minimal Plan intervention, allowing flexibility by assessing planning applications on their merits, taking account of the SPPS.**

Although this option gives developers maximum flexibility in responding to market conditions, choosing this option may result in speculators seeking to develop office space or housing in prime locations within the town centre which are preferable for retail or associated town centre uses and is also a missed opportunity to encourage additional footfall into the town centre during daytime by office workers and in the evening by residents.

## Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
10A	+	+	++	0	++	0	+	+	?	?	0	0	0	+
10B	+	+	++	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
10C	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	+	?	?	0	0	0	+
10D	0	0	-	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Option C could bring a significant positive effect for economic growth and positive impacts for a number of other objectives including sustainable transport and the historic environment. Option B was considered to contribute positively to the objectives to improve health and well-being, strengthening society and providing good quality housing. Option A combines the impacts of B and C and maximises their relative benefits. It was considered to have a significantly positive effect on providing good quality sustainable housing and enabling sustainable economic growth. Option D may have an adverse effect on housing and economy through restricting other uses. Option E with minimal plan intervention will not contribute to delivery of the sustainability objectives.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Criteria for residential areas and B1 uses in town centres; related policies and key site requirements; design considerations; stakeholder engagement.

## Key Issue 11: Accommodating Future Tourism Demand

(Chapter 6: Sustainable Economic Growth)

### Preferred Option

Option 11 (a): Retain current strategic policy approach set out in PPS 16: Tourism for accommodating tourism development in both settlements and the countryside *and* bring forward bespoke policy tailored to the tourism potential of Vulnerable, Sensitive and Opportunity areas within Mid and East Antrim Borough (see Table 6.4).

In addition to retaining current policy, with minor amendments, this approach will provide additional clarity on the potential for tourism development within our Borough. This option will highlight the Borough's most valuable and vulnerable assets which should for the most part be protected from inappropriate tourism development, highlight

sensitive areas as well as clearly setting out potential tourism growth areas. The potential for tourism development has been proposed in the following three categories:

*Vulnerable Category* – includes many of our already designated areas. In these areas the quality and character of the landscape is considered so special and/or the conservation interests are of such significance, that little or no development for tourism or recreation should be permitted within the majority of their extent. The reason is to safeguard the integrity of these assets which underpins their attractiveness to tourists.

*Sensitive Category* - includes the open countryside and a number of our already designated areas. In these areas the character of the landscape, the conservation interest or the existing level of development are such that whilst there may be scope for development, proposals must be sensitive to the particular characteristics of the surrounding environment. Sympathetic development, which by its nature and scale would not be damaging to nature conservation interests or historic environment, and which is sensitive to the landscape could be acceptable at some locations.

*Opportunity Category* – these areas include the remainder of urban and rural settlements and three proposed Opportunity Zones, namely Carnfunnock Country Park, Magheramorne Quarry and Gobbins Visitor Centre/Path. Such areas are considered to offer opportunities for the development of a range of appropriate quality tourism and recreation schemes in order to build on the existing tourism base and enhance the tourism product. In some cases this may involve the expansion of existing tourism developments.

This option is considered to be in accordance with the RDS and the SPPS as a sustainable approach to tourism development which seeks to balance tourism growth with the protection of the natural and historic environment. This approach takes account of the quality and character of the townscape and landscape and the natural and built heritage. It will provide a greater degree of certainty than the Alternative Option as to where tourism development will be most appropriate and acceptable. As recommended by the SPPS this approach is tailored to the needs and assets of the local area and will be informed by engagement with relevant stakeholders.

## Policy Implications

It is proposed that PPS 16 will continue to be applied in settlements and the countryside generally, in accordance with the recommendation in the Policy Review (Chapter 11 in the Preferred Options Paper refers). However, within settlements and the countryside, bespoke policy will be brought forward and tailored to the tourism potential and capacity of discrete areas. These are identified in Table 3.11.1 as vulnerable, sensitive and opportunity areas.

**Table 3.11.1: Proposed Categories for Tourism Potential in Mid and East Antrim Borough Council**

<b>Vulnerable</b> Tourism Development should not be approved within majority of their extent	<b>Sensitive</b> Tourism Development should be strictly controlled to respect local environment and characteristics of the area	<b>Opportunity</b> Largely urban based and three new proposed areas where majority of Tourism Development will be expected to be located
<b>The Coastal Zone</b> (excluding Urban Waterfronts)	<b>The Countryside</b>	<b>Urban Remainder</b>
<b>Sensitive Areas within Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)</b>	<b>Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)</b>	<b>Rural Settlements</b>
<b>Gracehill Conservation Area</b>	<b>Conservation Areas</b> (Glenarm, Carnlough, Whitehead, Carrickfergus)	<b>Carnfunnock Country Park</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Historic Parks</b></li> <li>• <b>Gardens and Demesnes</b></li> <li>• <b>Sites of Archaeological Interest</b></li> </ul>	<b>Areas of Townscape Character</b>	<b>Magheramorne Quarry</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nature Conservation Designations</b> (RAMSAR, ASSIs, SPAs/SACs National Nature Reserves, Local Nature Reserves, SLNCI)</li> </ul>	<b>Areas of High Scenic Value</b> (Carrickfergus Escarpment & Islandmagee)	<b>Gobbins Visitor Centre/Path</b>

• <b>Landscape Designations</b> including landscape wedges		
<b>Other Designations</b> e.g. new Special Countryside Areas (SCAs)		

## Alternative Option

**Option 11 (b): Retain current strategic policy approach set out in PPS 16: Tourism for accommodating tourism development in settlements and in the countryside, with minor amendments.**

In keeping with the provisions of the SPPS, this option is to retain the existing strategic policy approach to tourism development. This sets out a presumption in favour of tourism development in both urban areas or on their periphery. This policy also allows for appropriate tourism development in the countryside including tourist amenities and accommodation and exceptional major tourism development. There is also potential to convert existing buildings, avail of infill sites, and develop tourism projects through farm diversification and the redevelopment of established economic development in the countryside.

However, in the context of a Plan-Led system, this approach is not proactive in highlighting areas within the Borough where tourism development should be prevented or restricted, for the ultimate benefit of the tourism sector.

## Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
11A	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+
11B	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+

Both options scored similarly across the objectives, with neutral for many of the sustainability objectives and a positive contribution to sustainability objectives for economic growth, physical and water resources, natural resource and biodiversity and landscape and the historic environment. However, it was identified that 11A would deliver more for each objective through highlighting valuable and vulnerable tourism assets and developing bespoke policy.

## What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

## What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

## Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Criteria for vulnerable, sensitive and opportunity categories; mapping and analysis of tourism assets; bespoke policy and/or key site requirements for identified areas.

## Key Issue 12: Balancing the need for Minerals Development with safeguarding of Landscape and Environmental Assets

(Chapter 6: Sustainable Economic Growth)

### Preferred Option

Option 12 (a): Safeguard mineral resources of economic or conservation value e.g. by allowing for expansion of existing quarries, and retain the existing designated Area of Salt Reserve. There would be a presumption in favour of minerals development within designated Minerals Reserve Areas and other areas identified as suitable for minerals development. However, there would be a presumption against minerals development within areas designated for their landscape and/or environmental/heritage significance or at least within the majority of their extent e.g. within existing, expanded or new Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMD). Elsewhere proposals would be determined against existing or amended policy on a case by case basis.

### Policy Implications

This option will enable us to define areas where there will be a presumption for minerals development, and other areas where there will be a presumption against. Elsewhere, proposals will be determined in accordance with existing or amended minerals policy adopted by our LDP (refer to Chapter 11 Policy Review in the Preferred Options Paper).

### Alternative Options

Option 12 (b): Remove the existing ACMD and facilitate minerals development entirely through the application of existing or amended policy.

This option would provide the most flexibility with regard to minerals development however it would not offer sufficient protection for areas considered to be sensitive because of their landscape and/or environmental significance and it could be harmful to the tourism sector of the economy. Further, this option would not provide certainty for those engaged in minerals development and those potentially impacted by it nor is it likely to “join up” with adjoining councils.

Option 12 (c): Safeguard mineral resources of economic or conservation value e.g. by allowing for expansion of existing quarries, and retain the existing designated Area of Salt Reserve. There would be a presumption in favour of minerals development within such areas. Apply existing/amended policy elsewhere with applications being decided on a case by case basis against policy criteria.

This option would accord with the SPPS in that it sets out areas to safeguard mineral exploitation. Also, the option would provide certainty for developers and other parties within designated Mineral Reserve Areas. However, this option would likely fail on soundness due to its inability to secure an appropriate balance between minerals development and the safeguarding of landscape and environmental assets, within the context of the SPPS. Additionally, this option is unlikely to “join up” with adjoining council areas.

### Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
12A	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	?	0	+	+	+	+
12B	0	0	0	0	?	0	+	0	?	0	0	?	-	?
12C	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	?	0	0	?	-	?

There are some uncertainties about the effects of the three options and these will be assessed further as detail on policy and spatial extent becomes available during plan preparation. Options B and C may have negative effects for water resources, natural resources and landscape in the short to medium term for each development although these may be addressed for those sites that progress to be restored. All options contribute to sustainable use of physical resources although to varying extents. Option A is likely to have a net positive effect for economic growth as well as contributing to sustainability objectives for water resources, natural resources, landscape and historic environment.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Criteria for Mineral Reserves Areas and Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development; mapping and analysis of mineral resources, landscape character, natural resources and historic environment assets.

## Key Issue 13: Safeguarding Against Potential Subsidence and the Effects of Land Instability

(Chapter 6: Sustainable Economic Growth)

### Preferred Option

Option 13 (a): Retain the existing BMAP Areas of Potential Subsidence within the former Carrickfergus Borough and retain Policy CE 06. Also, assess if there are any other known areas of potential subsidence within the Borough that should be identified whilst also relying on existing Policy PSU10 of the Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland to prevent development in all areas known to be at risk from land instability - including from mining, coastal erosion, landslides and other relevant causes.

This option identifies through a plan-led approach areas known to be unsafe for built development due to potential subsidence associated with abandoned mines or those currently being worked and it also addresses all areas of known risk, thereby recognising the evidence gap in regard to incomplete information. Additionally, this option addresses all potential sources of land instability and does not refer solely to mining activities.

### Policy Implications

This option would continue to apply a policy similar to Policy CE 06 to areas of potential subsidence associated with minerals development within Carrickfergus and to other areas of the Borough where this risk has been clearly identified. In addition PSRNI PSU10 would continue to be applied to address wider risks including land instability.



## Alternative Options

**Option 13 (b):** Retain the existing BMAP Areas of Potential Subsidence within the former Carrickfergus Borough and retain Policy CE 06 and assess if there are any other known areas of potential subsidence within the Borough that should be identified.

The main advantage of this option is that it identifies through a plan-led approach all areas known to be unsafe for built development due to potential subsidence associated with abandoned mines or those currently being worked. However, drawbacks of this option include that information on other areas of potential subsidence associated with mining, particularly abandoned mines, is likely to be incomplete and the option does not address the broader problems of development at risk due to land instability or other factors.

**Option 13 (c):** Rely on existing Policy PSU10 of the Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland to prevent development in all areas known to be at risk from land instability - including from mining, coastal erosion, landslides and other relevant causes.

The main advantage of this option is that it addresses all potential sources of land instability and it does not solely refer to mining activities. Also, the option refers to areas of known risk, thereby recognising the evidence gap in regard to incomplete information. However, this option would fail to provide the greater level of certainty associated with a plan-led approach, whereby areas at risk are spatially identified.

## Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
13A	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	0
13B	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13C	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	0

The three options have no or negligible effect on many of the sustainability objectives. Options A and C allow for adaptation to climate change and also can protect habitats and landscape by avoiding development where there is a risk of coastal erosion. All options reduce the risks to health and well-being by addressing safety risks with option A having a significantly positive effect.

## What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

## What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

## Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Mapping available information on all areas of risk for subsidence, land instability and coastal erosion; criteria for areas at risk of land instability; incorporation of policy.



# Key Issue 14: Facilitating Social and Affordable Housing

(Chapter 7: Building Sustainable Communities)

## Preferred Option

**Option 14 (a):** Zone sites solely for social/affordable housing in the Local Policies Plan and include key site requirements where a proportion of a general housing zoning should be provided as social housing, where a need has been identified. In addition set out strategic policy requiring that every tenth unit within new housing developments, in settlements where a need has been identified, shall be a social housing unit.

This option proposes a three pronged approach that would seek to achieve a balance between certainty in relation to social housing provision as well as contributing to the provision of balanced communities.

The addition of the one in 10 policy within the Plan Strategy would help to address the social housing need in Mid and East Antrim until such times as the Local Policies Plan brings forward social housing land zonings and key site requirements on selected zoned sites. It is also considered that this particular approach reduces opportunities for developers splitting sites to avoid providing the required degree of social/affordable housing.

Delivery of social and affordable housing would be secured through planning conditions or on more complex and larger applications by Article 76 agreements.

## Policy Implications

This Preferred Option will require new policy wording to be brought forward to replace PPS12 Policy HS2 Social Housing.

## Alternative Options

**Option 14 (b):** Set out strategic policy to allow the spatial zoning of social/affordable housing sites, where a need has been identified, through the Local Policies Plan.

The SPPS has identified zoning as one of the possible means of delivery of social housing. This option would identify and zone sites within Mid and East Antrim solely for the purpose of the provision of social/affordable housing. Such an approach has been previously been used in Carrickfergus in BMAP, however all the identified sites were developed prior to the publication of the plan. This approach provides certainty for Housing Associations and guarantees that adequate land is identified to accommodate the identified need through the plan period and therefore provides greater confidence that the required provision will be met. At present unless specific sites have allocated Housing Associations have to compete for sites in the open market which can stymie development, this approach however would remove this obstacle. This option is also beneficial in area of acute social need particularly in rural areas where development opportunities are generally limited.

The disadvantage of this approach is that it may lead to the isolation of social housing and the creation of single tenure developments which is contrary to the SPPS which seeks to encourage mixed/tenure blind developments in order to achieve balanced communities.

NIHE does not support this option as the singular means of facilitating social and affordable housing.

**Option 14 (c):** Set out strategic policy to enable the Local Policies Plan to indicate through key site requirements the proportion of social/affordable housing units to be provided in specific housing zonings, to meet local needs.

The SPPS has identified key site requirements as one of the possible means of delivery for social housing. This option would indicate through key site requirements on zoned housing land where a proportion of a site may be required for social/affordable housing. It would not preclude other social housing sites coming forward through the development management process.

This option would meet the aims of the SPPS as it would contribute to the provision of balanced communities through tenure blind development particularly when social housing provision is 'pepper potted' throughout larger private developments.

However, it relies on the market and on the uptake of sites by private developers and therefore there is a reduced level of certainty that the provision will be met. This option may also fail to address areas of acute social housing need and rural areas where development opportunities may be limited and small in scale.

Delivery of social and affordable housing would be ensured through planning conditions or on more complex and larger applications as an Article 76 agreement.

NIHE does not support this option as singular means of facilitating social and affordable housing.

#### Option 14 (d): Set out strategic policy requiring all housing sites, over certain thresholds, to provide a proportion of social/affordable housing.

This option would set out a strategic policy stipulating that all proposed housing sites (including windfall housing sites) over a certain threshold unit number must provide a specified percentage of social/affordable housing. This policy would distinguish rural areas where a lower threshold would be more appropriate.

It would contribute to the provision of balanced communities through mixed tenure developments. However, as a broad brush approach this could result in over provision of social housing and the provision of social housing in areas where no need has been identified. The option would require a strong and firm evidence base in order to justify such an approach across the Borough.

This policy approach would potentially be open to manipulation through subdivision of sites and in order to avoid this the LDP would have to state that applications which artificially divide sites can be refused.

Delivery of the social and affordable housing would be ensured through planning conditions or on more complex and larger applications as an Article 76 agreement.

As NIHE strongly advocates mixed tenure development they have indicated in initial feedback that currently this would be their preferred option.

#### Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
14A	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14B	+	-	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14C	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14D	+	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

This issue deals with facilitating social housing and, as such, the options have scored against the key objectives for health and wellbeing, strengthening society and provision of good, quality sustainable housing. Option A, which takes a three pronged approach, is thought to be able to deliver more on all three sustainability objectives. All options scored positively for health and wellbeing as social housing would be provided to help meet specific needs. Option B scored negatively for strengthening society at it may lead to the isolation of social housing and the creation of single tenure developments, instead of encouraging mixed/tenure blind development in order to achieve balanced communities as set out in Options C and A. Option C also scored significantly positive in the longer term against the objective for sustainable housing as the wider scope of the option enables an increased level of integrated social housing.

#### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

A likely significant effect was identified for strengthening society, for option 14B.

## **What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?**

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### **Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects**

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Key site requirements; land zoning.

## **Key Issue 15: Delivery of Housing to Meet the Needs of People with Mobility Difficulties (including people with disabilities and older people)**

(Chapter 7: Building Sustainable Communities)

### **Preferred Option**

**Option 15 (a): Set out strategic policy that all ground floor apartments in blocks of two storey or above should be wheelchair accessible units.**

This policy would apply to all ground floor apartments including those buildings converted into apartments unless justified otherwise e.g. if it was unrealistic due to the building being listed. Current policy sets out that developments over 25 units must contain a mix of house types and sizes and this can help deliver apartments. In addition, the Local Policies Plan could set out key site requirements on selected zoned housing sites requiring apartments of an appropriate scale and design, thereby assisting delivery of a degree of wheelchair accessible units through the private market.

It is considered that this policy will also help to contribute to increased densities in town centres as these tend to be the favoured locations for apartment developments. As these locations are accessible to amenities, services and public transport, this policy could also bring the added benefit of assisting independent living.

This option would seek to address the housing needs of the general population who require a wheelchair accessible dwelling in addition to addressing the needs of an ageing population. The option could also help create more balanced and inclusive communities.

### **Policy Implications**

This Preferred Option will require new policy wording to be brought forward stipulating that all ground floor apartments in blocks of two storey or above should be wheelchair accessible units. It is recommended that the wording of PPS 12 Policy HS 4 regarding a mix of house types and sizes in new residential developments is brought forward in the LDP Plan Strategy and expanded to include this additional criterion.

### **Alternative Option**

**Option 15 (b): No intervention by the Local Development Plan for delivery of wheelchair accessible dwelling units.**

This option does not place any requirement on developers to provide additional standards beyond those which are currently required by building control. The onus would be left to the developer and the market to decide if such standards are implemented and incorporated into developments. Such an approach would reduce cost and complexity for prospective developers.

This option fails to recognise the varying needs of all Mid and East Antrim residents and our ageing population in particular. This option would also miss an opportunity to bring a degree of private wheelchair accessible units onto the market, in addition to those provided by Housing Associations.

### **Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives**

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
15A	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Option 15A is supportive of objectives for health and wellbeing, strengthening society and good quality, sustainable housing. It scores positively against these key objectives for the needs of a specific group within society. It would enable those with mobility issues to live more easily within local communities as part of wider society and empower these people within their homes and communities.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Future reports from NIHE, on providing housing for elderly persons and current housing need for those with mobility issues and census information may be used to inform Key Site Requirements in housing zonings and provide a level of apartments in areas of need. Other planning policy will also need to be complied with for conversions of certain buildings e.g. those that are listed.

## Key Issue 16: Community Growing Spaces and Allotments

(Chapter 7: Building Sustainable Communities)

### Preferred Option

#### Option 16 (a): Support delivery of Community Growing Spaces/Allotments in suitable locations

This option through the provision of policy criteria would support the delivery of community growing spaces particularly in locations that encourage active travel and sustainable development. This option would also allow firm proposals for future growing spaces to be identified spatially in the Local Policies Plan. This approach supports the Community Plan in seeking to improve health and wellbeing for the benefit of all citizens as well as meeting wider environmental, social and economic aims with regards to achieving sustainable development.

### Policy Implications

This option will require new bespoke policy for the assessment of such proposals that come forward and also allow for spatial designation through the Local Policies Plan.

### Alternative Options

Option 16 (b): Support delivery of Community Growing Spaces/Allotments in suitable location and support delivery of Community Growing Spaces/Allotments within appropriate new housing developments.

This option would set out policy to encourage the provision of community growing spaces or allotments within new housing developments. This would be delivered by highlighting as appropriate, requirements for community growing spaces/allotments through key site requirements for housing zonings of a certain size and/or in a particular location.

### Option 16 (c): No specific policy for Community Growing Spaces/Allotments, and such proposals would be assessed within a wider policy for new open space.

In this option the LDP would not set out a specific policy to support or promote community growing spaces nor allotments but rather applications for such proposals would be assessed against a wider policy for new open space provision. Criteria could include the following: Satisfactory landscape scheme, no unacceptable impact on visual or residential amenity or nature conservation, archaeology or built heritage, ancillary buildings designed to high standard, are of scale appropriate to the character of the local area/townscape and are sympathetic to the surrounding environment in terms of siting, layout and landscape treatment, proposal has no adverse impact on road safety or traffic levels, satisfactory arrangements for linkage to pedestrian and cycle network and where appropriate, access to site by public transport, satisfactory arrangements provided for site access, car parking, drainage and waste disposal.

This option would not actively promote growing spaces but would rather support appropriate proposals.

### Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
16A	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0
16B	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0
16C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

All options scored positively or neutral although for options A and B, neutral scores very often had positive comments i.e. air quality, climate change and water use. Option C had only neutral scores throughout and no positive comments. Options A and B are positive for objectives on health and wellbeing, society, material assets, physical resources, active/sustainable travel and natural resources.

## **What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?**

No significant negative effects were identified.

## **What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?**

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

## **Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects**

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Key Site Requirements, biodiversity measures, community groups, strategic groups, community associations; funding grants.

## **Key Issue 17: Community Greenways/Pathways**

(Chapter 7: Building Sustainable Communities)

### **Preferred Option**

#### **Option 17 (a): Facilitate the development of a network of Community Greenways/Pathways.**

This option will set out strategic policy to protect designated community greenways and pathways including those designated by other bodies. It will also ensure that new development has open space linkages to these greenways. This option would also allow for bespoke key site requirements to be attached to new zonings in the Local Policies Plan to help deliver this. In addition, the Local Policies Plan could spatially identify community greenways/pathways which seek to re-establish corridor links between the countryside, coast and urban areas of open space such as parks, playing fields and natural areas to create a multifunctional green network.

This approach supports our Community Plan in seeking to improve health and wellbeing for the benefit of all citizens as well as meeting wider environmental aims, such as the safeguarding of wildlife habitats, biodiversity and flood risk management.

### **Policy Implications**

This preferred option will require new bespoke policy to allow for the designation, provision and protection of new and existing community greenways/pathways and for open space linkages from new developments to these greenways. It is proposed that PPS 3 Policy AMP 5 is also amended to take account of the protection of designated greenways/pathways and Policy AMP 8 is amended to include reference to greenways/pathways. (see Preferred Options Paper Chapter 8 Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity)

### **Alternative Option**

#### **Option 17 (b): No specific policy to protect Greenways.**

This option is not favoured as it would result in the loss of opportunities to create accessible green space provision and a multifunctional green network.

## **Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives**

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
17A	++	++	0	0	+	0	+	++	+	+	+	++	+	+
17B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Option 17A delivers positively on nearly all objectives with neutral scores for housing, education and material assets. However even with housing and education, there are potential links to greenway developments as they can enhance a local area's attractiveness, accessibility and safety. A greenway network would score most favourably for health and wellbeing, society, active travel and natural resources. It would also score minor positive for sustainable economic growth, physical resources, climate change, water resources, landscape character and built/cultural heritage. Option 17B would not be able to deliver on any of the objectives.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Mitigation; biodiversity enhancement measures; sensitive engineering; landscaping; key site requirements; mapped public rights of way; consideration of greenways when designing developments; other planning policy

## Key Issue 18: Play Park Provision

(Chapter 7: Building Sustainable Communities)

### Preferred Option

**Option 18 (a): Set out strategic policy requiring residential developments of 100 units or more, or on sites of five hectares or more to provide an equipped children's play area, unless otherwise specified through key site requirements.**

New housing developments of an appropriate scale provide an important opportunity to deliver new equipped children's play areas. The zoning of housing land and the use of key site requirements for specific sites will not be carried out until the second stage of the LDP, the Local Policies Plan. Once we reach that stage, key site requirements can be applied to zoned housing sites setting out if an equipped play area should be provided on site, if developer contributions are required or alternatively if a play area is not required due to existing adequate provision. This option will allow children's equipped play provision to be assessed on a site by site basis taking into account our Play Strategy. This option however, will also retain the existing policy approach as set out in Policy OS 2 of PPS 8 to ensure that there will be no policy gap between the adoption of the Plan Strategy and the Local Policies Plan. This will safeguard against the loss of opportunities for the provision of children's play areas.



## Policy Implications

This preferred option will require an amendment to Policy OS 2 to allow for variations in the provision of equipped children's play areas within identified housing zonings. Play parks outside housing zonings in appropriate locations will also be supported.

## Alternative Options

### **Option 18 (b): Set out strategic policy to accommodate equipped children's play areas in locations identified and owned by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council.**

This option would not deliver in areas where there is a lack of provision and where the Council is not in control of land. It is a missed opportunity to get developers to provide the required facilities. An advantage of this option is that the long term maintenance of the asset will be secured if it is within Council control.

### **Option 18 (c): Retain Policy OS 2 of PPS 8 including the criteria to require an equipped children's play area for residential developments of 100 units or more, or for development sites of five hectares or more.**

This is the current policy in regard to the provision of equipped children's play areas in new residential developments. For the most part this policy appears to be working well. However, in some instances it has been manipulated by developers who split sites and reduce schemes so they fall just under the specified thresholds. There are concerns about the long term maintenance of these play parks and it may lead to unnecessary provision of play parks in areas where there is already an adequate provision of such facilities.

### **Option 18 (d): Set out strategic policy requiring developer contributions from residential developments of 100 units or more, or for development sites of five hectares or more, to create/enhance/maintain centrally located council owned play parks.**

Developer contributions could be delivered through a planning agreement in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011. Such contributions could then be used to create or enhance and/or maintain centrally located council owned play parks. This option would require publication of detailed guidance setting out thresholds for the level of developer contributions required. The thresholds could potentially be based on site area or the number of units or bedrooms in a development.

This option is a missed opportunity to get developers to provide the required facilities within their sites in areas where there is a lack of provision and where the Council cannot meet the need directly.

### **Option 18 (e): Assess local needs for equipped children's play space taking into account our Play Strategy. Key site requirements would then require play facilities for housing sites in areas of need or alternatively require developer contributions to create/enhance/maintain Council owned play parks.**

This option will allow our Parks & Open Space Section to provide input at an early stage on the provision required for each zoned housing site and would also provide developers with a degree of certainty. This option would not be determined on the basis of unit numbers therefore developers could not manipulate proposals to avoid providing the necessary facilities. As above this option would require publication of detailed guidance setting out thresholds for the level of developer contributions required.

This option will result in a policy gap in the period between the adoption of the Plan Strategy and the Local Policies Plan and therefore larger sites may avoid providing necessary equipped play areas or contributing to council owned play areas before key site requirements are determined and applied.

## Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
18A	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
18B	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0
18C	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
18D	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0
18E	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0

All options scored similarly against all the objectives except for active travel. Option 18 C, E and A scored positively for this whilst B and D were uncertain outcomes. All options scored positive for improving health and wellbeing, and society, with Options A and E scoring significant positive in the long term for health and wellbeing. Option 18A could enable a strategic approach to the provision of play parks to ensure provision is in line with need and also enable provision in the short term.

#### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

#### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

#### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Key site requirements; Play Strategy; Local Equipped Areas for Play; Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play; local needs assessment; local mapping of sites; transport analysis studies; mapping of blue/green infrastructure.

### Key Issue 19: Open Space Provision in New Residential Developments

(Chapter 7: Building Sustainable Communities)

#### Preferred Option

Option 19 (a): Retention of the current strategic criteria based policy regarding public open space contained in Policy OS 2 of PPS 8 i.e. setting out a 10% requirement of open space in residential developments of 25 units or more and a 15% requirement for development over 300 units *and* an amended list of exceptions where a rate less than 10% may be acceptable *unless* otherwise specified through key site requirements.

At Local Policies Plan stage this option will allow for a site by site analysis in order to identify an appropriate level of open space provision that can then be set out in key site requirements on zoned housing sites. Until that time however, this option will fill the policy gap between the adoption of the Plan Strategy and the Local Policies Plan. This approach will also ensure that an appropriate degree of open space is provided within residential development proposals that come forward outside of zoned housing sites.

Under this option provision of open space at a rate of less than 10% of the total site area may be acceptable, where the residential development:

- is located within a town or city centre; or
- is close to and would benefit from direct and unobstructed access to appropriate areas of existing public open space; or
- provides accommodation for special groups such as the elderly or people with disabilities.

## Policy Implications

This Preferred Option will require amendments to PPS 8 Policy OS 2 to allow for an amended list of exceptions where the provision of less than 10% of open space may be acceptable. The policy would also allow for bespoke open space requirements to be identified in zoned housing sites at Local Policies Plan stage.

## Alternative Options

**Option 19 (b): Retain the current strategic criteria based policy regarding public open space contained in Policy OS2 of PPS 8 i.e. setting out a 10% requirement of open space in residential developments of 25 units or more and a 15% requirement for developments over 300 units and the list of exceptions where a rate less than 10% may be acceptable.**

This option accounts for the amount, location, type and design of open space for developments of different sizes and allows for a degree of flexibility. The policy seems to be working well since its implementation in 2004. The level of flexibility however may not be sufficient to take account of all eventualities and contexts. Provision at a rate less than 10% maybe acceptable, where the residential development:

- Is located within a town or city centre; or
- Is close to and would benefit from ease of access to areas of existing public open space; or
- Provides accommodation for special groups such as the elderly or people with disabilities

**Option 19 (c): Provide strategic policy to secure appropriate open space provision on a site by site basis through key site requirements.**

This option will allow for site by site analysis to identify an appropriate level of open space provision and therefore in the Local Policies Plan, key site requirements on zoned housing lands will provide certainty upfront for developers. However, by only adopting this approach it will result in a policy gap in the interim between the adoption of the Plan Strategy and the Local Policies Plan.

## Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
19A	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	+	+	+	?
19B	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	+	+	+	?
19C	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	+	+	+	?

All the options have a similar scoring to one another against each objective. All options scored positively for health and wellbeing, society, water, natural resources and landscape. Options scored uncertain against active travel and built/cultural heritage. Option 19A fills a policy gap between the publication of the Plan Strategy and Local Policies

Plan, and allows a strategic approach to require a certain level of open space in new housing developments in particular locations.

### **What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?**

No significant negative effects were identified.

### **What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?**

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### **Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects**

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Key site requirements; links to blue/green infrastructure; biodiversity enhancement measures; links with local biodiversity plans; integration of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); sensitive engineering/landscaping; appropriate maintenance of open space; other planning policy (natural and built heritage).

## **Key Issue 20: Reduce reliance on the private car / promote sustainable transport and active travel**

(Chapter 8: Infrastructure and Connectivity)

### **Preferred Option**

**Option 20 (a): Introduce a new proactive policy for sustainable transport in new development and encourage the provision of more park and ride facilities to reduce the reliance on the private car and promote public transport.**

This option is a combination of options (c) and (d) below and is in line with the SPPS objectives to identify active travel networks and provide a range of infrastructure improvements to increase the use of more sustainable transport modes, to promote sustainable patterns of development and facilitate travel by public transport in preference to the private car. It would encourage a modal shift away from the private car and ensure a range of alternative transport options are available such as pedestrian-cycle links/routes between developments in urban areas. It would also ensure sustainable travel patterns are embedded at an early stage of planning and design to influence the behaviour of occupiers or users. It would create safe and secure layouts minimising conflict between traffic, cyclist and/or pedestrians, as well as incorporating physical activity into everyday life through active travel. This option would also provide an element of flexibility recognising that the ability to deliver sustainable transport solutions will differ between developments and settlements.

### **Policy Implications**

A new proactive policy would replace existing policy to ensure that sustainable transport and active travel is promoted as part of all new developments within urban areas.

### **Alternative Options**

**Option 20 (b): Retain the existing policy approach supporting sustainable transport and active travel.**

This option would continue the current behaviour and attitude towards the provision of sustainable transport and active travel, but fails in mitigating and adapting to climate change through promoting sustainable patterns of development, reducing need for motorised transport, encouraging active travel and facilitating travel by public transport. The high reliance on the private car would continue regardless of journey length, leading to increased congestion, increased pollution leading to climate change, poorer air quality, and pressure on roads infrastructure. This option is also not conducive to promoting a healthier, more active lifestyle.

**Option 20 (c): Only introduce a new proactive general policy requiring all new development within urban areas to incorporate sustainable transport and active travel modes, where it must be demonstrated that sustainable transport and active travel has been promoted in the development unless specific circumstances indicate otherwise. This would mean that all new zonings in urban areas, irrespective of development type, would need to demonstrate sustainability in regard to transport arrangements and active travel.**

This option assists a model shift away from the private car and ensures a range of alternative transport options e.g. pedestrian-cycle link and routes are available. It recognises that each development is different and ensures that sustainable transport solutions are reflective and relevant to the site context. This option enables sustainable travel patterns to be embedded at an early stage to influence the behaviour of occupiers or users. It also creates safe and secure layouts minimising conflict between traffic, cyclist and/or pedestrians, incorporates physical activity into everyday life through active travel. It also provides an element of flexibility and recognises that sustainable transport solutions will differ between developments and settlements.

It may, however, be potentially more onerous on developers. Also, although active travel linkages can be provided between certain developments, they may not take a holistic view of the entire settlement and may be restricted by existing development or land. As all land within the existing development limits of these settlements may not be sustainable in terms of transportation and active travel, it may be necessary to ascertain how this can realistically be achieved.

#### Option 20 (d): Only encourage the provision of more park and ride facilities to reduce the reliance on the private car and promote public transport.

This option would see a greater emphasis placed on public transport through the utilisation of Park and Ride facilities. This would reduce reliance on the private car, reduce congestion, and improve air quality and health and wellbeing. However, this option in itself may not go far enough to reducing reliance on the private car. Public transport may not be suitable for certain people or journeys and is very much dependent on individual circumstances.

#### Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
20A	++	+	0	0	0	++	0	++	++	++	0	+	0	0
20B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
20C	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	++	+	+	0	+	0	0
20D	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0

Some neutral scores would still have potential positive effects on the objectives but not enough to alter the scoring from neutral. All scored positive on active travel with A and C scoring significant positive. Options C and D scored positive for material assets, whilst A scored significant positive. Option A scored significant positive on air quality and climate change. Option A is thought to be able to deliver more on several objectives including climate change, air quality, natural resources, material assets, economic growth, active travel and health and wellbeing.

#### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

#### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

#### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Key site requirements; planning conditions; ecological mitigation; projects/measures to encourage local level behavioural change.

## Key Issue 21: Areas of Parking Restraint

(Chapter 8: Infrastructure and Connectivity)

### Alternative Options

#### Option 21 (a): Introduce areas of car parking restraint in the main towns

This option would limit the provision of car parking within new developments in town centres and around transport hubs such as rail and bus stations. A lesser provision of parking would reduce reliance on the private car and congestion within these areas, make greater use of or even enhance the existing transport provision, and encourage active travel. It would also allow for higher densities of development in these areas, bringing vitality to the central and most accessible areas of our towns.

#### Policy Implications

Policy would require developers to meet specified criteria if they sought to provide parking above the stipulated standards within an area of parking restraint.

#### Option 21 (b): No intervention by the Local Development Plan through the introduction of car parking restraint areas in the main towns

The standard levels of car parking provision in new developments within town centres and around transport hubs would be retained, therefore making behavioural change in private car use unlikely. Negative impacts in congestion and air quality would persist. It would not encourage a modal shift away from the private car and does not proactively encourage a behavioural change to public transport and active travel. The environmental quality and attractiveness of areas around the town centre would not be enhanced.

#### Policy Implications

Carrickfergus would lose its existing Area of Parking Restraint designation and associated policy.

### Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
21A	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0
21B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The score for both options was neutral for many of the sustainability objectives however option A provided an opportunity to influence car use and potentially increase active travel, leading to better air quality and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as well as promoting health and well-being. Option A also provides an opportunity to facilitate housing development in areas which cannot support the level of car parking required currently.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.



## **What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?**

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### **Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects**

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Key Site Requirements.

## **Key Issue 22: Protection of Proposed Road Schemes**

(Chapter 8: Infrastructure and Connectivity)

### **Preferred Option**

**Option 22 (a): Only include Non-Strategic Road Schemes in the LDP which have been justified by Department for Infrastructure (DfI) through a Local Transport Strategy.**

At the Plan Strategy / Local Transport Strategy stage, DfI would be required to provide justification for including a proposed transport scheme in the LDP. Justified schemes would then be included in the LDP and the land required to facilitate those schemes protected. Any particular scheme not justified would not be shown in the LDP and the land required to facilitate such schemes no longer protected from being developed for other uses.

### **Policy Implications**

There would not be any policy implications for this option as the policy protecting any transport schemes shown in the LDP would be retained irrespective of the number of transport schemes shown in the LDP.

### **Alternative Options**

**Option 22 (b): Protect land for Non-Strategic Road Schemes in the LDP.**

This option ensures that land required to facilitate roads schemes identified by DfI would continue to be protected from development for other uses. Under this option, non-strategic road schemes that may never be built due to availability of DfI funding could potentially be built by developers as part of any future development. Also, the delivery of non-strategic road schemes could open up further development opportunities due to improved accessibility.

However, if land is protected for the road schemes, it is then prevented from being developed for other uses. Also, the requirement for developers to provide the road as part of that development may be seen as a deterrent for developers or make a development financially unviable. In addition, where there is no significant need for additional housing or zonings near these proposed road schemes, there may be little prospect of further land being zoned over the current Plan period. In such circumstances there may be little likelihood of non-strategic road schemes coming to fruition.

Building more non-strategic roads could be seen as continuing to encourage reliance on private cars rather than utilising the existing road network to encourage more sustainable modes of transport (public transport and active travel).

**Option 22 (c): Remove Non-Strategic Road Schemes from the LDP.**

This option would allow land currently protected for the road schemes to now be developed for other uses. It would remove any requirement on developers to supply the identified non-strategic road schemes although the requirement for developers to bear the cost of any alternative access arrangements for their schemes would remain. This option would encourage a shift away from building more roads to accommodate the private car and would positively influence a range of alternative public transport and active travel options on the existing road network.

This option would mean that lands required for roads schemes would no longer be protected from other development. Also, any development of this land without providing the identified road may result in an inferior road network being provided with potentially negative implications for the free flow of traffic, air pollution and road safety.

### **Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives**

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:



	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.
22A	?	?	?	0	+	+	-	?	?	?	0	?	?	?
22B	?	?	?	0	?	+	-	-	-	-	0	-	?	?
22C	?	?	?	0	?	?	-	?	?	?	0	-	?	?

Option B is thought to have negative impacts on sustainable travel and in turn on air quality and climate change. Options B and C could have negative impacts on physical and natural resources. Option A could also lead to loss of greenfield sites however this is expected to be more efficient than for the other options as it is more strategic. This strategic approach also favours objectives for sustainable economic growth and for material assets. It is also likely to have positive effects for some other sustainability objectives including health and wellbeing, sustainable housing, active travel, water and natural resources. The Local Transport Strategy will however need to be reviewed to ensure this will be the case.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Review and application of the Local Transport Strategy. Incorporation of SuDS, boundary planting, land shaping/environmental engineering, biodiversity measures could lessen the negative effects of road schemes that are developed.

## Key Issue 23: Facilitating Renewable Energy

(Chapter 8: Infrastructure and Connectivity)

### Preferred Option

#### Option 23 (a): Retention of SPPS approach updating Policy RE 1 of PPS 18 by adopting a cautious approach within designated landscapes

This option reflects the aims of the SPPS in that it would continue to be promotive of renewable energy development in general, whilst seeking to protect key areas within our designated landscapes such as the AONB. However, a “cautious approach” is open to interpretation and subjectivity which may not provide sufficient certainty and direction for developers, nor afford total protection to these most sensitive landscapes.

It should be noted that this option should be considered in conjunction with Key Issue 33 in Chapter 10 on providing increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

## Policy Implications

Amend Policy RE 1 of PPS 18, updated to reflect the 'cautious approach' wording in the SPPS. It should be noted that regional policy in relation to Renewable Energy is currently being reviewed by the Department of Infrastructure.

## Alternative Option

**Option 23 (b): Restrict/prevent renewable energy development for certain types of renewables (e.g. tall structures) within designated landscapes (or in highly sensitive areas within these landscapes) and amend policy accordingly.**

The option proactively seeks to provide a higher level of protection in comparison to Option (a) by restricting certain types of renewable energy development, in particular those involving tall structures or land-intensive installations, to the extent that essentially some would be prevented. It provides a level of certainty as to the scale of development that will be permitted within designated landscapes or in highly sensitive areas within these landscapes, whilst recognising the importance of landscape value and amenity, neighbouring amenity and the contribution of natural assets to the tourism economy.

However, this option would be a less promotive policy with potentially negative implications in reaching renewable energy targets. This would see a reduction in suitable sites for renewable energy that involve tall structures or land-intensive installations e.g. wind turbines on sensitive and upland landscapes which benefit from wind speeds suitable for wind energy development.

## Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
23A	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	+	0
23B	0	0	0	0	0	?	+	0	?	?	0	+	+	0

It was considered that both of the options had a negligible effect on many of the sustainability objective although option B had an uncertain effect for some. The more restrictive approach of option B would be positive for physical and natural resources and landscape. However option A provides greater opportunities to enhance economic growth and manage or protect material assets and physical resources while improving air quality and reducing climate change contributions. Both options were considered to have a positive effect on maintaining and enhancing landscape character.

## What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

## What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

## Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Policies to protect sensitive landscapes; policies on water quality and peat issues.

## Key Issue 24: Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

(Chapter 8: Infrastructure and Connectivity)

### Preferred Option

#### Option 24 (a): Promote SuDS within the LDP

This aims to make SuDS the preferred option for managing surface water in all new developments, where this is feasible. Whilst this is in accordance with regional policy, it would see a change in emphasis from 'encouraging' to 'promoting' SuDS in a more proactive manner within our Borough. There are a number of ways in which we could promote SuDS including through general criteria based policy, or through key site requirements attached to specific zonings, or for all development within areas of identified surface water flood risk.

### Policy Implications

Our flooding policies would be updated to be a more promotive policy in relation to SuDS.

### Alternative Option

#### Option 24 (b): Retain existing approach regarding SuDS

The advantage of retaining the existing approach is that it would be less onerous for developers in that they would continue to only have to give consideration to the use of SuDS as the preferred drainage solution when carrying out a drainage assessment if their development required one. However, this would lead to a continuation of the problems associated with flood risk and pressure on sewerage systems within urban areas. There would also be uncertainty for developers in applying for planning permission as to what form of drainage solution would be considered most appropriate for the particular site.

### Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
24A	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	++	++	0	0
24B	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0

Both options appraised provide opportunities to protect water quality and to help to mitigate the effects of climate change, while protecting and enhancing natural resources and biodiversity. They also have associated benefits for health and well-being. Option A had the potential to deliver more across many of the objectives and make a significant contribution towards sustainable use and management of water and natural resources while also supporting society and management of material assets.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### **Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects**

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Water Pollution Prevention Guidelines. Key Site Requirements.

## **Key Issue 25: Cemetery Provision**

(Chapter 8: Infrastructure and Connectivity)

### **Preferred Option**

Option 25 (a):

Criteria based policy to support the delivery of a new cemetery or an extension to a cemetery. In addition, facilitate the identification and safeguarding of specific locations where there is a firm proposal for a new/extension to a cemetery.

This option will enable the LDP to zone sites where this is a firm proposal for cemetery development to ensure their protection for that use. Additionally this option would also allow for future cemetery proposals to come forward over the Plan period, which would be determined in accordance with the specific criteria.

### **Policy Implications**

The LDP would include a new policy on cemetery provision.

### **Alternative Option**

Option 25 (b): No intervention by the LDP - reliance on the development management system to determine cemetery proposals on a case by case basis using normal planning material considerations.

This option would maintain the current status quo with any proposals for cemeteries dealt with on a case by case basis. The applicant would be required to provide evidence that there would be no adverse impact caused by the proposal.

### **Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives**

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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
25A	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+
25B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0

The scores for both options are neutral for many of the sustainability objectives however option A provides an opportunity to plan strategically for new cemeteries and this has a number of positive effects. Option A avoids potential negative effects on water quality that may occur in option B. Positive effects include providing infrastructure (material assets), contributing to natural resources and biodiversity, and maintaining and enhancing landscape character and the historic environment. 25A also scores positively for encouraging active travel, strengthening society and protecting physical resources.

#### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

#### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

#### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Key site requirements for new cemeteries. Sustainable Drainage Systems for surface water management.

### Key Option 26: Protecting our archaeological sites and remains of regional importance (and their settings) from harmful development

(Chapter 9: Stewardship of our Built Heritage and Creating Places)

#### Preferred Option

Option 26 (a) Retain the current operational policies as set out BH1 of PPS6, and provide increased policy protection to safeguard our archaeological sites and remains (and their settings) from harmful development through the designation of Specific Areas of Constraint (with regard to specific types of development) within, or adjacent to existing or proposed Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest.

The benefit of applying such an approach within or adjacent to the existing Area of Special Archaeological Interest (ASAI) at Knockdhu would ensure that specific types of development (such as tall structures or mineral extraction) which may adversely impact upon the ASAI or its setting would not be permitted.

#### Policy Implications

In addition to retaining the current policy as set out in BH1 of PPS6, this approach will provide additional protection for our regionally significant archaeological assets and their settings.

#### Alternative Option

## Option 26 (b): Retain the current policy as set out in BH 1 of PPS 6 and designate a Special Countryside Area (SCA) to protect the Area of Special Archaeological Interest (ASAI) at Knockdhu.

The SPPS provides for the designation of Special Countryside Area through the LDP in circumstances where the quality of the landscape and unique amenity value is such that development should only be permitted in exceptional circumstances. Designation of a SCA would restrict most forms of development, other than minimal development such as extensions to existing dwellings. The benefit of applying such an approach is that it would prevent most development within a spatially defined area therefore protecting and conserving any regionally significant archaeological remains in situ. The main disadvantage of this option would be that it could be regarded as a blanket ban on most forms of development and therefore overly restrictive. For example, it could exclude development proposals irrespective of whether or not they have a direct impact on the archaeological site.

### Alternative Option

## Option 26 (c): Retain the current operational policies as set out BH 1 of PPS 6 but do not provide any increased policy protection.

This option would maintain the current status quo with any proposals for development within or adjacent to the ASAI being dealt with on a case by case basis. The applicant would be required to provide evidence that there would be no adverse impact caused by the proposal.

### Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
26A	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	+	+	++
26B	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	+	+	++
26C	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	++

All the options have no or negligible effect on the majority of the sustainability objectives. Each has a negative effect on physical resources in respect of constraining minerals development. While the score cannot be distinguished option B will be the most restrictive as it would preclude all forms of development and will have a negative impact on economic measures by preventing development. Option A aims to identify our most vulnerable landscapes by introducing Areas of Constraint which will resist certain forms of development but will potentially allow for marginally more economic development opportunities than Option B. Option C would be similar to option A in effect. Options A and B are also likely to support the sustainability objectives for natural resources and landscape with option B offering greater benefits for these objectives. As policy BH 1 is protective of archaeological remains of regional importance and their settings all the options will have a significant positive effect on the objective for the historic environment. Option A, on balance, is the most sustainable by providing focused protection on our most vulnerable assets through restricting certain types of harmful development.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

## Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Take account of information about monuments in State Care, scheduled monuments and other important sites and monuments and areas of archaeological potential together with information about operating quarries and potential expansion when identifying Specific Areas of Constraint. In defining boundaries consider opportunities to protect natural resources and maintain where appropriate.

## Key Option 27 - Protecting architectural character within our conservation areas.

(Chapter 9: Stewardship of our Built Heritage and Creating Places)

### Preferred Option

Option 27 (a) Retain current operational policies as set out in PPS 6 and carefully manage change by introducing additional regulation through the implementation of Article 4 Directions to remove certain permitted development rights within conservation areas which have been identified as still retaining their local character and distinctiveness.

In addition to retaining current policy, this approach would directly address the negative impact that small incremental change is having on some of our conservation areas.

### Policy Implications

Retention of the existing policy will ensure that any new development within our conservation areas make a positive contribution to regeneration and the development of a sense of place, whilst the introduction of Article 4 Directions will allow for additional protection in those areas within our conservation areas which are deemed to still retain and exhibit their intrinsic historical character.

### Alternative Option

Option 27 (b): Through the Plan Strategy retain the current operational policies as set out in PPS 6 and do not introduce additional regulation through the implementation of Article 4 directions.

Adoption of this approach would allow homeowners / businesses to continue making minor alterations without having to submit a planning application. Retention of just the exiting policy context would not fully address the problem of small incremental change and how it is eroding the local distinctiveness of our conservation areas. This Option would fail to secure an appropriate balance between allowing minor alterations and the ongoing protection of the historical character of our conservation areas. Individually many of these changes may appear fairly minor but when added together they can over time, significantly harm the character and appearance of historic buildings and conservation areas.

## Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
--	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



27A	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++
27B	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++

Similar scoring across Options A and B with positives on strengthening society, enabling sustainable economic growth and protecting built/cultural heritage. Option A thought to deliver slightly more on these objectives. The most significant positive score for both options was against the objective to protect, conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage. Option A thought to be able to deliver slightly more on this too.

#### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

#### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

#### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Local level measures/guidelines.

### Key Option 28: Safeguarding our Non-Designated Heritage Assets.

(Chapter 9: Stewardship of our Built Heritage and Creating Places)

#### Preferred Option

**Option 28 (a): Establish a criterion based approach with Historic Environment Division for identifying non-designated heritage assets within the Borough that will be used to create a Local Heritage List.**

A local heritage list can support the LDP and help inform a proactive strategy for the conservation, protection and where possible the enhancement our historic environment. The clarity that a local list brings can assist in the determining of applications and bring forward successful development through the local planning process. Creating a local heritage list is a way for us to work with local communities to identify and celebrate historic buildings which enrich and enliven our area.

#### Policy Implications

Subject to the outcome public consultation, the proposed amendments to BH 15 of PPS 6 would apply to any building included in a local heritage list.

**Option 28 (b): Do not bring forward specific measures to safeguard against the potential loss of non-designated heritage assets.**

Adopting this approach would mean that the heritage value of locally listed heritage assets would not be a material consideration in determining planning applications. This option fails to adopt a partnership approach with local communities to jointly identify heritage assets that are valued as distinctive elements of the local historic environment within Mid and East Antrim.

#### Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
28A	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
28B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Option B represents no new action in relation to current conditions therefore it does not contribute to any sustainability objectives. At this stage it is hard to quantify the extent of the contribution of Option A to those objectives which it does affect but it will have positive effects for the historic environment and could contribute to strengthening society through engagement in creating a list and enhancing the sense of place.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Develop criteria, informed by Historic Environment Division of the Department for Communities, for identifying local heritage. Engage the community in identifying local heritage. Define how local heritage will be protected.

## Key Issue 29: The Southern Glens Coast

(Chapter 10: Protecting and Accessing our Natural Environment)

### Preferred Option

**Option 29 (a): Retain the existing Special Countryside Area (SCA) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial and policy amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.**

Under this policy option, this exceptional landscape would be afforded protection commensurate with its scenic beauty, natural heritage, conservation and science interests, and its importance for tourism and as a recreational resource. This option would also provide appropriate protection for the settings of the settlements of Ballygalley, Carnlough and Glenarm, and ensure views from the coast, and of the coast, are safeguarded.

### Policy Implications

This option will provide appropriate protection for this exceptional coastal landscape and provide opportunities to assess whether other areas outside of the current SCA designation are of such landscape or nature conservation importance that they warrant inclusion within this designation.

## Alternative Options

### Option 29 (b):

Retain the existing Special Countryside Area (SCA) designation and associated policy.

The option essentially maintains the status quo. It could be deemed to be the minimum response necessary to conform with the SPPS in seeking to protect the exceptional landscape quality, the unique amenity value and natural heritage assets of this stretch of coastline.

**Option 29 (c): Remove the existing Special Countryside Area (SCA) designation, relying only on regional planning policies carried forward (such as PPS 2, PPS 18 and PPS 21) to provide protection for this exceptional coastal landscape and its environment.**

Under this option, protection of the exceptional landscape quality and environmental assets of this area would be reliant on generic policies contained within PPS 2 and PPS 21, which may not be sufficiently robust to safeguard against inappropriate development. This option could lead to an increase in development pressure and degradation and erosion of landscape character in an area that is also important for Mid and East Antrim in terms of nature conservation interests, education, recreation, science and tourism. At present the SCA designation and policy provide a high level of protection for all these interests.

This option would not properly meet the objectives of the RDS and SPPS as it would be a missed opportunity within the context of a plan-led system to provide sufficient protection for an exceptional coastal landscape and environment.

### Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
29A	+	0	0	0	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	++	++
29B	+	0	0	0	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	++	++
29C	-	0	0	0	-	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	-

Option C decreases the current more strategic approach to designation and may negatively impact on achievement of objectives for health and well-being, economic growth, physical and natural resources. It would be likely to have a significant negative effect on landscape character and the historic environment. Options A and B would contribute to delivery of all these objectives and make a significant contribution to economic growth, natural resources and biodiversity, landscape character and the historic environment. As option A includes potential for review of the SCA boundary and policies it could increase its contribution to these objectives.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Criteria for SCA boundary review; mapping and analysis, landscape character, natural resources and historic environment assets; consideration of new design guide for minor development. Criteria for SCA boundary review; mapping and analysis, landscape character, natural resources and historic environment assets; consideration of new design guide for minor development.

## **Key Issue 30: The Islandmagee Peninsula and Gobbins Coast**

(Chapter 10: Protecting and Accessing our Natural Environment)

### **Preferred Option**

**Option 30 (a): Provide increased policy protection for the Islandmagee Peninsula with an emphasis on the eastern and north eastern parts of the peninsula. Increased policy protection could be provided through designation of a Special Countryside Area, an Area of Constraint on particular types of development, an extension of the BMA Coastal Policy Area or a designated Area of High Scenic Value.**

Under this option additional protection would be provided for the landscape character and setting of the eastern and north-eastern parts of Islandmagee, and this would have benefits for biodiversity, the landscape character of the ASQ, the setting of significant destinations on the coast, and enhance the protection of habitats important for wildlife. This policy approach will seek to manage development on the eastern and north-eastern parts of Islandmagee to protect against the potentially harmful impacts of development such as tall structures, solar farms, and the cumulative impacts of development.

### **Policy Implications**

This option would mean the introduction of new policy to manage development in order to meet the aims of the designation.

### **Alternative Options**

**Option 30 (b): Rely only on regional planning policies carried forward (such as PPS 2, PPS 18 and PPS 21) to protect designated nature conservation sites, the landscape setting and natural heritage features on the Islandmagee Peninsula and Gobbins Coast.**

This option would maintain the status quo with the the important nature conservation and landscape interests in this area protected under existing regional policies, principally PPS 2 and PPS 21.

PPS 2 offers protection against development that would be likely to impact upon the integrity of designated sites of international, national and local importance. Under this option, other areas of natural heritage and landscape quality importance outside of these designations may be vulnerable to development pressure.

PPS 21 defines the Countryside as areas lying outside of settlement limits (as defined in development plans) and seeks to promote a sustainable approach to development. However, in regard to non-residential development, the principle of development is largely determined by the relevant PPSs (for example PPS 18 in relation to renewable energy development is relatively permissive, albeit that the SPPS has introduced a more precautionary slant to the policy).

The visual landscape character of parts of the peninsula has been affected to an extent by the presence of electric pylons and wind turbines. Parts of the Islandmagee peninsula, particularly the North-East and East however have maintained their sense of remoteness and scenic and landscape quality. This part of the peninsula is important for nature conservation interests and tourism, and may benefit from greater protection from harmful and obtrusive development e.g. high structures and land intensive renewable energy schemes such as solar farms.

This option may not provide sufficient protection from continued development pressure including tall utilities structures, particularly in the eastern and north eastern parts of the peninsula which still retain much of their original character and landscape quality.

On the other hand, this option is likely to afford maximum flexibility to accommodate further development, particularly in relation to energy and infrastructure, which has been shown to favour this location.

### **Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives**

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
30A	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	++
30B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+

Option B does contribute to objectives for natural resources and biodiversity, landscape character and the historic environment, through carrying forward some regional policy. 30A provides opportunities for a more strategic approach which would deliver more for landscape and the historic environment in particular while also having the potential to deliver for health and well-being and physical resources.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Landscape character assessment (to include natural resources and historic environment) and pressure analysis to inform most appropriate means of protection; criteria for boundary of any new designation; policies applicable to designation.

## Key Issue 31: The Belfast Lough Shoreline (Mid and East Antrim)

(Chapter 10: Protecting and Accessing our Natural Environment)

### Preferred Option

Option 31 (a): Retain the existing BMA Coastal Area (to be renamed the Belfast Lough Shoreline (Mid and East Antrim) Policy Area) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.

Under this option, retention of the existing BMA Coastal Area designation will provide appropriate protection for the coastal landscape, important views and vistas, built and natural heritage assets, and the marine ecosystem of the shoreline.

This option will seek to restrict development considered harmful to the landscape and ecosystem of this part of the coast. It will not seek to restrict development which is acceptable in principle and where it can be demonstrated that such development will not adversely impact the coastal landscape, coastal ecosystem, and its nature conservation interests.

### Policy Implications

No policy implications

### Alternative Options

### Option 31(b): Retain the existing BMA Coastal Area designation and associated policy.

This option essentially maintains the status quo. Policy COU 3 seeks to protect this designated coastal area from inappropriate development in order to protect the coastal landscape, important views and vistas, environmental assets, nature conservation interests, and recreational /tourism resources, whilst making provision for development that will not cause any adverse impacts on these significant assets e.g. appropriate development within domestic curtilages

### Option 31 (c): Remove the existing BMA Coastal Area designation and rely only on regional planning policies carried forward to provide protection for this important coastal landscape and environment.

Under this option, safeguarding of environmental assets and the coastal landscape setting in this area would be reliant on general policies for protection, principally PPS 2 and PPS 21. This option may not offer sufficient protection against inappropriate development in an area that is important for Mid and East Antrim in terms of environmental assets, nature conservation interests, recreation, science and tourism.

This option may fall short of meeting the objectives of the RDS and SPPS as it could fail to provide sufficient protection for the coastal landscape and associated nature conservation interests

### Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
31A	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+
31B	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+
31C	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?

Option C moves away from the current more strategic approach and does not positively contribute to the achievement of the sustainability objectives. It is also uncertain whether this option could have negative effects on health and well-being, landscape character and the historic environment. Options A and B would contribute to delivery of these objectives and, in addition, contribute to physical, water and natural resources and biodiversity, landscape character and the historic environment. As option A includes potential for review of the Shoreline Policy Area it could increase its contribution to these objectives

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Criteria for Shoreline Coastal Area boundary review; mapping and analysis, landscape character, natural resources and historic environment assets.

## Key Issue 32: Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann Corridor

(Chapter 10: Protecting and Accessing our Natural Environment)

### Preferred Option

**Option 32 (a): Provide increased policy protection for the most scenic and environmentally important areas associated with Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann corridor.**

Increased policy protection could be provided through designation of a Special Countryside Area or an Area of Constraint on particular types of development which pose a specific threat to the environmental and/or visual integrity of the area.

Under this option greater protection would be provided for the high landscape quality and unique amenity value of the Lough Beg fringe and the Lower River Bann corridor.

This option will provide additional protection for the Area of Scenic Quality (ASQ) identified along the eastern fringes of Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann.

It will seek to manage development to protect against the potentially harmful impacts of tall structures, solar farms, minerals development and the cumulative impacts of development.

### Policy Implications

This option would mean the introduction of new policy to manage development in order to meet the aims of the designation.

### Alternative Option

**Option 32 (b): Rely only on regional planning policies carried forward (such as PPS2, PPS18 and PPS21) to protect designated conservation sites, the landscape setting and natural heritage features in the Lough Beg fringe area and Lower River Bann corridor.**

PPS 21 defines the Countryside as areas lying outside of settlement limits (as defined in development plans) and seeks to promote a sustainable approach to development. However, in regard to non-residential development, the principle of development is largely determined by the relevant PPSs.

PPS 2 offers strong protection against development that would impact upon the integrity of Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Ramsar, SPA, Lough Beg ASSI and Culnafay ASSI. However, under this option, areas with important natural heritage and landscape assets outside of these designations could be vulnerable to development pressure, notably along the Lower River Bann fringe.

Given the sensitivity of this area to development pressure, it could be argued that continued reliance on existing policy may be insufficient to safeguard its valuable environmental and landscape assets. That said, there is little evidence of significant development pressure to date and the character of the area remains largely intact.

### Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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	12... protect natural resources and enhance	13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.
32A	+	0	0	0	0	?	+	0	0	+	+	++	++	++
32B	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+

Option 32A would provide additional protection for the most sensitive areas. The level of protection would depend on the designation applied. This option scores positively for health and well-being, physical resources, climate change, water resources, natural resources and built/cultural heritage. It makes a significant contribution to landscape and the



historic environment. Option 32B does contribute to some objectives (e.g. health, landscape and built/cultural heritage) but not to the same extent as Option 32A and therefore contributes less overall for meeting the sustainability objectives.

### **What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?**

No significant negative effects were identified.

### **What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?**

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### **Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects**

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Other planning policy, site mitigation – planning conditions, local blue/green infrastructure plans, local level guidance.

## **Key Issue 33: Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**

(Chapter 10: Protecting and Accessing our Natural Environment)

### **Preferred Option**

**Option 33 (a): Provide increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).**

Increased policy protection could be provided through designation of a Special Countryside Area or an Area of Constraint on particular types of development which pose a specific threat to the environmental and/or visual integrity of specific areas.

Under this option designated policy areas will seek to protect areas considered to be sensitive or vulnerable to particular types of development, or so special as to justify additional protection.

### **Policy Implications**

This option would mean the introduction of new policy to manage development in order to meet the aims of the designation(s).

### **Alternative Option**

**Option 33 (b): Rely only on regional planning policies carried forward (such as PPS 2, PPS 18 and PPS 21) to protect the distinctive special character of the AONB, the quality of its landscape and its heritage assets.**

Aside from its policies relating to natural heritage, PPS 2 (Policy NH 6) specifically seeks to protect the distinctive character, landscape quality and wildlife of all AONBs. In reference to development proposals, the policy does not preclude development, but it does require such proposals, in terms of their siting, scale and design, to be sympathetic to the special character of the particular AONB.

Natural heritage designations within the AONB are afforded a strong degree of protection from inappropriate development. Other areas within the AONB rely on Policy NH6 of PPS 2 and general rural planning policy contained within PPS 21.

This option essentially maintains the status quo as outlined above. Whilst it does retain general flexibility throughout the AONB, it may fail to provide sufficient control of development (or certain types of development) in key areas outside of natural heritage designations. The area around Slemish is an obvious example.

### **Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives**

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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	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	12... protect natural resources and enhance	13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.
33A	0	0	0	0	0	?	+	0	0	+	+	++	++	++
33B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+

Option 33A delivers more positively on several objectives. It scored positive for protecting physical resources, reducing causes of and adapting to climate change and protecting water resources and natural resources. It was considered to have a significantly positive effect on protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage. Option 33B delivers certain level of protection which supports several objectives however the gains are limited by relying on policy rather than a strategic approach.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Regional/community level renewable energy projects (shared ownership), partnership working with SONI/NIE, local level guidance, other planning policy, boundary planting, biodiversity enhancement measures, sensitive landscaping/engineering.

## Key Issue 34: Areas of Scenic Quality

(Chapter 10: Protecting and Accessing our Natural Environment)

### Preferred Option

**Option 34 (a): Retain the existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Areas of High Scenic Value if considered appropriate.**

Under this option the two existing designated AOHSV within our Borough will be retained, and other ASQs identified will be assessed to determine whether designation as AOHSV is appropriate e.g. the Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann fringes, and the majority of the Islandmagee Peninsula.

Within these designations, development proposals will be required to have regard to the siting, massing, scale and design, materials, finishes and landscaping in order to ensure that development will integrate well into the topography and landscape, and respect the features of interest e.g. wooded areas, unspoilt rural character, buildings of high quality design etc.

### Policy Implications

No policy implications.

### Alternative Options

**Option 34 (b): Retain the existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value and associated policy.**

BMAP Policy COU 6 (Areas of High Scenic Value) seeks to protect designated areas, through requiring development proposals to comply with higher siting and design standards. In doing so it seeks to mitigate against adverse effects of development on the landscape quality, character and features of interest in Areas of High Scenic Value.

The Carrickfergus Escarpment was identified in the Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 2000 as an Area of Scenic Quality and is designated in BMAP as an AOHSV. Only a small portion of the Escarpment is within the former Carrickfergus Borough, with the majority located in the former Newtownabbey Borough. Carrickfergus Escarpment is a prominent basalt escarpment and provides the landscape setting for Belfast on the north west side. There are significant views of this escarpment from the M2, the coast and the hills surrounding Belfast. This area has a strong rural setting, however, it was assessed in the BMAP Countryside Assessment as experiencing pressure from new development, intensive farming and farm diversification practices, and the demand for better communications coverage. Due to the identified development pressure, it may be desirable to maintain the AOHSV designation.

The slopes to the north of Whitehead are identified in NILCA 2000 as part of the Island Magee ASQ. These slopes are designated as an Area of High Scenic Value due to their distinctive landscape setting for the settlement of Whitehead. It may be considered desirable to maintain the extra policy protection the AOHSV designation provides, particularly as it relates to the setting of Whitehead.

This option conforms to the objectives RDS which seeks to protect and enhance the setting of the BMUA. While this option will seek to maintain the AOHSV identified through BMAP for the Carrickfergus and Whitehead areas, it may be a missed opportunity to protect other areas of scenic quality in other parts of the Borough.

**Option 34 (c): Remove the existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value and rely only on regional planning policies carried forward (such as PPS 2, PPS 18 and PPS 21) to provide protection for the landscape setting, nature conservation interests and important heritage features in these areas of particular landscape merit.**

Under this option, the protection of Areas of Scenic Quality (ASQ), within the Borough, identified in the NILCA 2000, would primarily rely on PPS 2 and PPS 21. The extra policy protection currently afforded by AOHSV within the former Carrickfergus Borough would fall under this option, leaving these important landscapes more vulnerable to inappropriate development.

However, as noted above, there could be potential to incorporate some ASQ within other "higher order" designations.

### Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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	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	12... protect natural resources and enhance	13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.
34A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	+
34B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+
34C	0	0	0	0	?	0	?	0	0	0	0	?	-	-

Option C, which would remove existing designations and rely on policy is a less strategic approach which carries risks of degradation of landscape and the historic environment and uncertain outcomes for economic growth, protecting physical resources and protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity. The scoring for options A and B is largely the same however the comments indicate that overall option A, which allows additional scope for designation, could deliver slightly more for a number of objectives and make a significant contribution to maintaining and enhancing landscape character.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

## **Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects**

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Design criteria; building design guides, key site requirements; feasible development lists; local landscape policy provision; planning conditions.

## **Key Issue 35: Local Landscape Policy Areas**

(Chapter 10: Protecting and Accessing our Natural Environment)

### **Preferred Option**

**Option 35 (a): Retain the existing designated Local Landscape Policy Areas and associated policy, and identify and designate other Local Landscape Policy Areas where appropriate.**

Under this option, the existing LLPAs designated through BMAP 2015, and the associated policy, would be retained. The identification and protection of other areas assessed as appropriate for LLPA designation would ensure a consistent approach across the Borough.

These designations can help to ensure new development does not dominate distinctive landscapes and the character of settlements, can act as buffer zones between different uses, and can help to safeguard the setting of settlements. The protection of these areas can help to protect and/or enhance biodiversity, ecological networks, the attractiveness of our urban areas, and help mitigate against the impacts of air and noise pollution. It will also assist in the promotion of green infrastructure through the LDP.

LLPAs do not preclude development. Rather, these designations enable development which is appropriately sited and sensitively designed with regard to the character of urban areas and their associated built and natural heritage assets.

### **Policy Implications**

No policy implications

### **Alternative Options**

**Option 35 (b): Retain the existing designated Local Landscape Policy Areas and associated policy.**

This option would retain the existing Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) within the the former Carrickfergus Borough, as designated through BMAP 2015, along with the associated policy (ENV 1).

As previously noted, LLPAs do not preclude development, but seek to enable appropriate development which is properly located and sensitively designed with regard to the character of these localities. It may therefore be considered advantageous to retain BMAP Policy ENV 1 and the existing LLPAs designated within BMAP in the former Carrickfergus Borough. However, under this option alone there may be a missed opportunity to identify and designate other LLPAs in the remainder of the Borough, to provide similar benefits.

**Option 35 (c): Remove existing designated Local Landscape Policy Areas and rely only on regional planning policies carried forward (such as PPS 2 and PPS 21) to provide protection for the environmental and heritage features in these areas.**

This option would mean reliance on generic planning policies e.g. PPS 2 and PPS 6 in order to safeguard the many elements, such as amenity value, landscape quality and setting, and built heritage assets, which combine to form the unique character of particular localities within or close to settlements. The fact that such areas would not be identified through a bespoke Plan-led approach would be likely to increase the potential for piecemeal or unsympathetic development, resulting in degradation of local character.

### **Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives**

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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.
35A	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	++	++
35B	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	++	++
35C	?	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	?	0	0	?	?	?

Option C which would remove existing Local Landscape Policy Areas has a number of uncertain and potentially negative effects for example on health and well-being and the historic environment. The scoring across Options A and B is the same and both score positively for health and wellbeing, air quality and natural resources. Both have significant positive scores for maintaining landscape character and protecting built/cultural heritage. Option A is thought to be able to deliver slightly more for all of the positively scored objectives due to the potentially wider scope of influence through designation of additional Local Landscape Policy Areas.

#### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

#### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

#### Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Potential to develop local level policy measures to improve LLPA protection. These could include key site requirements. Measures to incorporate and integrate blue/green infrastructure within LLPAs.

### Key Issue 36: Landscape Wedges

(Chapter 10: Protecting and Accessing our Natural Environment)

#### Preferred Option

**Option 36 (a): Retain the existing designated Rural Landscape Wedges and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Rural Landscape Wedges if considered appropriate.**

Under this option, the existing Rural Landscape Wedges will be retained in these areas of high development pressure to protect the separate identities of Carrickfergus, Greenisland and Newtownabbey. This option would also allow the opportunity to assess if other areas within the Borough would be appropriate for Rural Landscape Wedge designation.

Within any designated Rural Landscape Wedges, development proposals compliant with prevailing regional planning policy will be allowed provided it can be demonstrated that the visual separation between settlements will be maintained.

#### Policy Implications

No policy implications.

#### Alternative Options

**Option 36 (b): Retain the existing designated Rural Landscape Wedges and associated policy.**

This option conforms to the objectives of the RDS and seeks to maintain the separate identities and settings of Carrickfergus and Greenisland. The Rural Landscape Wedge (CE 03) is designated to protect and maintain the separate identities and settings of Greenisland and Newtownabbey at Jordanstown. This Rural Landscape Wedge is predominantly agricultural with some recreational use.

The Rural Landscape Wedge (CE 04) is designated to protect and maintain the separate identities and settings of Carrickfergus and Greenisland, and the setting of the small settlement Trooperslane. This Rural Landscape Wedge is also agricultural and is used as a countryside recreation resource.

Under this option the separate identities of Newtownabbey, Greenisland and Carrickfergus would continue to be protected in an area of high development pressure. However, this option alone may be a missed opportunity to protect the separate identities and settings of other settlements in the Borough, where development pressure poses a risk of coalescence

**Option 36 (c): Remove existing designated Rural Landscape Wedges and rely only on regional planning policies carried forward (such as PPS 2, PPS 18 and PPS 21) to provide protection for buffer landscapes and open areas recognised as essential for the protection of the setting of particular settlements and maintaining their visual separation.**

This option would weaken the protection of key strategic open spaces separating the settlements of Carrickfergus, Greenisland and Newtownabbey, in an area of high development pressure.

This option would primarily rely on generic regional policies, for example PPS 21, to protect specific areas of countryside that are important for maintaining the visual separation between settlements from development pressure. The current extra policy protection provided by the Rural Landscape Wedges policy would be removed under this option, leaving the settings of Greenisland and Newtownabbey, and Carrickfergus and Greenisland, more vulnerable to coalescence. The absence of a Plan-led approach to identify such wedges in other part of the Borough may also increase the potential for coalescence of settlements in close proximity to each other.

### Summary and comparison of alternatives against the sustainability objectives

These options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 5. A summary of the long term effects is shown in the following table:

	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	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	12... protect natural resources and enhance	13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.
36A	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	++
36B	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	++
36C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	?	0	?	-	-

Option C has uncertain impacts on some sustainability objectives and minor negative impacts on landscape character and the historic environment due to removal of existing designations and reliance on a less strategic policy approach. Options A and B have the same scores which are minor positive for physical and natural resources, and a significant positive score for maintaining and enhancing landscape character and the historic environment. Option A is thought to be able to deliver slightly more on several objectives which are scored as a minor positive or negligible effect. Overall option A, which both retains existing and enables designation of new Landscape Wedges, is more strategic and more sustainable.

### What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified.

### What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No mitigation required to address significant adverse effects.

### **Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects**

Potential measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects are:

Local level policy measures; local level guidelines; other planning tools.



## 4. The Impact of the Preferred Options

This section considers the preferred options in terms how they cumulatively relate to the fourteen sustainability objectives. Appendix 4 illustrates how the preferred options were scored for each sustainability objective.

### 1. Health and Wellbeing

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.

The preferred option to provide strategic policy on developer contributions has potential to support creation of open space areas and places for recreation as a part of development which can help to promote active lifestyles for all ages.

The spatial growth strategy will promote growth in the Main Hubs of Ballymena and Larne and support the role of Carrickfergus whilst sustaining rural communities living in small settlements as open countryside. This approach aims to maintain urban populations, ensuring access for many to high quality healthcare, and leisure and recreation facilities. Rural development in small settlements and open countryside will help to retain population which supports local services and is served by high quality healthcare. The approach to strategic housing allocation as a part of the spatial growth strategy will focus the majority of growth on settlements allowing efficient delivery of and convenient access to facilities and health care facilities. It will also allow those wishing to continue to live in rural areas, to do so, which helps to support caring arrangements within family networks.

The approach considered for Economic Development will allow alternative compatible economic uses/business falling outside Part B 'Industrial and Business Uses' within zoned economic development land. It will consider the impacts of adjacent uses for compatibility and will avoid the negative health impacts from nuisance such as noise and disturbance which could negatively impact upon health.

The preferred option to protect and promote other town centre uses, may result in more town centre living which could mean that active travel for working and shopping become more possible for more people. It could also lead to greater town centre vitality and improved safety for town centre residents and access to town centre based health care facilities for more people.

The preferred option on safeguarding against potential subsidence and the effects of land instability will give a significantly positive effect to ensuring this issue is managed safely.

Facilitating social and affordable housing will help to provide a degree of permanence for those who need social housing which helps with wider aspects of health and well-being.

Delivering housing to meet the needs of people with mobility issues, will facilitate creation of more wheelchair accessible apartments will have positive impacts on the health and well-being of those with mobility issues enabling greater integration and allowing people continue to live within their local community.

Supporting delivery community growing spaces and allotments has potential positive effects for health and wellbeing. It will allow people to grow and eat fresh food, and provides an opportunities for interaction which contributes to quality of life and good mental health.

The preferred option to facilitate the development of a network of community greenways and pathways will help to encourage recreation and active travel both of which can contribute to improved health and wellbeing.

Supporting play park provision will enable opportunities for activity for children and provide places for people to meet enhancing quality of life.

Providing open space in new residential developments will support provision of open space as an integral part of a housing scheme. This has recreational value and could support well-being and quality of life particularly for children.

The preferred option which aims to reduce reliance on the private car and promote sustainable transport and active travel could lead to a more active population and improved local air quality both which are important for improving health and well-being. Introducing areas of parking restraint in the main towns could provide a disincentive to private

car use, and therefore encourage active travel and increased activity which could contribute to improved health and well-being.

The preferred option on protection of proposed road schemes could have a positive effect on health and well-being through encouraging active travel, but this will depend on the implications of a forthcoming Local Transport Strategy. It is considered to have an uncertain impact therefore.

Promoting the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems could have slight benefits for health and wellbeing through contributing to reducing the incidence of flooding, an issue for public safety and quality of life.

The approach taken on the Special Countryside Area in the Sothorn Glens Coast may provide benefits for recreation and encourage active lifestyles and contribute positively for the sense of place and identity for people visiting and living there.

The preferred option to provide increased policy protection for the Islandmagee Peninsula will help to support the visual amenity of the area and could encourage people to enjoy and use the area for recreation and tranquillity.

The preferred option to on the Belfast Lough Shoreline will protect landscape and access to the coast for recreation which is an important local place for walking and cycling.

Providing increased policy protection for the most scenic and environmentally important areas associated with Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann corridor will help to enhance the attractiveness of the local area and as a place for leisure and relaxation.

The preferred option on Local Landscape Policy Areas will help to improve amenity and possibly help to make settlements more tranquil places which will help to improve health and well-being.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on health and wellbeing.

## 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.

Providing a strategic policy on developer contributions through the Local Development Plan has potential for open space, community or recreational facilities to be funded all of which would have benefits for social integration and creating a local sense of pride.

The spatial growth strategy aims to promote growth in the Main Hubs of Ballymena and Larne and support the role of Carrickfergus whilst sustaining rural communities living in small settlements as open countryside. This approach aims to maintain urban populations whilst retaining appropriate population in small settlements and the open countryside. This will help to maintain community cohesion and allow for people to live in villages and small settlements enabling family support networks to be maintained.

Allowing Class B1 Business Uses in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres and within economic development zonings will help to maintain footfall and social interaction in the towns but also spreads the potential benefits of this to other centres which also can contribute meeting places for adjacent communities.

Providing for start-up and grow-on business space within economic development land and zonings may use local redundant sites which contributes positively for local people through potential employment opportunities. It could also contribute to regeneration which may to improve sense of identity and local pride.

Defining a Primary Retail Core whilst designating specific sites in the town centres for mixed use development could improve vitality and viability within town centres, supporting town centre living and helping the night time economy. These could help to increase the type and number of meeting places in the town centres and make them more attractive places to live. Protecting and promoting other town centres uses which would facilitate town centre living along with facilitating Class B1 Business uses on upper levels could also lead to increased vibrancy and vitality, making town centres more attractive places to visit.

Facilitating social and affordable housing through key site requirements and strategic policy will contribute to meeting social and affordable housing needs and could contribute to creating inclusive and shared areas and spaces.

Delivering housing to meet the needs of people with mobility issues through strategic policy on wheelchair accessibility has the potential to strengthen community integration and social cohesion and could enable people to live near to family and friends within their local community.

Supporting delivery of community growing spaces or allotments in suitable locations will enable people to meet up, be outdoors and potentially connect in shared spaces at the community level. The strategic approach and aim for suitable locations should help ensure delivery of this objective Borough wide. This could help to create a network of spaces across the Borough allowing people of all ages and backgrounds to share a common interest in their local area. Facilitating the development of a network of community greenways and pathways will also help to create and link a network of Shared spaces which enable social interaction across communities.

Setting strategic policy on play park provision will have positive effects for people living in the immediate locality and for those affected housing developments but may not have as widespread a benefit if other areas with need are not facilitated. Play parks provide meeting places and help inter-generational contact.

The preferred option on open space provision in new residential developments will help to support recreation activity, social and cross-community interaction; this all helps to add to the fabric of wider society.

Introducing a new proactive policy for sustainable transport in new developments and encouraging the provision of more park and ride facilities has potential to help reduce car numbers and encourage car sharing that may enable more commuters to travel; particularly rural commuters.

The preferred option to protect non-strategic road schemes in the Local Development Plan will have an uncertain impact on strengthening society and can only be properly considered once the Local Transport Strategy is available. These should work in favour of this objective by connecting communities and reducing travel times, linking lands and possibly enabling more public transport.

Using criteria based policy to support the delivery of a new cemetery or an extension to a cemetery will allow us to plan facilities in the best locations to serve the needs of the community.

Protecting architectural and historical character within conservation areas can positively help to increase sense of place for local areas, and strengthen the sense of local identity. This potentially helps with community cohesion within communities and appreciation of local cultural heritage as a shared subject between generations and communities. In addition the preferred option which aims to protect non-designated heritage assets through creating a criteria based local heritage list could support appreciation of local heritage and contribute to sense of place. There is a potential for local community to engage and work in partnership with our Council to identify heritage assets.

The preferred option for the Belfast Lough Shoreline designations will protect parts of this coastal landscape and provide access to the coast, potentially including walks, and areas to enjoy the landscape. This provides a resource which benefits society in providing places for people to meet. Providing that any spatial amendments to the Policy Area do not result in any negative impacts on the assets in this area, then this policy will have a positive effect.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on strengthening society

### **3. 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.

The preferred option to provide strategic policy on developer contributions through the Local Development Plan has a potential to help to encourage a mix of tenure types, social housing and to provide facilities which meet local needs.

The preferred options which form the spatial growth strategy will help to provide good quality, sustainable housing. Focusing growth using the spatial growth strategy, and using the preferred strategic housing allocation will enable people to live in different parts of the Borough according to current need and will support the sustainability of small rural settlements and allow rural needs to be met. The spatial housing allocation approach will allow delivery of adequate housing to meet the needs of the Borough.

The preferred option which will promote a range of town centre uses could help to provide opportunities for those wishing to live in town centres. Protecting and promoting other town centre uses could significantly increase the options of housing types available in terms of town centre living and possibly 'living over the shop'. This type of housing helps to meet the needs of those without access to cars and allows accommodation to be available close to local services.

The preferred option to facilitate social and affordable housing through zoning sites for this use in the Local Policies Plan and indicating a proportion of social housing through key site requirements will support mixed tenure housing and aims to provide affordable homes. This could have a significantly positive effect on meeting the need for social and affordable housing long term.

The preferred option which supports delivery of housing to meet the needs of people with mobility issues will help to provide housing stock that meets local needs and enable people with mobility issues to remain within their local community.

The preferred option to protect non-strategic road schemes in the Local Development Plan will have an uncertain impact on providing good quality, sustainable housing, and can only be properly considered once the Local Transport Strategy is available.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on delivering good quality sustainable housing.

## **4. 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.

The LDP has limited impact on access to high quality education and many of the aspects of our plan were considered to have a neutral effect. However the spatial growth strategy was considered to have a positive effect for this objective. The decision to focus growth on the three main towns, with appropriate growth in small towns and sustaining rural communities in villages, small settlements and the open countryside, was considered to help maintain high levels of population in urban areas where education services can be delivered efficiently, but whilst maintaining rural populations which will help with rural school sustainability.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on enabling access to high quality 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.

The preferred option to provide strategic policy on developed contributions has potential to fund projects that could help to stimulate local economic activity.

Agreeing a settlement hierarchy and upgrading existing settlements within the hierarchy may help to encourage further growth and development in those areas, giving certainty to developers and investors alike.

The preferred options which form the spatial growth strategy are considered to positively contribute to enabling sustainable economic growth through grouping the majority of the population and major employment in settlements, and contributing maintained or improved vitality and vibrancy in these areas.

The preferred option to align the retail hierarchy with the proposed settlement hierarchy (including potential district and or local centres) will allow retention and consolidation of existing district and local centres as locations for everyday shopping, whilst ensuring they are complementary to the retail offer in town centres. It would allow reclassified settlements to provide a mix of retail facilities, supermarkets, restaurants and community facilities which could add vitality and footfall.

The preferred option which will allow class B1 Business Uses in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres and within economic development zonings, is considered to have a positive impact for business in town centres and for

other associated services. It could lead to an increase in footfall and vitality in these locations which can increase spend and support local employment.

Allowing alternative compatible uses on land zoned for economic development will add to the mix of potential uses and work with the market to allow new services to be provided in suitable locations. Defining a Primary Retail Core in some or all of the main towns and using policy to encourage a suitable range of uses, will strengthen the retail offer and help competitiveness in the core shopping streets, increasing footfall in this zone and making the town centre more viable. It will also allow for diversification of uses which would help to stimulate the evening economy and help to offer a range of job types and encouraging regeneration and investment.

The preferred option to protect and promote other town centre uses and allowing B1 uses will provide opportunities for growth and greater choices for employment in the town centres, whilst enhancing vibrancy and vitality. It may also contribute to an improved daytime economy for café's and other service providers. It will also allow diversity of uses, giving a wider range of opportunities for investment and innovation.

The preferred option to accommodate future tourism demand could also a more tailored approach to tourism development, which could deliver more sustainable economic growth.

The approach in the preferred option on minerals development with will balance the need for minerals development with safeguarding landscape and environmental assets will help to maintain employment in minerals development.

The preferred option to facilitate the development of a network of community greenways and pathways has potential to encourage tourists and visitors to an area. It could help to make a location more attractive for investors, and help sustain local businesses enterprises. It might provide an alternative to the car in areas underserved by public transport making active commuting to these locations more attractive for employment investment.

The preferred option to protect non-strategic road schemes in the LDP may have a positive impact on enabling sustainable economic growth and but may be properly considered once the Local Transport Strategy is available. This should provide a more controlled and strategic approach to local development that may help encourage sustainable economic growth by providing the most appropriate guidance on transport links that are essential for business and industry.

The preferred option on facilitating renewable energy promotes economic growth within the renewables sector, with a cautious approach in designated landscapes providing consideration for sensitive landscapes valued by the tourism sector.

The preferred option to protect architectural and historical character within conservation areas is considered to have a positive effect on enabling sustainable economic growth. It may help to sustain local business including tourism and attract inward investment, visitors and residents alike because of the attractive visual environment.

The preferred option to retain the Special Countryside Area in the Southern Glens Coast will allow protection of a key tourism asset in the Borough and therefore help to support sustainable tourism in this area.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on enabling economic growth.

## **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 minimise 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.

The preferred options which form the spatial growth strategy are considered to positively contribute to the sustainable management of material asset services. Agreeing a settlement hierarchy will allow growth and development to progress in a planned and strategic manner facilitating provision of recycling and waste management services and other infrastructure (including energy infrastructure) efficiently.

The preferred option on location of class B1 Business Uses which allow a sequential approach to such development in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres, and within economic zonings will allow delivery of waste and recycling services efficiently, allowing growth in areas which are well-served for infrastructure, and may encourage re-use of vacant buildings and derelict sites.

The preferred option which aims to provide opportunities for start-up and growing-on of businesses will encourage re-use of brownfield sites and vacant land, availing of existing infrastructure and land.

The preferred option on alternative uses on land zoned for economic development which will facilitate alternative compatible economic users within zoned economic land will allow re-use of sites which will make use of existing infrastructure and associated facilities and services.

Supporting delivery of community growing spaces and allotments in suitable locations potentially encouraging growing food in suitable locations may include brownfield sites. It will enable re-use of land, recycling food and soil waste on site, and may enable local composting schemes.

The preferred option to reduce reliance on the private car and promote sustainable transport and active travel is considered to make use of local existing infrastructure and promote its sustainable use. It may also lead to use of appropriate brownfields sites to provide infrastructure to as a part of the network to support sustainable transport.

The preferred option on providing protection for non-strategic road schemes will ensure that land is protected to provide for the local road infrastructure.

The preferred option which promotes Sustainable Drainage Systems within the LDP can positively influence the efficient provision of water treatment services through increased separation of surface water from sewage.

The preferred option on cemetery provision will provide an opportunity to protect land for cemeteries and the infrastructure that supports them.

Providing increased policy protection for the most scenic and environmentally important areas associated with the Lough Beg and Lower River Bann Corridor may however bring uncertainty for renewable energy development and the necessary supporting infrastructure.

The preferred option to provide increased policy protection for the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) may restrict some renewable energy development and associated infrastructure.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on managing material assets sustainably, although the uncertainties around renewable energy development are recognised.

## **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.

Minerals, earth science sites, geothermal energy, land and soil are resources that require protection from degradation and safeguarding for future use. Sustainable use of physical resources can help to support the economy.

The preferred option for the settlement hierarchy would enable a new hierarchy for the Borough through reclassifications, addition of new settlements and de-designation of some others. This approach would help to focus on developed areas and to some extent help to protect physical resources through avoidance.

The preferred option for the spatial growth strategy has the potential to focus growth in the main towns and enable appropriate growth in the small towns and settlements and in the open countryside. This approach helps to some extent to protect physical land resources by focusing growth in the towns and settlements, which helps to minimise greenfield loss.

The preferred option for the strategic housing allocation also has the potential to protect physical resources by focusing on the main towns and settlements, which will encourage the use of brownfield sites and avoid to some extent loss of greenfield sites. The focus on urban areas also helps to protect physical resources through avoidance although the countryside is still considered.

Providing for start-up and grow-on business within economic development areas will encourage reuse of existing sites and reuse of redundant buildings.

The preferred option for alternative uses of land zoned for economic development enables compatible uses to be considered which again helps to retain development and growth within appropriately zoned areas and avoid



development in the wider countryside that would be more likely to impact on physical resources. The compatibility of land uses is key to this option.

The preferred option to protect and promote other town centre uses has the potential to enable housing but also to facilitate Class B1 uses which would help reduce pressure on the wider countryside and again help to some extent to protect physical resources through avoidance.

Accommodating future tourism demand has the potential for bespoke policy to help protect but also promote areas with earth science sites or mineral workings as tourist locations.

The preferred option on safeguarding mineral resources has potential to enable protection of physical resources but also allow the sustainable use of minerals.

The preferred option to support the delivery of community growing spaces and allotments has the potential to protect physical resources as it targets only suitable locations. This option enables retention of land as green infrastructure and to some extent would help to conserve land and soil of a certain quality.

The preferred option for community greenways and pathways has the potential to facilitate a network, which would to some extent help to conserve land and soil with a local biodiversity value. This option would also enable people to use active travel, which could help to reduce pressure on land for transport routes.

The preferred option for the protection of proposed road schemes will be based on a Local Transport Strategy and existing baseline conditions, but the option will take land and soil for the road schemes. There will be loss of greenfield sites although avoidance of earth science sites and minerals should be feasible.

The preferred option to facilitate renewable energy but with a more cautious approach in designated landscapes will help to further protect land and soil in those areas.

The approach to cemetery provision offers the potential to strategically plan land use for this purpose which would help to avoid impacts on physical resources across the wider countryside.

Protecting archaeological sites and remains of regional importance from development has the potential to further protect areas using designation and this would further protect land and soil in those areas and any earth science sites if also present. However, as the restriction would halt mineral development the relationship between this preferred option and the objective is viewed as minor negative.

The preferred option to protect the Southern Glens Coast has the potential to further protect physical resources in those areas.

The preferred option to protect the Islandmagee Peninsula and the Gobbins Coast has the potential to further protect physical resources in those areas. There may be further protection awarded through a designation that would restrict mineral development in some areas but this is not decided yet.

The preferred option to protect the Belfast Lough shoreline has the potential to further protect physical resources in the area.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on protecting physical resources and using sustainably.

## **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.

The preferred option to provide strategic policy on developer contributions through the LDP may contribute positively to this objective through the potential for active travel linkages to be included within and from developments. These links could also connect with or act as green infrastructure.

The preferred options which form the spatial growth strategy were considered to positively encourage use of active and sustainable travel. Focusing growth using the spatial growth strategy, and using the preferred strategic housing



allocation will enable people to live in locations that allow convenient access to public transport, whilst supporting rural small settlements that act as hubs for rural public transport.

The preferred option which will align the retail hierarchy with the proposed settlement hierarchy including potential district and or local centres will make walking and cycling convenient for everyday shopping.

The approach taken on allowing Class B1 Business Uses in Town Centres, District Centres and within economic development zonings will encourage more diverse employment in these locations increasing the likelihood of active and sustainable travel for commuting. It could however lead to increased employment opportunities in areas that are not easily accessible using active and sustainable travel within some economic development zonings.

The preferred option to provide for start-up and grow-on business space will increase the scope of possibilities to use sites near to centres of population and existing transport routes. Development of new sites has potential to include sustainable and active travel as part of the design.

The approach taken in allowing alternative uses on land zoned for economic development was considered to have uncertain impacts on enabling sustainable and active travel, as some of these previous zonings could be better located for active and sustainable travel.

The preferred option which would define a Primary Retail Core (within some or all town centres) accompanied by policy to substantially protect and promote retail uses on ground floor frontages in these areas and designate specific sites in the town centre for mixed use, was considered to have a positive effect on this objective. This is because the preferred option could significantly strengthen the town centre retail offer and reduce the need to shop out of town. It could also lead to more active and sustainable commuting with a wider variety of employment opportunities available in town centres. This approach creates conditions that if matched with improvements in public transport and linkages which support active travel could reduce car use in the main towns.

The preferred option to protect and promote other town centre uses could contribute to encouraging town centre living which promotes active travel for shopping and recreation.

Supporting delivery of community growing spaces and allotments in suitable locations could contribute to a network of green linkages which facilitate walking and cycling. Similarly the approach taken which aims to encourage the development of a network of community greenways or pathways could significantly increase walking and cycling for shopping, commuting, travelling to and from school and for recreation.

The preferred option which will set out strategic policy for providing equipped play areas will help to reduce the need for young families to travel by car to their nearest play park, and may encourage walking and cycling to reach these facilities.

Encouraging open space provision in new residential developments will have an uncertain effect on encouraging active and sustainable travel. It will depend upon the degree to which the open space provision can provide opportunities to use walking and cycling as a way of linking locations.

The preferred option to introduce areas of car parking restraint in many towns also has the potential to provide a disincentive to car use, making active travel and sustainable transport more attractive.

The preferred option to protect non-strategic road schemes in the LDP will have an uncertain impact on encouraging active and sustainable travel and can only be properly considered once the Local Transport Strategy is available.

The approach taken to cemetery provision in the Preferred Options Paper could also consider the site locations and the public transport network which could potentially encourage such development in places suitable for active and sustainable travel.

The preferred option to reduce reliance on the private car and promote sustainable transport and active travel will require all new development within urban areas to demonstrate how they will achieve this aim, and will also facilitate the provision of park and ride facilities in the Borough. These measures along with the others identified in the POP will cumulatively have a positive effect on encouraging active and sustainable travel.

## 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.

The preferred option which will provide strategic policy on developer contributions has the potential to fund projects which could contribute to reduced car use such as pathways, which might improve local air quality. It could also contribute to community renewable energy projects which have a positive role in improving local air quality. The preferred option to facilitate the development of a network of community greenways and pathways also would contribute to this effect.

The proactive policy for sustainable travel will reduce car use, and encourage walking and cycling, along with facilitating park and ride provision, and use of public transport. All of these measures should significantly improve local air quality.

In addition the preferred option which will constrain car parking in the main towns will make car use less appealing which may provide a further push towards the use of active and sustainable transport, with a resulting improvement in air quality.

The preferred option on renewable energy development which will apply a cautious approach within certain designation and sensitive landscapes will nonetheless facilitate renewable energy development which will support improvements in air quality.

The approach on Local Landscape Policy Areas could allow semi-natural urban areas to be retained which will maintain trees and other vegetation which could help provide natural buffers between roads and local communities.

The appraisal of the preferred options found that in a number of cases the impact on air quality was difficult to determine.

The spatial growth strategy was considered to have elements of uncertainty over the potential impacts on air quality due to the level of growth and the locations which would see an increase in population. Considering that there is poor air quality in some parts of the Borough, focused growth could continue this trend. However it is not possible to fully determine the long term effect without considering locations.

The preferred option which would define a primary retail core and promote a range of uses could increase the diversity of employment options and number of people working in Town Centres. This could lead to increased use of active travel and sustainable transport, but it could also lead to increased traffic congestion into town centres which would have a negative effect on local air quality.

The preferred option which would promote and protect other town centre uses ideally should lead to increased active and sustainable travel. However it could also lead to increased commuting into town centres which could also have a negative effect on local air quality.

The preferred option for minerals development could lead to air quality being adversely affected in mineral reserve areas through dust production and increased vehicle movement, but improved in areas of constraint on minerals development. The net effect will also depend on the policy and spatial distribution of extraction therefore the net effect is uncertain.

The preferred option which will allow protection of non-strategic road schemes in the LDP is unlikely to improve air quality but could facilitate public transport.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative uncertain effect on improving air quality. More information is needed to fully assess the impacts of growth giving consideration to location. The effect of the preferred options on this objective will be strongly influenced by whether people change their behaviour and change their mode of transport especially for short journeys.

## 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 adaptation is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change.

The appraisal identified no negative impacts from the preferred options, although at this strategic stage of plan-making several options were considered to have a neutral effect.

The preferred option, which will provide strategic policy on developer contributions, has the potential to direct money toward projects or features that help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport and energy sources. There is also the potential to ensure funds for adaptation measures such as SuDS that require operational maintenance.

The preferred options for the spatial growth strategy and strategic housing allocation, which plan to focus growth in the three main towns but also enable appropriate growth in the small towns, rural communities and the open countryside, have an uncertain relationship with climate change. Any growth requires development that will create and most probably increase greenhouse gas emissions but this must be considered against the availability of cleaner energy sources, increasingly energy efficient building designs and an increasing awareness of integrating adaptation measures to local infrastructure. In addition, the allocation of the majority of housing planned for the main towns, small towns, villages and settlements should help reduce the need for private car journeys but must be considered against the allocated housing growth for the open countryside that will probably increase local car journeys.

The preferred option to protect and promote other town centre uses also has an uncertain relationship with climate change. It supports living and working in the town centres, which may reduce the need for private car travel but should be considered against local active and sustainable travel options.

The preferred option to safeguard against potential subsidence and land instability has the potential to help identify areas that are vulnerable and may be particularly important for coastal areas. The effects of climate change include land erosion and loss from more regular and extreme weather events that may also lead to flooding.

The preferred option to facilitate a network of community greenways and pathways has the potential to reduce private car use and encourage active travel. The planned network could link with public transport routes and overall help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport. The protection of green infrastructure would also help to maintain local habitats that act as natural floodplains and carbon stores.

The preferred option to reduce reliance on the private car and promote sustainable and active travel, has the potential to provide a holistic approach that can reduce cars on the road but also the length of journeys, whilst enabling more people to car share, choose to use public transport, or walk and cycle. The option provides an opportunity to influence new development to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport sources.

The preferred option to introduce areas of car parking restraint in the main towns would help to encourage people to consider public transport and active travel options which would help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport sources.

The preferred option to protect proposed road schemes has the potential to be as sustainable as possible by referring to a Local Transport Strategy that provides current baseline conditions and enables the most appropriate roads to be retained based on current land development. Although this strategic approach may help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing car journey times and promoting sustainable travel, it will also enable an increased amount of vehicular traffic within the area. It may enable more private car journeys if people decide not to opt for alternative modes. Overall the option has an uncertain relationship with climate change.

The preferred option to facilitate renewable energy has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels by enabling renewable energy development and access to those energy sources. The option aims to allow a balance to be struck between this need and the protection of landscape character, but technology ever evolving in this sector this option remains broadly supportive of the objective.

The preferred option to facilitate SuDS has the potential to help to manage surface water and alleviate the impacts of localised flooding which can result from the effects of climate change.

The preferred option to protect the Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann corridor has the potential to further protect land that acts as natural floodplain. The enhanced policy protection would also protect local peatland habitats that act as natural carbon stores. The option would help to enhance the conservation of local habitats important in combatting the effects of climate change.

The preferred option to protect the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB has the potential to further protect areas of land within the AONB considered highly sensitive to certain types of development. This would help to protect the uplands

including areas of peatland, all of which are important for water and carbon storage and helps to combat the effects of climate change.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on reducing causes of and adapting to 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.

The preferred option to provide strategic policy on developer contributions has potential to fund projects or measures which could contribute to water conservation.

The spatial growth strategy including the settlement hierarchy was considered to have a broadly positive effect on the protection of water quality and using water resources sustainably. Focusing population growth and development in settlements helps to encourage growth in appropriate areas with adequate facilities and services including water infrastructure. The strategy also gives an opportunity for the impact of potential surface water flooding to be considered.

The housing allocation strategy presents an area of uncertainty for the appraisal. There is a wider scope for potential water pollution through the element of housing dispersal in the countryside and the reliance on septic tanks for this type of housing development. This effect will be considered in more detail once locations are known and if negative effects are identified mitigations such as key site requirements may be recommended.

The preferred option to provide start-up and grow-on business space within economic development land or zonings could mean an increase in water usage needs, or create a risk to local water quality. It is not possible to determine these impacts without considering spatial information and therefore the effect is uncertain.

The preferred option on accommodating future tourism demand contains general protections and will include bespoke policy for vulnerable, sensitive or opportunity areas which will avoid inappropriate development, therefore reducing risks to water quality.

The preferred option on minerals development which will have a presumption against minerals development within areas designated for their landscape and for environmental or heritage significance was considered to be a positive approach for protecting water quality in these areas of constraint.

The preferred option to facilitate the development of a network of community greenways and pathways has the potential to retain green infrastructure which can act as a buffer reducing risk of flooding and protection water quality in some areas.

Open space provision in new residential developments was considered to have a positive effect on protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably. Open space is important in a local context and may include areas prone to flooding, or a feature such as a pond or stream. Open space can help to absorb surface run off and could form part of Sustainable Drainage Systems. The preferred option which will promote sustainable drainage systems has the potential to improve water quality, reduce incidences of flooding and encourage the efficient use of water resources. This could significantly contribute to a progress towards this objective.

The preferred options which provide protections for Landscape in the Belfast Lough Shoreline, Lough Beg and River Bann corridor and the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB are all considered to have a positive effect on this objective. This will allow sensitive locations to be protected from some development, reducing the associated risks to water quality.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably and negative effects can be mitigated as the plan progresses and at within development management requirements.

## **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. 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 as well as protection of green and blue infrastructure to enhance the services that natural resources provide.

Providing strategic policy on developer contributions through the LDP could potentially include projects that that connect or add to blue and green infrastructure network. Also investment in local ecosystem services projects could help to maintaining and enhancing local biodiversity more widely than only on development sites.

The preferred options which form the spatial growth strategy are considered to positively contribute to protecting natural resources and biodiversity through using a settlement hierarchy which will allow growth and development take place primarily within settlements.

Providing for start-up and grow-on business space within economic development land and zonings will potentially use redundant buildings and vacant land, which could avoid development in the wider countryside. Other planning policy and mitigation can be used to deal with any possible ecological impacts.

Retaining the current strategic policy on accommodating future tourism demand and bringing forward bespoke policy tailored to the tourism potential of vulnerable, sensitive and opportunity areas within our Borough will protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity in these areas.

Balancing the need for minerals development with safeguarding of landscape and environmental assets will help to protect natural resources and biodiversity in areas of constraint. Safeguarding against potential subsidence and the effects of land instability will contribute to avoiding development in areas of coastal erosion and prevents further harm including habitat loss.

Supporting community growing spaces and allotments in suitable locations could help to maintain semi- natural cover with local species helping to maintain and enhance local biodiversity. The preferred option to facilitate development of a network of community greenways and pathways could significantly contribute to protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity through retention of semi-natural land and enabling the extent of the green infrastructure network to be expanded. This strategic approach could help to protect and conserve key natural features across the local area and make best use of such wildlife corridors.

The preferred option to provide open space in new residential developments will possibly allow land to be retained as ideally semi natural cover and could maintain natural features, supporting local biodiversity. These open spaces could also act as buffers to streams and water courses, helping to protect sensitive aquatic environments. Reducing reliance on the private car and promoting active travel could also support retention of greenways which act as wildlife corridors as a part of the green infrastructure.

The preferred option which will allow protection of non-strategic road schemes in the LDP was considered to have an uncertain impact on protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity. The impact of this option in relation to biodiversity and loss of semi-natural and natural land will need to be carefully considered once the Local Transport Strategy is available.

Promoting sustainable drainage systems within the LDP has the potential to support and possibly create habit areas and may support inclusion of green and blue infrastructure in developments.

Using criteria based policy to support the delivery of cemeteries could potentially contribute to protecting the natural environment and biodiversity through retaining hedgerows, wildlife corridors, and wild areas within cemeteries.

Protecting archaeological sites and remains of regional importance and their settings from harmful development settings may also protect land for biodiversity. However, the number of visitors to such sites could increase, resulting in higher pressures on immediate natural features.

The Special Countryside Area designation and associated policy for the Southern Glens Coast, will enables protection of local natural resources and potentially enhance biodiversity. Providing increased policy protection for the Islandmagee Peninsula and Gobbins Coast will also help to support biodiversity and natural resources in this area.

The Belfast Lough Shoreline designation and associated policy will support the existing protections as a Special Protection Area and an Area of Special Scientific Interest. This coastal designation provides additional protection for areas important for aquatic food resources and habitats for birds. This option will also protect and enhance green and blue infrastructure.

Providing increased policy protection for the most scenic and environmentally important areas associated with Lough Beg and the Lower Bann corridor will enable heightened protection of the natural environment in areas adjacent to nature conservation designations and other important areas of natural heritage, and provides an opportunity to protect or enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services over a wider area within the locality.

The preferred option to provide increased policy protection for exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB will help to further protect natural resources including sensitive areas, habitats and species from the potential adverse impacts of development and would provide protective buffers from inappropriate development for these areas.

Retaining the existing designated areas and designating other areas within our Borough as areas of High Scenic Value has potential to ensure that natural features are protected adding to biodiversity as well as landscape character.

Retaining the existing designated, and identifying and designating other Local Landscape Policy Areas where appropriate will allow natural heritage features, wildlife corridors and ecosystem services, to be protected.

The preferred option to retain the existing designated rural landscape wedges is positive for retaining and protecting natural habitat for wildlife and maintaining local biodiversity levels.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity.

### **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.

The spatial growth strategy including the use of the new settlement hierarchy and approach taken in the strategic housing allocation were all considered to have an overall positive effect on maintaining and enhancing landscape character, through focusing the majority of development into settlements.

The preferred option for accommodating future tourism demand was considered to have a positive effect for maintaining and enhancing landscape character as it will protect from inappropriate development in sensitive and vulnerable areas.

The preferred option for minerals development will protect landscape character in areas of constraint.

The preferred option on potential subsidence and land stability may lead to less need for coastal defences which will have a positive impact the coastal landscape.

The preferred option to facilitate the development of a network of community greenways and pathways could help to maintain local landscape character by strategically integrating a greenway network and also includes measures for planting of sensitive landscaping to help integrate pathways with the local landscape. The preferred option on open space provision in new residential developments could use landscaping to blend the development into the local landscape, and could retain existing features.

The preferred option which will allow protection of non-strategic road schemes in the LDP was considered to have an uncertain impact on landscape. The impact of this option in relation to local landscape will need to be carefully considered once the Local Transport Strategy is available.

The preferred option to facilitate renewable energy is considered to have a positive impact on landscape character. The preferred option which will use criteria based policy to support cemetery provision is considered to have the potential to consider landscape in this process.

The preferred option to protect archaeological sites and remains of regional importance (and their settings) from harmful development will also help to maintain landscape character.

The preferred option to retain the existing Special Countryside Area designation will enable protection, conservation and enhancement of the landscape character of this area and views from the coast and to the coast. It is considered to contribute significantly to achievement of this objective.

The preferred option to increase policy protection for the Islandmagee Peninsula has the potential to maintain and enhance landscape character of parts of the Islandmagee Peninsula Area of Scenic Quality which is particularly important with regard to its tranquil areas and as a tourist resource.

Having a Belfast Lough Shoreline designation and associated policy will help to protect coastal views and the waterfront setting, but will need careful consideration of any spatial changes to the designation.

The preferred option to provide increased policy protection for the most scenic and environmentally important areas associated with Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann corridor has the scope to protect against the adverse impacts of particular types of development in this Area of Scenic Quality.

The preferred option to provide increased policy protection to the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB will help to further protect sensitive landscapes using spatial policies with benefits for significant settings, views and local distinctiveness.

The approach to retaining the existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value (and associated policy) and the potential designate other areas of High Scenic Value will continue to significantly work towards this objective.

Similarly, retaining the approach on Local Landscape Policy Areas with additional policy protection will help to maintain landscape character and local distinctiveness specific to the local areas and minimise possible visual intrusion from future development. The potential to include additional areas will add to this effect and overall it will provide significant protection for landscape in those areas.

The preferred option on Rural Landscape Wedges will also significantly contribute towards this objective in the areas affected. They help to define the setting of, and maintain visual separation between settlements, helping to conserve local landscape character. As this option allows potential consideration of new sites, it could all this effect in other areas.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on maintaining and enhancing landscape character.

## **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.

The appraisal identified no negative impacts from the preferred options, although at this strategic stage of plan-making some options were considered to have a neutral or uncertain effect.

The preferred option to provide strategic policy on developer contributions has potential to promote local built and cultural heritage and invest in measures such as signposts, interpretation boards and local level projects.

The preferred option to align the retail hierarchy with the proposed settlement hierarchy, including potential district and local centres could allow for and encourage regeneration in town centres, enhancing vitality and perhaps allowing for re-use of historic buildings.

The preferred option on location of Class B1 Business uses in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres and within economic development zonings as part of a sequential approach was considered to have a positive impact on the historic environment and cultural heritage. It may increase the potential to maintain existing buildings located in centres, and retain character by reusing buildings or and provides an opportunity to integrate new development with the local building design and streetscape.

The preferred option which aims to provide for start-up and grow-on space for local businesses has the potential to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage as it may encourage the reuse of old buildings and derelict sites. This could have a positive effect on helping to maintain the character and street scape within settlements or could support sustainability of industrial heritage buildings as a cornerstone of new regeneration projects. This objective could also be considered as a requirement of any such regeneration project.

The preferred option on a range of town centre uses could help to improve vitality and tackle the problems associated with dereliction and vacancy, which would help to support historic building assets through re-use.



The preferred option to protect and promote other Town Centre uses though facilitating residential use also may lead to some re-use of historic buildings.

The preferred option to accommodate future tourism demand which is to retain the current strategic policy in PPS16: Tourism (with mirror amendments) and bring forward bespoke policy tailored to the tourism potential of Vulnerable, Sensitives and Opportunity areas within the Borough was considered to have a positive effect on protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage. Similarly the preferred option on minerals development, balancing the need for minerals development with safeguarding of landscape and environmental assets was considered to have a positive effect for the protection and enhancement of the historic environment and cultural heritage.

The preferred option to facilitate the development of a network of community greenways and pathways was considered to have a positive effect through helping to retain and incorporate aspects of industrial and built heritage, raising awareness of these features to a wider audience.

The preferred option on cemetery provision which will use criteria based policy to support the delivery of a new cemetery or an extension to a cemetery. This strategic approach to the location of new cemeteries has the potential to allow appropriate consideration of historic environment and cultural heritage assets.

The preferred option to protect our archaeological sites and remains of regional importance (and their settings) from harmful development is considered to have a significantly positive effect on ensuring the protection of the historic environment and cultural heritage assets.

The preferred option to protect architectural and historical character within conservation areas also was considered to have a significantly positive effect on protecting and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage. It would continue to help to maintain protection of historical character within conservation areas and in some areas heighten protection.

The preferred option to protect non-designate heritage assets was also considered to have a potentially positive effect on this objective. It allows non designated local heritage assets to be recognised and may pave the way for new designations.

The preferred option on the Special Countryside Areas for the Southern Glens Coast was considered to have a significantly positive effect on protection of the historic environment and cultural heritage. It was recognised that the existing Special Countryside Area affords protection to the local distinctiveness of this area and protects the setting of the built heritage assets.

The preferred option which will provide increased policy protection for the Islandmagee Peninsula and Gobbins Coast is considered to have a significantly positive effect on enhancing the setting of local built and historic environment assets.

The preferred option of the Belfast Lough Shoreline will provide protection for setting and local distinctiveness for local built and historic environment assets.

The preferred option to provide increased policy protection for the most scenic and environmentally important areas associated with Lough Beg and the Lower Bann corridor was considered to have a significantly positive effect for the historic environment and cultural heritage assets in that area. It will provide additional protection for the most sensitive areas to maintain the sense of place and setting. There is potentially a wider scope feasible to consider the value of historic and built heritage assets in the context of their potential as tourism assets.

The preferred on the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB is considered to have a significantly positive effect on protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage. It will help to protect the setting of historic environment assets, and enable areas rich in significant archaeological features to be afforded additional protection.

The preferred option to retain the existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Areas of High Scenic Value if considered appropriate, is considered to have a positive impact on this objective. The option provides additional protection for cultural heritage assets, sense of place and local distinctiveness.

The preferred options on Local Landscape Policy Areas and on Rural Landscape Wedges are considered to have significantly positive effects on this objective through protecting the setting of historic and built heritage assets.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on protecting, conserving and enhance built and cultural heritage.

## 5. The Next Steps

### 5.1 How has the Sustainability Appraisal influenced the process so far?

This is an Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report and the appraisal process will take account of the representations made during this public consultation. The appraisal process helped critically review issues and the options put forward as reasonable alternatives and influenced the content of the POP. Sustainability appraisal will continue throughout plan preparation with a draft sustainability report being published with the draft Plan Strategy.

### 5.2 Outcome

In developing the Plan Strategy we will ensure that no significant effects for the sustainability objectives are likely or that where they are unavoidable they can be mitigated. We will also seek to ensure that positive effects are enhanced where appropriate.

### 5.3 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:

[consult.midandeastantrim.gov.uk](http://consult.midandeastantrim.gov.uk)

By Email:

[planning@midandeastantrim.gov.uk](mailto:planning@midandeastantrim.gov.uk)

By Post:

Local Development Plan Team  
County Hall  
182 Galgorm Road  
Ballymena  
BT42 1QF

## APPENDIX 1: COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

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 report or the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping 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 of the Scoping Report and Appendix 4 of that report 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 of the Scoping Report, 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 of the Scoping Report. 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 of the Scoping Report 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 of the Scoping Report 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; (iii) human health; (iv) fauna; (v) flora; (vi) soil;	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 this Interim Report. Interrelationships are covered in Chapter 2 of this.

Requirement	Location
(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 APPRAISAL GUIDE FOR MID AND EAST ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL PREFERRED OPTIONS PAPER

1. The objective for sustainable development is to <b>improve health and well-being.</b>
<b>Rationale</b>
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.
<b>Key Sustainability Issues</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The population is predicted to rise to 142,164 by the year 2030 with a slowing growth rate over that period.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• The increase in the proportion of older people in the population will increase the requirement for care.</li> <li>• Many people are dependent on carers in the home or local community.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• There is an inequality in health with all measures of health being significantly worse in the most deprived areas.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Levels of physical activity are relatively high in Mid and East Antrim however much lower than recommended levels.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• In particular there is a need for children to have accessible play opportunities in places where they feel safe.</li> <li>• Also there will be a need to enable older people to engage in physical activity to prolong their healthy lives.</li> <li>• Development should be sited and designed to connect with greenways where possible.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• There are health benefits from protecting and enhancing biodiversity.</li> <li>• Ambulance response times have been increasing across Northern Ireland; the location of and access to emergency services can impact on response times.</li> <li>• There is a need to plan the relative location of industry and housing, open space and public facilities to minimise use conflicts.</li> </ul>

- 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

- 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 g) Meet identified needs that will reduce inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities	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 n) Maintains or increases inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities

### 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

- 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Encourage low carbon homes</li> <li>b) Encourage the building of life-time homes with potential for adaptability, such as wheelchair access</li> <li>c) Encourage affordable housing</li> <li>d) Reduce homelessness</li> <li>e) Meet the needs of specific groups e.g. single people, families, retired people, ethnic minorities, disabled</li> <li>f) Reduce the number of unfit homes</li> <li>g) Provide housing which meets locally identified needs (in terms of type, tenure and size)</li> <li>h) Provide a mix of housing types</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Decrease energy efficiency</li> <li>j) Homes not suited for lifetime use</li> <li>k) Reduced affordable housing</li> <li>l) Increase homelessness</li> <li>m) Does not meet the needs of specific groups e.g. single people, families, retired people, ethnic minorities, disabled</li> <li>n) Does not meet local need for housing type/quantity</li> </ul>

4. The objective for sustainable development is to <b>enable access to high quality education.</b>	
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"> <li>• In some areas of our Borough a decline in pupil numbers will have implications for the sustainability of existing schools.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Although our Borough has a high level of educational achievement at all levels this is not consistent between DEAs.</li> </ul>	
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 <b>enable sustainable economic growth.</b>
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

- 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	Negative Effects
a) Proportion of waste to landfill decreases b) Makes recycling easier c) Recycling rates likely to increase d) Composting rates continue to increase e) Encourages increased reuse of resources f) Waste production figures per household reduce g) Sufficient transmission/distribution lines h) Infrastructure is fit for purpose i) Enables renewable energy production j) Reduces the amount of contaminated or derelict land	k) Recycling rates do not increase l) The proportion of waste to landfill does not decrease m) Composting rates do not continue to increase n) Insufficient transmission/distribution lines o) Infrastructure not fit for purpose p) Does not enable renewable energy production

7. The objective for sustainable development is to <b>protect physical resources and use sustainably.</b>	
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"> <li>Existing mineral reserves should be safeguarded from alternative uses and/or developments that may sterilise their use or impede their accessibility.</li> <li>Older mineral sites (pre-1985) without adequate restoration may be causing damage to the local environment.</li> <li>The minerals industry has the potential to support rural communities and businesses if appropriately located with adequate transport routes.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>There is potential to integrate geothermal energy as a future energy source.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>There is a need for land for cemetery provision.</li> <li>Commercial peat extraction sites are present in the Borough however peatlands are important for ecological value and as water and carbon stores.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	
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"> <li>• The Council is strategically located with several key road and rail transport routes passing through it.</li> <li>• Public transport options between settlements are limited and where public transport is available, journeys can often be lengthy with poor connections for onward travel.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• There is strong reliance on car travel for work however 32.5% of MEA residents travel less than 5km to work.</li> <li>• There is a need to consider modes of travel for employees when planning new places of employment including public transport, walking and cycling.</li> <li>• An integrated active travel network across the Borough could support health and well-being as well as reducing GHG emissions.</li> </ul>	
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

- 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Improve air quality</li> <li>b) Reduce emissions of key pollutants</li> <li>c) Reduce transport emissions</li> <li>d) Encourage other modes of transport than the car</li> <li>e) Avoid increase of ammonia emissions (near to sensitive receptors)</li> <li>f) Help achieve the objectives of any Air Quality Management Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>g) Reduce air quality</li> <li>h) Increase emissions of key pollutants</li> <li>i) Increase transport emissions</li> <li>j) Maintain/increase car use</li> <li>k) Increase ammonia emissions (near to sensitive receptors)</li> <li>l) Air Quality Management Plan may not be achieved.</li> </ul>

10. The objective for sustainable development is to <b>reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.</b>	
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"> <li>• There is a need for our Borough to futureproof itself for a low carbon future in anticipation of future energy and climate change policies.</li> <li>• Agriculture is a significant contributor to GHG emissions and opportunities to reduce emissions within the scope of the LDP need to be considered.</li> <li>• Planning could help encourage efficient building design to reduce GHG emissions.</li> <li>• Planning could also promote adaptation measures like sustainable drainage systems and green infrastructure.</li> <li>• There is a need to provide active and sustainable travel options across the Borough to help reduce reliance on the car and reduce emissions.</li> <li>• It is important to protect habitats, including floodplains and peatlands, which act as natural mitigation and adaptation measures for climate change.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	
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

- 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 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

- 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Protect or enhance local biodiversity</li> <li>b) Protect or enhance existing or potential wildlife corridors</li> <li>c) Protect or enhance designated sites and their buffers</li> <li>d) Locally important sites and buffers are protected</li> <li>e) Protect or enhance blue/green infrastructure (B/GI) and open space</li> <li>f) Enable access to open space and B/GI</li> <li>g) Support/provide ecosystem services</li> <li>h) Incorporate blue/green infrastructure in development</li> <li>i) Coastal and marine ecosystems are protected</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>j) Loss of local biodiversity</li> <li>k) Damage/interrupt existing or potential wildlife corridors</li> <li>l) Damage designated site and their buffers</li> <li>m) Locally important sites and buffers damaged</li> <li>n) Remove or damage blue/green infrastructure</li> <li>o) Block or remove access to B/GI or open space</li> <li>p) Reduce ecosystem services</li> <li>q) Coastal and marine ecosystems may be damaged.</li> </ul>

13. The objective for sustainable development is to <b>maintain and enhance landscape character.</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	
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.	
<b>Key Sustainability Issues</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• It is important to protect, conserve and enhance landscape including degraded areas.</li> <li>• There is a need to enable designation of local areas of landscape quality where appropriate.</li> <li>• There is a need to consider local measures to address development pressures within the AONB and in areas particularly sensitive to landscape change.</li> <li>• The protection of ecological networks and blue/green infrastructure can also benefit landscape.</li> <li>• The AONB presents an opportunity for partnership working with another Council and other stakeholders.</li> </ul>	
<b>Appraisal Prompts</b>	
<b>Positive Effects</b>	<b>Negative Effects</b>
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

- 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Protect and conserve built and cultural heritage</li> <li>b) Enhance built and cultural heritage</li> <li>c) Allow 'sense of place' to be conserved in townscape and rural settings</li> <li>d) Protect and enhance local distinctiveness</li> <li>e) Allow archaeological features to be assessed, recorded and preserved</li> <li>f) Preserve and enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets</li> <li>g) Support access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment</li> <li>h) Enable assessment of impacts of development on complex and extensive archaeological sites adjacent to settlements</li> <li>i) Provide opportunities for cultural activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>j) Loss of built and cultural heritage</li> <li>k) Lose 'sense of place' in townscape and rural settings</li> <li>l) Reduce local distinctiveness</li> <li>m) Archaeological features not assessed, recorded and preserved</li> <li>n) Damage the setting of cultural heritage assets</li> <li>o) Reduce access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment</li> <li>p) Impacts of development on complex and extensive archaeological sites adjacent to settlements not understood</li> <li>q) Decrease opportunities for cultural activities</li> </ul>



## APPENDIX 3: HABITATS REGULATIONS SCREENING

### Introduction

The requirement for Habitats Regulations Assessment is introduced in section 1.3.3. Habitats Regulations Assessment will be an iterative process carried out in parallel with Local Development Plan (LDP) preparation and will be updated in line with knowledge of potential plan effects and any changes relating to European sites. This report provides a long list of sites for which effects of the plan will be reviewed. These will be considered in the context of how they are connected with the LDP area and potential effects of the LDP on its own and in combination with other plans and projects.

This screening takes a precautionary approach. There will be no conceivable effect on many of the long listed sites, for example on those that are over 10km away and have no ecological or infrastructure connection, therefore a number of these sites will be excluded from further consideration at the next stage of assessment. It must be emphasised that only some of the potential impacts may arise. Measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate for impacts will be incorporated in the plan where necessary and feasible or proposals amended to avoid adverse effects on site integrity.

The policies and spatial zonings proposed within the plan will be assessed to determine whether any of the potential impacts could materialise as a result of the plan. This will consider the source of potential impacts, any pathways to European sites and whether the impact could have a significant effect on site selection features, their conservation objectives and site integrity along with any avoidance and mitigation measures identified in the course of assessment and plan preparation. The evidence in Table A.4.1 and further evidence available at each stage of assessment will be taken into account.

**Table A.4.1: Evidence to inform baseline data and further Habitats Regulations Assessment**

JNCC Standard Data Forms	JNCC Standard Data Forms <sup>2</sup> generated from the Natura 2000 Database submitted to the European Commission on 22/12/2015.
NIEA Conservation Objectives	The most recent NIEA Conservation Objectives for each site found on DAERA website <sup>3</sup> .
BMAP 2015 HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment Report <sup>4</sup> , Belfast Metropolitan Plan 2015
Spatial Data Local Government	Spatial NI Data Layers for Local Government boundaries 12/05/17
Spatial Data European and Ramsar sites	NIEA Data Layers for designated and proposed European and Ramsar sites 12/05/17

### Overview

This is a summary of the long list of sites to be considered, how they are connected to the LDP area and potential issues. The sites listed are those for which there is a potential pathway allowing a connection with the plan area. Sites within 15km of the LDP area (Figure A1) have also been considered and any distances listed are to the nearest 0.5km. The sites are listed in Table A.4.2 and locations relative to the plan area are shown in Figures A.4.1 – A.4.4 All Maps: Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland - © Crown Copyright and Database Right. Definitions of each type of connection follow.

#### *Within or Adjacent*

<sup>2</sup> <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=4>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/biodiversity-land-and-landscapes/protected-areas>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/development\\_plans/devplans\\_az/hra\\_bmap\\_2013.pdf](https://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/development_plans/devplans_az/hra_bmap_2013.pdf)

This means all or part of the European or Ramsar Site is within or directly adjacent to the plan area. There are 12 designated sites within or directly adjacent to the Council area. Most are wetland sites and some include more than one designation as is the case for Garron Plateau SAC and Ramsar. Antrim Hills SPA and Garron Plateau SAC and Ramsar are large upland designated sites within the area which also extend into Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. The marine and freshwater sites such as Belfast Lough SPA and Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Ramsar and SPA also extend beyond the council area. There is one of the three component sites of Main Valley Bogs SAC in the north of the Council area.

### *Ecological*

This applies where the European or Ramsar Site is ecologically connected to the plan area. Ecological connections include linkages by ecological corridors such as river systems; hydrological links between the LDP area and peatland or wetland sites; known areas of land in the LDP area which are regularly used by birds which also use a SPA; and sites that form part of the coastal ecosystem to which the LDP area is connected. All the sites that are partly or wholly in the council area are ecologically connected. There may be non-designated areas which support species from designated sites in or beyond the council area and this includes whooper swan feeding areas around Lough Beg. These are also considered to have an ecological connection.

### *Within 15km*

This indicates European or Ramsar sites which are within 15km of the LDP area. This brings in to consideration a number of bogs and one woodland site. Most, such as Ballynahone Bog SAC have no hydrological connection and are too far away for any effects to be possible. On the other hand Dead Island Bog and Wolf Island Bog SACs are close enough to require consideration of aerial emissions.

### *By Infrastructure*

These sites are ones where the European or Ramsar Site is connected by infrastructure with the plan area. Infrastructural connectivity is related to the potential linkage of sites to the LDP area by infrastructure services such as water abstraction or waste water discharges.

Water supply for Mid and East Antrim comes from four Water Treatment Works (WTWs). Dungonnell and Killylane WTWs are supplied by reservoirs and catchments within Antrim Hills SPA and Dungonnell Reservoir is also within Garron Plateau SAC. Dorisland Reservoir sources water from the South Antrim Hills although not from any European designated area. Water is also supplied from Lough Neagh SPA and Ramsar through Dunore Point (WTW) with. NI Water is satisfied with the sufficiency of the water supply to the Council area over the plan period. However the connection between water supply and European sites will be examined further in the Habitats Regulations Assessment at Plan Strategy.

Waste water treatment works (WWTW) may discharge to designated sites and could have impacts if there was insufficient capacity for treatment. The larger WWTWs generally have good capacity although there are constraints for some settlements. Most of the smaller works have constraints. Therefore there are significant constraints on services for small settlements and careful consideration also needs to be given to housing not serviced by WWTW. This will be assessed further in the Habitats Regulations Assessment at Plan Strategy.

**Table A.4.2: Potential pathways between LDP area and European Sites**

European Site Name	Connection with plan area				Potential Pathways
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	Within 15 km	By Infra-structure	
<b>Antrim Hills SPA</b>	●	●	●	●	Within council area and potential for direct impacts and hydrological or aerial pathways for effects. The selection features of hen harrier and merlin also range beyond the SPA so it has an ecological connection with a wider area.
<b>Belfast Lough Open Water SPA</b>	●	●	●		Immediately adjacent with intertidal area subject to planning control. Also potential links through pollution, disturbance or to habitats elsewhere on which features depend.
<b>Belfast Lough Ramsar Site</b>	●	●	●		Immediately adjacent with intertidal area subject to planning control. Also potential links through pollution, disturbance or to habitats elsewhere on which features depend.
<b>Belfast Lough SPA</b>	●	●	●		Immediately adjacent with intertidal area subject to planning control. Also potential links through pollution, disturbance or to habitats elsewhere on which features depend.
<b>Copeland Islands SPA</b>	●	●	●		Nearest point 13.0 km from LDP area and hydrological connection via Belfast Lough. Impacts causing a significant deterioration of water quality.
<b>East Coast (Northern Ireland) Marine pSPA</b>	●	●	●		Immediately adjacent with intertidal area subject to planning control. Also potential links through pollution, disturbance or to habitats elsewhere on which features depend.
<b>Garron Plateau Ramsar Site</b>	●	●	●	●	Partly within council area and potential for direct impacts or hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.
<b>Garron Plateau SAC</b>	●	●	●	●	Partly within council area and potential for direct impacts or hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.

European Site Name	Connection with plan area				Potential Pathways
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	Within 15 km	By Infra-structure	
<b>Larne Lough Ramsar Site</b>	●	●	●		Partly within and immediately adjacent with intertidal area subject to planning control. Also potential links through pollution, disturbance or to habitats elsewhere on which features depend.
<b>Larne Lough SPA</b>	●	●	●		Partly within and immediately adjacent with intertidal area subject to planning control. Also potential links through pollution, disturbance or to habitats elsewhere on which features depend.
<b>Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Ramsar Site</b>	●	●	●		Partly within and immediately adjacent. Potential for direct impacts or through pollution, disturbance to the site or to habitats elsewhere on which features such as whooper swan depend.
<b>Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA</b>	●	●	●		Partly within and immediately adjacent. Potential for direct impacts or through pollution, disturbance to the site or to habitats elsewhere on which features such as whooper swan depend.
<b>Main Valley Bogs SAC</b>	●	●	●		Three components, one in the council area and the remainder within 3.0 km to 5.0 km. Potential for direct impacts, and also hydrological and aerial pollution pathways.
<b>North Channel cSAC</b>	●	●	●		Immediately adjacent with intertidal area subject to planning control. Also potential links through pollution, disturbance to harbour porpoise or to habitats elsewhere on which features depend.
<b>Outer Ards Ramsar Site</b>	●	●	●		Nearest point 8.5 km from LDP area and hydrological connection via Belfast Lough. Impacts causing a significant deterioration of water quality.

European Site Name	Connection with plan area				Potential Pathways
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	Within 15 km	By Infra-structure	
<b>Outer Ards SPA</b>	●	●	●		Nearest point 8.5 km from LDP area and hydrological connection via Belfast Lough. Impacts causing a significant deterioration of water quality.
<b>Red Bay SAC</b>	●	●	●		Immediately adjacent with intertidal area subject to planning control. Also potential links through pollution or disturbance.
<b>The Maidens SAC</b>	●	●	●		Nearest point 1.5 km and hydrological connection or potential for impacts through disturbance.
<b>Ballynahone Bog Ramsar</b>			●		Nearest point 11.0 km, no hydrological connection.
<b>Ballynahone Bog SAC</b>			●		Nearest point 11.0 km, no hydrological connection.
<b>Breen Wood SAC</b>			●		Nearest point 12.0 km, no hydrological connection.
<b>Curran Bog SAC</b>			●		Nearest point 9.5 km. Catchment for the site drains into the Lough Neagh catchment in the council area but does not receive drainage from the council area.
<b>Dead Island Bog SAC</b>			●		Nearest point 3.0 km, no direct hydrological connection however aerial pathways for potential effects.
<b>Wolf Island Bog SAC</b>			●		Nearest point 3.0 km, no direct hydrological connection however aerial pathways for potential effects.

Figure A.4.1: SACs in or within 15km of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

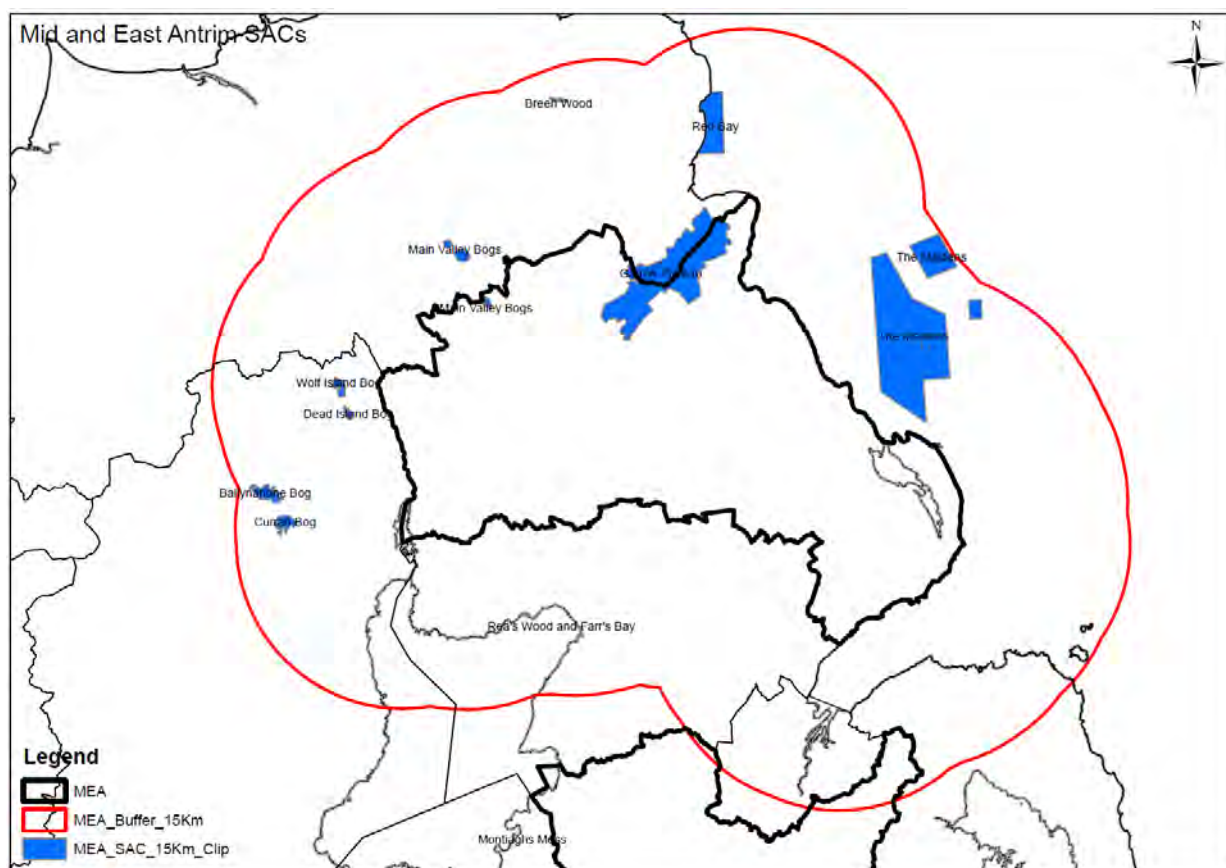
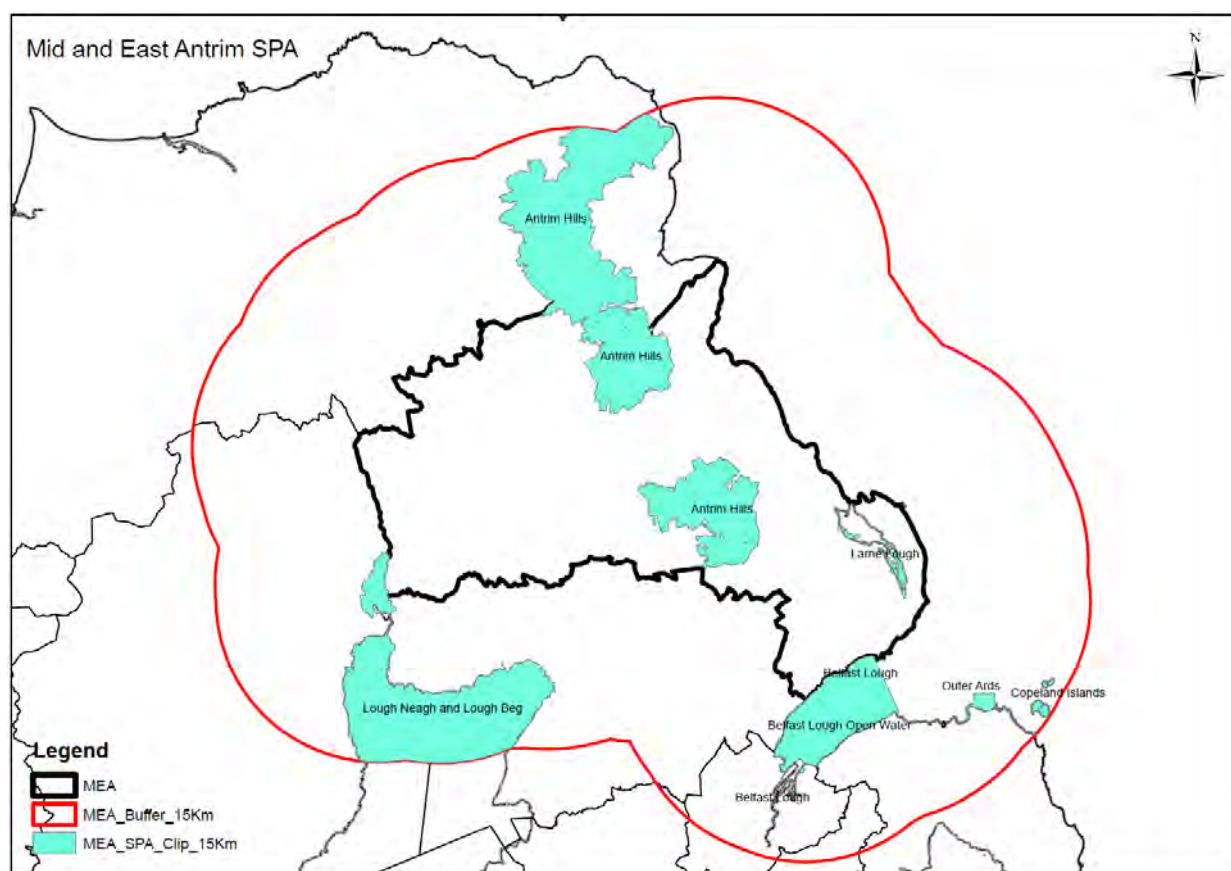
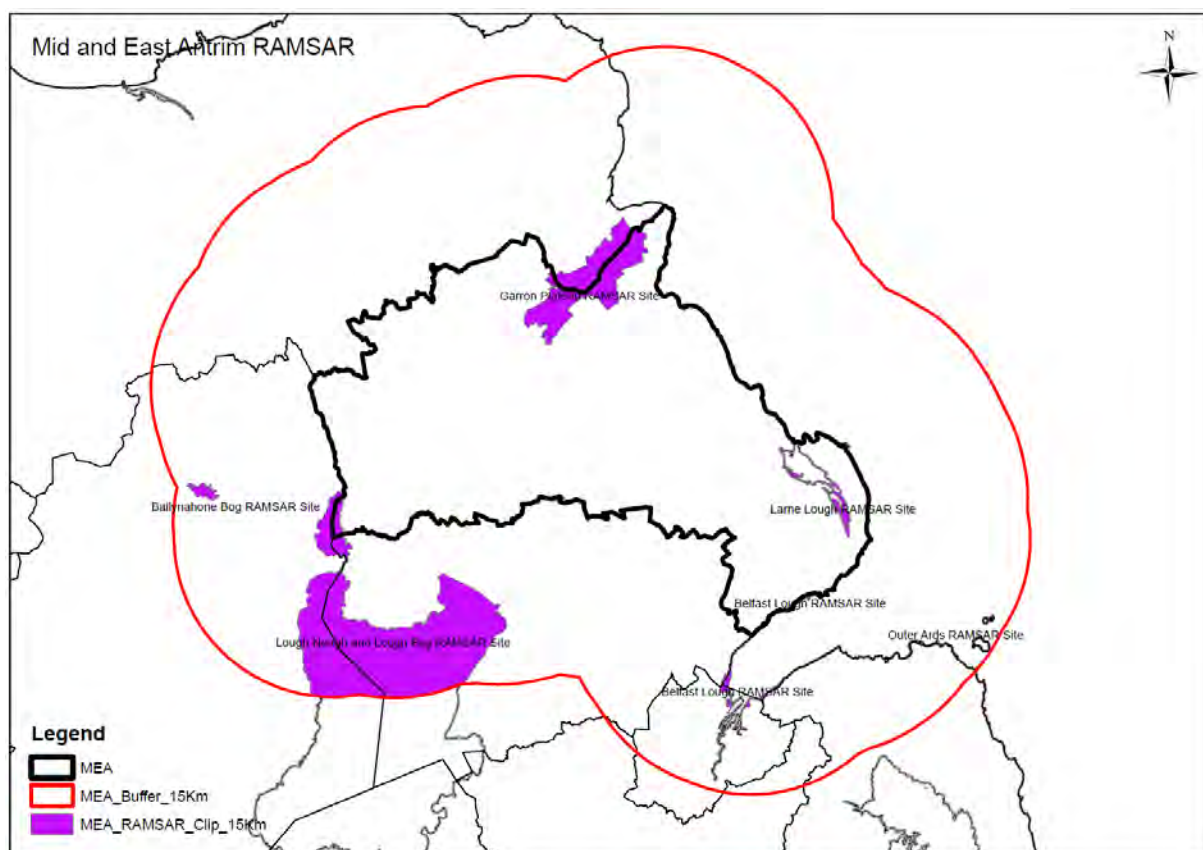


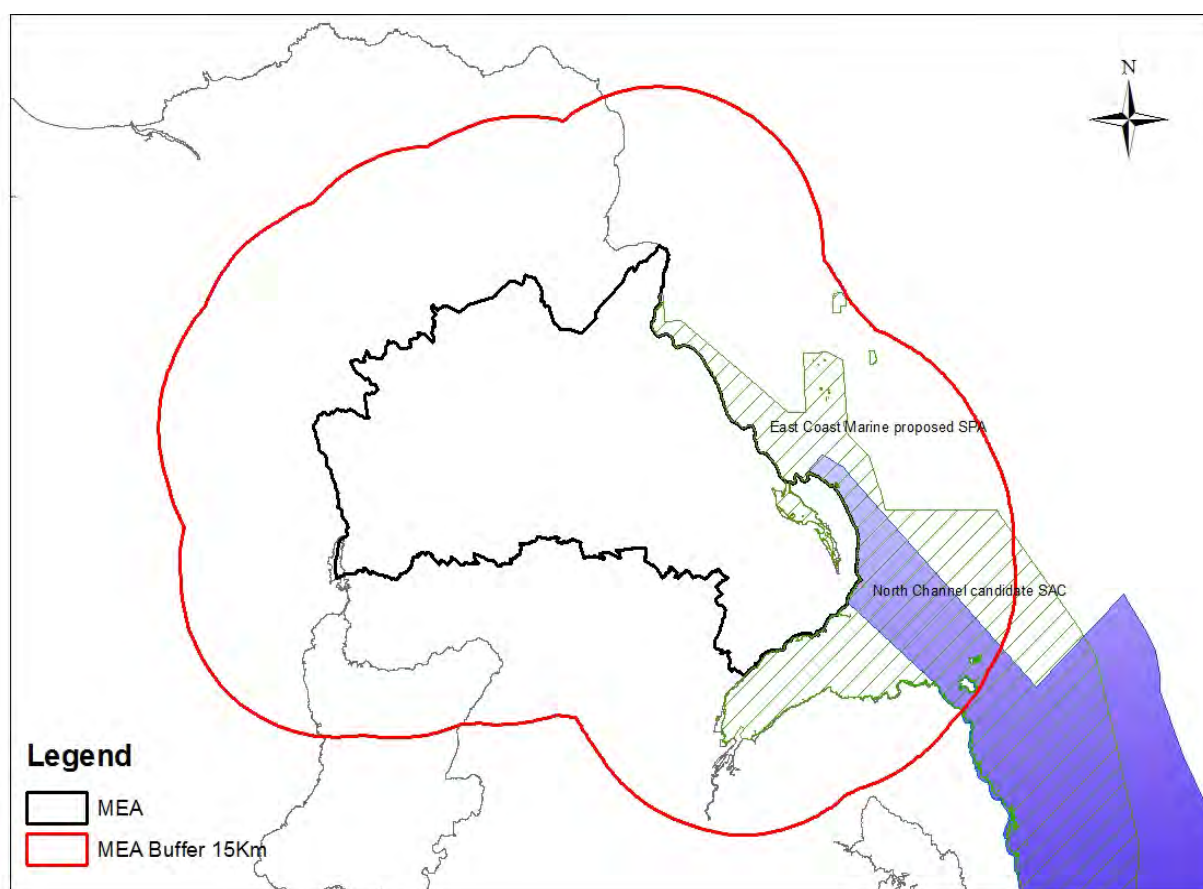
Figure A.4.2: SPAs in or within 15km of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council



**Figure A.4.3: Ramsar sites in or within 15km of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council**



**Figure A.4.4: East Coast (Northern Ireland) Proposed SPA and North Channel Candidate SAC**





## Overall Potential Impacts

More detailed description follows in Table A.4.3 of potential development impacts that could arise as a result of the LDP. As more detail of LDP delivery activities that may arise will be assessed in relation to European sites and their features. Note that this is a full list and some of the effects listed may not apply to the selection features of sites connected with the plan area.

**Table A.4.3: Potential development impacts to be assessed in relation to European sites**

Potential Impacts	Activities arising from the implementation of LDP
<b>Loss, fragmentation, damage of habitats and / or species:</b>	Construction activities associated with LDP could lead to the loss, fragmentation (or obstruction of movement) or damage of habitats and / or species through:
	Direct land take and / or land clearance and the use of machinery/materials.
	Direct and indirect impacts resulting from the construction and operation of built development and required infrastructure.
	Impacts caused during repair and maintenance activities for built development and required infrastructure.
	Direct impacts associated with mineral development in the plan area.
	Removal, fragmentation or physical changes to important connectivity features could create barrier effects to species, alter habitat availability or ecological functioning or result in changes in breeding, roosting, commuting and foraging behaviour.
<b>Disturbance: physical, noise, lighting</b>	Noise or activity during construction and operational activities could have adverse impacts on sensitive species (marine mammals and birds in particular).
	Increased lighting from construction or additional built development could: create barrier effects to species; result in changes in species breeding, roosting, commuting and foraging behaviour; or increase predation.
<b>Biological Disturbance: invasive species, human disturbance</b>	Sensitive habitats and species may experience adverse impacts from the introduction of invasive species, non-native, competitive or predatory species through construction activities and associated machinery, movement of soils and waste or from garden escapes.
	Increased human activity (including recreation; increase in pet ownership; increased incidence in fires) close to sensitive habitats and species may cause disturbance that could impact negatively on these features and lead to displacement of sensitive species from certain locations.
<b>Contamination of land</b>	Waste arising from the operation of developments associated with LDP could cause contamination of land which could have a direct detrimental impact on sensitive habitats or species or indirect impacts if subsequent emissions to water occur.
<b>Emissions by air</b>	The construction and operation of developments associated with LDP (in particular industrial developments) have the potential to generate chemical and dust emissions and could make a contribution to acid rain or nutrient deposition resulting in significant adverse impacts to animals and sensitive habitats for example they could cause localised smothering of vegetation or potential health issues in animals e.g. birds.
	Increased traffic generation could lead to increased air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions which could have localized impacts on sensitive habitats or species.

Potential Impacts	Activities arising from the implementation of LDP
Emissions by water and changes to hydrology	There is potential for an increased transport of chemical contaminants reaching the aquatic environment during the construction and operation of development associated with the LDP. This could range from transportation of fuels to cleaning or waste water treatment materials and associated drainage and discharges into watercourses. Changes to water quality can have harmful effects on fish, invertebrates, and vegetation, e.g. as a result of lowered oxygen levels.
	Surface run off and sediment release from construction works and operational activities associated with LDP can increase sediment deposition and turbidity within aquatic systems. This can adversely impact on associated wildlife by causing shading effects that can inhibit plant and algal growth and smother organisms thereby limiting productivity and survival.
	Water abstraction from streams or lakes required for construction and operation of developments associated with LDP could have physical impacts on water levels, fish species at intakes, affect populations of fish or alter the configuration or availability of breeding gravels.
	Construction and operation of development associated with BDLP could alter the hydrology of sensitive habitats and species by either increasing or decreasing runoff or water percolation into aquifers.
	Increased demands on waste water treatment works or for septic tanks could lead to increased nutrient enrichment of waterbodies which could change water quality and increase eutrophication. This in turn could have a harmful effect on the ecological functioning of these systems.

## Glossary

Abbreviations	
LDP	Local Development Plan
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation are sites that have been adopted by the European Commission and formally designated by the government of each country in whose territory the site lies.
SCI	Sites of Community Importance are sites that have been adopted by the European Commission but not yet formally designated by the government of each country.
cSAC	Candidate SACs are sites that have been submitted to the European Commission, but not yet formally adopted.
pSAC	Possible SAC
SPA	Special Protection Area
pSPA	Proposed SPA
Ramsar	Sites listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance adopted at Ramsar, Iran in 1971. As a matter of policy these sites are treated in the same way as European sites.

## APPENDIX 4: THE IMPACTS OF THE PREFERRED OPTIONS

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

1A. Provide strategic policy on developer contributions through the LDP.	+
2A. Adopt a new settlement hierarchy for the Borough, which includes amending the settlement hierarchy within the existing area plans through re-classification of existing settlements, addition of new settlements and de-designation of selected small settlements.	0
3A. Focus major population growth and economic development in the three Main Towns, facilitate appropriate growth in our small towns and sustain rural communities living in and around villages, small settlements and the open countryside.	++
4A. Maintain the status quo in terms of housing allocation based on the proportion of households living in the main towns, small towns at the time of the 2011 Census and increase the percentage of housing growth to villages and small settlements at the expense of the open countryside.	+
5A. Align the retail hierarchy with the proposed settlement hierarchy, but also include potential district and/or local centres that may be designated through the LDP.	0
6A. Allow such development in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres, and within economic development zonings (or identified parts thereof) as part of a sequential approach.	0
7A. Provide for start-up and grow-on business space within economic development land/zonings by identifying land to be used specifically for start-up and grow-on business space, and utilise redundant buildings or land last used for economic development within settlements.	0
8A. Allow alternative compatible economic uses/business falling outside Part B 'Industrial and Business Uses' within zoned economic development land. This would include for the sale or display of motor vehicles; as a scrapyards; or a yard for the storage or distribution of minerals; or the breaking of motor vehicles.	+
9A. This option would define a Primary Retail Core (within some or all town centres) accompanied by policy to substantially protect and promote retail uses on ground floor frontages in these areas and designate specific sites in the town centres for mixed use development (retail and other town centre uses).	0
10A. This option would facilitate residential use through the protection of existing town centre housing areas and/or include housing as part of the development mix in opportunity sites while also facilitating Class B1 Business uses on upper levels in town centres	+
11A. Retain current strategic policy in PPS 16: Tourism (with minor amendments) and bring forward bespoke policy tailored to the tourism potential of Vulnerable, Sensitive and Opportunity areas within the Borough.	0
12A. Safeguard mineral resources of economic or conservation value e.g. by allowing for expansion of existing quarries, and retain the existing designated Area of Salt Reserve. There would be a presumption in favour of minerals development within designated Mineral Reserve Areas and other areas identified as suitable for minerals development. Apply existing / amended policy elsewhere with applications being decided on a case by case basis against policy criteria. However, there would be a presumption against minerals development within areas designated for their landscape and/or environmental/heritage significance or at least within the majority of their extent e.g. within existing, expanded or new Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMD). Elsewhere proposals would be determined against existing or amended policy on a case by case basis.	0
13A. Combination of B and C Retain the existing BMAP Areas of Potential Subsidence within the former Carrickfergus Borough and retain Policy CE 06, and assess if there are any other known areas of potential subsidence within the Borough that should be identified. Rely on existing Policy PSU10 of PSRNI to prevent development in all areas <u>known</u> to be at risk from land stability - including from mining, coastal erosion, landslides and other relevant causes.	++
14A. Zone sites for social/affordable housing in the Local Policies Plan and indicate through key site requirements where a proportion of a housing zoning should be provided as social housing, where a need has been identified. In addition set out strategic policy requiring that every 10th unit within new housing developments, in settlements where a need has been identified, shall be a social housing unit.	+
15A. Set out strategic policy that all ground floor apartments in blocks of two storey or above should be wheelchair accessible units.	+
16A. Support delivery of Community Growing Spaces/Allotments in suitable locations.	+
17A. Facilitate the development of a network of Community Greenways/Pathways.	++
18A. Set out strategic policy requiring residential developments of 100 units or more, or on sites of 5 hectares or more will be required to provide an equipped children's play area, <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	++
19A. Retention of the current strategic criteria based policy regarding public open space contained in Policy OS2 of PPS 8 i.e. setting out a 10% requirement of open space in residential developments of 25 units or more and a 15%	+

requirement for development over 300 units <u>and</u> an amended list of exceptions where a rate less than 10% may be acceptable <i>unless</i> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	
20A. Introduce a new proactive policy for sustainable transport in new development and encourage the provision of more park and ride facilities to reduce the reliance on the private car and promote public transport.	++
21A. Introduce areas of car parking restraint in main towns	+
22A Only include Non-Strategic Road Schemes in the LDP, which have been justified by DfI through a Local Transport Strategy.	?
23A. Retention of SPPS approach updating Policy RE 1 of PPS 18 by adopting a cautious approach within designated landscapes (with an acknowledgement of Option 33 questioning increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the AONB)	0
24A. Promotion of SuDS within the LDP through introducing policy requirements (for some / all new development/ new development in certain locations)	+
25A. Criteria based policy to support the delivery of a new cemetery or an extension to a cemetery. In addition spatial policy to allow the identification and safeguarding of specific locations where there is a firm proposal for a new/extension to a cemetery	0
26A. Retain the current operational policies as set out BH1 of PPS6, and provide increased policy protection to safeguard our archaeological sites and remains (and their settings) from harmful development through the designation of Specific Areas of Constraint (with regard to specific types of development) within, or adjacent to existing or proposed Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest.	0
27A. Retain current operational policies as set out in PPS6 and carefully manage change by introducing additional regulation through the implementation of Article 4 Directions to remove certain permitted development rights within areas which have been identified as still retaining their local character and distinctiveness.	0
28A. Establish a criterion based approach with Historic Environment Division for identifying non-designated heritage assets within the Borough that will be used to create a Local Heritage List.	0
29A. Retain the existing Special Countryside Area (SCA) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial and policy amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	+
30A. Provide increased policy protection for the Islandmagee Peninsula with an emphasis on the eastern and north eastern parts of the peninsula. Increased policy protection could be provided through designation of a SCA, an Area of Constraint on particular types of development, an extension of the BMA Coastal Policy Area or a designated AOHSV.	+
31A. Retain the existing BMA Coastal Area (to be renamed the Belfast Lough Shoreline (Mid and East Antrim) Policy Area) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	+
32A. Provide increased policy protection for the most scenic and environmentally important areas associated with Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann corridor.	+
33A. Provide increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	0
34A. Retain the existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Areas of High Scenic Value if considered appropriate.	0
35A. Retain the existing designated Local Landscape Policy Areas and associated policy, and identify and designate other Local Landscape Policy Areas where appropriate.	+
36A. Retain the existing designated Rural Landscape Wedges and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Rural Landscape Wedges if considered appropriate.	0

## 2... strengthen society.

1A. Provide strategic policy on developer contributions through the LDP.	+
2A. Adopt a new settlement hierarchy for the Borough, which includes amending the settlement hierarchy within the existing area plans through re-classification of existing settlements, addition of new settlements and de-designation of selected small settlements.	+
3A. Focus major population growth and economic development in the three Main Towns, facilitate appropriate growth in our small towns and sustain rural communities living in and around villages, small settlements and the open countryside.	+
4A. Maintain the status quo in terms of housing allocation based on the proportion of households living in the main towns, small towns at the time of the 2011 Census and increase the percentage of housing growth to villages and small settlements at the expense of the open countryside.	+
5A. Align the retail hierarchy with the proposed settlement hierarchy, but also include potential district and/or local centres that may be designated through the LDP.	0
6A. Allow such development in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres, and within economic development zonings (or identified parts thereof) as part of a sequential approach.	+
7A. Provide for start-up and grow-on business space within economic development land/zonings by identifying land to be used specifically for start-up and grow-on business space, and utilise redundant buildings or land last used for economic development within settlements.	+
8A. Allow alternative compatible economic uses/business falling outside Part B 'Industrial and Business Uses' within zoned economic development land. This would include for the sale or display of motor vehicles; as a scrapyard; or a yard for the storage or distribution of minerals; or the breaking of motor vehicles.	0
9A. This option would define a Primary Retail Core (within some or all town centres) accompanied by policy to substantially protect and promote retail uses on ground floor frontages in these areas and designate specific sites in the town centres for mixed use development (retail and other town centre uses).	+
10A. This option would facilitate residential use through the protection of existing town centre housing areas and/or include housing as part of the development mix in opportunity sites while also facilitating Class B1 Business uses on upper levels in town centres	+
11A. Retain current strategic policy in PPS 16: Tourism (with minor amendments) and bring forward bespoke policy tailored to the tourism potential of Vulnerable, Sensitive and Opportunity areas within the Borough.	0
12A. Safeguard mineral resources of economic or conservation value e.g. by allowing for expansion of existing quarries, and retain the existing designated Area of Salt Reserve. There would be a presumption in favour of minerals development within designated Mineral Reserve Areas and other areas identified as suitable for minerals development. Apply existing / amended policy elsewhere with applications being decided on a case by case basis against policy criteria. However, there would be a presumption against minerals development within areas designated for their landscape and/or environmental/heritage significance or at least within the majority of their extent e.g. within existing, expanded or new Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMD). Elsewhere proposals would be determined against existing or amended policy on a case by case basis.	0
13A. Combination of B and C Retain the existing BMAP Areas of Potential Subsidence within the former Carrickfergus Borough and retain Policy CE 06, and assess if there are any other known areas of potential subsidence within the Borough that should be identified. Rely on existing Policy PSU10 of PSRNI to prevent development in all areas <u>known</u> to be at risk from land stability - including from mining, coastal erosion, landslides and other relevant causes.	0
14A. Zone sites for social/affordable housing in the Local Policies Plan and indicate through key site requirements where a proportion of a housing zoning should be provided as social housing, where a need has been identified. In addition set out strategic policy requiring that every 10th unit within new housing developments, in settlements where a need has been identified, shall be a social housing unit.	+
15A. Set out strategic policy that all ground floor apartments in blocks of two storey or above should be wheelchair accessible units.	+
16A. Support delivery of Community Growing Spaces/Allotments in suitable locations.	+
17A. Facilitate the development of a network of Community Greenways/Pathways.	++
18A. Set out strategic policy requiring residential developments of 100 units or more, or on sites of 5 hectares or more will be required to provide an equipped children's play area, <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	+
19A. Retention of the current strategic criteria based policy regarding public open space contained in Policy OS2 of PPS 8 i.e. setting out a 10% requirement of open space in residential developments of 25 units or more and a 15% requirement for development over 300 units and an amended list of exceptions where a rate less than 10% may be acceptable <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	+

20A. Introduce a new proactive policy for sustainable transport in new development and encourage the provision of more park and ride facilities to reduce the reliance on the private car and promote public transport.	<b>+</b>
21A. Introduce areas of car parking restraint in main towns	<b>0</b>
22A Only include Non-Strategic Road Schemes in the LDP, which have been justified by DfI through a Local Transport Strategy.	<b>?</b>
23A. Retention of SPPS approach updating Policy RE 1 of PPS 18 by adopting a cautious approach within designated landscapes (with an acknowledgement of Option 33 questioning increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the AONB)	<b>0</b>
24A. Promotion of SuDS within the LDP through introducing policy requirements (for some / all new development/ new development in certain locations)	<b>+</b>
25A. Criteria based policy to support the delivery of a new cemetery or an extension to a cemetery. In addition spatial policy to allow the identification and safeguarding of specific locations where there is a firm proposal for a new/extension to a cemetery	<b>+</b>
26A. Retain the current operational policies as set out BH1 of PPS6, and provide increased policy protection to safeguard our archaeological sites and remains (and their settings) from harmful development through the designation of Specific Areas of Constraint (with regard to specific types of development) within, or adjacent to existing or proposed Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest.	<b>0</b>
27A. Retain current operational policies as set out in PPS6 and carefully manage change by introducing additional regulation through the implementation of Article 4 Directions to remove certain permitted development rights within areas which have been identified as still retaining their local character and distinctiveness.	<b>+</b>
28A. Establish a criterion based approach with Historic Environment Division for identifying non-designated heritage assets within the Borough that will be used to create a Local Heritage List.	<b>+</b>
29A. Retain the existing Special Countryside Area (SCA) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial and policy amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
30A. Provide increased policy protection for the Islandmagee Peninsula with an emphasis on the eastern and north eastern parts of the peninsula. Increased policy protection could be provided through designation of a SCA, an Area of Constraint on particular types of development, an extension of the BMA Coastal Policy Area or a designated AOHSV.	<b>0</b>
31A. Retain the existing BMA Coastal Area (to be renamed the Belfast Lough Shoreline (Mid and East Antrim) Policy Area) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>+</b>
32A. Provide increased policy protection for the most scenic and environmentally important areas associated with Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann corridor.	<b>0</b>
33A. Provide increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	<b>0</b>
34A. Retain the existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Areas of High Scenic Value if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
35A. Retain the existing designated Local Landscape Policy Areas and associated policy, and identify and designate other Local Landscape Policy Areas where appropriate.	<b>0</b>
36A. Retain the existing designated Rural Landscape Wedges and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Rural Landscape Wedges if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>



### 3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.

1A. Retain the existing settlement hierarchy with limited amendments.	+
2A. Adopt a new settlement hierarchy for the Borough, which includes amending the settlement hierarchy within the existing area plans through re-classification of existing settlements, addition of new settlements and de-designation of selected small settlements.	+
3A. Focus major population growth and economic development in the three Main Towns, facilitate appropriate growth in our small towns and sustain rural communities living in and around villages, small settlements and the open countryside.	+
4A. Maintain the status quo in terms of housing allocation based on the proportion of households living in the main towns, small towns at the time of the 2011 Census and increase the percentage of housing growth to villages and small settlements at the expense of the open countryside.	+
5A. Align the retail hierarchy with the proposed settlement hierarchy, but also include potential district and/or local centres that may be designated through the LDP.	0
6A. Allow such development in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres, and within economic development zonings (or identified parts thereof) as part of a sequential approach.	0
7A. Provide for start-up and grow-on business space within economic development land/zonings by identifying land to be used specifically for start-up and grow-on business space, and utilise redundant buildings or land last used for economic development within settlements.	0
8A. Allow alternative compatible economic uses/business falling outside Part B 'Industrial and Business Uses' within zoned economic development land. This would include for the sale or display of motor vehicles; as a scrapyard; or a yard for the storage or distribution of minerals; or the breaking of motor vehicles.	0
9A. This option would define a Primary Retail Core (within some or all town centres) accompanied by policy to substantially protect and promote retail uses on ground floor frontages in these areas and designate specific sites in the town centres for mixed use development (retail and other town centre uses).	+
10A. This option would facilitate residential use through the protection of existing town centre housing areas and/or include housing as part of the development mix in opportunity sites while also facilitating Class B1 Business uses on upper levels in town centres	++
11A. Retain current strategic policy in PPS 16: Tourism (with minor amendments) <u>and</u> bring forward bespoke policy tailored to the tourism potential of Vulnerable, Sensitive and Opportunity areas within the Borough.	0
12A. Safeguard mineral resources of economic or conservation value e.g. by allowing for expansion of existing quarries, and retain the existing designated Area of Salt Reserve. There would be a presumption in favour of minerals development within designated Mineral Reserve Areas and other areas identified as suitable for minerals development. Apply existing / amended policy elsewhere with applications being decided on a case by case basis against policy criteria. However, there would be a presumption against minerals development within areas designated for their landscape and/or environmental/heritage significance or at least within the majority of their extent e.g. within existing, expanded or new Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMD). Elsewhere proposals would be determined against existing or amended policy on a case by case basis.	0
13A. Combination of B and C Retain the existing BMAP Areas of Potential Subsidence within the former Carrickfergus Borough and retain Policy CE 06, and assess if there are any other known areas of potential subsidence within the Borough that should be identified. Rely on existing Policy PSU10 of PSRNI to prevent development in all areas <u>known</u> to be at risk from land stability - including from mining, coastal erosion, landslides and other relevant causes.	0
14A. Zone sites for social/affordable housing in the Local Policies Plan and indicate through key site requirements where a proportion of a housing zoning should be provided as social housing, where a need has been identified. In addition set out strategic policy requiring that every 10th unit within new housing developments, in settlements where a need has been identified, shall be a social housing unit.	++
15A. Set out strategic policy that all ground floor apartments in blocks of two storey or above should be wheelchair accessible units.	+
16A. Support delivery of Community Growing Spaces/Allotments in suitable locations.	0
17A. Facilitate the development of a network of Community Greenways/Pathways.	0
18A. Set out strategic policy requiring residential developments of 100 units or more, or on sites of 5 hectares or more will be required to provide an equipped children's play area, <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	0
19A. Retention of the current strategic criteria based policy regarding public open space contained in Policy OS2 of PPS 8 i.e. setting out a 10% requirement of open space in residential developments of 25 units or more and a 15% requirement for development over 300 units <u>and</u> an amended list of exceptions where a rate less than 10% may be acceptable <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	0

20A. Introduce a new proactive policy for sustainable transport in new development and encourage the provision of more park and ride facilities to reduce the reliance on the private car and promote public transport.	<b>0</b>
21A. Introduce areas of car parking restraint in main towns	<b>+</b>
22A Only include Non-Strategic Road Schemes in the LDP, which have been justified by DfI through a Local Transport Strategy.	<b>?</b>
23A. Retention of SPPS approach updating Policy RE 1 of PPS 18 by adopting a cautious approach within designated landscapes (with an acknowledgement of Option 33 questioning increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the AONB)	<b>0</b>
24A. Promotion of SuDS within the LDP through introducing policy requirements (for some / all new development/ new development in certain locations)	<b>0</b>
25A. Criteria based policy to support the delivery of a new cemetery or an extension to a cemetery. In addition spatial policy to allow the identification and safeguarding of specific locations where there is a firm proposal for a new/extension to a cemetery	<b>0</b>
26A. Retain the current operational policies as set out BH1 of PPS6, and provide increased policy protection to safeguard our archaeological sites and remains (and their settings) from harmful development through the designation of Specific Areas of Constraint (with regard to specific types of development) within, or adjacent to existing or proposed Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest.	<b>0</b>
27A. Retain current operational policies as set out in PPS6 and carefully manage change by introducing additional regulation through the implementation of Article 4 Directions to remove certain permitted development rights within areas which have been identified as still retaining their local character and distinctiveness.	<b>0</b>
28A. Establish a criterion based approach with Historic Environment Division for identifying non-designated heritage assets within the Borough that will be used to create a Local Heritage List.	<b>0</b>
29A. Retain the existing Special Countryside Area (SCA) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial and policy amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
30A. Provide increased policy protection for the Islandmagee Peninsula with an emphasis on the eastern and north eastern parts of the peninsula. Increased policy protection could be provided through designation of a SCA, an Area of Constraint on particular types of development, an extension of the BMA Coastal Policy Area or a designated AOHSV.	<b>0</b>
31A. Retain the existing BMA Coastal Area (to be renamed the Belfast Lough Shoreline (Mid and East Antrim) Policy Area) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
32A. Provide increased policy protection for the most scenic and environmentally important areas associated with Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann corridor.	<b>0</b>
33A. Provide increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	<b>0</b>
34A. Retain the existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Areas of High Scenic Value if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
35A. Retain the existing designated Local Landscape Policy Areas and associated policy, and identify and designate other Local Landscape Policy Areas where appropriate.	<b>0</b>
36A. Retain the existing designated Rural Landscape Wedges and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Rural Landscape Wedges if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>

## 4... enable access to high quality education.

1A. Retain the existing settlement hierarchy with limited amendments.	<b>+</b>
2A. Adopt a new settlement hierarchy for the Borough, which includes amending the settlement hierarchy within the existing area plans through re-classification of existing settlements, addition of new settlements and de-designation of selected small settlements.	<b>+</b>
3A. Focus major population growth and economic development in the three Main Towns, facilitate appropriate growth in our small towns and sustain rural communities living in and around villages, small settlements and the open countryside.	<b>+</b>
4A. Maintain the status quo in terms of housing allocation based on the proportion of households living in the main towns, small towns at the time of the 2011 Census and increase the percentage of housing growth to villages and small settlements at the expense of the open countryside.	<b>+</b>
5A. Align the retail hierarchy with the proposed settlement hierarchy, but also include potential district and/or local centres that may be designated through the LDP.	<b>0</b>
6A. Allow such development in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres, and within economic development zonings (or identified parts thereof) as part of a sequential approach.	<b>0</b>
7A. Provide for start-up and grow-on business space within economic development land/zonings by identifying land to be used specifically for start-up and grow-on business space, and utilise redundant buildings or land last used for economic development within settlements.	<b>0</b>
8A. Allow alternative compatible economic uses/business falling outside Part B 'Industrial and Business Uses' within zoned economic development land. This would include for the sale or display of motor vehicles; as a scrapyard; or a yard for the storage or distribution of minerals; or the breaking of motor vehicles.	<b>0</b>
9A. This option would define a Primary Retail Core (within some or all town centres) accompanied by policy to substantially protect and promote retail uses on ground floor frontages in these areas and designate specific sites in the town centres for mixed use development (retail and other town centre uses).	<b>0</b>
10A. This option would facilitate residential use through the protection of existing town centre housing areas and/or include housing as part of the development mix in opportunity sites while also facilitating Class B1 Business uses on upper levels in town centres	<b>0</b>
11A. Retain current strategic policy in PPS 16: Tourism (with minor amendments) <u>and</u> bring forward bespoke policy tailored to the tourism potential of Vulnerable, Sensitive and Opportunity areas within the Borough.	<b>0</b>
12A. Safeguard mineral resources of economic or conservation value e.g. by allowing for expansion of existing quarries, and retain the existing designated Area of Salt Reserve. There would be a presumption in favour of minerals development within designated Mineral Reserve Areas and other areas identified as suitable for minerals development. Apply existing / amended policy elsewhere with applications being decided on a case by case basis against policy criteria. However, there would be a presumption against minerals development within areas designated for their landscape and/or environmental/heritage significance or at least within the majority of their extent e.g. within existing, expanded or new Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMD). Elsewhere proposals would be determined against existing or amended policy on a case by case basis.	<b>0</b>
13A. Combination of B and C Retain the existing BMAP Areas of Potential Subsidence within the former Carrickfergus Borough and retain Policy CE 06, and assess if there are any other known areas of potential subsidence within the Borough that should be identified. Rely on existing Policy PSU10 of PSRNI to prevent development in all areas <u>known</u> to be at risk from land stability - including from mining, coastal erosion, landslides and other relevant causes.	<b>0</b>
14A. Zone sites for social/affordable housing in the Local Policies Plan and indicate through key site requirements where a proportion of a housing zoning should be provided as social housing, where a need has been identified. In addition set out strategic policy requiring that every 10th unit within new housing developments, in settlements where a need has been identified, shall be a social housing unit.	<b>0</b>
15A. Set out strategic policy that all ground floor apartments in blocks of two storey or above should be wheelchair accessible units.	<b>0</b>
16A. Support delivery of Community Growing Spaces/Allotments in suitable locations.	<b>0</b>
17A. Facilitate the development of a network of Community Greenways/Pathways.	<b>0</b>
18A. Set out strategic policy requiring residential developments of 100 units or more, or on sites of 5 hectares or more will be required to provide an equipped children's play area, <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	<b>0</b>
19A. Retention of the current strategic criteria based policy regarding public open space contained in Policy OS2 of PPS 8 i.e. setting out a 10% requirement of open space in residential developments of 25 units or more and a 15% requirement for development over 300 units <u>and</u> an amended list of exceptions where a rate less than 10% may be acceptable <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	<b>0</b>

20A. Introduce a new proactive policy for sustainable transport in new development and encourage the provision of more park and ride facilities to reduce the reliance on the private car and promote public transport.	<b>0</b>
21A. Introduce areas of car parking restraint in main towns	<b>0</b>
22A Only include Non-Strategic Road Schemes in the LDP, which have been justified by DfI through a Local Transport Strategy.	<b>0</b>
23A. Retention of SPPS approach updating Policy RE 1 of PPS 18 by adopting a cautious approach within designated landscapes (with an acknowledgement of Option 33 questioning increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the AONB)	<b>0</b>
24A. Promotion of SuDS within the LDP through introducing policy requirements (for some / all new development/ new development in certain locations)	<b>0</b>
25A. Criteria based policy to support the delivery of a new cemetery or an extension to a cemetery. In addition spatial policy to allow the identification and safeguarding of specific locations where there is a firm proposal for a new/extension to a cemetery	<b>0</b>
26A. Retain the current operational policies as set out BH1 of PPS6, and provide increased policy protection to safeguard our archaeological sites and remains (and their settings) from harmful development through the designation of Specific Areas of Constraint (with regard to specific types of development) within, or adjacent to existing or proposed Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest.	<b>0</b>
27A. Retain current operational policies as set out in PPS6 and carefully manage change by introducing additional regulation through the implementation of Article 4 Directions to remove certain permitted development rights within areas which have been identified as still retaining their local character and distinctiveness.	<b>0</b>
28A. Establish a criterion based approach with Historic Environment Division for identifying non-designated heritage assets within the Borough that will be used to create a Local Heritage List.	<b>0</b>
29A. Retain the existing Special Countryside Area (SCA) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial and policy amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
30A. Provide increased policy protection for the Islandmagee Peninsula with an emphasis on the eastern and north eastern parts of the peninsula. Increased policy protection could be provided through designation of a SCA, an Area of Constraint on particular types of development, an extension of the BMA Coastal Policy Area or a designated AOHSV.	<b>0</b>
31A. Retain the existing BMA Coastal Area (to be renamed the Belfast Lough Shoreline (Mid and East Antrim) Policy Area) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
32A. Provide increased policy protection for the most scenic and environmentally important areas associated with Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann corridor.	<b>0</b>
33A. Provide increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	<b>0</b>
34A. Retain the existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Areas of High Scenic Value if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
35A. Retain the existing designated Local Landscape Policy Areas and associated policy, and identify and designate other Local Landscape Policy Areas where appropriate.	<b>0</b>
36A. Retain the existing designated Rural Landscape Wedges and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Rural Landscape Wedges if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>

## 5... enable sustainable economic growth.

1A. Retain the existing settlement hierarchy with limited amendments.	+
2A. Adopt a new settlement hierarchy for the Borough, which includes amending the settlement hierarchy within the existing area plans through re-classification of existing settlements, addition of new settlements and de-designation of selected small settlements.	+
3A. Focus major population growth and economic development in the three Main Towns, facilitate appropriate growth in our small towns and sustain rural communities living in and around villages, small settlements and the open countryside.	+
4A. Maintain the status quo in terms of housing allocation based on the proportion of households living in the main towns, small towns at the time of the 2011 Census and increase the percentage of housing growth to villages and small settlements at the expense of the open countryside.	+
5A. Align the retail hierarchy with the proposed settlement hierarchy, but also include potential district and/or local centres that may be designated through the LDP.	++
6A. Allow such development in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres, and within economic development zonings (or identified parts thereof) as part of a sequential approach.	++
7A. Provide for start-up and grow-on business space within economic development land/zonings by identifying land to be used specifically for start-up and grow-on business space, and utilise redundant buildings or land last used for economic development within settlements.	++
8A. Allow alternative compatible economic uses/business falling outside Part B 'Industrial and Business Uses' within zoned economic development land. This would include for the sale or display of motor vehicles; as a scrapyard; or a yard for the storage or distribution of minerals; or the breaking of motor vehicles.	++
9A. This option would define a Primary Retail Core (within some or all town centres) accompanied by policy to substantially protect and promote retail uses on ground floor frontages in these areas and designate specific sites in the town centres for mixed use development (retail and other town centre uses).	++
10A. This option would facilitate residential use through the protection of existing town centre housing areas and/or include housing as part of the development mix in opportunity sites while also facilitating Class B1 Business uses on upper levels in town centres	++
11A. Retain current strategic policy in PPS 16: Tourism (with minor amendments) <u>and</u> bring forward bespoke policy tailored to the tourism potential of Vulnerable, Sensitive and Opportunity areas within the Borough.	+
12A. Safeguard mineral resources of economic or conservation value e.g. by allowing for expansion of existing quarries, and retain the existing designated Area of Salt Reserve. There would be a presumption in favour of minerals development within designated Mineral Reserve Areas and other areas identified as suitable for minerals development. Apply existing / amended policy elsewhere with applications being decided on a case by case basis against policy criteria. However, there would be a presumption against minerals development within areas designated for their landscape and/or environmental/heritage significance or at least within the majority of their extent e.g. within existing, expanded or new Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMD). Elsewhere proposals would be determined against existing or amended policy on a case by case basis.	+
13A. Combination of B and C Retain the existing BMAP Areas of Potential Subsidence within the former Carrickfergus Borough and retain Policy CE 06, and assess if there are any other known areas of potential subsidence within the Borough that should be identified. Rely on existing Policy PSU10 of PSRNI to prevent development in all areas <u>known</u> to be at risk from land stability - including from mining, coastal erosion, landslides and other relevant causes.	0
14A. Zone sites for social/affordable housing in the Local Policies Plan and indicate through key site requirements where a proportion of a housing zoning should be provided as social housing, where a need has been identified. In addition set out strategic policy requiring that every 10th unit within new housing developments, in settlements where a need has been identified, shall be a social housing unit.	0
15A. Set out strategic policy that all ground floor apartments in blocks of two storey or above should be wheelchair accessible units.	0
16A. Support delivery of Community Growing Spaces/Allotments in suitable locations.	0
17A. Facilitate the development of a network of Community Greenways/Pathways.	+
18A. Set out strategic policy requiring residential developments of 100 units or more, or on sites of 5 hectares or more will be required to provide an equipped children's play area, <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	0
19A. Retention of the current strategic criteria based policy regarding public open space contained in Policy OS2 of PPS 8 i.e. setting out a 10% requirement of open space in residential developments of 25 units or more and a 15% requirement for development over 300 units <u>and</u> an amended list of exceptions where a rate less than 10% may be acceptable <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	0

20A. Introduce a new proactive policy for sustainable transport in new development and encourage the provision of more park and ride facilities to reduce the reliance on the private car and promote public transport.	<b>0</b>
21A. Introduce areas of car parking restraint in main towns	<b>0</b>
22A Only include Non-Strategic Road Schemes in the LDP, which have been justified by DfI through a Local Transport Strategy.	<b>+</b>
23A. Retention of SPPS approach updating Policy RE 1 of PPS 18 by adopting a cautious approach within designated landscapes (with an acknowledgement of Option 33 questioning increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the AONB)	<b>+</b>
24A. Promotion of SuDS within the LDP through introducing policy requirements (for some / all new development/ new development in certain locations)	<b>0</b>
25A. Criteria based policy to support the delivery of a new cemetery or an extension to a cemetery. In addition spatial policy to allow the identification and safeguarding of specific locations where there is a firm proposal for a new/extension to a cemetery	<b>0</b>
26A. Retain the current operational policies as set out BH1 of PPS6, and provide increased policy protection to safeguard our archaeological sites and remains (and their settings) from harmful development through the designation of Specific Areas of Constraint (with regard to specific types of development) within, or adjacent to existing or proposed Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest.	<b>0</b>
27A. Retain current operational policies as set out in PPS6 and carefully manage change by introducing additional regulation through the implementation of Article 4 Directions to remove certain permitted development rights within areas which have been identified as still retaining their local character and distinctiveness.	<b>+</b>
28A. Establish a criterion based approach with Historic Environment Division for identifying non-designated heritage assets within the Borough that will be used to create a Local Heritage List.	<b>0</b>
29A. Retain the existing Special Countryside Area (SCA) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial and policy amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>++</b>
30A. Provide increased policy protection for the Islandmagee Peninsula with an emphasis on the eastern and north eastern parts of the peninsula. Increased policy protection could be provided through designation of a SCA, an Area of Constraint on particular types of development, an extension of the BMA Coastal Policy Area or a designated AOHSV.	<b>0</b>
31A. Retain the existing BMA Coastal Area (to be renamed the Belfast Lough Shoreline (Mid and East Antrim) Policy Area) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
32A. Provide increased policy protection for the most scenic and environmentally important areas associated with Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann corridor.	<b>0</b>
33A. Provide increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	<b>0</b>
34A. Retain the existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Areas of High Scenic Value if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
35A. Retain the existing designated Local Landscape Policy Areas and associated policy, and identify and designate other Local Landscape Policy Areas where appropriate.	<b>0</b>
36A. Retain the existing designated Rural Landscape Wedges and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Rural Landscape Wedges if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>



## 6... manage material assets sustainably.

1A. Retain the existing settlement hierarchy with limited amendments.	++
2A. Adopt a new settlement hierarchy for the Borough, which includes amending the settlement hierarchy within the existing area plans through re-classification of existing settlements, addition of new settlements and de-designation of selected small settlements.	+
3A. Focus major population growth and economic development in the three Main Towns, facilitate appropriate growth in our small towns and sustain rural communities living in and around villages, small settlements and the open countryside.	++
4A. Maintain the status quo in terms of housing allocation based on the proportion of households living in the main towns, small towns at the time of the 2011 Census and increase the percentage of housing growth to villages and small settlements at the expense of the open countryside.	+
5A. Align the retail hierarchy with the proposed settlement hierarchy, but also include potential district and/or local centres that may be designated through the LDP.	0
6A. Allow such development in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres, and within economic development zonings (or identified parts thereof) as part of a sequential approach.	+
7A. Provide for start-up and grow-on business space within economic development land/zonings by identifying land to be used specifically for start-up and grow-on business space, and utilise redundant buildings or land last used for economic development within settlements.	++
8A. Allow alternative compatible economic uses/business falling outside Part B 'Industrial and Business Uses' within zoned economic development land. This would include for the sale or display of motor vehicles; as a scrapyard; or a yard for the storage or distribution of minerals; or the breaking of motor vehicles.	+
9A. This option would define a Primary Retail Core (within some or all town centres) accompanied by policy to substantially protect and promote retail uses on ground floor frontages in these areas and designate specific sites in the town centres for mixed use development (retail and other town centre uses).	0
10A. This option would facilitate residential use through the protection of existing town centre housing areas and/or include housing as part of the development mix in opportunity sites while also facilitating Class B1 Business uses on upper levels in town centres	0
11A. Retain current strategic policy in PPS 16: Tourism (with minor amendments) <u>and</u> bring forward bespoke policy tailored to the tourism potential of Vulnerable, Sensitive and Opportunity areas within the Borough.	0
12A. Safeguard mineral resources of economic or conservation value e.g. by allowing for expansion of existing quarries, and retain the existing designated Area of Salt Reserve. There would be a presumption in favour of minerals development within designated Mineral Reserve Areas and other areas identified as suitable for minerals development. Apply existing / amended policy elsewhere with applications being decided on a case by case basis against policy criteria. However, there would be a presumption against minerals development within areas designated for their landscape and/or environmental/heritage significance or at least within the majority of their extent e.g. within existing, expanded or new Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMD). Elsewhere proposals would be determined against existing or amended policy on a case by case basis.	0
13A. Combination of B and C Retain the existing BMAP Areas of Potential Subsidence within the former Carrickfergus Borough and retain Policy CE 06, and assess if there are any other known areas of potential subsidence within the Borough that should be identified. Rely on existing Policy PSU10 of PSRNI to prevent development in all areas <u>known</u> to be at risk from land stability - including from mining, coastal erosion, landslides and other relevant causes.	0
14A. Zone sites for social/affordable housing in the Local Policies Plan and indicate through key site requirements where a proportion of a housing zoning should be provided as social housing, where a need has been identified. In addition set out strategic policy requiring that every 10th unit within new housing developments, in settlements where a need has been identified, shall be a social housing unit.	0
15A. Set out strategic policy that all ground floor apartments in blocks of two storey or above should be wheelchair accessible units.	0
16A. Support delivery of Community Growing Spaces/Allotments in suitable locations.	+
17A. Facilitate the development of a network of Community Greenways/Pathways.	0
18A. Set out strategic policy requiring residential developments of 100 units or more, or on sites of 5 hectares or more will be required to provide an equipped children's play area, <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	0
19A. Retention of the current strategic criteria based policy regarding public open space contained in Policy OS2 of PPS 8 i.e. setting out a 10% requirement of open space in residential developments of 25 units or more and a 15% requirement for development over 300 units <u>and</u> an amended list of exceptions where a rate less than 10% may be acceptable <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	0



20A. Introduce a new proactive policy for sustainable transport in new development and encourage the provision of more park and ride facilities to reduce the reliance on the private car and promote public transport.	<b>++</b>
21A. Introduce areas of car parking restraint in main towns	<b>0</b>
22A Only include Non-Strategic Road Schemes in the LDP, which have been justified by DfI through a Local Transport Strategy.	<b>+</b>
23A. Retention of SPPS approach updating Policy RE 1 of PPS 18 by adopting a cautious approach within designated landscapes (with an acknowledgement of Option 33 questioning increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the AONB)	<b>+</b>
24A. Promotion of SuDS within the LDP through introducing policy requirements (for some / all new development/ new development in certain locations)	<b>+</b>
25A. Criteria based policy to support the delivery of a new cemetery or an extension to a cemetery. In addition spatial policy to allow the identification and safeguarding of specific locations where there is a firm proposal for a new/extension to a cemetery	<b>+</b>
26A. Retain the current operational policies as set out BH1 of PPS6, and provide increased policy protection to safeguard our archaeological sites and remains (and their settings) from harmful development through the designation of Specific Areas of Constraint (with regard to specific types of development) within, or adjacent to existing or proposed Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest.	<b>0</b>
27A. Retain current operational policies as set out in PPS6 and carefully manage change by introducing additional regulation through the implementation of Article 4 Directions to remove certain permitted development rights within areas which have been identified as still retaining their local character and distinctiveness.	<b>0</b>
28A. Establish a criterion based approach with Historic Environment Division for identifying non-designated heritage assets within the Borough that will be used to create a Local Heritage List.	<b>0</b>
29A. Retain the existing Special Countryside Area (SCA) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial and policy amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
30A. Provide increased policy protection for the Islandmagee Peninsula with an emphasis on the eastern and north eastern parts of the peninsula. Increased policy protection could be provided through designation of a SCA, an Area of Constraint on particular types of development, an extension of the BMA Coastal Policy Area or a designated AOHSV.	<b>0</b>
31A. Retain the existing BMA Coastal Area (to be renamed the Belfast Lough Shoreline (Mid and East Antrim) Policy Area) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
32A. Provide increased policy protection for the most scenic and environmentally important areas associated with Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann corridor.	<b>?</b>
33A. Provide increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	<b>?</b>
34A. Retain the existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Areas of High Scenic Value if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
35A. Retain the existing designated Local Landscape Policy Areas and associated policy, and identify and designate other Local Landscape Policy Areas where appropriate.	<b>0</b>
36A. Retain the existing designated Rural Landscape Wedges and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Rural Landscape Wedges if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>

## 7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.

1A. Provide strategic policy on developer contributions through the LDP.	<b>0</b>
2A. Adopt a new settlement hierarchy for the Borough, which includes amending the settlement hierarchy within the existing area plans through re-classification of existing settlements, addition of new settlements and de-designation of selected small settlements.	<b>+</b>
3A. Focus major population growth and economic development in the three Main Towns, facilitate appropriate growth in our small towns and sustain rural communities living in and around villages, small settlements and the open countryside.	<b>+</b>
4A. Maintain the status quo in terms of housing allocation based on the proportion of households living in the main towns, small towns at the time of the 2011 Census and increase the percentage of housing growth to villages and small settlements at the expense of the open countryside.	<b>+</b>
5A. Align the retail hierarchy with the proposed settlement hierarchy, but also include potential district and/or local centres that may be designated through the LDP.	<b>0</b>
6A. Allow such development in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres, and within economic development zonings (or identified parts thereof) as part of a sequential approach.	<b>+</b>
7A. Provide for start-up and grow-on business space within economic development land/zonings by identifying land to be used specifically for start-up and grow-on business space, and utilise redundant buildings or land last used for economic development within settlements.	<b>++</b>
8A. Allow alternative compatible economic uses/business falling outside Part B 'Industrial and Business Uses' within zoned economic development land. This would include for the sale or display of motor vehicles; as a scrapyard; or a yard for the storage or distribution of minerals; or the breaking of motor vehicles.	<b>+</b>
9A. This option would define a Primary Retail Core (within some or all town centres) accompanied by policy to substantially protect and promote retail uses on ground floor frontages in these areas and designate specific sites in the town centres for mixed use development (retail and other town centre uses).	<b>0</b>
10A. This option would facilitate residential use through the protection of existing town centre housing areas and/or include housing as part of the development mix in opportunity sites while also facilitating Class B1 Business uses on upper levels in town centres	<b>+</b>
11A. Retain current strategic policy in PPS 16: Tourism (with minor amendments) <u>and</u> bring forward bespoke policy tailored to the tourism potential of Vulnerable, Sensitive and Opportunity areas within the Borough.	<b>+</b>
12A. Safeguard mineral resources of economic or conservation value e.g. by allowing for expansion of existing quarries, and retain the existing designated Area of Salt Reserve. There would be a presumption in favour of minerals development within designated Mineral Reserve Areas and other areas identified as suitable for minerals development. Apply existing / amended policy elsewhere with applications being decided on a case by case basis against policy criteria. However, there would be a presumption against minerals development within areas designated for their landscape and/or environmental/heritage significance or at least within the majority of their extent e.g. within existing, expanded or new Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMD). Elsewhere proposals would be determined against existing or amended policy on a case by case basis.	<b>+</b>
13A. Combination of B and C Retain the existing BMAP Areas of Potential Subsidence within the former Carrickfergus Borough and retain Policy CE 06, and assess if there are any other known areas of potential subsidence within the Borough that should be identified. Rely on existing Policy PSU10 of PSRNI to prevent development in all areas <u>known</u> to be at risk from land stability - including from mining, coastal erosion, landslides and other relevant causes.	<b>0</b>
14A. Zone sites for social/affordable housing in the Local Policies Plan and indicate through key site requirements where a proportion of a housing zoning should be provided as social housing, where a need has been identified. In addition set out strategic policy requiring that every 10th unit within new housing developments, in settlements where a need has been identified, shall be a social housing unit.	<b>0</b>
15A. Set out strategic policy that all ground floor apartments in blocks of two storey or above should be wheelchair accessible units.	<b>0</b>
16A. Support delivery of Community Growing Spaces/Allotments in suitable locations.	<b>+</b>
17A. Facilitate the development of a network of Community Greenways/Pathways.	<b>+</b>
18A. Set out strategic policy requiring residential developments of 100 units or more, or on sites of 5 hectares or more will be required to provide an equipped children's play area, <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	<b>0</b>
19A. Retention of the current strategic criteria based policy regarding public open space contained in Policy OS2 of PPS 8 i.e. setting out a 10% requirement of open space in residential developments of 25 units or more and a 15% requirement for development over 300 units <u>and</u> an amended list of exceptions where a rate less than 10% may be acceptable <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	<b>0</b>

20A. Introduce a new proactive policy for sustainable transport in new development and encourage the provision of more park and ride facilities to reduce the reliance on the private car and promote public transport.	<b>0</b>
21A. Introduce areas of car parking restraint in main towns	<b>0</b>
22A Only include Non-Strategic Road Schemes in the LDP, which have been justified by DfI through a Local Transport Strategy.	<b>-</b>
23A. Retention of SPPS approach updating Policy RE 1 of PPS 18 by adopting a cautious approach within designated landscapes (with an acknowledgement of Option 33 questioning increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the AONB)	<b>+</b>
24A. Promotion of SuDS within the LDP through introducing policy requirements (for some / all new development/ new development in certain locations)	<b>0</b>
25A. Criteria based policy to support the delivery of a new cemetery or an extension to a cemetery. In addition spatial policy to allow the identification and safeguarding of specific locations where there is a firm proposal for a new/extension to a cemetery	<b>+</b>
26A. Retain the current operational policies as set out BH1 of PPS6, and provide increased policy protection to safeguard our archaeological sites and remains (and their settings) from harmful development through the designation of Specific Areas of Constraint (with regard to specific types of development) within, or adjacent to existing or proposed Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest.	<b>-</b>
27A. Retain current operational policies as set out in PPS6 and carefully manage change by introducing additional regulation through the implementation of Article 4 Directions to remove certain permitted development rights within areas which have been identified as still retaining their local character and distinctiveness.	<b>0</b>
28A. Establish a criterion based approach with Historic Environment Division for identifying non-designated heritage assets within the Borough that will be used to create a Local Heritage List.	<b>0</b>
29A. Retain the existing Special Countryside Area (SCA) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial and policy amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>+</b>
30A. Provide increased policy protection for the Islandmagee Peninsula with an emphasis on the eastern and north eastern parts of the peninsula. Increased policy protection could be provided through designation of a SCA, an Area of Constraint on particular types of development, an extension of the BMA Coastal Policy Area or a designated AOHSV.	<b>+</b>
31A. Retain the existing BMA Coastal Area (to be renamed the Belfast Lough Shoreline (Mid and East Antrim) Policy Area) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>+</b>
32A. Provide increased policy protection for the most scenic and environmentally important areas associated with Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann corridor.	<b>+</b>
33A. Provide increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	<b>+</b>
34A. Retain the existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Areas of High Scenic Value if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
35A. Retain the existing designated Local Landscape Policy Areas and associated policy, and identify and designate other Local Landscape Policy Areas where appropriate.	<b>0</b>
36A. Retain the existing designated Rural Landscape Wedges and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Rural Landscape Wedges if considered appropriate.	<b>+</b>

## 8... encourage active and sustainable travel.

1A. Provide strategic policy on developer contributions through the LDP.	+
2A. Adopt a new settlement hierarchy for the Borough, which includes amending the settlement hierarchy within the existing area plans through re-classification of existing settlements, addition of new settlements and de-designation of selected small settlements.	+
3A. Focus major population growth and economic development in the three Main Towns, facilitate appropriate growth in our small towns and sustain rural communities living in and around villages, small settlements and the open countryside.	++
4A. Maintain the status quo in terms of housing allocation based on the proportion of households living in the main towns, small towns at the time of the 2011 Census and increase the percentage of housing growth to villages and small settlements at the expense of the open countryside.	+
5A. Align the retail hierarchy with the proposed settlement hierarchy, but also include potential district and/or local centres that may be designated through the LDP.	+
6A. Allow such development in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres, and within economic development zonings (or identified parts thereof) as part of a sequential approach.	+
7A. Provide for start-up and grow-on business space within economic development land/zonings by identifying land to be used specifically for start-up and grow-on business space, and utilise redundant buildings or land last used for economic development within settlements.	+
8A. Allow alternative compatible economic uses/business falling outside Part B 'Industrial and Business Uses' within zoned economic development land. This would include for the sale or display of motor vehicles; as a scrapyard; or a yard for the storage or distribution of minerals; or the breaking of motor vehicles.	?
9A. This option would define a Primary Retail Core (within some or all town centres) accompanied by policy to substantially protect and promote retail uses on ground floor frontages in these areas and designate specific sites in the town centres for mixed use development (retail and other town centre uses).	++
10A. This option would facilitate residential use through the protection of existing town centre housing areas and/or include housing as part of the development mix in opportunity sites while also facilitating Class B1 Business uses on upper levels in town centres	+
11A. Retain current strategic policy in PPS 16: Tourism (with minor amendments) <u>and</u> bring forward bespoke policy tailored to the tourism potential of Vulnerable, Sensitive and Opportunity areas within the Borough.	0
12A. Safeguard mineral resources of economic or conservation value e.g. by allowing for expansion of existing quarries, and retain the existing designated Area of Salt Reserve. There would be a presumption in favour of minerals development within designated Mineral Reserve Areas and other areas identified as suitable for minerals development. Apply existing / amended policy elsewhere with applications being decided on a case by case basis against policy criteria. However, there would be a presumption against minerals development within areas designated for their landscape and/or environmental/heritage significance or at least within the majority of their extent e.g. within existing, expanded or new Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMD). Elsewhere proposals would be determined against existing or amended policy on a case by case basis.	0
13A. Combination of B and C Retain the existing BMAP Areas of Potential Subsidence within the former Carrickfergus Borough and retain Policy CE 06, and assess if there are any other known areas of potential subsidence within the Borough that should be identified. Rely on existing Policy PSU10 of PSRNI to prevent development in all areas <u>known</u> to be at risk from land stability - including from mining, coastal erosion, landslides and other relevant causes.	0
14A. Zone sites for social/affordable housing in the Local Policies Plan and indicate through key site requirements where a proportion of a housing zoning should be provided as social housing, where a need has been identified. In addition set out strategic policy requiring that every 10th unit within new housing developments, in settlements where a need has been identified, shall be a social housing unit.	0
15A. Set out strategic policy that all ground floor apartments in blocks of two storey or above should be wheelchair accessible units.	0
16A. Support delivery of Community Growing Spaces/Allotments in suitable locations.	+
17A. Facilitate the development of a network of Community Greenways/Pathways.	++
18A. Set out strategic policy requiring residential developments of 100 units or more, or on sites of 5 hectares or more will be required to provide an equipped children's play area, <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	+
19A. Retention of the current strategic criteria based policy regarding public open space contained in Policy OS2 of PPS 8 i.e. setting out a 10% requirement of open space in residential developments of 25 units or more and a 15% requirement for development over 300 units <u>and</u> an amended list of exceptions where a rate less than 10% may be acceptable <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	?

20A. Introduce a new proactive policy for sustainable transport in new development and encourage the provision of more park and ride facilities to reduce the reliance on the private car and promote public transport.	<b>++</b>
21A. Introduce areas of car parking restraint in main towns	<b>+</b>
22A Only include Non-Strategic Road Schemes in the LDP, which have been justified by DfI through a Local Transport Strategy.	<b>?</b>
23A. Retention of SPPS approach updating Policy RE 1 of PPS 18 by adopting a cautious approach within designated landscapes (with an acknowledgement of Option 33 questioning increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the AONB)	<b>0</b>
24A. Promotion of SuDS within the LDP through introducing policy requirements (for some / all new development/ new development in certain locations)	<b>0</b>
25A. Criteria based policy to support the delivery of a new cemetery or an extension to a cemetery. In addition spatial policy to allow the identification and safeguarding of specific locations where there is a firm proposal for a new/extension to a cemetery	<b>+</b>
26A. Retain the current operational policies as set out BH1 of PPS6, and provide increased policy protection to safeguard our archaeological sites and remains (and their settings) from harmful development through the designation of Specific Areas of Constraint (with regard to specific types of development) within, or adjacent to existing or proposed Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest.	<b>0</b>
27A. Retain current operational policies as set out in PPS6 and carefully manage change by introducing additional regulation through the implementation of Article 4 Directions to remove certain permitted development rights within areas which have been identified as still retaining their local character and distinctiveness.	<b>0</b>
28A. Establish a criterion based approach with Historic Environment Division for identifying non-designated heritage assets within the Borough that will be used to create a Local Heritage List.	<b>0</b>
29A. Retain the existing Special Countryside Area (SCA) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial and policy amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
30A. Provide increased policy protection for the Islandmagee Peninsula with an emphasis on the eastern and north eastern parts of the peninsula. Increased policy protection could be provided through designation of a SCA, an Area of Constraint on particular types of development, an extension of the BMA Coastal Policy Area or a designated AOHSV.	<b>0</b>
31A. Retain the existing BMA Coastal Area (to be renamed the Belfast Lough Shoreline (Mid and East Antrim) Policy Area) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
32A. Provide increased policy protection for the most scenic and environmentally important areas associated with Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann corridor.	<b>0</b>
33A. Provide increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	<b>0</b>
34A. Retain the existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Areas of High Scenic Value if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
35A. Retain the existing designated Local Landscape Policy Areas and associated policy, and identify and designate other Local Landscape Policy Areas where appropriate.	<b>0</b>
36A. Retain the existing designated Rural Landscape Wedges and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Rural Landscape Wedges if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>

## 9... improve air quality.

1A. Provide strategic policy on developer contributions through the LDP.	<b>+</b>
2A. Adopt a new settlement hierarchy for the Borough, which includes amending the settlement hierarchy within the existing area plans through re-classification of existing settlements, addition of new settlements and de-designation of selected small settlements.	<b>?</b>
3A. Focus major population growth and economic development in the three Main Towns, facilitate appropriate growth in our small towns and sustain rural communities living in and around villages, small settlements and the open countryside.	<b>?</b>
4A. Maintain the status quo in terms of housing allocation based on the proportion of households living in the main towns, small towns at the time of the 2011 Census and increase the percentage of housing growth to villages and small settlements at the expense of the open countryside.	<b>?</b>
5A. Align the retail hierarchy with the proposed settlement hierarchy, but also include potential district and/or local centres that may be designated through the LDP.	<b>0</b>
6A. Allow such development in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres, and within economic development zonings (or identified parts thereof) as part of a sequential approach.	<b>0</b>
7A. Provide for start-up and grow-on business space within economic development land/zonings by identifying land to be used specifically for start-up and grow-on business space, and utilise redundant buildings or land last used for economic development within settlements.	<b>0</b>
8A. Allow alternative compatible economic uses/business falling outside Part B 'Industrial and Business Uses' within zoned economic development land. This would include for the sale or display of motor vehicles; as a scrapyard; or a yard for the storage or distribution of minerals; or the breaking of motor vehicles.	<b>0</b>
9A. This option would define a Primary Retail Core (within some or all town centres) accompanied by policy to substantially protect and promote retail uses on ground floor frontages in these areas and designate specific sites in the town centres for mixed use development (retail and other town centre uses).	<b>?</b>
10A. This option would facilitate residential use through the protection of existing town centre housing areas and/or include housing as part of the development mix in opportunity sites while also facilitating Class B1 Business uses on upper levels in town centres	<b>?</b>
11A. Retain current strategic policy in PPS 16: Tourism (with minor amendments) <u>and</u> bring forward bespoke policy tailored to the tourism potential of Vulnerable, Sensitive and Opportunity areas within the Borough.	<b>0</b>
12A. Safeguard mineral resources of economic or conservation value e.g. by allowing for expansion of existing quarries, and retain the existing designated Area of Salt Reserve. There would be a presumption in favour of minerals development within designated Mineral Reserve Areas and other areas identified as suitable for minerals development. Apply existing / amended policy elsewhere with applications being decided on a case by case basis against policy criteria. However, there would be a presumption against minerals development within areas designated for their landscape and/or environmental/heritage significance or at least within the majority of their extent e.g. within existing, expanded or new Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMD). Elsewhere proposals would be determined against existing or amended policy on a case by case basis.	<b>?</b>
13A. Combination of B and C Retain the existing BMAP Areas of Potential Subsidence within the former Carrickfergus Borough and retain Policy CE 06, and assess if there are any other known areas of potential subsidence within the Borough that should be identified. Rely on existing Policy PSU10 of PSRNI to prevent development in all areas <u>known</u> to be at risk from land stability - including from mining, coastal erosion, landslides and other relevant causes.	<b>0</b>
14A. Zone sites for social/affordable housing in the Local Policies Plan and indicate through key site requirements where a proportion of a housing zoning should be provided as social housing, where a need has been identified. In addition set out strategic policy requiring that every 10th unit within new housing developments, in settlements where a need has been identified, shall be a social housing unit.	<b>0</b>
15A. Set out strategic policy that all ground floor apartments in blocks of two storey or above should be wheelchair accessible units.	<b>0</b>
16A. Support delivery of Community Growing Spaces/Allotments in suitable locations.	<b>0</b>
17A. Facilitate the development of a network of Community Greenways/Pathways.	<b>+</b>
18A. Set out strategic policy requiring residential developments of 100 units or more, or on sites of 5 hectares or more will be required to provide an equipped children's play area, <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	<b>0</b>
19A. Retention of the current strategic criteria based policy regarding public open space contained in Policy OS2 of PPS 8 i.e. setting out a 10% requirement of open space in residential developments of 25 units or more and a 15% requirement for development over 300 units <u>and</u> an amended list of exceptions where a rate less than 10% may be acceptable <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	<b>0</b>



20A. Introduce a new proactive policy for sustainable transport in new development and encourage the provision of more park and ride facilities to reduce the reliance on the private car and promote public transport.	<b>++</b>
21A. Introduce areas of car parking restraint in main towns	<b>+</b>
22A Only include Non-Strategic Road Schemes in the LDP, which have been justified by DfI through a Local Transport Strategy.	<b>?</b>
23A. Retention of SPPS approach updating Policy RE 1 of PPS 18 by adopting a cautious approach within designated landscapes (with an acknowledgement of Option 33 questioning increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the AONB)	<b>+</b>
24A. Promotion of SuDS within the LDP through introducing policy requirements (for some / all new development/ new development in certain locations)	<b>0</b>
25A. Criteria based policy to support the delivery of a new cemetery or an extension to a cemetery. In addition spatial policy to allow the identification and safeguarding of specific locations where there is a firm proposal for a new/extension to a cemetery	<b>0</b>
26A. Retain the current operational policies as set out BH1 of PPS6, and provide increased policy protection to safeguard our archaeological sites and remains (and their settings) from harmful development through the designation of Specific Areas of Constraint (with regard to specific types of development) within, or adjacent to existing or proposed Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest.	<b>0</b>
27A. Retain current operational policies as set out in PPS6 and carefully manage change by introducing additional regulation through the implementation of Article 4 Directions to remove certain permitted development rights within areas which have been identified as still retaining their local character and distinctiveness.	<b>0</b>
28A. Establish a criterion based approach with Historic Environment Division for identifying non-designated heritage assets within the Borough that will be used to create a Local Heritage List.	<b>0</b>
29A. Retain the existing Special Countryside Area (SCA) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial and policy amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
30A. Provide increased policy protection for the Islandmagee Peninsula with an emphasis on the eastern and north eastern parts of the peninsula. Increased policy protection could be provided through designation of a SCA, an Area of Constraint on particular types of development, an extension of the BMA Coastal Policy Area or a designated AOHSV.	<b>0</b>
31A. Retain the existing BMA Coastal Area (to be renamed the Belfast Lough Shoreline (Mid and East Antrim) Policy Area) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
32A. Provide increased policy protection for the most scenic and environmentally important areas associated with Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann corridor.	<b>0</b>
33A. Provide increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	<b>0</b>
34A. Retain the existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Areas of High Scenic Value if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
35A. Retain the existing designated Local Landscape Policy Areas and associated policy, and identify and designate other Local Landscape Policy Areas where appropriate.	<b>+</b>
36A. Retain the existing designated Rural Landscape Wedges and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Rural Landscape Wedges if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>



## 10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.

1A. Provide strategic policy on developer contributions through the LDP.	<b>+</b>
2A. Adopt a new settlement hierarchy for the Borough, which includes amending the settlement hierarchy within the existing area plans through re-classification of existing settlements, addition of new settlements and de-designation of selected small settlements.	<b>0</b>
3A. Focus major population growth and economic development in the three Main Towns, facilitate appropriate growth in our small towns and sustain rural communities living in and around villages, small settlements and the open countryside.	<b>?</b>
4A. Maintain the status quo in terms of housing allocation based on the proportion of households living in the main towns, small towns at the time of the 2011 Census and increase the percentage of housing growth to villages and small settlements at the expense of the open countryside.	<b>?</b>
5A. Align the retail hierarchy with the proposed settlement hierarchy, but also include potential district and/or local centres that may be designated through the LDP.	<b>0</b>
6A. Allow such development in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres, and within economic development zonings (or identified parts thereof) as part of a sequential approach.	<b>0</b>
7A. Provide for start-up and grow-on business space within economic development land/zonings by identifying land to be used specifically for start-up and grow-on business space, and utilise redundant buildings or land last used for economic development within settlements.	<b>0</b>
8A. Allow alternative compatible economic uses/business falling outside Part B 'Industrial and Business Uses' within zoned economic development land. This would include for the sale or display of motor vehicles; as a scrapyard; or a yard for the storage or distribution of minerals; or the breaking of motor vehicles.	<b>0</b>
9A. This option would define a Primary Retail Core (within some or all town centres) accompanied by policy to substantially protect and promote retail uses on ground floor frontages in these areas and designate specific sites in the town centres for mixed use development (retail and other town centre uses).	<b>0</b>
10A. This option would facilitate residential use through the protection of existing town centre housing areas and/or include housing as part of the development mix in opportunity sites while also facilitating Class B1 Business uses on upper levels in town centres	<b>?</b>
11A. Retain current strategic policy in PPS 16: Tourism (with minor amendments) <u>and</u> bring forward bespoke policy tailored to the tourism potential of Vulnerable, Sensitive and Opportunity areas within the Borough.	<b>0</b>
12A. Safeguard mineral resources of economic or conservation value e.g. by allowing for expansion of existing quarries, and retain the existing designated Area of Salt Reserve. There would be a presumption in favour of minerals development within designated Mineral Reserve Areas and other areas identified as suitable for minerals development. Apply existing / amended policy elsewhere with applications being decided on a case by case basis against policy criteria. However, there would be a presumption against minerals development within areas designated for their landscape and/or environmental/heritage significance or at least within the majority of their extent e.g. within existing, expanded or new Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMD). Elsewhere proposals would be determined against existing or amended policy on a case by case basis.	<b>0</b>
13A. Combination of B and C Retain the existing BMAP Areas of Potential Subsidence within the former Carrickfergus Borough and retain Policy CE 06, and assess if there are any other known areas of potential subsidence within the Borough that should be identified. Rely on existing Policy PSU10 of PSRNI to prevent development in all areas <u>known</u> to be at risk from land stability - including from mining, coastal erosion, landslides and other relevant causes.	<b>+</b>
14A. Zone sites for social/affordable housing in the Local Policies Plan and indicate through key site requirements where a proportion of a housing zoning should be provided as social housing, where a need has been identified. In addition set out strategic policy requiring that every 10th unit within new housing developments, in settlements where a need has been identified, shall be a social housing unit.	<b>0</b>
15A. Set out strategic policy that all ground floor apartments in blocks of two storey or above should be wheelchair accessible units.	<b>0</b>
16A. Support delivery of Community Growing Spaces/Allotments in suitable locations.	<b>0</b>
17A. Facilitate the development of a network of Community Greenways/Pathways.	<b>+</b>
18A. Set out strategic policy requiring residential developments of 100 units or more, or on sites of 5 hectares or more will be required to provide an equipped children's play area, <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	<b>0</b>
19A. Retention of the current strategic criteria based policy regarding public open space contained in Policy OS2 of PPS 8 i.e. setting out a 10% requirement of open space in residential developments of 25 units or more and a 15% requirement for development over 300 units <u>and</u> an amended list of exceptions where a rate less than 10% may be acceptable <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	<b>0</b>

20A. Introduce a new proactive policy for sustainable transport in new development and encourage the provision of more park and ride facilities to reduce the reliance on the private car and promote public transport.	<b>++</b>
21A. Introduce areas of car parking restraint in main towns	<b>+</b>
22A Only include Non-Strategic Road Schemes in the LDP, which have been justified by DfI through a Local Transport Strategy.	<b>?</b>
23A. Retention of SPPS approach updating Policy RE 1 of PPS 18 by adopting a cautious approach within designated landscapes (with an acknowledgement of Option 33 questioning increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the AONB)	<b>+</b>
24A. Promotion of SuDS within the LDP through introducing policy requirements (for some / all new development/ new development in certain locations)	<b>+</b>
25A. Criteria based policy to support the delivery of a new cemetery or an extension to a cemetery. In addition spatial policy to allow the identification and safeguarding of specific locations where there is a firm proposal for a new/extension to a cemetery	<b>0</b>
26A. Retain the current operational policies as set out BH1 of PPS6, and provide increased policy protection to safeguard our archaeological sites and remains (and their settings) from harmful development through the designation of Specific Areas of Constraint (with regard to specific types of development) within, or adjacent to existing or proposed Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest.	<b>0</b>
27A. Retain current operational policies as set out in PPS6 and carefully manage change by introducing additional regulation through the implementation of Article 4 Directions to remove certain permitted development rights within areas which have been identified as still retaining their local character and distinctiveness.	<b>0</b>
28A. Establish a criterion based approach with Historic Environment Division for identifying non-designated heritage assets within the Borough that will be used to create a Local Heritage List.	<b>0</b>
29A. Retain the existing Special Countryside Area (SCA) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial and policy amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
30A. Provide increased policy protection for the Islandmagee Peninsula with an emphasis on the eastern and north eastern parts of the peninsula. Increased policy protection could be provided through designation of a SCA, an Area of Constraint on particular types of development, an extension of the BMA Coastal Policy Area or a designated AOHSV.	<b>0</b>
31A. Retain the existing BMA Coastal Area (to be renamed the Belfast Lough Shoreline (Mid and East Antrim) Policy Area) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
32A. Provide increased policy protection for the most scenic and environmentally important areas associated with Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann corridor.	<b>+</b>
33A. Provide increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	<b>+</b>
34A. Retain the existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Areas of High Scenic Value if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
35A. Retain the existing designated Local Landscape Policy Areas and associated policy, and identify and designate other Local Landscape Policy Areas where appropriate.	<b>0</b>
36A. Retain the existing designated Rural Landscape Wedges and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Rural Landscape Wedges if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>

## 11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.

1A. Provide strategic policy on developer contributions through the LDP.	+
2A. Adopt a new settlement hierarchy for the Borough, which includes amending the settlement hierarchy within the existing area plans through re-classification of existing settlements, addition of new settlements and de-designation of selected small settlements.	+
3A. Focus major population growth and economic development in the three Main Towns, facilitate appropriate growth in our small towns and sustain rural communities living in and around villages, small settlements and the open countryside.	+
4A. Maintain the status quo in terms of housing allocation based on the proportion of households living in the main towns, small towns at the time of the 2011 Census and increase the percentage of housing growth to villages and small settlements at the expense of the open countryside.	?
5A. Align the retail hierarchy with the proposed settlement hierarchy, but also include potential district and/or local centres that may be designated through the LDP.	0
6A. Allow such development in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres, and within economic development zonings (or identified parts thereof) as part of a sequential approach.	0
7A. Provide for start-up and grow-on business space within economic development land/zonings by identifying land to be used specifically for start-up and grow-on business space, and utilise redundant buildings or land last used for economic development within settlements.	?
8A. Allow alternative compatible economic uses/business falling outside Part B 'Industrial and Business Uses' within zoned economic development land. This would include for the sale or display of motor vehicles; as a scrapyard; or a yard for the storage or distribution of minerals; or the breaking of motor vehicles.	0
9A. This option would define a Primary Retail Core (within some or all town centres) accompanied by policy to substantially protect and promote retail uses on ground floor frontages in these areas and designate specific sites in the town centres for mixed use development (retail and other town centre uses).	0
10A. This option would facilitate residential use through the protection of existing town centre housing areas and/or include housing as part of the development mix in opportunity sites while also facilitating Class B1 Business uses on upper levels in town centres	0
11A. Retain current strategic policy in PPS 16: Tourism (with minor amendments) <u>and</u> bring forward bespoke policy tailored to the tourism potential of Vulnerable, Sensitive and Opportunity areas within the Borough.	+
12A. Safeguard mineral resources of economic or conservation value e.g. by allowing for expansion of existing quarries, and retain the existing designated Area of Salt Reserve. There would be a presumption in favour of minerals development within designated Mineral Reserve Areas and other areas identified as suitable for minerals development. Apply existing / amended policy elsewhere with applications being decided on a case by case basis against policy criteria. However, there would be a presumption against minerals development within areas designated for their landscape and/or environmental/heritage significance or at least within the majority of their extent e.g. within existing, expanded or new Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMD). Elsewhere proposals would be determined against existing or amended policy on a case by case basis.	+
13A. Combination of B and C Retain the existing BMAP Areas of Potential Subsidence within the former Carrickfergus Borough and retain Policy CE 06, and assess if there are any other known areas of potential subsidence within the Borough that should be identified. Rely on existing Policy PSU10 of PSRNI to prevent development in all areas <u>known</u> to be at risk from land stability - including from mining, coastal erosion, landslides and other relevant causes.	0
14A. Zone sites for social/affordable housing in the Local Policies Plan and indicate through key site requirements where a proportion of a housing zoning should be provided as social housing, where a need has been identified. In addition set out strategic policy requiring that every 10th unit within new housing developments, in settlements where a need has been identified, shall be a social housing unit.	0
15A. Set out strategic policy that all ground floor apartments in blocks of two storey or above should be wheelchair accessible units.	0
16A. Support delivery of Community Growing Spaces/Allotments in suitable locations.	0
17A. Facilitate the development of a network of Community Greenways/Pathways.	+
18A. Set out strategic policy requiring residential developments of 100 units or more, or on sites of 5 hectares or more will be required to provide an equipped children's play area, <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	0
19A. Retention of the current strategic criteria based policy regarding public open space contained in Policy OS2 of PPS 8 i.e. setting out a 10% requirement of open space in residential developments of 25 units or more and a 15% requirement for development over 300 units <u>and</u> an amended list of exceptions where a rate less than 10% may be acceptable <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	+

20A. Introduce a new proactive policy for sustainable transport in new development and encourage the provision of more park and ride facilities to reduce the reliance on the private car and promote public transport.	<b>0</b>
21A. Introduce areas of car parking restraint in main towns	<b>0</b>
22A Only include Non-Strategic Road Schemes in the LDP, which have been justified by DfI through a Local Transport Strategy.	<b>0</b>
23A. Retention of SPPS approach updating Policy RE 1 of PPS 18 by adopting a cautious approach within designated landscapes (with an acknowledgement of Option 33 questioning increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the AONB)	<b>0</b>
24A. Promotion of SuDS within the LDP through introducing policy requirements (for some / all new development/ new development in certain locations)	<b>++</b>
25A. Criteria based policy to support the delivery of a new cemetery or an extension to a cemetery. In addition spatial policy to allow the identification and safeguarding of specific locations where there is a firm proposal for a new/extension to a cemetery	<b>0</b>
26A. Retain the current operational policies as set out BH1 of PPS6, and provide increased policy protection to safeguard our archaeological sites and remains (and their settings) from harmful development through the designation of Specific Areas of Constraint (with regard to specific types of development) within, or adjacent to existing or proposed Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest.	<b>0</b>
27A. Retain current operational policies as set out in PPS6 and carefully manage change by introducing additional regulation through the implementation of Article 4 Directions to remove certain permitted development rights within areas which have been identified as still retaining their local character and distinctiveness.	<b>0</b>
28A. Establish a criterion based approach with Historic Environment Division for identifying non-designated heritage assets within the Borough that will be used to create a Local Heritage List.	<b>0</b>
29A. Retain the existing Special Countryside Area (SCA) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial and policy amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
30A. Provide increased policy protection for the Islandmagee Peninsula with an emphasis on the eastern and north eastern parts of the peninsula. Increased policy protection could be provided through designation of a SCA, an Area of Constraint on particular types of development, an extension of the BMA Coastal Policy Area or a designated AOHSV.	<b>0</b>
31A. Retain the existing BMA Coastal Area (to be renamed the Belfast Lough Shoreline (Mid and East Antrim) Policy Area) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>+</b>
32A. Provide increased policy protection for the most scenic and environmentally important areas associated with Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann corridor.	<b>+</b>
33A. Provide increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	<b>+</b>
34A. Retain the existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Areas of High Scenic Value if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>
35A. Retain the existing designated Local Landscape Policy Areas and associated policy, and identify and designate other Local Landscape Policy Areas where appropriate.	<b>0</b>
36A. Retain the existing designated Rural Landscape Wedges and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Rural Landscape Wedges if considered appropriate.	<b>0</b>

## 12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.

1A. Provide strategic policy on developer contributions through the LDP.	+
2A. Adopt a new settlement hierarchy for the Borough, which includes amending the settlement hierarchy within the existing area plans through re-classification of existing settlements, addition of new settlements and de-designation of selected small settlements.	+
3A. Focus major population growth and economic development in the three Main Towns, facilitate appropriate growth in our small towns and sustain rural communities living in and around villages, small settlements and the open countryside.	+
4A. Maintain the status quo in terms of housing allocation based on the proportion of households living in the main towns, small towns at the time of the 2011 Census and increase the percentage of housing growth to villages and small settlements at the expense of the open countryside.	+
5A. Align the retail hierarchy with the proposed settlement hierarchy, but also include potential district and/or local centres that may be designated through the LDP.	0
6A. Allow such development in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres, and within economic development zonings (or identified parts thereof) as part of a sequential approach.	0
7A. Provide for start-up and grow-on business space within economic development land/zonings by identifying land to be used specifically for start-up and grow-on business space, and utilise redundant buildings or land last used for economic development within settlements.	+
8A. Allow alternative compatible economic uses/business falling outside Part B 'Industrial and Business Uses' within zoned economic development land. This would include for the sale or display of motor vehicles; as a scrapyards; or a yard for the storage or distribution of minerals; or the breaking of motor vehicles.	0
9A. This option would define a Primary Retail Core (within some or all town centres) accompanied by policy to substantially protect and promote retail uses on ground floor frontages in these areas and designate specific sites in the town centres for mixed use development (retail and other town centre uses).	0
10A. This option would facilitate residential use through the protection of existing town centre housing areas and/or include housing as part of the development mix in opportunity sites while also facilitating Class B1 Business uses on upper levels in town centres	0
11A. Retain current strategic policy in PPS 16: Tourism (with minor amendments) <u>and</u> bring forward bespoke policy tailored to the tourism potential of Vulnerable, Sensitive and Opportunity areas within the Borough.	+
12A. Safeguard mineral resources of economic or conservation value e.g. by allowing for expansion of existing quarries, and retain the existing designated Area of Salt Reserve. There would be a presumption in favour of minerals development within designated Mineral Reserve Areas and other areas identified as suitable for minerals development. Apply existing / amended policy elsewhere with applications being decided on a case by case basis against policy criteria. However, there would be a presumption against minerals development within areas designated for their landscape and/or environmental/heritage significance or at least within the majority of their extent e.g. within existing, expanded or new Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMD). Elsewhere proposals would be determined against existing or amended policy on a case by case basis.	+
13A. Combination of B and C Retain the existing BMAP Areas of Potential Subsidence within the former Carrickfergus Borough and retain Policy CE 06, and assess if there are any other known areas of potential subsidence within the Borough that should be identified. Rely on existing Policy PSU10 of PSRNI to prevent development in all areas <u>known</u> to be at risk from land stability - including from mining, coastal erosion, landslides and other relevant causes.	+
14A. Zone sites for social/affordable housing in the Local Policies Plan and indicate through key site requirements where a proportion of a housing zoning should be provided as social housing, where a need has been identified. In addition set out strategic policy requiring that every 10th unit within new housing developments, in settlements where a need has been identified, shall be a social housing unit.	0
15A. Set out strategic policy that all ground floor apartments in blocks of two storey or above should be wheelchair accessible units.	0
16A. Support delivery of Community Growing Spaces/Allotments in suitable locations.	+
17A. Facilitate the development of a network of Community Greenways/Pathways.	++
18A. Set out strategic policy requiring residential developments of 100 units or more, or on sites of 5 hectares or more will be required to provide an equipped children's play area, <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	0
19A. Retention of the current strategic criteria based policy regarding public open space contained in Policy OS2 of PPS 8 i.e. setting out a 10% requirement of open space in residential developments of 25 units or more and a 15% requirement for development over 300 units <u>and</u> an amended list of exceptions where a rate less than 10% may be acceptable <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	+

20A. Introduce a new proactive policy for sustainable transport in new development and encourage the provision of more park and ride facilities to reduce the reliance on the private car and promote public transport.	+
21A. Introduce areas of car parking restraint in main towns	0
22A Only include Non-Strategic Road Schemes in the LDP, which have been justified by DfI through a Local Transport Strategy.	?
23A. Retention of SPPS approach updating Policy RE 1 of PPS 18 by adopting a cautious approach within designated landscapes (with an acknowledgement of Option 33 questioning increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the AONB)	0
24A. Promotion of SuDS within the LDP through introducing policy requirements (for some / all new development/ new development in certain locations)	++
25A. Criteria based policy to support the delivery of a new cemetery or an extension to a cemetery. In addition spatial policy to allow the identification and safeguarding of specific locations where there is a firm proposal for a new/extension to a cemetery	+
26A. Retain the current operational policies as set out BH1 of PPS6, and provide increased policy protection to safeguard our archaeological sites and remains (and their settings) from harmful development through the designation of Specific Areas of Constraint (with regard to specific types of development) within, or adjacent to existing or proposed Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest.	+
27A. Retain current operational policies as set out in PPS6 and carefully manage change by introducing additional regulation through the implementation of Article 4 Directions to remove certain permitted development rights within areas which have been identified as still retaining their local character and distinctiveness.	0
28A. Establish a criterion based approach with Historic Environment Division for identifying non-designated heritage assets within the Borough that will be used to create a Local Heritage List.	0
29A. Retain the existing Special Countryside Area (SCA) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial and policy amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	++
30A. Provide increased policy protection for the Islandmagee Peninsula with an emphasis on the eastern and north eastern parts of the peninsula. Increased policy protection could be provided through designation of a SCA, an Area of Constraint on particular types of development, an extension of the BMA Coastal Policy Area or a designated AOHSV.	+
31A. Retain the existing BMA Coastal Area (to be renamed the Belfast Lough Shoreline (Mid and East Antrim) Policy Area) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	+
32A. Provide increased policy protection for the most scenic and environmentally important areas associated with Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann corridor.	++
33A. Provide increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	+
34A. Retain the existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Areas of High Scenic Value if considered appropriate.	+
35A. Retain the existing designated Local Landscape Policy Areas and associated policy, and identify and designate other Local Landscape Policy Areas where appropriate.	+
36A. Retain the existing designated Rural Landscape Wedges and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Rural Landscape Wedges if considered appropriate.	+



### 13... maintain and enhance landscape character.

1A. Provide strategic policy on developer contributions through the LDP.	0
2A. Adopt a new settlement hierarchy for the Borough, which includes amending the settlement hierarchy within the existing area plans through re-classification of existing settlements, addition of new settlements and de-designation of selected small settlements.	+
3A. Focus major population growth and economic development in the three Main Towns, facilitate appropriate growth in our small towns and sustain rural communities living in and around villages, small settlements and the open countryside.	++
4A. Maintain the status quo in terms of housing allocation based on the proportion of households living in the main towns, small towns at the time of the 2011 Census and increase the percentage of housing growth to villages and small settlements at the expense of the open countryside.	+
5A. Align the retail hierarchy with the proposed settlement hierarchy, but also include potential district and/or local centres that may be designated through the LDP.	0
6A. Allow such development in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres, and within economic development zonings (or identified parts thereof) as part of a sequential approach.	0
7A. Provide for start-up and grow-on business space within economic development land/zonings by identifying land to be used specifically for start-up and grow-on business space, and utilise redundant buildings or land last used for economic development within settlements.	0
8A. Allow alternative compatible economic uses/business falling outside Part B 'Industrial and Business Uses' within zoned economic development land. This would include for the sale or display of motor vehicles; as a scrapyard; or a yard for the storage or distribution of minerals; or the breaking of motor vehicles.	0
9A. This option would define a Primary Retail Core (within some or all town centres) accompanied by policy to substantially protect and promote retail uses on ground floor frontages in these areas and designate specific sites in the town centres for mixed use development (retail and other town centre uses).	0
10A. This option would facilitate residential use through the protection of existing town centre housing areas and/or include housing as part of the development mix in opportunity sites while also facilitating Class B1 Business uses on upper levels in town centres	0
11A. Retain current strategic policy in PPS 16: Tourism (with minor amendments) <u>and</u> bring forward bespoke policy tailored to the tourism potential of Vulnerable, Sensitive and Opportunity areas within the Borough.	+
12A. Safeguard mineral resources of economic or conservation value e.g. by allowing for expansion of existing quarries, and retain the existing designated Area of Salt Reserve. There would be a presumption in favour of minerals development within designated Mineral Reserve Areas and other areas identified as suitable for minerals development. Apply existing / amended policy elsewhere with applications being decided on a case by case basis against policy criteria. However, there would be a presumption against minerals development within areas designated for their landscape and/or environmental/heritage significance or at least within the majority of their extent e.g. within existing, expanded or new Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMD). Elsewhere proposals would be determined against existing or amended policy on a case by case basis.	+
13A. Combination of B and C Retain the existing BMAP Areas of Potential Subsidence within the former Carrickfergus Borough and retain Policy CE 06, and assess if there are any other known areas of potential subsidence within the Borough that should be identified. Rely on existing Policy PSU10 of PSRNI to prevent development in all areas <u>known</u> to be at risk from land stability - including from mining, coastal erosion, landslides and other relevant causes.	+
14A. Zone sites for social/affordable housing in the Local Policies Plan and indicate through key site requirements where a proportion of a housing zoning should be provided as social housing, where a need has been identified. In addition set out strategic policy requiring that every 10th unit within new housing developments, in settlements where a need has been identified, shall be a social housing unit.	0
15A. Set out strategic policy that all ground floor apartments in blocks of two storey or above should be wheelchair accessible units.	0
16A. Support delivery of Community Growing Spaces/Allotments in suitable locations.	0
17A. Facilitate the development of a network of Community Greenways/Pathways.	+
18A. Set out strategic policy requiring residential developments of 100 units or more, or on sites of 5 hectares or more will be required to provide an equipped children's play area, <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	0
19A. Retention of the current strategic criteria based policy regarding public open space contained in Policy OS2 of PPS 8 i.e. setting out a 10% requirement of open space in residential developments of 25 units or more and a 15% requirement for development over 300 units <u>and</u> an amended list of exceptions where a rate less than 10% may be acceptable <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	+



20A. Introduce a new proactive policy for sustainable transport in new development and encourage the provision of more park and ride facilities to reduce the reliance on the private car and promote public transport.	<b>0</b>
21A. Introduce areas of car parking restraint in main towns	<b>0</b>
22A Only include Non-Strategic Road Schemes in the LDP, which have been justified by DfI through a Local Transport Strategy.	<b>?</b>
23A. Retention of SPPS approach updating Policy RE 1 of PPS 18 by adopting a cautious approach within designated landscapes (with an acknowledgement of Option 33 questioning increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the AONB)	<b>+</b>
24A. Promotion of SuDS within the LDP through introducing policy requirements (for some / all new development/ new development in certain locations)	<b>0</b>
25A. Criteria based policy to support the delivery of a new cemetery or an extension to a cemetery. In addition spatial policy to allow the identification and safeguarding of specific locations where there is a firm proposal for a new/extension to a cemetery	<b>+</b>
26A. Retain the current operational policies as set out BH1 of PPS6, and provide increased policy protection to safeguard our archaeological sites and remains (and their settings) from harmful development through the designation of Specific Areas of Constraint (with regard to specific types of development) within, or adjacent to existing or proposed Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest.	<b>+</b>
27A. Retain current operational policies as set out in PPS6 and carefully manage change by introducing additional regulation through the implementation of Article 4 Directions to remove certain permitted development rights within areas which have been identified as still retaining their local character and distinctiveness.	<b>0</b>
28A. Establish a criterion based approach with Historic Environment Division for identifying non-designated heritage assets within the Borough that will be used to create a Local Heritage List.	<b>0</b>
29A. Retain the existing Special Countryside Area (SCA) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial and policy amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>++</b>
30A. Provide increased policy protection for the Islandmagee Peninsula with an emphasis on the eastern and north eastern parts of the peninsula. Increased policy protection could be provided through designation of a SCA, an Area of Constraint on particular types of development, an extension of the BMA Coastal Policy Area or a designated AOHSV.	<b>++</b>
31A. Retain the existing BMA Coastal Area (to be renamed the Belfast Lough Shoreline (Mid and East Antrim) Policy Area) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	<b>++</b>
32A. Provide increased policy protection for the most scenic and environmentally important areas associated with Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann corridor.	<b>++</b>
33A. Provide increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	<b>++</b>
34A. Retain the existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Areas of High Scenic Value if considered appropriate.	<b>++</b>
35A. Retain the existing designated Local Landscape Policy Areas and associated policy, and identify and designate other Local Landscape Policy Areas where appropriate.	<b>++</b>
36A. Retain the existing designated Rural Landscape Wedges and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Rural Landscape Wedges if considered appropriate.	<b>++</b>

## 14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.

1A. Provide strategic policy on developer contributions through the LDP.	+
2A. Adopt a new settlement hierarchy for the Borough, which includes amending the settlement hierarchy within the existing area plans through re-classification of existing settlements, addition of new settlements and de-designation of selected small settlements.	?
3A. Focus major population growth and economic development in the three Main Towns, facilitate appropriate growth in our small towns and sustain rural communities living in and around villages, small settlements and the open countryside.	0
4A. Maintain the status quo in terms of housing allocation based on the proportion of households living in the main towns, small towns at the time of the 2011 Census and increase the percentage of housing growth to villages and small settlements at the expense of the open countryside.	?
5A. Align the retail hierarchy with the proposed settlement hierarchy, but also include potential district and/or local centres that may be designated through the LDP.	+
6A. Allow such development in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres, and within economic development zonings (or identified parts thereof) as part of a sequential approach.	+
7A. Provide for start-up and grow-on business space within economic development land/zonings by identifying land to be used specifically for start-up and grow-on business space, and utilise redundant buildings or land last used for economic development within settlements.	+
8A. Allow alternative compatible economic uses/business falling outside Part B 'Industrial and Business Uses' within zoned economic development land. This would include for the sale or display of motor vehicles; as a scrapyards; or a yard for the storage or distribution of minerals; or the breaking of motor vehicles.	0
9A. This option would define a Primary Retail Core (within some or all town centres) accompanied by policy to substantially protect and promote retail uses on ground floor frontages in these areas and designate specific sites in the town centres for mixed use development (retail and other town centre uses).	+
10A. This option would facilitate residential use through the protection of existing town centre housing areas and/or include housing as part of the development mix in opportunity sites while also facilitating Class B1 Business uses on upper levels in town centres	+
11A. Retain current strategic policy in PPS 16: Tourism (with minor amendments) and bring forward bespoke policy tailored to the tourism potential of Vulnerable, Sensitive and Opportunity areas within the Borough.	+
12A. Safeguard mineral resources of economic or conservation value e.g. by allowing for expansion of existing quarries, and retain the existing designated Area of Salt Reserve. There would be a presumption in favour of minerals development within designated Mineral Reserve Areas and other areas identified as suitable for minerals development. Apply existing / amended policy elsewhere with applications being decided on a case by case basis against policy criteria. However, there would be a presumption against minerals development within areas designated for their landscape and/or environmental/heritage significance or at least within the majority of their extent e.g. within existing, expanded or new Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMD). Elsewhere proposals would be determined against existing or amended policy on a case by case basis.	+
13A. Combination of B and C Retain the existing BMAP Areas of Potential Subsidence within the former Carrickfergus Borough and retain Policy CE 06, and assess if there are any other known areas of potential subsidence within the Borough that should be identified. Rely on existing Policy PSU10 of PSRNI to prevent development in all areas <u>known</u> to be at risk from land stability - including from mining, coastal erosion, landslides and other relevant causes.	0
14A. Zone sites for social/affordable housing in the Local Policies Plan and indicate through key site requirements where a proportion of a housing zoning should be provided as social housing, where a need has been identified. In addition set out strategic policy requiring that every 10th unit within new housing developments, in settlements where a need has been identified, shall be a social housing unit.	0
15A. Set out strategic policy that all ground floor apartments in blocks of two storey or above should be wheelchair accessible units.	0
16A. Support delivery of Community Growing Spaces/Allotments in suitable locations.	0
17A. Facilitate the development of a network of Community Greenways/Pathways.	+
18A. Set out strategic policy requiring residential developments of 100 units or more, or on sites of 5 hectares or more will be required to provide an equipped children's play area, <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	0
19A. Retention of the current strategic criteria based policy regarding public open space contained in Policy OS2 of PPS 8 i.e. setting out a 10% requirement of open space in residential developments of 25 units or more and a 15%	?

requirement for development over 300 units <u>and</u> an amended list of exceptions where a rate less than 10% may be acceptable <i>unless</i> otherwise specified through key site requirements.	
20A. Introduce a new proactive policy for sustainable transport in new development and encourage the provision of more park and ride facilities to reduce the reliance on the private car and promote public transport.	0
21A. Introduce areas of car parking restraint in main towns	0
22A Only include Non-Strategic Road Schemes in the LDP, which have been justified by DfI through a Local Transport Strategy.	?
23A. Retention of SPPS approach updating Policy RE 1 of PPS 18 by adopting a cautious approach within designated landscapes (with an acknowledgement of Option 33 questioning increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the AONB)	0
24A. Promotion of SuDS within the LDP through introducing policy requirements (for some / all new development/ new development in certain locations)	0
25A. Criteria based policy to support the delivery of a new cemetery or an extension to a cemetery. In addition spatial policy to allow the identification and safeguarding of specific locations where there is a firm proposal for a new/extension to a cemetery	+
26A. Retain the current operational policies as set out BH1 of PPS6, and provide increased policy protection to safeguard our archaeological sites and remains (and their settings) from harmful development through the designation of Specific Areas of Constraint (with regard to specific types of development) within, or adjacent to existing or proposed Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest.	++
27A. Retain current operational policies as set out in PPS6 and carefully manage change by introducing additional regulation through the implementation of Article 4 Directions to remove certain permitted development rights within areas which have been identified as still retaining their local character and distinctiveness.	++
28A. Establish a criterion based approach with Historic Environment Division for identifying non-designated heritage assets within the Borough that will be used to create a Local Heritage List.	+
29A. Retain the existing Special Countryside Area (SCA) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial and policy amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	++
30A. Provide increased policy protection for the Islandmagee Peninsula with an emphasis on the eastern and north eastern parts of the peninsula. Increased policy protection could be provided through designation of a SCA, an Area of Constraint on particular types of development, an extension of the BMA Coastal Policy Area or a designated AOHSV.	++
31A. Retain the existing BMA Coastal Area (to be renamed the Belfast Lough Shoreline (Mid and East Antrim) Policy Area) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.	+
32A. Provide increased policy protection for the most scenic and environmentally important areas associated with Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann corridor.	++
33A. Provide increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	++
34A. Retain the existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Areas of High Scenic Value if considered appropriate.	+
35A. Retain the existing designated Local Landscape Policy Areas and associated policy, and identify and designate other Local Landscape Policy Areas where appropriate.	++
36A. Retain the existing designated Rural Landscape Wedges and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Rural Landscape Wedges if considered appropriate.	++

## APPENDIX 5: SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL MATRICES

Issue 1: Developer Contributions																
	Option 1A: Provide strategic policy on developer contributions through the LDP.				Option 1B: Developer contributions to be stipulated for sites zoned for housing and / or economic development through the Local Policies Plan, and not sought elsewhere.				Option 1C: Developer contributions to be negotiated on a site by site basis at the time of any planning application.				Option 1D: Do not seek developer contributions under any circumstances			
Sustainability Objective	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Potential for open space and/or recreational activities to be provided or funded. Could help meet needs at local/community level.  Strategic approach could help deliver the objective if criteria are geared towards this.  This option could deliver slightly more for this objective as it is front-loaded and not spatially limited.	+	+	+	Potential for open space and /or recreational activities still feasible. Could help meet needs at local/community level. This is spatially limited to zoned sites and may not be feasible for smaller zonings therefore there is potentially less scope for benefits.	+	+	+	Still potential to deliver on objective but less scope to meet the objective using a case by case approach.	0	0	0	No returns/priorities feasible under this option although other criteria may still be applicable. This option would have no effect on this objective.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Potential for open space and /or recreational activities to be funded. Could be anything required at the local/community level.  Strategic approach could help bring element of control as contribution itself not described.	+	+	+	Potential for open space and /or recreational activities still feasible. Could be anything required at the local/community level. This is spatially limited to zoned sites and may not be feasible for smaller zonings therefore there is potentially less scope for benefits.	+	+	+	Still potential to deliver on objective but much less control and reliant on appropriately worded planning conditions.	0	0	0	No returns/priorities feasible under this option although other criteria may still be applicable. This option would have no effect on this objective.

				This option could deliver slightly more for this objective.															
<b>3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.</b>	+	+	+	Potential for the contributions to focus on and encourage tenure mix/social housing and/or meeting local needs i.e. community centres. Strategic approach again can help control this option and could deliver slightly more for this objective.	+	+	+	Potential for the contributions to focus on and encourage tenure mix/social housing and/or meeting local needs i.e. community centres. This is spatially limited to zoned sites and may not be feasible for smaller zonings therefore there is potentially less scope for benefits.	+	+	+	Potential for the contributions to focus on and encourage tenure mix/social housing and/or meeting local needs i.e. community centres but much less control and ability to always deliver equally across sites/cases on this objective.	0	0	0				This option would have no effect on this objective.
<b>4... enable access to high quality education.</b>	+	+	+	Potential to support local schools and educational facilities as well as related activities such as skills training. May be important if a local need is evident. Strategic approach could enable a higher ability to deliver on this objective.	+	+	+	Potential to support local schools and educational facilities as well as related activities such as skills training. May be important if a local need is evident. This is spatially limited to zoned sites and may not be feasible for smaller zonings therefore there is potentially less scope for benefits.	+	+	+	Potential to support local schools and educational facilities as well as related activities such as skills training. May be important if a local need is evident. Less control under this option and possibly more difficult to equally deliver benefits across sites.	0	0	0				This option would have no effect on this objective.
<b>5... enable sustainable economic growth.</b>	+	+	+	Potential to fund projects that could stimulate local economic activity. If based on strategic policy, only sustainable ventures could be promoted. Although the option is thought only to deliver a negligible effect, it could still deliver slightly	+	+	+	Potential to fund projects based on key zonings that could stimulate local economic activity and fulfil local need. Smaller sites to be used to deliver on this objective.	+	+	+	Potential to fund projects that could stimulate local economic activity. As based on a case-by-case basis, there may be scope to deliver on specific needs i.e. local/community needs but difficult to ensure equal	0	0	0				This option would have no effect on this objective.

				more on this objective because of its strategic nature.					delivery of benefits across sites.							
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Option could be instrumental for local priority infrastructure and improving access to it for all. Strategic approach enables more control to improve facilities/services for all. This option thought to deliver slightly more for this objective.	+	+	+	Option could be instrumental for local priority infrastructure and improving access to it for all although smaller areas i.e. key zonings are the only focus of this option. Also likely that sites selected will have adequate infrastructure already. Slightly less scope to deliver on this objective because of its spatially restricted nature.	+	+	+	Option could be instrumental for local priority infrastructure and improving access to it for all but based on case-by-case basis so difficult to manage equal delivery of benefits across sites. May be able to focus more on key local needs but really depends on the individual approach taken each time.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on this objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Potential for active travel links within sites and outside of them. Could also strategically encourage such development to connect with or act as blue/green infrastructure. Overall, this option thought to be able to deliver slightly more for this objective.	+	+	+	Potential for active travel links within sites and outside of them. Could also encourage such development to connect with or act as blue/green infrastructure. Restricted under this option to housing and economic zones but these could have a positive impact on the objective.	+	+	+	Potential for active travel links within sites and outside of them. Could also encourage such development to connect with or act as blue/green infrastructure. Restricted under this option to case-by-case basis so difficult to manage delivery of equal benefit across sites. Much depends on future approach taken.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	Potential to fund projects /features to reduce car use such as local paths, new roads but also	+	+	+	Potential to fund projects /features to reduce car use such as local paths, new roads but also	+	+	+	Potential to fund projects /features to reduce car use such as local paths, new roads but also	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on this objective.

				services/facilities that may mean no journeys required or community renewable energy projects. Strategic approach could help ensure a level playing field and equal delivery of benefits. This option could deliver slightly more for this objective.				services/facilities that may mean no journeys required or community renewable energy projects. Although focused on only two land zones, could still have a positive impact as key zones targeted.				services/facilities that may mean no journeys required or community renewable energy projects. Restricted under this option to case-by-case basis so difficult to manage delivery of equal benefit across sites. Much depends on future approach taken.				
<b>10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.</b>	+	+	+	Potential to fund projects /features to reduce greenhouse gas emissions i.e. reduce car use and transport journey times; provide gas heating and access to renewables and integration of community based renewable energy schemes. Ability to also fund new building design and landscaping to adapt to climate change i.e. water storage, SuDS. Strategic approach could help ensure a level playing field and equal delivery of benefits. This option could deliver slightly more for this objective.	+	+	+	Potential to fund projects /features to reduce greenhouse gas emissions i.e. reduce car use and transport journey times; provide gas heating and access to renewables and integration of community based renewable energy schemes. Ability to also fund new building design and landscaping to adapt to climate change i.e. water storage, SuDS. Spatially restricted to zonings but ability to still have a positive impact.	+	+	+	Potential to fund projects /features to reduce greenhouse gas emissions i.e. reduce car use and transport journey times; provide gas heating and access to renewables and integration of community based renewable energy schemes. Ability to also fund new building design and landscaping to adapt to climate change i.e. water storage, SuDS. Case by case basis so difficult to manage equal delivery of benefits across sites.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on this objective.
<b>11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</b>	+	+	+	Potential to fund projects/measures for water protection and conservation. Could even link to improvements for infrastructure.	+	+	+	Potential to fund projects/measures for water protection. However spatially limited approach does not have potential for	+	+	+	Potential to do same but on a case-by-case basis. May be more difficult to manage delivery of this objective across sites as much depends on approach	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on this objective.



				Strategic approach has potential for equal delivery of benefits across sites.				equal delivery of benefits across the board. Potentially able to tailor SuDS specific to solutions to individual sites. Although spatially restricted this option could deliver slightly more for this objective.				taken but at same time there is the potential to tailor conditions.				
<b>12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	Potential to link to projects/schemes that connect or add to blue/green infrastructure. Also investment in local ecosystem services projects could enable developers to deliver benefits to multiple users as well as maintaining and enhancing local biodiversity. Strategic approach could help ensure equal delivery of benefits across sites but thresholds applicable so some sites may lose out if below this threshold. Strategic approach would help enable a holistic delivery of this objective.	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	Potential to link to projects/schemes that connect or add to blue/green infrastructure. Also investment in local ecosystem services projects could enable developers to deliver benefits to multiple users as well as maintaining and enhancing local biodiversity. Zoned lands only to be focused on under this option. This should provide more detail on site biodiversity that in turn should help tailor site mitigation. This option could deliver slightly more for this objective.	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	Potential to link to projects/schemes that connect or add to blue/green infrastructure. Also investment in local ecosystem services projects could enable developers to deliver benefits to multiple users as well as maintaining and enhancing local biodiversity. May be more difficult on a case by case basis to deliver this objective and less feasible to produce a holistic result.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have no effect on this objective.
<b>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option has no effect on this objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option has no effect on this objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option has no effect on this objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Boundary and /or native planting schemes already occur as standard by planning condition.
<b>14... protect, conserve and enhance the</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	Potential to promote local, cultural/built heritage and invest in measures such as	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	Potential to promote local, cultural/built heritage and invest in measures such as	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	Potential to promote local, cultural/built heritage and invest in measures such as	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have no effect on this objective.

historic environment and cultural heritage.				signposts, interpretation boards, and local level projects. Strategic approach could enable better delivery on this objective. Potential to deliver slightly more for this objective.				signposts, interpretation boards, local level projects and so on. Possibly less scope to deliver on this objective if only certain land zonings to be targeted but more feasible to focus on local level information.				signposts, interpretation boards, local level awareness projects and so on. Case by case approach may prove more difficult to ensure delivery of objective but at same time could enable local level information to be used more succinctly,				
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives	Similar scoring across Options A to C with positive scores for all of these options on several objectives including health, society, housing, education, economic growth, active travel, air quality, climate change, water resources, natural resources and built/cultural heritage. Option A was considered to have a significantly positive effect for material assets as it could support (local) infrastructure projects. Option C would be less able to deliver than the other two options as much would depend on the approach taken on a case-by-case basis and the quality of both negotiations and wording of planning conditions or agreements. Option A was considered to deliver more than the other options on the objectives for health, society, housing, education, economic growth, material assets, active travel, air quality, climate change and built/cultural heritage. Option B is deemed to deliver slightly more on objectives for water and natural resources. Option D was considered to have a neutral effect across all of the objectives.															
The preferred option	1A															
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Key site requirements; local representative involvement; management agreements; planning conditions; planning agreements; consideration of site conditions in preparing proposals.															

## Issue 2: Settlement Hierarchy

	<b>2A: Adopt a new settlement hierarchy for the Borough, which includes amending the settlement hierarchy within the existing area plans through re-classification of existing settlements, addition of new settlements and de-designation of selected small settlements.</b>  <b>-Four-tier hierarchy identifies 3 main towns of Larne, Carrickfergus and Ballymena, 6 small towns, 10 villages and 17 small settlements.</b>				<b>2B: Retain existing settlement hierarchy within existing area plans</b>  <b>-Four-tier hierarchy with 3 main towns Larne, Carrickfergus and Ballymena, 2 local towns, 13 Villages and 22 small settlements.</b>				<b>2C: Existing settlement hierarchy amended within existing area plans through re-classification of existing settlements and addition of new settlements.</b>  <b>- Four-tier hierarchy identifies 3 main towns of Larne, Carrickfergus and Ballymena, 6 small towns, 10 villages and 29 small settlements.</b>  <b>-Similar to Option 2A, however no settlements would be de-designated.</b>			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
2... strengthen society	+	+	+	Positive links as based on current facilities and populations; hierarchy could help with this objective by helping community cohesion. Some areas have more facilities and by being upgraded could become more sustainable in the long term.	0	0	0	This is the current status therefore will not make an additional contribution however noted that the higher number of small settlements and villages could help to maintain community cohesion.	+	+	+	There may be more positives under this option for rural communities and community cohesion due to the recognition of a larger number of small settlements.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Upgrading of certain settlements and towns could become more sustainable in the long term as helps to attract appropriate housing in the places where it is most needed based on current factors and existing facilities/services.	-	-	-	Current situation and hierarchy outdated for current situation. Higher risk of housing being attracted to the wrong areas, which is unsustainable.	-	-	-	Increasing number of small settlements with no de-designations means areas without adequate facilities may continue to attract housing that is not justified by current factors critical to support sustainable rural living. Lower tier heavy hierarchy may encourage piecemeal housing

												projects not justified by existing facilities/services.
<b>4... enable access to high quality education.</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	There will not be a major impact on education however the new hierarchy would reflect infrastructure including schools.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Would not reflect the current demography and how settlements have developed however impacts on education are considered to be negligible as there will not be substantial new housing arising.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Would reflect the current demography and how settlements have developed however impacts on education are considered to be negligible as there will not be substantial new housing arising.
<b>5... enable sustainable economic growth.</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	Upgrading settlements with adequate facilities and populations helps to encourage further growth and development in those key areas. This helps lead to local employment opportunities both in the short and long term. Based on recent assessment of current facilities so should not be unfair to any de-designated areas and be more sustainable.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Growth is feasible with current hierarchy but may not be the most supportive/reflective of existing situation across our Borough.	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	Upgrading settlements with adequate facilities and populations helps to encourage further growth and development in those key areas. This helps lead to local employment opportunities both in the short and long term. Increase in small settlements could provide more of a rural focus for economic growth but this would still depend on local populations, services and facilities available to the level needed for viable businesses. Some uncertainties but overall thought to be positive.
<b>6... manage material assets sustainably.</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	By upgrading settlements within the hierarchy there will be increased control over access to existing and future infrastructure, allowing use of vacant and contaminated land and access to facilities/services.  This option could deliver slightly more for this objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Less strategic. Current situation is based on an older baseline that does not reflect the current distribution of facilities and populations.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Although this recognises a greater number of small settlements the scope for growth is very limited therefore there is likely to be a negligible impact on material assets such as infrastructure.

7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Strategic approach to the use of land by focusing potential development in the larger settlements and upgrading settlements that already have the expected facilities.  Focuses growth in the main and small towns where there are more opportunities to develop in brownfield sites, however there will be a degree of greenfield sites lost in rural areas to sustain appropriate growth.  Avoiding important mineral and earth science areas. Strategic approach helps to contain development and reduce extent of potential pollution.  This option could deliver slightly more for this objective.	0	0	0	Current situation.  This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Although this recognises a greater number of small settlements the scope for growth is very limited therefore there is likely to be a negligible impact on physical resources.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Current assessment looked at existing sites and part of that assessment looked at public transport so this option reflects the most suitable hierarchy for sustainable travel and ability to encourage active travel.	-	-	-	Older hierarchy and focused on car travel.	-	-	-	Much of the hierarchy remains focused on car travel. The wider spread of smaller settlements would most probably result in higher dependency on car travel for access to many facilities/services.
9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	May decrease air quality in the main towns and small towns due to density, could also encourage more public transport and active travel options. May be easier for people to commute and travel within and between settlements by using either option. Strategic	?	?	?	Quite high dependence on private car/road travel and reliance on that mode of transport for commuting particularly in rural areas. Currently there are air quality issues caused by transport emissions in Ballymena i.e. AQMAs but not in the other legacy Council	?	?	?	Wider scope of small settlements could increase reliance on cars in rural area if populations/services increase and areas already lack public transport. It could encourage new routes/services. Uncertainty over this aspect of this option and potential impacts on air

				hierarchy could also help create shorter car journey times, less need for commuting and possibly less pressure on the main towns with the increase in small towns. Uncertainty over potential impacts on local air quality from transport but also development/growth.				areas. There is uncertainty over potential impacts on all air quality if this option were to continue from transport but also from development/growth.				quality from all subsequent development/growth.
<b>10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	The most efficient/sustainable hierarchy has been chosen based on recent assessment that looked at existing facilities and populations. The most efficient/sustainable sites have been chosen. Development usually produces greenhouse gas emissions i.e. construction, new roads, increased traffic flows, new housing, heating etcetera but these should be balanced with use of renewables, more energy efficient homes and less car travel for example. Also scope for development in smaller settlements is limited therefore impacts would be negligible.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Current situation. Development usually creates greenhouse gas emissions. Hierarchy is based on older information and is not reflective of current populations and societal needs so could increase car travel, or not enable access to gas or renewables for the majority. These are mostly assumptions and so there are uncertainties with this option. Also scope for development in smaller settlements is limited therefore impacts would be negligible.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Wider scope of travel particularly in the rural area. Lack of public transport in the rural areas could increase reliance of people to the car. Conversely however it could encourage new routes/services. In addition, development usually creates greenhouse gas emissions. However scope for development in smaller settlements is limited therefore impacts would be negligible.
<b>11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	Hierarchy focuses on areas with existing infrastructure so any future growth/development should be adequately accommodated for with fit for purpose water infrastructure. May help reduce reliance on septic tanks over time. In addition, able to better plan for surface water and flooding issues in the towns	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	Widespread dependence on septic tanks across the countryside. This situation could continue to increase. There are existing waste water treatment capacity issues in some areas.	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	Hierarchy focuses in part on areas with existing infrastructure so any future growth/development should be adequately accommodated for with fit for purpose water infrastructure. Able to better plan for surface water and flooding issues in those areas and integrate measures with local development.

				and integrate measures to local development.							Already widespread dependence on septic tanks across the countryside. This situation could continue to increase with the increased number of small settlements, but currently unknown. There are existing waste water treatment capacity issues in some areas.	
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Focusing development on the larger key areas and reducing the number of smaller areas should help avoid piecemeal development of greenfield sites. Hierarchy justified by current study and based on sustainability. Any growth should incur the minimal loss of biodiversity and encourage reuse of sites and buildings.	-	-	-	Current hierarchy outdated and does not reflect existing need across the Council area. There are quite a high number of smaller settlements and villages under this option and less focused direction for where growth could be appropriately located. There is potentially a higher risk of loss of greenfield sites and local biodiversity than necessary under this option.	-	-	-	Hierarchy focuses on increasing the number of smaller towns, which should help, avoid loss of greenfield sites and encourage reuse of land and buildings. There are however also quite a high number of smaller settlements and the same number of villages as currently. Less focused direction for where growth could be appropriately located. There is potentially a higher risk of loss of greenfield sites and local biodiversity than necessary under this option.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Hierarchy focuses on larger settlements with a reduction of smaller settlements, which could help over time with landscape conservation as less potential for inappropriate ribbon development and rural sprawl.  This option could deliver slightly more for this objective.	-	-	-	Current situation has quite a high number of smaller settlement – villages and smaller settlements. Risk of negative impacts on landscape character across a wider rural area.	-	-	-	Hierarchy focuses on larger settlements, which could help over time with landscape conservation as development focus is contained. This option also has quite a high number of smaller settlements and current number of villages. Risk of negative impacts on landscape character across a wider rural area.



14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	?	?	?	Option focuses on a more urbanised approach and reduces number of settlements in lower tiers of hierarchy, which may help protect cultural heritage. Much depends on how development is approached within these areas. There is some cross over with conserving landscape character, which can be achieved through this option, which amends current hierarchy, but uncertainties remain as to how much development would be allowed and where. Retaining old buildings for use can also be achieved.	-	-	-	Current hierarchy has quite a high number of smaller areas – villages and smaller settlements. Hierarchy is not reflective of where growth is most needed based on existing populations and facilities/services. There is the risk of inappropriate and piecemeal development that may detract from built and cultural heritage. At same time old buildings can be retained and used, so much depends on the approach to development but there is the higher risk of loss with outdated hierarchy and less control over numerous small areas.	?	?	?	Option focuses on the smaller towns but also increases smaller settlements. Much depends on how development is approached within these areas. There is some cross over with conserving landscape character/heritage, which is partly achieved through the focus on the larger end of the hierarchy, but this option also has 29 small settlements plus 10 villages. Uncertainties remain with approach to hierarchy and particularly development in the rural areas. May be potential to conserve more of the built heritage within rural areas from the increased number of settlements but again depends on approach to development.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives					Option B does not demonstrate a positive contribution to any sustainability objective and, together with option C, it has potential negative effects for housing, sustainable travel, water and natural resources, landscape and the historic environment (option B) due to the recognition of more settlements than in option A. Options A and C each have positive benefits for strengthening society although for different reasons. Likewise they are positive for economic growth with A favouring towns while C favours the rural economy. Option 2A, which focuses more on larger settlements and will provide for more efficient use of land, infrastructure and resources, scored positively for these objectives and also for society, housing, education, economic growth, material assets, physical resources, active travel, water resources, natural resources and landscape character. Option 2A provides the opportunity to have a hierarchy that more sustainably represents current populations, facilities and services.							
The preferred option					2A							
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects					Other government policies; mitigation, settlement development limits, housing allocations, climate change adaption measures, planning conditions, water conservation measures, building design guides, conservation guidelines, biodiversity enhancement measures, other planning policy.							



### Issue 3: Spatial Growth Strategy

	<b>3A: Focus major population growth and economic development in the three Main Towns, facilitate appropriate growth in our small towns and sustain rural communities living in and around villages, small settlements and the open countryside.</b>			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
<b>1... improve health and well-being.</b>	+	+	+	Focused growth, providing access to healthcare, leisure centres, recreational activities in urban areas. Slight link through meeting places, shared spaces which enable community cohesion and social interaction which is all positive for mental health and wellbeing. Villages and small settlements provide a support network in the wider countryside.
<b>2... strengthen society.</b>	+	+	+	Focused growth helping to provide facilities/services to help improve community cohesion. Provision of open/shared spaces and green spaces for people to meet and use help to build a support network in both urban and rural areas. Social interaction can be enabled by focusing growth and services in key areas. Villages and small settlements enable a support network in the wider countryside.
<b>3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.</b>	+	+	+	Focused growth should help provide the potential for a wider type of housing across the Borough i.e. various tenures to reflect population needs including social and affordable houses and those that are energy efficient.
<b>4... enable access to high quality education</b>	+	+	+	Able to maintain population and therefore help to sustain local schools in three Main Towns, small towns and in rural communities.
<b>5... enable sustainable economic growth.</b>	+	+	+	Focuses growth and groups the majority of the population and major employment in the same locations. Can enable the most efficient use of the Borough in terms of economic use by focusing growth in key areas and then enabling adequate transport links for these businesses and commuters.
<b>6... manage material assets sustainably.</b>	+	+	+	Focuses appropriate level of services and facilities in settlements to reflect the needs of the population that live there. Able to reflect and plan for energy demands, necessary infrastructure, reuse of vacant/contaminated land in high pressure zones (in all areas), and provide appropriate waste management facilities. Focused growth in a descending scale i.e. towns to small towns and so on, enables appropriate support for those populations.
<b>7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.</b>	+	+	+	Minimises loss of greenfield sites and the potential for other forms of land use by focusing development in settlements and in a descending scale i.e. growth based on local need. Approach helps to avoid conflict with mineral sites and earth science sites. More control feasible under this approach as development contained in settlements where there are more opportunities to redevelop on brownfield sites, however there will be a degree of greenfield sites lost in the rural area to sustain appropriate growth.
<b>8... encourage active and sustainable travel.</b>	+	+	+	All the main towns have both train and bus links. Focusing growth and populations to urban areas enables people to conveniently access public transport. Is able to focus on provision of active travel options for the majority of people to opt for either as their commute or just in general day-to-day travel. Again using a hierarchy of scale to areas in the Borough helps to focus adequate facilities/services to meet the local need. Rural areas are not excluded and part of their sustainability is ensuring adequate public transport and active travel connections are in place.

9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	Ballymena has AQMAs for PM10 and NO2 so any further growth and development may risk further reducing air quality in these areas. Transport emissions are the main cause. Smoke control areas are in place but development in general and increasing populations usually involve some impact on air quality. Focusing growth in key areas may reduce local air quality from increases in transport, economic and residential sources but whether this would be significant or not is unknown. It is uncertain what type of emissions may need to be considered and to what extent i.e. area and time. There are other options to using the private car and increased access to gas and renewable energy sources for heating. Behavioural change is also a consideration with this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	Focused population growth and development in settlements requires new housing and heating, and usually increased levels of traffic. This general development may lead to increases in greenhouse gas emissions but renewables and gas are much more accessible, and active and sustainable travel options more available. New housing and buildings can be constructed using recycled materials and should be more efficient and can reduce energy needs, reuse water and integrate adaptation measures to local infrastructure i.e. SuDS. Overall uncertain if option could achieve this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Focused approach helps to encourage growth in appropriate areas with adequate facilities and services including water infrastructure. Less septic tanks in rural areas should occur in the future with growth directed to the main towns and small towns. Should also help with plans for adequate provision of resources. Floodplains should remain avoided and this aspect of water conservation protected.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Efficient use of land. Protects natural heritage particularly in the wider countryside by focusing development in settlements. May help to reduce pressure on some greenfield areas and inappropriate development pressure in rural areas by focusing growth to a scale. Redevelopment and urban development can present biodiversity issues but mitigation is feasible. Focused approach helps to cluster development and separate from the natural heritage resource.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Able to protect by using measures such as local landscape policy areas and landscape wedges. Focusing development in settlements, particularly reusing brownfield sites helps to consolidate development to an appropriate scale and avoid sprawl into the wider landscape from either urban areas or smaller settlements which helps protect the wider landscape. The approach fits well with this objective. There is also an element of local building design and local landscaping standards.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	Depends on local baseline conditions. Built and cultural heritage in urban and rural areas is evident and other policies can be used to protect this heritage. Focusing growth in settlements enables and encourages reuse of buildings (vacant/historic/dilapidated), which goes some way to conserve built heritage across the Borough but overall the link between the option and objective is negligible.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				This option scored positive against most objectives. The option reflects the Regional Development Strategy, the settlement hierarchy and their approach to land zoning.
The preferred option				3A
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects				Planning conditions, biodiversity enhancement measures, other planning policies, landscape associated designations (local landscape policy areas and landscape wedges), traffic calming measures, active travel options

	i.e. green infrastructure, compatible adjacent land uses, no development in floodplains, building design guides, local building/design conservation measures, green building design.
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## Issue 4: Strategic Housing Allocation

	<p>4B: Maintain the status quo in terms of housing allocation based on the proportion of households living in the main towns, small towns, villages, small settlements and countryside at the time of the 2011 Census.</p> <p>(Therefore, allocate 58.5% of the projected HGI figure to main towns, 14.9% to small towns, 6.6% to villages, 1.8% to small settlements and 18.2% to the countryside.)</p>				<p>4A: Maintain the status quo in terms of housing allocation based on the proportion of households living in the main towns, small towns at the time of the 2011 Census and increase the percentage of housing growth to villages and small settlements at the expense of the open countryside.</p> <p>(Therefore, allocate 58.5% of the projected HGI figure to main towns, 14.9% to small towns, 9.6% to villages, 5% to small settlements and 12% to the countryside.)</p>				<p>4C: Increase the ability to meet the RDS 60% brownfield target in settlements over 5,000.</p> <p>(Therefore, allocate 70% of the projected HGI figure to main towns, 14.9% to small towns, 6.6% to villages, 2.5% to small settlements and 6% to the countryside).</p>			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Less dispersal with focused growth so enabling better access to facilities/services for the majority of people.	+	+	+	Less dispersal with focused growth so enabling better access to facilities/services for the majority of people. Less impacts on the wider countryside and at same time more focus on villages and small settlements. This option thought to be able to deliver slightly more for this objective as potential for a more equal approach.	+	+	+	Focus very much on the main towns which contain facilities/services with the majority of people but may place rural people at a disadvantage; may exacerbate health issues e.g. noise in higher density areas.
2... strengthen society	+	+	+	Maintains existing urban areas and continues to allow a degree of growth in rural areas which helps to maintain cohesion.	+	+	+	Maintains existing urban areas and continues to allow a degree of growth in rural areas which helps to maintain cohesion. This option thought to be able to deliver slightly more for this objective as potential for a more equal approach.	0	0	0	Urban focus that may help to strengthen society in those areas but could also potentially reduce social cohesion in rural communities. Urban areas very often have societal inequality. Overall this option would have a negligible effect on the objective.

3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Urban focused but other locations also considered, particularly the wider countryside. Urban focus suits providers such as the NIHE.	+	+	+	Urban focused but other locations more equally considered particularly the villages and smaller settlements. Urban focus suits providers such as the NIHE. Housing allocated based on RDS so should be sustainable.	+	+	+	High urban focus with greater emphasis on increasing ability to meet brownfield site target (RDS). Suits providers such as the NIHE. This option thought to be able to deliver slightly more for this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Urban focus but slightly more dispersed population in villages and the wider countryside which could help support rural schools.	+	+	+	Urban focus but slightly more dispersed population in villages, small settlements and the wider countryside which could help support rural schools.	+	+	+	Urban focus and much less dispersal in the wider countryside though still some and with villages and small settlements. May impact on primary level education in rural areas as emphasis for education is focused on urban areas.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Positive for economic growth across the settlement hierarchy including the rural area.	+	+	+	Positive for economic growth across the settlement hierarchy including rural areas. Helping to sustain areas where other types of growth i.e. housing, are focused. Should be a sustainable approach as less dispersal in the wider countryside so directing development/growth to focused areas.	+	+	+	Positives for economic growth in urban areas but probably some negatives for growth in rural communities. The urban focus under this option provides greater opportunity to reuse brownfield sites and deliver more in urban areas.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Urban focused but dispersal evident through the lower settlement hierarchy and wider countryside so possible impacts on adequate infrastructure and provision of facilities/services to all people. Good opportunities for reusing brownfield sites.	+	+	+	Urban focused but dispersal evident through the lower settlement hierarchy. Possible impacts on ability to provide adequate infrastructure and provision of facilities/services to all people. Good opportunities for reusing brownfield sites. Possible higher level of consolidation of	+	+	+	Urban focused option with greater emphasis to reuse vacant/derelict/contaminated land.



								provision of services/facilities under this option.				
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Urban focus so able to avoid mineral and earth science sites but dispersal evident through lower tiers of settlement hierarchy. Potential loss of greenfield sites in settlements and in the open countryside. Potential to use brownfield sites.	+	+	+	Urban focus so able to avoid mineral and earth science sites but dispersal evident through lower tiers of settlement hierarchy. Potential loss of greenfield sites in settlements and in the open countryside but potential to also use brownfield sites in settlements.	+	+	+	Urban focused option means there is less dispersal in the lower settlement hierarchy and less risk of loss of greenfield sites as well as higher ability to reuse brownfield sites in the urban areas.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Focus is evident on the lower settlement hierarchy so car use may be encouraged and associated infrastructure required. Requirement for public transport to accommodate people would be expected and new housing should encourage walking/cycling in the local area.	+	+	+	Focus is evident on the lower settlement hierarchy so car use may be encouraged and associated infrastructure required. Requirement for public transport to accommodate people would be expected and new housing should encourage walking/cycling in the local area.	+	+	+	Urban focus would place more emphasis on public transport and possibly encourage active travel through location of housing near to jobs, services and facilities.
9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	More people in the urban areas but still distribution through other levels of the settlement hierarchy and across the wider countryside. Density could be offset by active travel and energy efficient houses but the impact on air quality is uncertain. Behavioural change also a consideration.	?	?	?	More people in the urban areas but still distribution through other levels of the settlement hierarchy and across the wider countryside. Density could be offset by active travel and energy efficient houses but the impact on air quality is uncertain. Behavioural change also a consideration.	?	?	?	Population focused in urban areas and much less through the other levels of the settlement hierarchy and the wider countryside. Density could be offset by active travel and energy efficient houses but the impact on air quality is uncertain. Behavioural change also a consideration.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	Development and associated infrastructure likely to emit greenhouse gas emissions. Increases need for transport which may increase emissions. Travel	?	?	?	Development by and associated infrastructure likely to emit greenhouse gas emissions. Increases need for transport which may increase emissions. Travel	?	?	?	Development by and associated infrastructure likely to emit greenhouse gas emissions. Increases need for transport which may increase emissions. Travel

				options more likely to include active/sustainable travel. Urban focus may help reduce loss of greenfield sites but some still likely. Access to and use of renewables and/or gas heating more feasible. Adaptation measures feasible. Pros and cons for this objective and overall effect uncertain.				options more likely to include active/sustainable travel. Urban focus may help reduce loss of greenfield sites but some still likely. Access to and use of renewables and/or gas heating more feasible. Adaptation measures feasible. Pros and cons for this objective and overall effect uncertain.				options more likely to include active/sustainable travel. Urban focus may help reduce loss of greenfield sites but some still likely. Access to and use of renewables and/or gas heating more feasible. Pros and cons for this objective and overall effect uncertain.
<b>11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	Wider scope for potential water pollution particularly through the wider countryside under this option although mitigation is feasible. Increasing populations and development pressure in rural areas would increase reliance on septic tanks and existing wastewater treatment works that may already be near capacity. Pros and cons to this option and some uncertainty.	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	Wider scope for potential water pollution particularly through the wider countryside under this option although mitigation is feasible. Increasing populations and development pressure in rural areas would increase reliance on septic tanks and existing wastewater treatment works that may already be near capacity. May be more potential to focus on existing infrastructure and enhance local services if required. Pros and cons to this option and some uncertainty.	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	Able to manage potential water pollution within the urban area where the development is focused. Less dependence on septic tanks and less pressure exerted on rural services/facilities. Able to take advantage of larger wastewater infrastructure associated with urban areas though enhancement may still be required.
<b>12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	Focus is on larger settlements so able to avoid much of the natural heritage resource and use brownfield sites as well but there is also a degree of housing growth in the wider countryside. Potential loss of greenfield sites likely so mitigation would be required to avoid or reduce any negative impacts.	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	Focus is on larger settlements but also a degree of housing growth to the smaller settlements and villages which enables concentrated development avoiding impacts through wider countryside and enabling higher level of use of brownfield sites. Potential loss of greenfield sites still likely but potential to use	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	Minimises development in the wider countryside and focuses on the main towns, which reduces potential loss of greenfield sites and avoids wider development of the natural heritage resource. Potential to use brownfield sites and apply mitigation to avoid impacts on biodiversity. This option thought to be able to deliver slightly more for this objective.

								mitigation to avoid or reduce negative impacts.				
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Higher risk of impacts on open countryside although the focus is on urban areas. There is potential for growth through the open countryside and it may be difficult to manage local impacts but growth linked to the existing settlement hierarchy and HGI; reuse of brownfield sites is still feasible and other policies still required to be adhered.	+	+	+	Slight risk of impacts on open countryside although the focus is on settlements and efficient use of land. There is potential for growth through the wider countryside and it may be difficult to manage local impacts but reuse of brownfield sites is feasible and other policies still required to be adhered.	+	+	+	Encourages contained and compact urban growth. Less impact across rural areas but growth still enabled. Use of brownfield land still expected and other policies required to be adhered.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	?	?	?	Lack of spatial information on exact location of growth areas means there is uncertainty with this option. There may be impacts on local built and cultural heritage although focus is on urban areas.	?	?	?	Lack of spatial information on exact location of growth areas means there is uncertainty with this option. There may be impacts on local built and cultural heritage although focus is on urban areas.	?	?	?	Lack of spatial information on exact location of growth areas means there is uncertainty with this option. There may be impacts on local built and cultural heritage although focus is on urban areas.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				All options scored similarly to each other against each objective with positive scores for all options against health and wellbeing, housing, education, economy, material assets, physical resources, active travel and natural resources. There were uncertainties for all options against air quality, climate change, water resources and built/cultural heritage. Option C may be able to deliver slightly more on several objectives such as housing, material assets, natural resources and landscape but there is a lack of emphasis on the rural communities. Option 4A is preferable as it presents a fairer distribution of housing across the hierarchy with growth still focused on the main hubs where services/facilities can support the populations but not to the detriment of the rural area.								
The preferred option				4A								
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects				Key site requirements; mitigation for pollution pathways; enhanced infrastructural works; biodiversity enhancement measures; management plans; landscaping plans; site mitigation – planning conditions; landscape planning policy, blue/green infrastructure in housing concept plans, efficiency measures in building designs.								

## Issue 5: Retail Hierarchy

	5B: Align the Retail Hierarchy with the proposed Settlement Hierarchy for MEA.				5A: Align the retail hierarchy with the proposed settlement hierarchy, but also include potential district and/or local centres that may be designated through the LDP.				5C: Designate only Ballymena, Larne and Carrickfergus town centres as the main focus of retail development and have minimal intervention by the LDP below this level.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Settlements with a retail offer may facilitate meeting places such as cafés contributing to good mental health however overall, this option has a negligible effect on this objective	0	0	0	Settlements within the hierarchy and district and local centres will provide the best opportunities for retail and associated uses such as cafés which provide meeting places for people contributing to good mental health however overall, this option has a negligible effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option will help facilitate footfall which contributes towards opportunities for retail and associated uses such as café's which provide meeting places for people contributing to good mental health However this will have an impact on only the 3 town centres. Overall, this option has a negligible effect on this objective
2... strengthen society	0	0	0	Settlements with a retail offer may facilitate meeting places such as cafes. Overall, this option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Including settlements within the hierarchy and district and local centres will provide the best opportunities for retail and associated uses such as café's which provide meeting places for people. Meeting places and shared spaces are important resources for community cohesion. Overall however this option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option will help facilitate footfall which contributes towards opportunities for retail and associated uses such as café's which provide meeting places for people. Meeting places and shared spaces are important resources for community cohesion. However this will have an impact on only the three town centres. Overall, this option has a negligible effect on this objective
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Aligning the retail hierarchy with the proposed Settlement Hierarchy would help to promote the 3 main	+	+	+	This option allows retention and consolidation of existing district and local centres as locations for	+	+	+	Option 5C would allow the 3 main towns to be promoted as the first choice locations for retail and

				town centres as the first choice locations for major retailing, retail warehousing and majority of leisure, social and cultural uses. This option would allow reclassified settlements to provide a mix of retail facilities, supermarkets, restaurants and community facilities could add vitality. It would support employment and ensure that retail opportunities in town centres would help support their vitality and vibrancy. However, given the geographical location of existing and proposed small towns, both Carrickfergus and Ballymena could lose out to smaller settlements.				everyday shopping, whilst ensuring they are complementary to the retail offer in town centres. It would allow reclassified settlements to provide a mix of retail facilities, supermarkets, restaurants and community facilities could add vitality. It would support employment and ensure that retail opportunities in town centres would help support their vitality and vibrancy.				other main town centre uses however it is a missed opportunity to promote the small towns as the best location for complementary uses which are not in competition with the main towns. It would support employment and ensure that retail opportunities in town centres would help support their vitality and vibrancy.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This will provide some opportunities for using active travel for everyday shopping.	+	+	+	This option should provide the best opportunity for people to use active travel for everyday shopping as well as complementary uses in small towns	0	0	0	This option where retail is only aligned with the main towns could lead to more public transport or active travel. However it could also lead to use of out of town shopping which is largely car driven.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option will encourage active travel and the use of public transport which could contribute to better air quality.	0	0	0	As discussed in objective 8 this option should provide the best opportunity for people to use public transport, and could contribute to better air quality.	?	?	?	This option could lead to more car use for everyday items. It will encourage active travel in the three main towns but less so in other settlements.

10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	May be reduction in climate change emissions. Overall, this option has negligible effect on this objective	0	0	0	May be slight reduction in climate change related emissions. Overall, this option has negligible effect on this objective	?	?	?	Uncertain what the effect on climate change emissions would be as it may increase car use to the main towns potentially offset by some reduction of travel within them.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Allows for and encourages regeneration, throughout hierarchy.	+	+	+	Allows for and encourages regeneration and reduced vacancy levels throughout hierarchy.	+	+	+	Mainly within the town centres this option allows for and encourages regeneration and has the potential to reduce vacancy levels.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				The three options have negligible or uncertain effects on the majority of sustainability objectives but all are likely to contribute positively to the historic environment. Option A also was considered to have a positive effect on encouraging active and sustainable travel. All of the options could have positive impact on economic growth but option A is likely to have a significantly positive effect.								
The preferred option				5A								
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects				Retail analysis; criteria for district and local centres; key site requirements if appropriate.								

## Issue 6: Location of Class B1 Business Uses

	6B: Restrict Class B1 Business uses to Town Centres only.				6C: Only allow such development in Town Centres, and District and Local Centres that may be brought forward through the Plan.				6A: Allow such development in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres, and within economic development zonings (or identified parts thereof) as part of a sequential approach.				6D: Allow such development anywhere within settlement limits where a need can be demonstrated.			
Sustainability Objective	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Slight link – ease of access to workplace, which reduces stress/worry; potential lateral effects such as reducing car travel and improving air quality too. Overall, this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Positive links for society. Maintains footfall and social interaction in the town and focuses on growth in the town centres.	+	+	+	Positive links for society. Maintains footfall and social interaction in the town and focuses on growth in the town centres but also spreads the potential benefits of this to other centres.	+	+	+	Positive links for society. Maintains footfall and social interaction in the town and focuses on growth in the town centres but also spreads the potential benefits of this to other centres. In addition it could be feasible to allow similar growth in the economically zoned lands. This option could therefore deliver slightly more for this objective.	0	0	0	Positive links for society. Also potential for such growth in any area where need is demonstrated. This may however negatively impact upon town centres and detract from areas more suitable for such ventures such as zoned economic areas. Pros and cons for society under this option.



3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Most positive for business in town centres but has limited scope as may not be any space in town centre or may not suit the business to be located there.  Option helps to focus growth in the one area with adequate resources available i.e. sustainable.	+	+	+	Positive for business in town centres and other centres which enables more options for businesses about location/services/facilities/resources.  Option helps to focus growth in main centres with adequate resources available i.e. sustainable.	+	+	+	Positive for business in town centres and other centres which enables more options for businesses about location/services/facilities/resources.  Option helps to focus growth in main centres with adequate resources available i.e. sustainable. Wider scope and balance feasible under this option by including economic zoned lands so this option could deliver slightly more for this objective.	+	+	+	No real restrictions on location for the businesses/investors; most attractive for the investor but possibly less sustainable as potentially located anywhere with need.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Fixed location ensures focus on existing infrastructure and helps to direct future growth plans to also focus on those areas. Positives for using up vacant/derelict land in centres and reducing land take elsewhere.	+	+	+	Fixed locations ensures focus on existing infrastructure and helps to direct future growth plans to also focus on the central areas. Positives for using up vacant/derelict land in centres and reducing land take elsewhere and being well located for waste facilities.	+	+	+	Fixed locations ensures focus on existing infrastructure and helps to direct future growth plans to also focus on the central areas. Positives for using up vacant/derelict land in centres and reducing land take elsewhere. In addition economically zoned land could be added to by such business and benefit from appropriate and existing	0	0	0	Fixed locations in part would sustainably use local infrastructure and may benefit from brownfield sites and adequate waste management facilities. Other sites feasible anywhere if need shown so less control / ability to manage material assets sustainably.

									local infrastructure, suitable land and facilities/services.							
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Positive for avoiding greenfield site/development. Avoids land take that would detract from other uses. Option should not inhibit potential geothermal energy development. Helps to focus development on key areas.	+	+	+	Positive for avoiding land take in several types of centre that would detract from other land uses but there is the risk of loss of some greenfield sites within the other centres outside of towns. Option should not inhibit potential geothermal energy development. Option helps to focus development on key/main areas.	+	+	+	Positive for avoiding land take in several types of centre that would detract from other land uses but there is the risk of loss of some greenfield sites within the other centres outside of towns. Option should not inhibit potential geothermal energy development. Option helps to focus development on key/main areas and enables set-up in zoned lands for economic use.	+	+	+	Positive for avoiding land take in several types of centre that would detract from other land uses but there is the risk of loss of some greenfield sites within the other centres outside of towns. Option should not inhibit potential geothermal energy development. Option helps to focus development on key/main areas and enables set-up in zoned lands for economic use though there is still a risk of loss of greenfield. If “need” is demonstrated anywhere within settlements it may be feasible which may help reduce any need to lose greenfield sites.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Focused on town centres so helping to encourage commuting to one place; existing infrastructure can enable use of public transport but active travel should also be encouraged. Potential to encourage group travel/car sharing options with more workers based in the same area.	+	+	+	Focused on varying types of centre so helping to encourage travel to main places of work. Existing infrastructure can enable use of public transport but active travel should also be encouraged. Higher potential to encourage group travel/car sharing options with more workers based in the key areas. May	+	+	+	Focused on varying types of centre so helping to encourage travel to main places of work. Existing infrastructure can enable use of public transport but active travel should also be encouraged. Higher potential to encourage group travel/car sharing options and this may remain important for	+	+	+	Focused on varying types of centre so helping to encourage travel to main places of work. Existing infrastructure can enable use of public transport but active travel should also be encouraged. Higher potential to encourage group travel/car sharing options. New locations based on need anywhere in





				negligible effect on objective.					negligible effect on objective.					negligible effect on objective.		
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Avoiding greenfield site development. More feasible to utilise brownfield land or reuse existing buildings without any biodiversity issues. Scope for integration of biodiversity measures.	+	+	0	Helping to avoid greenfield site development though possibly only in the short to medium term as likely to occur within the new centres. Still scope to develop brownfield land, reuse buildings and integrate biodiversity measures so overall in the long term, the option thought to have a negligible effect.	+	+	0	Helping to avoid greenfield site development though possibly only in the short to medium term as likely to occur within the new centres. This option also enables use for B1 in economic zones so greenfield losses may be avoided if zones already developed. Still scope to develop brownfield land, reuse buildings and integrate biodiversity measures so overall in the long term, the option thought to have a negligible effect. Option could deliver slightly more for this objective with the wider scope of potential sites to choose.	+	+	0	Helping to avoid greenfield site development though possibly only in the short term as likely to occur within the new centres. B1 could be anywhere if need supported but retained to within settlement development limits. Still scope to develop brownfield land, reuse buildings and integrate biodiversity measures so overall in long term option thought to have a negligible effect.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on this objective.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Potential to maintain existing town centre buildings and retain character by reusing buildings or integrating with the local building designs and streetscapes.	+	+	+	Potential to maintain existing centre buildings and retain character by reusing buildings or integrating with the local building designs and streetscapes.	+	+	+	Potential to maintain existing centre buildings and retain character by reusing buildings or integrating with the local building designs and streetscapes.	0	0	0	More development may go to more modern locations on the outskirts of settlement limits therefore there may be less potential to maintain existing centre buildings and retain character by reusing buildings or integrating



## Issue 7: Availability of Start-up / Grow-on Business Space

	7B: Only utilise redundant buildings or land last used for economic development.				7C: Only provide for start-up and grow-on business space specifically within economic development land/zonings by identifying land to be used specifically for start-up and grow-on business space.				7D: Tailor policies to enable a more flexible approach in the countryside.				7A: Provide for start-up and grow-on business space within economic development land/zonings by identifying land to be used specifically for start-up and grow-on business space, and utilise redundant buildings or land last used for economic development within settlements.			
Sustainability Objective	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Possible links to improving local communities and empowering local people by reusing sites/buildings and bringing people to area. Could help to improve locally deprived areas. May prove a slight disadvantage to rural communities.	+	+	+	Possible links to improving local communities and empowering local people by identifying suitable land in zones. Could help to improve locally deprived areas.	0	0	0	Current policy enables such ventures in the countryside and in rural communities already. Equitable system in place.  This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	+	+	+	Using redundant sites is positive for local people/communities and helps improve sense of identity, local pride and security. Potential positives from identifying new lands for local communities as brings with it potential employment.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Slight link to enabling access to skills training and youth employment but overall this option would	0	0	0	Slight link to enabling access to skills training and youth employment but overall this option would	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Slight link to enabling access to skills training and youth employment but overall this option would

				have a negligible effect on the objective.					have a negligible effect on the objective.							have a negligible effect on the objective.	
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Reusing buildings and vacant sites to bring new business to the area all very positive. Option fully addresses the objective.	+	+	+		Finding new land to use in zones and to bring new business to the area all very positive. Option fully addresses the objective.	0	-	-	Current policies are appropriate for start-ups in rural areas. There is the risk in the mid to long term that there may be loss of greenfield sites and a wider spread of economic development across the countryside, placing pressure on resources over a wider area. Higher risk of inappropriate development.	+	+	+	Option offers the widest scope of benefits by reusing buildings and land but also identifying new land in economic zones for start-ups. All resources required should be available in these zones and areas. This option could deliver more for this objective.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Reusing brownfield sites or vacant land and availing of existing infrastructure and facilities such as waste management, all positives for this objective. Able to centralise businesses and associated energy needs with others, which is sustainable.	+	+	+		Using land in economic zones avails of existing infrastructure and facilities such as waste management, all positives for this objective. Most likely to centralise businesses and associated energy needs etcetera with others in most appropriate locations which is sustainable.	-	-	-	May lead to higher risk of start-up development placing pressure on resources/facilities to serve across a wider area. Less centralised approach with regards to (electrical) infrastructure, land use and supporting services.	+	+	+	Option offers the widest scope of benefits by reusing buildings and land but also identifying new land in economic zones for start-ups. All resources required should be available in these zones and areas.  This option could deliver slightly more for this objective due to its wider approach.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Avoids loss of greenfield sites and avoids mineral and earth science areas. Avoids impacts on other land uses. Should have no impact on future viability of geothermal energy.	+	+	+		Helps to avoid loss of greenfield sites but some may still occur. Avoids mineral and earth science areas and should have no impact on future viability of geothermal energy.	-	-	-	Could enable much more development across the wider countryside and/or associated works. Higher risk of impacts on physical resources and loss of land with potential for soil/land pollution. Potentially a much less centralised	+	+	+	Option offers the widest scope of benefits for minimal land take by reusing buildings and land but also identifying new land in economic zones for start-ups. Option enables avoidance of important



									approach to protection of physical resources.				sites linked to this objective.  This option could deliver slightly more for this objective due to its wider approach.			
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Potential sites located near populated areas so able to cater to sustainable travel options more easily. Active travel probably more feasible for people to opt for as well.	+	+	+	Some zones are located well for sustainable travel and active travel options. Potential to integrate active travel to any new sites identified and futureproof for this objective.	-	-	-	This option would not encourage active and sustainable travel as more potential for car travel to be involved with rural locations.	+	+	+	Option offers the widest scope of benefits by using sites near populations and existing transport and active travel routes. New sites have the potential to integrate plans to help achieve the objective.  This option could deliver more for this objective due to its wider scope in approach.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Location of land good for populations and travel but reuse of land for business may still affect local air quality conditions.  Pros and cons however, overall, this option thought to have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option unlikely to improve local air quality conditions although it would place business in the most suitable/sustainable locations.  Overall, option thought to have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Much depends on approach taken to extent of potential flexibilities under this option. Assuming background levels are ok, option is unlikely to improve air quality.  Overall option thought to have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Location of land good for populations and travel but reuse of land for business may still affect local air quality conditions. Pros and cons.  This option unlikely to improve local air quality conditions although it would place business in the most suitable/sustainable locations.  Overall, this option thought to have a negligible effect on the objective.

10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Unlikely to reduce greenhouse gas emissions but reusing vacant land should help reduce any use of greenfield sites, which may act as adaptation areas. Overall, this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Unlikely to reduce greenhouse gas emissions but using economic zones may help to reduce use of greenfield sites that may act as adaptation areas. Overall, this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	?	?	?	Unlikely to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Potential for loss of greenfield sites that may act as adaptation areas but depends on approach taken within countryside. Option may increase car travel. More uncertainties with this option.	0	0	0	Unlikely to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Potential to integrate adaptation measures to any new sites identified. Overall, this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	?	?	?	Location/spatial information needed. Slight uncertainty.	?	?	?	Locations and spatial information needed. Slight uncertainty.	?	?	?	Locations and spatial information needed. Slight uncertainty.	?	?	?	Locations and spatial information needed. Slight uncertainty.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Using old buildings and sites helps to avoid greenfield sites and avoids impacts to natural heritage resource.	+	0	0	Using existing zonings avoids development in the wider countryside although there may be some greenfield sites developed in the mid to long term. These sites should be strategically chosen and mitigation on site still feasible.	?	?	?	Slightly higher risk of development across the wider countryside and risk of loss of greenfield sites as well as impacts on natural heritage resource. Mitigation still applicable but uncertainty under this option as option does not mean applicants will resort to basing themselves in the countryside.	+	+	+	Option offers the widest scope of benefits by reusing buildings and land but also developing in appropriately zoned locations or identifying new sites that are presumably based on sustainability.  Mitigation feasible for ecological impacts.  This option thought to be able to deliver slightly more for this objective.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Able to reuse old buildings/redundant sites to help conserve local character and at same time	0	+	+	Use existing sites to avoid development of inappropriate areas. May or may not achieve objective	0	0	0	Development feasible which may include reuse of old buildings/sites/land	+	+	+	Able to reuse old buildings/sites/land and conserve local character in doing so. Could use

				avoid undeveloped areas. Potential to approach sites with objective in mind.				but potential to approach newly identified sites with this objective in mind and regenerate areas by reusing suitable old buildings/sites/land is feasible.  Potential positives in mid to long term.				though maybe on a fairly small scale.  Other policy still applicable so this option may only have a negligible effect on the objective.				objective as part of any regeneration project of new sites. Wider scope of influence under this option and potential to achieve objective.
<b>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives</b>					Some quite different scorings across options and against the objectives. Option D scored least favourably with negative outcomes for economy, material assets, physical resources and active travel, and uncertainties for climate change, water and natural resources. Options B, C and D had similar scorings with positives for society and active travel. Positive outcomes were also scored for natural resources and built/cultural heritage but over varying timeframes. Significant positive outcomes were also scored for all options against economy and for options A and B against material assets and physical resources. Overall Option A, with its wider scope of influence and potential to deliver benefits, particularly for economy, material assets, physical resources, active travel and natural resources, is the most sustainable.											
<b>The preferred option</b>					7A											
<b>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</b>					Key site requirements - links with local transport system and/or active travel routes; site specific mitigation measures i.e. climate change adaptation measures; design guides; planning conditions – boundary planting, noise control measures; biodiversity enhancement measures; other planning policies.											

## Issue 8: Alternative Uses on land zoned for Economic Development

	8B: Safeguard land zoned for economic development use for industrial, business and storage and distribution uses only (currently defined in Part B ‘Industrial and Business Uses’ of the Planning (Use Classes) Order (NI) 2015).				8A: Allow alternative compatible economic uses/business falling outside Part B ‘Industrial and Business Uses’ within zoned economic development land. This would include for the sale or display of motor vehicles; as a scrapyards; or a yard for the storage or distribution of minerals; or the breaking of motor vehicles.				8C: Allow retail, commercial leisure and other alternative uses falling outside Part B ‘Industrial and Business Uses’ within zoned economic development land.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Ensure land is safeguarded for appropriate uses avoids negative impacts i.e. nuisances on local communities and workers alike.	+	+	+	Ensure land is safeguarded for appropriate uses and consider adjacent uses for pre-determined compatibility. Avoids negative impacts i.e. nuisances on local communities and workers alike.	-	-	-	Enables more land uses within economic zonings and may lead to a higher risk of inappropriate land uses. Less control under this option to manage compatibility and avoid nuisances on locals including workers.
2... strengthen society	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	-	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Promotes safeguarding of land for appropriate economic use and encourages land use for economic growth in assigned zones.	+	+	+	Promotes safeguarding of land for appropriate economic use and encourages land use for economic growth in assigned zones. This option able to promote more uses within these zones based on compatibility which itself would help to sustain the businesses.	-	-	-	Enabling retail in these zones may detract that type of business from town centres where it is more ideally and historically located.  Option raises risk of damaging vitality and viability of town centres.

							This option could deliver slightly more for this objective.					
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Using existing sites zoned for economic use therefore able to benefit from existing and adequate infrastructure and land, and associated facilities/services for waste management and energy use.	+	+	+	Using existing sites zoned for economic use therefore able to benefit from existing and adequate infrastructure and land, and associated facilities/services re waste management and energy use etcetera.	+	+	+	Using existing sites zoned for economic use therefore able to benefit from existing and adequate infrastructure and land, and associated facilities/services re waste management and energy use etcetera.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Contains businesses within zoned areas, which helps to avoid land take from other land uses and should avoid important earth science and mineral sites.  There may be some risk of loss of greenfield sites.	+	+	+	Contains businesses within zoned areas, which helps to avoid land take from other land uses and should avoid important earth science and mineral sites.  There may be some risk of loss of greenfield sites.  Compatibility of uses is key and may help reduce pressure on land in the wider countryside by enabling more into the zones.	?	?	?	Contains businesses within zoned areas, which helps to avoid land take from other land uses and should avoid important earth science and mineral sites.  There may be some risk of loss of greenfield sites.  Uncertainty with the sustainability of this option as inclusion of the retail may displace other more suitable businesses/uses.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	?	?	?	Safeguarding land for economic use does not indicate if active or sustainable travel will be enabled. Public transport not currently available to economic zones. Much depends on approach to location of zones and integration of zones to local transport system and active travel network. Focus would be on the workers.	?	?	?	Safeguarding land for economic use and enabling compatible land uses does not indicate if active or sustainable travel will be enabled. Current economic zonings are not always well located for public transport service. Much depends on approach to location of zones and integration to local transport system and active travel network. Focus would be on the workers.	-	-	-	Retail is a different type of business use than those usually associated with economically zoned land and involves/requires both workers and shoppers. This option is unable to benefit from sustainable travel in the short term as public transport doesn't serve the zones. There is the risk of increasing the amount of car journeys over time. Shoppers are unlikely to use walking/cycling if they have to carry lots of goods. Much depends on the location of

												zones and approach to retail uses within them as buses may be put on in future but retail traditionally located in town centres as a more sustainable location.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Any management on compatible land uses would be a positive for air quality as potential nuisances could be avoided.  Although this option would have a negligible effect on this objective, it could still deliver slightly more.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Slight link to using existing infrastructure and adequate facilities but this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Slight link to using existing infrastructure and adequate facilities but this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Slight link to using existing infrastructure and adequate facilities but this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Slight link in that zoned sites are used and the wider countryside and natural heritage are avoided. Overall, this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Slight link in that zoned sites are used and the wider countryside and natural heritage are avoided. Overall, this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Slight link in that zoned sites are used and the wider countryside and natural heritage are avoided. Overall, this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.



## Issue 9: Range of Town Centre Uses

	9B: Set out strategic criteria applicable to all town centres in Borough in relation to the protection and enhancement of diversity of uses, including retail and main town centre uses.				9C: Only define Primary Retail Core in some or all town centres) accompanied by policy to substantially protect and promote retail uses on ground floor frontages in these areas.				9D: Only designate specific sites in the town centres for mixed use development (retail and other town centre uses).				9E: Have minimal Plan intervention allowing flexibility by assessing planning applications on their merits.				9A: This option would define a Primary Retail Core (within some or all town centres) accompanied by policy to substantially protect and promote retail uses on ground floor frontages in these areas and designate specific sites in the town centres for mixed use development (retail and other town centre uses).			
Sustainability Objective	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	This option could improve vitality and viability within town centres, and help the night time economy. This could help to support meeting places in the town centres	+	+	+	This option could improve vitality and viability within town centres.	+	+	+	This option could improve vitality and viability within town centres, and help the night time economy. This could help to support meeting places in the town centres.	0	0	0	This option offers less opportunity to shape town centres and help to support places for people to meet in town centres.	+	+	+	This option could improve vitality and viability within town centres, and help the night time economy. This could help to support meeting places in the town centres.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	This option provides an opportunity for an additional type of tenure in a new location with	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	+	+	+	This option provides an opportunity for an additional type of tenure in a new location with	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	+	+	+	This option provides the greatest opportunity for an additional type of tenure in a new location with better



				better accessibility to public transport.					better accessibility to public transport.								accessibility to public transport.				
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	This option offers a range of job types, strengthens vitality and vitality of the town centre, seeks to encourage regeneration and investment and could help to stimulate the evening economy.	+	+	+	This option aims to strengthen retail offer and competition in core shopping streets, leading to increased footfall and greater viability of town centres.	+	+	+	This option allows for diversification of uses, which could help to stimulate the evening economy and helps offer a range of job types, strengthens viability and vitality of the town centre and seeks to encourage regeneration and investment	0	0	0	Minimal plan intervention means less ability to shape the role and area of the retail core.	+	+	+	+	Delivers the benefits for C and D. This option aims to encourage regeneration and investment and strengthen retail offer and competition in core shopping streets, leading to increased footfall and greater viability and vitality of town centres. It also allows for diversification of uses, which could help to stimulate the evening economy and helps offer a range of job types. This may yield significant benefits in the long term.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective	
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective	

8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	This option could decrease car use as shopping/leisure and business use would be in close proximity.	+	+	+	This option could strengthen town centre retail offer encouraging shoppers to stay longer, reducing the need to shop out of town.	+	+	+	This option could decrease car use as shopping/leisure and business use would be in close proximity.	0	0	0	This option offers less opportunity to group mixed uses requiring more need for the car.	+	+	+	This option could strengthen town centre retail offer encouraging more town centre shopping and reducing the need to shop out of town. It could also decrease car use as shopping/leisure and business use would be in close proximity. It creates the conditions, if combined with improvements in public transport, to make a significant effect in the long term.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option has negligible overall effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible overall effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible overall effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible overall effect on this objective.	?	?	?	This could increase the number of people working in town centres which might have a negative effect on local air quality. However it could mean more active travel or use of public transport which would increase air quality. Overall this option has an uncertain relationship with



	historic environment. Option E with minimal plan intervention will not contribute to delivery of the sustainability objectives and is considered to have a neutral effect.
<b>The preferred option</b>	9A
<b>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</b>	Criteria for primary retail core and sites for mixed use; related policies and key site requirements; design considerations; stakeholder engagement.

Issue 10: Protecting and Promoting Other Town Centre Uses																				
	10B: Only facilitate residential use through protection of existing housing areas and/or include housing as part of the development mix in opportunity sites				10C: Only facilitate Class B1 Business Uses on upper floor levels in the town centres including offices (other than Class A2 uses), Call centres and Research & Development facilities.				10D: Restrict these ‘other’ uses so as to reduce competition for land/buildings in the town centre, focusing on retailing and associated uses.				10E: Have minimal Plan intervention, allowing flexibility by assessing planning applications on their merits, taking account of the SPPS.				10A: This option would facilitate residential use through the protection of existing town centre housing areas and/or include housing as part of the development mix in opportunity sites while also facilitating Class B1 Business uses on upper levels in town centres			
Sustainability Objective	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	This option may result in more town centre living which could contribute the use of active travel for working and shopping. It could lead to greater town centre vitality and improved safety for residents. It could also mean that more people live close to health care facilities.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	+	+	+	This option may result in more town centre living which could contribute the use of active travel for working and shopping. It could lead to greater town centre vitality and improved safety for residents. It could also mean that more people live close to health care facilities.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Opportunity to facilitate housing in town centres could lead to increased vibrancy and	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	+	+	+	Opportunity to facilitate housing in town centres could lead to increased vibrancy and

				vitality, leading to reduced fear of crime.														vitality, leading to reduced fear of crime.		
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	This option increases the options of housing types available in terms of town centre living and possibly living above the shop. This type of housing meets the needs of those without access to cars and means accommodation can be made available close to local services.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	-	-	-	Restricting other uses reduces opportunities for town centre living which reduces the housing alternatives available, in terms of type, tenure and size.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	+	+	+	This option increases the options of housing types available in terms of town centre living and possibly living above the shop. This type of housing meets the needs of those without access to cars and means accommodation can be made available close to local services. This option also facilitates class B1 business uses on upper floor levels.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Opportunity to enhance diversity and vitality at locations in the town centres that are more accessible	+	+	+	Allowing B1 uses provides opportunities for growth and greater choice of employment in the town centres. This also may contribute to improved daytime economy	-	-	-	Restricting other uses may restrict opportunities for growth and greater employment in the town centres.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	+	+	+	This option provides the opportunity for housing to help enhance diversity and improve vitality in the town centre. Allowing B1 uses provides opportunities for

							for cafes and service providers.											growth and greater choice of employment in the town centres. This also may contribute to improved daytime economy for cafes and service providers.		
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	This option may mean less use of greenfield land required to meet housing needs.	0	0	0	This option may mean less use of green field land to meet business needs.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	+	+	+	This option may mean less use of greenfield land required to meet housing needs.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Town centre living allows active travel and the best location for making use of public transport.	+	+	+	Diversification of uses in town centres provides greater opportunities for different types of employment- which could mean commuting using active travel or public transport is more possible.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	+	+	+	Town centre living promotes active travel and is the best location for making use of public transport. Diversification of uses in town centres provides greater opportunities for different types of employment which could mean commuting using active travel or

																				public transport is more possible.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	More town centre living could mean less local air pollution from cars, and better air quality or more congestion however any effect is likely to be negligible.	?	?	?	This could increase the number of people working in town centres which might have a negative effect on local air quality. However it could mean more active travel or use of public transport which would increase air quality. Overall this option has an uncertain relationship with this sustainability objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	?	?	?	This could increase the number of people working in town centres which might have a negative effect on local air quality. However it could mean more active travel or use of public transport which would increase air quality. Overall this option has an uncertain relationship with this sustainability objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	?	?	?	This may reduce travel related emissions.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	?	?	?	This may reduce travel related emissions.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	This policy may result in some reuse of historic buildings in town	+	+	+	This policy may result in some reuse of historic buildings in town centres,	0	0	0	Less flexibility to contribute to this objective.	0	0	0	Some protection is afforded in policy but not in a strategic way.	+	+	+	This policy may result in some reuse of historic buildings in town



				centres, and contribute to their on-going retention.				and contribute to their on-going retention.											centres, and contribute to their on-going retention.
<b>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives</b>					Option C could bring a significant positive effect for economic growth and positive impacts for a number of other objectives including sustainable transport and the historic environment. Option B was considered to contribute positively to the objectives to improve health and well-being, strengthening society and providing good quality housing. Option A combines the impacts of B and C and maximises their relative benefits. It was considered to have a significantly positive effect on providing good quality sustainable housing and enabling sustainable economic growth. Option D may have an adverse effect on housing and economy through restricting other uses. Option E with minimal plan intervention will not contribute to delivery of the sustainability objectives.														
<b>The preferred option</b>					10A														
<b>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</b>					Criteria for residential areas and B1 uses in town centres; related policies and key site requirements; design considerations; stakeholder engagement.														

Issue 11: Accommodating Future Tourism Demand									
	11B: Retain current strategic approach set out in PPS 16: Tourism for accommodating tourism development in settlements and the countryside (with minor amendments).				11A: Retain current strategic policy in PPS 16: Tourism (with minor amendments) and bring forward bespoke policy tailored to the tourism potential of Vulnerable, Sensitive and Opportunity areas within the Borough.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The current approach facilitates sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	This approach with bespoke policy for vulnerable, sensitive and opportunity areas could allow a more tailored approach which could deliver more sustainable economic growth.	
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	This approach includes protection for physical resources such as earth science features, and access to mineral resources.	+	+	+	This approach includes protection for physical resources such as earth science features, and access to mineral resources.	
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Current approach protects from inappropriate development, therefore reducing the risk to water quality.	+	+	+	Current approach protects from inappropriate development, therefore reducing the risk to water quality.	
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Current approach protects natural resources and protects biodiversity from the impacts of inappropriate development.	+	+	+	This approach may deliver more to protect natural resources and biodiversity.	

<b>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</b>	+	+	+	Current approach protects landscape from inappropriate development.	+	+	+	This approach may deliver more to protect landscape from inappropriate development in sensitive and vulnerable areas.
<b>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</b>	+	+	+	Current approach protects built and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.	+	+	+	This approach may deliver more in protecting built and cultural heritage from inappropriate development in sensitive and vulnerable areas.
<b>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives</b>				Both options scored similarly across the objectives, with neutral for many of the sustainability objectives and a positive contribution to sustainability objectives for economic growth, physical and water resources, natural resource and biodiversity and landscape and the historic environment. However, it was identified that 11A would deliver more for each objective through highlighting valuable and vulnerable tourism assets and developing bespoke policy.				
<b>The preferred option</b>				11A				
<b>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</b>				Criteria for vulnerable, sensitive and opportunity categories; mapping and analysis of tourism assets; bespoke policy and/or key site requirements for identified areas.				

## Issue 12: Minerals Development - Balancing the need for minerals development with safeguarding of landscape and environmental assets

	12B: Remove the existing ACMD and facilitate minerals development entirely through the application of existing or amended policy.				12C: Safeguard mineral resources of economic or conservation value e.g. by allowing for expansion of existing quarries, and retain the existing designated Area of Salt Reserve. There would be a presumption in favour of minerals development within such areas. Apply existing / amended policy elsewhere with applications being decided on a case by case basis against policy criteria.				12A: Safeguard mineral resources of economic or conservation value e.g. by allowing for expansion of existing quarries, and retain the existing designated Area of Salt Reserve. There would be a presumption in favour of minerals development within designated Mineral Reserve Areas and other areas identified as suitable for minerals development. Apply existing / amended policy elsewhere with applications being decided on a case by case basis against policy criteria. However, there would be a presumption against minerals development within areas designated for their landscape and/or environmental/heritage significance or at least within the majority of their extent e.g. within existing, expanded or new Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMD). Elsewhere proposals would be determined against existing or amended policy on a case by case basis.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective. In areas of constraint there will be less minerals related transport and therefore less risk to safety.
2... strengthen society	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.

4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	?	?	?	Positive for minerals industry, but may be negative for tourism industry therefore the net effect is uncertain.	+	+	+	Policy allows local use of local aggregate and reflects that minerals extraction is a large employer in some parts of the council area.	+	+	+	This policy gives an overall benefit for economic development.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	This will allow minerals to be sourced locally, helping support rural communities.	+	+	+	This policy will allow materials to be sourced locally and sustainably within designated Mineral Reserve Areas and other areas identified as suitable for minerals development.	+	+	+	This is a balanced approach. It will permit materials to be sourced locally and sustainably within designated Mineral Reserve Areas and other areas identified as suitable for minerals development. It will also constrain development in areas which will ensure assets for tourism are protected.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	There could a risk to air quality overall through dust and increased transport emission however the extent of any impact would depend on the policy and spatial distribution of extraction therefore the net effect is uncertain.	?	?	?	This approach could mean production of dust in Mineral Reserve Areas reducing air quality and increased transport emissions however the extent of any impact would depend on the policy and spatial distribution of extraction therefore the net effect is uncertain.	?	?	?	Air quality could be adversely affected in Mineral Reserve Areas but improved in ACMDs. The net effect will also depend on the policy and spatial distribution of extraction therefore the net effect is uncertain.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	-	-	0	Greater risk to water quality.	-	-	0	Greater risk to water quality.	+	+	+	This approach may protect water quality in areas of constraint.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	-	-	?	This approach could lead to loss of biodiversity however this could be dealt with in restoration.	-	-	?	This approach could lead to loss of land and decrease in biodiversity in Reserve Areas, however this could be dealt with in restoration.	+	+	+	This approach may protect natural resources and biodiversity in areas of constraint.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	-	-	-	This approach could lead to changes in landscape character. It would be supported with a use of criteria and development management conditions,	-	-	-	This approach could lead to changes in landscape character in the areas of reserve and possibly additional areas. It would be supported with a use of criteria and development management conditions.	+	+	+	This approach may protect landscape character in areas of constraint.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	?	?	?	Depends upon where minerals development takes place in relation to built and cultural heritage sites. Uncertain at this stage.	?	?	?	Depends upon where minerals development takes place in relation to built and cultural heritage sites. Uncertain at this stage.	+	+	+	Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development can contribute to this objective.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				There are some uncertainties about the effects of the three options and these will be assessed further as detail on policy and spatial extent becomes available during plan preparation. Options B and C may have negative effects for water resources, natural resources and landscape in the short to medium term for each development although these may be addressed for those sites that progress to be restored. All options contribute to sustainable use of physical resources although to varying extents. Option A is likely to have a net positive effect for economic growth as well as contributing to sustainability objectives for water resources, natural resources, landscape and historic environment.								
The preferred option				12A								
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects				Criteria for Mineral Reserves Areas and Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development; mapping and analysis of mineral resources, landscape character, natural resources and historic environment assets.								

## Issue 13: Safeguard against potential subsidence and the effects of land instability

	13B: Retain the existing BMAP Areas of Potential Subsidence within the former Carrickfergus Borough and retain Policy CE 06, and assess if there are any other known areas of potential subsidence within the Borough that should be identified.				13C: Rely on existing Policy PSU10 of PSRNI to prevent development in all areas known to be at risk from land stability - including from mining, coastal erosion, landslides and other relevant causes.				13A: Combination of B and C Retain the existing BMAP Areas of Potential Subsidence within the former Carrickfergus Borough and retain Policy CE 06, and assess if there are any other known areas of potential subsidence within the Borough that should be identified. Rely on existing Policy PSU10 of PSRNI to prevent development in all areas <u>known</u> to be at risk from land stability - including from mining, coastal erosion, landslides and other relevant causes.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	This approach aims to ensure safety in areas of potential subsidence and applies in Carrickfergus and potentially other areas of potential subsidence within the Borough.	+	+	+	This approach aims to ensure safety in all areas known to be at risk from land instability.	+	+	+	Combining the other approaches gives the best potential outcome for safety from subsidence and land instability.
2... strengthen society	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.

8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	+	+	+	This approach prevents development in all areas known to be at risk from land instability including from coastal erosion. This helps to mitigate the flooding impacts of climate change.	+	+	+	This approach prevents development in all areas known to be at risk from land instability including from coastal erosion. This helps to mitigate the flooding impacts of climate change.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	+	+	+	Avoiding development in areas of coastal erosion prevents further harm.	+	+	+	Avoiding development in areas of coastal erosion prevents further harm.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	+	+	+	Reduces need for coastal defences, which has a positive impact on landscape.	+	+	+	Reduces need for coastal defences, which has a positive impact on landscape.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				The three options have no or negligible effect on many of the sustainability objectives. Options A and C allow for adaptation to climate change and also can protect habitats and landscape by avoiding development where there is a risk of coastal erosion. All options reduce the risks to health and well-being by addressing safety risks with option A having a significantly positive effect.								
The preferred option				13A								
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects				Mapping available information on all areas of risk for subsidence, land instability and coastal erosion; criteria for areas at risk of land instability; incorporation of policy.								



## Issue 14: Facilitating Social and Affordable Housing

	14B: Set out strategic policy to allow the spatial zoning of social /affordable housing sites, where a need has been identified, through the Local Policies Plan				14C: Set out strategic policy to enable the Local Policies Plan to indicate through key site requirements the proportion of social/affordable housing units to be provided in specific housing zonings, to meet local needs.				14A: Zone sites for social/affordable housing in the Local Policies Plan and indicate through key site requirements where a proportion of a housing zoning should be provided as social housing, where a need has been identified. In addition set out strategic policy requiring that every 10th unit within new housing developments, in settlements where a need has been identified, shall be a social housing unit.				14D: Set out strategic policy requiring all housing, over certain thresholds, to provide a proportion of social/affordable housing.			
Sustainability Objective	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	+	+	Provision of homes that are fit for purpose; degree of permanence provided for people who need social housing which has benefits for peoples’ health and wellbeing.  Not deliverable in short term until the Local Policies Plan is published.	0	+	+	Provision of homes that are fit for purpose; degree of permanence provided for people who need social housing which has benefits for peoples’ health and wellbeing.  Not deliverable in short term until the Local Policies Plan is published.	+	+	+	Provision of homes that are fit for purpose; degree of permanence provided for people who need social housing which has benefits for peoples’ health and wellbeing. Wider scope with this option as unzoned sites also included. This option thought to be able to deliver slightly more for this objective.	+	+	+	Provision of homes that are fit for purpose; degree of permanence provided for people who need social housing which has benefits for peoples’ health and wellbeing. Wider scope with this option as unzoned sites also included.
2... strengthen society.	0	-	-	Social housing provided but separated from other tenures; risk of growing inequality /stigma attached if associated to the area.	0	+	+	Potential to provide mixed tenure housing and strengthen society.	+	+	+	Potential to provide housing in two approaches that enable a mix of housing tenure and strengthen society. This option thought to be able	?	?	?	Potential to provide mixed tenure housing and strengthen society, but risk that manipulation of the system may occur under

							Not deliverable in short term until the Local Policies Plan is published.				to deliver slightly more for this objective.				this option, which presents uncertainties.	
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	+	+	Helps to meet social housing needs; able to reduce homelessness as well as provide efficient, affordable homes. Not deliverable in short term until the Local Policies Plan is published.	0	+	+	Helps to meet social housing needs and supports mixed tenure housing; able to reduce homelessness as well as provide efficient, affordable homes. Not deliverable in short term until the Local Policies Plan is published.	+	+	+	Supports mixed tenure housing; able to reduce homelessness as well as provide efficient, affordable homes. Mixed tenure housing is more feasible with two approaches to address the issue under this option. This option thought to be able to deliver slightly more for this objective.	?	?	?	Mixed tenure housing is more feasible but risk of manipulation under this option, which presents uncertainties.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives	This issue deals with facilitating social housing and, as such, the options have scored against the key objectives for health and wellbeing, strengthening society and provision of good, quality sustainable housing. Option A, which takes a three pronged approach, is thought to be able to deliver more on all three sustainability objectives. All options scored positively for health and wellbeing as social housing would be provided to help meet specific needs. Option B scored negatively for strengthening society at it may lead to the isolation of social housing and the creation of single tenure developments, instead of encouraging mixed/tenure blind development in order to achieve balanced communities as set out in Options C and A. Option C also scored significantly positive in the longer term against the objective for sustainable housing as the wider scope of the option enables an increased level of integrated social housing.															
The preferred option	14A															
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Key site requirements; land zoning.															

Issue 15: Delivery of Housing to meet the needs of people with mobility issues									
	15A: Set out strategic policy that all ground floor apartments in blocks of two storey or above should be wheelchair accessible units.				15B: No intervention by the Local Development Plan for delivery of wheelchair accessible dwelling units.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Positives for specific needs of less abled people (including those in wheelchairs); able to improve the health and wellbeing of those with mobility issues by enabling them to integrate, interact and remain within their local community; empowers people; properties can still be used by other people where required.	0	0	0	This option is the current situation and neither reduces or improves the effect.	
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Positives for people with specific needs as it strengthens community integration and social cohesion; potentially inter-generational society which supports and enables people to remain/live with own family and friends.	0	0	0	This option is the current situation and neither reduces or improves the effect.	
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Positives for helping to provide housing stock for specific needs; increases housing stock type and enables people with mobility issues to remain within local community and/or as part of wider society/community. Provides mixed tenure and enhances supply of housing stock. Properties can still be used by other people where required.	0	0	0	This option is the current situation and neither reduces or improves the effect.	
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option is the current situation and neither reduces or improves the effect.	
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	There may be a slight cost for developers however overall option will have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option is the current situation and neither reduces or improves the effect.	
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option is the current situation and neither reduces or improves the effect.	
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option is the current situation and neither reduces or improves the effect.	

8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option is the current situation and neither reduces or improves the effect.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option is the current situation and neither reduces or improves the effect.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option is the current situation and neither reduces or improves the effect.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option is the current situation and neither reduces or improves the effect.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option is the current situation and neither reduces or improves the effect.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option is the current situation and neither reduces or improves the effect.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	May be some issues with converting older vernacular and listed buildings. However the scale is such that this option will have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option is the current situation and neither reduces or improves the effect.
<b>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives</b>				Option 15A is supportive of objectives for health and wellbeing, strengthening society and good quality, sustainable housing. It scores positively against these key objectives for the needs of a specific group within society. It would enable those with mobility issues to live more easily within local communities as part of wider society and empower these people within their homes and communities.				
<b>The preferred option</b>				15A				
<b>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</b>				Future reports from NIHE, on providing housing for elderly persons and current housing need for those with mobility issues and census information may be used to inform Key Site Requirements in housing zonings and provide a level of apartments in areas of need. Other planning policy will also need to be complied with for conversions of certain buildings e.g. those that are listed.				

## Issue 16: Community Growing Spaces and Allotments

	16A: Support delivery of Community Growing Spaces/Allotments in suitable locations.				16B: Support delivery of Community Growing Spaces/Allotments within appropriate new housing developments.				16C: No specific policy for Community Growing Spaces/Allotments. Such proposals assessed within wider policy for new open space.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Ability to designate growing spaces, which are good for physical and mental health and well-being; enables people to also grow fresh food and potentially improve their diets. Slight uncertainty as locations not known but strategic approach and aim for suitable locations should help ensure delivery of this objective Borough wide.	+	+	+	Ability to designate growing spaces (in new housing developments) which are good for physical and mental health and well-being; enables people to also grow fresh food and potentially improve their diets. Requiring growing spaces in appropriate new housing developments would ensure they are close to the location of residents which may increase physical activity.	0	0	0	Not precluding such development but not proactive of it either. This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
2... strengthen society	+	+	+	Ability to designate growing spaces, enables people to meet up, be outdoors and potentially connect in shared spaces at the community level. Strategic approach and aim for suitable locations should help ensure delivery of this objective Borough wide. This could be inclusive across lots of areas and help to create a network across communities through common interests and shared spaces.	+	+	+	Ability to designate growing spaces (in new housing developments) which are good for enabling people to meet up, be outdoors and potentially connect in shared spaces at the community level. This could be inclusive across lots of areas and housing developments to help to create a network across communities through common interests and shared spaces.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Could help to enhance a housing area/location but could not deliver the actual housing.	0	0	0	Could help to enhance a housing area/location but could not deliver the actual housing.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.

				This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.				This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.				
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Potentially encourages and supports growing food in suitable locations including brownfield sites. Enables the ability to reuse land, recycle food and soil waste on site and enables local composting schemes.	+	+	+	Potentially encourages and supports growing food in suitable locations including brownfield sites. Enables the ability to reuse land, recycle food and soil waste on site and enables local composting schemes.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Positive at local level for protecting soil and retaining land as green infrastructure. Helps to retain or add to local biodiversity. Potentially avoiding loss of greenfield sites.	+	+	+	Positive at local level for protecting soil and retaining land as green infrastructure. Helps to retain or add to local biodiversity.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Strategic approach to locations could consider sites with regard to active and sustainable travel and/or linkages to green infrastructure that enables walking/cycling. Potentially able to increase green network.	+	+	+	Strategic approach to locations could consider sites with regard to active and sustainable travel and/or linkages to green infrastructure that enables walking/cycling. In addition growing spaces located within housing areas enable people to leave the car at home. Approach is able to reduce the need to travel by vehicle to particularly in new housing developments.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Potential to reduce some car travel by enabling people to walk/cycle to sites and access own food, which	0	0	0	Potential to reduce some car travel by enabling people to walk/cycle to sites and access own food, which	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.

				may reduce demand for some products with associated air miles. Provides green cover. Overall, this option would have a negligible effect on the objective.				may reduce demand for some products with associated air miles. Provides green cover. Overall, this option would have a negligible effect on the objective.				
<b>10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	May reduce demand for some products with associated air miles and potentially reduce car travel. Promotes green cover. Overall, due to small areas of land, this option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	May reduce demand for some products with associated air miles and potentially reduce car travel. Promotes green cover.  Overall, due to small areas of land, this option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have no effect on the objective.
<b>11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Water would be required and should be available through this strategic approach. Potential to use rainwater storage containers and/or potentially integrate with blue infrastructure.  Overall, this option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Water would be required and should be available through this approach. Potential to use rainwater storage containers. Could be integrated with local blue infrastructure and SuDS. Overall, this option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have no effect on the objective.
<b>12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	Semi natural cover feasible with local species supported helping to maintain/enhance local biodiversity. Potentially reusing brownfield sites and avoiding loss of greenfield sites.	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	Semi natural cover feasible with local species supported helping to maintain/enhance local biodiversity.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have no effect on the objective.
<b>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Depends on the location of sites and the baseline conditions in which sites would be expected to fit. Strategic approach for suitable locations so this objective likely to already be a consideration of any chosen sites. Overall, this option	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	The sites would be part of a housing development and may help blend a development with its local environment. Overall, this option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have no effect on the objective.



				would have a negligible effect on the objective.								
<b>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have no effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have no effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have no effect on the objective.
<b>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives</b>				All options scored positively or neutral although for options A and B, neutral scores very often had positive comments i.e. air quality, climate change and water use. Option C had only neutral scores throughout and no positive comments. Options A and B are positive for objectives on health and wellbeing, society, material assets, physical resources, active/sustainable travel and natural resources.								
<b>The preferred option</b>				16A								
<b>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</b>				Key Site Requirements, biodiversity measures, community groups, strategic groups, community associations; funding grants.								

## Issue 17: Community Greenways/Pathways

	17A: Facilitate the development of a network of Community Greenways/Pathways.				17B: No specific policy to protect Greenways.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Enables public access and social contact; adds safety for walking/cycling; creates shared space; helps people improve health/wellbeing through recreational activity.	-	-	-	This option does not provide any means/measure to achieve the objective.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Shared spaces enable social interaction across communities; there is potential for urban and rural greenways. The health and wellbeing benefits from this option also support wider society and add to the local cohesiveness of communities.	-	-	-	This option does not provide any means/measure to achieve the objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	There is a slight link in that greenways can add to housing developments/areas and enhance the local quality and attractiveness of it but the option itself cannot deliver good quality housing.	-	-	-	This option does not provide any means/measure to achieve the objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on this objective although greenways could be linked to schools to enable active travel.	-	-	-	This option does not provide any means/measure to achieve the objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Potential to encourage tourist visitors to an area. Could be applied to urban and rural areas and help to attract inward investment to help sustain local businesses. Can facilitate active travel and provide alternative to the car in areas underserved by public transport.	-	-	-	This option does not provide any means/measure to achieve the objective.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	-	-	-	This option does not provide any means/measure to achieve the objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Potential to conserve land with semi-natural cover and use as wildlife corridors but at same time enable active travel. Retaining these areas could go some way to also help with soil protection.	-	-	-	This option does not provide any means/measure to achieve the objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Potential to encourage active travel if located in appropriate locations for people to use to access work, school, town centres and places of interest. Enabling	-	-	-	This option does not provide any means/measure to achieve the objective.

				cycling/walking/running, provides an alternative to the car or public transport.				
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	There is the potential to reduce the use of transport and emissions from vehicles that may otherwise be used. Retaining green infrastructure helps maintain air quality as it can help to remove air pollutants under certain planting schemes. Overall impact would be minor.	-	-	-	This option does not provide any means/measure to achieve the objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	May reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport i.e. cars, buses, vans. Benefits could be increased by planning greenways to link with public transport routes. Helps retain or enhance green infrastructure which may act as floodplain or carbon store depending on location and habitats.	-	-	-	This option does not provide any means/measure to achieve the objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Retaining green infrastructure can act as a buffer reducing risk of flooding and protecting water quality in some areas/locations.	-	-	-	This option does not provide any means/measure to achieve the objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Retains semi-natural land and enables green infrastructure to be expanded, with potential benefits for local biodiversity. Greenways can also act as wildlife corridors. Strategic approach can help to protect and conserve key natural features across the local area and make best use of local priority habitats.	-	-	-	This option does not provide any means/measure to achieve the objective.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Potential to maintain local landscape character by strategically integrating a greenway network and to also include measures for planting or sensitive landscaping to help integrate with local landscape.	-	-	-	This option does not provide any means/measure to achieve the objective.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Strategic approach can help to retain industrial/built heritage by protecting and conserving sites. Could create links between built/cultural heritage sites, raising awareness of these sites to a wider audience.	-	-	-	This option does not provide any means/measure to achieve the objective.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				Option 17A delivers positively on nearly all objectives with neutral scores for housing, education and material assets. However even with housing and education, there are potential links to greenway developments as they can enhance a local area's attractiveness, accessibility and safety. A greenway network would score most favourably for health and wellbeing, society, active travel and natural resources. It would also score minor positive for sustainable economic growth, physical resources,				

	climate change, water resources, landscape character and built/cultural heritage. Option 17B would not be able to deliver on any of the objectives.
<b>The preferred option</b>	17A
<b>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</b>	Mitigation; biodiversity enhancement measures; sensitive engineering; landscaping; key site requirements; mapped public rights of way; consideration of greenways when designing developments; other planning policy

## Issue 18: Play Park Provision

	18B: Set out strategic policy to accommodate equipped children’s play areas in locations identified and owned by Mid and East Antrim Council.				18C: Retain Policy OS2 of PPS 8 setting out criteria to require an equipped children’s play area for residential developments of 100 units or more, or for development sites of 5 hectares or more.				18D: Set out strategic policy requiring developer contributions from residential developments of 100 units or more, or for development sites of 5 hectares or more, to create /enhance/maintain centrally located council owned play parks.				18E: Assess local needs for equipped children’s play space taking into account our Play Strategy. Key site requirements would then require play facilities for housing sites in areas of need or alternatively require developer contributions to create/enhance/ maintain Council owned play parks.				18A: Set out strategic policy requiring residential developments of 100 units or more, or on sites of 5 hectares or more will be required to provide an equipped children’s play area, <u>unless</u> otherwise specified through key site requirements.			
Sustainability Objective	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Positive as enables activity for children across communities; recreational activity is good for physical and mental health.	+	+	+	Positive as enables activity for children across communities; recreational activity is good for physical and mental health.	+	+	+	Positive as enables activity for children across communities; recreational activity is good for physical and mental health.	0	+	+	Positive as new provision will be based on Play Strategy so locations should match the existing need and benefit as many children as possible in terms of recreational activity for physical and mental health wellbeing. Not deliverable in short term until the Local Policies Plan is published.	+	+	+	Positive as play park provision is provided. Positive as enables activity for children across communities; recreational activity good for physical and mental health. Fills a policy gap between the publication of the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, before a tailored approach can be taken through Key Site Requirements and allows for play park provision on windfall sites.

2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Positive as provides shared spaces for recreation and social interaction across the Council and helps to underpin the fabric of the wider community. Enables adults to meet and families to mix.	+	+	+	Positive for people living in the immediate locality and positive for the new housing development. However the benefit may not be widespread if areas with need are not provided for.	+	+	+	Positive as supports existing play parks but they may not meet current need adequately. Developer Contributions could help enhance current provision i.e. current facilities and accessibility to them.	0	+	+	Positive for people living in the immediate locality and positive for those individual housing developments but may not have as widespread a benefit if other areas with the need are not facilitated. Not deliverable in short term until the Local Policies Plan is published.	+	+	+	Positive for people living in the immediate locality and positive for those individual housing developments but may not have as widespread a benefit if other areas with need are not facilitated. Fills a policy gap between the publication of the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, before a tailored approach can be taken through Key Site Requirements and allows for play park provision on windfall sites.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.

6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	?	?	?	Potential to encourage sites that reduce travel times and car usage through site location; sites that enable access by walking/cycling.	+	+	+	Locations would ensure proximity to users so no need for car journeys and ability to easily access sites on foot or by bike. This means sites would be located at the point of need.	?	?	?	The location of some existing parks may encourage active travel but others may not – further investigation required.	0	+	+	Strategic approach using the Council's Play Strategy so allocation of provision should match existing need. This means sites would be located at the point of need. Not deliverable in short term until the Local Policies Plan is published.	+	+	+	Locations would ensure proximity to users so no need for car journeys and ability to easily access sites on foot or by bike. This means sites would be located at the point of need. Fills a policy gap between the publication of the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, before a tailored approach can be taken through Key Site Requirements and allows for play park provision on windfall sites.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.

				effect on the objective.				effect on the objective.				effect on the objective.				effect on the objective.				effect on the objective.
<b>11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
<b>12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
<b>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
<b>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
<b>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives</b>					All options scored similarly against all the objectives except for active travel. Option 18 C, E and A scored positively for this whilst B and D were uncertain outcomes. All options scored positive for improving health and wellbeing, and society, with Options A and E scoring significant positive in the long term for health and wellbeing. Option 18A could enable a strategic approach to the provision of play parks to ensure provision is in line with need and also enable provision in the short term.															
<b>The preferred option</b>					18A															
<b>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</b>					Key site requirements; Play Strategy; Local Equipped Areas for Play; Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play; local needs assessment; local mapping of sites; transport analysis studies; mapping of blue/green infrastructure.															



## Issue 19: Open Space Provision in New Residential Developments

	19B: Retain the current strategic criteria based policy regarding public open space contained in Policy OS2 of PPS 8 i.e. setting out a 10% requirement of open space in residential developments of 25 units or more and a 15% requirement for developments over 300 units <u>and</u> a list of exceptions where a rate less than 10% may be acceptable.				19C: Provide strategic policy to secure appropriate open space provision on a site by site basis through key site requirements				19A: Retention of the current strategic criteria based policy regarding public open space contained in Policy OS2 of PPS 8 i.e. setting out a 10% requirement of open space in residential developments of 25 units or more and a 15% requirement for development over 300 units <u>and</u> an amended list of exceptions where a rate less than 10% may be acceptable <i>unless</i> otherwise specified through key site requirements.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Provision of open space as an integral part of a housing scheme contributes to a sustainable and quality residential environment. It has both recreational and social value and helps to establish a sense of identity. The 'greening' of an area can also contribute to people's health, well-being and quality of life, particularly that of children.	0	+	+	Provision of open space as an integral part of a housing scheme contributes to a sustainable and quality residential environment. It has both recreational and social value and helps to establish a sense of identity. The 'greening' of an area can also contribute to people's health, well-being and quality of life, particularly that of children. This option may result in the loss of opportunity for provision of open space in residential developments in the short term between the adoption of the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan.	+	+	+	Provision of open space as an integral part of a housing scheme contributes to a sustainable and quality residential environment. It has both recreational and social value and helps to establish a sense of identity. The 'greening' of an area can also contribute to people's health, well-being and quality of life, particularly that of children. Fills a policy gap between the publication of the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, and allows a strategic approach to require a certain level of open space in new housing developments in particular locations. This option could deliver slightly more for this objective.
2... strengthen society	+	+	+	Open space provides opportunities for recreation activity, social and cross-community interaction; this	0	+	+	Open space provides opportunities for recreation activity, social and cross-community interaction; this	+	+	+	Open space provides opportunities for recreation activity, social and cross-community interaction; this

				all helps to add to the fabric of wider society.				all helps to add to the fabric of wider society.  This option may result in the loss of opportunity for provision of open space in residential developments between the adoption of the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan.				all helps to add to the fabric of wider society. Fills a policy gap between the publication of the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, and allows a strategic approach to require a certain level of open space in new housing developments in particular locations. This option could deliver slightly more for this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	?	?	?	Open space can be linked to blue/green infrastructure which can also provide walk/cycle ways and enable people to opt not to use the private car. The open space must be linked to this type of infrastructure to benefit this objective but this may not always be feasible. Slight uncertainty but potential.	?	?	?	Open space can be linked to blue/green infrastructure which can also provide walk/cycle ways and enable people to opt not to use the private car. The open space must be linked to this type of infrastructure to benefit this objective but this may not always be feasible. Slight uncertainty but potential.	?	?	?	Open space can be linked to blue/green infrastructure which can also provide walk/cycle ways and enable people to opt not to use the private car. The open space must be linked to this type of infrastructure to benefit this objective but this may not always be feasible. Slight uncertainty but potential.

9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Landscaped open space may help to maintain local air quality by removing air pollutants. However, overall this option would have a negligible effect on the objective as unlikely to noticeably improve local air quality but would not reduce it in any way.	0	0	0	Landscaped open space may help to maintain local air quality by removing air pollutants. However, overall this option would have a negligible effect on the objective as unlikely to noticeably improve local air quality but would not reduce it in any way.	0	0	0	Landscaped open space may help to maintain local air quality by removing air pollutants. However, overall this option would have a negligible effect on the objective as unlikely to noticeably improve local air quality but would not reduce it in any way.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Open space is important in a local context as it is able to act as an adaptation measure and be integrated to local blue/green infrastructure (if feasible). However, overall this option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Open space is important in a local context as it is able to act as an adaptation measure and be integrated to local blue/green infrastructure (if feasible). However, overall this option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Open space is important in a local context as it is able to act as an adaptation measure and be integrated to local blue/green infrastructure (if feasible). However, overall this option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Open space is important in a local context and may act as part of a floodplain or include a pond or stream; Open space, depending where it is located, can help absorb surface run-off and integrate into a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) – could be linked to local blue/green infrastructure (if feasible).	0	+	+	Open space is important in a local context and may be floodplain or include a pond area or stream; Open space, depending where it is located, can help absorb surface run-off and integrate into a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) – could be linked to local blue/green infrastructure (if feasible).  This option may result in the loss of opportunity for provision of open space in residential developments between the adoption of the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan.	+	+	+	Open space is important in a local context and may be floodplain or include a pond area or stream; Open space, depending where it is located, can help absorb surface run-off and integrate into a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS)– could be linked to local blue/green infrastructure (if feasible). Fills a policy gap between the publication of the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, and allows a strategic approach to require a certain level of open space in new housing developments in particular locations.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Positive as land retained as ideally semi natural cover; able to maintain natural features but can also enhance to help support local biodiversity; potentially able to retain the best local areas of nature conservation. Can use to act as buffers to streams.	0	+	+	Positives as land retained as ideally semi natural cover; able to maintain natural features but can also enhance to help support local biodiversity; potentially able to retain the best local areas of nature conservation. Can use to act as buffers to streams.  This option may result in the loss of opportunity for provision of open space in residential developments between the adoption of the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan.	+	+	+	Positives as land retained as ideally semi natural cover; able to maintain natural features but can also enhance to help support local biodiversity; potentially able to retain the best local areas of nature conservation. Can use to act as buffers to streams. Fills a policy gap between the publication of the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, and allows a strategic approach to require a certain level of open space in new housing developments in particular locations.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Potential positives for landscape in a local context; landscaping of new open space is feasible, or retain existing features and or enhance with sensitive engineering/landscaping.	0	+	+	Potential positives for landscape in a local context; landscaping of new open space is feasible, or retain existing features and or enhance with sensitive engineering/landscaping.  This option may result in the loss of opportunity for provision of open space in residential developments between the adoption of the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan.	+	+	+	Potential positives for landscape in a local context; landscaping of new open space is feasible, or retain existing features and or enhance with sensitive engineering/landscaping. Fills a policy gap between the publication of the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, and allows a strategic approach to require a certain level of open space in new housing developments in particular locations.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	?	?	?	Certain features or areas of interest may be present at baseline and provision of open space can help ensure their long term retention. Much depends on location and feasibility of conserving within the development	?	?	?	Certain features or areas of interest may be present at baseline and provision of open space can help ensure their long term retention, much depends on location and feasibility of conserving within the development	?	?	?	Certain features or areas of interest may be present at baseline and provision of open space can help ensure their long term retention. Much depends on location and feasibility of conserving within the development

				so potential is there but uncertainty as well.				so potential is there but uncertainty as well.				so potential is there but uncertainty as well.
<b>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives</b>					All the options have a similar scoring to one another against each objective. All options scored positively for health and wellbeing, society, water, natural resources and landscape. Options scored uncertain against active travel and built/cultural heritage. Option 19A fills a policy gap between the publication of the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, and allows a strategic approach to require a certain level of open space in new housing developments in particular locations.							
<b>The preferred option</b>					19A							
<b>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</b>					Key site requirements; links to blue/green infrastructure; biodiversity enhancement measures; links with local biodiversity plans; integration of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); sensitive engineering/landscaping; appropriate maintenance of open space; other planning policy (natural and built heritage).							

## Issue 20: Reduce reliance on the private car / promote sustainable transport and active travel

	20B: Retain the existing policy approach supporting sustainable transport and active travel.				20C: Only introduce a new proactive general policy requiring all new development within urban areas to incorporate sustainable transport and active travel modes, where it must be demonstrated that sustainable transport and active travel has been promoted in the development unless specific circumstances indicated otherwise. This would mean that all new zonings in urban areas, irrespective of development type, would need to demonstrate sustainability in regard to transport arrangements and active travel.				20D: Only encourage the provision of more park and ride facilities to reduce the reliance on the private car and promote public transport.				20A: Introduce a new proactive policy for sustainable transport in new development and encourage the provision of more park and ride facilities to reduce the reliance on the private car and promote public transport.			
Sustainability Objective	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation	S T	M T	L T	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Current policy is fairly neutral. Some positive benefits may be feasible, however there is not as much onus on the developer.	+	+	+	Potential to increase walking, cycling and use of public transport. All are better for physical health. Opportunity to encourage more social interaction by using buses and trains. Ability to give people the choice. Able to reduce local noise from traffic, improve safety and peace of mind for residents and help promote/encourage use of community shared spaces.	+	+	+	Potential to reduce car journeys with single occupants and the total number of vehicles on the road, particularly in urban areas. May help to encourage transfer of drivers to public transport options but these routes will be focused on the main urban areas. Also important to consider behavioural change as the provision of a park and ride alone may not be enough to make	+	+	+	Able to deliver all the positives from options C and D to provide a holistic approach to reducing reliance on the private car and encouragement of public transport and car sharing options. This option could deliver more for this objective.

								This option has the potential to deliver holistically for this objective as it applies to both new urban development and new urban zonings.				people change their driving/commuting habits. Option probably more successful if delivered with other measures in place.				
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	Current policy is fairly neutral. Some positive benefit may be feasible, however there is not as much onus on the developer.	0	0	0	This option has the potential to deliver holistically for this objective as it applies to both new urban development and new urban zonings. Able to support community cohesion however negligible effect alone.	0	0	0	Potential to help reduce car numbers and encourage car sharing that may enable more commuters to travel; particularly rural commuters. Negligible effect as proposed however has potential for positive effect; locations are key and behavioural change must be considered.	+	+	+	Overall, this option is able to deliver a more holistic approach and provide the benefits of both options C and D.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Current policy. This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Slight link if regarding housing sites for potential effects. This option would have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Slight links for potential effects. This option would have a negligible effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Current policy - This option would have no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Current policy - situation for new development would continue. This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Slight links - Increasing options for travel to work and into town centres would enable more people to integrate into the economy. Slight link to objective.	0	0	0	Potential to help stimulate economic growth both through construction of sites and enabling commuters to access routes via public transport or to meet up for car sharing arrangements in order to get to work or travel somewhere to spend money.	0	0	0	Potential to deliver a more holistic approach to the objective and achieve the benefits from options C and D. This option able to deliver more for this objective although it is not clear if this would be more than a negligible effect.

6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Current - This option would have a negligible effect on this objective.	+	+	+	Would add local context to infrastructure for wider public use/benefit. Actual promotion of infrastructure required. Necessary to integrate with existing material asset resources. Potential to use brownfield sites/land.	+	+	+	Would add to infrastructure for wider public use/benefit. Necessary to integrate with existing material asset resources. Potential to use appropriately located brownfield sites.	+	+	+	Holistic approach to issue encompassing the benefits from both options C and D. This option able to deliver more for this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Current - This option would have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Slight link – able to minimise loss of greenfield sites if designed sensitively. This option would however have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Slight potential for loss of greenfield sites but depends on location and overall unlikely to have more than a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Slight potential for loss of greenfield sites but also potential for use of brownfield land and appropriate integration of routes. Overall unlikely to have more than a negligible effect on this objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Current policy should encourage developers to integrate active travel whilst the Department manages park and ride schemes.	+	+	+	Fully supports the objective and helps encourage a modal shift from the car to active travel and use of public transport. Can also link measures to local blue/green infrastructure and integrate walk/cycle ways under this form. Potential to achieve much under this option.	+	+	+	Potential to encourage public transport use into urban centres and ideally enable people to be able to walk or cycle to a park and ride. Can also encourage car sharing so slight focus remains on being able to use the private car. Also focused on travel into the main towns.	+	+	+	Holistic approach to issue encompassing the benefits from both options C and D. This option able to deliver more for this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Current – should encourage other modes of transport to reduce emissions but essentially focus is on car travel.	+	+	+	Should encourage less car use and possibly shorter journeys and enable access to and use of public transport, all of which can help to reduce emissions and potentially improve local air quality. Slight uncertainties as location	+	+	+	Potential to improve air quality by reducing the number of cars on the road and the number and length of journeys within areas of concentrated car travel. Potential lateral effects too by enabling people to walk or cycle.	+	+	+	Holistic approach to issue encompassing the benefits from both options C and D. This option thought to be able to deliver more for this objective.





14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Slight link – encourages development in the settlement limits and integration of features but overall option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Location to be considered but option unlikely to have more than a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on this objective.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives	Some neutral scores would still have potential positive effects on the objectives but not enough to alter the scoring from neutral. All scored positive on active travel with A and C scoring significant positive. Options C and D scored positive for material assets, whilst A scored significant positive. Option A scored significant positive on air quality and climate change. Option A is thought to be able to deliver more on several objectives including climate change, air quality, natural resources, material assets, economic growth, active travel and health and wellbeing.															
The preferred option	20A															
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Key site requirements; planning conditions; ecological mitigation; projects/measures to encourage local level behavioural change.															

Issue 21: Areas of Parking Restraint									
	21A: Introduce areas of car parking restraint in main towns				21B: No intervention by the Local Development Plan through the introduction of car parking restraint areas in the main towns				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	
1... improve health and well-being.	0	+	+	Potentially helps healthier lifestyles through less car use making way for active travel, and reducing likelihood of car accidents. It would take time for these benefits to be achieved.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Restraining the level of car parking in some housing developments close to town centres and transport hubs may increase the scope for variation in housing types to meet a range of housing needs.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	This approach has the potential to encourage active travel and use of public transport.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective. The current approach facilitates car use.	
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	This approach has the potential to encourage active travel and use of public transport which could reduce congestion and improve local air quality.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective. The current approach facilitates car use.	
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	This approach has the potential to encourage active travel and use of public transport which could reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective. The current approach facilitates car use.	
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective. Reducing car parking in housing areas could positively affect the appearance of local townscape.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives	The score for both options was neutral for many of the sustainability objectives however option A provided an opportunity to influence car use and potentially increase active travel, leading to better air quality and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as well as promoting health and well-being. Option A also provides an opportunity to facilitate housing development in areas which cannot support the level of car parking required currently.							
The preferred option	21A							
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Key Site Requirements.							

Issue 22: Protection of Proposed Road Schemes												
	22B: Protect land for Non-Strategic Road Schemes in the LDP.				22C: Remove Non-Strategic Road Schemes from the LDP.				22A: Only include Non-Strategic Road Schemes in the LDP, which have been justified by DfI through a Local Transport Strategy.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	?	?	?	Protecting land ensures its availability for future road development, which would help link communities/areas across the town and reduce travel times, which can help people's health /wellbeing. Not known if land will be developed and uncertain if existing locations are the optimum for achieving this objective.	?	?	?	This option would remove the land for non-strategic roads and presents a higher risk of losing the future ability to connect/link across lands/communities, reduce journey times etc. Not known if land would be developed for another use or not and may still be partly developed as roads/transport routes.	?	?	?	Awaiting LTS report from Department for Infrastructure (DfI), which should justify the most appropriate roads to retain. These should work in favour of this objective i.e. connecting communities, reducing travel times and linking lands. Could also promote active travel. This option could deliver more for this objective.
2... strengthen society	?	?	?	Potential future local infrastructure to link communities although just for vehicular traffic. Not known if land will be developed or when. Potential is there but uncertainty over timings of work and route locations.	?	?	?	Higher risk of losing ability to link communities/lands and deliver against this objective as land may be developed for another use or not at all. Depends on future land management.	?	?	?	Awaiting LTS report from DfI, which should justify the most appropriate roads to retain. These should work in favour of this objective i.e. connecting communities, reducing travel times, linking lands and possibly enabling more public transport. Could also promote active travel. This option could deliver more for this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	?	?	?	Potentially able to open lands to housing that may be land-locked. Development of roads not certain however.	?	?	?	Removal could enable housing development on those locations however they may not be developed or may have other uses put forward than housing.	?	?	?	Awaiting LTS report from DfI, which should justify the most appropriate roads to retain. This should provide a more controlled and strategic approach to local development that may help encourage sustainable housing.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.

5... enable sustainable economic growth.	?	?	?	Retaining lands may restrict some economic growth but also enables potential future growth. Much depends on approach to local development and current market.	?	?	?	Could encourage development on these lands but may or may not occur and not known what type of development is likely and whether this would be sustainable or not.	+	+	+	Awaiting LTS report from DfI, which should justify the most appropriate roads to retain. This should provide a more controlled and strategic approach to local development that may help encourage sustainable economic growth by providing the most appropriate guidance/rationale on transport links that are essential for business/industry. This option is thought to deliver more for this objective.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Protecting land helps to ensure adequate land is available for future local road infrastructure. There is some control over future development.	?	?	?	Removal may lose the land for future local roads infrastructure.	+	+	+	Awaiting LTS report from DfI, which should justify the most appropriate roads to retain.by providing the most appropriate guidance/rationale on transport links. This should provide a more controlled and strategic approach to local land development and provision of land for local infrastructure (roads) which can also be used for pipelines, electrical infrastructure and telecommunications (if applicable). This option thought to deliver more for this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	-	-	Loss of greenfield sites to urban development.	-	-	-	May not be developed however due to location is likely to be developed leading to loss of greenfield sites.	-	-	-	Awaiting LTS report from DfI, which should justify the most appropriate roads to retain. This should provide a more controlled and strategic approach to local land development and provision of land for local infrastructure (roads) which can also be used for geothermal technologies (if applicable). Although there would

											still be a loss of greenfield sites, this option is thought to be able to deliver more for this objective as it will be justified by the LTS report.	
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	-	-	-	Roads would be developed and support vehicular traffic movements. Although this includes public transport, private vehicles would be the focus.	?	?	?	Unknown how the land may be developed. Could still be roads or could become greenways. Uncertain outcomes with this option.	?	?	?	Awaiting LTS report from DfI, which should justify the most appropriate roads to retain. This should provide a more controlled and strategic approach to local land development and could work in favour of this objective by promoting active travel and public transport to connect communities, reduce travel times and link lands. Slightly uncertain as may be up to developers but this option thought able to deliver slightly more for this objective.
9... improve air quality.	-	-	-	Potential to reduce congestion but increase car use as well as public transport. These may balance out but emissions are unlikely to decrease and if anything are likely to rise.	?	?	?	Future use of land not known. Could be developed for roads or for other land use with other emissions so much depends on future land management.	?	?	?	Awaiting LTS report from DfI, which should justify the most appropriate roads to retain. This should provide a more controlled and strategic approach to local land development. Unlikely to improve air quality but slight uncertainty as option has potential to encourage active travel and promote public transport.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	-	-	-	Likely to increase vehicle use, journeys and traffic emissions when developed. Public transport also feasible but this still releases emissions that cause climate change.	?	?	?	Future use of land not known. Could be developed for roads or for other land use with other emissions so much depends on future land management. Uncertain whether it would increase vehicles and emissions.	?	?	?	Awaiting LTS report from DfI, which should justify the most appropriate roads to retain. This should provide a more controlled and strategic approach to local land development and may help to reduce journey times, and promote active travel, which would reduce emissions. At same time,

												the number of vehicles may be increased so there are uncertainties with this option. This option thought to be able to deliver slightly more for this objective as based on current rationale.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	No floodplains are affected. This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	No floodplains are affected. This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Potential to maybe encourage measures to manage surface water and run off. This option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective but could deliver slightly more for this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	-	-	-	Loss of biodiversity/natural resources once developed, as currently all are greenfield sites. Although development time isn't known, assume that retention will lead to road development at some point in future.	-	-	-	Not known if land would be developed in the future but development of some sort very likely due to urban location.	?	?	?	Awaiting LTS report from DfI, which should justify the most appropriate roads to retain. This should provide a more controlled and strategic approach to local land development and potential losses. Although there would still be a loss of greenfield sites/natural resources, this option is thought to be able to deliver more for this objective as it is justified by the LTS report and has potential for more up to date selective routing. Biodiversity measures also feasible to reduce impacts. This option could deliver more for this objective.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	?	?	?	Protection retains land as it is until development but much depends on the approach to development if/when it occurs. Landscape will change with development. Potential to enhance local landscape with biodiversity	?	?	?	Uncertain of the use of the land in the future so difficult to determine maintenance and/or enhancement of local landscape. Land may or may not be developed and much depends on the approach to	?	?	?	Awaiting LTS report from DfI, which should justify the most appropriate roads to retain. This should provide a more controlled and strategic approach to local land development and integration of routes to local landscape.



				measures and environmental engineering but the onus is with the developer and much depends on the local landscape baseline, as after development such measures may not be able to enhance the site.				development and current landscape baseline.				Although there would still be a loss of greenfield sites, this option is thought to be able to deliver more for this objective as it will be justified by the LTS report. Potential to promote mitigation measures as well.
<b>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	Potential to protect land for roads post development of which very likely to have negatively affected built/cultural heritage. Potential to mitigate impacts but onus with developer. Uncertain of baseline conditions as well.	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	Removal may lead to any type of development in those areas but at the same time, no development may occur. Due to location of the routes, development is very likely to occur.	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	Awaiting LTS report from DfI, which should justify the most appropriate roads to retain. This should provide a more controlled and strategic approach to local land development and integration of routes to local landscape. Although there would still be impacts on built/cultural heritage, there would be potential to promote and control mitigation measures. This option is thought to be able to deliver slightly more for this objective, as it will be justified by the LTS report.
<b>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives</b>				Option B is thought to have negative impacts on sustainable travel and in turn on air quality and climate change. Options B and C could have negative impacts on physical and natural resources. Option A could also lead to loss of greenfield sites however this is expected to be more efficient than for the other options as it is more strategic. This strategic approach also favours objectives for sustainable economic growth and for material assets. It is also likely to have positive effects for some other sustainability objectives including health and wellbeing, sustainable housing, active travel, water and natural resources. The Local Transport Strategy will however need to be reviewed to ensure this will be the case.								
<b>The preferred option</b>				22A								
<b>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</b>				Review and application of the Local Transport Strategy. Incorporation of SuDS, boundary planting, land shaping/environmental engineering, biodiversity measures could lessen the negative effects of road schemes that are developed.								

Issue 23: Facilitating Renewable Energy									
	23A: Retention of SPPS approach updating Policy RE 1 of PPS 18 by adopting a cautious approach within designated landscapes (with an acknowledgement of Option 33 questioning increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the AONB)				23B: Restrict/prevent renewable energy development for certain types of renewables (e.g. tall structures) within designated landscapes (or in highly sensitive areas within these landscapes) and amend policy accordingly				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective	
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective	
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Promotes economic growth within the renewables sector, with a cautious approach in designated landscapes providing consideration for sensitive landscapes valued for the tourism sector.	0	0	0	This approach will have a more limiting effect on renewables development within designated landscapes. Certain types of renewable developments would be restricted/prevented due to e.g. height constraints. Whilst this would have a negative impact on the renewables aspect of economic growth, it may have a positive impact for economic growth in the tourism sector within those areas.	
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	This approach would not constrain provision of renewables infrastructure/capacity.	?	?	?	Restriction of commercial wind development in some areas has the potential to reduce renewable energy capacity, however as the extent of these highly sensitive areas is not yet known, the impact is uncertain.	
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Renewables development will occur but some protection for land use will be offered through the cautious approach.	+	+	+	Some renewables development will occur but more protection for land use will be offered through restrictions/prevention of certain types of renewables.	
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	Renewable energy development supports improvement in air quality.	?	?	?	Restricting/preventing renewable energy development in these areas may have an impact on air quality, but this effect is uncertain as the extent of these highly sensitive areas is not yet known.	

10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Renewable energy development reduces emissions of greenhouse gases.	?	?	?	There will continue to be benefits for climate change however the impact of restricting/preventing renewable energy development in these areas on greenhouse gases is uncertain as the extent of these highly sensitive areas is not yet known.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	This option offers some protection for natural resources but would not enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	This options offers more protection for natural resources and biodiversity.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	The cautious approach will consider the impact on landscape character.	+	+	+	This approach will offer more chance of maintaining the character of sensitive landscapes.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives	It was considered that both of the options had a negligible effect on many of the sustainability objective although option B had an uncertain effect for some. The more restrictive approach of option B would be positive for physical and natural resources and landscape. However option A provides greater opportunities to enhance economic growth and manage or protect material assets and physical resources while improving air quality and reducing climate change contributions. Both options were considered to have a positive effect on maintaining and enhancing landscape character.							
The preferred option	23A							
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Policies to protect sensitive landscapes; policies on water quality and peat issues.							

Issue 24: Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)									
	24A: Promotion of SuDS within the LDP through introducing policy requirements (for some / all new development/ new development in certain locations)				24B: Retain existing approach to generally encourage the use of SuDS in new development.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Promoting SuDS in the LDP will have minor benefits for health and well-being such as reducing the incidence of flooding incidences, and possibly helping to retain green infrastructure as flooding defence. This approach could deliver more for this objective.	+	+	+	The current approach has minor benefits for health and well-being such as reducing the incidence of flooding incidences, and possibly helping to retain green infrastructure as flooding defence.	
2... strengthen society.	0	+	+	This may allow scope to provide green infrastructure which also has community uses which would be more evident in the medium to long term.	0	0	0	Less strategic and therefore unlikely to help strengthen society.	
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Does not constrain ability to meet housing needs, and can help with sewerage capacity for some sites.	0	0	0	Does not constrain ability to meet housing needs, and can help with sewerage capacity for some sites.	
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Separating surface water from sewerage using SuDS reduces water going to sewage treatment works. This leads to greater efficiencies in services. This approach could deliver more for this objective as it promotes the use of SuDS.	0	0	+	Separating surface water from sewerage using SuDS reduces water going to sewage treatment works. This leads to greater efficiencies in services. This approach could deliver in part for this objective but it generally encouraging but not promoting the use of SuDS.	
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	SuDS can help to adapt to the results of climate change. This approach could deliver more for this objective as it promotes the use of SuDS.	+	+	+	SuDS can help to adapt to the results of climate change.	

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Promoting SuDS has the potential to improve water quality, reduce incidences of flooding and encourage the efficient use of water resources. This approach could deliver significantly more for this objective.	+	+	+	Encouraging SuDS has the potential to improve water quality, reduce incidences of flooding and encourage the efficient use of water resources.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Promoting SuDS has the potential to create habits and is helped by the inclusion of green and blue infrastructure in developments. This helps to keep wildlife corridors. This approach could deliver significantly more for this objective.	+	+	+	Encouraging SuDS has the potential to create habits and is helped by the inclusion of green and blue infrastructure in developments. This helps to keep wildlife corridors.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Wetlands can be incorporated and maintained as part of SuDS.	0	0	0	Wetlands can be incorporated and maintained as part of SuDS
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				Both options appraised provide opportunities to protect water quality and to help to mitigate the effects of climate change, while protecting and enhancing natural resources and biodiversity. They also have associated benefits for health and well-being. Option A had the potential to deliver more across many of the objectives and make a significant contribution towards sustainable use and management of water and natural resources while also supporting society and management of material assets.				
The preferred option				24A				
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects				Water Pollution Prevention Guidelines. Key Site Requirements.				

Issue 25: Cemetery Provision									
	25B: No intervention by the LDP - reliance on the development management system to determine cemetery proposals on a case by case basis using general planning material considerations.				25A: Criteria based policy to support the delivery of a new cemetery or an extension to a cemetery. In addition spatial policy to allow the identification and safeguarding of specific locations where there is a firm proposal for a new/extension to a cemetery				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	This option has a very slight effect in this objective. Cemeteries are an important places for communities.	+	+	+	This strategic approach allows the council to plan facilities in the best locations to serve the needs of the community.	
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	The option has no effect on this objective.	
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	The option has no effect on this objective.	
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	The option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	The option has no effect on this objective.	
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The option has no effect on this objective.	+	+	+	The option offers opportunity to ensure cemetery infrastructure is in place and protected in the LDP.	
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Considering cemeteries on a case by case basis means a lack of strategic oversight of where land is used.	+	+	+	Opportunity to plan land used for cemeteries strategically.	
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Considering cemeteries on a case by case basis means a lack of strategic oversight of where land is used	+	+	+	Considering cemeteries in this way allows criteria based policy to include accessibility of locations for active and public transport.	
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	The option has no effect on this objective. Although it may influence locations of crematoria the emissions of these are highly regulated.	
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	The option has no effect on this objective.	
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	-	-	-	New cemeteries could have a negative impact on ground water, depending upon the locations and proximity to water courses.	0	0	0	Having a strategic approach to identifying new sites could potentially allow sites to be chosen which maximise protection of water quality.	

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Less opportunity to shape how natural resources and biodiversity are treated within cemetery development when taken on a case by case basis.	+	+	+	Having a strategic approach to cemeteries gives potential to protect the natural environment and biodiversity through retaining hedgerows, wildlife corridors, and wild areas within the cemetery.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Less opportunity to shape the siting of new cemetery development on a case by case basis.	+	+	+	Having a strategic approach to cemeteries gives potential to consider landscape in setting strategic policies for cemetery development.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	Less opportunity to consider the historic and built environment when considering new cemetery development on a case by case basis.	+	+	+	Having a strategic approach to cemeteries gives potential to consider the historic environment in setting strategic policies for cemetery development.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				The scores for both options are neutral for many of the sustainability objectives however option A provides an opportunity to plan strategically for new cemeteries and this has a number of positive effects. Option A avoids potential negative effects on water quality that may occur in option B. Positive effects include providing infrastructure (material assets), contributing to natural resources and biodiversity, and maintaining and enhancing landscape character and the historic environment. 25A also scores positively for encouraging active travel, strengthening society and protecting physical resources.				
The preferred option				25A				
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects				Key site requirements for new cemeteries. Sustainable Drainage Systems for surface water management.				

## Issue 26: Protecting our archaeological sites and remains of regional importance (and their settings) from harmful development

	26A Retain the current operational policies as set out BH1 of PPS6, and provide increased policy protection to safeguard our archaeological sites and remains (and their settings) from harmful development through the designation of Specific Areas of Constraint (with regard to specific types of development) within, or adjacent to existing or proposed Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest.				26B Retain the current policy as set out in BH1 of PPS6 and designate a Special Countryside Area (SCA) to protect the Area of Special Archaeological Interest (ASAI) at Knockdhu.				26C Retain the current operational policies as set out BH1 of PPS6 but do not provide any increased policy protection.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Controlled development will allow for greater protection, potentially enhancing the link between actively maintained heritage assets and wellbeing although the scale of the benefit is likely to be negligible.	0	0	0	A restriction on all forms of development will allow for greater protection, potentially enhancing the link between actively maintained heritage assets and wellbeing although the scale of the benefit is likely to be negligible.	0	0	0	Link between actively maintained heritage assets and wellbeing are documented however the scale of the benefit for this objective is likely to be negligible.
2... strengthen society	0	0	0	There could be a positive effect for sense of pride in a local area, through protecting current and future archaeological assets. However, overall this option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	There could be a positive effect for sense of pride in a local area, through protecting current and future archaeological assets. However, overall this option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option will not bring any additional attention to the ASAI and has no effect on this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	There could be a positive effect allowing sites to be available for educational purposes, through protecting current and future archaeological assets. However, overall this option has a negligible effect on this objective	0	0	0	There could be a positive effect allowing sites to be available for educational purposes, through protecting current and future archaeological assets. However, overall this option has a negligible effect on this objective	0	0	0	This option will not bring any additional attention to the ASAI and has no effect on this objective.



5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	This option might constrain certain types of development within Specific Areas of Constraint, such as tall structures and minerals development. However, overall this option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option would constrain all types of development within the Special Countryside Area however, overall, this option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective although it will constrain development which would adversely affect ASAs or their setting.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	-	-	This option would restrict minerals development in Specific Areas of Constraint.	-	-	-	This option would restrict minerals development within the boundary of the ASAI.	-	-	-	This option will constrain development which would adversely affect ASAs or their setting although to a lesser extent than options A and B.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Potential to result in the protection of a greater number of built heritage assets and consequently attract higher numbers of visitors. The ASAI is located within the countryside and may involve a greater number of journeys by private car resulting in a minimal negative impact over the long term.	0	0	0	Potential to result in the protection of a greater number of built heritage assets and consequently attract higher numbers of visitors. The ASAI is located within the countryside and may involve a greater number of journeys by private car resulting in a minimal negative impact over the long term.	0	0	0	Continuation of the existing policy likely to have a neutral effect.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Protecting archaeological sites and their settings may also protect land for biodiversity. However, the number of visitors to such sites	+	+	+	Protecting archaeological sites and their settings may also protect land for biodiversity. However, the number of visitors to such sites	0	0	0	Continuation of the existing policy likely to have a neutral effect in the short term, however over the period of the plan positive indicators may emerge.

				could increase, resulting in higher pressures on biodiversity.				could increase, resulting in higher pressures on biodiversity.				
<b>13... maintain and enhance landscape character.</b>	+	+	+	Protecting archaeological sites and their settings will help to maintain landscape character.	+	+	+	Protecting archaeological sites and their settings will help to maintain landscape character. This option could deliver slightly more for this objective.	0	0	0	Protecting archaeological sites and their settings will help to maintain landscape character however the impact is likely to be less and benefits negligible.
<b>14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</b>	+	+	+	Protecting archaeological sites and their settings will directly contribute to protecting, conserving and enhancing built and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Protecting archaeological sites and their settings will directly contribute to protecting, conserving and enhancing built and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Development which would adversely affect such sites of regional importance or the integrity of their settings will not be permitted unless there are exceptional circumstances therefore this option would provide significant support for this objective.
<b>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives</b>				All the options have no or negligible effect on the majority of the sustainability objectives. Each has a negative effect on physical resources in respect of constraining minerals development. While the score cannot be distinguished option B will be the most restrictive as it would preclude all forms of development and will have a negative impact on economic measures by preventing development. Option A aims to identify our most vulnerable landscapes by introducing Areas of Constraint which will resist certain forms of development but will potentially allow for marginally more economic development opportunities than Option B. Option C would be similar to option A in effect. Options A and B are also likely to support the sustainability objectives for natural resources and landscape with option B offering greater benefits for these objectives. As policy BH 1 is protective of archaeological remains of regional importance and their settings all the options will have a significant positive effect on the objective for the historic environment. Option A, on balance, is the most sustainable by providing focused protection on our most vulnerable assets through restricting certain types of harmful development.								
<b>The preferred option</b>				26A								
<b>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</b>				Take account of information about monuments in State Care, scheduled monuments and other important sites and monuments and areas of archaeological potential together with information about operating quarries and potential expansion when identifying Specific Areas of Constraint. In defining boundaries consider opportunities to protect natural resources and maintain where appropriate.								

## Issue 27: Protecting architectural and historical character within Conservation Areas

	27B: Through the Plan Strategy retain the current operational policies as set out in PPS 6 and do not introduce additional regulation through the implementation of Article 4 directions.				27A: Retain current operational policies as set out in PPS6 and carefully manage change by introducing additional regulation through the implementation of Article 4 Directions to remove certain permitted development rights within areas which have been identified as still retaining their local character and distinctiveness.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Positives for built heritage. Can help to add a sense of place/identity. Potential to help with community cohesion within a local community/space.	+	+	+	Positives for built heritage. Can help to add a sense of place/identity. Potential to help with community cohesion within a community/space. As this option enables additional protection of historical character, it could deliver slightly more for this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Retention would maintain current level of protection of historical character but could affect efficiency of housing i.e. heat loss from windows and walls. May be cost issues for some affected homeowners. Option should not affect the quality provision of housing in the area and old frames can be replaced with modern windows. This option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Retention would maintain current level of protection of historical character but could affect efficiency of housing i.e. heat loss from windows and walls. May be cost issues for some affected homeowners. Option may increase restrictions in some areas but with the aim of maintaining the local character. This should not affect the quality provision of housing in the area. This option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Retention may help to sustain local business including tourism and attract inward investment, visitors and residents alike because of the local character.	+	+	+	Retention may help to sustain local business including tourism and attract inward investment, visitors and residents alike because of the local character. Under this option there may be an additional layer of protection on local character so under this option there could be slightly more delivered for this objective.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.

8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	There may be a slight negative in that older housing stock can be hard to heat and insulate. Gas and renewables are becoming more mainstream, which should help to combat any local air quality issues that may arise from solid fuel and oil. Overall, this option is thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	There may be a slight negative in that older housing stock can be hard to heat and insulate but gas and renewables are becoming more mainstream, which should help to combat any local air quality issues from solid fuel or oil. Overall, this option is thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Retention of older housing stock creates housing that can be difficult to heat/insulate which can mean a higher level of greenhouse gas emissions. However, a minimal number of houses are present in the conservation areas and gas and renewables are becoming more mainstream in the energy mix so this option still thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Retention of older housing stock creates housing that can be difficult to heat/insulate which can mean a higher level of greenhouse gas emissions. However, a minimal number of houses are present in the conservation areas and gas and renewables are becoming more mainstream in the energy mix so this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Retention would continue to help maintain protection of architectural and historical character within these areas.	+	+	+	Retention would continue to help maintain protection of historical character within these areas. Consideration of the use of Article 4 directions in some areas would help heighten protection. This option could deliver slightly more for this objective.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				Similar scoring across Options A and B with positives on strengthening society, enabling sustainable economic growth and protecting built/cultural heritage. Option A thought to deliver slightly more on these objectives. The most significant positive score for both options was against the objective to protect, conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage. Option A thought to be able to deliver slightly more on this too.				
The preferred option				27A				

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Local level measures/guidelines.
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Issue 28: Protecting non-designated heritage assets									
	28A: Establish a criterion based approach with Historic Environment Division for identifying non-designated heritage assets within the Borough that will be used to create a Local Heritage List.				28B: Do not bring forward specific measures to safeguard against the potential loss of non-designated heritage assets.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective. May protect areas that become open space in the future.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	This approach could support appreciation of local heritage and contribute to sense of place. Potential for local community to engage and work in partnership with Council to identify heritage assets.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective but may help protect sites that have tourism potential.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	In identifying and protecting Local Heritage Sites this option may also contribute to this objective however until further information about the extent of a list this is scored as a negligible effect.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	In identifying and protecting Local Heritage Sites this option may also contribute to this objective however until further information about the extent of a list this is scored as a negligible effect.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	This identifies and acknowledges non designated local heritage and may also pave the way for new designations. This may prove to have a significant positive effect when more detail becomes available.	0	0	0	This option makes no provision additional to that proposed for key issues 26 and 27 and carried forward policies therefore it does not contribute to this objective.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				Option B represents no new action in relation to current conditions therefore it does not contribute to any sustainability objectives. At this stage it is hard to quantify the extent of the contribution of Option A to those objectives which it does affect but it will have positive effects for the historic environment and could contribute to strengthening society through engagement in creating a list and enhancing the sense of place.				
The preferred option				28B				
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects				Develop criteria, informed by Historic Environment Division of the Department for Communities, for identifying local heritage. Engage the community in identifying local heritage. Define how local heritage will be protected.				

## Issue 29: The Southern Glens Coast

	29B: Retain the existing Special Countryside Area (SCA) designation and associated policy.				29A: Retain the existing Special Countryside Area (SCA) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial and policy amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.				29C: Remove the existing Special Countryside Area (SCA) designation, relying only on regional planning policies carried forward (such as PPS2, PPS18 and PPS21) to provide protection for this exceptional coastal landscape and its environment.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Retaining existing SCA designation contributes to sense of place/identity and may provide benefits for recreation and active lifestyles.	+	+	+	SCA designation contributes to sense of place/identity and may provide benefits for recreation and active lifestyles.	-	-	-	Risk degradation of landscape character and scenic quality in places important for walking and recreational activities, which could reduce the amenity value of these places and discourage healthy activities.
2... strengthen society	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Landscape is a tourism asset. This option will help maximise the potential for sustainable tourism in this area.	+	+	+	Landscape is a tourism asset. This option will help maximise the potential for sustainable tourism in this area.	-	-	-	Relying solely on regional planning policies could lead to degradation of this landscape asset and this could negatively affect the tourism offer.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	May protect against sterilization of land adjacent to mineral sites. Will have positive effects for biodiversity and tourism.	+	+	+	May protect against sterilization of land adjacent to mineral sites. Will have positive effects for biodiversity and tourism.	-	-	-	Relying solely on regional planning policies could lead to degradation of landscape quality and environment in this area which is an important educational, recreational and tourism resource



												as well as being important for biodiversity.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	This option enables protection or enhancement of natural resources, biodiversity, and blue and green infrastructure, which will support and provide ecosystem services.	+	+	+	This option enables protection or enhancement of natural resources, biodiversity, and blue and green infrastructure, which will support and provide ecosystem services. This may benefit wider areas than in 29B therefore, this option could deliver more for this objective.	-	-	-	This option could lead to a degradation of natural resources and biodiversity in this area outside of nature conservation designations.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	This option enables protection, conservation and enhancement of the landscape character of this area and views from the coast and to the coast.	+	+	+	This option enables protection, conservation and enhancement of the landscape character of this area and views from the coast and to the coast. Under this option, the benefits could be potentially over a wider area than 29B, therefore, this option could deliver more for this objective.	-	-	-	This option would reduce the level of protection afforded to the landscape character of this area and therefore could result in irreversible degradation of the exceptional landscape character of this area, and adversely impact the character of the coast.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	The existing SCA affords additional protection to the sense of place and local distinctiveness of this area and protects the settings of built and natural heritage assets.	+	+	+	The existing SCA affords additional protection to the sense of place and local distinctiveness of this area and protects the settings of built and natural heritage assets. This option may have benefits over a wider area than in option 29B	-	-	-	Possible loss of sense of place and local distinctiveness in this area leading to a negative impact on the setting of areas with significant heritage assets.



## Issue 30: The Islandmagee peninsula and Gobbins Coast

	30B: Rely on regional planning policies carried forward (such as PPS 2, PPS 18 and PPS 21) to protect designated nature conservation sites, the landscape setting and natural heritage features on the Islandmagee peninsula and Gobbins Coast.				30A: Provide increased policy protection for the Islandmagee Peninsula with an emphasis on the eastern and north eastern parts of the peninsula. Increased policy protection could be provided through designation of a SCA, an Area of Constraint on particular types of development, an extension of the BMA Coastal Policy Area or a designated AOHSV.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	This option provides some protection for landscape character and natural heritage assets. Its impact on health and wellbeing however may be negligible in this area.	+	+	+	Seeking to protect and enhance the landscape character and visual amenity of this area could encourage people to enjoy and use the area for recreation e.g. to explore and seek tranquil places for walking.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	The current policy approaches contribute to give some degree of protection to landscape as a tourism asset. It also might also allow some development of renewables which could contribute to economic growth. Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This approach has the potential for improving the tourism aspect of the area, however the option could have a negative impact on renewable energy development and may have no overall effect.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option might have a negative impact on renewable energy development. Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Certain level of protection afforded earth science features and biodiversity. Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.	+	+	+	Earth science features, nature conservation sites and the landscape character of this area, all of which are important for education, recreation, tourism and biodiversity would be afforded additional protection under this option.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.

10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This policy may lead to a less future renewable energy projects in this area. Overall the option has a negligible effect on the objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	This approach will provide some protection for natural resources and biodiversity.	+	+	+	This approach affords a greater level of protection for natural resources and biodiversity.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	PPS2 and PPS21 will afford some protection to landscape character, but certain types of development could potentially have an adverse impact on landscape character.	+	+	+	This option has the potential to maintain and enhance the landscape character of parts of the Islandmagee Peninsula Area of Scenic Quality which is particularly important with regard to tranquil areas of the peninsula and the Gobbins tourist attraction.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Some protection for historic environment features and the rural setting.	+	+	+	Additional protection for the rural setting, sense of place and local distinctiveness.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				Option B does contribute to objectives for natural resources and biodiversity, landscape character and the historic environment, through carrying forward some regional policy. 30A provides opportunities for a more strategic approach which would deliver more for landscape and the historic environment in particular while also having the potential to deliver for health and well-being and physical resources.				
The preferred option				30A				
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects				Landscape character assessment (to include natural resources and historic environment) and pressure analysis to inform most appropriate means of protection; criteria for boundary of any new designation; policies applicable to designation.				

## Issue 31: The Belfast Lough Shoreline (Mid and East Antrim)

	31B: Retain the existing BMA Coastal Area designation and associated Policy.				31A: Retain the existing BMA Coastal Area (to be renamed the Belfast Lough Shoreline (Mid and East Antrim) Policy Area) designation and associated policy, and accommodate spatial amendments to the designation if considered appropriate.				31C: Remove the existing BMA Coastal Area designation and rely only on regional planning policies carried forward to provide protection for this important coastal landscape and environment.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	This option protects the landscape and access to the coast, including walks, and areas to enjoy the landscape. This provides a resource to support good health and well-being for residents.	+	+	+	This option protects the landscape and access to the coast, including walks, and areas to enjoy the landscape. This provides a resource to support good health and well-being for residents. Providing that any spatial amendments to the Policy Area do not result in any negative impacts on the assets in this area, then this policy will have a positive effect.	?	?	?	Potential to reduce access to the coast and its associated views, and result in a loss of amenity for recreation. The quality of the landscape may also be adversely impacted. However, the outcomes of this option are uncertain.
2... strengthen society	+	+	+	This option protects the landscape and access to the coast, potentially including walks, and areas to enjoy the landscape. This provides a resource which benefits society in providing places for people to meet and enjoy active lifestyles.	+	+	+	The	0	0	0	Potential reduced accessibility to coastal areas and shared space. However, the impact would be considered to be negligible.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	This option still permits appropriate development. Overall the option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option promotes access to the coast and provides protection for the coast-scape which is considered a resource for tourism.	0	0	0	This option may be less restrictive however it may not result in sustainable economic development.

6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Benefits for biodiversity and protection of earth science features and sites of nature conservation importance	+	+	+	Benefits for biodiversity and protection of earth science features and sites of nature conservation importance.	0	0	0	Reduction in protection of areas important for nature conservation, tourism and recreation.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This area of coast has some suitable areas for walking and cycling. These will be protected or enhanced, however in isolation, the overall impact of this option will not make a significant contribution to active travel.	0	0	0	This area of coast has some suitable areas for walking and cycling. These will be protected or enhanced, however in isolation, the overall impact of this option will not make a significant contribution to active travel.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	This coastal designation provides additional protection for areas important for aquatic food resources and habitats for birds, in addition to protecting coastal flood plains and seeking to minimise risks from flooding.	+	+	+	This coastal designation provides additional protection for areas important for aquatic food resources and habitats for birds in addition to protecting coastal flood plains and seeking to minimise risks from flooding.	0	0	0	This option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	The policy supports the protection for SPA and ASSI. This option seeks to protect and enhance blue and green infrastructure.	+	+	+	This policy supports the protection for SPA and ASSI. This option seeks to protect and enhance blue and green infrastructure.	0	0	0	Offers some protection but may not sufficiently protect and enhance green and blue infrastructure and resources important for ecosystem services.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	This option protects coastal views and the waterfront setting in this area.	+	+	+	This option protects coastal views and the waterfront setting but will need to consider carefully any spatial changes to the designation.	?	?	?	Removing the BMA Coastal Area designation, and relying on regional planning policies carried forward through the LDP could risk negative impacts on the coastal landscape and waterfront setting.

14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Additional protection for sense of place and local distinctiveness.	+	+	+	Additional protection for sense of place and local distinctiveness.	?	?	?	This outcomes of this option would be uncertain and may result in a degradation of the sense of place and local distinctiveness.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				Option C moves away from the current more strategic approach and does not positively contribute to the achievement of the sustainability objectives. It is also uncertain whether this option could have negative effects on health and well-being, landscape character and the historic environment. Options A and B would contribute to delivery of these objectives and, in addition, contribute to physical, water and natural resources and biodiversity, landscape character and the historic environment. As option A includes potential for review of the Shoreline Policy Area it could increase its contribution to these objectives depending on any spatial amendments to the designation.								
The preferred option				31A								
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects				Criteria for Shoreline Coastal Area boundary review; mapping and analysis, landscape character, natural resources and historic environment assets.								

## Issue 32: Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann Corridor

	32A: Provide increased policy protection for the most scenic and environmentally important areas associated with Lough Beg and the Lower River Bann corridor.				32B: Rely only on regional planning policies carried forward (such as PPS2, PPS18 and PPS21) to protect designated conservation sites, the landscape setting and natural heritage features in the Lough Beg fringe area and the Lower River Bann corridor.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Additional protection for the most sensitive areas and landscapes. Able to conserve and enhance the area's assets, and potentially encourage more people to visit, use for leisure and enjoy; enhance attractiveness of local area where people live which would improve health and wellbeing. People can also benefit from knowing they have a resource even if they do not use it.	+	+	+	Current policy provides some protection for this area where people can participate in water sports, walk and bird watch. People use area for painting and photography. People can also benefit from knowing they have a resource even if they do not use it.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective although there could be some enhancement of sense of place/identity for local people by protecting local landscape/environment. Could help add to community cohesion through shared landscape.	0	0	0	Status quo scenario. This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Area is floodplain so in general there is little development pressure for housing due to the unsuitability of land. This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Area is floodplain so in general there is little development pressure for housing due to the unsuitability of land. This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Pros and cons to this option. May limit businesses like peat extraction/composting but could also encourage and stimulate local tourism and/or conservation based enterprises. Could maintain or enhance attractiveness of the area for visitors. Slight uncertainty as any limits to certain types of economic growth could be positives for others. Pros and cons thought to balance one another out.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible on the objective.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	?	?	?	May restrict some developments such as renewable energy projects i.e. solar/ hydro/wind, and their associated electrical infrastructure. However, the impact of this outcome is uncertain.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.



7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	May be possible constraints in some areas on minerals, some land uses and possible geothermal energy infrastructure but option would help place development in the most sustainable locations and at same time help to protect greenfield land and earth science sites. Potential to enhance links to local blue/green infrastructure.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective. (It could transpire that this option encourages visitors and locals to opt for cycling/walking when in the locality depending on local transport options and recreational activities.)	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective. (It could transpire that this option encourages visitors and locals to opt for cycling/walking when in the locality depending on local transport options and recreational activities.)	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	May restrict some renewable energy development but only in some areas. Floodplain protections and protections for areas of peat (which act as carbon stores) are heightened under this option, which can be counted as an adaptation measure for climate change.	+	+	+	This option would provide some protection for floodplains and areas of peat (act as carbon store), however, not to the same extent if designated policy areas are introduced.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	May help to avoid inappropriate development and further protect the floodplain area. Help to decrease risks of local water pollution and minimise risks from flooding.	+	+	+	Some protection for floodplains and watercourse under current policies. This option would have some positive effects on the objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Would enable heightened protection of the natural environment in areas adjacent to nature conservation designations and other important areas of natural heritage, and provides an opportunity to protect or enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services over a wider area within the locality.	+	+	+	PPS2 provides strong protection for Lough Beg and its features of nature conservation importance. However, important natural heritage features are more vulnerable outside of nature conservation designations.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Scope to protect against the adverse impacts of particular types of development over a wider area leading to benefits for the landscape character, setting and visual amenity in this Area of Scenic Quality.	+	+	+	There is current protection for landscape character but the landscape quality is sensitive to change and vulnerable to development pressure if this were to increase.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Provides additional protection for the most sensitive areas to maintain sense of place and protect/strengthen local distinctiveness in this area. Wider scope feasible under this	+	+	+	Current policy provides some protection, however the landscape and setting of Lough Beg and the River Bann are sensitive to change.

				option to consider local environmental conditions and the valuable recreational and tourism resources in this area.				
<b>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives</b>				Option 32A would provide additional protection for the most sensitive areas. The level of protection would depend on the designation applied. This option scores positively for health and well-being, physical resources, climate change, water resources, natural resources and built/cultural heritage. It makes a significant contribution to landscape and the historic environment. Option 32B does contribute to some objectives (e.g. health, landscape and built/cultural heritage) but not to the same extent as Option 32A and therefore contributes less overall for meeting the sustainability objectives.				
<b>The preferred option</b>				32A				
<b>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</b>				Other planning policy, site mitigation – planning conditions, local blue/green infrastructure plans, local level guidance.				

Issue 33: Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)									
	33A: Provide increased policy protection to protect exceptional landscapes and areas considered highly sensitive to particular types of development within the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).				33B: Rely only on regional planning policies carried forward (such as PPS2, PPS18 and PPS21) to protect the distinctive special character of the AONB, the quality of its landscape and its heritage assets.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Could help enable an enhanced level of tranquillity and/or recreation/leisure opportunities and add to peoples' health and well-being at a local level. Difficult to gauge if would be an improvement or not on peoples' health and well-being so overall this option thought to have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Current policy provides protection but could maybe go further. Links exist between landscape and peoples' health/well-being but overall this option thought to have a negligible effect on the objective.	
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	May help in the location of sustainable housing but difficult to say if this would be good quality housing or not. Policy only applicable to some areas so overall this option thought to have a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Balances the need to restrict inappropriate development and protect landscape and heritage assets; more targeted for sustainable economic growth. For example, certain restrictions on developments/business in some areas may benefit more appropriate ventures (tourism and/or recreation). This option thought to have a negligible overall effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Some protection under current policy but could be more targeted for this issue.	
6... manage material assets sustainably.	?	?	?	May be some restrictions on some renewables and associated infrastructure including substations and overhead lines. However any impact of this option would be uncertain and would depend upon the spatial extent of any designations.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Land/greenfield land conserved and important earth science sites can be further protected. The asset (landscape) is the priority and although some developments may be restricted (minerals, renewables), others may be encouraged (tourism, nature related). Overall positive.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.	
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	

9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no effect on the objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Potential negatives for some types of renewable i.e. wind, but only in some areas and not feasible against all renewables. Option could enable better protection of peatlands, which act as carbon/water stores and help create landscape scale conservation for this key habitat – climate change adaptation.	+	+	+	This option would facilitate renewable energy development and provide protection for peatland habitats (natural carbon store).
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Restricting development in some sensitive areas could be a positive for water quality and help to reduce the likelihood of local water pollution. In addition, conserving peatlands/uplands and protecting from development is a positive for water conservation as it helps with flooding downstream and is good for local ecology.	+	+	+	Under this option there is some protection for peatland and watercourses.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Helps to further protect natural resources including sensitive areas/habitats/species from adverse impacts of development and would provide protective buffers from inappropriate development for these areas.	+	+	+	Current policy provides protection and designations exist that overlap that also provide protection.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Helps to further protect sensitive landscapes using spatial policies with benefits for significant settings and views and local distinctiveness.	+	+	+	Current policy provides some protection for landscape character.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Helps to further protect the historic environment. Enables areas rich in significant archaeological features to be afforded additional protection and the setting of cultural heritage assets both built and natural, to be preserved.	+	+	+	Current policy provides some protection for the historic environment and the setting of settlements.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				Option 33A delivers more positively on several objectives. It scored positive for protecting physical resources, reducing causes of and adapting to climate change and protecting water resources and natural resources. It was considered to have a significantly positive effect on protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage. Option 33B delivers certain level of protection which supports several objectives however the gains are limited by relying on policy rather than a strategic approach.				
The preferred option				33A				
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects				Regional/community level renewable energy projects (shared ownership), partnership working with SONI/NIE, local level guidance, other planning policy, boundary planting, biodiversity enhancement measures, sensitive landscaping/engineering.				

Issue 34: Areas of High Scenic Quality												
	34B: Retain existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value and associated policy.				34A: Retain the existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Areas of High Scenic Value if considered appropriate.				34C: Remove the existing designated Areas of High Scenic Value (AOHSV) and rely only on regional planning policies carried forward (such as PPS 2, PPS 18 and PPS 21) to provide protection for landscape setting, nature conservation interests and important heritage features in these areas of particular landscape merit.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Retaining AOHSVs is positive as there are links between amenity/intrinsic value of landscape and people's health and well-being. However, the overall impact on health and well-being is considered to be negligible.	0	0	0	Retaining is positive as there are links between amenity/intrinsic value of landscape and people's health and well-being. However, the overall impact on health and well-being is considered to be negligible.	0	0	0	This option has negligible effect on this objective.
2... strengthen society	0	0	0	Can help with sense of identity/place through local character/distinctiveness. Can add sense of attractiveness to a local area outside of the AONB. Only slight link so this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Can help with sense of identity/place through local character/distinctiveness. Can add sense of attractiveness to a local area outside of the AONB. Potential for wider scope to other areas so this option thought to be able to deliver slightly more for this objective.	0	0	0	There may be the risk of inappropriate development leading to a loss of local landscape character under this option but as only a slight link to the objective the effect is thought to be negligible.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	This option seeks to provide additional protection for landscapes of scenic quality and their character but the overall	0	0	0	This option seeks to provide additional protection for landscape scenic quality and their character but overall impact on sustainable	0	?	?	There may be an increased risk of (inappropriate) development that detracts from these areas and in the medium to long term the

				impact on sustainable economic growth may be negligible due to protection afforded to these areas by other policies.				economic growth may be negligible due to protection afforded to these areas by other policies.				scenic value/natural resource may be significantly degraded. Slight uncertainty as to how this may impact on sustainable economic development.
<b>6... manage material assets sustainably.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Renewable energy development would be restricted in the most sensitive areas. Note that PPS18 also seeks to prevent inappropriate renewable development in sensitive areas. With regards to other material assets this option has no effect on this objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Renewable energy development would be restricted in most sensitive areas. Note that PPS18 also seeks to prevent inappropriate renewable development in sensitive areas. With regards to other material assets this option has no effect on this objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Slight positives possibly for renewables with removal of designations but other policies also protect landscape. This option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.
<b>7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Slight uncertainty; positive that land is protected and this may include earth science sites but may be restrictions for geothermal energy and minerals. Overall this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Slight uncertainty; positive that land is protected and this may include earth science sites but may be restrictions for geothermal energy and minerals. Potential for wider scope of positives under this option if approached in a certain way. Overall this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective. This option could potentially deliver slightly more for this objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	Slight uncertainty about impacts of this option. There may be greater risks to biodiversity and tourism assets (landscape) in the medium to long term.
<b>8... encourage active and sustainable travel.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option has no effect on this objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option has no effect on this objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option has no effect on this objective.
<b>9... improve air quality.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option has no effect on this objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option has no effect on this objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option has no effect on this objective.
<b>10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	May constrain renewables, which helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions but relatively small areas so this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	May constrain renewables, which helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions but relatively small areas so this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option has no effect on this objective.

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	May help by protecting land and restricting some types of development. Impact depends on location and nature of development so this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	May help by protecting land and restricting some types of development. Impact depends on location and nature of development so this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Impact on water resources would depend on subsequent land management/ development after designations were removed however this option thought to have negligible effect on this objective as there are other controls on water.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Natural features protected adding to biodiversity as well as landscape character.	+	+	+	Natural features protected adding to biodiversity as well as landscape character. Potential wider scope of protection feasible. This option could deliver slightly more for this objective.	?	?	?	Some protection under policy provisions such as PPS2/SPPS. However, with the removal of protection under designated AOHSV, any impact is considered uncertain in regard to this objective.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Retaining protection for landscape character and heritage interests is positive for this objective.	+	+	+	Retaining protection for landscape character and heritage interests is positive for this objective, potential benefits could be accrued for new designated areas.	-	-	-	Depending on future land management there is the risk of inappropriate development and degradation of landscape character in these areas over the medium to long term. Note that other policy provisions could offer some protection, but this option does not maintain or add to existing policy protection for these ASQ.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Landscape is part of our cultural heritage and protection of this resource is a positive. This option provides additional protection for cultural heritage assets, sense of place and local distinctiveness in AOHSV.	+	+	+	Landscape is part of our cultural heritage and protection of this resource is a positive. This option provides additional protection for cultural heritage assets, sense of place and local distinctiveness in AOHSV. This option allows for additional protection to be afforded to other ASQs, and on this basis, this option could deliver slightly more for this objective.	-	-	-	Could have negatives in medium to longer term if sense of place, local distinctiveness and cultural heritage assets are degraded due to future (inappropriate) land development/management. Option diminishes the means to achieve the objective by offering reduced protection.

<b>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives</b>	Option C, which would remove existing designations and rely on policy is a less strategic approach which carries risks of degradation of landscape and the historic environment and uncertain outcomes for economic growth, protecting physical resources and protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity. The scoring for options A and B is largely the same however the comments indicate that overall option A, which allows additional scope for designation, could deliver slightly more for a number of objectives and make a significant contribution to maintaining and enhancing landscape character.
<b>The preferred option</b>	34A
<b>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</b>	Design criteria; building design guides, key site requirements; feasible development lists; local landscape policy provision; planning conditions.



## Issue 35: Local Landscape Policy Areas

	35B: Retain the existing designated Local Landscape Policy Areas and associated policy.				35A: Retain the existing designated Local Landscape Policy Areas and associated policy, and identify and designate other Local Landscape Policy Areas where appropriate.				35C: Remove existing designated Local Landscape Policy Areas and rely only on regional planning policies carried forward (such as PPS2 and PPS21) to provide protection for the environmental and heritage features in these areas.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Positives particularly as located in settlements. Help to reduce noise and pollution and provide amenity value, which can all contribute to health and well-being.	+	+	+	Positives particularly as located in settlements. Help to reduce noise and pollution and provide amenity value, which can all contribute to health and well-being. Wider scope through designation of other LLPAs. This option could deliver slightly more for this objective.	?	?	?	Areas that have significant amenity value and offer mitigation of air and noise pollution could be lost if not appropriately protected from development pressure and inappropriate development. Removal of current policy would weaken protection of features of interest in LLPAs and potential LLPAs. It is uncertain whether this would be a net negative effect.
2... strengthen society	0	0	0	Negligible impact	0	0	0	Negligible impact	0	0	0	Negligible impact
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Negligible impact	0	0	0	Negligible impact	0	0	0	This option thought to have no effect on this objective.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Retaining natural heritage features for amenity and landscape value is positive as they can act as a buffer from pollutant sources, help mitigate pollution, and maintain biodiversity. Option does not link	0	0	0	Retaining natural heritage features for amenity and landscape value is positive as they can act as a buffer from pollutant sources, help mitigate pollution, and maintain biodiversity. Option does not link	?	?	?	May be risk of loss of significant natural heritage features and as a consequence some negative impacts on biodiversity and pollution mitigation.

				with majority of other aspects of physical resources so this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective on balance.				with other aspects of physical resources. Wider scope with new designations. This option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective on balance but it could deliver slightly more than Option 35B.				
<b>8... encourage active and sustainable travel.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Cycle/walk routes may be included within the LLPAs and could connect to or pass by such routes as part of local blue/green infrastructure. Access to river corridors and shorelines could increase, however overall impact on this objective is considered negligible.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Cycle/walk routes may be included within the LLPAs and could connect to or pass by such routes as part of local blue/green infrastructure. Access to river corridors and shorelines could increase, however overall impact on this objective is considered negligible.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Impact depends on future land management how the sites are accessed and integrated to settlements and with other areas of green and blue infrastructure. Impact considered negligible.
<b>9... improve air quality.</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	Retaining areas is positive as they very often have trees/natural/semi-natural features that can help to reduce local air pollution in urban areas.	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	Retaining areas is positive as they very often have trees/natural/semi-natural features that can help to reduce local air pollution in urban areas.	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	Assuming sites remain as they are, local air quality should be maintained but much depends on future land management in a local context. If the sites are inappropriately developed then local air quality may deteriorate due to loss of natural features. Overall impact is uncertain.
<b>10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Depends on location and habitat but potential is there to partly achieve this objective by retaining sites with natural infrastructure. However impact may be considered negligible.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Depends on location and habitat but potential is there to partly achieve this objective by retaining sites with natural infrastructure. However impact may be considered negligible	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Impact considered negligible.
<b>11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	May be slight link to this objective and protecting water resources but this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	May be slight link to this objective and protecting water resources but this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This option would have no effect on this objective.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Retaining natural heritage features has positives for local biodiversity, wildlife corridors and ecosystem services, particularly as these sites are in and around urban areas.	+	+	+	Retaining natural heritage features has positives for local biodiversity, wildlife corridors and ecosystem services, particularly as these sites are in and around urban areas.	?	?	?	May lead to negative impacts from inappropriate development and loss of natural heritage features. Much depends on future land management. If the sites are inappropriately developed then biodiversity may deteriorate with loss of natural features. Overall impact is uncertain
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Retaining additional policy protection is positive. Helps to maintain landscape character and local distinctiveness specific to the local area, and minimise visual intrusion of future development.	+	+	+	Retaining additional policy protection is positive. Helps to maintain landscape character and local distinctiveness specific to the local area, and minimise visual intrusion of future development. This option will provide more for this objection as additional areas will be designated.	?	?	?	Assuming sites remain without inappropriate development then they should achieve objective but depends on local development pressure and application of other policies. Also no opportunity to identify and provide added protection for other areas under this option. Reduced protection could lead to a significant loss of features important for landscape character.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Retaining additional policy is positive for protecting the setting of built and cultural heritage, sense of place and local distinctiveness.	+	+	+	Retaining additional policy is positive for protecting the setting of built and cultural heritage, sense of place and local distinctiveness. This option could deliver slightly more for this objective, benefits over a wider area.	?	?	?	Assuming sites remain without inappropriate development then they should achieve objective but depends on local development pressure and application of other policies. Also no opportunity to identify and provide added protection for other areas under this option. Reduced protection could lead to a significant loss of features important for landscape character.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				Option C which would remove existing Local Landscape Policy Areas has a number of uncertain and potentially negative effects for example on health and well-being and the historic environment. The scoring across Options A and B is the same and both score positively for health and wellbeing, air quality and natural resources. Both have significant positive scores for maintaining landscape character and protecting built/cultural heritage. Option A is								

	thought to be able to deliver slightly more for all of the positively scored objectives due to the potentially wider scope of influence through designation of additional Local Landscape Policy Areas.
<b>The preferred option</b>	35A
<b>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</b>	Potential to develop local level policy measures to improve LLPA protection. These could include key site requirements. Measures to incorporate and integrate blue/green infrastructure within LLPAs.

### Issue 36: Landscape Wedges

	36B: Retain the existing designated Rural Landscape Wedges and associated policy.				36A: Retain the existing designated Rural Landscape Wedges and associated policy, and designate other areas within the Borough as Rural Landscape Wedges if considered appropriate.				36C: Remove existing designated Rural Landscape Wedges and rely only on regional planning policies carried forward (such as PPS 2, PPS 18 and PPS 21) to provide protection for buffer landscapes and open areas recognised as essential for the protection of the setting of particular settlements and maintaining their separation.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Landscape wedges can include agricultural land and informal and formal open space. This option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Landscape wedges can include agricultural land and informal and formal open space. Potential for wider scope but amount and type of suitable/applicable land thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Other policies are applicable. This option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.
2... strengthen society	0	0	0	Landscape wedges can include agricultural land and informal and formal open space. This option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Landscape wedges can include agricultural land and informal and formal open space. Potential for wider scope but amount and type of suitable/applicable land thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Landscape Wedges may restrict some rural housing but local level exceptions could be developed. Overall, this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Landscape Wedges may restrict some rural housing but local level exceptions could be developed. Small areas being considered and most likely not going to impact on many people. This option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	More housing may be enabled if other existing policies are not enough to ensure protection of these areas from development. Overall this option thought to have a negligible effect on the objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.

5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	May restrict some development including industrial or commercial but likely to be limited. May also impact on farm diversification/buildings although permitted development rights will enable some development. Should not impact on economic growth within the settlements so this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	May restrict some development including industrial or commercial but likely to be limited. May also impact on farm diversification/buildings although permitted development rights will enable some development. Should not impact on economic growth within the settlements so this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Economic initiatives may be enabled within these areas but other policies applied may protect setting, natural features etc. Overall this option is thought to have a negligible effect on the objective.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Helps to contain development within settlements and encourages use of urban land/sites e.g. derelict/contaminated land. But overall option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Helps to contain development within settlements and encourages use of urban land/ sites. Wider scope feasible with other sites but overall option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective though this option could deliver slightly more for this objective.	0	0	0	May be an increased risk of loss of land to development but only small areas being considered plus other policies still to be applied. This option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Minimizing expansion into greenfield sites helps to conserve the natural heritage and biodiversity value of sites adjacent to urban areas.	+	+	+	Minimizing expansion into greenfield sites helps to conserve the natural heritage and biodiversity value of sites adjacent to urban areas. Potential for wider scope of protection with additional sites feasible. This option could deliver slightly more for this objective.	0	0	0	Loss of this policy protection may increase risk of loss of agricultural land / greenfield sites to (inappropriate) development. Other policies still apply outside of the settlement development limit; small areas being considered so overall this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Some people may use these areas for walking, and there are some formal areas for recreation. However, the level of use is thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Some people may use these areas for walking, and there are some formal areas for recreation. However, the level of use is thought to have a negligible effect on this objective. Wider scope possible with additional sites so this option could	?	?	?	Potential status quo scenario though land could be developed and may or may not encourage active travel. Depends on future local land management and strength of alternative policies.

								deliver slightly more for this objective by protecting additional vulnerable settlements.				
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	May help maintain current level of air quality (not improve) by restricting development with a rural wedge of semi-natural land cover. Overall this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	May help maintain current level of air quality by restricting development with a rural wedge of semi-natural land cover. Potential for more sites under this option so it could increase the cumulative benefits. This option could deliver slightly more for this objective.	0	?	?	Land may or may not be developed and which could impact on local air quality. Depends on future local land management. May be slightly higher risk that land developed in such a way that air quality unlikely to improve.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Retaining semi-natural land could be counted as adaptation. Depending on habitat and location this could potentially be even more important for climate change e.g. floodplain. In this instance, the option is thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Retaining semi-natural land can be counted as adaptation. Depending on habitat and location this could potentially be even more important for climate change e.g. floodplain. Wider scope under this option with new sites feasible so this option could deliver slightly more for this objective especially if key habitats/locations were to be designated. In this instance, the option is thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.	?	?	?	Land may or may not be developed. Climate adaptation function of sites depends on future local land management and whether or not sites are developed.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Wedges have the potential to act as buffer strips if located near waterways as they can protect surface and ground water from pollution. This option has negligible net effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Wedges have the potential to act as buffer strips if located near waterways as they can protect surface and ground water from pollution. There is the potential to widen the scope of protection with new sites. This option could deliver slightly more for this objective.	0	0	0	Under this option, the land may (or may not) be developed with either retention or loss of land capable of filtering pollution to ground or surface water. However overall this option thought to have a negligible effect on this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	This option is positive for retaining and protecting natural habitat for wildlife and maintaining local biodiversity levels. Can act as green infrastructure.	+	+	+	This option is positive for retaining and protecting natural habitat for wildlife and maintaining local biodiversity levels. Can act as green infrastructure.	?	?	?	Other policies could still be applied to protect natural features, species and habitats, however there could be high development pressure in these areas. Potential effects

							Potential for new sites under this option so thought to be able to deliver slightly more for this objective.				depend upon the local planning context and future land management/development. Higher risk of losing natural resources such as local biodiversity, wildlife corridors and support for ecosystem services.	
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Retaining wedges helps define settings and maintains visual separations helping with local landscape character.	+	+	+	Retaining wedges helps define settings of, and maintains visual separation between settlements, helping to conserve local landscape character. New sites are feasible under this option so this option thought to be able to deliver slightly more for this objective.	-	-	-	Potential loss of wedges may increase risk of loss of land to inappropriate development. Other policies thought not to offer enough protection to maintain landscape character and visual separation. Higher risk under this option that already vulnerable settings would be negatively impacted.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	The open nature of these areas is vital to protect sense of place and local distinctiveness.	+	+	+	The open nature of these areas is vital to protect sense of place and local distinctiveness. Option thought to potentially deliver slightly more for this objective.	-	-	-	Potential loss of wedges may increase risk of loss of land to inappropriate development. Other policies considered to not offer enough protection to maintain landscape character and visual separation. Higher risk under this option that already vulnerable settings would be negatively impacted.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				Option C has uncertain impacts on some sustainability objectives and minor negative impacts on landscape character and the historic environment due to removal of existing designations and reliance on a less strategic policy approach. Options A and B have the same scores which are minor positive for physical and natural resources, and a significant positive score for maintaining and enhancing landscape character and the historic environment. Option A is thought to be able to deliver slightly more on several objectives which are scored as a minor positive or negligible effect. Overall option A, which both retains existing and enables designation of new Landscape Wedges, is more strategic and more sustainable.								
The preferred option				36A								



Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Local level policy measures; local level guidelines; other planning tools.
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