

Local Development Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report

MARCH 2018

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This Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report has been prepared by Shared Environmental Service in conjunction with Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

Have your say

Public consultation on the Preferred Options Paper (POP) will begin on **28 March 2018**, and will be open for a period of 9 weeks, ending on **30 May 2018**.

Availability of Preferred Options Paper

The POP document and supporting documentation, including the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report, will be available on the Council's website: www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

The POP document is also available in hard copy to view during office hours at the following locations:

Planning Office Bridgewater House 23A Castlewellan Road Banbridge BT32 4AX	Craigavon Civic and Conference Centre 66 Lakeview Road Craigavon BT64 1AL
Banbridge Civic Building Downshire Road Banbridge BT32 3JY	Palace Buildings The Palace Demesne Friary Road Armagh BT60 4EL

Your comments on the POP Document and supporting information can be submitted by the various means below:

By email: ldp@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

By post: Planning LDP Team
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
Bridgewater House
23a Castlewellan Road
Banbridge, BT32 4AX

Online Questionnaire: <https://armaghbanbridgecraigavon.citizenspace.com/>

The closing date for the receipt of comments is: **30 May 2018, at 5pm**

Please note that representations made at the POP stage should relate to strategic planning issues affecting our Borough. There will be an opportunity to engage in respect of more specific issues later in the LDP process.

The POP and supporting documents can be made available on request in other formats, and alternative languages where possible, by contacting the Council's Planning Office:

By telephone: 0300 200 7830 (NI General Planning Line);
0300 0300 900 (Main Council Line)

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Local Development Plan

The purpose of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Local Development Plan (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 2035 (RDS) and guide development decisions within the Borough up to 2030.

The new LDP will be prepared within the context of the Council's Corporate Plan and will take account of the Council's Community Plan to enable us to plan positively for the future of the Borough. It will ensure that land is zoned appropriately and that our infrastructure is enhanced to develop the Borough 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 2035 (RDS), the UK Marine Policy Statement and, when published, the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs).

What is Sustainability Appraisal?

A Sustainability Appraisal is being carried out alongside preparation of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council LDP. Local Planning Authorities use sustainability appraisal to identify the relative environmental, social and economic performance of possible strategic, policy and site specific options, and to evaluate which of these may be more sustainable. Sustainability appraisal is a statutory process incorporating the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment.

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 Appraisal Objectives for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

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, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources

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List of Abbreviations

ACMD	Area of Constraint on Minerals Development
AoHSV	Area of High Scenic Value
DAERA	The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DOE	Department of the Environment
DOS	Development Opportunity Site
EAPP	Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ECN	Economic
ENV	Environment
G/BI	Green/Blue Infrastructure
LDP	Local Development Plan
LLPA	Local Landscape Policy Area
MSZ	Mineral Safeguarding Zone
MUGA	Multi Use Gaming Area
NEET	[Young People] Not In Education, Employment or Training
NIW	Northern Ireland Water
PfG	Programme for Government
POP	Preferred Options Paper
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
RDS	Regional Development Strategy
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SCA	Special Countryside Areas
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SGS	Spatial Growth Strategy
SOC	Social
SPPS	Strategic Planning Policy Statement
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
UCO	Use Classes Order

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Sustainability Interim Report

This interim report is part of the sustainability appraisal process for the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Local Development Plan (LDP) and is accompanied by the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. 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 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 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).

The purpose of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 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 2035 (RDS) and guide development decisions within our Borough up to 2030.

The new LDP will be prepared within the context of our Council's Corporate Plan and will take account of our Council's Community Plan to enable us to plan positively for the future of our Council area. It will ensure that lands are appropriately zoned and that our infrastructure is enhanced to develop our 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 RDS, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). The new LDP will replace the following Plans, which were prepared prior to April 2015:

- Armagh Area Plan 2004 & Alteration No. 1: Armagh Countryside Proposals 2004
- Craigavon Area Plan 2010
- Craigavon Town Centre Boundaries and Retail Designation Plan 2010
- Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015
- Dungannon and South Tyrone Area Plan 2010.

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 the Plan Area. The Local Policies Plan will provide site specific policies and proposals, including settlement limits, land use zonings and environmental designations.

The LDP is informed by an iterative sustainability appraisal which will run parallel to the preparation of the Preferred Options Paper, Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan. An integral part of the Sustainability Appraisal is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which will examine the environmental effects of the LDP proposals. The sustainability appraisal process aims to ensure that the policies and proposals in the LDP are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.

The preparation of the Scoping Report is the first stage in the undertaking of the SA / SEA. The Scoping Report sets out the evidence base and framework of sustainability objectives against which the social, economic and environmental effects of implementing the draft plan can be appraised.

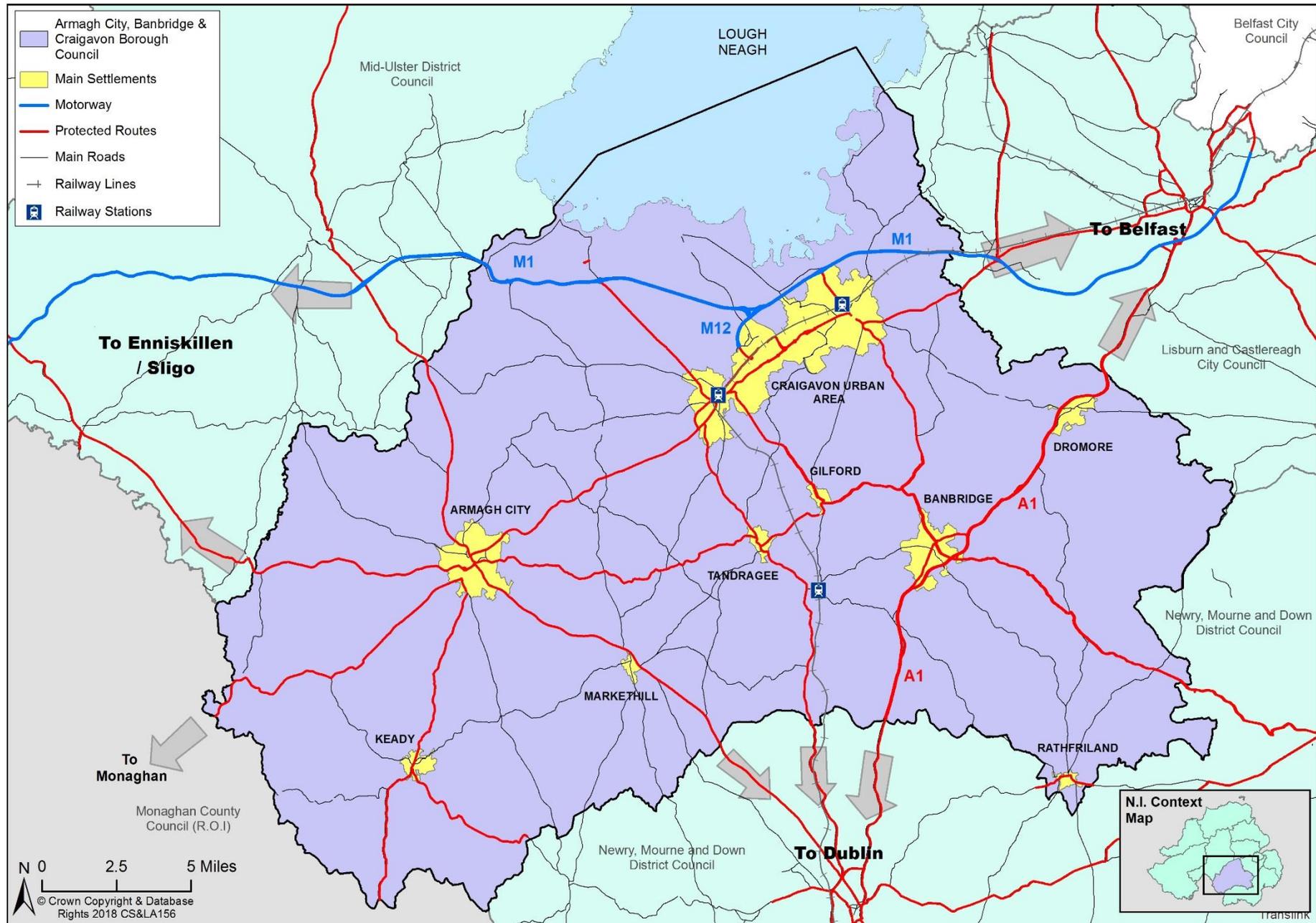
1.3 Spatial Scope and Profile of the Plan Area

The Borough extends to an area of approximately 554 square miles and adjoins the boundary of five neighbouring Council areas: Mid Ulster District Council, Newry Mourne and Down District Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (by Lough Neagh) and Monaghan County Council in the Republic of Ireland.

Population projections estimate that the population of the Borough is expected to grow from 207,775 in 2015, to 237,483 in 2030, which is a projected increase of approximately 30,000. The Borough currently has 104 designated settlements, the three hubs together accommodate almost half of the Boroughs population, Craigavon Urban Area (32.2%), Armagh City (7.4%) and Banbridge town (8.3%). Approximately 24% of the Boroughs population live in the rural area (outside of settlements).

The Borough consists of seven District Electoral Areas (DEAs) and on Census day 2011 the population was approximately 199,693, which represented approximately 11% of the Northern Ireland population. Figure 1.2.2 illustrates the Borough and its wider context.

Figure 1.2.2 Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Context Map



1.4 Sustainability Appraisal Context

1.4.1. Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a systematic process for assessing potential effects of proposed plans or programmes to ensure that significant environmental impacts are considered from the earliest opportunity and addressed in decision making. It was introduced by the European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. In Northern Ireland the Directive's requirements are taken forward through The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (EAPP) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004. The EAPP (NI) Regulations set out more detailed requirements for the process and content of the environmental assessment of plans and development. Appendix 1 records how these regulations are being complied with.

1.4.2. Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

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

Section 5 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the 2011 Act) requires those who exercise any function in relation to local development plans to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development. In addition, Sections 8(6) and 9(7) of the 2011 Act requires an appraisal of sustainability to be carried out for the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, respectively.

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

1.4.3. 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 (a wetland of international importance under the provisions of the Ramsar Convention). Baseline information for Habitats Regulations Assessment is included in Appendix 7 of the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. A draft Habitats Regulations Assessment will be published for consultation with the Draft Plan Strategy and Draft Local Policies Plan. A final Habitats Regulations Assessment will be published when each of these are adopted.

1.4.4. Rural Proofing

The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, which came in to force on 1 June 2017 and applies to NI Government Departments and Councils, 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

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

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 considers rural populations and how the LDP could affect them in the evidence base for the community topic. Data on rural populations, where available, is also included under other topics, for example health, education and infrastructure. Key sustainability issues for the Borough include some specific to rural communities and the appraisal prompts include questions about how a proposal will meet the needs of rural populations or potentially have a disproportionate impact.

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

1.4.5. 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 any limitations and difficulties that were encountered. Chapter 3 summarises the appraisal findings and Chapter 4 describes the cumulative impact of the preferred options and summarises the outcome and the next steps for the appraisal process for the LDP. Appendix 4 presents the detailed record of the sustainability appraisal.

2 Sustainability Appraisal: The Approach

2.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the approach taken to carry out sustainability appraisal for the Preferred Options Paper. The Strategic Context for sustainability appraisal and the preparation of LDPs is presented in Section 4.3 of the Scoping Report.

2.2 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.

2.2.1. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework is to provide a means of ensuring that the social, environmental and economic needs of the area are considered in plan preparation. It enables the effects of plan proposals to be described, analysed and compared. It also helps identify measures to minimise negative effects and enhance positive effects.

The Sustainability Appraisal Framework consists of sustainability objectives with prompts which are used to assess plan proposals against the baseline. It is presented in Chapter 6 and Appendix 5 of the Scoping Report. All stages of plan-making will be assessed using the Framework which may be updated as further information becomes available.

2.2.2. The Sustainability Objectives

A total of fourteen social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives were identified in the Scoping Report. These were informed by the strategic and policy context, a review of baseline information for our council and any evidence of trends and issues. The objectives for sustainable development for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon 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 the historic environment and cultural resources

The sustainability objectives follow with a short rationale and description of what each seeks to achieve.

The objectives for sustainable development for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council are to:

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

Public policy seeks to increase healthy life expectancy, reduce preventable deaths, improve mental health and reduce health inequalities. Evidence shows that there is a need to address obesity, increase physical activity and reduce inequalities in health. It is also necessary to provide for the needs of an aging population and minimize the detrimental impacts of noise. This can be achieved by creating an environment that is clean and attractive; encourages healthy lifestyles and enables access to health care facilities for all.

2.... strengthen society.

Regional policy is directed towards improving community relations and creating a safe society which is more united. Success will be represented by places which are inclusive, respect culture and identity, promote social integration and create a sense of pride. They will also be designed to feel safe and to reduce opportunity for crime or anti-social behaviour.

3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.

The population is growing and therefore there is ongoing need for new housing in locations that meet regional policy, are accessible and balance the needs of society and the environment. The make-up of households is changing therefore design needs to meet long term requirements with good quality build to be sustainable. This objective should reduce homelessness and ensure decent, affordable homes with a mix of types.

4.... enable access to high quality education.

Good education improves opportunities for employment and also contributes to avoidance of poverty and healthier lifestyles. The provision of suitable accommodation for educational establishments in appropriate, accessible locations should play a part in making schools more sustainable and reducing inequalities in education.

5.... enable sustainable economic growth.

Regional policy seeks to develop a strong, competitive and regionally balanced economy. It is necessary to provide suitable locations for employment, with flexibility where necessary, to reflect current and future distribution of jobs across sectors, encourage new business start-ups, facilitate innovation, regenerate areas, attract investment and make employment as accessible as possible for all. This will reduce unemployment and poverty by helping more people to earn a living and increase their income.

6.... manage material assets sustainably.

Material assets such as infrastructure and sources of energy production are essential for society and the economy but need careful planning to ensure that they are designed for efficiency and to minimize adverse impacts. The concept of circular economy treats waste as resource which should be managed sustainably to reduce production and increase recovery, recycling and composting rates; new or adapted facilities may be required.

7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.

Land, minerals, geothermal energy and soil are resources which require protection from degradation and safeguarding for future use. Sustainable agriculture, tourism and sustainable use of minerals and geothermal energy can help to support the economy.

8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.

There is a common goal to reduce traffic emissions and congestion which means reducing car use and increasing other forms of transport. Better access to public transport and opportunities for active travel make travel more affordable with added health benefits and also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Measures that help reduce car use and improve accessibility to encourage a shift to travel by public transport, walking and cycling will contribute to this goal.

9.... improve air quality.

Air pollution has serious impacts on human health as well as degrading the natural environment. This objective can be achieved through reducing sources of air pollution. Where air pollution cannot be totally excluded, careful siting of development should avoid impacts on sensitive receptors.

10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.

International commitments require greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced to lessen their effects on climate. Measures that help reduce energy consumption and enable renewable energy helps mitigate greenhouse gas emissions however adaptation is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change.

11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.

This objective encompasses reducing levels of water pollution, sustainable use of water resources, improving the physical state of the water environment and reducing the risk of flooding now and in the future. It meets the requirements of Northern Ireland legislation, strategies and plans in support of the Water Framework Directive and other Directives that relate to water and it takes account of the future impacts of climate change.

12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.

International obligations which are adopted in Northern Ireland legislation and policies require the protection of biodiversity including flora, fauna and habitats. 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.

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 to protect and enhance open spaces and the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors.

14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.

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 Key Sustainability Issues relating to each sustainability objective along with prompts to guide sustainability appraisal can be found in the Sustainability Appraisal Guide in Appendix 5 of the Scoping Report.

2.2.3. Assessment Method

The options for each LDP issue 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

ISSUE												
OPTIONS	Option 1:				Option 2:				Option 3:			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1. Sustainability Objective												
2. Sustainability Objective												
3. Sustainability Objective, etc.												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summary and comparison of alternative options against the sustainability objectives. ▪ Identification of the most sustainable option. ▪ Identification of the preferred option. ▪ Summary of what, if any, significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option. ▪ Summary of mitigation measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and/or offset as fully as possible any significant adverse effects of the preferred option. ▪ Summary of measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects. 												

Table 2.2: Scoring and definitions for Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

Rating		Description
++	Significant Positive	Policy/ proposal would greatly help to achieve the objective
+	Minor Positive	Policy/ proposal would slightly help to achieve the objective
0	Neutral / no effect	Policy/ proposal would have no overall effect
-	Minor Negative	Policy/ proposal would slightly conflict with the objective
--	Significant Negative	Policy/ proposal would greatly conflict with the objective
?	Uncertain	The effect cannot be predicted because 1. the approach has an uncertain relationship to the objective; or 2. the relationship is dependent on the way in which the approach is implemented; or 3. insufficient information may be available to enable an appraisal to be made.
ST	Short Term	Up to five years
MT	Medium Term	Five to 15 years
LT	Long term	Over 15 years

Key:	++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No overall effect	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	? Score uncertain
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2.2.4. The Appraisal Meeting and Write-Up

Appraisal of the options presented in the Preferred Options Paper was carried out on two days in December 2017. The appraisal panel comprised of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Planning team and a number of additional staff from the Environmental Health, Waste Management and Economic Development Directorates.

Appraisals were carried out using the agreed Sustainability Appraisal Framework, and scores with explanations were recorded in the appraisal matrices, presented in Appendix 4. 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. A summary of the findings of the appraisal is presented in Chapter 3.

2.2.5. 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 few 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.

2.2.6. Consideration of Potential Mitigation Measures

The SEA Directive requires consideration of *'measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative 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.

2.2.7. 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. In some cases, there is uncertainty 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 of plan preparation. 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 where it could have both positive and negative effects. In these situations 'uncertain' was also recorded and potential impacts noted in the explanation. 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. In some cases it was found that the effect will depend upon the type of development and the exact location. Many of the proposals affect multiple locations, or locations for which boundaries have not been defined. This can make it difficult 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. It is hard to predict in many cases when an effect is likely to be apparent at this stage of plan development. 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.

2.2.8. Cumulative Effects

Consideration is given to any cumulative effects of proposals at each stage of plan preparation. These will include potential cumulative effects within the plan and in combination with other relevant plans and strategies.

2.2.9. 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 2. No sustainability objectives were considered to be incompatible with the rest of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. In some cases, however the effect is uncertain.

2.2.10. Compatibility of Sustainability Objectives with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council's LDP Strategic Objectives.

Chapter 4 of the POP explores the link between the LDP and the Council's Corporate and Community Plans. It also invites comment on the proposed vision and identifies five overarching principles along with a number of strategic social, economic and environmental objectives for the LDP.

The Vision for the LDP is: *“Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough will be a place of choice to live, work and visit with a vibrant and sustainable economy supported by a healthy and connected community.”*

Almost all of the sustainability objectives are clearly supported by the LDP objectives as identified in Appendix 2. Some, however, such as *‘reduce causes of and adapt to climate change’*, are not explicitly referred to, although they are implicit where sustainable growth and development is referred to.

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 facilitating economic growth 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.

3 Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Findings

3.1 Introduction

The POP proposals are grouped under the headings of Spatial Growth Strategies, Social, Economy and Environment. In each group there are a number of headings for which one or more Key Issues are identified with 3 Key Issues for Spatial Growth Strategies, 7 Social Key Issues, 18 Economic and 10 Environmental.

Up to three options were identified for each Key Issue. In a few cases there was no feasible alternative therefore only one option was put forward. All options have been appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The full assessment is presented in Appendix 4. For each Key Issue the preferred option is presented first, followed by all alternatives that were considered. These are followed by a figure which summarises the long term effects. The key for scoring can be found in Table 2.2.

A summary and comparison of the options against the sustainability objectives is presented after which significant effects, positive or negative, are reported. Where a preferred option is to be taken forward that has a significant negative effect then it is necessary to identify mitigation measures prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset those significant negative effects of the preferred option. No significant negative effects are envisaged for any of the preferred options. During the appraisal however some ideas were discussed for measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects and these are reported. There is not a legal requirement to implement these however they are recorded so that, where appropriate, they can be incorporated to further the overall sustainability of the LDP.

3.2 Spatial Growth Strategy - Issues and Options

3.2.1. Settlement Hierarchy

Key Issue SGS 1: Defining a Settlement Hierarchy

Preferred Option SGS 1A: Bring forward a new settlement hierarchy through re-classification of existing settlements where appropriate and to include new settlements / new settlement nodes.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option SGS 1B: Retain the existing settlement hierarchy with no additional new settlements / no new settlement nodes.

	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 .
SGS 1A	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
SGS 1B	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	0	-	0	+	0

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option SGS 1A was considered to have a slight positive effect on almost all of the sustainability objectives, particularly the social and economic objectives. Option SGS 1B was considered to be less desirable in respect of the social and economic appraisal objectives as it would restrict the growth of existing settlements and would prevent new settlements from being identified thus also inhibiting growth in these areas. It was also considered to be slight negative for environmental objectives, as it would likely result in a greater overall land use to provide the same number of units

Option SGS 1A was considered to be the most sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

The preferred option has no significant positive effects but the more efficient use of land and ability to identify new settlement areas will result in a number of social and economic benefits. The more efficient use of assets through clustering and creating economies of scale will also benefit environmental receptors. No significant negative impacts were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Key Site Requirements will be established for development zones to ensure potential benefits are maximised and mitigate against adverse impacts. Biodiversity studies in existing and proposed new settlements, planning policy, mitigation, Key Site Requirements, green building design, local building design / conservation guidance.

3.2.2. Housing Allocation

Key Issue SGS 2A: Allocating Housing

Preferred Option SGS 2A: Focus housing growth on the Hubs whilst sustaining rural communities to reflect regional direction.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option SGS 2B: Maintain the housing allocation in line with the proportion of households at each level of settlement hierarchy (2011 Census).

Alternative Option SGS 2C: Maintain the housing allocation in line with the proportion of population at each level of settlement hierarchy (2011 Census).

	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.
Option SGS 2A	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
Option SGS 2B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
Option SGS 2C	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Options SGS 2A and SGS 2B score the same across all sustainability objectives, however through the comments it can be seen that option SGS 2A has slightly greater benefits. Option SGS 2C received neutral tending towards slight negative for social objectives and scored slight negative for economic and environmental objectives.

Option SGS 2A was considered to be the most sustainable option

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

The preferred option has no significant positive effects but the more efficient use of land and ability to identify new settlement areas will result in a number of minor positive social and economic benefits. The more efficient use of assets through clustering and creating economies of scale may also benefit environmental receptors. No significant negative impacts were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Planning policy, mitigation, Key Site Requirements, green building design, local building design / conservation guidance. Key site requirements would be used to protect the most biodiverse /sensitive areas. Greenways / connectivity to active/sustainable transport are recommended to be designed in to new housing areas.

3.2.3. Economic Development Lands Allocation

Key Issue SGS 3: Allocating economic development lands

Preferred Option SGS 3A: Apportion economic development lands in relation to former council populations and in addition reflect Craigavon’s sub-regional function.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option SGS 3B: Apportion economic development lands equally across former council areas focused on 3 x Hubs.

Alternative Option SGS 3C: Apportion economic development lands in relation to population of 3x Hubs (city/town/urban areas).

	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.
Option SGS 3A	0	+	0	+	+	+	-	++	-	+	0	-	0	0
Option SGS 3B	?	-	0	?	-	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	0	0
Option SGS 3C	0	0	0	?	-	-	-	?	-	+	0	-	0	0

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option SGS 3A was considered to have positive impacts on social sustainability objectives, whereas 3B has mainly negative, neutral or uncertain impacts. Option SGS 3C generally has negligible to slight negative effect on social objectives. In terms of economic objectives, SGS 3B and SGS 3C are considered to be less sustainable than SGS 3A and have scored negatively whereas SGS 3A has scored positively. For the environmental sustainability objectives, SGS 3A scores strongly positive in its abilities to support active / sustainable travel which has a knock on effect to climate change. SGS 3B and SGS 3C have limited positive effects on environmental objectives. All options would result in a net loss of greenfield areas and biodiversity.

Option SGS 3A was considered to be the most sustainable option

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

The preferred option was considered to have a positive effect on social objectives, enabling sustainable economic growth and significantly positive effects on supporting active / sustainable travel and climate change objectives. No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option, however slight negative effects may occur on air quality and through land take.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Other planning policies, biodiversity enhancement measures, SuDS, planning conditions, green building design, developer contributions. Buffers will be included between industrial areas and residential areas to reduce noise impact. Biodiversity will be taken into consideration when selecting lands suitable for zoning.

3.3 Social - Issues and Options

3.3.1. Urban Housing

Key Issue SOC1: Supporting quality sustainable urban housing and balanced communities.

Preferred Option SOC 1A: An approach to new residential development in settlements in line with existing policies, tailored to reflect regional direction and to meet local circumstances.

What alternatives have been considered?

	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
Option SOC 1A	+	++	++	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	+	0

No other options have been appraised.

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option SOC 1A was considered to have a significantly positive impact on the objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing through its ability to facilitate the provision of a range of new housing types and tenures, helping to support balanced communities. The option was found to have positive

effects for the objective to strengthen society with this benefit becoming significant in the medium and long term. This reflects the view that it will encourage balanced communities and create opportunities for positive social interaction. This option also had positive effects for many of the sustainability objectives including encouraging active and sustainable travel, reducing the causes of and adapting to climate change, and maintaining and enhancing landscape character. For the remainder of environmental objectives it was found to have no negligible impacts.

Overall the option would contribute to the objective of sustainable development.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Option SOC 1A can bring significant positive effects in relation to provision of good quality, sustainable housing. No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Further research into affordable and cross-community housing initiatives.

3.3.2. Rural Housing

Key Issue SOC2: Supporting sustainable rural housing.

Preferred Option SOC 2A: An approach to rural housing in line with existing policies and further regional direction, tailored to meet local circumstances.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option SOC 2B: An approach to rural housing in line with existing policies and further regional direction.

Alternative Option SOC 2C: A more restrictive approach to rural housing than in existing policies and further regional direction, in the interests of the environment.

	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
Option SOC 2A	0	+	++	0	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	0
Option SOC 2B	+	+	+	0	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	0
Option SOC 2C	0	-	+	0	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	0

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

The appraisal found that Option SOC 2A could have significantly positive effects for the objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing and positive effects for the objectives to improve health and well-being and strengthen society. While it was found to have no perceptible impacts on objectives for education, economic growth, air quality or historic environment this option was found to have negative effects on all of the other objectives.

Option SOC 2B scored in a very similar fashion to SOC2B although it was considered to have only a slight positive effect on the objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing.

Option SOC 2C again was similar to SOC 2A however , while it was found to have positive effects on the objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing it was thought not to contribute to the objective for health and well-being and to have a negative effect for strengthening society.

Option SOC 2A was considered to be the most sustainable option

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to provide good quality sustainable housing.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Waste water treatment capacity information, key site requirements, site mitigation and other planning policy, biodiversity checklist.

3.3.3. Design and Place-Making

Key Issue SOC3: Supporting good design and positive place-making

SOC3A Support good design and positive place-making in both development and advertisement proposals through criteria-based policy, with provision for additional design criteria and supporting guidance for certain identified areas of acknowledged importance/value or types of development where appropriate.

What alternatives have been considered?

No other options have been appraised.

	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 .
Option SOC 3A	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	++	++

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

This option was considered to have significantly positive effects for the objective to maintain and enhance landscape character. It was also found to have significantly positive effects for the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources as it will target built heritage assets and will focus on local distinctiveness. The option was also found to have positive effects for many of the other objectives including improving health and well-being, strengthening society, providing good quality, sustainable housing, enabling sustainable economic growth, managing material assets sustainably, protecting physical resources, encouraging active and sustainable travel, improving air quality, reducing the causes of and adapting to climate change, and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environmental and cultural resources. For the remainder of environmental objectives it was found to have no negligible impacts.

Overall the option would contribute to the objective of sustainable development.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

The preferred option has significant positive effects for the objectives relating to landscape character and the protection, conservation and enhancement of the historic environment and cultural resources. No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Other planning policy, building conservation and design guidelines, site mitigation, local level townscape consideration.

3.3.4. Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

Key Issue SOC4: Protecting Open Space.

Preferred Option SOC 4A: Protect existing open space (in addition to identifying and zoning land for new provision) in line with existing policy and regional direction, tailored to meet local circumstances.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option SOC 4B: Continue the current approach by protecting existing open space provision in line with existing policy (in addition to identifying and zoning land for new open space provision).

	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.
Option SOC 4A	++	++	+	o	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	o
Option SOC 4B	+	+	+	o	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	o

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Neither option was found to result in negative effects on any of the sustainability objectives. Both options showed a similar pattern of positive effects across the majority of the objectives with the exception of education and historic environment and cultural resources where the options did not reflect any perceptible benefits or disadvantages. For the majority of the objectives the comments reflect that option 4A has greater potential than option SOC 4B to deliver benefits towards the objective. It was felt that the more tailored approach of option SOC 4A could bring additional benefits over the existing policy.

Option SOC 4A was considered to be the most sustainable option

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

The preferred option has significant positive effects for the objectives relating to improving health and wellbeing and strengthen society.

No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Other planning policies, local level health/recreation impact assessment, role of developer contributions, local level environmental initiatives, planning conditions.

[Key Issue SOC5: Facilitating open space/play provision in new largescale residential developments](#)

Preferred Option SOC 5A: A locally tailored approach, with amendment to the existing criteria for play park provision in largescale residential developments to increase provision in larger schemes to more than one equipped play area (as currently required in existing policy), as well as provide the option for Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs), where appropriate, unless otherwise specified in LDP Key Site Requirements.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option SOC 5B: Continue the current approach in line with existing policy (requiring a single equipped children’s play area to be provided in residential schemes of 100 units or more, or 5 hectares or more, in addition to other open space).

Alternative Option SOC 5C: A Council-led approach, with all play parks across the Borough provided and maintained by Council (in line with its overall Play Strategy) and a strategic policy requiring developer contributions from new largescale residential developments (100 units or more, or 5 hectares or more) towards this provision.

	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.
Option SOC 5A	++	++	+	o	+	o	o	+	o	+	o	o	o	o
Option SOC 5B	+	+	+	o	+	o	o	+	o	+	o	o	o	o
Option SOC 5C	+	+	+	o	+	o	o	+	o	+	o	o	o	o

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

None of the three options were found to result in negative effects on any of the sustainability objectives.

Option SOC 5A has a strongly positive influence on two of the social objectives, the improvement of health and well-being and strengthening society and a slightly positive influence on the provisions of good quality housing and education. Options SOC 5B and SOC 5C have slightly less pronounced benefits on social objectives, being slightly positive rather than strongly positive.

For the remainder of the economic and environmental sustainability objectives, all three options showed a similar pattern of effects. All options create a small benefit in terms of economic growth, although in the comments it can be seen that the benefits of option SOC 5A are slightly greater than the others. With the exception of promoting active and sustainable travel and the climate change

objective for which all three options give slight benefits, there were no perceptible effects for any option on the remainder of the environmental objectives.

Option SOC 5A was considered to be the most sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

The preferred option has significant positive effects for the objectives relating to the improvement of health and well-being and strengthening society.

No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Key Site Requirements such as linking MUGAs to schools and avoidance of proximity to main roads, planning conditions and biodiversity enhancement measures.

3.3.5. Community and Cultural Facilities

Key Issue SOC6: Facilitating community and cultural facilities to meet the needs of the Borough.

Preferred Option SOC 6A: Identify and protect sites where a firm proposal is in place; and bring forward a criteria based policy for development proposals to be assessed against, to facilitate new community and cultural facilities (including extensions to existing facilities).

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option SOC 6B: Remove provision in the LDP to zone lands for community and cultural facilities; but bring forward a criteria based policy for such development proposals to be assessed against.

Alternative Option SOC 6C: Retain a long term reserve of potential sites for community and cultural facilities through the LDP, in addition to bringing forward a criteria based policy for such development proposals to be assessed against.

	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 .
Option SOC 6A	+	+	0	+	+	0	-	+	?	0	0	?	?	0
Option SOC 6B	0	0	0	?	0	0	-	+	?	0	0	?	?	0
Option SOC 6C	+	+	-	?	-	-	-	+	?	0	0	?	?	0

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option SOC 6A was found to have positive effects for many of the sustainability objectives including those to improve health and well-being, strengthen society, enable access to high quality education, and encourage active and sustainable travel. It was considered to have positive effects for the

objective to enable sustainable economic growth in the medium and long term. The option was found to have negative effects on the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably and an uncertain effect on many of the objectives including those to improve air quality, protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity and maintain and enhance landscape character. The option was given a neutral scoring for the remainder of the objectives.

Option SOC 6B was considered to have positive effects for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel. It was considered to have an uncertain effect on many of the objectives including those to enable access to high quality education, improve air quality, protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity and maintain and enhance landscape character. The option was considered to have negative effects for the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably. The option was given a neutral scoring for the remainder of the objectives.

The appraisal found that Option SOC 6C had positive effects for the objectives to improve health and well-being, encourage active and sustainable travel and strengthen society. It was considered to have an uncertain effect on the objectives to enable access to high quality education, improve air quality, protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity and maintain and enhance landscape character. The option was considered to have negative effects for the objectives to provide good quality, sustainable housing, manage material assets sustainably and protect physical resources and use sustainably. Although the option was considered to have a neutral effect on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth in the short term, it was found that this effect could become negative in the medium and long term. The option was given a neutral scoring for the remainder of the objectives.

Option SOC 6A was considered to be the most sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant effects were found for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Implementing key site requirements in respect of access and parking provisions, planning assessments including traffic/transport and biodiversity studies, green building design, other planning policies and developer contributions.

3.3.6. Developer Contributions

[Key Issue SOC 7: Facilitating development through Developer Contributions.](#)

Preferred Option SOC 7A: Provide strategic policy on developer contributions and identify sites where developer contributions would be appropriate in the Local Policies Plan.

What alternatives have been considered?

Preferred Option SOC 7A: Provide strategic policy on developer contributions and identify sites where developer contributions would be appropriate in the Local Policies Plan.

Alternative Option SOC 7B: Identify sites within the Local Policies Plan where developer contributions would be appropriate.

	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.
Option SOC 7A	++	+	o	+	o	+	o	+	+	+	+	+	o	+
Option SOC 7B	+	+	o	+	o	+	o	+	+	+	+	+	o	+
Option SOC 7C	+	+	o	+	o	+	o	+	+	+	+	+	o	+

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

None of the three options were found to result in negative effects on any of the sustainability objectives. All three options scored positively in respect of health and well-being and strengthening society and neutral in terms of sustainable housing objectives. The comments reflect that the strategic aspect of option SOC 7A brings a greater degree of benefit than the other options in terms of strengthening society. All options were found to have a negligible effect on sustainable economic growth. In terms of the environmental sustainability objectives, all three options showed the same pattern of positive and neutral effects. No perceptible influence was found on physical resources and landscape character, however for all other objectives all three options were found to have a positive effect. In the case of the historic environment and cultural resources, the positive effects would be seen over the medium to long term. Whilst of the options bring a certain degree of benefit to these objectives, the comments reflect that the strategic policy underpinning option SOC 7A allows the council the greatest degree of control over the delivery of benefits and creating a targeted, coordinated approach.

Option SOC 7A was considered to be the most sustainable option

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

The preferred option has significant positive effects for the objective relating to the improvement of health and well-being. No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Implementing key site requirements, PAD, remediation of contaminated / derelict land, further research into affordable housing initiatives, biodiversity enhancement measures, SuDS strategy and other planning policies.

3.4 Economy - Issues and Options

3.4.1. Economic Development (Urban)

Key Issue ECN 1: Zoning for economic development

Preferred Option ECN 1A: Evaluate existing economic development zonings and identify new sustainably located sites to meet projected needs.

What alternatives have been considered?

The following options have been developed:

Alternative Option ECN 1B: Retain existing economic development zonings along with additional sustainably located sites to meet projected needs.

Alternative Option ECN 1C: Retain existing economic development zonings as currently identified in the extant Plans.

	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 .
Option ECN 1A	+	+	0	+	++	++	+	+	?	+	+	+	0	0
Option ECN 2A	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	?	0	0
Option ECN 3C	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	0	?	?	-	-	0	0

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Options ECN 1A and ECN 1B are both considered to have potentially positive effects in terms of social sustainability objectives, whereas it is considered that ECN 1C would have a negative influence on social objectives. The social benefits from option ECN 1A would be greater, but not significantly greater than for ECN 1B. In terms of economic sustainability, option ECN 1A has the ability to generate significant positive effects on economic growth and material assets while option ECN 1B would have slight positive effects. It was considered that Option ECN 1C would result in a slight negative effect on economic growth objectives and the physical environment and negligible effect on material assets due to its inability to target new areas or deselect redundant areas. Options ECN 1A and ECN 1B were considered to have slight positive or negligible effects on environmental objectives, although an uncertain relationship was identified with air quality objectives for ECN 1A and ECN 1B in addition to climate change and natural resources and biodiversity objectives for ECN 1B. Option ECN 1C was considered to have limited benefits in terms of environmental objectives and negative impacts in terms of climate change, water and biodiversity objectives

Option ECN 1A was considered to be the most sustainable option

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Option ECN 1A can bring significant positive effects in relation to enabling sustainable economic growth and managing material assets. No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Implementing Key Site Requirements, biodiversity enhancement measures; planning conditions – ecological mitigation; other planning policy; landscape character assessment.

Key Issue ECN 2: Locating Class B1 Business Uses

Preferred Option ECN 2A: Allow UCO Class B1 Business Uses in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres and within economic development zonings (as identified in the LDP) as part of a sequential approach.

What alternatives have been considered?

The following options have been developed:

Alternative Option ECN 2B: Restrict UCO Class B1 Business Uses to town centres only.

	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 .
Option ECN 2A	+	+	0	+	++	+	+	+	?	+	0	0	0	+
Option ECN 2B	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	0	0	0	+

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

All three of the options were found to have positive effects on social and economic sustainability objectives, but no strong link with provision of good quality housing was identified. When looking at the environmental objectives, it can be seen that options ECN 2A and ECN 2B had similar relationships with the objectives, however within the comments it is noted that ECN 2A can provide a slightly greater degree of benefit than ECN 2B in many instances. All three options had uncertainty attached to their influences on air quality. Option ECN 2C was considered to present potentially negative effects in respect of physical resources, encouraging active and sustainable travel, landscape character and historic environment and cultural resources.

Option ECN 2A was considered to be the most sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Planning assessments: transport, other planning policies, planning conditions, water order consents.

Key Issue ECN 3: Supporting Start-up and Grow-on Businesses

Preferred Option ECN 3A: Identify sites within economic development zonings specifically for Start-Up and Grow-On business space and also use redundant buildings or lands on existing economic sites for Start-Up and Grow-On business space.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option ECN 3B: Restrict UCO Class B1 Business Uses to town centres only.

Alternative Option ECN 3C: Consider Start-Up and Grow-On business space on a case by case basis.

	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
Option ECN 3A	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	?	0	0	0	0	0
Option ECN 3B	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	0
Option ECN 3C	+	+	0	+	+	0	?	?	?	0	0	-	-	0

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

All three of the options were found to have positive effects on social and economic sustainability objectives, but no linkages with the provision of good quality housing were identified for any option. Although options ECN 3A and ECN 3B have similar positive effects on these objectives, the comments show that Option ECN 3A provides a greater degree of benefit overall. Option ECN 3C was shown to also have a positive relationship with social objectives (except housing) and the comments demonstrated that it provided additional benefits over ECN 3A and ECN 3B on strengthening society and education.

Considering the environmental objectives, it can be seen that options ECN 3A and ECN 3B again had similar relationships with the objectives. Both were found to have negligible influences on climate change, water resources, landscape and the historic environment and an uncertain relationship with air quality. Option ECN 3A provides greater opportunities for active and sustainable travel than ECN 3B. Option ECN 3C has an uncertain relationship with physical resources, active and sustainable travel and air quality and was found to have a negative relationship with protecting natural resources and landscape character. For the remainder of environmental objectives it was found to have no negligible impacts. Overall, option ECN 3C can be seen to have much fewer positive impacts than ECN 3A or ECN 3B.

Option ECN3A was considered to be the most sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Planning assessments - transport, appropriate etc., other planning policies, planning conditions, green building design, and biodiversity initiatives.

3.4.2. Economic Development (Rural)

Key Issue ECN 4: Supporting sustainable rural economic development.

Preferred Option ECN 4A: Support a sustainable approach to rural economic development in line with existing policies and regional direction, tailored to meet local circumstances, including in relation to facilitating the apple orchard / cider tourism experience.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option ECN 4B: Retain existing policy which facilitates sustainable economic development in the countryside.

	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 .
Option ECN 4A	0	+	0	0	++	0	?	?	?	0	-	?	+	+
Option ECN 4B	0	+	0	0	+	0	-	?	?	0	-	?	+	0

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Both options were considered to have similar influences on the social sustainability objectives, with negligible effects on health and well-being, housing and education and slightly positive effects on strengthening society although ECN 4A was perceived to provide a slightly greater benefit than ECN 4B. Option ECN 4A was considered to provide a significant positive influence on economic development while the benefits of ECN 4B would be less pronounced and were only considered to be slightly positive. Option ECN 4B was also considered to have a slightly negative impact on physical resources as it may promote in a decline in the orchard resource whereas option ECN 4A would sustain and enhance this industry. Both options had an uncertain relationship with the promotion of active and sustainable travel, air quality and biodiversity and natural resources. Both options were found to have no perceptible influence on climate change however both were thought to provide slight benefits to landscape character. Both options were considered to have an uncertain effect on water quality. Option ECN 4A was also thought to provide slight benefits to the historic environment and cultural resources through actively supporting artisan / traditional production methods, whereas option ECN 4B did not have any perceptible influence in this regard.

Option ECN 4A was considered to be the most sustainable option

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

The preferred option has the potential to generate significant positive effects in terms of sustainable economic development in rural areas.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Planning assessments - transport, appropriate etc., other planning policies, planning conditions, water order consents.

3.4.3. Town Centres and Retailing

Key Issue ECN 5: Defining a hierarchy of centres

Preferred Option ECN 5A: Identify a new hierarchy of centres, within settlements based upon the current role and function of our centres, and identify new centres where appropriate.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option ECN 5B: Retain the existing hierarchy of centres.

	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.
Option ECN 5A	0	+	0	0	+	+	?	+	?	0	+	?	+	+
Option ECN 5B	0	0	0	0	+	+	?	?	?	0	?	?	?	?

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

ECN 5A was considered to have positive effects for the objectives to strengthen society, enable sustainable economic growth and manage material assets sustainably. The option was also given a positive scoring for encouraging active and sustainable travel in the long term. However it was considered to have an uncertain effect on protecting physical resources in the long term, and active and sustainable travel in the medium and short term. In terms of the option’s effect on protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably the option was considered to have a positive effect in the medium and long term. Similarly it was considered to have positive effects for maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting and enhancing the historic environment over all the time periods. It was however considered to have uncertain effects for protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity. This option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.

ECN 5B was considered to have positive effects for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and manage material assets sustainably. It was also given a positive scoring for protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably in the short and medium term, although becoming uncertain in the long term. It was also considered to have positive effects for the objectives to maintain and enhance landscape character and to protect the historic environment. In both of these objectives, this effect was recognised in the short and medium term but becoming uncertain in the long term. This option was also considered to have uncertain effects for protecting physical resources in the short and medium term, and protecting natural resources and biodiversity across all time periods. Furthermore it was considered to have uncertain effects for the objectives on encouraging active travel and improving air quality in the long term. This option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.

Option ECN 5A is considered to be the most sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Traffic measures in town centres. Biodiversity measures. New public transport systems to help manage air quality issues. Park and ride schemes. Manage traffic in centres – flows and times. Key site requirements. Other planning policy – landscape, built heritage.

Key Issue ECN 6: Protecting and strengthening town centres

Preferred Option ECN 6A: Review and identify Town Centre Boundaries and Primary Retail Cores, where appropriate, accompanied by policy to protect and strengthen town centres.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option ECN 6B: Retain existing Town Centre Boundaries and Primary Retail Cores and accompanying policy to protect and strengthen town centres.

	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 .
Option ECN 6A	0	+	0	0	++	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+
Option ECN 6B	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option ECN 6A was determined to have significantly positive effects for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth, through its ability to direct retail and investment to the town centre areas. It was also considered to have a positive effect across many of the sustainability objectives including strengthen society, manage material assets, encourage active and sustainable travel, protect, manage and use water resources sustainably, protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity, maintain and enhance landscape character, and protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment. This option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.

Option ECN 6B was considered to have a positive effect across many of the sustainability objectives including those to strengthen society, enable sustainable economic growth, manage material assets, encourage active and sustainable travel, protect, manage and use water resources sustainably, protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity, maintain and enhance landscape character, and protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment. This option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.

ECN 6A is considered to be the most sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Significantly positive effects were identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Retail Impact Assessments, biodiversity measures – building design and landscaping schemes, other planning policy, building and design guides.

Key Issue ECN 7: Supporting the evening and night-time economy

Preferred Option ECN 7A: Promote town centres as first choice locations for a variety of complementary town centre uses to facilitate growth of the evening and night-time economy

No other options have been appraised.

	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.
Option ECN 7A	+	++	0	0	++	?	+	0	0	0	0	-	0	++

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

This option scored positively across many of the sustainability objectives. It was considered to have positive effects for the objective to improve health and well-being and the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably. It has given a significantly positive score for the objective to strengthen society though helping to provide for opportunities for social interaction and reduce isolation. The option was also considered to have a significantly positive effect on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth through providing opportunities for a range of job types and encouraging more spend in town centres. The objective to protect conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources was also given a significantly positive score, recognising the role that this option could play in increasing town centre vitality and investment which could support historic buildings coming back into viable use. The option was considered to also have positive effects for improving health and well-being and protecting physical resources and using them sustainably. Under the objective to manage material assets sustainably the option was considered to have uncertain effects in the long term. The objective was however found to have negative effects for the objective to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity which will need careful consideration and mitigation.

Overall the option would contribute to the objective of sustainable development.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Option ECN 7A had significantly positive effect for the following objectives: Strengthen society, Enable sustainable economic growth and protect conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Lighting could be considered in the context of local wildlife and any negative impacts mitigated for. Potential impacts on residents could be considered in determining applications and/or addressed through licensing.

Key Issue ECN 8: Facilitating Office Development (Class A2 Uses)

Preferred Option ECN 8A: Bring forward a sequential approach towards office development (UCO Use Class A2: financial, professional and other services) in town centres.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option ECN 8B: Restrict office development (UCO Use Class A2: financial, professional and other services) to town centres only.

	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 .
Option ECN 8A	0	0	0	0	++	++	+	+	?	0	+	+	+	+
Option ECN 8B	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	+	?	0	+	+	+	+

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

ECN 8A was considered to have a significantly positive effect on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth as it will provide for employment and help to support town centre vitality, but with the flexibility given by the sequential approach. This option was also given a significantly positive scoring for the objective to manage material assets sustainably as it will focus development on the locations well served for the provision of infrastructure services. The option also gained a positive score for the objectives to protect physical resource and use sustainably, encourage active and sustainable travel, protect, manage and use water resources sustainably, protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity, maintain and enhance landscape character. There was an uncertain scoring recorded for the objective to improve air quality. This option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.

ECN 8B was considered to have a significantly positive scoring for the objective to manage material assets sustainably as it will focus development on the locations well served for the provision of infrastructure services. The option also gained a positive score for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth, protect physical resource and use sustainably, encourage active and sustainable travel, protect, manage and use water resources sustainably, protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity, maintain and enhance landscape character. There was an uncertain scoring recorded for the objective to improve air quality. This option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.

ECN 8A is considered to be the most sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Option ECN 8A was considered to have significant positive effects for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and manage material assets sustainably.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Traffic related mitigation measures, biodiversity measures, key site requirements, building design guides (eco-design), incorporation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and similar measures, other planning policy (landscape and building conservation).

Key Issue ECN 9: Identifying Development Opportunity Sites (DOSs)

Preferred Option ECN 9A: Review existing Development Opportunity Sites (DOSs), as designated, and identify new DOSs, where appropriate.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option ECN 9B: Retain existing Development Opportunity Sites (DOSs) as designated.

	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 .
Option ECN 9A	+	++	+	0	++	+	++	0	?	?	+	+	+	+
Option ECN 9B	0	+	+	0	-	-	-	0	?	?	?	?	?	?

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

ECN 9A was considered to have significantly positive effects for the objective to strengthen society sustainably as it can provide for regeneration and could improve physical linkages between communities. The option also gained a significantly positive score for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. The option was also considered to have a significantly positive effects for the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably in the long term through possible consideration of brown-field land in new Development Opportunity Sites. This option was also considered to have positive effects across many other sustainability objectives including improving health and well-being (in the medium and long term), providing good quality, sustainably housing, managing material assets, protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably, protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, and maintaining and enhancing landscape character. There was an uncertain scoring recorded for the objective to improve air quality and to reduce the causes of and adapt to climate change. This option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.

ECN 9B was considered to have positive effects across many other sustainability objectives including strengthening society, providing good quality, sustainably housing for all time periods. The option was considered to have positive effects for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth, and manage material assets in the short and medium term, but becoming negative in the long term. Similarly the option gained a positive scoring for protecting physical resources in the short term, however this effect became neutral in the medium term and negative in the long term. There was an

uncertain scoring recorded for the objective to improve air quality and to reduce the causes of and adapt to climate change across all time periods. For both the objectives associated with protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably and protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, there was a positive effect in the short term, becoming uncertain in the medium and long term. The objectives to maintain and enhancing landscape character and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment both were given a positive scoring in the short and medium term, becoming uncertain in the long term. This option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.

ECN 9A is considered to be the most sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Option ECN 9A was considered to have significant positive effects for the objectives to strengthen society and protect physical resources and use sustainably (in the long term)

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Biodiversity measures, key site requirements, other planning policy, traffic measures and promotion of active or sustainable travel options.

3.4.4. Tourism

Key Issue ECN 10: Supporting sustainable tourism development

Preferred Option ECN 10A: Carry forward an approach in line with existing policy to support and facilitate appropriate sustainable tourism development in both settlements and the countryside, with additions that are tailored to meet specific local tourism needs and protect tourism assets within the Borough.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option ECN 10B: Retain an approach in line with existing policy in relation to tourism development.

	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 .
Option ECN 10A	+	+	o	+	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	?	+	+
Option ECN 10B	+	+	o	+	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	?	+	+

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Neither of the two options put forward have any negative impacts on sustainability objectives. Both options were considered to provide a positive influence on social and economic objectives, however in comments it can be seen that option ECN 10A brings greater benefits to rural areas over option ECN 10B.

In terms of environmental objectives, the enhancement of tourism was found to have a negligible effect on encouraging active / sustainable travel, air quality, climate change or water resources. The relationship of both options was judged to be uncertain with physical and natural resources, but no particularly positive or negative aspects were found. Both options were considered to have slight benefits for maintaining landscape character, in conjunction with the application of other landscape policies. There was also a positive relationship with the protection, conservation and enhancement of the historic environment and cultural resources and in this regard option ECN 10B was found to have slight advantages over ECN 10A.

ECN 10A is considered to be the most sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Key site requirements, planning conditions, other planning policy, local level policies, discharge consents.

3.4.5. Minerals Development

Key Issue ECN 11: Supporting sustainable minerals development

Preferred Option ECN 11A: Support a balanced approach between the need for mineral resources and the need to protect the environment and other interests of acknowledged importance, in line with existing policies and further regional direction, by designating Mineral Safeguarding Zones (MSZs) and Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMDs) where appropriate.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option ECN 11B: Continue an approach whereby minerals development proposals are considered on their merits against criteria based policy in line with existing policies and further regional direction - with review of the Borough's existing 2 Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMDs). This approach will identify new Mineral Safeguarding Zones (MSZs) where appropriate.

Option ECN 11C: Constrain further minerals development and growth opportunities, through a more restrictive approach than the existing policies and further regional direction, in the interests of the environment.

	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 .
Option ECN 11A	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	?	?	?	+	0	+
Option ECN 11B	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	?	?	?	+	0	+
Option ECN 11C	0	0	0	0	-	0	--	0	0	?	?	+	0	+

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

None of the three options were found to have any potential negative impacts on social sustainability objectives. In terms of economic sustainability, options ECN 11A and ECN 11B were found to have positive short and long term effects, however the restrictive nature of ECN 11C means that it has been assessed as having a slight negative effect on economic sustainability. It was also found to have a slight negative impact on physical resources, while ECN 11A and ECN 11B had overall positive impacts.

In terms of environmental sustainability, none of the options had any effect on sustainable travel. The influence of the options on air quality and climate change was a mix of uncertain and some positive effects, as were the effects on water resources however mitigation is required for all options to reduce the potential for negative impacts on water quality and quantity in the short and long term. Option ECN 11A, which allows the greatest degree of expansion of the quarrying industry, was found to have short term slight negative impacts on biodiversity while ECN 11C, being the most restrictive option, does not carry this negative impact. However in the long term all options were felt to have a positive influence on the basis that restoration / remediation would be carried out. Whilst quarries can adversely impact the landscape, the inclusion of new ACMDs in high scenic value areas in option ECN 11A meant that this option was found to have overall a negligible influence on landscape whilst ECN 11B and ECN 11B had short term negative impacts in the absence of these additional protections, but no long term effects. Option ECN 11A was also found to have a positive influence on the historic environment and cultural resources in the short term due to the proactive nature of designating new ACMDs, whilst ECN 11B and ECN 11C did not provide the same degree of short term protection.

Option ECN 11A is considered to be the most sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Implementation of high specifications / standards for the restoration and reinstatement of exhausted quarries. Consideration of water pollution pathways and implementation of appropriate site management and pollution control measures.

3.4.6. Infrastructure, Telecommunications and Utilities

[Key Issue ECN 12: Facilitating sustainable infrastructure, telecommunications and utilities development to meet the needs of the Borough](#)

Preferred Option ECN 12A: Provide a criteria based policy in line with existing policies and regional direction.

What alternatives have been considered?

No other options have been appraised.

	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.
Option ECN 12A	++	++	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	0

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option ECN 12A has no negative impacts and is expected to bring strong positive impacts to the majority of the social and economic sustainability objectives. It may also have a slightly positive influence in terms of environmental sustainability objectives, however these would be subject to the successful application of strict criteria and mitigation. The policy option is considered to have potentially uncertain effects on the objectives which cover biodiversity and landscape character, and will need careful consideration including application of criteria and appropriate site selection. The option was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective to protect and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources provided that criteria are satisfactorily applied.

Overall the option would contribute to the objective of sustainable development.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

The preferred option is considered to have a significantly positive effect on enabling sustainable economic growth.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Planning conditions, other planning policy, local level policies, key site requirements, mitigation – peat / ecology / water, archaeology surveys, environmental assessments where required, biodiversity enhancement measures

3.4.7. Transportation

[Key Issue ECN 13: Protecting the Borough's Protected Routes](#)

Preferred Option ECN 13A: Bringing forward an approach that is in line with existing Protected Routes policy, tailored to the needs of the Borough.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option ECN 13B: Bringing forward a more strict Protected Routes policy.

Option ECN 13C: Bring forward a more relaxed Protected Routes policy.

	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.
Option ECN 13A	+	0	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
Option ECN 13B	+	0	0	0	--	?	+	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
Option ECN 13C	-	0	0	0	--	-	-	-	0	0	0	--	-	0

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option ECN 13A was found to have significantly positive effects for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth through efficient movement of goods and services and making the Borough more attractive for investment. It was also considered to have positive effects for improving health and wellbeing, managing material assets sustainably and protecting physical resources and using them sustainably. The option however was found to have negative effects for the objective to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity. This option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.

Option ECN 13B was found to have positive effects for the objectives to improve health and well-being and to protect physical resources and use them sustainably. It was considered to have negative effects for the objective to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity. When the objective to enable sustainable economic growth was discussed, it was found that this option would have a negative effect on the objective, becoming a significant negative in the long term. This option was also considered to have negative effects for the objective to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity. Furthermore, option ECN 13B was considered to have an uncertain effect on the objective to manage material assets sustainably. This option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.

Option ECN 13C was considered to have a negative effect on the objectives to improve health and well-being, manage material assets, protect physical resources and use them sustainably, encourage active and sustainable travel and maintain and enhance landscape character. The option was considered to have negative effects for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth, in the short and medium term, becoming significant in the long term. This reflects the view that the option could lead to greater congestion and increased travel times affecting businesses in the area and making the Borough less attractive to investment. The option was also found to have negative effects for protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity in the short term, becoming significantly negative in the medium and long term reflecting the further fragmentation of wildlife corridors and semi-natural areas that could occur under this approach.

Option ECN 13A is considered to be the most sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

The preferred option is considered to have a significantly positive effect on enabling sustainable economic growth.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Landscaping, and biodiversity measures in the development and maintenance of roads network. Use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.

Key Issue ECN 14: Protecting proposed strategic road improvement schemes

Preferred Option ECN 14A: Identify and safeguard key strategic road improvement schemes in the LDP to enhance accessibility within the Borough

What alternatives have been considered?

No other options have been appraised.

	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..
Option ECN 14A	+	0	0	0	?	0	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

This option will have an overall mixed effect across the sustainability objectives. It was considered to have no link with a number of objectives, and to have a negligible effect on the objective to manage material assets sustainably. The appraisal reflected that there could be positive effects for health and well-being, some aspects of improving air quality and protecting, conserving and enhancing built and cultural heritage. However the option was considered to have slight negative effects for protecting physical resources and using them sustainably, encouraging active and sustainable travel, reducing the causes of and adapting to climate change, protecting managing and using water resources sustainably, protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, and maintaining and enhancing landscape character.

Overall the option would contribute to the objective of sustainable development.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

None identified.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Natural heritage mitigations such as bat and bird surveys. Use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.

Key Issue ECN 15: Protecting the Borough's Disused Transport Routes

Preferred Option ECN 15A: Protect disused transport routes in line with existing policy and identify and safeguard routes in the LDP that have a reasonable prospect of becoming useable in the future.

Alternative Option ECN 15B: Protect Disused Transport Routes in line with existing policy.

What alternatives have been considered?

The following options have been developed:

	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.
Option ECN 15A	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	++	+	+	0	++	+	+
Option ECN 15B	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option ECN 15A was considered to have positive effects for the objectives to improve health and well-being, strengthen society, enable economic growth, manage material assets sustainably, protect physical resources and use sustainably, improve air quality, reduce the causes of and adapt to climate change, maintain and enhance landscape character and protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources. The option was also found to have significantly positive effects for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel across all time periods. This was due to the role that this approach could play in retaining, creating or enhancing walking and cycling routes. The option was given a significantly positive score for the objective to protect natural resources and biodiversity in the long term, although it would have positive effects in the short and medium term. This reflected the opportunities which exist for retaining wildlife corridors and semi natural areas, while protecting these linkages for walking and cycling. The option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.

Option ECN15 B was considered to have negative effects for many of the sustainability objectives including those to improve health and well-being, strengthen society, enable sustainable economic growth, manage material assets sustainably, protect physical resources and use sustainably, encourage active and sustainable travel, improve air quality, reduce causes of and adapt to climate change, protect natural resource and enhance biodiversity, maintain and enhance landscape character and protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources. The scoring reflected the missed opportunities which could occur if this approach was taken forward. The option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.

Option ECN 15A is considered to be the most sustainable option

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

The preferred option was envisaged to present significant positive effects for encouraging active and sustainable travel, and for protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity (in the long term).

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Use of buffers, biodiversity checklist.

Key Issue ECN 16: Protecting key Park and Ride Sites

Preferred Option ECN 16A: Protect existing and proposed key Park and Ride sites and identify and safeguard potential new Park and Ride / Park and Share sites within the Borough.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option ECN 16B: Protect proposed and existing key Park and Ride sites.

	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 .
Option ECN 16A	+	+	0	+	+	0	?	++	+	+	0	-	-	0
Option ECN 16B	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	-	-	0

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option ECN 16A was found to have significantly positive effects for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel as it will make using public transport more accessible and attractive and may allow this benefit to occur across a wider range of locations .The option was considered to have positive effects for the objectives to improve health and well-being, strengthen society, enable access to high quality education, enable sustainable economic growth, improve air quality, reduce the causes of and adapt to climate change. However the option was found to have negative effects for the objectives to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity and maintain and enhance landscape character. The option was also considered to have an uncertain effect on the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably. The option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.

Option ECN 16B was considered to have a positive effect on the objectives to improve health and well-being, enable access to high quality education, enable sustainable economic growth, improve air quality, reduce causes of and adapt to climate change. The option was however considered to have negative effects for the objectives to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity and maintain and enhance landscape character. The option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.

Option ECN 16A is considered to be the most sustainable option

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Significantly positive effects were identified for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Buffers, landscaping, key site requirements and planning conditions.

Key Issue ECN 17: Promoting active travel and sustainable transport

Preferred Option ECN 17A: Promote active travel networks and sustainable transport in all new development within settlements to demonstrate accessibility to and integration with existing public transport, walking and cycling networks.

What alternatives have been considered?

No other options have been appraised.

	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.
Option ECN 17A	++	+	+	+	+	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

This policy option has no negative impacts and is expected to bring slight positive impacts to the majority of the social and economic sustainability objectives, with the exception of health and well-being where it would bring a significantly positive impact. In terms of the environmental sustainability objectives, there are generally no / negligible effects, however there would be a strong positive impact on encouraging active and sustainable travel with associated slight benefits identified on terms of air quality and climate change.

Overall the option would contribute to the objective of sustainable development.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Option ECN 17A would bring significant positive effects on health and well-being and encouraging active and sustainable travel.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Key site requirements, other planning policies, ecological mitigation, biodiversity enhancement measures. Planting and landscaping.

Key Issue ECN 18: Promoting and enhancing access to greenways

Preferred Option ECN 18A: Identify and protect accessible and safe greenways in order to encourage a modal shift away from the private car, connect people and places through active travel and enable ecological linkages.

What alternatives have been considered?

No other options have been appraised.

	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.
Option ECN 18A	++	+	o	+	+	o	o	++	+	+	+	++	+	+

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

This option was not considered to have any negative impacts and is expected to bring slight positive impacts to the majority of the social and economic sustainability objectives, with the exception of health and well-being where it would bring a significantly positive impact. In terms of the environmental sustainability objectives, there are generally slight positive effects for all objectives, however there would be a strong positive impact on encouraging active and sustainable travel but no identifiable effects on material assets and physical resources.

Overall the option would contribute to the objective of sustainable development.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Option ECN 18A would bring strong positive effects on health and well-being, encouraging active and sustainable travel and protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Use of planning conditions, ecological mitigation, biodiversity enhancement measures. Planting and landscaping.

3.5 Environment - Issues and Options

3.5.1. Built Heritage and Archaeology

Key Issue ENV 1: Protecting, conserving and enhancing built heritage and archaeological assets

Preferred Option ENV 1A: An approach in line with existing policy with regards to protecting, conserving and enhancing built heritage and archaeological assets within the Borough; and review existing areas / designations and identify new areas / designations as appropriate.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option ENV 1B: An approach in line with existing policy with regards to protecting, conserving and enhancing built heritage and archaeological assets within the Borough.

	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 .
Option ENV 1A	0	0	0	0	+	-	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	++
Option ENV 1B	0	0	0	0	+	-	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option ENV 1A has the potential to have a significantly positive impact on landscape character and the historic environment. It also can contribute positives to enabling sustainable economic growth, and protecting both physical resources and natural resources. This option was considered to have a neutral or negligible effect across many of the objectives, and to have a negative impact on managing material assets sustainably.

Option ENV 2B scored in a similar way, however the potential to increase the extent of historic environment assets protection, could have deliver more for the objectives on both landscape and the historic environment

Option ENV 1A was considered to be the most sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Significant positive effects were identified for a number of objectives also, including improving health and well-being, strengthening society, reducing the causes of and adapt to climate change, protecting managing and using water resources sustainably, protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity and maintaining and enhancing landscape character.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

The LDP will have guidance which will cover the development and siting of renewable energy technologies in conservation areas, on and adjacent to listed buildings and in areas of other heritage

importance. Opportunities to engage the local community in recognising the value of local heritage assets.

3.5.2. Natural Heritage

Key Issue ENV 2: Protecting international, national and local nature conservation designations (that are designated outside the LDP process)

Preferred Option ENV 2A: An approach in line with existing policy with regards to protecting and enhancing international, national and local nature conservation sites that are not LDP designations (i.e. Local Nature Reserves and Wildlife Refuges).

What alternatives have been considered?

No other options have been appraised.

	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 .
Option ENV 2A	++	++	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	++	++	++	++	+

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

This option was considered to have positive effects across many of the objectives including enabling access to high quality education, enabling sustainable economic growth, managing material assets sustainably, protecting physical resources and using sustainably, and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Significant positive effects were identified for a number of objectives also, including improving health and well-being, strengthening society, reducing the causes of and adapt to climate change, protecting managing and using water resources sustainably, protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity and maintaining and enhancing landscape character. The option was considered to have no link with a number of objectives.

Overall the option would contribute to the objective of sustainable development

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Significant positive effects were identified for a number of objectives also, including improving health and well-being, strengthening society, reducing the causes of and adapt to climate change, protecting managing and using water resources sustainably, protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity and maintaining and enhancing landscape character.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Biodiversity Action Plans and environmental education initiatives

Key Issue ENV 3: Identifying and protecting local nature conservation designations

Preferred Option ENV 3A: An approach in line with the existing policy with regards to protecting and enhancing local nature conservation designations; and review existing and identify new LDP designations as appropriate.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option ENV 3B: Retain the current policy approach and existing local nature conservation designations.

	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.
Option ENV 3A	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	++	+	+
Option ENV 3B	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Both options scored in a similar way across the sustainability objectives, with a positive outcome for improving health and wellbeing, strengthening society, enabling access to high quality education, enabling sustainable economic growth, protecting physical resources, reducing the causes of and adapting to climate change, protecting managing and using water resources sustainably, maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting, conserving and enhancing built and cultural heritage. In all of these objectives, although both options gained a positive scoring, it was considered that ENV 3A could deliver more for the objective as it provides for an opportunity to review and identify new designated sites for nature conservation, through the local development plan. Option ENV 3A was considered to have a significant positive effect on protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity as it will allow important habitats to be protected and help create the conditions for biodiversity to flourish, in both existing designated sites and potentially in future areas too. Both options were considered to have no link with the remaining objectives.

Option ENV 3A was considered to be the most sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Significant positive effects were identified for ENV 3A for protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

There is currently minimal protection in place for SLINKIS and further research into this might add value.

3.5.3. Landscape

Key Issue ENV 4: Identifying and protecting Sensitive Landscapes

Preferred Option ENV 4A: Consider areas of sensitive landscape for designation as Areas of High Scenic Value (AoHSV) or Special Countryside Areas (SCA).

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option ENV 4B: Rely on regional planning policy carried forward to provide protection for the landscape setting, nature conservation interests, built heritage features and tourism assets in areas of sensitive landscape.

	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 .
Option ENV 4A	0	0	0	0	+	-	?	0	0	+	+	++	++	+
Option ENV 4B	0	0	0	0	+	-	?	0	0	+	+	--	--	-

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option ENV 4A was considered to have a positive effect on reducing the causes of and adapting to climate change, protecting managing and using water resources sustainably and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment. The objectives for enabling sustainable economic growth and protecting physical resources and sustainable travel both were given an uncertain scoring reflecting the mix of positive and negative effects identified. The appraisal reflected that there could be significant positive effects for the objectives to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity and maintain and enhance landscape character.

Option ENV 4B was considered to have a positive effect on reducing the causes of and adapting to climate change, and protecting managing and using water resources sustainably. However it was considered to have a potentially negative effect on protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, this effect becoming significantly negative in the medium and long term. The appraisal also reflected that ENV4B could have a negative impact upon protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment. A significant negative effect was identified for landscape as having no designations for areas of high scenic value or special countryside areas within the Borough, and instead relying upon regional planning policy, could present a significant risk to maintaining and enhancing landscape character in some areas in the future.

Option ENV 4A was considered to be the most sustainable option

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

It was envisioned that the preferred option could cause significant positive effects for protecting natural resources and enhance biodiversity, and the objective to maintain and enhance landscape character.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Use of design criteria including scale and materials, building design guides, key site requirements, local landscape policy provision, other landscape designations, planning conditions, impact assessments.

Key Issue ENV 5: Identifying and protecting Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs)

Preferred Option ENV 5A: Evaluate and, as appropriate, retain existing Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) designated in the extant Area Plans; consider the identification of new LLPAs; and introduce a consistent LLPA policy.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option ENV 5B: Retain the existing Local Landscape policy Area (LLPA) designations and associated policies within the extant Area Plans.

	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 .
Option ENV 5A	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	++	++	++	++
Option ENV 5B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option ENV 5A was considered to have a positive effect on improving health and well-being, strengthening society and enabling sustainable economic growth. The option was also given a positive scoring for protecting physical resources and encouraging active and sustainable travel (in the medium and long term.) The option was also considered to have a positive effect in the long term for reducing the causes of, and adapting to climate change. The option was scored as a slight positive for the objective on protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably in the short and medium term, and significantly positive in the long term for this objective. The option was considered to have a significantly positive effect across short, medium and long term for the last three objectives. These cover protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, maintaining and enhancing landscape character, and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural resources. Many of the other objectives were considered to not be influenced by this set of options and were given a neutral score in the appraisal.

Option ENV 5B was considered to have a positive effect on improving health and well-being, strengthening society and enabling sustainable economic growth in the short term but becoming neutral over the medium and long term. The option was also given a positive scoring for protecting physical resources in the short term, but becoming neutral in the medium and long term. The option was also considered to have a neutral effect in the short and medium term for reducing the causes of, and adapting to climate change, becoming negative in the long term. The option was scored as a slight positive for the objective on protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably in the short and medium term, but becoming negative in the long term. The option was considered to have a positive effect across medium and long term for the last three objectives but becoming negative in the long term. These cover protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, maintaining and enhancing landscape character, and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural resources. Many of the other objectives were considered to not be influenced by this set of options and were given a neutral score in the appraisal

Option ENV 5A was considered to be the most sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

The preferred option was considered to have significantly positive effects for protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, maintaining and enhancing landscape character, and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Design criteria guidelines.

Key Issue ENV 6: Identifying and protecting Urban / Rural Landscape Wedges

Preferred Option ENV 6A: Review existing open space wedges and policy zones as potential urban landscape wedges; and identify both new urban and rural landscape wedges with associated policy.

What alternatives have been considered?

6B: Retain the existing designations (open space wedges and policy zones) and associated policies in the extant Area Plans that protect landscape

	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 .
Option ENV 6A	+	+	0	0	0	-	+	+	0	0	+	++	++	+
Option ENV 6B	-	-	0	0	0	?	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	-

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option ENV 6A was considered to have a positive effect on improving health and well-being and strengthening society. It was given a negative scoring for managing material assets as this approach to protecting urban and rural landscape wedges could inhibit the development of some telecommunications and renewable energy infrastructure or reduce the land options available for the development of waste management infrastructure within those areas. However the option was considered to have a positive scoring for protecting physical resources and their sustainable use, and protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably through protecting greenfield land and allowing wooded areas and water courses to be maintained. The option was considered to have a significantly positive effect on protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity as it could allow important local wildlife corridors to be maintained, and keep the network of blue and green infrastructure in place, necessary for the provision of eco-system services. The option was also given a significantly positive score for the objective on maintaining and enhancing landscape character as it can contribute towards allowing settlement settings to be maintained, and visual intrusion from new development to be minimised. Many of the other objectives were considered to not be influenced by this option and were given a neutral score in the appraisal.

Option ENV 6B was considered to have a neutral effect on both improving health and wellbeing and strengthening society in the short term but becoming negative over the medium and long term. This

reflects that these designations were not considered in all previous local plans, which could mean some areas would not benefit from some potential opportunities for using urban and rural landscape wedges for recreation and creation of meeting places. The option was considered to have an uncertain effect on the objective on managing material assets sustainably as these designations were not considered in all of the previous local area plans. The objective on protecting physical resources and using them sustainably has a neutral scoring in the short term but becoming negative in the medium and long term. This reflects a possible loss of green-field and semi-natural land through development. This option also had a neutral scoring for active and sustainable travel, becoming negative in the medium and long term for the objectives on encouraging active and sustainable travel, protecting managing and using water resources sustainably, protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting conserving and enhancing the historic environment. This reflects that in the medium and long term, a lack of this option to designate urban and rural landscape wedges could lead to a deterioration or risk to achieving the aims of these objectives. Many of the other objectives were considered to not be influenced by this option and were given a neutral score in the appraisal

Option ENV 6A was considered to be the most sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Significant positive effects are envisaged for maintaining and enhancing landscape character, and protecting, conserving and enhancing built and cultural heritage.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Local level policy measures.

3.5.4. Flood Risk and Drainage

Key Issue ENV 7: Developing within areas of flood risk (flood plains)

Preferred Option ENV 7A: Adopt a precautionary approach in line with existing policy and regional direction by having a presumption against development in flood plains other than in exceptional circumstances. The precautionary principle will be applied to areas which are currently subject to flood risk or in the future.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option ENV 7B: No development in areas of flood risk (flood plains).

	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.
Option ENV 7A	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+
Option ENV 7B	?	-	-	0	-	-	+	-	0	+	-	+	+	?

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option ENV 7A is considered to have a slight positive effect on the majority of objective directly through reducing risk, appropriate location of development and providing for climate change adaptation. It also has some indirect positive effects on for example natural resources and landscape by reducing development near watercourses. There was considered to be no influence on education, travel or air quality.

Option ENV 7B, which is more restrictive on development, does support objectives for physical, natural and water resources as well as landscape. However it is considered to have a number of negative effects for example on strengthening society through reducing opportunities for recreation and enabling economic growth The objectives on enabling access to high quality education and improving air quality were considered to not be influenced by this option.

Option ENV 7A was considered to be the most sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Flood risk assessments, other planning policy (flooding, natural heritage), green/blue infrastructure links, sediment traps.

Key Issue ENV 8: Encouraging Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

Preferred Option ENV 8A: Bring forward policy to encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in new development where appropriate.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option ENV 8B: Continue the current approach to Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) with each application assessed on a case by case basis.

	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 .
Option ENV 8A	++	+	++	0	+	+	+	0	0	++	++	++	+	+
Option ENV 8B	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	0	--	--	-	0	-

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option ENV 8A was considered to have a significant positive impact on several objectives as it will bring a more consistent and proactive approach to promoting use of SuDS. This could have a direct benefits for the objective for water by managing the flow and quality of water and indirect benefits through, for example, provision for biodiversity and access to open space. The objectives on enabling access to high quality education, encouraging active and sustainable travel, and improving air quality were not considered to be influenced by this option.

Option ENV 8B was considered to have a significant negative impact as it does not encourage adaptation for climate change or management of water resources. This option was thought to impede most of the indirect benefits that were identified for ENV 8A and risk minor negative effects through for example flooding and erosion.

Option ENV 8A was considered to be the most sustainable option

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Option ENV 8A was found to have significant positive effects for the objective to improve health and well-being (in the long term) and the objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing. It was also found to have significant positive effects for the objective to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change (in the medium and long term), the objective to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably and protect and the objective to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity (in the medium and long term).

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Water pollution prevention guidelines, key site requirements, design guides, flood risk assessments, use of buffers.

3.5.5. Renewable Energy

Key Issue ENV 9: Facilitating appropriate renewable energy development

Preferred Option ENV 9A: An approach to renewable energy development in line with existing policy but in addition identify areas of sensitive landscape which may be unsuitable for particular forms of renewable energy development.

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option ENV 9B: Continue the current approach to renewable energy development in line with existing policy, with each application assessed on a case by case basis.

	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.
Option ENV 9A	0	0	0	0	++	++	+	0	+	++	+	+	++	++
Option ENV 9B	0	0	0	0	+	?	?	0	+	++	+	+	?	?

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option ENV 9A was considered to have positive effects for all the sustainability objectives that it may contribute to with the potential for a significant positive effect on economic growth, materials assets, climate change, landscape and historic environment as it can support the renewable energy industry but also consider the needs of the local tourism sector in terms of landscape and a tailored approach will allow potential impacts on local distinctiveness to be considered in decision making.

Option ENV 9B was also considered to have positive effects across several of the sustainability objectives and was found to have significant positive effects for the objective to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change. For three of the objectives, those to protect physical resources and use sustainably, maintain and enhance landscape character and protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources, the option was found to have positive effects in the short and medium term but becoming uncertain in the long term. This reflects the long term uncertainties around using a case-by-case approach.

Option ENV 9A was considered to be the most sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

The preferred option was found to have significant positive effects for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth, manage material assets sustainably reduce the causes of and adapt to climate change, maintain and enhance landscape character and protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Other relevant policies such as for landscape and flooding. Mitigation measures/planning conditions – location of technologies and associated infrastructure, avoiding and buffering sensitive sites, using screening. Regulations and guidance for sites. Construction method statements/Construction Environmental Management Plans. Key site requirements. Environmental/visual impact assessments. Precautionary approach to decision making.

3.5.6. Waste Management

Key Issue ENV 10: Facilitating sustainable waste management.

Preferred Option ENV 10A: An approach to waste management in line with existing criteria based policy but tailored to meet local circumstances; and in addition identify suitable locations for waste management facilities were appropriate

What alternatives have been considered?

Alternative Option ENV10B: Continue the current approach to waste management in line with existing policy

	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 .
Option ENV 10A	+	+	0	0	++	++	+	0	0	++	+	0	0	0
Option ENV 10B	-	-	0	0	?	-	-	0	?	+	+	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives

Option ENV 10A was found to have positive effects across many of the sustainability objectives. Significant positive effects were found for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth, as it

will encourage a circular economy. Option ENV 10A was also considered to have significantly positive effect for the objective to manage material assets sustainably, as it will view waste as a resource allowing it to be processed according to the proximity principle. Under the objective to reduce the causes of and adapt to climate change, the appraisal found significant positive effects as there are opportunities to decrease transportation of waste, and will aim to reduce the degree of greenhouse gases emitted. This option was also considered to have positive effects for the objectives to improve health and well-being, strengthen society (in the long term) protect physical resources and use sustainably and protect, manage and use water resources sustainably. The option was considered to have neutral effects for the remainder of the sustainability objectives.

Option ENV 10B was found to have positive effects for some of the sustainability objectives. It was given a positive scoring for the objectives to reduce the causes of and adapt to climate change and protect, manage and use water resources sustainably. It was also considered to have positive effects for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth in the short and medium term, becoming uncertain in the long term. The option was also considered to have negative effects for the objectives to improve health and well-being and strengthen society in the long term. This option was also considered to have negative effects for the objectives to manage material assets and protect physical resources and use sustainably across all time periods. Long term this option was considered to have uncertain effects on air quality. The option was found to have neutral effects for the remainder of the objectives.

Option ENV 10A was considered to be the most sustainable option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Sustainable economic growth, material assets and climate change.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Regulations – noise, odour, incineration. Waste management practices and waste management hierarchy. Key site requirements – protecting natural heritage, using buffers. Planning conditions/mitigation – timing of works, biodiversity measures, native planting schemes. Environmental impact assessments. Other relevant planning policies – landscape, historic environment.

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 3 illustrates how the preferred options were scored for each sustainability objective. In each case, the score for the long-term effects is used.

4.1 Improve 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 to minimise 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 healthcare facilities for all.

The preferred options selected within the Spatial Growth Strategy will help to sustain populations within the City and town centres, whilst also sustaining rural communities. This will help to support access to high quality healthcare, and recreation and leisure opportunities. Of the three preferred options contained within the Spatial Growth Strategy, two were considered to have positive effects for this objective and one to have a neutral effect.

The preferred options in the Social theme were all given positive scores in the appraisal indicating a high level of correlation between the plans objectives and the aim to improve health and well-being in the Borough. The preferred option for **Protecting open space** (SOC 4A) was considered to have significant positive effects as more attractive and accessible surroundings can improve physical and mental health. When the appraisal considered **Facilitating open space / play provision in new largescale residential developments**. (SOC 5A) it was found that this option will help to encourage play and active lifestyles and contribute places for intergenerational contact. It could will also contribute towards the delivery of recreation spaces for adults and young people. The preferred option for **Facilitating development through Developer Contributions** (SOC 7A) was also found to have significant positive effects as developer contributions may be used to improve access and linkages to encourage active travel and physical activity.

Within the Economy theme for all of the preferred options were found to have positive effects and these effects were significant in three of these cases. The preferred option for **Facilitating sustainable infrastructure, telecommunications and utilities development to meet the needs of the Borough** (ECN 12A) was found to have significant positive effects for this objective as it could reduce social isolation and better telecoms can support those providing care. The preferred options for **Promoting active travel and sustainable transport** (ECN 17A) and **Promoting and enhancing access to greenways** (ECN 18A) were considered to have significant positive effects because they could lead to increased use of active travel and healthier lifestyles for all ages.

Within the Environment theme, most of the preferred options had positive effects for this objective and there were no negative effects. The preferred options for **Protecting international, national and local nature conservation designations** (ENV 2A) was found to have had significant positive effects for this objective. This was due to its contribution towards encouraging outdoor activity for all ages and the positive mental health outcomes which can result. Also within the Environment theme, the preferred option for **Encouraging Sustainable Drainage Systems** (ENV 8A) was considered to have significant positive effects for this objective in the long term because of the role that it could play in reducing the stress and safety risks associated with flood events, and also the positive role that green areas (as a part of Sustainable Drainage Systems) in developments can play.

Overall the Preferred Options are considered to have a cumulative positive effect on health and wellbeing.

4.2 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.

The preferred options selected within the Spatial Growth Strategy will help to sustain populations within the city and town centres, whilst also sustaining rural communities.

All of the preferred options presented under the Social theme were considered to have positive effects for this objective, with three being significant. The preferred option for **Supporting quality sustainable urban housing and balanced communities** (SOC 1A) was found to have significant effects for strengthening society in the long term as it will facilitate the provision of a range of housing types and tenures which helps towards the creation of balanced communities and could encourage positive social interactions.

The preferred options for **Protecting Open Space** (SOC 4A) and **Facilitating open space/ play provision in new largescale residential developments** (SOC 5A) were both considered to have significant positive effects for this objective. Open spaces are an important resource for strengthening society as they provide places for people to meet, play sport and share interests. Play spaces can also contribute to the improvement in community cohesion and allow for intergenerational contact. They are also considered to be shared spaces for children to meet and play.

Almost all of the preferred options within the Economic theme were found to have positive effects for this objective and there were no negative effects. The preferred options identified under the Economy theme are all considered to contribute positively or to have no or negligible effect on this objective. The preferred option for **Supporting the evening and night-time economy** (ECN 7A) was considered to have a significant positive effects for this objective. Making town centres attractive as a part of the night time economy could provide opportunities for people to meet and share activity, and could reduce social isolation. The preferred options for **Identifying Development Opportunity Sites** (ECN 9A) was found to have significant positive effects because it could lead to investment in these sites and will allow a review of existing sites and potential sea view sites. This could help to improve links across communities and could bring the benefits of regeneration to those areas. The preferred option for **Facilitating sustainable infrastructure, telecommunications and utilities development to meet the needs of the Borough** (ECN 12A) was considered to have significant positive effects as good telecoms connectivity can improve social cohesion.

Almost all of the preferred options within the Environmental theme had positive effects for this objective. The preferred option for **Protecting international, national and local nature conservation designations** (ENV2A) was found to have significant positive effects as it can provide places for people to meet.

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

4.3 Provide good quality sustainable housing

The population is growing and therefore there is ongoing need for new housing in locations that meet regional policy, are accessible and balance the needs of society and the environment. The make-up of households is changing therefore design needs to meet long term requirements with good quality build to be sustainable. This objective should reduce homelessness and ensure decent, affordable homes with a mix of types.

Many of the preferred options have no direct impact on this objective however those that do all have a positive effect.

Within the Spatial Growth Strategy theme two out of three of the preferred options were considered to have positive effects for this objective, reflecting the value of using a settlement hierarchy and focusing housing growth on the hubs whilst sustaining rural communities.

When all of the preferred options are considered for their impact upon this objective it is found that, where there is an effect, it is a positive one. A number of the preferred options were considered to have significant positive effects for this objective. Within the Environmental theme the preferred option for **Encouraging Sustainable Drainage Systems** (ENV 8 A) was given a significant positive scoring for this objective because of the role the approach played in ensuring new housing locations will be safe in terms of flood risk, in suitable locations.

Within the Social theme, a high proportion of the preferred options were considered to have positive effects for this objective and these effects were considered significant in two cases. The preferred option for **Supporting Quality Sustainable Urban Housing and Balanced Communities** (SOC1) as considered to have significant positive effects because it will facilitate the provision of a range of housing types and tenures helping to support balanced communities and will promote the development of lifetime homes for social housing.

The preferred option for **Supporting Sustainable Rural Housing** (SOC2) was also found to have significant positive effects for this objective because it will allow tailoring of policies to meet local circumstances and may facilitate the provision of housing including social and affordable housing where a need is identified.

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

4.4 Enable access to high quality education

Good education improves opportunities for employment and also contributes to avoidance of poverty and healthier lifestyles. The provision of suitable accommodation for educational establishments in appropriate, accessible locations should play a part in making schools more sustainable and reducing inequalities in education.

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.

All of the preferred options in the Spatial Growth Strategy were considered to have a positive effect for this objective. The appraisal found that across all the preferred options, where an effect was identified for this objective it was a positive one. Many of the preferred options in the economy theme had potential to positively contribute to this objective particularly through providing opportunities for skills enhancement. Linkages were also identified between this objective and some of the preferred options within the Environmental theme where natural heritage and historic environment assets would be protected.

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

4.5 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.

Looking at the preferred options in their entirety it is apparent that there is a very high level of correlation between the impact of the options and this objective. In all 10 of the preferred options were given a significant positive scoring. When we considered the effect of the preferred options contained in the Spatial Growth Strategy, all were found to contribute to the objective to enable sustainable economic growth.

Within the Economy theme, the preferred option for **Zoning for economic development** (ECN 1A) was given a significant positive score in the appraisal as it would support all of the identified indicators for sustainable economic growth, in particular creating a range of job types that are accessible, particularly to the areas of greatest need and making best use of key locations along major road and rail routes. The preferred option for **Supporting sustainable rural economic development** (ECN 4A) was found to have significant positive effects for this objective as it would bring economic benefits to rural areas and help to make the Borough more attractive to investors and visitors. It may create and sustain local tourism assets and provide a market for their local produce. The preferred option for **Protecting and strengthening town centres** (ECN 6A) was also found to significantly support the achievement of this objective as it will be able to direct retail and investment to town centres and primary retail cores helping town centre vitality. The preferred option for **Supporting the evening and night-time economy** (ECN 7A) was considered to have many positive effects for this objective, and overall a significant effect. It could help to attract more people into town centres and encourage increased spend. It could also encourage investment, and lead to a greater diversity in job types available. The preferred option for **Facilitating Office Development** (ECN 8A) was also given a significant positive scoring in the appraisal as it will provide for employment opportunities which contribute to a variety of job types, and may increase town centres footfall and vitality. The preferred option for **Identifying Development Opportunity Sites** (ECN 9A) was also considered to have significant positive effects for this objective as it could lead to more investment and more productive use of sites across the Borough including potential new sites.

The preferred option for **Facilitating sustainable infrastructure, telecommunications and utilities development to meet the needs of the Borough** (ECN 12A) was considered to have a significant positive effect on this objective as a reliable energy supply, and accessibility to broadband and telecoms provision are crucial to economic growth. The preferred option for **Protecting the Borough's Protected Routes** (ECN 13A) was found to have significant positive effects for this objective. It will contribute to the efficient movement of goods and services, making areas of the Borough much more attractive to investment. It will allow protection of the key economic corridors in line with local needs.

The preferred option for **Protecting proposed strategic road improvement schemes** (ECN 14A) had only one option and the effect on economic growth was found to be uncertain as it reduces journey times but might direct businesses form town centres.

Within the Environment theme for **Facilitating appropriate renewable energy development** (ENV 9A) was also considered to have significant positive effects for this objective as it can support the renewable energy industry but also consider the needs of the local tourism sector in terms of landscape. It can help to enable projects which contribute to farm diversification.

The preferred option for **Facilitating sustainable waste management** (ENV 10A) will align with the principle of the circular economy and stimulate business within this sector.

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

4.6 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 negative impacts. The concept of a circular economy treats waste as a resource which

should be managed sustainably to reduce production and increase recovery, recycling and composting rates. As such new or adapted facilities may be required.

The preferred options which form the Spatial Growth theme are considered to positively contribute to the sustainable management of material assets. 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.

Within the Social theme, many of the preferred options were considered to have positive effects although the preferred option for **Supporting Rural Housing** (SOC 2A) received a negative score. This reflects the challenges involved with providing infrastructure in some rural locations.

When the appraisal considered the options presented in the Economic theme, many of the preferred options were given a positive scoring and one was found to have uncertain effects. Three preferred options were found to have significant positive effects. **Zoning for Economic Development** (ECN 1A) was found to encourage effective use of land and provision of energy, whilst creating opportunities for more efficient recycling and waste management services. The preferred option for **Facilitating Office Development** (ECN 8A) was considered to focus development on the locations well served for provision of infrastructure and enable more potential economic ventures to be present in town centres through a sequential approach. The preferred option for **Facilitating sustainable infrastructure, telecommunications and utilities development to meet the needs of the Borough** (ECN 12A) was found to assist in the sustainable delivery of this objective.

When the preferred options presented within the Environment theme were appraised, there was a more mixed picture. Overall, five of the preferred options were considered to have positive effects, and these were significant in two of the options. The preferred options for **Facilitating appropriate renewable energy development** (ENV 9A) and **Facilitating sustainable waste management** (ENV 10A) were found to allow for a variety of renewable energy projects and sustainable waste facilities. However, three of the options were found to have negative effects, demonstrating the possible conflicts between provision of infrastructure services and the protection of sites for the historic environment and landscape.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on managing material assets sustainably.

4.7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably

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 options presented within the Spatial Growth Strategy have the potential to focus growth in the hubs, towns and rural settlements and enable appropriate growth in the open countryside. This approach helps to protect physical land resources to some extent by focusing growth in the towns and settlements, helping to minimise greenfield loss. The preferred options under this theme had an overall mixed scoring reflecting the uncertainties at this stage of the plan.

Within the Social theme two preferred options were considered to have positive effects and two to have negative effects. The preferred option for **Supporting sustainable rural housing** (SOC 2A) was considered to lead to a loss of greenfield land. Similarly the preferred option for **Facilitating community and cultural facilities to meet the needs of the Borough** (SOC 6A) was also considered to potentially mean development of land, however this could be mitigated through the application of a relevant criteria based policy.

Within the Economic theme, there was also a mixed picture with one of the preferred options having negative effects. The preferred option for **Protecting proposed strategic road improvement schemes** (ECN 14) will inevitably lead to loss of greenfield land, through the planning process these potential impacts could be identified and mitigated. However within this theme ten of the preferred options were found to have positive effects and these were significant positive in one case. The preferred option for **Identifying Development Opportunity Sites** (ECN 9) was found to have a significant positive effect as it could provide opportunities to consider the use of brownfield sites.

When we consider the effect of the Environment theme's preferred options on this objective, all of the preferred options had positive effects with one uncertain. This reflects this part of the plan's role in protecting and safeguarding land as a resource.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on protecting physical resources and using sustainably.

4.8 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 makes travel more affordable, brings added health benefits and also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Measures that help reduce car use and improve accessibility to or encourage a shift to travel by public transport, walking and cycling will contribute to this goal.

All of the preferred options which form the Spatial Growth Strategy were considered to positively encourage use of active and sustainable travel and one was found to have significant positive effects. Focusing growth using a settlement hierarchy 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. **Allocating economic development lands** (SGS 3A) could significantly contribute towards encouraging active and sustainable travel as it would make use of the strong transport links that exist within the Borough.

The preferred options identified under the Social theme are almost all considered to have positive effects for this objective, except that for **Supporting sustainable rural housing** (SOC 2A) which had a negative scoring. This reflects the rural nature of parts of the Borough and the challenges for these areas in terms of public transport and active travel.

Within the Economic theme, the majority of preferred options were found to have positive effects and in five cases these effects were found to be of a significant magnitude. The preferred option for **Zoning for Economic Development** (ECN 1A) was found to have significant positive effects for this objective, as locating development in or near hubs will provide the greatest flexibility for travel options. Furthermore, access to sustainable travel options could be factored into site selection. The preferred option for **Protecting the Borough's Disused Transport Routes** (ECN 15A) was found to have significant positive effects, as it could create opportunities to retain, create or enhance walking and cycling routes.

The preferred option for **Protecting key Park and Ride Sites** (ECN 16A) could have significant positive effects because it could make public transport use more accessible and attractive and could deliver more sites in the future through their identification and safeguarding. The preferred option for **Promoting active travel and sustainable transport** (ECN 17A) could have significant positive effects because it would serve to retain, create, or enhance walking and cycling routes, helping to reduce congestion and encouraging a modal shift to active travel and public transport. It could also improve access to public transport. **Promoting and enhancing access to greenways** (ECN 18A) was also found to have similar significant positive effects for this objective

When we consider the effect of the environmental theme's preferred options the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel, we find that where an effect is identified it is positive although there were limited links between the option and the objective.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on encouraging active and sustainable travel.

4.9 Improve Air Quality

Air pollution can have 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.

Two of the preferred options which form the Spatial Growth Strategy are considered to positively contribute to this objective as it will allocate the majority of growth into urban areas, increasing opportunities to move away from car use and towards active travel. However the preferred option for **Allocating Economic Development Lands** (SGS 3A) was given a negative scoring, reflecting that there would be an adverse impact on air quality associated with all economic development, no matter where it takes place.

When we consider the impact of the preferred options within the Social theme on this objective, we find a high degree of uncertainty but also some positive correlations. Eight of the preferred options were given an uncertain scoring and this reflects the unknown outcomes of behaviour changes towards influencing active and sustainable travel, especially with commuting to employment areas.

Within the Social theme, two preferred options were considered to have positive effects and two to have uncertain effects. Many of the preferred options had no link with improving air quality. Again the uncertain scorings reflect the element of unknown in behaviour change.

The Environment theme has a high number of preferred options having no link with this objective, although there are positive connections identified in two cases.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive 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.

4.10 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 reduce greenhouse gas emissions, however adaptation is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change.

All of the preferred options within the Spatial Growth Strategy were considered to have a positive effect on this objective. They plan to focus growth in settlements but also enable appropriate growth in the rural communities will have positive effects for climate change. As the allocation of the majority of housing is planned for the existing settlements, this should help to reduce the need for private car journeys and promote a move towards active and sustainable travel, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions overall.

Within the Social theme almost all of the preferred options were considered to have positive effects although the preferred option for **Supporting sustainable rural housing** (SOC 2A) was found to have negative effects due to car use associated with rural housing.

If we consider the Economy theme, many of the preferred options had positive effects although there was no connection found in several of the appraisals. Many of the options which support active and sustainable travel were found to have positive effects for this objective, which with appropriate behaviour change could become significant eventually. Uncertain effects were found in two of the preferred options reflecting unknowns about behaviour change and proximity to public transport. Also the preferred option for **Supporting sustainable minerals development** (ECN 11A) may lead to a mix of effects for this objective. The preferred option for **Protecting proposed strategic road improvement schemes** (ECN 14A) was found to have significant negative effects for this objective as it is unlikely to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and could lead to loss of flood plains, although these effects would be considered within Environmental Impact Assessments prior to development.

Under the Environment theme, almost all of the preferred options have positive effects with four having significant positive effects. The preferred option for **Protecting international, national and local nature conservation designations** (ENV 2A) was found to have significant positive effects as these sites represent an important resource for dealing with the effects of climate change such as flood risk. **Encouraging Sustainable Drainage Systems** (ENV 8A) will contribute to climate change adaption by reducing additional pressure on natural and manmade water capture systems and will have significant positive effects for this objective. The preferred option for **Facilitating appropriate renewable energy development** (ENV 9A) will enable renewable energy development that helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. **Facilitating sustainable waste management** (ENV 10A) was also determined to have significant positive effects as it should reduce number of journeys and enable waste management processes to continue to move away from landfill towards a circular economy. This should reduce greenhouse gas emissions from waste. There were no preferred options under the environment theme identified with a negative effect for this objective.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on reducing causes of and adapting to climate change.

4.11 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 options presented within the Spatial Growth Strategy theme aim to focus housing growth on the Hubs whilst sustaining rural communities to reflect RDS direction. Focusing population growth and development in settlements helps to encourage growth in appropriate areas with adequate facilities and services, including water infrastructure.

Where an effect was identified for the Social theme for the preferred options it was positive apart from one case where it was negative. The preferred option for **Supporting sustainable rural housing** (SOC 2A) was found to adversely impact the objective where it could present water quality issues by allowing the continued frequency of septic tanks in the countryside.

Within the economic theme there was a mixed picture with most of the preferred options scoring either neutral or positive. Notably there were 2 options which scored negative and 1 which scored uncertain. The preferred option for **Supporting sustainable rural economic development** (ECN 4) was considered negative where there could be potential negative impacts associated with some types of development for example, supply of fresh water and disposal of foul waste for food production and processing. The preferred option for **Protecting proposed strategic road improvement schemes** (ECN 14) was considered to have potential negative impacts on the objective where new road development could lead to water run off adversely impacting water quality. The preferred option for **Supporting**

sustainable minerals development (ECN 11) was considered uncertain where it was identified that there could be potential negative impacts associated with high water demand and excavation. However, these effects could be mitigated against. The uncertainty is linked to how the approach could be implemented.

Under the environment theme, three of the preferred options were considered to have significant positive effects for the objective. The preferred option for **Protecting international, national and local nature conservation designations (that are designated outside the LDP process)** (ENV 2A) was considered to play an important role in holding or slowing down water into the River Blackwater at peak periods of rainfall making it significant positive in terms of reducing the risk of flooding and damage to water quality. The preferred option for **Identifying and protecting Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs)** (ENV 5A) was considered to be significant positive for its potential to protect riparian habitats and reduce risk of pollution to water courses. The preferred option for **Encouraging Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)** (ENV8) was found to significantly support this objective where it could reduce additional pressure being placed onto natural and manmade water capture systems. It could also reduce the need for flood defences and avoid risk of flooding.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably however considering the mitigation of negative effects will be an important function as the plan progresses and within development management requirements.

4.12 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.

When we consider the preferred options presented within the Spatial Growth Strategy theme were considered to have positive effects for this objective. Focusing housing growth in the hubs whilst sustaining rural communities to reflect regional direction and using a settlement hierarchy will limit the impact on wildlife compared to a more dispersed settlement pattern. The preferred option for **Allocate economic Development Lands** (SOC 3A) was considered to have potential negative effects, as semi-natural land may become available for economic development. Any potential impacts will be carefully considered during the plan making process.

Within the Social theme there is a good level of positive correlation between this objective and the preferred options and three were considered to have positive effects. Uncertain effects were identified for the preferred option for **Facilitating community and cultural facilities to meet the needs of the Borough** (SOC 6A). Negative effects were found for the preferred option for **Supporting sustainable rural housing**. (SOC 2A) as it may result in a loss of biodiversity in rural areas, and may contribute to light pollution and a loss of wildlife corridors.

When the appraisal considered the preferred options contained in the Economy theme, there is a mix of scorings with seven having a positive scoring. Two of the preferred options were determined to have significant positive effects. The preferred options for **Protecting the Borough's Disused Transport Routes** (ECN 15A) and **Promoting and Enhancing access to greenways** (ECN 18A) were both found to help to support wildlife corridors. Areas of green and blue infrastructure are important for biodiversity in urban and rural settings. However within this theme, four preferred options were found to have negative effects for natural resources and biodiversity and will need to consider further assessment mitigation as we move to the next stage of the plan. One preferred option was found to have a mix of scores for this objective, Facilitating sustainable infrastructure , telecommunications

and utilities development to meet the needs of the Borough (ECN 12A) and consideration of its potential effects will be important at the next stage of plan making.

Within the Environmental theme, nine out of ten of the preferred options have positive effects for this objective, including six where significant positive effects are identified.

The preferred option for **Protecting international, national and local nature conservation designations** (ENV 2A) was considered to have significant positive effects for this objective through enhancing local biodiversity. Similarly, the preferred option for **Identifying and protecting local nature conservation designations** (ENV 3A) was found to have significant positive effects for this objective as it will allow important habitats to be protected and help create the conditions for biodiversity to flourish. Both of these options will contribute to the protection of blue and green infrastructure and support places to experience the natural environment helping to continue local engagement with conservation.

The preferred options for **Identifying and protecting Sensitive Landscapes** (ENV 4A), **Identifying and protecting Local Landscape Policy Areas** (ENV 5A), **Identifying and protecting Urban / Rural Landscape Wedges** (ENV 6A) were all found to have significant positive effects for this objective as they will help to protect those areas from development, leaving more natural and semi-natural areas for wildlife. These areas can support the retention of wildlife corridors essential to the natural mosaic of places for wildlife in urban and rural contexts.

The preferred option for **Encouraging Sustainable Drainage Systems** (ENV 8A) will have positive effects for this objective as areas which make up these systems can be considered as green and blue infrastructure which can be semi-natural areas or contribute to wildlife corridors.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity.

4.13 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.

Where an effect was identified for the Spatial Growth theme for the preferred options it was positive.

The preferred option for **Defining a Settlement Hierarchy** (SGS 1) was considered positive where it was found it supported the continued protection of identified landscapes and could encourage the incorporation of landscape design into development.

There was a range of scores within the social theme for the preferred options with 3 of the options either scoring negative, significant positive or uncertain. The preferred option for **Supporting sustainable rural housing** (SOC 2A) scored negative as it was identified that there could be negative impacts associated with cumulative impacts on landscape character arising from a tailored approach.

Supporting good design and positive place-making (SOC 3A) was considered significant positive for its potential to enhance and promote and enhance and promote local landscape character and to protect and enhance landscapes. The preferred option for **Facilitating community and cultural facilities to meet the needs of the Borough** (SOC 6A) was found to be uncertain in that any positive effects associated with the criteria based approach would be dependent on how it was implemented.

Within the economic theme there was a mixed picture with most of the preferred options scoring either neutral or positive. Notably there were 2 options which scored negative and 1 which scored uncertain. The preferred option for **Facilitating sustainable infrastructure, telecommunications and**

utilities development to meet the needs of the Borough (ECN 12) was found to be uncertain. This option would have an uncertain effect on this objective as the construction of telecoms and utilities infrastructure could have the potential to adversely impact landscape character; however, negative impacts could be offset with the application of specific criteria that would restrict development.

The preferred option for **Protecting proposed strategic road improvement schemes** (ECN 14) was found to be negative due to adverse impacts associated with this type of development in terms of views and settings. The preferred option for **Protecting key Park and Ride Sites** (ECN 16) was found to be negative as developing park and ride/park and share sites could potentially create visual intrusion, however it was noted that there was potential for mitigation to reduce these effects.

Six out of ten of the preferred options within the environment theme scored significant positive for this objective. The preferred options for **Protecting, conserving and enhancing built heritage and archaeological assets** (ENV 1) and **Protecting international, national and local nature conservation designations (that are designated outside the LDP process)** (ENV 2) were found to be significant positive where they could protect archaeological features and built heritage and contribute significantly to maintaining and enhancing landscape character.

The preferred options for **Identifying and protecting Sensitive Landscapes** (ENV 4A), **Identifying and protecting Local Landscape Policy Areas** (ENV 5A), **Identifying and protecting Urban / Rural Landscape Wedges** (ENV 6A), were all found to have significant positive effects for this objective.

The preferred option for **Facilitating appropriate renewable energy development** (ENV 9A) was also considered to be significant positive as it was recognised that renewables pose less risk of water pollution than that posed from fossil fuels.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on maintaining and enhancing landscape character.

4.14 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 which form the Spatial Growth Strategy, and at this strategic stage of plan-making, two of the options were considered to have a neutral or no effect. One preferred option was considered to have a positive effect.

Two of the preferred options identified under the Social theme are considered to have a positive effects for this objective, including one with significant positive effects. The preferred option for **Supporting good design and positive place-making** (SOC 3A) was found to target built heritage assets and focuses on local distinctiveness.

Within the Economy theme most of the preferred options were considered to contribute to this objective with one having significant positive effects. The preferred option for **Supporting the evening and night-time economy** (ECN 7) was found to support historic buildings coming back into viable use and could help to maintain townscapes.

Under the Environment theme there was a high degree of linkage between the preferred options and this sustainability objective and where an effect was determined to be likely, it was usually a positive one. In total, three preferred options were considered to have significant positive effects for protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural resources. The preferred

option for **Protecting, conserving and enhancing built heritage and archaeological assets** (ENV 1A) was found to have significant positive effects because it will allow assets to continue to be protected and conserved and gives the opportunity to enhance the number and extent of sites.

The preferred option for **Identifying and protecting Local Landscape Policy Areas** (ENV 5A) was found to contribute to helping to protect the sense of place and setting of historic environment assets and to have significant positive effects.

Also within the Environment theme the preferred option for **Facilitating appropriate renewable energy development** (ENV 9A) was considered to enable the historical and cultural environment to be considered with a tailored approach which could give additional protection to any historic environment features present. It was considered to have significant positive effects.

Overall the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on protecting, conserving and enhancing built and cultural heritage.

4.15 Outcome and Next Steps

The appraisal process has helped influence the content of the POP by contributing to the critical review of the issues and the options put forward as reasonable alternatives. Sustainability appraisal will continue throughout Plan preparation and a Sustainability Report will be published with the draft Plan Strategy. This will take account of the representations on the sustainability appraisal made during public consultation.

In developing the Plan Strategy we will ensure that no significant negative 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.

APPENDIX 1: Compliance Checklist for Strategic Environmental Assessment

Schedule 2 of 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 Interim 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 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council LDP is presented in Chapter 4. Appendix 4 of the SA Scoping 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.	SA Scoping Report Chapter 5 SA Scoping Report Appendix 5 presents Key Sustainability Issues.
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	SA Scoping Report Chapter 5. More detail will be added to this at Plan Strategy stage. The Key Sustainability issues are also presented in Appendix 5 of the Scoping Report.
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 5 of the SA Scoping Report identifies environmental problems. The Key Sustainability issues are also presented in Appendix 5 of the Scoping Report. The SA Scoping report Appendix 7 outlines sites to which the Directives apply and potential pathways and effects that could arise from development.
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.	SA Scoping Report Chapter 5 outlines the main policy themes for each topic and Appendix 4 outlines the relationship with other plans, programmes and policies.
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 –	These issues are all covered in the 14 sustainability objectives in the Sustainability Appraisal Framework used to assess the options and reported in Appendix 5 of the Scoping Report.

Requirement	Location
(i) biodiversity; (ii) population; (iii) human health; (iv) fauna; (v) flora; (vi) soil; (vii) water; (viii) air; (ix) climatic factors; (x) material assets; (xi) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; (xii) landscape, and (xiii) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub paragraphs (i) to (xii).	Interrelationships have been covered in Chapter 2 and Appendix 2 of this SA Interim Report.
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.	Mitigation measures are referred to in both Chapter 3 and in the matrices presented in Appendix 4 of this report. We have used the term 'significant negative effects'.
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 this report considers this in general. Chapter 3 and Appendix 4 provide more detail on the options appraised and any 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: Compatibility of Sustainability Objectives & Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Local Development Plan Strategic Objectives.

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 historic environment
Plan Vision														
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough will be a place of choice to live, work and visit with a vibrant and sustainable economy supported by a healthy and connected community.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social Objectives														
To further develop Armagh City, Banbridge and the sub-regional Craigavon Urban Area ² as the main hubs for growth.	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	✓	?
To support the role of local towns and villages as attractive and vibrant local service centres providing a level of development appropriate to their position in the settlement hierarchy.	0	✓	0	0	✓	0	?	✓	?	0	?	?	?	?
To support rural communities by providing appropriate and sustainable opportunities for development in the countryside.	?	✓	?	0	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
To provide a sufficient supply of land for new housing to meet the housing needs by 2030.	?	✓	✓	?	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
To facilitate the diverse range of specific housing needs over the Plan period.	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
To facilitate community safety and shared spaces through high quality designs and layouts of proposed schemes.	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
To facilitate development of community and cultural facilities at locations accessible to the local communities they serve.	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	✓
Economic Objectives														
To facilitate the creation and maintenance of conditions that provide for a dynamic, diverse and robust economy to encourage existing and new businesses to invest.	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?

² Craigavon Urban Area consists of Portadown, Central Craigavon and Lurgan.

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 historic environment
To facilitate the growth of the economy by ensuring an adequate provision of accessible land for a range of employment uses which offers a choice of sites at a range of locations.	0	✓	0	0	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?
To support, regenerate and promote vibrant town centres.	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?
To support tourism development by creating and identifying opportunities for sustainable tourism development and by safeguarding key tourism assets from inappropriate development.	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	?	?	?	?	?	0	0	?	✓
To promote Armagh City as a major tourist destination while respecting its unique built heritage assets, cultural product and unique setting through sensitive development.	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	?	?	?	?	?	0	0	?	✓
To facilitate economic development of an appropriate nature, scale and location in the countryside; including employment in the primary sector (agriculture, forestry and mining); while recognizing the growing importance of self-employment, homeworking and farm diversification.	✓	✓	0	0	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
To facilitate economic regeneration and support the connectivity of disadvantaged and deprived areas.	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	?	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?
To facilitate investment in power, water, sewerage infrastructure and waste management, particularly in the interests of public health.	✓	✓	?	0	✓	✓	?	0	✓	✓	✓	?	?	0
To facilitate physical and digital connectivity which meets the needs of businesses and private households.	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0
To protect strategically important transportation and public utilities infrastructure and where possible enhance connectivity within the Borough and with other centres.	✓	✓	?	0	✓	✓	?	✓	?	?	0	0	0	0
Environmental Objectives														
To conserve, protect and where possible enhance the natural and built environment to improve biodiversity, achieve quality design and promote health and well-being.	✓	✓	0	0	?	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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 historic environment
To promote sustainable high quality design in all developments to assist with climate change adaptation and place-making.	✓	✓	○	○	?	?	?	?	?	✓	?	?	✓	✓
To prevent inappropriate new development in areas known to be at risk of flooding or that may increase the flood risk elsewhere and put in place measures to assist in flood risk management.	✓	○	○	○	?	○	✓	○	○	✓	✓	✓	○	○
To protect and develop networks of green and blue spaces to support biodiversity and habitats and promote health and well-being.	✓	✓	✓	○	?	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
To facilitate integration between land use, planning and transportation to encourage a shift to more sustainable and active modes of transport.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	?	○
To safeguard unique sensitive landscapes from inappropriate development.	✓	?	○	○	✓	?	✓	○	○	?	?	✓	✓	✓
To protect and enhance the network of open spaces in the Borough and promote opportunities for connections to create an enhanced network of pedestrian paths, cycle- ways and ecological corridors to improve linkages throughout the Borough.	✓	✓	✓	○	?	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
To support the generation of energy from renewable sources in appropriate locations whilst affording protection to the environment including sensitive or vulnerable landscapes.	○	○	○	○	✓	✓	○	○	✓	✓	?	?	?	?

Compatible	✓	No relationship	○	Uncertain relationship	?	Incompatible	✗
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APPENDIX 3: Impact of Preferred Options on Sustainability Objectives

Code	Preferred Option	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.
SGS1	Bring forward a new settlement hierarchy through re-classification of existing settlements to include new settlements / new settlement nodes.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
SGS2	Focus housing growth on the Hubs whilst sustaining rural communities to reflect regional direction.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
SGS3	Apportion economic development lands in relation to former council populations and in addition reflect Craigavon's sub-regional function.	0	+	0	+	+	+	-	++	-	+	0	-	0	0
SOC 1	An approach to new residential development in settlements in line with existing policies, tailored to reflect regional direction and to meet local circumstances.	+	++	++	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	+	0
SOC 2	An approach to rural housing in line with existing policies and further regional direction, tailored to meet local circumstances.	+	+	++	0	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	0
SOC 3	Support good design and positive place-making in both development and advertisement proposals through criteria-based policy, with provision for additional design criteria and supporting guidance for	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	++	++	
SOC 4	Protect existing open space (in addition to identifying and zoning land for new provision) in line with existing policy and regional direction, tailored to meet local circumstances.	++	++	+	0	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	0
SOC 5	A locally tailored approach, with amendment to the existing criteria for play park provision in largescale residential developments to increase provision in larger schemes to more than one	++	++	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0
SOC 6	Identify and protect sites where a firm proposal is in place; and bring forward a criteria based policy for development proposals to be assessed against, to facilitate new community and cultural facilities	+	+	0	+	+	0	-	+	?	0	0	?	?	0
SOC 7	Provide strategic policy on developer contributions and identify sites where developer contributions would be appropriate in the Local Policies Plan.	++	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
ECN 1	Evaluate existing economic development zonings and identify new sustainably located sites to meet projected needs.	+	+	0	+	++	++	+	+	?	+	+	+	0	0
ECN 2	Allow UCO Class B1 Business Uses in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres and within economic development zonings (as identified in the LDP) as part of a sequential approach.	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	0	0	0	+
ECN 3	Identify sites within economic development zonings specifically for Start-Up and Grow-On business space and also use redundant buildings or lands on existing economic sites for Start-Up and Grow-On	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	?	0	0	0	0	0
ECN 4	Support a sustainable approach to rural economic development in line with existing policies and regional direction, tailored to meet local circumstances, including in relation to facilitating the apple	0	+	0	0	++	0	?	?	?	0	-	?	+	+
ECN 5	Identify a new hierarchy of centres, within settlements based upon the current role and function of our centres, and identify new centres where appropriate.	0	+	0	0	+	+	?	+	?	0	+	?	+	+
ECN 6	Review and identify Town Centre Boundaries and Primary Retail Cores, where appropriate, accompanied by policy to protect and strengthen town centres.	0	+	0	0	++	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+
ECN 7	Promote town centres as first choice locations for a variety of complementary town centre uses to facilitate growth of the evening and night-time economy.	+	++	0	0	++	?	+	0	0	0	0	-	0	++
ECN 8	Bring forward a sequential approach towards office development (UCO Use Class A2: financial, professional and other services) in town centres.	0	0	0	0	++	++	+	+	?	0	+	+	+	+
ECN 9	Review existing Development Opportunity Sites (DOSs), as designated, and identify new DOSs, where appropriate.	+	++	+	0	++	+	++	0	?	?	+	+	+	+
ECN 10	Carry forward an approach in line with existing policy to support and facilitate appropriate sustainable tourism development in both settlements and the countryside, with additions that are tailored to meet	+	+	0	+	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	?	+	+
ECN 11	Support a balanced approach between the need for mineral resources and the need to protect the environment and other interests of acknowledged importance, in line with existing policies and further	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	?	?	?	+	0	+
ECN 12	Provide a criteria based policy in line with existing policies and regional direction.	++	++	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	0
ECN 13	Bringing forward an approach that is in line with existing Protected Routes policy, tailored to the needs of the Borough.	+	0	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
ECN 14	Identify and safeguard key strategic road improvement schemes in the LDP to enhance accessibility within the Borough.	+	0	0	0	?	0	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+
ECN 15	Protect disused transport routes in line with existing policy and identify and safeguard routes in the LDP that have a reasonable prospect of becoming useable in the future.	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	++	+	+	0	++	+	+
ECN 16	Protect existing and proposed key Park and Ride sites and identify and safeguard potential new Park and Ride / Park and Share sites within the Borough.	+	+	0	+	+	0	?	++	+	+	0	-	-	0
ECN 17	Promote active travel networks and sustainable transport in all new development within settlements to demonstrate accessibility to and integration with existing public transport, walking and cycling	++	+	+	+	+	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	0
ECN 18	Identify and protect accessible and safe greenways in order to encourage a modal shift away from the private car, connect people and places through active travel and enable ecological linkages.	++	+	0	+	+	0	0	++	+	+	+	++	+	+
ENV 1	An approach in line with existing policy with regards to protecting, conserving and enhancing built heritage and archaeological assets within the Borough; and review existing areas / designations and	0	0	0	0	+	-	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	++
ENV 2	An approach in line with existing policy with regards to protecting and enhancing international, national and local nature conservation sites that are not LDP designations (i.e. Local Nature Reserves	++	++	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	++	++	++	++	+
ENV 3	An approach in line with the existing policy with regards to protecting and enhancing local nature conservation designations; and review existing and identify new LDP designations as appropriate.	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	++	+	+
ENV 4	Consider areas of sensitive landscape for designation as Areas of High Scenic Value (AoHSV) or Special Countryside Areas (SCA).	0	0	0	0	+	-	?	0	0	+	+	++	++	+
ENV 5	Evaluate and, as appropriate, retain existing Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) designated in the extant Area Plans; consider the identification of new LLPAs; and introduce a consistent LLPA policy.	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	++	++	++	++
ENV 6	Review existing open space wedges and policy zones as potential urban landscape wedges; and identify both new urban and rural landscape wedges with associated policy.	+	+	0	0	0	-	+	+	0	0	+	++	++	+
ENV 7	Adopt a precautionary approach in line with existing policy and regional direction by having a presumption against development in flood plains other than in exceptional circumstances. The	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+
ENV 8	Bring forward policy to encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in new development where appropriate.	++	+	++	0	+	+	+	0	0	++	++	++	+	+
ENV 9	An approach to renewable energy development in line with existing policy but in addition identify areas of sensitive landscape which may be unsuitable for particular forms of renewable energy development.	0	0	0	0	++	++	+	0	+	++	+	+	++	++
ENV 10	An approach to waste management in line with existing criteria based policy but tailored to meet local circumstances; and in addition identify suitable locations for waste management facilities were	+	+	0	0	++	++	+	0	0	++	+	0	0	0

APPENDIX 4: Sustainability Appraisal Matrices

Key Issue SGS1: Defining a Settlement Hierarchy									
Options	Preferred option SGS 1A: Bring forward a new settlement hierarchy through re-classification of existing settlements to include new settlements / new settlement nodes.						Alternative option SGS 1A: Retain existing settlement hierarchy with no additional new settlements / no new settlement nodes.		
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Will improve access to health care, currently the RDS directs health care centres to the hubs. Settlements are the most appropriate location for growth and re-classification may allow health hubs to be established in settlements closer to the rural hinterland. Negligible for air quality - concentrates people in urban centres and unlikely that new road infrastructure will be necessary. Raising a settlement's position in the hierarchy will increase its active travel opportunities.	-	-	-	Retaining existing settlement hierarchy may not allow capacity for growth. Some settlements have had growth but not improvements in services to match the growth. Currently do not have a GP surgery in every village, mainly towns only. Not re-classifying / upgrading settlements may reduce accessibility to services by creating an imbalance between settlement size and service provision. Reduces opportunities for active travel.	
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	May reduce service provision inequalities. Additional housing areas can help address deficiencies by increasing population/demand for shared spaces (such as parks and community centres) and drive the need for new provisions. New settlement hierarchy can make better use of resources and make services more accessible. Often services require a critical mass of users to establish before they become feasible.	-	-	-	Would not allow new settlements or nodes to be identified in rural areas. Would not provide the same opportunities for shared space in rural areas due to lack of people/ critical mass needed to progress new shared spaces/services.	
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	New hierarchy allows housing executive to provide input into identifying local housing need and for an appropriate mix of housing to be planned. The majority of new houses would be directed towards the hubs. Larger settlements can support a better mix of housing types and accommodate a wider range of needs.	-	-	-	If new settlement limits are not drawn/agreed, the housing executive and housing associations cannot acknowledge and include new settlements in their plans. They would not be able to initiate new social/affordable housing developments in the smaller, rural areas.	
4.... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Directing the majority of the population towards hub areas will support and allow growth, or more efficient usage, of existing 2nd and 3rd level education and skills providers,	-	-	-	If the growing population is not directed into hubs or nodes, and is instead more dispersed, the benefits of clustered sites and hub areas might be diluted. Access to education	

				which by their nature tend to already be located in the larger settlements. Maintaining focus on existing settlements will keep the majority of the population in closer proximity to education/skills training sites, making access easier. Public transport links within/to hub settlements is also likely to be better.				and skills training may be made more difficult. It may also mean that facilities are under-used.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The option has been directed by the RDS and would enable growth. The majority of the people and employment would be directed to the hubs to reinforce the hierarchy. It is more sustainable to have employment areas, the local transport network and groups of services all focused on specific places. Local towns in the margins of the Council area may benefit from having areas zoned for economic development.	-	-	-	Additional land/capacity is needed to support extra job provision for an increasing population. Some existing industrial zoning is on flood plains which are not appropriate for development. Retaining these redundant zonings is of no benefit. Banbridge has insufficient remaining zoned land for economic development to meet projected demand. Marginal towns would miss out on opportunities through not having areas zoned.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Wastewater treatment infrastructure has limited additional capacity in places, but main hubs have adequate provision. Focusing settlements creates the demand for centralised recycling facilities to be provided. Focusing settlements/nodes will create adequate demand for provision of high speed broadband /telecoms services and other infrastructure e.g. mains gas. Can enable development to be directed towards the reuse of derelict sites/ brownfield land.	-	-	-	Wastewater treatment infrastructure has limited additional capacity in places and may affect a settlement's ability to grow. Increased numbers of septic tanks in the immediate surroundings of Lough Neagh would present difficulties. Dwellings located outside identified settlements may not be sufficiently concentrated in numbers to make it economic for broadband /telecoms providers to provide enhanced services or for other services such as mains gas. May mean that greenfield sites are developed in preference to derelict/ contaminated land.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	?	?	?	A sufficient cluster of rural dwellings with some sort of existing service provision would be considered for identification as a node. Identifying new settlements/nodes in rural areas may reduce area suitable for quarrying due to noise buffers. Higher densities of residential development would be expected in existing settlements which would have limited capacity to use geothermal energy. However, the loss of semi-natural land cover/biodiversity may be less in order to provide same number of housing units. Overall the option is considered to have an uncertain effect on this objective due to a mix of positive and negative potential consequences.	?	?	?	More dispersed development may allow the additional space needed for geothermal energy use. However, more dispersed / lower density of housing units may result in overall increase in loss of semi-natural land cover/biodiversity. Overall the option is considered to have an uncertain effect on this objective due to a mix of positive and negative potential consequences.

8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Traffic would be directed along existing principal routes designed to accommodate high loads (but these may become more congested as a consequence). Key site requirements including proximity to or linkage with bus/train/cycle access would promote use of active/sustainable travel. Identification of new settlements/ nodes and increasing their population density would encourage public transport to move into those areas / enhance their connectivity potential.	-	-	-	Traffic would be more dispersed, may result in fewer incentives to use active/sustainable transport. Would not be able to acknowledge new settlement areas and create focused demand for active/sustainable transport services at these locations.
9.... improve air quality.	+	+	+	May direct more people to live in main hubs where air pollution levels may already be raised. However, may also create greater opportunities/ incentives for use of active/sustainable transport and reducing reliance on cars, thus reducing emissions. Increasing clusters of housing units may create economies of scale for provision of lower carbon forms of power/heating, e.g. a greater market place for mains gas. A particular size of zoning may require a linkage to a greenway or bus/rail stop.	-	-	-	More dispersed patterns of settlement may not provide the same opportunities for connectivity with active/sustainable transport. Dispersed settlement may result in insufficient demand to attract the provision of low carbon fuel or power supplies.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Areas within flood plains that are currently zoned (but unable to be developed) would be freed up for alternative uses that could help reduce flood risk. Benefits in respect of optimising travel and fuel/power supplies in 8 & 9 above may reduce energy consumption and/or greenhouse gas emissions. Existing green wedges and corridors would be respected and added to.	0	0	0	Existing policy presumes against development in flood plain thus flood plains would not be further reduced. Opportunities to reduce fuel/power consumption may also occur but may be less common than for option 1A. Existing green wedges and corridors would be respected, but lack of available space in main settlements may prevent their enhancement.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Population will be directed towards existing large and medium settlements. It will be more feasible to invest in additional water treatment capacity in areas where there are existing population concentrations. Greater flexibility in allowing new development zones to be directed away from flood-prone areas and avoiding need for flood defences.	-	-	-	Not identifying new settlements/nodes may mean that investment in upgrading wastewater treatment is unfeasible. Increased numbers of septic tanks in the immediate surroundings of Lough Neagh might create additional pressures. May place extra costs on developers as private / package treatment may be necessary. Redundant zones in flood plains would not be able to be repurposed and there would be fewer opportunities to provide flood resilience.

12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Existing green wedges and corridors would be respected and added to. KSRs could be developed to provide a “whole area” approach. May result in a more efficient use of land to provide the same amount of units and reduce the overall amount of biodiversity being lost. May result in better access to planned open spaces and support their use.	0	0	0	Existing green wedges and corridors would be respected. May result in less efficient use of land and loss of greenfield land and biodiversity.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Would encourage urban landscape design, incorporating green wedges etc. Elevated areas previously identified as being sensitive would continue to be protected and retained without development. Landscape features would be respected.	+	+	+	Existing policy encourages urban landscape design, incorporating green wedges etc. Elevated areas identified as being sensitive are protected from development. Landscape features are respected.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	Existing built heritage conservation measures would be retained. Could encourage greater re-use of old/listed buildings if directing majority of development to the existing hubs. Greater demand may result in more opportunities for re-use.	0	0	0	Existing measures to conserve built heritage are in place. May result in fewer areas with ‘critical mass’ population therefore less demand for buildings and reduced opportunities for redeveloping older buildings, etc.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				<p>Option SGS 1A was considered to have a slight positive effect on almost all of the sustainability objectives, particularly the social and economic objectives. Option SGS `1B was considered to be less desirable in respect of the social and economic appraisal objectives as it would restrict the growth of existing settlements and would prevent new settlements from being identified thus also inhibiting growth in these areas. It was also considered to be slight negative for environmental objectives, as it would likely result in a greater overall land use to provide the same number of units</p> <p>Option SGS 1A was considered to be the most sustainable option.</p>				
The preferred option				Option SGS 1A is the preferred option				
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?				The preferred option has no significant positive effects but the more efficient use of land and ability to identify new settlement areas will result in a number of social and economic benefits. The more efficient use of assets through clustering and creating economies of scale will also benefit environmental receptors. No significant negative impacts were identified for the preferred option.				

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Key Site Requirements will be established for development zones to ensure potential benefits are maximised and mitigate against adverse impacts. Biodiversity studies in existing and proposed new settlements, planning policy, mitigation, Key Site Requirements, green building design, local building design / conservation guidance.

Key Issue SGS2: Housing Allocation

Options	Preferred option SGS 2A: Focus housing growth on the Hubs whilst sustaining rural communities to reflect RDS direction.				Alternative option SGS 2B: Maintain the housing allocation in line with the proportion of households at each level of settlement hierarchy (2011 Census).				Alternative option SGS 2C: Maintain the housing allocation in line with the proportion of population at each level of settlement hierarchy (2011 Census).			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Main healthcare centres are already clustered in hubs, this would mean additional population is kept closer to these sites and they would be well served by sustainable transport. Rural access to services may be improved by increasing population of villages which may establish a critical mass for service provision in some new areas. Raising a settlement's position in the hierarchy will increase its opportunities to develop active travel and lifestyle schemes.	+	+	+	This option would mean that additional population allocated in line with current distribution which will have a broadly positive effect, in that healthcare services are already available in these locations. By not having the same focus on sustaining rural settlements the option could miss opportunities to support health and other services in rural areas.	-	-	-	This option has a greater focus on developing rural areas which is not consistent with the RDS. Not as much growth would be directed to the hubs. It may prompt a greater provision of services in rural areas due to increased demand, however would not be as effective as enhancing existing villages as a more dispersed population may not achieve the critical mass required to merit the provision of new/additional services.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	This option would help in reducing factors causing urban / rural inequalities through enhancement of villages. Access to shared spaces and community facilities may be improved for rural communities. The growth of urban hubs would also increase demand for high quality shared space which may allow a wider range of facilities to be	+	+	+	This option would continue the growth of urban hubs which would also increase demand for high quality shared space which may allow a wider range of facilities to be provided. It might not promote the improvement of shared facilities or spaces outside the urban hubs due to lesser demand and may not reduce factors causing urban/rural inequalities.	0	0	0	The required critical mass to instigate new services in rural communities may not be achieved through this option. Some GP surgeries and shops may become viable in rural areas, but it would have a negligible effect on the rural community as a whole. It may help support family cohesion in rural areas, although this can also happen with the existing policy.

				provided. This option delivers more for this objective.								
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	A greater proportion of housing would be provided closer to existing hubs and villages creating better opportunities for lifetime homes. Homes within hub areas can better support the ageing population. Greater concentrations of people with specific housing needs can enable the required home types to be built more economically. The provision of affordable housing and reducing homelessness would not be influenced directly by any particular option, as they are directed by Housing Executive requirements.	+	+	+	This option would focus growth on the main urban hubs and create the economies of scale to provide the specific housing types required more efficiently.	0	0	0	This option reduces the proportion living in urban hubs and increases the overall proportion of those living in the 'rural remainder'. Lifetime housing would not be as easy to implement in rural areas, as there is not the same degree of access to services. Lower housing unit densities can mean higher unit costs, however they can also provide more outdoor space.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	This option would be positive in promoting accessibility education as it would continue to concentrate population around the existing education hubs and employment centres where skills training would be focused. It may also provide the additional demand to allow sustainable and active transport links to be created or strengthened from villages to hubs. This option has potential to deliver more.	+	+	+	This option would be positive in promoting accessibility to education as it would continue to concentrate population around the existing education hubs and employment centres where skills training would be focused.	-	-	-	This option poses a greater risk to sustainability as a greater proportion of the population will be located further from 2nd and 3rd level education sites and in areas where employment centres and skills training sites may not be as accessible.

5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	This option would focus and enhance economic development in the existing hubs and allow it to capitalise on the existing transport corridors. This option would reinforce services in towns and retain vibrancy of town centres.	+	+	+	This option would maintain economic development in the existing hubs and allow connectivity with the existing transport corridors. This option would maintain services in towns and prevent deterioration of town centres.	-	-	-	This option would have reduced availability of active / sustainable transport of workers to employment centres. It may create additional traffic on rural roads that are not able to cope with extra vehicle numbers.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	This option would permit an efficient use of land to provide amount of housing. Focusing on population centres will make it easier to provide centralised waste management / recycling facilities and reduce transport distances. It may also make it more economic to develop derelict or contaminated land. Greater population densities would also make it more economical for telecoms and other infrastructure providers such as energy suppliers to provide or upgrade services.	+	+	+	This option would permit a somewhat efficient use of land to provide housing.	-	-	-	This option would provide less of an incentive to develop/redevelop derelict or contaminated land and may result in more greenfield sites being developed in preference. A more dispersed population may not generate the same amount of demand for telecoms or energy infrastructure provision to be extended or enhanced.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	This option will provide an opportunity for the most efficient use of land to provide housing and economic development. A hubs focus will also mean less greenfield land is required and increases the possibility of using brownfield land. A preference to upgrade/ initiate settlements away from existing quarries may allow a greater area to be used for	+	+	+	This option would permit a more efficient use of land, although not with the benefits of a hubs focus.	-	-	-	Rural dwellings would be more suited to the use of geothermal energy as they are more likely to have the required space than urban areas. Greater numbers of rural dwellings may constrain minerals development, however new houses would be unlikely to be sited close to existing quarries. More dispersed housing may increase the net

				minerals development, however other policies would be more relevant.							land requirements and result in a greater loss of biodiversity.	
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	This option would increase the proportion of dwellings in hubs and villages. Key Site Requirements for new developments including proximity to or linkage with bus/train/cycle access would promote the development of new routes for and use of active/sustainable travel. Increasing village populations would encourage public transport to move into those areas or enhance their connectivity potential.	+	+	+	This option would maintain the existing proportion of dwellings in main hubs / urban areas. The benefits in respect of creating demand for routes and methods of active /sustainable travel would be similar to the more focused hubs approach, however they would be less pronounced, particularly in respect of villages.	-	-	-	Traffic would be more dispersed, which would result in less demand and fewer incentives to develop new routes for and use active/ sustainable transport.
9.... improve air quality.	+	+	+	Would direct more people to live in main hubs where air pollution levels may already be raised. However, may also create greater opportunities/ incentives for use of active/sustainable transport and reducing reliance on cars, thus reducing emissions. Increasing density/clustering of housing units may create economies of scale for provision of lower carbon forms of power/heating, e.g. a greater marketplace for mains gas, or more energy efficient homes (e.g. apartments may have lower heating requirements than detached dwellings).	+	+	+	This option would likely create some additional demand for routes and methods of active /sustainable travel, thus potentially creating some reductions in reliance on cars, however less so than option 2A. The opportunities described for 2A relating to density/clustering of homes would also apply.	-	-	-	As with item 8 above, more dispersed settlement may result in reduced concentrations of air pollution around dwellings, however there would be fewer opportunities for active/ sustainable transport and a potentially a greater reliance on cars for transportation thus increasing emissions overall. Dispersed settlement may result in insufficient demand to attract low carbon fuel or power suppliers.

<p>10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.</p>	+	+	+	<p>May result in a pro-rata reduction in CO₂ emissions for reasons discussed in 8&9 above in respect of allowing transport, energy and fuel requirements to become more optimised.</p>	+	+	+	<p>May result in a pro-rata reduction in CO₂ emissions for reasons discussed in 8&9 above in respect of allowing transport, energy and fuel requirements to become more optimised.</p>	-	-	-	<p>Less likely than 2A or 2B to result in pro-rata reduction in CO₂ emissions for reasons discussed in 8&9.</p>
<p>11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</p>	+	+	+	<p>Population will be directed towards existing large, medium and village settlements. It will be more feasible to invest in additional water treatment capacity in areas where there are existing population concentrations. It may also be more feasible to design-in water conservation measures (e.g. rainwater harvesting) in buildings with a greater density of inhabitants/users. Other policies will control development in flood plains.</p>	+	+	+	<p>Population will be directed towards existing large and medium with fewer directed to village settlements. As with 2A, municipal water treatment to the required standards will be more easily facilitated, though a greater proportion of population would be rural than 2A. It may also be more feasible to design-in water conservation measures (e.g. rainwater harvesting) in buildings with a greater density of inhabitants/users. Other policies will control development in flood plains.</p>	-	-	-	<p>In rural areas the provision or upgrading of municipal wastewater treatment may be unfeasible. Increased numbers of septic tanks in the immediate surroundings of Lough Neagh might create additional pressures. May place extra costs on developers as private / package treatment may be necessary.</p>
<p>12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	+	+	+	<p>KSRs would be used to protect the most biodiverse /sensitive areas in urban centres. This option would result in the lowest net land use overall to provide the required housing numbers. It also has the greatest potential for establishing the required demand to initiate/expand green infrastructure and reuse brownfield or contaminated sites.</p>	+	+	+	<p>KSRs would be used to protect the most biodiverse /sensitive areas. This option would result in higher overall net land use than 2A but lower than 2B. It has a similar potential to 2A for establishing the required demand to initiate/expand green infrastructure and reuse brownfield or contaminated sites.</p>	-	-	-	<p>KSRs would be used to protect the most biodiverse /sensitive areas. Opportunities for developing green infrastructure would be reduced. This option would result in the greatest net land use overall to provide the required housing numbers. It also has the least potential for reusing brownfield or contaminated sites.</p>

13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Plan designations relating to townscape and landscape character will be included and thus landscape character should be minimally affected by this option.	0	0	0	Plan designations relating to townscape and landscape character will be included and thus landscape character should be minimally affected by this option.	-	-	-	Although plan designations relating to landscape character will be included, more dispersed or piecemeal development of housing in rural areas may gradually change the landscape character in an adverse manner.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	By focusing on existing settlements, this option would create increased demand for homes in town and village centres. This may encourage the restoration or reuse of older, vacant buildings.	+	+	+	By focusing on existing settlements, this option would create increased demand for homes in town centres. This may encourage the restoration or reuse of older, vacant buildings.	0	0	0	This option would not result in significant differences to 2A or 2B, however there may be a minor risk of dereliction or reduced demand for older buildings / empty units in town centres if a suitable modern building can be more easily constructed elsewhere.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives	Options SGS 2A and SGS 2B score the same across all sustainability objectives, however through the comments it can be seen that option SGS 2A has slightly greater benefits. Option SGS 2C received neutral tending towards slight negative for social objectives and scored slight negative for economic and environmental objectives. Option SGS 2A was considered to be the most sustainable option											
The preferred option	Option SGS 2A is the preferred option											
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	The preferred option has no significant positive effects but the more efficient use of land and ability to identify new settlement areas will result in a number of minor positive social and economic benefits. The more efficient use of assets through clustering and creating economies of scale may also benefit environmental receptors. No significant negative impacts were identified for the preferred option.											
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.											

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Planning policy, mitigation, Key Site Requirements, green building design, local building design / conservation guidance. Key site requirements would be used to protect the most biodiverse /sensitive areas. Greenways / connectivity to active/sustainable transport are recommended to be designed in to new housing areas.
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Key Issue SGS3: Allocating Economic Development Lands

Options	Preferred option SGS 3A: Apportion economic development lands in relation to legacy District Council populations and in addition, reflect Craigavon's sub-regional function.				Alternative option SGS 3B: Apportion lands equally across legacy council areas focused on 3 x Hubs.				Alternative option SGS 3C: Apportion lands in relation to population of 3 x Hubs (City/ Town /Urban Area).			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	There are limited links between the option and this objective. Option SGS 3A has good opportunities for encouraging healthy lifestyles as there is an existing greenway between Craigavon and Portadown. Noise is unlikely to be an issue as this would be controlled by planning policy (maintaining buffers around industrial land), consent process and enforcement.	?	?	?	This option would make Craigavon less attractive for investment. It would mean de-zoning large areas of land in Craigavon which currently provide good accessibility to a large population.	0	0	0	This option would result in de-zoning of economic lands in Banbridge. It may make it more difficult to reach workplaces by active travel.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	The main areas of deprivation are in the existing Hubs. If more employment is provided in these areas, then there are more opportunities for young or unskilled people or to have jobs. This may reduce urban inequalities. It may also allow easier access to work from rural areas as Hubs are well connected with transport.	-	-	-	This option may reduce the amount of employment available in Craigavon. As a consequence deprivation could increase in Lurgan and Craigavon and levels of inequality may rise.	0	0	0	This option would sustain the undesirable situation where people are having to travel further to find suitable work.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option would help reinforce the Hubs, but there is not a particularly strong relationship with the provision of good quality housing. However it would mean	0	0	0	De-zoning economic land in Craigavon would reduce the opportunities for residents – it has the largest population of the Hubs and may result more	0	0	0	This option would potentially make it more difficult for the wider population of the Council area located outside the Hubs to access work local to them.

				that more people could potentially achieve a more sustainable lifestyle by being able to access employment areas via active / sustainable transport and having work closer or more easily accessible to home. Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.				people having to travel greater distances to access work, or not being able to access work at all. Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective				Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective
4.... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	All three Hubs have existing colleges. Skills training is often partnered with business/ industry. This option may create more opportunities for training/ education linkages with young people, particularly for Craigavon, where the greatest proportion of the population is located. Hubs are also more easily accessible by public transport, which makes these educational opportunities accessible to more people.	?	?	?	NEETS (young persons Not in Education, Employment or Training) in Craigavon would potentially be disadvantaged by this option, as opportunities for local provision of training/ skills linked to business or industry may become more limited. While more opportunities may become available in Armagh and Banbridge, the populations of these areas are much smaller and there may not be the same degree of local demand for employer-led skills training. Overall the effect of this option is uncertain.	?	?	?	Craigavon would continue to have a generous provision of economic land, (slightly greater than for option 3A). This would therefore continue to allow good opportunities for employer-led skills training close to the areas of greatest need in Craigavon and Lurgan. Banbridge in particular and Armagh would be disadvantaged by this option as their economic lands provision would be reduced, which may reduce opportunities for employer skills training. Overall the effect of this option is uncertain.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	This option would bring a greater proportion of jobs to the areas of deprivation. It retains the RDS direction to Craigavon, which also has the best transport links of all the Hub settlements.	-	-	-	This option would give Banbridge and Armagh opportunities to expand. It would possibly result in a loss of opportunities in Craigavon with fewer in spin-off / knock on businesses establishing there. This may result in an overall loss in momentum of the economic growth in the Council area. It also undermines the	-	-	-	De-zoning land in Banbridge would be undesirable, as its location on the North-South corridor gives it obvious potential. This option may undermine opportunities for Banbridge to grow. The option may help deprived areas of Craigavon. The planned focus for Armagh is more on tourism than

							existing economic development and regional development strategies				economic development, however tourism can create spinoff to other development and a reduced supply of land may limit this.	
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	This option would reinforce the Hubs, telecoms are already likely to be focused on and well-provided in these areas. Focusing development here means that upgrades (e.g. wastewater treatment) are more feasible.	-	-	-	This option may reduce the take up/ use of derelict and contaminated land in Armagh and Banbridge as there will be more land to choose from and it may be less expensive to develop greenfield sites. In Craigavon it may result in derelict or contaminated land having to be de-zoned, thus greatly reducing the likelihood of it being remediated.	-	-	-	The de-zoning of land in Banbridge and reduced land in Armagh may hinder the improvement of infrastructure in these areas.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	-	-	All options will require land resource. Option SGS 3A will require slightly more land than the other options and consequently may result in a greater overall loss of greenfield sites / natural land cover. Mineral resources are unlikely to be affected.	-	-	-	Option SGS 3B would have land requirements, and would lead to some natural land cover being lost. Mineral resources are unlikely to be affected.	-	-	-	Option SGS 3C would have land requirements, and would lead to some natural land cover being lost, but less of the land needed would be at or in Banbridge. Mineral resources are unlikely to be affected.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Craigavon has the strongest transport links and this option would promote and make use of these links. There is an existing greenway between Portadown and Craigavon train stations. This option would support and enhance active / sustainable transport significantly.	0	0	0	There are fewer opportunities for active and sustainable transport within Armagh and Banbridge and the roads are not considered to be as well-equipped as in Craigavon. Investment would be needed to establish and maintain good active / sustainable transport measures.	?	?	?	This option would mean a greater number of people would need to travel longer distances to access employment. It does not provide as many local opportunities for Banbridge than the other two options.

9.... improve air quality.	-	-	-	There would be an adverse impact on air quality associated with all economic development, no matter where it takes place. Development in Craigavon will affect air quality on routes into Craigavon, particularly Tandragee where there are existing air quality issues from HGVs. Also, development in Armagh would be less desirable as it also has current issues with air quality.	-	-	-	This option would create more pressure in Armagh which would be more significant than in Banbridge or Craigavon due to its existing problems. However, it may instigate additional demand for a ring road in Armagh.	-	-	-	This option would be less negative for Armagh than other options but it would still have adverse impacts on air quality throughout the Council area.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	This option provides greater potential for switching modes of transport to walking, cycling and public transport for those travelling to work. This could have the effect of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. There are better supply chains serving the existing industry and enterprise in Craigavon meaning more efficient transport of materials in and goods out. However, depending upon the type of economic development, this could increase climate change emissions from industry. Climate change resilience is dealt with under separate policies.	-	-	-	This option brings a greater proportion of economic development to Armagh and Banbridge and significant investment would be required to create opportunities for active and sustainable transport to access employment areas. Without this investment, these economic development in these locations may not be the best location to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport. Depending upon the type of economic development, this could increase climate change emissions. Climate change resilience is dealt with under separate policies.	+	+	+	Economic lands being apportioned in line with population has potential to reduce needs to use the car for travel and could encourage active and sustainable travel, leading to reduced greenhouse gas emissions. There are better supply chains serving the existing industry and enterprise in Craigavon meaning more efficient transport of materials in and goods out. Although depending upon the type of economic development, this could increase climate change emissions from industry. Climate change resilience is dealt with under separate policies.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	NIW advises that the supply of fresh water is not a limiting factor in expansion. Industrial discharges are identified as a key issue in water quality.	0	0	0	NIW advises that the supply of fresh water is not a limiting factor in expansion. Industrial discharges are identified as a key issue in water quality.	0	0	0	NIW advises that the supply of fresh water is not a limiting factor in expansion. Industrial discharges are identified as a key issue in water quality.

				Wastewater treatment is also not currently a limiting factor in Hubs and should additional treatment capacity be required in future it is more feasible to invest in this in Hub areas. Development in areas of flood risk will be avoided.				Wastewater treatment is also not currently a limiting factor in Hubs and should additional treatment capacity be required in future it is more feasible to invest in this in Hub areas. Development in areas of flood risk will be avoided.				Wastewater treatment is also not currently a limiting factor in Hubs and should additional treatment capacity be required in future it is more feasible to invest in this in Hub areas. Development in areas of flood risk will be avoided.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	-	-	-	All options will require land resource. This option will require slightly more land than the other options and consequently may result in a greater overall loss of greenfield sites / biodiversity.	-	-	-	This option would require more land take in Armagh and Banbridge which may result in greater loss of biodiversity at these sites. Some de-zoned areas in Craigavon could end up derelict and of limited biodiversity value if they are isolated within the town and cannot otherwise be used.	-	-	-	This option would also result in more land take in Craigavon than SGS 3B and less in Armagh. The net overall loss of greenfield sites / biodiversity would remain similar to the other options.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	All three options could result in adverse effects if expanding urban areas and developing on greenfield land. Other polices and KSRs would be used to mitigate this.	0	0	0	All three options could result in adverse effects if expanding urban areas and developing on greenfield land. Other polices and KSRs would be used to mitigate this.	0	0	0	All three options could result in adverse effects if expanding urban areas and developing on greenfield land. Other polices and KSRs would be used to mitigate this.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on historic environment is predicted as other policies are in place to protect assets.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on historic environment is predicted as other policies are in place to protect assets.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on historic environment is predicted as other policies are in place to protect assets.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				Option SGS 3A was considered to have positive impacts on social sustainability objectives, whereas 3B has mainly negative, neutral or uncertain impacts. Option SGS 3C generally has negligible to slight negative effect on social objectives. In terms of economic objectives, SGS 3B and SGS 3C are considered to be less sustainable than SGS 3A and have scored negatively whereas SGS 3A has scored positively. For the environmental sustainability objectives, SGS 3A scores strongly positive in its abilities to support active / sustainable travel which has a knock								

	<p>on effect to climate change. SGS 3B and SGS 3C have limited positive effects on environmental objectives. All options would result in a net loss of greenfield areas and biodiversity.</p> <p>Option SGS 3A was considered to be the most sustainable option</p>
The preferred option	The preferred option is option SGS 3A
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	The preferred option was considered to have a positive effect on social objectives, enabling sustainable economic growth and significantly positive effects on supporting active / sustainable travel and climate change objectives. No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option, however slight negative effects may occur on air quality and through land take.
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Other planning policies, biodiversity enhancement measures, SuDS, planning conditions, green building design, developer contributions. Buffers will be included between industrial areas and residential areas to reduce noise impact. Biodiversity will be taken into consideration when selecting lands suitable for zoning.

Key Issue SOC1: Supporting quality sustainable urban housing and balanced communities

Options	Preferred Option SOC 1A: An approach to new residential development in settlements in line with existing policies, tailored to reflect regional direction and to meet local circumstances.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Promotes more positive place-making by reinforcing well-developed open space. Encourages town centre living in revitalised town centres that can promote active travel.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	++	This option has potential to consider incorporation of linkages, such as greenways and places within settlements which can encourage positive social interaction, the effect of which could become significant in the long term. This option will help to create balanced communities allowing families and the elderly to share housing locations.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	++	++	++	This option will facilitate the provision of a range of housing types and tenures helping to support balanced communities. The option encourages better energy efficiency in new homes and the provision of affordable housing. The policy promotes the development of lifetime homes for social housing.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	There are limited linkages between this option and the objective – the quality and sustainability of housing schemes is more important than their location.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option is unlikely to significantly influence material assets, building control regulations would be more influential. The policy encourages new development to have some consideration of futureproofing.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	This option would influence the amount of land used in new development. It aims to achieve better quality / better designed open space (but not necessarily more open space).
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The option promotes the establishment and use of greenways and encourages the consideration of linkages with greenways, public transport services and with other nearby schemes.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option was considered to have a negligible effect on this objective although it was noted that by actively promoting the construction of energy efficient homes and encouraging reduced dependence on cars, this option could help to lessen the negative impacts of development on air quality.

10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	This policy option will help to reduce energy consumption by encouraging the construction of low-energy homes. It also encourages the design of permeable paving and SuDS in new development, by placing the onus on the developer to demonstrate why SuDS would not be suitable.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	This policy option is not especially proactive in including measures to manage water resources. It encourages the design of SuDS but does not include compulsory controls on runoff as there are legislative difficulties with the adoption of maintenance.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	This option encourages the inclusion of greenways and other green blue infrastructure in new development. The loss of important areas of biodiversity should be prevented through other policies. New housing will be encouraged with landscaping that respects existing natural features. The overall effect of the option was considered to be negligible.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	This option promotes good design for housing and has specific aims to consider the landscape and minimise impacts. Inclusion of green infrastructure / greenways as a key part of the option is also beneficial.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	The historic environment is protected by other policies and within policy criteria for housing development. Taken in isolation, this policy option would have little overall influence on this objective.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives	<p>Option SOC 1A was considered to have a significantly positive impact on the objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing through its ability to facilitate the provision of a range of new housing types and tenures, helping to support balanced communities. The option was found to have positive effects for the objective to strengthen society with this benefit becoming significant in the medium and long term. This reflects the view that it will encourage balanced communities and create opportunities for positive social interaction. This option also had positive effects for many of the sustainability objectives including encouraging active and sustainable travel, reducing the causes of and adapting to climate change, and maintaining and enhancing landscape character. For the remainder of environmental objectives it was found to have no negligible impacts.</p> <p>Overall the option would contribute to the objective of sustainable development.</p>			
The preferred option	Option SOC 1A is the preferred option			
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	Option SOC 1A can bring significant positive effects in relation to provision of good quality, sustainable housing. No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.			

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Further research into affordable and cross-community housing initiatives.

Key Issue SO2: Supporting Sustainable Rural Housing

Options	Preferred option SOC 2A: An approach to rural housing in line with existing policies and further regional direction in the SPPS, tailored to meet local circumstances.				Alternative option SOC 2B: An approach to rural housing in line with existing policies and further regional direction in the SPPS.				Alternative option SOC [2C: A more restrictive approach to rural housing than in existing policies and updated regional direction in the SPPS, in the interests of the environment.			
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 will allow provision for rural housing under the categories given in the SPPS which will continue to facilitate care to be provided within the family setting. This option will allow social contact within rural areas and help to reduce isolation which contributes to mental health outcomes.	+	+	+	This option will allow provision of rural housing under the categories given in the SPPS which will continue to facilitate care to be provided within the family setting. This option will allow social contact within rural areas and help to reduce isolation which contributes to mental health outcomes.	0	0	0	This policy is unlikely to adversely affect the provision of accommodation for carers but it could lead to less opportunities for social interaction in rural areas. Overall it is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	This policy will allow affordable housing to be provided in rural areas subject to need. It will help to maintain rural populations and keep these communities vibrant.	+	+	+	This policy will allow affordable housing to be provided in rural areas. It may help maintain rural populations and keep these communities vibrant.	-	-	-	This option may result in families being dispersed if younger generations have to move into rural settlements if they cannot obtain permission to build or afford housing locally.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	This option will allow tailoring of policies to meet local circumstances and may facilitate the provision of all housing including social and affordable housing, where a need is identified. It is considered to deliver more for this objective.	+	+	+	This option also allows for social and affordable housing where a need is identified, but it has a cap of 14 houses in any social and affordable housing development.	+	+	+	This option would not preclude the provision of good quality housing.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option could help to prevent rural schools from closing by providing homes suitable /	0	0	0	This option could help to prevent rural schools from closing by providing homes suitable /	0	0	0	This option could help to prevent rural schools from closing by providing homes suitable /

				affordable for younger families, in line with the strategic growth strategy. Overall the influence was not considered to be great enough to affect the objective.				affordable for younger families. Overall the influence was not considered to be great enough to affect the objective.				affordable for younger families. Overall the influence was not considered to be great enough to affect the objective.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Over this option was considered to have a negligible effect on this objective. The approach also allows for housing adjacent to a rural business (non-agricultural business enterprises).	0	0	0	Over this option was considered to have a negligible effect on this objective. The approach also allows for housing adjacent to a rural business (non-agricultural business enterprises).	0	0	0	Over this option was considered to have a negligible effect on this objective. The approach also allows for housing adjacent to a rural business (non-agricultural business enterprises).
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	-	-	-	Rural development can sometimes lead to less efficient use of resources, e.g. larger houses, more land use, long stone / concrete access lanes, greater lengths of pipework or cabling needed to join up with services and more waste generation / septic tanks.	-	-	-	Rural development can sometimes lead to less efficient use of resources, e.g. larger houses, more land use, long stone / concrete access lanes, greater lengths of pipework or cabling needed to join up with services and more waste generation / septic tanks.	-	-	-	Rural development can sometimes lead to less efficient use of resources, e.g. larger houses, more land use, long stone / concrete access lanes, greater lengths of pipework or cabling needed to join up with services and more waste generation / septic tanks.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	-	-	This option would result in a loss of greenfield sites and natural land cover.	-	-	-	This option would result in a loss of greenfield sites and natural land cover.	-	-	-	This option would result in a loss of greenfield sites and natural land cover.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	-	-	-	Allowing housing development in rural areas would mean reduced opportunities for the use of active or sustainable transport.	-	-	-	Allowing housing development in rural areas would mean reduced opportunities for the use of active or sustainable transport.	-	-	-	Allowing housing development in rural areas would mean reduced opportunities for the use of active or sustainable transport.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option may increase reliance on cars in rural areas, but is unlikely to affect air quality to an extent that would be perceptible.	0	0	0	This option may increase reliance on cars in rural areas, but is unlikely to affect air quality to an extent that would be perceptible.	0	0	0	This option is unlikely to affect air quality to an extent that would be perceptible.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	-	-	-	This option is likely to continue the trend of reliance on cars in rural areas, e.g. there would be less of a likelihood of being able	-	-	-	This option is likely to continue the trend of reliance on cars in rural areas, e.g. there would be less of a likelihood of being able	-	-	-	This option is likely to continue the trend of reliance on cars in rural areas, e.g. there would be less of a likelihood of being able

				to walk to local shops. Rural homes may not be as energy efficient as denser urban housing. Rural homes would not have access to lower emissions fuels (e.g. mains gas) however there may be increased opportunities for private electricity generation, e.g. solar panels due to more available space. Overall rural housing is considered to have a negative effect on this objective.				to walk to local shops. Rural homes may not be as energy efficient as denser urban housing. Rural homes would not have access to lower emissions fuels (e.g. mains gas) however there may be increased opportunities for private electricity generation, e.g. solar panels due to more available space. Overall rural housing is considered to have a negative effect on this objective.				to walk to local shops. Rural homes may not be as energy efficient as denser urban housing. Rural homes would not have access to lower emissions fuels (e.g. mains gas) however there may be increased opportunities for private electricity generation, e.g. solar panels due to more available space. Overall rural housing is considered to have a negative effect on this objective.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	-	-	-	Rural housing requires non-mains sewerage systems. This option will continue the frequency of septic tanks in the countryside, which can present water quality issues particularly in the immediate surroundings of Lough Neagh. This option should not significantly influence flood risk.	-	-	-	Rural housing requires non-mains sewerage systems. This option will continue the frequency of septic tanks in the countryside, which can present water quality issues particularly in the immediate surroundings of Lough Neagh. This option should not significantly influence flood risk.	-	-	-	Rural housing requires non-mains sewerage systems. This option will continue the frequency of septic tanks in the countryside, which can present water quality issues particularly in the immediate surroundings of Lough Neagh. This option should not significantly influence flood risk.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	-	-	-	This option may result in a likely loss of biodiversity in rural areas. Increased numbers of housing in rural areas may contribute to light pollution. Loss of green field land, and hedgerows all contribute to a negative impact for wildlife.	-	-	-	This option may result in a likely loss of biodiversity in rural areas. The use of old buildings may adversely affect bats, however this is not thought to be a significant issue. Increased numbers of housing in rural areas may contribute to light pollution. Loss of green field land, and hedgerows all contribute to a negative impact for wildlife.	-	-	-	This option may result in a likely loss of biodiversity in rural areas. The use of old buildings may adversely affect bats, however this is not thought to be a significant issue. Increased numbers of housing in rural areas may contribute to light pollution. Loss of green field land, and hedgerows all contribute to a negative impact for wildlife. This option will involve more stringent environmental criteria being

												applied which could reduce these negative effects in a number of cases, but will not eradicate the negative effects of disturbance.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	-	-	-	This option may result in cumulative impacts on landscape character. There would still be an onus on designers and planners to integrate rural housing with the landscape and minimise negative impacts. However, rural policy would be tailored to reflect any new landscape designations e.g. AOHSV or SCA's which would be restrictive.	-	-	-	This option may result in cumulative impacts on landscape character. There would still be an onus on designers and planners to integrate rural housing with the landscape and minimise negative impacts. However, rural policy would be tailored to reflect any new landscape designations e.g. AOHSV or SCA's which would be restrictive.	-	-	-	This option may result in cumulative impacts on landscape character. There would still be an onus on designers and planners to integrate rural housing with the landscape and minimise negative impacts, and more stringent criteria for landscaping would aim to reduce impact on rural character. Overall the development of rural housing is not considered to positively enhance landscape character. However, rural policy would be tailored to reflect any new landscape designations e.g. AOHSV or SCA's which would be restrictive.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	This policy would aim to support protection of historic environment assets but it would bring no additional benefits.	0	0	0	This policy would aim to support protection of historic environment assets but it would bring no additional benefits	0	0	0	This policy would aim to support protection of historic environment assets but it would bring no additional benefits
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				<p>The appraisal found that Option SOC 2A could have significantly positive effects for the objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing and positive effects for the objectives to improve health and well-being and strengthen society. While it was found to have no perceptible impacts on objectives for education, economic growth, air quality or historic environment this option was found to have negative effects on all of the other objectives.</p> <p>Option SOC 2B scored in a very similar fashion to SOC2B although it was considered to have only a slight positive effect on the objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing.</p>								

	<p>Option SOC 2C again was similar to SOC 2A however , while it was found to have positive effects on the objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing it was thought not to contribute to the objective for health and well-being and to have a negative effect for strengthening society.</p> <p>Option SOC 2A was considered to be the most sustainable option</p>
The preferred option	Option SOC 2A
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	There were likely significant positive effects identified for the objective to provide good quality sustainable housing.
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Waste water treatment capacity information, key site requirements, site mitigation and other planning policy, biodiversity checklist.

Key Issue SOC 3: Supporting good design and positive place-making

Option	SOC 3A: Support good design and positive place-making in both development and advertisement proposals through criteria-based policy, with provision for additional design criteria and supporting guidance for certain identified areas of acknowledged importance/value or types of development where appropriate.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	This option brings benefits in terms of health and well-being due to improved open space and creating more attractive places to live and work. Attractive civic and residential spaces with easily 'read' connectivity encourage active lifestyles.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Civic and residential schemes would promote positive design values that enhance the sense of place. Potentially, attractive and 'readable' civic spaces encourage social interaction and meeting places in town centres. This option will help to support the creation of attractive spaces that will encourage social gathering and interaction.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	This option would promote good housing design. Design guidance will be reviewed as necessary to make housing design consistent with the character of the area.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	This option promotes town centre attractiveness and aims to improve town centre vitality and revitalise areas. It also has been developed with the aim of protecting built heritage/archaeological/environmental assets.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	This option will could help reduce the amount of derelict land and gap sites to improve townscapes. It could revitalise urban areas and ensure an efficient use of land.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	This option would include initiatives such as promoting the use of local stone and other local materials. By revitalising town centres it is hoped that greenfield site usage would be reduced. This option is more sensitive to materials use.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	This option would promote walkability in design and support town-centre focused development with good connectivity to public transport and active travel assets. Areas of particular character may be pedestrianised. This option delivers more for this objective.
9.... improve air quality.	+	+	+	This option would promote tree planting and the installation of green corridors / wedges in town centres where appropriate. It would also promote better planning of green space which, in conjunction with encouraging the use of sustainable and active travel may help improve air quality.

10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	This option encourage energy and resource efficiency where possible. It provides scope for better management of surface runoff and encourages SuDS through additional design guidance. This option delivers more for this objective.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	This option would promote the use of SuDS and better management of runoff in new design, but the overall effect on the objective would not be perceptible.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	This option could promote green / blue infrastructure within residential areas respecting natural assets and incorporating into scheme design where appropriate. Design guidance would be based on local features / assets and accentuating them to provide a strong local identity.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	++	++	++	This option seeks to actively enhance and promote local landscape character and to protect and enhance landscapes. Additional criteria and/or guidance could be used to further support design and place making considerations in Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) and other areas of heritage, townscape and landscape importance.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	++	++	++	This option targets built heritage assets (listed buildings, conservation areas and Areas of Townscape Character) and is focused on local distinctiveness.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives	<p>This option was considered to have significantly positive effects for the objective to maintain and enhance landscape character. It was also found to have significantly positive effects for the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources as it will target built heritage assets and will focus on local distinctiveness. The option was also found to have positive effects for many of the other objectives including improving health and well-being, strengthening society, providing good quality, sustainable housing, enabling sustainable economic growth, managing material assets sustainably, protecting physical resources, encouraging active and sustainable travel, improving air quality, reducing the causes of and adapting to climate change, and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environmental and cultural resources. For the remainder of environmental objectives it was found to have no negligible impacts.</p> <p>Overall the option would contribute to the objective of sustainable development.</p>			
The preferred option	Option SOC 3A is the preferred option.			

<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?</p>	<p>The preferred option has significant positive effects for the objectives relating to landscape character and the protection, conservation and enhancement of the historic environment and cultural resources. No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?</p>	<p>No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</p>	<p>Other planning policy, building conservation and design guidelines, site mitigation, local level townscape consideration.</p>

Key Issue SOC4: Protecting Open Space.

Options	Preferred Option SOC 4A: Protect existing open space (in addition to identifying and zoning land for new provision) in line with existing policy and regional direction, tailored to meet local circumstances.				Alternative Option SOC 4B: Continue the current approach by protecting existing open space provision in line with existing policy (in addition to identifying and zoning land for new open space provision).			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	++	The option aims to protect existing open spaces and enhance their accessibility. In exceptional circumstances a more sustainable use could be found for underutilised open space that would provide substantial community benefit. The policy would also focus on creating a more attractive safe environment. More attractive surroundings can improve physical and mental health.	+	+	+	This option also provides some benefit in terms of providing open space for free and active play and recreation, however taken in isolation the provision of open space does not provide an automatic benefit, the space needs to be well managed and have suitable access from the population that is expected to use it.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	++	This option allows open spaces to be protected and new areas where needed .Open spaces are important resources for strengthening society by providing places for people to meet and play sport or share interests. Good design and layout around an open space can help to support a safer environment of a safer environment, and increase accessibility to shared spaces. This option would take a proactive approach to identifying and addressing areas of underutilised or poorly designed open space that contributes to anti-social behaviour or crime.	+	+	+	This option would also have community benefits in providing new open space areas and promoting social contact, but the absence of a targeted approach with locally-specific policies means that the benefits would not be as pronounced as in option 4A.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	This policy may allow, in exceptional circumstances, new housing on existing open space areas if a local need / community benefit is identified. An improved quality of open space would benefit the housing which is associated with it.	+	+	+	This option allows the development of existing open space only if a community benefit is identified, however housing is not usually permitted. The existing policy encourages well-designed open space which would benefit a range of local users.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option is not considered to have a direct link with the objective.	0	0	0	This option is not considered to have a direct link with the objective.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	This option would help make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest.	+	+	+	This option would help make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest.

6.... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	This option encourages the sustainable use of land that encourages the protection of existing open space, the provision of new open space where needed and the exceptional review of under-utilised open space.	+	+	+	This option would have benefits in managing material assets, but the absence of a review would mean less flexibility.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	This option would help to safeguard existing open space from being developed which could help to retain semi natural land.	+	+	+	This option would also have benefits in protecting physical assets, but the absence of a review approach means less flexibility in delivery.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	This option would improve active travel for resident communities through more attractive, safer and better connected open spaces.	+	+	+	This option would also help encourage active and sustainable travel, but the absence of a review could lessen this benefit.
9.... improve air quality.	?	?	?	Well-designed open space and tree planting can serve as 'green lungs' and well connected spaces may increase the likelihood of the use of active travel. However overall this option is considered to have an uncertain effect on this objective given that behaviour change is required to see a modal shift from car use.	?	?	?	Well-designed open space and tree planting can serve as 'green lungs' and well connected spaces may increase the likelihood of the use of active travel. However overall this option is considered to have an uncertain effect on this objective given that behaviour change is required to see a modal shift from car use.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	The policy advocates retention of open space and new provision can contribute to climate adaptation by reducing surface water flooding and improving air quality.	+	+	+	This option would also help reduce causes of and adapt to climate change, but the absence of a review means that the benefits would not be as pronounced as with option 4A.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Open space can help to manage flood risk. Areas of flood risk which are not suitable for development could be used as open space with appropriate planning. Such areas can be used to enhance resilience to flood events and to intercept and treat runoff.	+	+	+	This option would also help in the management of water resources through the benefits of open space in flood plain areas.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	This option encourages the protection of existing open space and new open space where needed which will help to support biodiversity. By encouraging more sustainable land use, this option may help to save greenfield sites from being developed.	+	+	+	This option would help protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	This option would protect and enhance urban landscapes. The majority of open space would be retained, however there would be a greater emphasis on sustainable design of these areas and making the most of existing features such as significant trees. This option will deliver more for this objective.	+	+	+	This option would help maintain and enhance landscape character, but the absence of a local policy approach means less flexibility in incorporating existing features into open spaces.

14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	New and existing open space should be managed in a way that identifies, protects and enhances any distinctive local heritage or cultural assets. In addition there will be other policies that protect and conserve built and cultural heritage. Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has potential to have an influence on the historic environment and cultural resources however the effects were not considered to be of significant magnitude to create an overall benefit.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				<p>Neither option was found to result in negative effects on any of the sustainability objectives. Both options showed a similar pattern of positive effects across the majority of the objectives with the exception of education and historic environment and cultural resources where the options did not reflect any perceptible benefits or disadvantages. For the majority of the objectives the comments reflect that option 4A has greater potential than option SOC 4B to deliver benefits towards the objective. It was felt that the more tailored approach of option SOC 4A could bring additional benefits over the existing policy.</p> <p>Option SOC 4A was considered to be the most sustainable option</p>				
The preferred option				Option SOC 4A is the preferred option.				
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?				<p>The preferred option has significant positive effects for the objectives relating to improving health and wellbeing and strengthen society.</p> <p>No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>				
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?				No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.				
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects				Other planning policies, local level health/recreation impact assessment, role of developer contributions, local level environmental initiatives, planning conditions.				

Key Issue SOC5: Facilitating open space / play provision in new largescale residential developments.

Options	Preferred Option SOC 5A: A locally tailored approach, with amendment to the existing criteria for play park provision in largescale residential developments to increase provision in larger schemes to more than one equipped play area (as currently required in existing policy), as well as provide the option for Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs), where appropriate, unless otherwise specified in LDP Key Site Requirements.				Alternative Option SOC 5B: Continue the current approach in line with existing policy (requiring a single equipped children’s play area to be provided in residential schemes of 100 units or more, or 5 hectares or more, in addition to other open space).				Alternative Option SOC 5C: A Council-led approach, with all play parks across the Borough provided and maintained by Council (in line with its overall Play Strategy) and a strategic policy requiring developer contributions from new largescale residential developments (100 units or more, or 5 hectares or more) towards this provision.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	This option gives the opportunity to create open space with public access and to provide open space / play provision where needed to help overall provision. This will help encourage play and active lifestyles. The approach may enable more inter-generational contact. This option also will contribute to the delivery of recreation spaces for adults.	+	+	+	This approach will proved for the provision of play areas. It could lead to a piecemeal approach, and is unlikely to deliver in the case of small housing developments.	+	+	+	This option would also have benefits to health and well-being by providing a centralised design and maintenance service for the provision of play areas, in areas of need.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	This option encourages the creation of better quality shared space to improve community cohesion.	+	+	+	This option also encourages the creation of new shared space, promoting social interaction, but has a more limited range of potential users.	+	+	+	This option also encourages the creation of new shared space, promoting social interaction, but has a more limited range of potential users.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	This option makes housing areas a more attractive environment and helps meet the recreational needs of a range of users, particularly families.	+	+	+	This option makes housing areas a more attractive environment and helps meet the needs of families.	+	+	+	This option makes housing areas a more attractive environment and helps meet the needs of families.

4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	It may be possible for schools and local communities to use MUGAs and open spaces as shared facilities. Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this 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.	+	+	+	The provision of accessible high quality open space and multi-use play and exercise areas help to make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest.	+	+	+	This option provides quality open space which help to make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. It will have a more limited range of potential users.	+	+	+	This option also provides quality open space which help to make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. It will have a more limited range of potential users.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option would have no perceptible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no perceptible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no perceptible effect on the objective.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	This option would have no perceptible effect on the objective. The loss of natural land cover / greenfield sites would be avoided where possible.	0	0	0	This option would have no perceptible effect on the objective. The loss of natural land cover / greenfield sites would be avoided where possible.	0	0	0	This option would have no perceptible effect on the objective. The loss of natural land cover / greenfield sites would be avoided where possible.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	This option encourages play park and other outdoor recreation provision close to houses to reduce the requirement to travel by car for outdoor play / sports.	+	+	+	This option sites play areas close to housing, reducing the need to travel by car to go to the park.	+	+	+	This option sites play areas close to housing, reducing the need to travel by car to go to the park.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option would have no perceptible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no perceptible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no perceptible effect on the objective.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Play parks could be designed with energy efficient lighting and to incorporate permeable surfaces to reduce surface water flooding and reduce flood risk.	+	+	+	Play parks could be designed with energy efficient lighting and to incorporate permeable surfaces to reduce surface water flooding and reduce flood risk.	+	+	+	Play parks could be designed with energy efficient lighting and to incorporate permeable surfaces to reduce surface water flooding and reduce flood risk.

11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	New play park provision will take flood risk considerations on board in selection of location. Play parks could be designed with permeable surfaces which would reduce surface water flooding and reduce flood risk. Overall the impacts may not be to a perceptible degree.	0	0	0	New play park provision will take flood risk considerations on board in selection of location. Play parks could be designed with permeable surfaces which would reduce surface water flooding and reduce flood risk. Overall the impacts may not be to a perceptible degree.	0	0	0	New play park provision will take flood risk considerations on board in selection of location. Play parks could be designed with permeable surfaces which would reduce surface water flooding and reduce flood risk. Overall the impacts may not be to a perceptible degree.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Unlikely to enhance biodiversity, but would be sited away from important biodiversity areas. Would have no perceptible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Unlikely to enhance biodiversity, but would be sited away from important biodiversity areas. Would have no perceptible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Unlikely to enhance biodiversity, but would be sited away from important biodiversity areas. Would have no perceptible effect on the objective.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Would have no perceptible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Would have no perceptible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Would have no perceptible effect on the objective.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	Unlikely to enhance built or cultural heritage, but would be sited away from important heritage assets. Would have no perceptible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Unlikely to enhance built or cultural heritage, but would be sited away from important heritage assets. Would have no perceptible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	Unlikely to enhance built or cultural heritage, but would be sited away from important heritage assets. Would have no perceptible effect on the objective.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				<p>None of the three options were found to result in negative effects on any of the sustainability objectives.</p> <p>Option SOC 5A has a strongly positive influence on two of the social objectives, the improvement of health and well-being and strengthening society and a slightly positive influence on the provisions of good quality housing and education. Options SOC 5B and SOC 5C have slightly less pronounced benefits on social objectives, being slightly positive rather than strongly positive.</p> <p>For the remainder of the economic and environmental sustainability objectives, all three options showed a similar pattern of effects. All options create a small benefit in terms of economic growth, although in the comments it can be seen that the benefits of option SOC 5A are slightly greater than the others. With the exception of promoting active and sustainable travel and the climate change objective for which all three options</p>								

	<p>give slight benefits, there were no perceptible effects for any option on the remainder of the environmental objectives.</p> <p>Option SOC 5A was considered to be the most sustainable option.</p>
The preferred option	Option SOC 5A is the preferred option.
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	<p>The preferred option has significant positive effects for the objectives relating to the improvement of health and well-being and strengthening society.</p> <p>No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Key Site Requirements such as linking MUGAs to schools and avoidance of proximity to main roads, planning conditions and biodiversity enhancement measures.

Key Issue SOC6: Facilitating community and cultural facilities to meet the needs of the Borough

Options	Preferred Option SOC 6A: Identify and protect sites where a firm proposal is in place; and bring forward a criteria based policy for development proposals to be assessed against, to facilitate new community and cultural facilities (including extensions to existing facilities).				Alternative Option SOC 6B: Remove provision in the LDP to zone lands for community and cultural facilities; but bring forward a criteria based policy for such development proposals to be assessed against.				Alternative Option SOC 6C: Retain a long term reserve of potential sites for community and cultural facilities through the LDP, in addition to bringing forward a criteria based policy for such development proposals to be assessed against.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Enables existing facilities to grow and new facilities to be sited in areas of need (e.g. health centres). Facilitating new or expanded health and cultural amenities using this approach will consider both local need and likelihood of development, thus giving the best chance of facilities being delivered. The development of community and cultural facilities contribute to this objective through improving access to local healthcare, and providing opportunities for mental and physical health.	0	0	0	Some new / improved facilities may be developed, but some opportunities could be missed as there is no strategic zoning aspect but rather a case-by-case basis. As this approach is essentially reactive, it does not contribute to this objective and is considered to have a negligible effect.	+	+	+	Facilitating new or expanded health and cultural amenities using this approach has potential to help this objective although it does not consider the likelihood of development taking place. Whilst a reserve of potential sites would be identified, these areas could be prevented from benefitting from other development uses in line with locally identified need, and effectively become sterile.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	This option gives a good degree of certainty that new community and cultural facilities will be sited in areas of greatest need. It also makes provisions for extensions of existing facilities where a need is identified. This type of facility	0	0	0	This option aims to use policy to support facilitation of cultural and community facilities but will not spatially identify appropriate areas. Whilst it promotes appropriate development in line with need it risks not having land	+	+	+	Facilitating new or expanded health and cultural amenities using this approach has potential to help this objective although it does not consider the likelihood of development. Benefits such as creating meeting places, shared

				contributes to this objective through providing meeting places, shared spaces and promoting inclusion particularly for those living in rural communities.				available to meet that need. As this approach is essentially reactive, it does not contribute to this objective and is considered to have a negligible effect.				spaces and places for positive interaction could result. Whilst a reserve of potential sites would be identified, these areas could be prevented from benefiting from other development uses in line with locally identified need, and effectively become sterile.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	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.	-	-	-	Long term land banking for community and cultural uses could prevent housing from being developed in areas of need.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	This option allows expansion of existing facilities and for shared facilities to be developed. It will consider where there is a likelihood of development and local needs proactively.	?	?	?	This option aims to use policy to support facilitation of cultural and community facilities but will not spatially identify appropriate areas. Whilst it promotes appropriate development in line with need, it risks not having land available to meet that need. It also means that sites cannot be safeguarded for the future for this type of development and may be lost. This option is considered to have an uncertain as it is not possible to know what possible sites may be brought forward for this type of development in the future.	?	?	?	Benefits such as promoting access to education and creating multiple use facilities could result from this option however the reserve of sites will not be based on current needs and does not consider the likelihood of development. Whilst a reserve of potential sites would be identified, these areas could be prevented from benefiting from other development uses in line with locally identified need, and there would be less flexibility for future decision makers in identifying other more relevant sites for community and cultural uses. This brings uncertainties in the long term over how this option would benefit this objective.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	+	+	This option would have a minor effect on this objective initially	0	0	0	Some new / improved facilities may be developed under this	0	-	-	This option could result in land being held but not developed

				but in the medium and long term could provide the resources to contribute towards a more skilled workforce, and has potential for local business in some locations with higher footfall and vitality.				approach which could have benefits for skills, employment and improved footfall. However there is no strategic zoning aspect but rather a case-by-case basis. As this approach is essentially reactive, it does not contribute to this objective and is considered to have a negligible effect.				and 'sterilised' for other uses. This could miss opportunities for job creation and innovation within the economy.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option has potential to site cultural and community facilities in good locations for availability of telecommunications and electrical infrastructure. It could also prioritise brown-field land for this type of development. This could be influenced through application of the associated criteria based policy for development proposals. The option is considered to have a neutral effect on this objective, but this could become a measurable effect at the next stage of plan making/assessment.	0	0	0	This approach will determine proposals on a case by case basis, and will have not have an opportunity to influence location based on the most sustainable availability of infrastructure services. However, it is possible that re-use of brownfield land and availability of infrastructure could potentially be considered against a criteria based policy. The option is considered to have a neutral effect on this objective, but this could become a measurable effect at the next stage of plan making/assessment.	-	-	-	This option may tie up derelict land which goes on to remain undeveloped. In future the land may become more appropriate for other types of use but would be held because of the reserve list. There is no opportunity to consider the modern infrastructure needs of these types of facilities, or the potential to use brownfield land as these sites are already identified. This option is considered to have a negative impact on this objective.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	-	-	This option is likely to result in loss of green-field land, and some semi-natural areas. However this could be mitigated through the application of a relevant criteria based policy.	-	-	-	This approach will determine proposals on a case by case basis, and will have not have an opportunity to influence location. Greenfield land or semi-natural land could be identified by providers as the best locations for facilities which would mean loss of that land if developed.	-	-	-	Sites identified in the reserve list could include green field or semi natural land, and there is no opportunity to review. Development of these sites therefore may result in the loss of some greenfield areas or natural land cover.

							However this could be mitigated through the application of a relevant criteria based policy.					
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	This option has potential to consider linkages to public transport and active travel measures through application of a criteria based policy. Potentially this option could provide a significant effect for this objective in the medium and long term.	+	+	+	This option has potential to consider linkages to public transport and active travel measures through the criteria based policy although the locations will be brought forward on a case by case basis, and may not be located for access to public transport and active travel.	+	+	+	This option has potential to consider linkages to public transport and active travel measures through the criteria based policy however there is no opportunity to consider travel in site identification.
9.... improve air quality.	?	?	?	It is unknown how this option would alter patterns of transport and whether these would affect air quality to a perceptible degree.	?	?	?	It is unknown how this option would alter patterns of transport and whether these would affect air quality to a perceptible degree.	?	?	?	It is unknown how this option would alter patterns of transport and whether these would affect air quality to a perceptible degree.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Replacing or upgrading facilities may bring some small benefits in terms of energy efficiency. Overall not expected to create a perceptible impact.	0	0	0	Replacing or upgrading facilities may bring some small benefits in terms of energy efficiency. Overall not expected to create a perceptible impact.	0	0	0	Replacing or upgrading facilities may bring some small benefits in terms of energy efficiency. Overall not expected to create a perceptible impact.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Would not influence water use significantly, however new facilities can be designed to have efficiency measures included. The use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems such as permeable paving could be encouraged which could help to minimise flood risk. Overall not expected to create a perceptible impact.	0	0	0	Overall the option is not expected to create a perceptible impact on water resources.	0	0	0	Overall the option is not expected to create a perceptible impact on water resources.

<p>12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>The application of the key site requirements has potential to positively influence how the development would support biodiversity, through addressing specific local issues and offsetting impacts. Overall the impact on this objective is uncertain and will depend on locations identified and the application of key site criteria.</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>This approach will determine proposals on a case by case basis, and will have not have an opportunity to influence location. Land with a natural resource value could be identified by providers as the best locations for facilities which would mean loss of biodiversity and wildlife corridors. Designated areas of nature conservation value would be protected. The application of the key site requirements has potential to positively influence how the development would support biodiversity, through addressing specific local issues and offsetting impacts. Overall the impact on this objective is uncertain and will depend on locations identified and the application of key site criteria.</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>This option has potential to consider biodiversity measures through the criteria based policy however there is no opportunity to consider the natural resource value in site identification. The application of the key site requirements has potential to positively influence how the development would support biodiversity, through addressing specific local issues and offsetting impacts. Overall the impact on this objective is uncertain and will depend on locations identified and the application of key site criteria.</p>
<p>13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>Areas of landscape character would be protected and any proposals would be assessed against the criteria based policy. This option is considered to have an uncertain effect on this objective as it will depend upon the approach taken in the criteria based policy.</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>Areas of landscape character would be protected and any proposals would be assessed against the criteria based policy. This option is considered to have an uncertain effect on this objective as it will depend upon the approach taken in the criteria based policy.</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>This option has potential to consider impact on landscape through the criteria based policy however there is no opportunity to consider impact on landscape in site identification.</p>
<p>14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>This option doesn't encourage the re-use of old buildings. However community facilities could be built around key existing built heritage features. Overall</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Overall not expected to create a perceptible impact.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Overall not expected to create a perceptible impact.</p>

				not expected to create a perceptible impact.							
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				<p>Option SOC 6A was found to have positive effects for many of the sustainability objectives including those to improve health and well-being, strengthen society, enable access to high quality education, and encourage active and sustainable travel. It was considered to have positive effects for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth in the medium and long term. The option was found to have negative effects on the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably and an uncertain effect on many of the objectives including those to improve air quality, protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity and maintain and enhance landscape character. The option was given a neutral scoring for the remainder of the objectives.</p> <p>Option SOC 6B was considered to have positive effects for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel. It was considered to have an uncertain effect on many of the objectives including those to enable access to high quality education, improve air quality, protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity and maintain and enhance landscape character. The option was considered to have negative effects for the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably. The option was given a neutral scoring for the remainder of the objectives.</p> <p>The appraisal found that Option SOC 6C had positive effects for the objectives to improve health and well-being, encourage active and sustainable travel and strengthen society. It was considered to have an uncertain effect on the objectives to enable access to high quality education, improve air quality, protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity and maintain and enhance landscape character. The option was considered to have negative effects for the objectives to provide good quality, sustainable housing, manage material assets sustainably and protect physical resources and use sustainably. Although the option was considered to have a neutral effect on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth in the short term, it was found that this effect could become negative in the medium and long term. The option was given a neutral scoring for the remainder of the objectives.</p> <p>Option SOC 6A was considered to be the most sustainable option.</p>							
The preferred option				Option SOC6A is the preferred option							
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?				No significant effects were found for the preferred option.							

<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?</p>	<p>No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</p>	<p>Implementing key site requirements in respect of access and parking provisions, planning assessments including traffic/transport and biodiversity studies, green building design, other planning policies and developer contributions.</p>

Key Issue SOC7: Facilitating development through Developer Contributions.

Options	Preferred Option SOC 7A: Provide strategic policy on developer contributions and identify sites where developer contributions would be appropriate in the Local Policies Plan				Alternative Option SOC 7B: Identify sites within the Local Policies Plan where developer contributions would be appropriate.				Alternative Option SOC 7C: Assess the requirement for developer contributions on an application-by-application basis.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Developer contributions may assist with provision of high quality open space and may reduce risk of traffic accidents (e.g. by requiring developer to finance a right hand turning lane for development sites over a certain threshold). Developer contributions may also be used to improve access and linkages, encouraging active travel and physical activity. Identifying sites in the plan, and providing strategic policy will give certainty to investors however it was noted this may discourage some developers due to costs. This option is considered to deliver more for the objective, as it is strategic in nature and sets a clear direction at an early stage.	+	+	+	This option could provide more clarity on the location of sites where developer contributions will be required. Developer contributions could improve access to health care and physical activity by enabling new development to be better connected to existing or planned infrastructure (e.g. under the current system some new developments have been fenced off from nearby linkages/services. Whilst this option allows sites	+	+	+	This option can also help with enabling paths or linkages to be made with active travel infrastructure or public transport however it is a reactive approach made through planning conditions or agreements following receipt of an application or through PAD, rather than being proactive. It may also help with provision of shared space. As it would be done on a case by case basis, there is much less opportunity to consider the possible benefits of developer contributions on a strategic scale.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	The option may help with provision of shared space, strategic policy can direct the financial contributions towards addressing overarching societal issues.	+	+	+	The option may help with provision of shared space, identifying sites would mean that areas of need would be highlighted however the benefit would be less pronounced than option 7A.	+	+	+	The option may help with provision of shared space, however the reactive strategy may mean a piecemeal approach with less overall benefit than options 7A and 7B.

3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option allows the council to be more specific in appointing developer contributions, however developers may be discouraged if extra costs/burdens result, which could reduce the ability to provide housing in some situations. Overall this option is considered to have a small but negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option is less specific in appointing developer contributions. If the land isn't zoned or if approval is gained before plan policy is published, the developer may not be required to provide developer contributions. Overall this option is considered to have a small but negligible effect on the objective	0	0	0	This option does not count towards the provision of social/affordable housing. The Housing Executive would direct on zoning with key site requirements, e.g. of x houses, y need to be social. May reduce the number of unfit homes by requiring developers to contribute towards refurbishment of unfit buildings. Overall this option is considered to have a small but negligible effect on the objective
4.... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	May promote access to skills and education via physical links to various transport modes, e.g. providing a pedestrian shortcut to a school or even providing a school itself.	+	+	+	May promote access to skills and education via physical links to various transport modes, e.g. providing a pedestrian shortcut to a school or even providing a school itself.	+	+	+	May promote access to skills and education via physical links to various transport modes, e.g. providing a pedestrian shortcut to a school or even providing a school itself.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Overall not expected to create a perceptible impact.	0	0	0	Overall not expected to create a perceptible impact.	0	0	0	Overall not expected to create a perceptible impact.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	This option would allow the council to specify contributions in areas where infrastructure upgrades are required. Developers would also be required to pay for remediation of contaminated sites.	+	+	+	This option would allow the council to require developers to contribute to upgrades in infrastructure, e.g. new transformers and treatment of contaminated areas.	+	+	+	This option would have less control over what contributions could be requested as it is a reactive policy rather than proactive.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	This option creates potential for remediation and reuse of brownfield sites however overall it is not expected to create a perceptible impact on physical resources.	0	0	0	This option creates potential for remediation and reuse of brownfield sites however overall it is not expected to create a perceptible impact on physical resources.	0	0	0	This option creates potential for remediation and reuse of brownfield sites however overall it is not expected to create a perceptible impact on physical resources.

<p>8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.</p>	+	+	+	<p>This option enables a council-led strategic and integrated approach to encourage active and sustainable travel methods. If land is not zoned, contributions associated with new development would still be caught by strategic policy.</p>	+	+	+	<p>This option enables a council-led strategic and integrated approach to encourage active and sustainable travel methods. Strategic policy will identify zones where linkages are required.</p>	+	+	+	<p>This option would still allow contributions to be made toward linking new development with active and sustainable travel methods. The lack of an overarching strategy or policy would mean that the council would have substantially less control than with options 7A and 7B potentially making contributions less effective.</p>
<p>9.... improve air quality.</p>	+	+	+	<p>This option may be able to assist in reducing congestion, for example by making it a requirement to contribute towards an integrated bus route or bus stop. The strategic approach creates improved opportunities for linking with active and sustainable transport modes. This option delivers more for this objective.</p>	+	+	+	<p>This option may be able to assist in reducing congestion by enabling better integration with alternative transport modes. The option would provide greater clarity to developers of the circumstances where contributions would be required.</p>	+	+	+	<p>Whilst contributions may be helpful in facilitating active/sustainable transport use, the reactive nature of this policy option means that it may be more piecemeal deliver less than other approaches appraised.</p>
<p>10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.</p>	+	+	+	<p>This option may be able to help with better management of surface water through requiring developers to contribute towards provision and maintenance of SuDS (consultees may feed into a strategic Borough-wide policy). Areas may be identified where local water management schemes are desirable. The facilitation of access to public transport and walking/cycling</p>	+	+	+	<p>This option may be able to help with better management of surface water through requiring developers to contribute towards provision and maintenance of SuDS. The facilitation of access to public transport and walking/cycling routes thus reducing reliance on cars will also contribute to this objective. The absence of an overarching strategy means this option,</p>	+	+	+	<p>This option may be able to help with better management of surface water through requiring developers to contribute towards provision and maintenance of SuDS. It may also reduce reliance on cars by facilitating access to public transport and walking/cycling routes. These benefits would only be applied on a case by case basis and so there is less scope to deliver</p>

				routes will also contribute to this objective.				although beneficial, may be less effective than SOC 7A.				benefits on a more strategic scale.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	This option may be able to help with better management of surface water through requiring developers to contribute towards provision and maintenance of SuDS. It may also contribute towards water quality objectives by requiring developers to contribute towards upgrading water supply/treatment infrastructure or private / package treatment works.	+	+	+	This option delivers the same potential benefits as option SOC 7A but the absence of an overarching strategy means that the council would have less control over targeting where contributions can be made best use of.	+	+	+	This option delivers potentially similar types of benefit to other options. The reactive approach means that improvements may be more piecemeal and have less overall benefit than options 7A and 7B.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	This option can benefit the objective through, for example, requiring contributions towards green / blue infrastructure, wildlife corridors and community woodlands. It would allow the principle to be established and set out up front.	+	+	+	This option would allow sites to be evaluated during zoning and identifying appropriate key site requirements to contribute towards biodiversity objectives.	+	+	+	This option can also provide benefits to biodiversity objectives however the council would have less control and certainty over the contributions than with options 7A and 7B.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Existing and future landscape designations would be respected. Contributions may be sought toward landscaping / community woodland, however overall the option is not expected to create a perceptible impact to landscape character.	0	0	0	Overall the option is not expected to create a perceptible impact to landscape character.	0	0	0	Overall the option is not expected to create a perceptible impact to landscape character.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	+	+	Developers could contribute towards archaeological investigations and mitigation. May allow public rights of way to be linked to. It was suggested that developers could contribute	0	+	+	Developers could contribute towards archaeological investigations and mitigation.	0	+	+	Developers could contribute towards archaeological investigations and mitigation.

				to the upkeep of older buildings however as the developer would own the building this would occur anyway.					
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives	<p>None of the three options were found to result in negative effects on any of the sustainability objectives. All three options scored positively in respect of health and well-being and strengthening society and neutral in terms of sustainable housing objectives. The comments reflect that the strategic aspect of option SOC 7A brings a greater degree of benefit than the other options in terms of strengthening society. All options were found to have a negligible effect on sustainable economic growth. In terms of the environmental sustainability objectives, all three options showed the same pattern of positive and neutral effects. No perceptible influence was found on physical resources and landscape character, however for all other objectives all three options were found to have a positive effect. In the case of the historic environment and cultural resources, the positive effects would be seen over the medium to long term. Whilst of the options bring a certain degree of benefit to these objectives, the comments reflect that the strategic policy underpinning option SOC 7A allows the council the greatest degree of control over the delivery of benefits and creating a targeted, coordinated approach.</p> <p>Option SOC 7A was considered to be the most sustainable option</p>								
The preferred option	Option SOC 7A is the preferred option								
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	The preferred option has significant positive effects for the objective relating to the improvement of health and well-being. No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.								
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.								
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Implementing key site requirements, PAD, remediation of contaminated / derelict land, further research into affordable housing initiatives, biodiversity enhancement measures, SuDS strategy and other planning policies.								

Key Issue ECN1: Zoning For Economic Development

Options	Preferred Option ECN 1A: Evaluate existing economic development zonings and identify new sustainably located sites to meet projected needs.				Alternative Option ECN 1B: Retain existing economic development zonings along with additional sustainably located sites to meet projected needs.				Alternative Option ECN 1C: Retain existing economic development zonings as currently identified in the extant Plans.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Employment is a key aspect in closing the gap in health and well-being inequality. Economic development helps bring communities out of deprivation. There may also be a link through the provision of active travel methods. Modern industry does not tend to be noisy, a review would be carried out to assess compatibility with residential areas.	+	+	+	This option may result in sites being retained that are now considered inappropriate for development due to flood risk or a change in neighbouring land use (e.g. land that has become more residential). It limits the amount of additional land that can be selected.	-	-	-	This option includes no review of existing land uses and no new zoning. It may result in inappropriate sites being retained which may become sterilised. It may exacerbate dormitory town issues. It may not create as many additional jobs near the more densely populated areas and may not provide benefits through active travel and reducing risks of accidents.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Increased well-being and employment opportunities can strengthen communities and reduce the factors causing inequalities. It can also promote inclusion of more groups through access to sustainable transport. This option may make it easier for rural communities to access employment areas and may spread the benefit across the Council.	+	+	+	This option could provide benefits to communities by inequalities through future employment opportunities, However, it is likely that some redundant land would remain which may continue to be unused and not contributing job opportunities.	-	-	-	This option could serve to exacerbate the factors causing inequality and could disadvantage rural areas as the current zonings are in primarily urban areas.

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.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	This option may create new opportunities for businesses, which may in turn increase the provision of employability and skills training through apprenticeships, etc. and help improve the overall education level of the community. It may indirectly benefit rural communities as it may provide stimulus for improving transport links to rural areas.	+	+	+	This option may create new opportunities for businesses, which may in turn increase the provision of employability and skills training through apprenticeships, etc. and help improve the overall education level of the community. The effects would not be limited by remaining redundant land where there would not be the same degree of available opportunity.	-	-	-	This option could push young people needing employment or skills experience away or even outside the Borough. It may affect accessibility, particularly for rural areas, and the ability to travel by sustainable methods.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	This option would support all of the identified indicators for sustainable growth, in particular creating a range of job types that are accessible, particularly to the areas of greatest need and making best use of the development areas' key locations along major road and rail routes. The only indicator it may not directly benefit is tourism however town centres could see spinoff business from more employment, such as hotels and restaurants.	+	+	+	This option would support all of the identified indicators for sustainable growth, in particular creating a range of job types that are accessible, particularly to the areas of greatest deprivation and making best use of the development areas' key locations along major road and rail routes. The only indicator it may not directly benefit is tourism however town centres could see spinoff business from more employment, such as hotels and restaurants. The positive effects would be considered as slight in the scoring as this option does not include a comprehensive review. Without such a review, inappropriate sites would remain	-	-	-	This option would not increase the number of people coming to the Borough to work. It would not support innovation and competitiveness, nor would it make best use of the roads and transport links. It may result in a decline in the vitality and vibrancy of city and town centres.

							and there would not be the same degree of available opportunity.				
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	+	+	+	This option is considered to have a positive effect for this objective as it allows adding more sustainably located sites to meet projected needs. These sustainably located sites can be considered with infrastructure and broadband services in mind. Effective use of land and economies of scale make infrastructure / energy provision more efficient and create opportunities for more efficient recycling and waste management via centralised services. In the absence of the comprehensive review some inappropriate sites some which may be located less favourably for provision of some material asset services.	0	0	0	This option would not provide benefits in terms of material assets. Unzoned derelict land would not be able to be brought into use preferentially.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	+	+	+	This option would potentially create the most efficient use of land overall. No inappropriate sites would be kept and it would avoid/ minimise the use of greenfield sites by including the use of unzoned brownfield sites via the review process.	-	-	-	This option would mean the retention of inappropriate sites which could sterilise some partially-developed areas and prevent their use for other means. It is unlikely to have any effects on minerals industry.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	+	+	+	Accessibility to active / sustainable transport would be included as a criteria for new site selection thus providing benefit.	0	0	0	This option is less likely to benefit those without access to a vehicle would reduce the opportunities to zone in reaction to a changed

				More generally, locating development in / near hubs would provide greatest flexibility for transport options. This option will deliver more for this objective.				More generally, locating development in / near hubs would provide greatest flexibility for transport options. This option would however leave some exiting zonings which may not be well located for access to active and sustainable travel.				situation, e.g. if new areas of deprivation have appeared the Council may not be able to locate new areas of potential employment nearby or release redundant areas that are unsuitable.
9.... improve air quality.	?	?	?	Allows better control of inputs to air quality – can favour siting employment areas along public transport routes and result in people being less reliant on cars to access employment, reducing congestion. It provides a greater range of options. However, increased employment / economic activity would still result in a net increase in traffic/ emissions.	?	?	?	With the existing zonings, there would be a reduced ability to target new sites along sustainable transport and green infrastructure routes. New sites can be sustainably located to take access to active and sustainable transport into consideration. However, increased employment / economic activity would still result in a net increase in traffic/ emissions.	?	?	?	There would be no ability to target new sites along sustainable transport and green infrastructure routes.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	This option would remove sites that are in areas of flood risk. Those sites are currently 'sterilised' as they are not able to be used. This could create benefits as de-zoned land could be used for green-blue infrastructure and improve resilience to climate change. This option could help encourage a modal change in transport.	?	?	?	The absence of a critical review of existing sites and the retention of redundant sites in flood risk areas could mean that some opportunities to provide adaptation for climate change are missed.	?	?	?	The absence of a critical review of existing sites and the retention of redundant sites in flood risk areas could mean that some opportunities to provide adaptation for climate change are missed. However it was also considered that this option might result in less industry / economic development overall thus potentially fewer emissions. Overall it was considered to have an uncertain effect on the objective.

<p>11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</p>	+	+	+	<p>Northern Ireland Water advises that the supply of fresh water is not a limiting factor in expansion. However, industrial discharges are identified as a key issue in water quality. Wastewater treatment is also not currently seen as a limiting factor in Hubs but should additional treatment capacity be required in future, it is more feasible to invest in this in Hub areas. This option would enable suitable locations to be identified for maximising efficiency of infrastructure and provision of SuDS. Development in areas of flood risk would be avoided and thus reduce the need for flood defences. Redundant sites in flood plains could be re-purposed to provide flood storage.</p>	+	+	+	<p>Northern Ireland Water advises that the supply of fresh water is not a limiting factor in expansion. However, industrial discharges are identified as a key issue in water quality. Wastewater treatment is also not currently seen as a limiting factor in Hubs but should additional treatment capacity be required in future, it is more feasible to invest in this in Hub areas. Development in areas of flood risk would be avoided and new sites identified in more suitable locations. However, redundant sites would not be released and would not have the opportunity to be re-zoned to make them more useful.</p>	-	-	-	<p>Northern Ireland Water advises that the supply of fresh water is not a limiting factor in expansion. However, industrial discharges are identified as a key issue in water quality. Wastewater treatment is also not currently seen as a limiting factor in Hubs but should additional treatment capacity be required in future, it is more feasible to invest in this in Hub areas. Development in areas of flood risk would be avoided, however redundant sites in the flood plain would not be released and not have any potential to be re-zoned to make them more useful. Sites which do not have sufficient capacity for foul waste treatment could not be de-selected, sites which cannot be developed without additional treatment provided may be unattractive to developers. Overall this is likely to have a slight negative effect on this objective.</p>
<p>12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	+	+	+	<p>By conducting a critical review of all sites, it would be possible to see what lands have biodiversity value and identify or specify areas of conservation value where vegetation such as trees should be retained. Greater gains can be delivered for biodiversity objectives with this</p>	?	?	?	<p>This option has slight benefits in terms of conserving biodiversity as it would allow new sites to be selected with sensitivity to the surrounding biodiversity. However where there are areas of biodiversity value within existing sites, this would not be able to be removed from the</p>	-	-	-	<p>By not reviewing the existing land provision, the option could consume land which could otherwise be used to greater benefit, e.g. for green blue infrastructure. Land which has been unoccupied for a long period may now be of conservation value – this could</p>

				option. Loss of biodiversity can be reduced through appropriate mitigation.				zoning. Loss of biodiversity could be reduced through appropriate mitigation.				be lost. Loss of biodiversity can be reduced through appropriate mitigation.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	The critical review would look at the setting of settlements and prominence issues with any new zoning areas would be looked at. New sites could obscure landscapes / cityscapes. Would allow sites on flood plains to be removed and directed to more appropriate land use. Most economic development land is located on flat land and should not be prominent. Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Existing policies would maintain protection of landscape character identification of new sites would be set against criteria which would include landscape impact. There are unlikely to be any significant positive or negative impacts. Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Existing policies would maintain protection of landscape character. There are unlikely to be any significant positive or negative impacts. Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	The majority of existing zonings exclude listed buildings and archaeological sites. There may be potential to include certain empty historic buildings (e.g. former mills) to encourage their restoration/reuse) in an appropriate manner and allow regeneration. Disused sites could be saved or protected from further deterioration. Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	With this option there is no opportunity for a detailed review of existing sites. There would be a reduced ability to target new sites with regard to incorporating empty historic buildings through reuse and restoration. Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option does not allow new areas to be considered or the possible inclusion of empty listed or heritage buildings as potential areas for economic development. This would limit their potential for restoration/reuse. Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				Options ECN 1A and ECN 1B are both considered to have potentially positive effects in terms of social sustainability objectives, whereas it is considered that ECN 1C would have a negative influence on social objectives. The social benefits from option ECN 1A would be greater, but not significantly greater than for ECN 1B. In terms of economic sustainability, option ECN 1A has the ability to generate significant positive effects on economic growth and material assets while option ECN 1B would have slight positive effects. It was considered that Option ECN 1C would result in a slight negative effect on economic growth objectives and the physical								

	<p>environment and negligible effect on material assets due to its inability to target new areas or deselect redundant areas. Options ECN 1A and ECN 1B were considered to have slight positive or negligible effects on environmental objectives, although an uncertain relationship was identified with air quality objectives for ECN 1A and ECN 1B in addition to climate change and natural resources and biodiversity objectives for ECN 1B. Option ECN 1C was considered to have limited benefits in terms of environmental objectives and negative impacts in terms of climate change, water and biodiversity objectives</p> <p>Option ECN 1A was considered to be the most sustainable option.</p>
The preferred option	Option ECN1A is the preferred option.
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	Option ECN 1A can bring significant positive effects in relation to enabling sustainable economic growth and managing material assets. No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Implementing Key Site Requirements, biodiversity enhancement measures; planning conditions – ecological mitigation; other planning policy; landscape character assessment.

Key Issue ECN2: Locating Class B1 Business Uses

Options	Preferred Option ECN 2A: Allow UCO Class B1 Business Uses in Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres and within economic development zonings (as identified in the LDP) as part of a sequential approach.			Alternative Option ECN 2B: Restrict UCO Class B1 Business Uses to town centres only.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Improved opportunities for employment in a range of job types would have knock-on effects to health and well-being. B1 business uses in particular give opportunities to lower skilled people and can reduce deprivation and its associated inequality. The 'town centres first' approach directs employment towards more accessible areas including those that can be walked to.	+	+	+	This option is restrictive and may be more disadvantageous overall to economic development. Whilst the option will support employment in B1 Business uses, in town centres, employment could be more limited in District Centres and Local Centres from this types of development.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	In general, town centres are perceived to be a neutral setting this option could to provide opportunities to support the use of such neutral spaces. Town centres are best served by public transport and other transport links however moving outwards can provide momentum for district centres. Enhancing district centres can reduce inequality and can be used as a tool to improve communities.	+	+	+	Enabling an increase in office space provision may conflict with creating additional living space in town centres, however this can be managed to suit local circumstances. Overall the effect is thought to be negligible.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option provides the ability to target services at satellite districts adjacent to deprived areas. Town centre living in higher density units can particularly suit a range of specific groups, e.g. disabled people, older people and single people. An increase in office space provision may reduce the land available to create living space in town centres however this can be managed to suit local demand.	0	0	0	Enabling an increase in office space provision may conflict with creating additional living space in town centres, however this can be managed to suit local circumstances. Overall the effect is thought to be negligible.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Provision of more employment opportunities should lead to more employer-based skills training, but probably less so than would occur in an industrial setting. B1 business use includes research and development so there are opportunities for enhancing those skills via the larger employers.	+	+	+	B1 business use includes research and development so there are opportunities for enhancing those skills via the larger employers. However this benefit would apply only in town centres.

5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	++	++	This option will support growth using a flexible sequential approach, which gives the best opportunities for B1 office development. These could support enhancement of the skills base, make the best use of key location along major road and rail corridors and would help the vitality and vibrancy of city and town centres to be improved. This option could support the objective significantly in the medium and long term.	+	+	+	This option would support enhancement of the skills base, make the best use of key location along major road and rail corridors but would restrict the supply of land in locations appropriate for economic growth.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Contaminated or derelict land is often found in town centres, or close by. This option may encourage reuse/restoration of such sites. Town centres often have better telecoms provision and a better choice of energy suppliers.	+	+	+	Contaminated or derelict land is often found in town centres, or close by. This option may encourage reuse/restoration of such sites. Town centres often have better telecoms provision and a better choice of energy suppliers.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Contaminated or derelict land is often found in town centres, or close by. This option may encourage reuse/restoration of such sites with a corresponding net reduction in biodiversity loss. It is unlikely to have any effect on the minerals industry.	+	+	+	By limiting UCO use class B1 to only to centres, this option could avoid loss of greenfield land and could encourage reuse of brown field town centre land.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Town centres tend to have existing linkages to public transport and would be focal points for existing or future development of active travel measures. This option would increase the likelihood of those employed in these activities being able to use active or sustainable travel.	+	+	+	This option could lead to an increased use of active travel and public transport to reach place of work which would have positive effects for this objective. However if a modal shift did not occur it could lead to an increase in congestion in town centres.
9.... improve air quality.	?	?	?	Siting B1 offices in town centres may promote the use of active / sustainable transport for commuting. Extending to district / local centres may increase the number of people able to walk or cycle to work. However, the option would still bring more people into town centres and is unlikely to reduce traffic congestion overall.	?	?	?	B1 offices in town centres may promote the use of active / sustainable transport for commuting. However, the option would still bring more people into town centres and is unlikely to reduce traffic congestion overall.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Under this option the preference towards town centres and district / local centres for B1 development would be more likely to reduce the need to travel to work by vehicle and would enable greater numbers to commute by public transport, walking or cycling.	+	+	+	Under this option the preference towards town centres for B1 development would be more likely to reduce the need to travel to work by vehicle and would enable greater numbers to commute by public transport, walking or cycling.

11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	NIW advises that the supply of fresh water is not a limiting factor in expansion. Wastewater treatment is also not currently a limiting factor in the majority of town centres though it can be an issue in smaller centres. Should additional treatment capacity be required in future it is more feasible to invest in the more populated areas. Existing policies would prevent the pursuit of options that are at, or would increase, flood risk.	0	0	0	NIW advises that the supply of fresh water is not a limiting factor in expansion. Wastewater treatment is also not currently a limiting factor in the majority of town centres though it can be an issue in smaller centres. Should additional treatment capacity be required in future it is more feasible to invest in the more populated areas. Existing policies would prevent the pursuit of options that are at, or would increase, flood risk.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Focusing office development into town centres and economic development zonings will have a negligible effect on protecting natural resources and biodiversity. Open spaces would be protected by other policies.	0	0	0	Focusing office development into town centres will have a negligible effect on protecting natural resources and biodiversity. Open spaces would be protected by other policies.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Town centres and district / local centres are already developed therefore this option is less likely to adversely influence landscape or townscape character. Other policies would also support the protection of landscape.	0	0	0	Town centres are already developed therefore this option is less likely to adversely influence landscape or townscape character. Other policies would also support the protection of landscape.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	May promote restoration / use of vacant or listed buildings which are often in town centres, can help to retain town centre character.	+	+	+	May promote restoration / use of vacant or listed buildings which are often in town centres, can help to retain town centre character.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives	All three of the options were found to have positive effects on social and economic sustainability objectives, but no strong link with provision of good quality housing was identified. When looking at the environmental objectives, it can be seen that options ECN 2A and ECN 2B had similar relationships with the objectives, however within the comments it is noted that ECN 2A can provide a slightly greater degree of benefit than ECN 2B in many instances. All three options had uncertainty attached to their influences on air quality. Option ECN 2C was considered to present potentially negative effects in respect of physical resources, encouraging active and sustainable travel, landscape character and historic environment and cultural resources. Option ECN 2A was considered to be the most sustainable option.							
The preferred option	Option ECN2A is the preferred option.							
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.							

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Planning assessments: transport, other planning policies, planning conditions, water order consents.

Key Issue ECN3: Supporting Start-up and Grow-on Businesses

Options	Preferred Option ECN 3A: Identify sites within economic development zonings specifically for Start-Up and Grow-On business space and also use redundant buildings or lands on existing economic sites for Start-Up and Grow-On business space.				Alternative Option ECN 3B: Only use redundant buildings or lands which were previously used for economic development for Start-Up and Grow-On business space.				Alternative Option ECN 3C: Consider Start-Up and Grow-On business space 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.	+	+	+	This option aims to help to create new opportunities for employment in a range of job types would have positive knock-on effects to health and well-being. Small businesses can often provide a wider range of employment types and can, for example, support a family.	+	+	+	This option aims to help to create new opportunities for employment in a range of job types would have positive knock-on effects to health and well-being. Small businesses can often provide a wider range of employment types and can, for example, support a family.	+	+	+	This option aims to help to create new opportunities for employment in a range of job types would have positive knock-on effects to health and well-being. Small businesses can often provide a wider range of employment types and can, for example, support a family.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Small, local businesses can often support the inclusion of all groups and allow a better range of social interaction. Zoning for small businesses can also be targeted to create provision within or next to areas of deprivation which would provide additional advantages to these areas.	+	+	+	This option could lead to the particular social benefits associated with smaller businesses, allowing high levels of inclusion and better social interaction. Old factories in residential areas could be converted / repurposed and could provide benefit.	+	+	+	This option could lead to the particular social benefits associated with smaller businesses, allowing high levels of inclusion and better social interaction. This option would allow the greatest number of entrepreneurs to be accommodated and may provide the greatest degree of benefit. Villages would benefit as well as towns.
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. In this option start-ups could more frequently end up

													interspersed with housing, but issues such as amenity impacts, traffic may be curtailed by other controls.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	This option has the potential to provide opportunities for job placements and employment training in local businesses.	+	+	+	This option may provide some opportunities for job placements and employment training in local businesses.	+	+	+		This option has the potential to provide opportunities for job placements and employment training in local businesses. It may also help those in rural communities to access education and skills training.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	This option would support innovation and competitiveness within the local economy and support creation of a range of job types that are accessible, especially to areas of greatest deprivation. It would encourage peer support and sites would typically have good infrastructure / access methods.	+	+	+	This option would support innovation and competitiveness within the local economy and support creation of a range of job types. This option would benefit from having good transport links and infrastructure provision. The types of buildings and lands involved could, however, present some limitations or challenges for entrepreneurs.	+	+	+		This option would support innovation, and help to create the conditions to support varied job types. Rural sites may not always have good transport links or available infrastructure and this aspect might be more challenging to investors.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	This option allows targeting towards areas with good infrastructure provision. The reuse of existing buildings can also be targeted which may reduce dereliction.	+	+	+	This option has good potential for the restoration / reuse of derelict buildings and may provide a greater level of overall benefit.	0	0	0		This option may result in more businesses being established in areas with poorer infrastructure provision and services, but overall the effects would be negligible.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	This option would help to avoid the loss of greenfield sites and natural land cover.	+	+	+	This option would also help to avoid the loss of greenfield sites and natural land cover.	?	?	?		It is uncertain what effect this option would have in respect of greenfield sites or land use.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	This option would allow targeting of sites that can be serviced by active or sustainable transport links.	0	0	0	This option would provide some degree of flexibility in selecting sites that can be serviced by active or sustainable transport links.	?	?	?		It is uncertain what effect this option would have in respect of access to active or sustainable transport links.

9.... improve air quality.	?	?	?	Small business are unlikely to significantly influence overall air quality. Targeted sites may support the use of active / sustainable travel but there would be a larger quantity of people travelling overall.	?	?	?	The effects on this objective are uncertain. Although there may be opportunities to link in with active / sustainable travel methods in this option, there would still be a greater number of people travelling to work overall.	?	?	?	Under this option, development would less directed and travelling to work may be more dispersed but it is not possible to determine what the likely effects would be.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Buildings in unprotected flood plains would not be considered for use. Targeting of sites that can be serviced by active or sustainable transport links is a benefit. Overall effects are thought to be negligible.	0	0	0	This option may reduce overall consumption by repurposing old buildings, however such buildings may be more inefficient. Promoting / enabling the use of active or sustainable transport is possible. Overall effects are thought to be negligible.	0	0	0	Effects are thought to be negligible however this option is less likely to promote / enable the use of active or sustainable transport.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Small businesses would not be sited in flood plains nor are they likely to consume or produce significant quantities of water / wastewater. Overall effects are thought to be negligible.	0	0	0	Small businesses would not be sited in flood plains nor are they likely to consume or produce significant quantities of water / wastewater. Overall effects are thought to be negligible.	0	0	0	Small businesses would not be sited in flood plains nor are they likely to consume or produce significant quantities of water / wastewater. Overall effects are thought to be negligible.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	The preference towards the use of existing economic development zonings should help prevent biodiversity losses in other locations and will have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	The use of existing buildings could limit any loss of biodiversity in other locations. Overall it is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	-	-	-	By allowing small business to be established anywhere there is a greater likelihood of using greenfield sites so overall biodiversity loss may be higher than for the other options. However other planning policies/controls should prevent significant adverse impacts.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	The reuse of redundant buildings would result in small, localised improvements to townscape, though less so than Option 3B.	0	0	0	This option would actively target the reuse of redundant buildings, which would be likely to result in small, localised improvements to	-	-	-	This option may result in more dispersed development which would have greater risk of adverse landscape impacts and visual intrusion, though other

				Overall, effects are thought to be negligible.				townscape. Overall, effects are thought to be negligible.				policies would help prevent significant adverse impacts.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	This option would potentially reuse redundant buildings, some of which may be listed. It may locally enhance sense of place and protect and enhance local distinctiveness. Overall, effects are thought to be negligible.	0	0	0	This option would actively target the reuse of redundant buildings, some of which may be listed. It may locally enhance sense of place protect and enhance local distinctiveness. Overall, effects are thought to be negligible.	0	0	0	This option would discourage the use of redundant buildings. Such buildings may be more expensive to renovate / maintain and so would be less desirable to occupy. Overall, effects are thought to be negligible.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives	<p>All three of the options were found to have positive effects on social and economic sustainability objectives, but no linkages with the provision of good quality housing were identified for any option. Although options ECN 3A and ECN 3B have similar positive effects on these objectives, the comments show that Option ECN 3A provides a greater degree of benefit overall. Option ECN 3C was shown to also have a positive relationship with social objectives (except housing) and the comments demonstrated that it provided additional benefits over ECN 3A and ECN 3B on strengthening society and education.</p> <p>Considering the environmental objectives, it can be seen that options ECN 3A and ECN 3B again had similar relationships with the objectives. Both were found to have negligible influences on climate change, water resources, landscape and the historic environment and an uncertain relationship with air quality. Option ECN 3A provides greater opportunities for active and sustainable travel than ECN 3B. Option ECN 3C has an uncertain relationship with physical resources, active and sustainable travel and air quality and was found to have a negative relationship with protecting natural resources and landscape character. For the remainder of environmental objectives it was found to have no negligible impacts. Overall, option ECN 3C can be seen to have much fewer positive impacts than ECN 3A or ECN 3B.</p> <p>Option ECN3A was considered to be the most sustainable option.</p>											
The preferred option	Option ECN3A is the preferred option.											
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	No significant effects were identified for the preferred option.											

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Planning assessments - transport, appropriate etc., other planning policies, planning conditions, green building design, and biodiversity initiatives.

Key Issue ECN4: Supporting sustainable rural economic development.

Options	Preferred Option ECN 4A: Support a sustainable approach to rural economic development in line with existing policies and regional direction, tailored to meet local circumstances, including in relation to facilitating the apple orchard / cider tourism experience.			Alternative Option ECN 4B: Retain existing policy which facilitates sustainable economic development in the countryside.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	This option would bring additional jobs, but only in very small numbers. It was suggested that it could provide better lifestyles and increased intergenerational contact but decided that the relationship was not strong enough to provide any overall benefit. It was suggested that public access to orchards could provide new open space but eventually determined that this is unlikely to occur.	0	0	0	This option would bring additional jobs, but only in very small numbers. It was suggested that it could provide better lifestyles and increased intergenerational contact but decided that the relationship was not strong enough to provide any overall benefit.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	This option would particularly help support artisanal businesses, which can create a sense of place. It would help sustain local business in rural areas and may increase social and intergenerational contact therein. It may support the establishment of new farm shops or play areas which may provide a new local service in rural areas. Having successful local produce can enhance civic pride and promote inclusiveness.	+	+	+	This option would help support local rural businesses, which can contribute to a sense of place and perhaps provide opportunities for social and intergenerational contact. However this option does not allow tailoring to support locally significant enterprise.
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.
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.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	++	++	++	This option would bring economic benefits to rural areas. It would help to make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. It may create and / or sustain tourism assets and could boost the profitability of local produce by raising its profile and creating a greater market	+	+	+	This option would bring economic benefits to rural areas and would help to make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. It may create and / or sustain tourism assets but the lack of a tailored approach for

				for its local consumption. Given the dynamic nature of the business environment, this option could provide opportunities to diversify.				locally distinctive needs may miss opportunities to support and apple orchard/cider experience tourism.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This option may see apples / other produce that were previously exported elsewhere for processing to instead be processed locally, which may create localised increases in waste. This potential impact is thought to be negligible overall.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	?	?	?	This option could potentially result in more land use rurally, but may also encourage more efficient use of land. It may reduce soil erosion through encouraging the retention of trees in orchards. Overall it is considered to have an uncertain effect on this objective.	-	-	-	This option could lead to loss of greenfield land in rural areas and does nothing to reverse the decline in the orchard resource in the Borough.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	?	?	?	This option may allow some opportunities for working closer to home in rural areas. Developing activity tourism may create the demand to improve active travel infrastructure or increase the provision of public transport. However, all of these effects would be localised and the impact on the objective is uncertain overall.	?	?	?	This option may allow some opportunities for working closer to home in rural areas. May result in coaches coming to rural areas. Developing activity tourism may create the demand to improve active travel infrastructure or increase the provision of public transport. However, all of these effects would be localised and the impact on the objective is uncertain overall.
9.... improve air quality.	?	?	?	This option may bring new development and consequently additional traffic to rural areas that otherwise wouldn't be there. Small businesses would have negligible air quality impacts. The option may promote the retention and expansion of orchards. Overall this option is considered to have an uncertain effect on this objective.	?	?	?	This option may bring new development and consequently additional traffic to rural areas that otherwise wouldn't be there. Small businesses would have negligible air quality impacts. Overall this option is considered to have an uncertain effect on this objective.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	There are no significant or perceptible interactions between this option and the objective. The retention of woodland would be beneficial, but this would be so limited in scope that it would not create any perceptible change.	0	0	0	There are no significant or perceptible interactions between this option and the objective.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	-	-	-	Some types of rural economic development could have particular requirements for the supply of fresh water and disposal of foul waste for food production and processing. Potential risks to the water environment could be mitigated through the application of a discharge consent. These	-	-	-	Some types of rural economic development could have particular requirements for the supply of fresh water and disposal of foul waste for food production and processing. Potential risks to the water environment could be mitigated through the application of a discharge consent. These

				activities would not be occurring on a large scale and so are not likely to have significant adverse effects.				activities would not be occurring on a large scale and so are not likely to have significant adverse effects.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	?	?	?	There could potentially be an impact on local biodiversity through additional development in rural areas, however these effects could be mitigated through approval criteria. Without further information on the type, scale and location of developments the relationship of this option with natural resources is uncertain. This option would be more supportive of the role of orchards which can in part play a role in supporting biodiversity.	?	?	?	There could potentially be an impact on local biodiversity through additional development in rural areas, however these effects could be mitigated through approval criteria. Without further information on the type, scale and location of developments the relationship of this option with natural resources is uncertain.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Supporting orchards could enhance the landscape and create a stronger sense of place. Rural tourism development could result in more piecemeal development across rural areas, but this could be controlled through strict application of policy. New development would be required to integrate with the landscape and to preserve character. Some orchards may be retained that would otherwise be lost.	+	+	+	Rural development could result in more piecemeal development across rural areas, but this could be controlled through strict application of policy. New development would be required to integrate with the landscape and to preserve character. Development would only be allowed in exceptional circumstances.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	Rural development arising from this option is unlikely to result in significant adverse impacts, as important heritage assets would be protected by other policies. There may be benefits to cultural heritage through the preservation of traditions and the promotion of artisanal production methods.	0	0	0	Rural development arising from this option is unlikely to result in any perceptible impacts, as important heritage assets would be protected by other policies. This option would have less opportunity to support the cultural heritage aspects which are distinctive in this area related to historic orchards and the tradition of cider making.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				Both options were considered to have similar influences on the social sustainability objectives, with negligible effects on health and well-being, housing and education and slightly positive effects on strengthening society although ECN 4A was perceived to provide a slightly greater benefit than ECN 4B. Option ECN 4A was considered to provide a significant positive influence on economic development while the benefits of ECN 4B would be less pronounced and were only considered to be slightly positive. Option ECN 4B was also considered to have a slightly negative impact on physical resources as it may promote in a decline in the orchard resource whereas option ECN 4A would sustain and enhance this industry. Both options had an uncertain relationship with the promotion of active and sustainable travel, air quality and biodiversity and natural resources. Both options were found to have no perceptible influence on climate change however both were thought to provide slight benefits to landscape character. Both options were considered to have an uncertain effect on water				

	<p>quality. Option ECN 4A was also thought to provide slight benefits to the historic environment and cultural resources through actively supporting artisan / traditional production methods, whereas option ECN 4B did not have any perceptible influence in this regard.</p> <p>Option ECN 4A was considered to be the most sustainable option.</p>
The preferred option	Option 4A is the preferred option.
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	The preferred option has the potential to generate significant positive effects in terms of sustainable economic development in rural areas.
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Planning assessments - transport, appropriate etc., other planning policies, planning conditions, water order consents.

Key Issue ECN5: Defining a Hierarchy of Centres

Options	Preferred Option ECN 5A: Identify a new hierarchy of centres, within settlements based upon the current role and function of our centres, and identify new centres where appropriate.				Alternative Option ECN 5B: Retain the existing hierarchy of centres.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	The option has no direct link to the objective.	0	0	0	The option has no direct link to the objective.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	The option may enable improved social interaction amongst people particularly in existing centres as an increase in appropriate services and shared spaces may result from the review. The ability to identify new centres in appropriate locations where there is an existing level of service and/or shopping provision would help to safeguard locations that would benefit from being centre designations, thereby strengthening society. Not only will this option classify centres in accordance with their role and function but it will also acknowledge the role of rural centres. Overall this option could increase links within communities/society.	0	0	0	The option would maintain the current situation, which although not a negative one, does not enable any potential change and no new sites to be identified that could be a deterrent for certain types of investment in some areas. There may be missed opportunities in the rural areas to encourage/promote the use of existing shared spaces and to create new spaces and but this is not deemed enough of an issue to score against the objective.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option does not directly link to the objective although it is noted that housing and people residing in town centres can add to their vitality and vibrancy.	0	0	0	The option does not directly link to the objective although it is noted that housing and people residing in town centres can add to their vitality and vibrancy.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	The option does not directly link to the objective.	0	0	0	The option does not directly link to the objective.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The option may help with new investment in areas that are moved up the hierarchy and in sites that are made new centres. The option may improve services available but would seek to promote town centres first for retail and other town centre uses. The review will enable a hierarchy that more accurately reflects role and function which may attract investment and therefore be more economically sustainable. This option will help to define a vision for our centres based on their roles, potential and unique	+	+	+	The option does not enable any change and there is no opportunity to review therefore current classifications may not accurately reflect role, function, growth potential and characteristics of our centres and may inhibit growth and investment. It does however still being forward Development of Opportunity Sites and so does not inhibit sustainable economic growth.

				characteristics. Overall option has the potential to support appropriate local businesses and to be more sustainable.				
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	The option focuses resources on a hierarchy of centres which should align with existing material assets and access to an appropriate level of materials assets. As the option enables new sites to be identified, it could also help safeguarding locations where there is an existing level of service.	+	+	+	The option maintains the current situation but does not enable any new sites to be identified. This presumably enables access to material assets to continue.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	+	?	The option focuses on a review of the hierarchy of centres and new sites being identified that are already acting as centres. There is a slight link to the objective by avoiding or minimizing loss of greenfield land by promoting and encouraging centres but the option could also help to contain development to these areas and so minimise the risk of ribbon development which would lead to the loss of greenfield land. How this would fare in the long term with future populations and development pressures is a bit uncertain.	0	?	?	The option maintains the current situation. It does not enable any new sites to be identified where there is an existing level of service/shopping provision. Although there is unlikely to be any loss of greenfield land in the short term, it could become more uncertain over time as existing centres may not be appropriately identified and development pressures experienced within or near these sites may not be appropriately addressed.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	+	+	The option enables a focus on reviewed centres based on existing conditions and with any new sites also identified. This should help to focus services/facilities for public transport and active travel options (walking and cycling) to these centres and help to coordinate the most sustainable links between them. This option would help centralise services and facilities to the existing centres and at the same time help bring an appropriate level of investment that should in turn help to enable reduced travel times for people from their homes to work, school and the shops. Mitigation also feasible like making centres traffic free at certain times.	0	0	?	The option maintains current situation and does not enable any change so unlikely to be able to develop further on this objective. Depending on existing conditions, there may be an inappropriate level of public transport and active travel options available to existing centres. Depending on how populations and development pressures increase in and around these centres, active and sustainable travel may be inhibited because of its potential inefficiency for people to opt for as their first choice of travel.
9.... improve air quality.	0	?	?	The option would enable possible negatives for air quality as a review of centres and identification of new ones could increase the total number and promote some higher up the hierarchy thus attracting more investment for appropriate services and facilities as well as people. Overall air quality is unlikely to improve though any reduced travel could help.	0	0	?	The option would enable the current situation to continue and so no opportunity for air quality to improve. Whether this would continue in the long term is less certain.

10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	There is no direct link between this option and the objective.	0	0	0	No direct link between this option and the objective.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	+	+	The option raises the potential to increase pressure on waste water resources and other water related services and facilities if the review moves centres up the hierarchy and if new centres are also identified. It may attract investment and lead to more housing and more businesses and overall this would lead to increased pressure on water resources. Focusing on the centres should help to avoid an increase in septic tanks across the countryside which would be a positive for ground water.	+	+	?	The option maintains current situation which focuses on the centres as they are. This option could help to avoid an increase in septic tanks across the countryside which would be a positive for ground water to some extent but there may be missed opportunities to improve use of water resources overall as rural development would still be likely. Also if more pressure is already placed on some centres that are not correctly recognised within their hierarchy. This option may become more uncertain in the long term.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	?	?	?	This option may help to focus development in the centres and avoid development of greenfield land which avoids impacts on the natural heritage resource and local biodiversity. New identified sites can also use mitigation measures to avoid or reduce impacts on the wider countryside but there is likely to be biodiversity loss if these sites expand. Under this option much depends on how much centres will grow, if at all, and to what extent mitigation can be applied.	?	?	?	This option focuses on the current situation and doesn't enable any change within it. There is likely to be loss of biodiversity and impacts on natural heritage if existing centres aren't appropriately identified and growth is happening in centres and areas where it isn't planned for. Mitigation is feasible for losses but it depends on the scale and location of sites as to how big the losses may be.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	This option enables new development and growth but within the existing centres post a review which would help to attract appropriate investment and growth based on current conditions. This in turn would help centres and their developments to be compatible with existing landscape character. New sites identified would have to remain compliant with other policies.	+	+	?	This option maintains the current situation and does not enable any change. This may not be an issue at the moment and as other policy can be applied to help with landscape issues/conservation but in the long term the situation will become more uncertain as it is unlikely that centres as they are will remain the areas of growth.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	This option can contribute to the protection of local distinctiveness and sense of place by protecting centres and focusing on these for growth. This may help to conserve buildings and streets indicative of centres. New sites are also feasible with this option which could be important in rural areas and help to conserve rural buildings and features.	+	+	?	This option would maintain the current situation with no opportunity for change in approach. Other planning policy can help with the conservation of the historic environment. The focus on centres helps to conserve the buildings and streets indicative of them but overtime this option may become more of an issue if centres are not appropriately identified and future conditions most likely to change from how they are now.

<p>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives</p>	<p>ECN 5A was considered to have positive effects for the objectives to strengthen society, enable sustainable economic growth and manage material assets sustainably. The option was also given a positive scoring for encouraging active and sustainable travel in the long term. However it was considered to have an uncertain effect on protecting physical resources in the long term, and active and sustainable travel in the medium and short term. In terms of the option's effect on protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably the option was considered to have a positive effect in the medium and long term. Similarly it was considered to have positive effects for maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting and enhancing the historic environment over all the time periods. It was however considered to have uncertain effects for protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity. This option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.</p> <p>ECN 5B was considered to have positive effects for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and manage material assets sustainably. It was also given a positive scoring for protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably in the short and medium term, although becoming uncertain in the long term. It was also considered to have positive effects for the objectives to maintain and enhance landscape character and to protect the historic environment. In both of these objectives, this effect was recognised in the short and medium term but becoming uncertain in the long term. This option was also considered to have uncertain effects for protecting physical resources in the short and medium term, and protecting natural resources and biodiversity across all time periods. Furthermore it was considered to have uncertain effects for the objectives on encouraging active travel and improving air quality in the long term. This option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.</p> <p>Option ECN 5A is considered to be the most sustainable option.</p>
<p>The preferred option</p>	<p>ECN5A</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?</p>	<p>No significant effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?</p>	<p>No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Traffic measures in town centres. Biodiversity measures. New public transport systems to help manage air quality issues. Park and ride schemes. Manage traffic in centres – flows and times. Key site requirements. Other planning policy – landscape, built heritage.
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Key Issue ECN6: Protecting and strengthening town centres									
Options	Preferred Option ECN 6A: Review and identify Town Centre Boundaries and Primary Retail Cores, where appropriate, accompanied by policy to protect and strengthen town centres.					Alternative Option ECN 6B: Retain existing Town Centre Boundaries and Primary Retail Cores and accompanying policy to protect and strengthen town centres.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	
1.... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	There is no direct link between the option and the objective.	0	0	0	There is no direct link between the option and the objective.	
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	This option is able to amend town centres and primary retail cores because of the ability to review existing centres and retail cores. It may be able to increase the appropriate use of these areas as shared spaces because of the review which will seek to identify complementary land uses and enhance diversity within town centres. It may therefore increase footfall and social interaction. This option has potential to deliver more for this objective.	+	+	+	The option is able to maintain centres and retail areas and help to continue to provide these areas as shared spaces for people to use and enjoy.	
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	There is no direct link between the option and the objective.	0	0	0	There is no direct link between the option and the objective.	
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	There is no direct link between the option and the objective.	0	0	0	There is no direct link between the option and the objective.	
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	++	++	++	This option should be able to direct retail and investment to the key areas such as town centres and primary retail cores helping to protect the town centres. This option may be able to increase focus on specific areas for appropriate economic growth as review is feasible and consideration of up to date conditions would be carried out. This would help with appropriate investment and sustainable economic growth, which could improve vitality in town centres. Furthermore this option would address any inconsistencies in the approach taken to town centre boundaries and primary retail cores in previous local development plans.	+	+	+	Option maintains existing town centres and retail cores, which should help to focus economic growth/inward investment/development in these key areas. Existing statutory plans are inconsistent in approach to town centre boundaries and primary retail cores and this option would not address this issue. The option would not allow the boundaries to be amended to reflect specific circumstances and requirements of town centres which could benefit the vitality of our town centres and attract investment, decreasing vacancy rates.	

6.... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Option focuses on current conditions and focuses on targeting development to where existing services and facilities are most likely to already be provided and access to material assets most feasible.	+	+	+	Option aims to continue to focus development where existing services and facilities are already provided and where access to material assets is most feasible.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	The option helps limit the loss of greenfield sites as it focuses on existing centres and cores and with a review feasible, it considers existing conditions.	+	+	+	The option helps limit the loss of greenfield sites by focusing on existing centres and cores. This option does not include a review and therefore does not consider existing conditions.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The option focuses on locations where transport routes and forms of travel are already developed but the review may help to add to where routes or types of transport are needed and also highlight where the most benefit could be provided to the majority of people by promoting active travel. Option may help increase compactness of centres and cores by focusing on these areas for investment.	+	+	+	The option focuses on locations where transport routes and forms of travel are already developed. Option may help increase compactness of centres and cores by focusing on these areas for investment/development.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The option may reduce air quality in centres/cores by focusing investment/development in those key areas which is likely to lead to more businesses and traffic with air emissions. Overall air quality is unlikely to decrease and also active/sustainable travel more likely to be promoted.	0	0	0	The option may reduce air quality in centres/cores by focusing investment/development in those key areas which is likely to lead to more businesses and traffic with air emissions. Overall air quality is unlikely to decrease and also active/sustainable travel more likely to be promoted.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The option able to reduce urban sprawl which should help to reduce the need to travel and the use of greenfield land but at same time the option encourages development/investment that will produce greenhouse gas emissions so overall option not able to deliver on this objective either way.	0	0	0	The option able to reduce urban sprawl which should help to reduce the need to travel and the use of greenfield land but at the same time the option encourages development/investment that will produce greenhouse gas emissions so overall option not able to deliver on this objective either way.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	The option able to reduce urban sprawl and target development/investment in key areas that should already be well facilitated for water services whilst also avoiding use of greenfield land.	+	+	+	The option able to reduce urban sprawl and target development/investment in key areas that should already be well facilitated for water services whilst also avoiding use of greenfield land.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	The option reduces impacts on a wider scale and across the wider countryside as it focuses development/investment on centres/cores. Review enables focus where it should be and although there can be biodiversity loss in urban areas, mitigation can be applied.	+	+	+	The option focuses on existing centres and cores so avoids impacts on wider countryside. Although there can be biodiversity loss from urban areas, mitigation is feasible.

13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	The option able to reduce urban sprawl and protect landscape by retaining development and the focus of it to key centres and cores. Review should enable current conditions to be considered more accurately. Immediate visual intrusion may be a consideration but other policy can be applied and mitigation to minimise any impacts and protect local settlements and features.	+	+	+	The option able to reduce urban sprawl and protect landscape by retaining development and the focus of it to key centres and cores. Immediate visual intrusion may be a consideration but other policy can be applied and mitigation to minimise any impacts and protect local settlements and features.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	The option able to help protect local distinctiveness, character and sense of place by focusing on centres and cores but tailored to current conditions. Option able to help protect local character by focusing on those key areas but may also help to improve compactness and preservation of current centres and cores.	+	+	+	The option helps to maintain a sense of place as it focuses on existing town centres and retail cores. Existing town centres have become more diluted and this option may not be able to help with this issue but it would help to continue to protect the original town centres and cores and help to preserve the character of those areas.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				<p>Option ECN 6A was determined to have significantly positive effects for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth, through its ability to direct retail and investment to the town centre areas. It was also considered to have a positive effect across many of the sustainability objectives including strengthen society, manage material assets, encourage active and sustainable travel, protect, manage and use water resources sustainably, protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity, maintain and enhance landscape character, and protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment. This option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.</p> <p>Option ECN 6B was considered to have a positive effect across many of the sustainability objectives including those to strengthen society, enable sustainable economic growth, manage material assets, encourage active and sustainable travel, protect, manage and use water resources sustainably, protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity, maintain and enhance landscape character, and protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment. This option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.</p> <p>ECN 6A is considered to be the most sustainable option.</p>				
The preferred option				Option ECN 6A				
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?				Significantly positive effects were identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth.				

<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?</p>	<p>No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</p>	<p>Retail Impact Assessments, biodiversity measures – building design and landscaping schemes, other planning policy, building and design guides.</p>

Key Issue ECN7: Supporting the evening and night-time economy

Options	Preferred Option ECN 7A: Promote town centres as first choice locations for a variety of complementary town centre uses to facilitate growth of the evening and night-time economy.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Making town centres attractive as a part of the night-time economy will provide more opportunities for people to meet, and share activity. There could be positive effects for people's mental health and well-being due to greater social interaction. However this approach could increase the levels of anti-social behaviour although mitigation is available such as increased lighting and partnership working in delivery of services. The option has the potential to increase the perception of safety for people in town centres at night by increasing footfall.
2.... strengthen society.	++	++	++	This option aims to increase vitality and social interaction within the town centres. There is the potential for better use of existing shared spaces and creation of more linked to the night time economy. Increased opportunities for social interaction within the night-time economy can reduce isolation and provide opportunities for families to spend time together in their local town.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option does not link directly to the objective.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option does not link directly to the objective.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	++	++	++	Provision of services and facilities in the evening would help to attract more people into the town centres. This option would enable existing businesses to open for longer and could lead to more associated types of business/investment being attracted to the town centres. The option could enable a wider range of job roles and employment conditions that may suit a diverse range of potential employees and lead to a wider employment skills base. Increased opening hours would enable higher spend of people in the town centres. This option is considered to have a significantly positive effect on this objective.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	?	This option could bring either new businesses into the town centres or enable existing businesses to extend their opening hours. Location in the town centres enables use of and access to existing material assets and would make use of infrastructure and waste management already in place. In the long term there may be some additional pressure on some of these assets so for example pressure on waste management facilities and adequate waste stream collections for recycling and composting.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	This option encourages businesses within the town centres, which would use urban sites and could include brownfield sites. It should help avoid pressure on greenfield land for ventures and help to centralise development and business to the urban areas which reduces any risk of conflict with other physical resources such as minerals industry.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option could encourage more routes and improve frequency of buses/trains into the town centres. It could help to encourage people to share taxis into town or consider walking if they live near or in the town centres. Centralising night services/facilities in the town centres could encourage more people to use active travel options but this may be more common in the summer or early evening, during daylight hours. It is

				noted that the rural communities may still find it difficult to access night time provision due to their location outside of the town centres. This option was considered to have a negligible effect overall.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option is unlikely to improve air quality but also not thought to reduce air quality. If people choose to opt to use active and sustainable travel options then they would avoid car use. The types of businesses likely to be attracted under this option are not heavy industries with potentially polluting air emissions. They may produce odour and air emission from heating and cooling processes, but these will be regulated within the existing permitting regime.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	This option does not link directly to the objective enough to score against it. New business or extended opening hours will produce more emissions but having a thriving local night-time economy may reduce the need to travel to other locations for socialising and recreation.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	This option targets town centres that have facilities and services already present to deal with new businesses or extended opening hours of existing businesses. Any business use would have to meet certain criteria and be regulated for so any potential impacts on water should be avoided. Option not thought to deliver enough against this objective to score it.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	-	-	-	There are existing negative impacts in town centres on local biodiversity and this option could worsen this situation. Biodiversity issues are linked to the use and type of lighting and other disturbance. Lighting from advertisements and general street lighting can affect urban birds and bats, which are a European protected species. Although mitigation is feasible to reduce these impacts, existing issues could be exacerbated and so a minor negative has been scored for this option against this objective.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	This option focuses on urban areas and town centres and it avoids the wider landscape. It is therefore considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	++	++	++	This option provides opportunities for cultural events and could enable the extension of opening hours of existing cultural facilities based in the town centres or attract new ventures of this type. The option could increase footfall and vitality in town centres, which could make these locations more attractive for investment including the reuse of historic buildings. There may be opportunities for buildings/locations to be used through the day for one use and through the night for another. Overall this option support historic buildings coming back into viable use and could help to maintain townscapes.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				This option scored positively across many of the sustainability objectives. It was considered to have positive effects for the objective to improve health and well-being and the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably. It has given a significantly positive score for the objective to strengthen society though helping to provide for opportunities for social interaction and reduce isolation. The option was also considered to have a significantly positive effect on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth through providing opportunities for a range of job types and encouraging more spend in town centres. The objective to protect conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources was also given a significantly positive score, recognising the role that this option could play in increasing town centre vitality and investment which could support historic buildings coming back into viable use. The option was considered to also have positive

	<p>effects for improving health and well-being and protecting physical resources and using them sustainably. Under the objective to manage material assets sustainably the option was considered to have uncertain effects in the long term. The objective was however found to have negative effects for the objective to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity which will need careful consideration and mitigation.</p> <p>Overall the option would contribute to the objective of sustainable development.</p>
The preferred option	Option ECN 7A
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	Option ECN 7A had significantly positive effect for the following objectives: Strengthen society, Enable sustainable economic growth and protect conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Lighting could be considered in the context of local wildlife and any negative impacts mitigated for. Potential impacts on residents could be considered in determining applications and/or addressed through licensing.

Key Issue ECN8: Facilitating Office Development (Class A2 Uses)									
Options	Preferred Option ECN 8A: Bring forward a sequential approach towards office development (UCO Use Class A2: financial, professional and other services) in town centres.					Alternative Option ECN 8B: Restrict office development (UCO Use Class A2: financial, professional and other services) to town centres only.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	
1.... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the objective.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the objective.	
2.... strengthen society.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the objective.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the objective.	
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the objective.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the objective.	
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the objective.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the objective.	
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	++	++	++	This option will generate employment opportunities which will contribute towards diversity and a variety of uses. This will increase footfall particularly the lunch-time economy in town centres and will assist in the growth of our economy. The flexibility of the sequential approach would ensure that office development facilities can be capitalised upon when there is no appropriate site available in the town centre.	+	+	+	Although this approach could have positive effects for facilitating businesses in the town centres, it has less flexibility as there is no sequential approach. The option may discourage some investment as it is a more restrictive approach.	
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	++	++	++	This option aims to focus development on the locations well served for provision of infrastructure services. It also helps to enable more potential economic ventures to be present in the town centres through a sequential approach.	++	++	++	This option places potential offices/businesses where the appropriate level of material assets (infrastructure) should already be located. It would restrict certain types of venture to the town centres.	
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	This option should help avoid any development of the wider countryside and therefore avoid any impacts on the Borough's physical resources.	+	+	+	This option should help avoid any development of the wider countryside and therefore avoid any impacts on the Borough's physical resources.	

8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	This option provides potential opportunities to increase the use of public transport and active travel by focusing on the locations with a critical mass of population and directing employment to these areas.	+	+	+	This option provides potential opportunities to increase the use of public transport and active travel by focusing on the locations with a critical mass of population and directing employment to these areas.
9.... improve air quality.	?	?	?	This option provides potential to focus office development in town centres, which could have positive effects for local air quality provided that public transport becomes the preferred mode of transport. However, if this option led to more car use, it could impact negatively upon local air quality, especially in areas prone to congestion. The types of development allowed under this option are unlikely to impact upon local air quality. Overall this option has an uncertain impact on this objective.	?	?	?	This option provides potential to focus office development in town centres, which could have positive effects for local air quality provided that public transport becomes the preferred mode of transport. However, if this option led to more car use, it could impact negatively upon local air quality, especially in areas prone to congestion. The types of development allowed under this option are unlikely to impact upon local air quality. Overall this option has an uncertain impact on this objective.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	There are insufficient links between the option and the objective to provide a score.	0	0	0	There are insufficient links between the option and the objective to provide a score.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	This option focuses development on where there is a critical mass of population and where infrastructure is located to provide and manage water as a resource. This would help to focus wastewater to where the facilities have capacity for treatment.	+	+	+	This option focuses development on where there is a critical mass of population and where infrastructure is located to provide and manage water as a resource. This option may help to reduce sprawl of businesses into the wider countryside by encouraging a town centre approach. This would help to focus wastewater to where the facilities have capacity for treatment.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	This option focuses development in town centres and the urban/suburban area so any impacts on the wider countryside should be avoided.	+	+	+	This option focuses development in town centres and the urban/suburban area so any impacts on the wider countryside should be avoided.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	This option focuses on avoiding the wider countryside and clustering development which should avoid impacts on the wider countryside and landscape.	+	+	+	This option focuses on avoiding the wider countryside and clustering development which should avoid impacts on the wider countryside and landscape.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	This option enables reuse of buildings in town centres and by providing a sequential approach enables a wider scope of user, which enhances the opportunities of reuse and rejuvenation in town centres.	+	+	+	This option enables reuse of buildings in town centres and by providing a sequential approach enables a wider scope of user, which enhances the opportunities of reuse and rejuvenation in town centres.

<p>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives</p>	<p>ECN 8A was considered to have a significantly positive effect on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth as it will provide for employment and help to support town centre vitality, but with the flexibility given by the sequential approach. This option was also given a significantly positive scoring for the objective to manage material assets sustainably as it will focus development on the locations well served for the provision of infrastructure services. The option also gained a positive score for the objectives to protect physical resource and use sustainably, encourage active and sustainable travel, protect, manage and use water resources sustainably, protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity, maintain and enhance landscape character. There was an uncertain scoring recorded for the objective to improve air quality. This option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.</p> <p>ECN 8B was considered to have a significantly positive scoring for the objective to manage material assets sustainably as it will focus development on the locations well served for the provision of infrastructure services. The option also gained a positive score for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth, protect physical resource and use sustainably, encourage active and sustainable travel, protect, manage and use water resources sustainably, protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity, maintain and enhance landscape character. There was an uncertain scoring recorded for the objective to improve air quality. This option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.</p> <p>ECN 8A is considered to be the most sustainable option.</p>
<p>The preferred option</p>	<p>Option ECN 8A</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?</p>	<p>Option ECN 8A was considered to have significant positive effects for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth and manage material assets sustainably.</p>
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?</p>	<p>No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</p>	<p>Traffic related mitigation measures, biodiversity measures, key site requirements, building design guides (eco-design), incorporation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and similar measures, other planning policy (landscape and building conservation).</p>

Key Issue ECN9: Identifying Development Opportunity Sites (DOS)

Options	Preferred Option ECN 9A: Review existing Development Opportunity Sites (DOSs), as designated, and identify new DOSs, where appropriate.				Alternative Option ECN 9B: Retain existing Development Opportunity Sites (DOSs) as designated.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	0	+	+	There are no immediate direct links between the option and the objective although there could be benefits for people's mental and physical well-being if review enables sites or vacant land to be appropriately reused. There is more potential with this option in the medium to long term as new sites could be identified including in Armagh Craigavon where there are none identified.	0	0	0	There are no immediate direct links between the option and the objective although there could be some benefits for people's mental and physical well-being if local sites currently not used are developed. These benefits will only apply in Banbridge, Lurgan and Portadown as development opportunity sites are not currently identified previous local development plans for Banbridge or Central Craigavon.
2.... strengthen society.	++	++	++	This option enables the reuse of vacant sites or unused sites as well as new sites as a review and identification of sites is feasible. These sites should help to improve links across communities as land is being used and providing shared uses/space across all of the Borough and not excluding parts. Regeneration of our centres may assist in strengthening society by selecting sites that have a reasonable prospect of being developed and will assist in the growth of our centres.	+	+	+	Existing sites do bring some benefit to residents/users as shared use/space is enabled/feasible but this is not equal across the Borough as development opportunity sites are not identified in in previous local development plans for Armagh or Central Craigavon. Also this option will not provide an opportunity to identify sites with no reasonable prospect of development.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Mixed uses are feasible and option enables housing on sites, which would be modern stock as opposed to less efficient older housing stock. The statutory plans are inconsistent in their approach towards development opportunity sites with sites identified in Banbridge, Lurgan and Portadown but none identified in Central Craigavon or Armagh City town centre. As this approach includes a review of existing and identification of new development opportunity sites it enables potential for new housing land sites throughout the Borough. These sites along with a review of existing sites should lead to more sustainable locations that suit developments like housing.	+	+	+	Option enables housing on sites, as mixed uses are feasible. Housing build would be modern and of a more sustainable standard than older housing stock but this is not equal across the Borough as sites do not exist in Armagh or Craigavon. Also no scope to designate new sites in Banbridge, Lurgan and Portadown that have a better prospect of redevelopment.

4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	There is no direct link between the option and the objective.	0	0	0	There is no direct link between the option and the objective.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	++	++	++	There are potential new DOS sites in the Council and this option enables those sites to be identified. Using existing sites post a review and enabling new ones should encourage sustainable economic growth and lead to the potential for more investment and increased types of use of sites across the entire Borough and not exclude Craigavon and Armagh. This would help to improve the attractiveness of the Council area to investors. The option would help to raise the profile of the Borough and its town centres both regionally and globally. Successful development of development opportunity sites can strengthen the local economy and contribute towards sustainable commercial growth. This approach aims to assist in establishing a vision for our centres based on their unique circumstances which may influence how sites may best be used.	+	+	-	Option enables use of sites that can help to maintain economic growth. Some sites may not be well located based on current conditions but there is no opportunity to identify new or alternative sites that may be located in more appropriate locations or in areas currently excluded. Option is not the best for sustainable economic growth, as no review would be carried out to determine site suitability.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	This option focuses on centralising sites where infrastructure is already located and appropriate material assets already accessible for a specific use. The review of sites and the ability to identify new sites may help with the location of the most appropriate uses based on current conditions and continue to focus on all town centres in the Borough.	+	+	-	This option focuses on existing sites that are in the town centres where infrastructure is already located and appropriate material assets already accessible for a specific use. Option does not include all centres and Central Craigavon and Armagh are excluded so in the long term there may be additional pressure on the existing sites in other areas and pressure exerted on material assets in those locations.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	++	This option could provide opportunities to consider use of more brownfield sites through the review of sites with the opportunity to also identify new sites in Armagh and Central Craigavon. It is acknowledged that the outcome of the review and location of new sites is a bit uncertain but it is assumed that they will be in urban areas and help to avoid impacts in the wider countryside.	+	?	-	This option focuses on existing sites that are in the town centres and therefore could reduce the loss of greenfield sites and avoid impacts on the wider countryside in the short term. However in the long term this effect may become uncertain or negative as new sites cannot be identified and areas within Armagh and Central Craigavon are currently excluded from Development Opportunity sites which could exert pressure on wider countryside and greenfield land.

8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option has the potential to enable access to sustainable and active modes of travel but much depends on personal choice. Car travel remains feasible. There is not enough of a direct link between the option and the objective to score it.	0	0	0	This option has the potential to enable access to sustainable and active modes of travel but much depends on personal choice. Car travel remains feasible. There is not enough of a direct link between the option and the objective to score it.
9.... improve air quality.	?	?	?	Option has positives and negatives with it. Existing and new sites could encourage use of cars but also use of public transport or active travel. Any moves away from the car could improve local air quality. Sites under review and any new sites identified could help with initiatives like car sharing and links to active travel so there may be more opportunities to improve local air quality under this option but much depends on personal choice. New sites could be identified in Armagh where there are air quality issues but whether these would reduce local air quality or not is uncertain.	?	?	?	Option enables use of cars but also public transport and active travel. No new sites are feasible and any existing sites are already located in urban areas. Whether their use would reduce local air quality or not is uncertain.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	Option aims to centralise sites which may help people to use public transport or active travel as opposed to the car but there is uncertainty with this. Also new sites may or may not be located near to alternative travel modes and the use of the car may remain the only travel option. Overall this option was considered to have an uncertain effect on this objective.	?	?	?	Option focuses sites on centres and this approach may help direct people toward using public or active travel options as opposed to the car but there is a bit of uncertainty as to whether this is the case or not as much still depends on personal choice and circumstances. This option was considered to have an uncertain effect on this objective.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	This option has a focused approach to site location and should help to direct sites toward where water resources are available/ provided and avoid any impacts on the wider aquatic environment. The opportunity to review in identifying new sites may help to give the most appropriate locations and types of use for those sites.	+	?	?	This option focuses on centres where water services and facilities are already available/ provided. The approach also helps to avoid any impacts on the wider aquatic environment however the sites may not be the most appropriate locations for the proposed uses. In the long term pressure may be exerted on the existing sites and other areas because of a lack of sites in Armagh and Craigavon and so more uncertainty with this option in the medium/long term.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	This option focuses on the centres and enables avoidance of impacts on the wider natural environment and though there may be some impacts on urban biodiversity, mitigation can be applied.	+	?	?	This option enables avoidance of impacts on the wider natural environment although there may be some impacts even in urban areas but mitigation measures should be applicable. Additional pressure may be exerted on existing sites and in areas where there are no DOS sites and this

								could increase risk to the natural environment in those areas i.e. Armagh and Craigavon. More uncertainty with this option in the medium/long term.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Option focuses on the centres and avoids impacts on landscape across the wider countryside. New sites may be identified in the centres but this should pose no risks to landscape. Other planning policy should be applicable to mitigate for any impacts or visual intrusion.	+	+	?	Option focuses on the centres and avoids impacts on landscape across the wider countryside. Other planning policy should be applicable to mitigate for any impacts or visual intrusion although this is unlikely to be an issue with sites that are located in urban areas. It is noted that this option does not apply to Armagh or Craigavon and cannot help with delivery of the objective in those areas as new sites not feasible. There is an element of uncertainty over time because pressure for development may occur outside of centres.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	Option able to retain existing buildings and encourage the reuse of key buildings on existing or new sites. Option enables review of sites, which could help to deliver more for this objective by promoting new sites that encourage use of sites that can help to conserve features important to this objective. This option may be able to deliver slightly more for this objective in terms of preservation of townscape character.	+	+	?	Option able to retain existing buildings and encourage the reuse of key buildings in existing sites. Use of such DOS sites can help to conserve features important to this objective. It is noted that this option does not apply to Armagh or Craigavon and cannot help with delivery of the objective in those areas. There is an element of uncertainty over time because pressure for development may occur outside of centres.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				<p>ECN 9A was considered to have significantly positive effects for the objective to strengthen society sustainably as it can provide for regeneration and could improve physical linkages between communities. The option also gained a significantly positive score for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. The option was also considered to have a significantly positive effects for the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably in the long term through possible consideration of brown-field land in new Development Opportunity Sites. This option was also considered to have positive effects across many other sustainability objectives including improving health and well-being (in the medium and long term), providing good quality, sustainably housing, managing material assets, protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably, protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, and maintaining and enhancing landscape character. There was an uncertain scoring recorded for the objective to improve air quality and to reduce the causes of and adapt to climate change. This option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.</p> <p>ECN 9B was considered to have positive effects across many other sustainability objectives including strengthening society, providing good quality, sustainably housing for all time periods. The option was</p>				

	<p>considered to have positive effects for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth, and manage material assets in the short and medium term, but becoming negative in the long term. Similarly the option gained a positive scoring for protecting physical resources in the short term, however this effect became neutral in the medium term and negative in the long term. There was an uncertain scoring recorded for the objective to improve air quality and to reduce the causes of and adapt to climate change across all time periods. For both the objectives associated with protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably and protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, there was a positive effect in the short term, becoming uncertain in the medium and long term. The objectives to maintain and enhancing landscape character and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment both were given a positive scoring in the short and medium term, becoming uncertain in the long term. This option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.</p> <p>ECN 9A is considered to be the most sustainable option.</p>
The preferred option	Option ECN 9A
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	Option ECN 9A was considered to have significant positive effects for the objectives to strengthen society and protect physical resources and use sustainably (in the long term).
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Biodiversity measures, key site requirements, other planning policy, traffic measures and promotion of active or sustainable travel options.

Key Issue ECN10: Supporting sustainable tourism development

Options	Preferred Option ECN 10A: Carry forward an approach in line with existing policy to support and facilitate appropriate sustainable tourism development in both settlements and the countryside, with additions that are tailored to meet specific local tourism needs and protect tourism assets within the Borough.			Alternative Option ECN 10B: Retain an approach in line with existing policy in relation to tourism development.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	This option could provide opportunities that encourage healthy lifestyles for all ages. It might contribute to the creation of open space with public access. It may bring mental health benefits by helping to create employment. The tailored approach could be more supportive to the types of local tourism enterprises in the Borough.	+	+	+	This option could provide opportunities that encourage healthy lifestyles for all ages. It might contribute to the creation of open space with public access. It may bring mental health benefits by helping to create employment. The absence of the tailored approach would not have the additional element of targeting rural niche activities with tourism potential.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Facilities which develop for tourism may also benefit communities and may increase accessibility to shared spaces. There could be positive economic effects and the creation of employment opportunities in rural areas which might be positive for areas of rural deprivation. It may stimulate civic pride and social mobility. There were some concerns that the high value / high quality tourism strategy could exacerbate disparities / deprivation in urban areas and this may need to be considered.	+	+	+	Facilities which develop for tourism may also benefit communities and may increase accessibility to shared spaces. It may increase employment and could help to improve civic pride and social mobility.
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.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	The option could provide benefits to education through the linkage of tourism assets with educational trips and possible linkages with skills training. However owners, operators and education authorities would need to use partnership approaches to make this happen.	+	+	+	The option could provide benefits to education through the linkage of tourism assets with educational trips, however owners and operators and education authorities would be more responsible for making this happen than planning policy.

5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	This option would provide net benefits for tourism and allow more flexibility for business diversification in rural areas. Rural and urban tourism development could, where possible, take into consideration the location of principal transport routes. One of the main outcomes could be the delivery of new accommodation options for tourists, allowing the region to capture a greater proportion of spend. This option would allow a stronger alignment with the marketing and promoting of the Borough's tourism assets. Overall this option was considered to deliver more for this objective.	+	+	+	This option would bring economic benefits associated with tourism including potentially higher employment and a wider range of job types but with less opportunity provided to potential rural tourism.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Limited linkages were found between this option and the objective. It may encourage the reuse of derelict / contaminated land but on a small and localised scale.	0	0	0	Limited linkages were found between this option and the objective. It may encourage the reuse of derelict / contaminated land but on a small and localised scale.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	?	?	?	This option would result in some greenfield land use. The option might promote a greater amount of development overall, but development may also be focused on the better use of existing buildings. No significant interactions were identified with the minerals industry.	?	?	?	There would be a certain degree of greenfield land use but it is difficult to predict to what extent there would be new development. It is likely that development may also be focused on the better use of existing buildings. No significant interactions were identified with the minerals industry.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The tourism strategy has a focus on value over volume and as such the numbers are not expected to have any significant effect on active travel and sustainable transport across the Borough. Armagh is the main focus and it is well connected to transport corridors. The secondary tier of the tourism strategy would focus on activity tourism, which may include walking and cycling however the effects are unlikely to be significant over the Plan's lifetime.	0	0	0	Although there are some indirect linkages between tourism and active and sustainable travel, these are considered have a negligible effect overall on the objective.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Limited linkages were found between this option and the objective as the tourism numbers would not be significant. This option was considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Limited linkages were found between this option and the objective as the tourism numbers would not be significant. This option was considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	There are limited linkages between this option and the objective. It may result in slight increases in development in the countryside. It may also promote a small reduction in livestock production with other farming activities becoming	0	0	0	There are limited linkages between this option and the objective. Overall there would be limited impact on climate issues.

				more favourable. Overall there would be limited impact on climate issues.				
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The main area of focus of the tourism strategy is Armagh and this area has no water supply issues. Rural tourism may require additional wastewater treatment capacity to be put in place however this can be mitigated. The effect of implementing the option would be negligible.	0	0	0	There are some indirect linkages between tourism and water resources, these are considered have a negligible effect overall on the objective.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	?	?	?	This option would not provide any additional protection to Lough Neagh but it is unlikely to have any significant adverse impacts. Potential negative effects would be avoided through the application of other policies. Additional development in rural areas may reduce biodiversity. The overall effects of increased tourism on the natural asset and its biodiversity is uncertain but should be carefully considered, given that a key part of the tourism offer is the landscapes and habitats.	?	?	?	There are some indirect linkages between tourism and natural resources / biodiversity, the effects of the relationship are uncertain.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	There are risks associated with development, however landscape character can be maintained through mitigation and the application of criteria for eligible development. Criteria would include the requirement for development to be integrated into and reflective of the landscape, e.g. at Navan it would have to be specifically tailored to the sensitivity of the site. All new development arising through this option should be appropriate and sustainable.	+	+	+	Under this option, the integration of any new development into the landscape would be a strict requirement. The policy may not increase the level of development overall but new development would need to reflect local character in its design. Areas designated for their landscape potential and setting would be protected.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	This option is linked with the Borough's tourism strategy and as such key historic buildings that are not currently in use or that have added potential, such as Armagh Gaol and the Planetarium, are priority sites. The restoration and reuse of heritage buildings is a key part of the wider strategy.	+	+	+	This option brings benefits for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the historic environment and cultural resources, but as tourism development in rural areas would be restricted to the use of existing buildings, there would be added incentive/demand for the reuse of old buildings in rural areas.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				Neither of the two options put forward have any negative impacts on sustainability objectives. Both options were considered to provide a positive influence on social and economic objectives, however in comments it can be seen that option ECN 10A brings greater benefits to rural areas over option ECN 10B. In terms of environmental objectives, the enhancement of tourism was found to have a negligible effect on encouraging active / sustainable travel, air quality, climate change or water resources. The relationship of both				

	<p>options was judged to be uncertain with physical and natural resources, but no particularly positive or negative aspects were found. Both options were considered to have slight benefits for maintaining landscape character, in conjunction with the application of other landscape policies. There was also a positive relationship with the protection, conservation and enhancement of the historic environment and cultural resources and in this regard option ECN 10B was found to have slight advantages over ECN 10A.</p> <p>ECN 10A is considered to be the most sustainable option.</p>
The preferred option	Option ECN 10A is the preferred option.
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	No significant effects were identified for the preferred option.
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Key site requirements, planning conditions, other planning policy, local level policies, discharge consents.

Key Issue ECN11: Key Issue ECN 11: Supporting sustainable minerals development

Options	Preferred Option ECN 11A: Support a balanced approach between the need for mineral resources and the need to protect the environment and other interests of acknowledged importance, in line with existing policies and further regional direction, by designating Mineral Safeguarding Zones (MSZs) and Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMDs) where appropriate.				Alternative Option ECN 11B: Continue an approach whereby minerals development proposals are considered on their merits against criteria based policy in line with existing policies and further regional direction - with review of the Borough's existing 2 Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMDs). This approach will identify new Mineral Safeguarding Zones (MSZs) where appropriate.				Option ECN 11C: Constrain further minerals development and growth opportunities, through a more restrictive approach than the existing policies and further regional direction, in the interests of the environment.			
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 include the addition of new mineral safeguarding zones identified via GSNI, where possible and subject to detailed review. The consenting of any new development, particularly quarrying, would have regard for proximity to dwellings. The application of strict criteria and regulatory enforcement would prevent adverse effects. This option was considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	The application of strict criteria and regulatory enforcement would prevent adverse effects. This option was considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This would be the most restrictive option in terms of the exploitation of mineral resources. The consenting of any new development, particularly quarrying, would have regard for proximity to dwellings. The application of strict criteria and regulatory enforcement would prevent adverse effects. This option was considered to have a negligible effect on this 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.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective.
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.

4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective. It was noted that local quarries can be a site for educational visits and provide opportunities for skills training.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective. It was noted that local quarries can be a site for educational visits and provide opportunities for skills training.	0	0	0	This option would have a negligible effect on the objective. It was noted that local quarries can be a site for educational visits and provide opportunities for skills training.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	New safeguarding zones may maintain jobs in rural areas and protect the local quarrying industry. Appropriate protective designations to safeguard mineral resources and create new reserves would help sustain wider industry. It may help make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest.	+	+	+	This option would still protect the mineral resource from the industry's point of view and would allow the identification of some new sites but would not have the same protective approach to safeguarding mineral zones.	-	-	-	This option could adversely impact economic growth opportunities. It may limit job creation, skills base, the supply of building materials and would not provide any tourism benefits
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	The restoration and remediation policies in this option have been designed to go further than existing policy. There are inclusions in the new policy to encourage recycling or reprocessing of construction materials and reduce waste. This policy would not significantly conflict with development of renewables.	0	0	0	Restoration and remediation of quarries would occur on completion of their activity. No overall effect is anticipated.	0	0	0	Restoration and remediation of quarries would occur on completion of their activity. No overall effect is anticipated. As this option is more restrictive on new minerals development it may allow greater overall scope for development of wind farms, due to fewer minerals safeguarding zones being created, but generally speaking this impact is considered of negligible consequence.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	This policy option aims to strike a balance of sustainably managing minerals development without making large areas become sterilised or adversely impacting the local Ramsar site. In the long	+	+	+	This option would maintain the existing areas of constraint. As this approach does not zone new areas of constraint, it does not provide additional protections for non-designated peatland .The	-	-	-	This option would reduce opportunities for local sourcing of construction materials and may require sources to be found from outside the Borough in the longer term. It will reduce the

				term, disused quarries would be restored/remediated and could be used for other activities. New policy within this option would identify certain non-designated peatland areas as new ACMD, providing additional protection to sensitive areas.				Ramsar site would be protected. In the long term, disused quarries would be restored/remediated and could be used for other activities.				ability of the minerals industry to operate sustainably. In the long term, disused quarries would be restored/remediated and could be used for other activities. This policy may also reduce the loss of greenfield sites / natural land cover but not to a significant degree. Overall this option is considered to have a slight negative effect on the objective, becoming a significant negative in the longer term.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option would have no overall effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no overall effect on the objective.	0	0	0	This option would have no overall effect on the objective.
9.... improve air quality.	?	?	?	The minerals industry tends to increase HGV transport on rural roads. Providing locally-sourced materials means that overall transport distances for construction projects are reduced however the overall effect is not thought to be significant. The SPPS supports meeting local industry demands and this option may allow the greatest number of sites to be opened. Due to the mixed nature of the comments in the appraisal this option is considered to have an uncertain effect on the objective.	?	?	?	This option is expected to broadly allow the minerals industry to meet demand and would therefore result in additional HGV transport.	0	0	0	This option would inhibit the sustainability / expansion of the quarrying industry in the Borough and therefore may have fewer adverse impacts on air quality than 11A or 11B, especially over the long term.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	This option would provide greater protection of peatland areas which are carbon stores. Additional ACMDs would be	?	?	?	This option would not provide any new protection for peatland areas but existing areas would continue to be retained. There	?	?	?	Existing protections for peatland areas would continue to be retained and new quarry developments would be limited,

				identified to protect the most important peatland areas. However there would also be increased machinery and HGV activity from quarrying. Due to a mix of comments in the appraisal this option was given an uncertain scoring.				would also be increased machinery and HGV activity from quarrying activity. Due to a mix of comments in the appraisal this option was given an uncertain scoring.				thus providing least impacts to natural resource. However this option would require in construction materials needing to be transported over greater distances due to the limited capacity for expansion of minerals industry. Due to a mix of comments in the appraisal this option was given an uncertain scoring.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	?	?	?	The minerals industry has reasonably high water requirements for cutting stone and treating and washing aggregates. This can be mitigated through good site management and sediment management. Groundwater may be influenced by new excavation. Impacts to aquatic resources should be prevented via controls on discharges.	?	?	?	This option would maintain the existing levels of the quarrying industry and mineral extraction. Impacts are expected to be able to be reduced to insignificant levels with mitigation.	?	?	?	This option would inhibit sustainability / expansion of the quarrying industry and mineral extraction. Impacts are expected to be able to be reduced to insignificant levels with mitigation.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	-	-	+	This option would result in increased land use in the short term. New ACMDs would be identified and sensitive areas such as priority habitats protected. In the long term restoration and reinstatement of quarried land should bring improvements.	-	+	+	This option would result in some land use in the short term resulting in disturbance to biodiversity. Existing ACMDs would be maintained and the most sensitive areas protected. In the long term restoration and reinstatement of quarried land should bring improvements.	+	+	+	By limiting expansion of the industry this option would provide the greatest protection for designated sites and their buffers and would provide the greatest level of protection / enhancement of local biodiversity.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Quarrying can produce negative short term landscape impacts but in the long term these can be mitigated through restoration	-	0	0	Quarrying can produce negative short term landscape impacts but in the long term these can be mitigated through restoration	-	0	0	Quarrying can produce negative short term landscape impacts but in the long term these can be mitigated through restoration

				and reinstatement. Existing planning constraints / pertaining to landscape would continue to be applied. New ACMDs may be created to shadow high scenic value areas and provide added protection.				and reinstatement. This option would still consider landscape in granting any new planning consents.				and reinstatement. No new ACMDs would be identified through new landscape designations however landscapes would have lower risk of being affected as new opportunities for quarrying and mining would be very restricted. This may have a short term impact on landscape but with restoration would be a neutral effect in the long-term.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	This option would allow important archaeological and built heritage sites to be specifically excluded from minerals development in addition to the application of planning criteria.	0	0	+	This option would also enable important archaeological and built heritage sites to be protected from minerals development through the application of planning criteria.	0	+	+	This option would also enable important archaeological and built heritage sites to be protected from minerals development through the application of planning criteria. It was noted that this option would probably prevent a quarry next to Navan fort from expanding, which might be beneficial to tourism.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				<p>None of the three options were found to have any potential negative impacts on social sustainability objectives. In terms of economic sustainability, options ECN 11A and ECN 11B were found to have positive short and long term effects, however the restrictive nature of ECN 11C means that it has been assessed as having a slight negative effect on economic sustainability. It was also found to have a slight negative impact on physical resources, while ECN 11A and ECN 11B had overall positive impacts.</p> <p>In terms of environmental sustainability, none of the options had any effect on sustainable travel. The influence of the options on air quality and climate change was a mix of uncertain and some positive effects, as were the effects on water resources however mitigation is required for all options to reduce the potential for negative impacts on water quality and quantity in the short and long term. Option ECN 11A, which allows the greatest degree of expansion of the quarrying industry, was found to have short term slight negative impacts on biodiversity while ECN 11C, being the most restrictive option, does not carry this negative impact. However in the long term all options were felt to have a positive influence on the basis that restoration / remediation would</p>								

	<p>be carried out. Whilst quarries can adversely impact the landscape, the inclusion of new ACMDs in high scenic value areas in option ECN 11A meant that this option was found to have overall a negligible influence on landscape whilst ECN 11B and ECN 11B had short term negative impacts in the absence of these additional protections, but no long term effects. Option ECN 11A was also found to have a positive influence on the historic environment and cultural resources in the short term due to the proactive nature of designating new ACMDs, whilst ECN 11B and ECN 11C did not provide the same degree of short term protection.</p> <p>Option ECN 11A is considered to be the most sustainable option.</p>
The preferred option	Option ECN 11A is the preferred option.
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	No significant effects were identified for the preferred option.
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Implementation of high specifications / standards for the restoration and reinstatement of exhausted quarries. Consideration of water pollution pathways and implementation of appropriate site management and pollution control measures.

Key Issue ECN12: Facilitating sustainable infrastructure, telecommunications and utilities development to meet the needs of the Borough

Options	Preferred Option ECN 12A: Provide a criteria based policy in line with existing policies and regional direction.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	++	++	++	Living in an area with poor telecoms and broadband provision can contribute to social isolation especially as more services are delivered online. Better telecoms and utilities can support those providing care. Good connectivity can allow automated monitoring and remote adjustment of medical equipment and heating controls. Broadband can enable people to start up a new business with relative ease. Connectivity can be good for mental health, can provide an outlet to the rest of the world for mobility-impaired.
2.... strengthen society.	++	++	++	Good telecoms connectivity can improve social cohesion. It was noted that inequalities can arise if low income prevents families from accessing broadband services or changing energy suppliers.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	A wider range of utilities providers and types (e.g. mains gas) can help reduce fuel poverty and allow a greater range of choices to meet local needs. The ability to remotely control and adjust central heating can help to reduce energy consumption. The inclusion of a requirement to allow suitable space for electric vehicle charging in the design of future homes/public spaces was discussed.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Access to broadband is a huge contributor to education. Rural communities can be disadvantaged in education if no high speed service is available at home. Good broadband can enable distance learning and access to education for people with impaired mobility.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	++	++	++	A reliable energy supply, accessibility to broadband / telecoms provision are crucial to economic growth.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	++	++	++	The purpose of this policy is to facilitate the development of good electrical, telecoms and other utilities infrastructure. Site sharing between providers is encouraged through the policy, to maximise potential benefits and minimise adverse effects.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	This policy encourages the efficient use of land, and upgrading is preferred over new development.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	This policy option may reduce the need to travel, e.g. by enabling groceries to be ordered online and delivered. It benefits those that have no cars by enabling working from home. Upgrading infrastructure can provide greater incentives for the use of electric vehicles.

9.... improve air quality.	+	+	+	As above, this policy may enable a reduced requirement for travel / commuting. Upgrading waste water treatment works reduces odour. Switching fuel types from coal/oil to gas reduces emissions. Strengthening the grid to allow the expansion of renewables generation can reduce overall levels of consumption of fossil fuels for power generation.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	This policy could help reduce travelling/ commuting requirements and may assist the use of renewables or the less-polluting fossil fuels. It would facilitate the upgrading and climate-proofing of wastewater treatment works enabling better standards of treatment and capacity (in turn). It would help reduce the consumption of water by enabling leaks to be detected and fixed, creating potential associated energy savings.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	As discussed above, this policy would enable the upgrading of fresh water infrastructure, reducing leaks/ consumption and would also enable the upgrading of wastewater treatment works, allowing more efficient operation and a higher standard of treatment. Although new development is not permitted on flood plains, there are exemptions for infrastructure.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	?	?	?	This option would have an uncertain effect on this objective, and would need to give careful consideration to possible effects through the application of criteria and appropriate site selection. It was recognised that some energy infrastructure such as power lines are not always compatible with areas of high biodiversity and where adverse effects are identified they can be avoided through mitigation. Upgrading wastewater treatment works can help to protect and enhance designated sites for nature conservation.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	?	?	?	This option would have an uncertain effect on this objective as the construction of telecoms and utilities infrastructure has the potential to adversely impact landscape character and will require careful consideration in terms of the application of criteria and appropriate site selection. It was recognised that site sharing can help to minimise impacts and street furniture can be sensitively designed. The option allows a balanced approach to be taken with the application of specific criteria and development should be kept to a minimum. If adverse impacts are predicted every effort should be made to minimise or offset these. The new LDP may identify additional / new LLPAs, for example the Lough Neagh fringe, which would be protected.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	Many important built heritage and archaeological assets are protected in their own right through separate policies and criteria; this policy should not affect these protections. Note that the possibility of utilities and telecoms infrastructure to influence the setting of built heritage and archaeological assets (even at a distance) was discussed.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				Option ECN 12A has no negative impacts and is expected to bring strong positive impacts to the majority of the social and economic sustainability objectives. It may also have a slightly positive influence in terms of environmental sustainability objectives, however these would be subject to the successful application of strict criteria and mitigation. The policy option is considered to have potentially uncertain effects on the objectives which cover biodiversity and landscape character, and will need careful consideration including application of criteria and appropriate site selection. The option was considered to have a negligible effect on the objective to protect and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources provided that criteria are satisfactorily applied.

	Overall the option would contribute to the objective of sustainable development.
The preferred option	Option 12A is the preferred option
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	Option 12A would bring significantly positive effects in terms of health and well-being, strengthening society, enabling sustainable economic growth and managing material assets sustainably.
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Planning conditions, other planning policy, local level policies, key site requirements, mitigation – peat / ecology / water, archaeology surveys, environmental assessments where required, biodiversity enhancement measures.

Key Issue ECN13: Protecting the Borough's Protected Routes

Options	Preferred Option ECN 13A: Bringing forward an approach that is in line with existing Protected Routes policy, tailored to the needs of the Borough.				Alternative Option ECN 13B: Bringing forward a more strict Protected Routes policy.				Option ECN 13C: Bring forward a more relaxed Protected Routes policy.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	This option will help with response times for emergency services, and allow care providers to access those in need.	+	+	+	A stricter protected routes policy will help to encourage freer flow of traffic. This could mean better response times, and better flow of traffic but may make journeys longer for a few individuals.	-	-	-	This option could increase the risk of traffic accidents, and could lead to longer travel times, and congestion affecting emergency response times. Greater congestion also could lead to more stopping and starting resulting in poor local air quality.
2.... strengthen society.	0	0	0	This option will support those in rural areas relying on roads for connections, but overall it is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option may make connectivity more difficult in rural areas, but overall it is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option may allow more connectivity rural areas, but overall it is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has no link with this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no link with this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no link with this objective.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Protecting the Boroughs protected routes network will help to keep traffic flowing, but overall it is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This approach is likely to have the most benefit for keeping roads free flowing, but overall it is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This approach is likely to increase traffic congestion but overall it is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	This option has significant potential to contribute to the efficient movement of goods and services, making areas of the Borough much more attractive to investment. It will allow	-	-	--	This option could inhibit future growth, it could lead to problems with access to protected routes from employment lands. It does not allow tailoring to the needs of the Borough, including the	-	-	--	As this option is likely to lead to increases in travel times, and congestion, it may make parts of the Borough less attractive to investors. It may also cause congestion problems for

				protection of the key economic corridors in line with local needs.				requirements and changing needs of economic sectors.				businesses providing goods and services. This option is considered to have a negative effect on this objective, becoming significantly negative in the long term.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	This option will facilitate movement of waste from households and businesses.	?	?	?	This option will maintain efficiency in provision of waste services, but could inhibit development of new waste treatment and recycling service providers.	-	-	-	This option will allow a more relaxed protected routes policy which can lead to problems for delivery of waste services, through greater congestion.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Placing restrictions on new access links to protected routes should avoid some loss of greenfield sites.	+	+	+	This option could mean less loss in greenfield land due to less access points being required.	-	-	-	This option will allow a more relaxed protected routes policy which could mean a further loss of greenfield sites.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The protected route network is primarily an asset for car use, however it will continue to support public bus transport. Overall it is not considered to contribute to the objective of encouraging sustainable economic growth, and is given a negligible scoring.	0	0	0	The protected route network is primarily an asset for car use, and having a stricter policy on access will continue to impact upon public bus transport. Overall it is not considered to contribute to the objective of encouraging sustainable economic growth, and is given a negligible scoring.	-	-	-	Allowing a more relaxed protected routes policy could mean significantly greater congestion on protected routes, which could make public transport much less attractive as an option.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option may help with reducing traffic congestion but overall it is considered to have a negligible impact on the objective.	0	0	0	This option may help with reducing traffic congestion but overall it is considered to have a negligible impact on the objective.	0	0	0	This option could lead to greater congestion, leading to poorer local air quality in some parts of the Borough. However it is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	This option will support continued road use for transport which will continue production of greenhouse gases, but overall it	0	0	0	This option will support continued road use for transport which will continue production of greenhouse gases, but overall it	0	0	0	This option will support continued road use for transport which will continue production of greenhouse gases, but overall it

				is considered to have a negligible impact on the objective.				is considered to have a negligible impact on the objective.				is considered to have a negligible impact on the objective.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The option has no link with this objective.	0	0	0	The option has no link with this objective.	0	0	0	The option has no link with this objective.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	-	-	-	Overall this option is considered to have a slight negative effect on this objective. Although there will be some loss of hedgerows and semi-natural areas, through provision of new access points, this will be small scale, according to the policy,	-	-	-	Overall this option is considered to have a slight negative effect on this objective. Although there will be some loss of hedgerows and semi-natural areas, through provision of new access points, this will be very small scale, according to the more restrictive policy.	-	--	--	Overall this option is considered to have a slight negative effect in the short term, becoming significant in the medium and long term. Having a more relaxed policy could mean further fragmentation of wildlife corridors such as hedgerows and semi-natural areas, through provision of new access points.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Restricting the number of access points will have a very limited effect on landscape, which is considered to be negligible.	0	0	0	A stricter protected routes policy, which may decrease further the number of access points will have a very limited effect on landscape, which is considered to be negligible.	-	-	-	Overall this option is considered to have a slight negative. Having a more relaxed policy could mean further changes to the landscape to incorporate access points.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	The option has no link with this objective.	0	0	0	The option has no link with this objective.	0	0	0	The option has no link with this objective.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				<p>Option ECN 13A was found to have significantly positive effects for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth through efficient movement of goods and services and making the Borough more attractive for investment. It was also considered to have positive effects for improving health and wellbeing, managing material assets sustainably and protecting physical resources and using them sustainably. The option however was found to have negative effects for the objective to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity. This option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.</p> <p>Option ECN 13B was found to have positive effects for the objectives to improve health and well-being and to protect physical resources and use them sustainably. It was considered to have negative effects for the objective</p>								

	<p>to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity. When the objective to enable sustainable economic growth was discussed, it was found that this option would have a negative effect on the objective, becoming a significant negative in the long term. This option was also considered to have negative effects for the objective to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity. Furthermore, option ECN 13B was considered to have an uncertain effect on the objective to manage material assets sustainably. This option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.</p> <p>Option ECN 13C was considered to have a negative effect on the objectives to improve health and well-being, manage material assets, protect physical resources and use them sustainably, encourage active and sustainable travel and maintain and enhance landscape character. The option was considered to have negative effects for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth, in the short and medium term, becoming significant in the long term. This reflects the view that the option could lead to greater congestion and increased travel times affecting businesses in the area and making the Borough less attractive to investment. The option was also found to have negative effects for protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity in the short term, becoming significantly negative in the medium and long term reflecting the further fragmentation of wildlife corridors and semi-natural areas that could occur under this approach.</p> <p>Option ECN 13A is considered to be the most sustainable option.</p>
The preferred option	ECN 13A
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	The preferred option is considered to have a significantly positive effect on enabling sustainable economic growth.
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Landscaping, and biodiversity measures in the development and maintenance of roads network. Use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.

Key Issue ECN14: Protecting proposed strategic road improvement schemes

Option	Preferred Option ECN 14A: Identify and safeguard key strategic road improvement schemes in the LDP to enhance accessibility within the Borough.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Identifying and safeguarding key strategic road improvement schemes in the LDP will help with response times for emergency services vehicles and with access to healthcare services. This option will safeguard these lands for this potential in the future.
2.... strengthen society.	0	0	0	This option could have positive effects for strengthening society in the rural areas, through helping with connectivity and journey times, and perhaps taking heavy traffic out of settlement centres. Overall this is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	There is no link between this option and this objective.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	There is no link between this option and this objective.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	?	?	?	This option will aim to improve connections by road, reducing journey times and congestion which will have a positive effect for economic growth in sectors which are based around moving materials in and products out. However this option could lead to traffic being diverted away from town centres, leading to loss of footfall, and vitality. Overall this option has a mix of positive and negative effects and without further assessment is considered to have an uncertain effect on the objective.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Protecting proposed Strategic Road Improvement Schemes may complement the upgrade of some aspects of infrastructure, but overall this option has a negligible effect on this objective.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	-	-	Protecting proposed Strategic Road Improvement Schemes may lead to loss of greenfield land, semi-natural land and could make soil erosion more likely. New strategic road schemes will be subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Through the planning process, including EIA's these potential impacts could be identified and mitigated.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	-	-	-	Protecting proposed strategic road improvement schemes will make travel by car more attractive, reducing journey times or alleviating congestion. They may also improve bus journey times, but overall this option is considered to have a negative impact on encouraging active and sustainable travel. This approach will contribute to delivery of the Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan, which identifies that strategic road improvement schemes are essential for providing for a modern transport system for Northern Ireland.
9.... improve air quality.	+	+	+	This option could improve the air quality in particular locations in town centres, and at some junctions which would have a benefit for local air quality in those locations. However it may create the same emissions in other locations, albeit more at more rural and dispersed locations.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	-	-	-	This option will not further the objective of reducing causes of and adapting to climate change. It will not reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles, both by car and bus. It could lead to bus times improving and their use becoming more popular, but overall this is unlikely to reverse the trend of high car use. Protecting these routes, leading to their development could lead to loss of flood plains, important for

				climate change mitigation, however there are mitigations which could be considered such as incorporating biodiversity measures, and flood risk assessments. Development of this scale would also be subject to the requirements of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which may impose additional conditions on the development.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	-	-	-	This option will not further the objective of protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably. New road developments of this scale can have impacts on surface water run-off, leading to risks to water quality in the road run-off.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	-	-	-	This option will have a negative effect on protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity. Road development can dissect wildlife habitats leading to fragmentation of habitats. Operation of roads can also have potential effects in terms of disturbance which can have impacts for bats and birds. These issues would be considered within an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	-	-	-	No perceived risks to designated landscapes but it will affect views and settings.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	Congestion in town centre areas can lead to erosion of sandstone other stone buildings. Taking emissions away from town centres and reducing the risk of potential structural damage from heavy goods vehicles. Reducing traffic in town centres can also improve interpretation of heritage assets for visitors and tourists alike.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives	<p>This option will have an overall mixed effect across the sustainability objectives. It was considered to have no link with a number of objectives, and to have a negligible effect on the objective to manage material assets sustainably. The appraisal reflected that there could be positive effects for health and well-being, some aspects of improving air quality and protecting, conserving and enhancing built and cultural heritage. However the option was considered to have slight negative effects for protecting physical resources and using them sustainably, encouraging active and sustainable travel, reducing the causes of and adapting to climate change, protecting managing and using water resources sustainably, protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, and maintaining and enhancing landscape character.</p> <p>Overall the option would contribute to the objective of sustainable development.</p>			
The preferred option	Option ECN 14A			
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	None identified.			

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Natural heritage mitigations such as bat and bird surveys. Use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.

Key Issue ECN15: Protecting the Borough's Disused Transport Routes									
Options	Preferred Option ECN 15A: Protect disused transport routes in line with existing policy and identify and safeguard routes in the LDP that have a reasonable prospect of becoming useable in the future.					Alternative Option ECN 15B: Protect Disused Transport Routes in line with existing policy.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Protecting disused transport routes and identifying and safeguarding routes in the plan could lead to greater use of greenways and improved connectivity. This could encourage active travel and active lifestyles for those who can make use of these links. It could make other open space and recreation areas more accessible contributing to both physical and mental health. This option will deliver more for this objective.	-	-	-	As this option will protect disused transport routes in line with existing policy will have some benefits for this objective, it is important that protecting disused transport routes was not considered in the legacy local development plans consistently and therefore they could be vulnerable to development/fragmentation. This will miss opportunities to link communities with open space and provide access using active travel. This is considered to have an overall negative impact on health and well-being.	
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Protecting disused transport routes and identifying and safeguarding routes in the plan could lead to greater use of greenways and improved connectivity. This could have benefits for encouraging places for people to meet and creating a shared community asset. The option could also lead to local community groups taking an interest on the conservation of local areas.	-	-	-	As this option will protect disused transport routes in line with existing policy will have some benefits for this objective, it is important that protecting disused transport routes was not considered in the legacy local development plans consistently and therefore they could be vulnerable to development/fragmentation. This will miss opportunities to improve connectivity, which could help people to meet and help deprived communities to access services. This is considered to have an overall negative impact on health and well-being.	
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has no link to this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no link to this objective.	
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	This option has no link to this objective.	0	0	0	This option has no link to this objective.	
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Protecting disused transport routes and identifying and safeguarding routes in the plan could lead to greater use of greenways and improved connectivity. These routes if	-	-	-	As this option will protect disused transport routes in line with existing policy will have some benefits for this objective, it is important that protecting disused transport	

				opened up, restored and maintained could have many benefits for enabling sustainable economic growth. They could add to the attractiveness of parts of the Borough to live in, invest in, work in and visit. They could add to the tourism offer and provide opportunities for other tourism and recreational services.				routes was not considered in the legacy local development plans consistently and therefore they could be vulnerable to development/fragmentation. This could miss opportunities to improve connectivity, making parts of the Borough more attractive as a place to live in, invest in, work in and visit. It also could mean a loss of future assets such as greenways which could in the future help to deliver the tourism offer.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Protecting disused transport routes and identifying and safeguarding routes in the plan could mean that if opened up and reused, this land, which can be considered brown-field can be brought back into use again.	-	-	-	This option will not make use of the potential opportunities to reuse brownfield land on disused transport routes in parts of the Borough.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Protecting disused transport routes and identifying and safeguarding routes in the plan could mean other greenfield land is not required to provide the same function.	-	-	-	This option will have limited potential to reuse brownfield and will deliver an inconsistent approach across the Borough. Finding alternative routes to provide connectivity may lead to loss of greenfield land in some locations.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	This option has potential to significantly contribute to this objective, through providing an opportunity to retain, create or enhance walking and cycling routes. This could provide a significant benefit for those without access to cars, and encourage a modal shift for active travel.	-	-	-	This option will have limited potential to encourage active and sustainable travel, particularly in the parts of the Borough where disused transport routes have not been protected in previous plans. This represents the loss of an opportunity to link green spaces, and presents the risk of fragmentation of these routes, making spaces less 'legible' to the walker or cyclist. It also misses an opportunity to connect spaces in a way which would help those without access to a car.
9.... improve air quality.	+	+	+	This option has potential to contribute to reducing emission to air from car transport through encouraging a shift towards active travel. This option has potential to deliver more in the future as new routes may be identified and safeguarded.	-	-	-	This option will have limited potential to encourage active and sustainable travel, particularly in the parts of the Borough where disused transport routes have not been protected in previous plans. This represents the loss of an opportunity to link green spaces, and presents the risk of fragmentation of these routes, making spaces less 'legible' to the walker or cyclist. It also misses an opportunity to connect spaces in a way which would help those without access to a car. All of these factors mean that it is unlikely to contribute to a move away from car use, which will continue the problems associated with local air pollution from vehicles.

10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	This option has potential to contribute to reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from car use through encouraging a move towards walking and cycling. This option has potential to deliver more in the future as new sites may be identified and safeguarded.	-	-	-	This option will have limited potential to encourage active and sustainable travel, particularly in the parts of the Borough where disused transport routes have not been protected in previous plans. This represents the loss of an opportunity to link green spaces, and presents the risk of fragmentation of these routes, making spaces less 'legible' to the walker or cyclist. It also misses an opportunity to connect spaces in a way which would help those without access to a car. All of these factors mean that it is unlikely to contribute to a move away from car use, which will continue the problems associated with greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	There is no link between this option and the objective.	0	0	0	There is no link between this option and the objective.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	This option has significant potential to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity especially in the long term. Identifying, safeguarding and protecting disused transport links can help to maintain green and blue infrastructure which includes wildlife corridors. The full impact on this objective will also depend on the locations of future sites but in principle, it will allow tracts of land to be protected from development, which with the right approach could contribute significantly to maintenance and creation of habits, underpinning biodiversity.	-	-	-	This option will have limited potential to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity particularly in the parts of the Borough where disused transport routes have not been protected in previous plans. This represents the loss of an opportunity maintain wildlife corridors and connections and presents the risk of fragmentation of biodiverse areas, which fall within these locations.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Protecting disused transport routes and identifying and safeguarding routes in the plan could help to maintain some features in the landscape.	-	-	-	This option will have limited potential maintain disused transport corridors as features in the landscape, particularly in the parts of the Borough where disused transport routes have not been protected in previous plans.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	Protecting disused transport routes and identifying and safeguarding routes in the plan could help to maintain and showcase built heritage features in the landscape and townscape, such as towpaths and railway heritage assets. These help to contribute to local distinctiveness.	-	-	-	This option will have limited potential maintain disused transport corridors as features of the historic environment particularly in the parts of the Borough where disused transport routes have not been protected in previous plans.

<p>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives</p>	<p>Option ECN 15A was considered to have positive effects for the objectives to improve health and well-being, strengthen society, enable economic growth, manage material assets sustainably, protect physical resources and use sustainably, improve air quality, reduce the causes of and adapt to climate change, maintain and enhance landscape character and protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources. The option was also found to have significantly positive effects for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel across all time periods. This was due to the role that this approach could play in retaining, creating or enhancing walking and cycling routes. The option was given a significantly positive score for the objective to protect natural resources and biodiversity in the long term, although it would have positive effects in the short and medium term. This reflected the opportunities which exist for retaining wildlife corridors and semi natural areas, while protecting these linkages for walking and cycling. The option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.</p> <p>Option ECN15 B was considered to have negative effects for many of the sustainability objectives including those to improve health and well-being, strengthen society, enable sustainable economic growth, manage material assets sustainably, protect physical resources and use sustainably, encourage active and sustainable travel, improve air quality, reduce causes of and adapt to climate change, protect natural resource and enhance biodiversity, maintain and enhance landscape character and protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources. The scoring reflected the missed opportunities which could occur if this approach was taken forward. The option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.</p> <p>Option ECN 15A is considered to be the most sustainable option</p>
<p>The preferred option</p>	<p>ECN 15A</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?</p>	<p>The preferred option was envisaged to present significant positive effects for encouraging active and sustainable travel, and for protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity (in the long term).</p>
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?</p>	<p>No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.</p>
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects</p>	<p>Use of buffers, biodiversity checklist.</p>

Key Issue ECN16: Protecting key Park and Ride Sites

Options	Preferred Option ECN 16A: Protect existing and proposed key Park and Ride sites and identify and safeguard potential new Park and Ride / Park and Share sites within the Borough.				Alternative Option ECN 16B: Protect proposed and existing key Park and Ride sites.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	This option could contribute positively to encouraging healthy lifestyles, through improving journey times using public transport, and making public transport a more feasible option in rural areas. This can contribute to a better work life balance for those working outside of the council area, and improved mental health. This option will deliver more for this objective.	+	+	+	This option could contribute positively to encouraging healthy lifestyles, through improving journey times using public transport, and making public transport a more feasible option in rural areas. This can contribute to a better work life balance for those working outside of the council area, and improved mental health.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	This option will have benefits for connecting people and opportunities for social interaction. The option will enable new park and ride sites to be identified, and will seek to target pressured areas, enhancing connectivity and social interaction in those areas.	0	0	0	This option will have some benefits for connecting people and opportunities for social interaction. However, overall this objective is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	This option will help students to access education using public transport, particularly from rural areas. This will help with access to higher and further education colleges and post-primary education. This option has potential to deliver more, as it allows potential new sites to be identified and safeguarded, allowing these benefits to be applied to more communities, in line with local need.	+	+	+	This option will help students to access education using public transport, particularly from rural areas. This will help with access to higher and further education colleges and post-primary education.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Park and ride facilities can stimulate retail growth on adjacent land. Park and Ride facilities help local people to access high value employment and can encourage travel into local towns for shopping. This option has potential to deliver more, as it allows potential new sites to be identified	+	+	+	Park and ride facilities can stimulate retail growth on adjacent land for example at the park and ride site in Lurgan. Park and Ride facilities help local people to access high value employment and can encourage travel into local towns for shopping.

				and safeguarded, allowing these benefits to be applied to more communities, in line with local need.				
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Overall this option has a negligible effect on managing material assets sustainably although it could lead to derelict or contaminated sites being reused.	0	0	0	Overall this option has a negligible effect on managing material assets sustainably.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	?	?	?	This option could lead to the potential loss of greenfield sites, however the existing bus and train infrastructure tends to be in urban areas, which are more likely to be adjacent to brownfield areas. Potentially new park and ride sites could bring about the reuse of brownfield land, which would have a positive scoring for this objective. Overall this option is considered to have an uncertain effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option will not result from any significant loss of greenfield sites, but also does not have the potential to reuse brownfield or contaminated land. Overall it is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	This option has potential to significantly contribute to this objective, through making use of public transport more attractive and accessible. By allowing new sites to be identified it will allow this benefit to be spread to more areas in line with local need.	+	+	+	This option will contribute towards encouraging use of public transport, making its use more attractive and convenient.
9.... improve air quality.	+	+	+	This option has potential to contribute to reducing emission to air from car transport through encouraging a shift to public transport, car sharing and active travel to and from park and ride and park/park and share sites. This option has potential to deliver more in the future as new sites may be identified and safeguarded.	+	+	+	Proposed and existing park and ride sites contribute to making use of active travel and public transport more attractive. However there is no opportunity to extend this benefit to cover other potential sites.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	This option has potential to contribute to reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from single occupancy car use, through encouraging a shift to public transport, car sharing and active travel to and from park and ride/park and share sites. This option has potential to deliver more in the future as new sites may be identified and safeguarded.	+	+	+	Proposed and existing park and ride sites contribute to making the use of active travel and public transport more attractive. However there is no opportunity to extend this benefit to cover other potential sites.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	There is no link between this option and the objective.	0	0	0	There is no link between this option and the objective.

12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	-	-	-	Developing park and ride/park and share sites could lead to loss of green field land, with damage to hedgerows and areas of biodiversity value. However there is potential for park and ride/park and ride sites to be located on former brownfield sites. The impact on this objective will also depend on the locations of future sites. Mitigations such as the use of buffers, key site requirements and other biodiversity measures can minimise these effects.	-	-	-	Developing park and ride/park and share sites could lead to loss of green field land, with damage to hedgerows and areas of biodiversity value. Mitigations such as the use of buffers, key site requirements and other biodiversity measures can minimise these effects.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	-	-	-	Developing park and ride/park and share sites could potentially create visual intrusion, however there is significant potential for landscaping to make these facilities blend into the surrounding landscape. Mitigations such as the use of buffers, key site requirements and other landscaping measures are important here.	-	-	-	Developing park and ride/park and share sites could potentially create visual intrusion, however there is significant potential for landscaping to make these facilities blend into the surrounding landscape. Mitigations such as the use of buffers, key site requirements and other landscaping measures are important here.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option has a negligible effect on this objective.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				<p>Option ECN 16A was found to have significantly positive effects for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel as it will make using public transport more accessible and attractive and may allow this benefit to occur across a wider range of locations .The option was considered to have positive effects for the objectives to improve health and well-being, strengthen society, enable access to high quality education, enable sustainable economic growth, improve air quality, reduce the causes of and adapt to climate change. However the option was found to have negative effects for the objectives to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity and maintain and enhance landscape character. The option was also considered to have an uncertain effect on the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably. The option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.</p> <p>Option ECN 16B was considered to have a positive effect on the objectives to improve health and well-being, enable access to high quality education, enable sustainable economic growth, improve air quality, reduce causes of and adapt to climate change. The option was however considered to have negative effects for the objectives to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity and maintain and enhance landscape character. The option was considered to have a neutral scoring for the remaining objectives.</p>				

	Option ECN 16A is considered to be the most sustainable option
The preferred option	Option ECN 16A
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	Significantly positive effects were identified for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel.
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Buffers, landscaping, key site requirements and planning conditions.

Key Issue ECN17: Promoting active travel and sustainable transport

Option	Preferred Option ECN 17A: Promote active travel networks and sustainable transport in all new development within settlements to demonstrate accessibility to and integration with existing public transport, walking and cycling networks.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	++	++	++	This option would encourage physical activity and a healthier lifestyle for all ages. It would create open space with public access, increase social contact and intergenerational contact, reduce traffic noise, help maintain good air quality and potentially reduce traffic accidents. Benefits would also extend to public transport through creation of more transport links.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	This policy would enhance the accessibility of shared spaces. The promotion of active travel would promote social interaction.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	This policy sits well with the sustainability of housing and would complement policies for new housing development. It would help to meet the needs of people without access to cars (particularly younger people).
4.... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	This policy would facilitate physical access / connections to schools and colleges by means other than private car.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	This policy would make access to employment areas easier for those without access to cars, particularly in areas of greatest deprivation. It would also assist access to tourist locations. It would improve quality of life, helping make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	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.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	++	++	++	The policy would have several significantly positive impacts in terms of this objective. It would serve to retain, create, or enhance walking or cycling routes which would help reduce traffic congestion, encourage a modal shift to active travel and/or public transport, improve access to public transport and would benefit those without access to a vehicle.
9.... improve air quality.	+	+	+	Reducing reliance on the car should help to improve air quality in urban areas, however it is uncertain how many people would change their preferred mode of transport and therefore how significant the change would be.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	The policy enables/promotes public transport, walking/cycling and is likely to reduce the need to travel by vehicle. It may help to reduce emissions by reducing overall reliance on the car. It may help reduce energy consumption.

11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	This policy would have a negligible effect on the objective.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	The policy would enable access to green – blue infrastructure. It may indirectly benefit biodiversity through reducing emissions but the overall effects would be very limited.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	This policy would have a negligible effect on the objective, potentially some small spin-off impacts through encouraging walking and cycling networks.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	This policy would have a negligible effect on the objective, there may be some indirect impacts through encouraging walking and cycling networks.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives	<p>This policy option has no negative impacts and is expected to bring slight positive impacts to the majority of the social and economic sustainability objectives, with the exception of health and well-being where it would bring a significantly positive impact. In terms of the environmental sustainability objectives, there are generally no / negligible effects, however there would be a strong positive impact on encouraging active and sustainable travel with associated slight benefits identified on terms of air quality and climate change.</p> <p>Overall the option would contribute to the objective of sustainable development.</p>			
The preferred option	Option ECN 17A is the preferred option			
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	Option ECN 17A would bring significant positive effects on health and well-being and encouraging active and sustainable travel.			
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.			
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Key site requirements, other planning policies, ecological mitigation, biodiversity enhancement measures. Planting and landscaping.			

Key Issue ECN18: Promoting and enhancing access to greenways

Option	Preferred Option ECN 18A: Identify and protect accessible and safe greenways in order to encourage a modal shift away from the private car, connect people and places through active travel and enable ecological linkages.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	++	++	++	The policy option is expected to bring significant benefits to health and well-being. It would encourage physical activity and a healthier lifestyle for all ages. It would create open space with public access, increase social contact and intergenerational contact, reduce traffic noise, help maintain good air quality and potentially reduce traffic accidents. Benefits would also extend to public transport through creation of more transport links.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Well-designed safe paths, cycle routes and greenways help to link communities and provide shared spaces for people to meet. The option would help promote positive social interaction.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This policy would have a negligible effect on the objective, however housing can indirectly benefit from having adjoining greenways which make them more sustainable locations.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	This policy would facilitate physical access / connections to schools and colleges by active travel methods.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	This policy may help to create links between population centres and employment areas. May help enhance tourism appeal. May make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	May reduce / use derelict land, e.g. former railway lines. Community greenways can be informal and just a linkage of biodiversity areas, green wedges or nature conservation sites.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	May result in the use of some greenfield land, however depending on its use the land would not be completely lost. Previously developed resources and features may also be used.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	++	++	++	The policy would have several significantly positive impacts in terms of this objective. It would serve to retain, create, or enhance walking or cycling routes which would help reduce traffic congestion, encourage a modal shift to active travel and/or public transport, improve access to and efficiency of public transport and would benefit those without access to a vehicle.
9.... improve air quality.	+	+	+	The policy would help to improve air quality by helping to reduce reliance on cars as a method of transport.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	The policy would enable/promote walking and cycling and would help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by helping to reduce reliance on cars as a method of transport. In riverside areas greenways could help to provide adaptation to climate change by incorporating flood storage with amenity areas. With correct design, such areas would be able to recover quickly from the effects of being flooded.

11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Greenways can be successfully integrated with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems. They can be used for flood water storage, helping avoid the need for hard flood defences and also as a means of treating waste water / runoff.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	++	++	++	The policy would help to develop and enhance a network of green/blue infrastructure (G/BI). It would help provide / support ecosystem services. It will help protect and/or enhance the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	The policy can help to enhance the setting of prominent features such as rivers.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	The policy can help to enhance the setting of prominent features and transport corridors such as existing and former canals and railways and industrial heritage (e.g. old bridges). It may enable more people to enjoy heritage assets or make them more accessible and encourage a sense of place. It would allow historic route ways to be maintained.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives	<p>This option was not considered to have any negative impacts and is expected to bring slight positive impacts to the majority of the social and economic sustainability objectives, with the exception of health and well-being where it would bring a significantly positive impact. In terms of the environmental sustainability objectives, there are generally slight positive effects for all objectives, however there would be a strong positive impact on encouraging active and sustainable travel but no identifiable effects on material assets and physical resources.</p> <p>Overall the option would contribute to the objective of sustainable development.</p>			
The preferred option	Option ECN 18A is the preferred option			
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	Option ECN 18A would bring strong positive effects on health and well-being, encouraging active and sustainable travel and protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity.			
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.			
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Use of planning conditions, ecological mitigation, biodiversity enhancement measures. Planting and landscaping.			

Key Issue ENV1: Protecting, Conserving and Enhancing Built Heritage and Archaeological Assets

Options	Preferred Option ENV1A: Approach in line with existing policy with regards to the protection, conservation and enhancement of built heritage and archaeological assets, a review of existing areas / designations and identify new areas / designations as appropriate.			Alternative Option ENV1B: An approach in line with existing policy with regards to the protection, conservation and enhancement of built heritage and archaeological assets 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	Built heritage assets and archaeological assets and their settings, can contribute to the locally important shared spaces, however this is likely to have a negligible effect overall.	0	0	0	Built heritage assets and archaeological assets and their settings, can contribute to the locally important shared spaces, however this is likely to have a negligible effect overall.
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.	+	+	+	This option would provide protection, conservation and enhancement of the important built heritage and archaeological assets in the council area. These are recognised to contribute significantly to the tourism asset and may provide further future opportunities for local tourism activities such as heritage trails and walking tours. As this option includes the possibility to identify new areas and designations in the future, it is considered to deliver more for this objective.	+	+	+	This option would provide protection, conservation and enhancement of the important built heritage and archaeological assets in the council area. These are recognised to contribute significantly to the tourism asset and may provide further future opportunities for local tourism activities such as heritage trails and walking tours.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	-	-	-	Protecting heritage assets could create limitations on use of solar panels in conservation areas, and may hinder the delivery of telecoms infrastructure in some areas. It may also create difficulties for efficient waste management collection.	-	-	-	Protecting heritage assets could create limitations on use of solar panels in conservation areas, and may hinder the delivery of telecoms infrastructure in some areas. It may also create difficulties for efficient waste management collection.

7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	This approach could lead to restraint in minerals extraction in areas of built heritage and archaeological assets, which could include other areas in the future. However, it will lead to retention of semi-natural land in the settings of features, and this may cover a wider scope of assets in the future.	+	+	+	This approach could lead to restraint in minerals extraction in areas of built heritage and archaeological assets, which could include other areas in the future. However, it will lead to retention of semi-natural land in the settings of features, and this may cover a wider scope of assets in the future.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	The ongoing protection and conservation of built heritage assets can inhibit the provision of infrastructure to support public transport and active travel however, overall it has a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	The ongoing protection and conservation of built heritage assets can inhibit the provision of infrastructure to support public transport and active travel however, overall it has a negligible effect on this objective.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	There are some links to air quality. Protecting and conserving built heritage assets may slightly increase the proportion of homes heated with solid fuel, as such properties have less scope for modernisation. Some of the small streets in the conservation areas can contribute to problems associated with poor quality resulting from traffic congestion. However overall, this option has a negligible effect on the objective.	0	0	0	There are some links to air quality. Protecting and conserving built heritage assets may slightly increase the proportion of homes heated with solid fuel, as such properties have less scope for modernisation. Some of the small streets in the conservation areas can contribute to problems associated with poor quality resulting from traffic congestion. However overall, this option has a negligible effect on the objective.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Limiting provision of renewable energy technologies such as solar panels in conservation areas and listed buildings slightly reduces opportunities to minimise greenhouse gas emissions, but overall this is considered to have a negligible effect.	0	0	0	Limiting provision of renewable energy technologies such as solar panels in conservation areas and listed buildings slightly reduces opportunities to minimise greenhouse gas emissions, but overall this is considered to have a negligible effect.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	There may be less scope to improve existing water infrastructure in some places where built heritage protections are in place but overall this is considered to have a negligible effect.	0	0	0	There may be less scope to improve existing water infrastructure in some places where built heritage protections are in place but overall this is considered to have a negligible effect.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Protecting monuments and archaeological sites which are set in rural locations can have benefits for retaining natural features and maintaining biodiversity.	+	+	+	Protecting monuments and archaeological sites which are set in rural locations can have benefits for retaining natural features and maintaining biodiversity.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	++	++	++	Protecting archaeological features and built heritage assets and their settings can help to retain the rural character of the landscape. This option has the potential to deliver more for this objective. A review of landscape character assessments will take place at a later stage of the plan preparation process.	+	+	+	Protecting archaeological features and built heritage assets and their settings can help to retain the rural character of the landscape. This option does not include the opportunity to bring forward new areas of designation. A review of landscape character assessments will take place at a later stage of the plan preparation process.

14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.	++	++	++	This option has significant potential to contribute to this objective. It will allow assets to continue to be protected and conserved and gives the opportunity to enhance the number and extent of sites. This could increase public interest and participation, helping with the interpretation and understanding of the historic environment. These features can help to enhance the sense of place in both rural and townscape areas.	+	+	+	This option has significant potential to contribute to this objective. It will allow assets to continue to be protected and conserved. These features can help to enhance the sense of place in both rural and townscape areas.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives	<p>Option ENV 1A has the potential to have a significantly positive impact on landscape character and the historic environment. It also can contribute positives to enabling sustainable economic growth, and protecting both physical resources and natural resources. This option was considered to have a neutral or negligible effect across many of the objectives, and to have a negative impact on managing material assets sustainably.</p> <p>Option ENV 2B scored in a similar way, however the potential to increase the extent of historic environment assets protection, could have deliver more for the objectives on both landscape and the historic environment</p> <p>Option ENV 1A was considered to be the most sustainable option.</p>							
The preferred option	ENV 1A							
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	The preferred option will have significant benefits for both maintaining and enhancing landscape character, and protecting, conserving and enhancing built and cultural heritage.							
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	None are required.							
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	The LDP will have guidance which will cover the development and siting of renewable energy technologies in conservation areas, on and adjacent to listed buildings and in areas of other heritage importance. Opportunities to engage the local community in recognising the value of local heritage assets.							

Key Issue ENV2: Protection of international national and local designations

Option	Preferred Option ENV2A: An approach in line with existing policy direction with regards to the protection and enhancement of international, national and local nature conservation that are not Plan designations.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	++	++	++	Protecting and enhancing sites for nature conservation has many positive aspects for improving health and wellbeing. It can contribute towards encouraging outdoor activity for all ages, and can provide places which contribute to the pursuit of good mental health outcomes. It is considered that this approach could have significant positive effects for this objective.
2.... strengthen society.	++	++	++	Protecting and enhancing sites for nature conservation has many positive aspects for strengthening society. These sites provide opportunities for people to meet and share interests, and for intergenerational contact. They contribute to a network of shared spaces which allow people to meet and share in hobbies and interests. It is considered that this approach could have significant positive effects for this objective.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	This approach can have benefits for providing a resource for skills training in the council area, in conservation methods linked to technical colleges and universities in Northern Ireland and further afield. The sites also provide opportunity for environmental education for primary and post-primary school children.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Protecting sites for nature conservation helps to make the council area more attractive to live in, work in, invest in and visit.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Some of the designated nature conservation assets in the council area are on the sites of former industrial or commercial activity including Montiagh Moss and Brackagh Bog, and are examples of reuse of previously used land for conservation purposes.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Many of the designations in the council area overlap with earth science sites, which provides an additional level of protection. The designations also prevent loss of green field land in themselves.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	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.

10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	++	++	++	Restoring peatlands and protecting as natural conservation sites contributes to carbon capture. Many of the sites contribute to flood plain areas such as Slieve Beg (designation) which plays an important role in holding or slowing down water into the River Blackwater at peak periods of rainfall. This is an important resource for dealing with the effects of climate change. This option has the potential to contribute significantly to this objective.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	++	++	++	Many of the sites contribute to flood plain areas such as Slieve Beg (designation) which plays an important role in holding or slowing down water into the River Blackwater at peak periods of rainfall. This is an important resource for dealing with the effects of climate change as considered above and also in reducing the risk of flooding and damage to water quality. This option has the potential to contribute significantly to this objective.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	++	++	++	This approach will significantly contribute to this objective, through enhancing local biodiversity and enhancing connections and wildlife corridors where they are considered within the designations. These sites contribute to blue and green infrastructure and may form networks of green places, within settlements and in the wider countryside.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	++	++	++	This approach will contribute significantly to maintaining and enhancing local landscape character. The designations halt fragmentation of loss to the landscape, and provide opportunities for learning about the history of the landscape in the borough, in particular the role of peat cutting and industrial activity in shaping the peatland landscape we see today. Areas of nature conservation and local conservation designations can contribute to softening the edges of development in settlements.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Local nature conservation designations can in some cases help to maintain and enhance the setting of historic environment assets.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives	<p>This option was considered to have positive effects across many of the objectives including enabling access to high quality education, enabling sustainable economic growth, managing material assets sustainably, protecting physical resources and using sustainably, and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Significant positive effects were identified for a number of objectives also, including improving health and well-being, strengthening society, reducing the causes of and adapt to climate change, protecting managing and using water resources sustainably, protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity and maintaining and enhancing landscape character. The option was considered to have no link with a number of objectives.</p> <p>Overall the option would contribute to the objective of sustainable development</p>			
The preferred option	Option ENV 2A			
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	Significant positive effects were identified for a number of objectives also, including improving health and well-being, strengthening society, reducing the causes of and adapt to climate change, protecting managing and using water resources sustainably, protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity and maintaining and enhancing landscape character.			

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Biodiversity Action Plans and environmental education initiatives

Key Issue ENV3: Protection of local nature conservation designations.

Options	Preferred Option ENV3A: An approach in line with the existing policy direction with regards to the protection and enhancement of local nature conservation designations and in addition review existing and identify new plan designations, were appropriate.			Alternative Option ENV3B: Retain existing policy approach and existing local nature conservation designations.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Nature conservation designations help to protect areas which contribute to spaces for relaxation and recreation contributing to physical and mental health. As this option provides for an opportunity to review and identify new plan designations it has potential to deliver more for this objective.	+	+	+	Nature conservation designations help to protect areas which contribute to spaces for relaxation and recreation contributing to physical and mental health.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Nature conservation designations help to protect areas which can be spaces for people to meet, and generations to share interests. They can provide a focus for local communities and can give an area an asset to be proud of. As this option provides for an opportunity to review and identify new plan designations it has potential to deliver more for this objective.	+	+	+	Nature conservation designations help to protect areas which can be spaces for people to meet, and generations to share interests. They can provide a focus for local communities and can give an area an asset to be proud of.
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.	+	+	+	Local nature conservation designations can provide a resource for training and skills enhancement in nature conservation and habitat management methods. Local nature conservation sites can also provide an important resource for primary and post-primary school children through environmental education. As this option provides for an opportunity to review and identify new plan designations it has potential to deliver more for this objective.	+	+	+	Local nature conservation designations can provide a resource for training and skills enhancement in nature conservation and habitat management methods. Local nature conservation sites can also provide an important resource for primary and post-primary school children through environmental education.

5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Local conservation designations contribute to making areas more attractive to live in, visit and invest in. They can contribute to the tourism offer especially when linked through greenways or other linkages. As this option provides for an opportunity to review and identify new plan designations it has potential to deliver more for this objective.	+	+	+	Local conservation designations contribute to making areas more attractive to live in, visit and invest in. They can contribute to the tourism offer especially when linked through greenways or other linkages.
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.	+	+	+	Local conservation designations will allow retention of semi-natural land, and will avoid loss of green field land. As this option provides for an opportunity to review and identify new plan designations it has potential to deliver more for this objective.	+	+	+	Local conservation designations will allow retention of semi-natural land, and will avoid loss of green field land.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective although long term there may be connections to greenways/walking and cycling routes which are enhance or facilitated using areas designated for nature conservation.	0	0	0	This option has no effect on this objective although long term there may be connections to greenways/walking and cycling routes which are enhance or facilitated using areas designated for nature conservation.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Local conservation designations can help to provide green areas adjacent to development and roads. This could potentially help to improve local air quality, however this benefit is considered to be negligible.	0	0	0	Local conservation designations can help to provide green areas adjacent to development and roads. This could potentially help to improve local air quality, however this benefit is considered to be negligible.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Local conservation designations can help to provide green areas and natural areas which can contribute a carbon capture role and are often part of flood plain areas. These could help as adaptations for future flooding as a result of climate change. As this option has the potential to designate more sites, it contributes more to this objective.	+	+	+	Local conservation designations can help to provide green areas and natural areas which can contribute a carbon capture role and are often part of flood plain areas. These could help as adaptations for future flooding as a result of climate change
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Maintaining local conservation designations and potentially identifying more through the plan will help to retain areas which retain water and slow its entry into water ways, which contributes to less risk of flood and better water quality. This option could deliver more for this objective as it has the potential to designate more sites through the plan.	+	+	+	Existing local conservation designations will help to retain areas which retain water and slow its entry into water ways, which contributes to less risk of flood and better water quality.

12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	++	++	++	Through maintaining local conservation designations and potentially identifying more through the plan, this option will allow important habitats to be protected and help create the conditions for biodiversity to flourish. This option could deliver significantly more for this objective as it has the potential to designate more sites through the plan.	+	+	+	Through maintaining local conservation designations, this option will allow important habitats to be protected and help create the conditions for biodiversity to flourish.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Maintaining local conservation designations will have a positive effect on local landscape character especially in sites which are on edges of settlements or development. This option could deliver more for this objective as it has the potential to designate more sites through the plan.	+	+	+	Maintaining local conservation designations will have a positive effect on local landscape character especially in sites which are on edges of settlements or development.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Maintaining local conservation designations can help to protect the setting of historic environment assets. This option could deliver more for this objective as it has the potential to designate more sites through the plan.	+	+	+	Maintaining local conservation designations can help to protect the setting of historic environment assets.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				<p>Both options scored in a similar way across the sustainability objectives, with a positive outcome for improving health and wellbeing, strengthening society, enabling access to high quality education, enabling sustainable economic growth, protecting physical resources, reducing the causes of and adapting to climate change, protecting managing and using water resources sustainably, maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting, conserving and enhancing built and cultural heritage. In all of these objectives, although both options gained a positive scoring, it was considered that ENV 3A could deliver more for the objective as it provides for an opportunity to review and identify new designated sites for nature conservation, through the local development plan. Option ENV 3A was considered to have a significant positive effect on protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity as it will allow important habitats to be protected and help create the conditions for biodiversity to flourish, in both existing designated sites and potentially in future areas too. Both options were considered to have no link with the remaining objectives.</p> <p>Option ENV 3A was considered to be the most sustainable option.</p>				
The preferred option				ENV 3A				
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?				Significant positive effects were identified for ENV 3A for protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity.				

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	There is currently minimal protection in place for SLINKIS and further research into this might add value.

Key Issue ENV4: Sensitive Landscapes

Options	Preferred Option ENV 4A: Consider areas of sensitive landscape for designation as Areas of High Scenic Value (AoHSV) or Special Countryside Areas (SCA) within the borough.			Alternative Option ENV 4B: Rely on regional planning policy carried forward to provide protection for the landscape setting, nature conservation interests, built heritage features and tourism assets in these areas.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Considering areas of sensitive landscape for designation can have benefits for physical and mental health, but overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Relying on the existing policy approach may have benefits for physical and mental health, but overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
2.... strengthen society.	0	0	0	Considering areas of sensitive landscape for designation can help to provide opportunities for recreation, allowing people to meet and share interests, but overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Considering areas of sensitive landscape for designation can help to provide opportunities for recreation, allowing people to meet and share interests, but overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Designating areas for the protection of landscape may influence the locations available for housing, however this effect is considered to have a negligible effect on the ability to deliver good quality, sustainable housing overall.	0	0	0	Relying on the existing policy approach may have some impact on the locations available for housing, however this effect is considered to have a negligible effect on the ability to deliver good quality, sustainable housing overall.
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.	+	+	+	Although this option could lead to some loss of opportunity for the rural economy it is considered to have a value in protecting landscape as a resource for tourism. Overall this objective is considered to have a positive effect and may deliver more as it will allow possible new protections for important and valuable landscapes.	+	+	+	Although this option could lead to some loss of opportunity for the rural economy it is considered to have a value in protecting landscape as a resource for tourism. Overall this objective is considered to have a positive effect.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	-	-	-	This option is likely to be restrictive to the development of some renewable energy development in some areas. It could also prevent the development of some telecommunications infrastructure, in some areas.	-	-	-	Relying on the existing policy approach may be restrictive to the development of some renewable energy development, and telecommunications infrastructure although less so than in ENV 4A.

7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	?	?	?	This option will allow areas of land to be retained as greenfield and semi-natural land. However it could place limitations on minerals development. Overall this option is considered to have a mix of positive and negative effects.	?	?	?	Relying on the existing policy approach may mean some of these scenic or special countryside areas may be available for development which would result in a loss of greenfield land and semi-natural land resources. Overall this option is considered to have a mix of positive and negative effects.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This option would have a very limited impact on encouraging active and sustainable travel, although these protections could provide opportunities to link into other walkways and greenways. Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option would have a very limited impact on encouraging active and sustainable travel. Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	This option will contribute to protection of flood plains, important resources as adaptations to climate change. It will also help to maintain peatland reserves, important for carbon capture. This option is considered to deliver more for this objective.	+	+	+	Flood plains are already protected within regional planning policy.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	This option will protect and enhance some flood plains, and help to maintain water flows for good ecological quality. This option is considered to deliver more for this objective.	+	+	+	Flood plains are already protected within regional planning policy.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	++	++	++	This option could have significant positive effect on protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity in those areas identified as areas of high scenic value and special countryside areas.	-	-	--	No additional protection will be provided in these areas identified for special countryside areas and areas of high scenic value. The protection of natural resources and the enhancement of biodiversity will be decided on a case by case basis. This could have a significantly negative effect in the long term.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	++	++	++	This option will have a significantly positive effect on maintaining and enhancing landscape character in those areas included in the areas of high scenic value, and special countryside areas.	-	-	--	No additional protection for landscape character will be provided in these areas identified for special countryside areas and areas of high scenic value. Instead these areas will be protected on a case by case basis. This could have a negative effect becoming significant in the long term for some areas of landscape.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	This option will help to protect and enhance local distinctiveness in those areas included in the areas of high scenic value, and special countryside areas.	-	-	-	No additional protection for the setting of historic environment assets from landscape designations. Instead these areas will be protected on a case by case basis

Key Issue ENV5: Local Landscape Policy Areas

Options	Preferred Option ENV 5A: Evaluate and where appropriate, retain existing LLPAs designated in the extant Plans, consider the identification of new LLPAs and introduce a consistent LLPA policy.			Alternative Option ENV 5B: Retain the existing LLPA designations and associated policies within each extant plan.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Retaining existing LLPAs and considering the identification of new LLPAs, will help to maintain areas for recreation and exercise, which are important for physical health and mental wellbeing in locations that are close to settlements.	+	0	0	Retaining existing LLPA designations and associated policies will help to support recreation and exercise, which are important for physical health and mental wellbeing, in those areas with existing designations. However this option will not allow this benefit to occur in other places which could be considered in the future, and so the benefit will become neutral over time.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Retaining existing LLPAs and considering the identification of new LLPAs, will help to maintain places for people to meet, which are accessible to the population.	+	0	0	Retaining existing LLPA designations and associated policies will help to maintain places for people to meet, which are accessible to the population. However this option will not allow this benefit to occur in other places which could be considered in the future, and so the benefit will become neutral over time.
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.	+	+	+	Retaining existing LLPAs and considering the identification of new LLPAs, will contribute to making the borough an attractive place to live in, invest in and visit. These LLPAs contribute to the tourism offer. There is also an opportunity to consider the Borough's tourism strategy within the identification of new LLPAs.	+	0	0	Retaining existing LLPAs will contribute to making the borough an attractive place to live in, invest in and visit. These LLPAs contribute to the tourism offer. However this option will not allow new LLPAs to be identified, and the tourism strategy to be included in consideration. As this option will not allow new areas to be considered in the future, its benefit will become neutral over time.

6.... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	LLPA's will not preclude development of appropriate infrastructure which delivers material assets. This option is considered to have a neutral effect on this objective.	0	0	0	LLPA's do not preclude development and are considered to have a neutral effect on this objective.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Semi natural land can be incorporated into these designations which will contribute to a reduced risk of soil erosion. Earth science features will remain protected. These benefits will apply in areas associated with settlements.	+	0	0	Retaining existing LLPAs will continue the benefits of semi natural land being incorporated into these designations which will contribute to a reduced risk of soil erosion. Earth science features will remain protected. These benefits will apply in areas associated with settlements. However this option will not allow new LLPAs to be identified, and therefore its benefits will become neutral over time.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	+	+	Local landscape policy areas could contribute to a network of greenways. This will have a negligible effect in the short term but will become more positive in the medium and long term.	0	0	0	Local landscape policy areas could contribute to a network of greenways. Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	This option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	This option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	+	Local landscape policy areas help to protect woodlands and wetlands that make up part of the blue and green infrastructure which is important for climate change adaptation and contribute to carbon stores Although this benefit is considered negligible at this time, it may become a more positive impact over time.		0	-	Local landscape policy areas help to protect woodlands and wetlands that make up part of the blue and green infrastructure which is important for climate change adaptation. Although this benefit is considered negligible at this time, the lack of ability to increase LLPAs in the future could negatively affect the Boroughs resilience to the effects of climate change long term.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	++	Potential to protect riparian habitats and reduce risk of pollution to water courses. This will apply to current and potential future LLPA designations. This option has potential to deliver more for this objective and long term this could become a significantly positive effect.	+	+	-	Existing Local Landscape Policy areas contribute to the protection of riparian habitats and reduce risk of pollution to water courses which has a positive effect in those areas. However, as this option does not include consideration of new Local Landscape Policy Areas there is no ability to increase this potentially positive effect over a wider area. It is also noted that there is an inconsistent approach to these designations across the previous area plans. Long term this option is likely to have a negative effect on this objective.

12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	++	++	++	Potential to protect and add to the network of green and blue infrastructure and maintain wildlife corridors. The main natural heritage features used as part of the criteria to determine new LLPA designations ensuring that habitats are protected and biodiversity enhanced. This option will deliver significantly more for this objective.	+	+	-	Existing Local Landscape Policy areas contribute to the protection of riparian habitats and reduce risk of pollution to water courses. As this option does not include consideration of new Local Landscape Policy Areas there is no ability to increase this potentially positive effect over a wider area. It is also noted that there is an inconsistent approach to these designations across the previous area plans. Long term this option is considered to have a negative effect on this objective as pressure for land increases.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	++	++	++	Designation of LLPAs and potentially adding future areas will have a significant positive effect upon this objective contributing to the protection and enhancement of landscape, and the setting of prominent features and settlements. This option will deliver significantly more for this objective.	+	+	-	Existing Local Landscape Policy areas contribute to the protection and enhancement of landscape, and the setting of prominent features and settlements. As this option does not include consideration of new Local Landscape Policy Areas there is no ability to increase this potentially positive effect over a wider area. It is also noted that there is an inconsistent approach to these designations across the previous area plans. Long term this option is considered to have a negative effect on this objective as pressure for land increases.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage.	++	++	++	Designation of LLPAs and potentially adding future areas will have a significant positive effect upon this objective through helping to protect the sense of place and setting of historic environment assets. Historic parks, gardens and demesnes would be considered within LLPAs.	+	+	-	Existing Local Landscape Policy areas contribute to the protection of 'sense of place' and the setting of historic environment assets. As this option does not include consideration of new Local Landscape Policy Areas there is no ability to increase this potentially positive effect over a wider area. It is also noted that there is an inconsistent approach to these designations across the previous area plans. Long term this option is considered to have a negative effect on this objective as pressure for land increases.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				Option ENV 5A was considered to have a positive effect on improving health and well-being, strengthening society and enabling sustainable economic growth. The option was also given a positive scoring for protecting physical resources and encouraging active and sustainable travel (in the medium and long term.) The option was also considered to have a positive effect in the long term for reducing the causes of, and adapting to climate change. The option was scored as a slight positive for the objective on protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably in the short and medium term, and significantly positive in the long term for this objective. The option was considered to have a significantly positive effect across short, medium and long term for the last				

	<p>three objectives. These cover protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, maintaining and enhancing landscape character, and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural resources. Many of the other objectives were considered to not be influenced by this set of options and were given a neutral score in the appraisal.</p> <p>Option ENV 5B was considered to have a positive effect on improving health and well-being, strengthening society and enabling sustainable economic growth in the short term but becoming neutral over the medium and long term. The option was also given a positive scoring for protecting physical resources in the short term, but becoming neutral in the medium and long term. The option was also considered to have a neutral effect in the short and medium term for reducing the causes of, and adapting to climate change, becoming negative in the long term. The option was scored as a slight positive for the objective on protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably in the short and medium term, but becoming negative in the long term. The option was considered to have a positive effect across medium and long term for the last three objectives but becoming negative in the long term. These cover protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, maintaining and enhancing landscape character, and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural resources. Many of the other objectives were considered to not be influenced by this set of options and were given a neutral score in the appraisal</p> <p>Option ENV 5A was considered to be the most sustainable option.</p>
The preferred option	ENV 5A
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	The preferred option was considered to have significantly positive effects for protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, maintaining and enhancing landscape character, and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment.
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Design criteria guidelines.

Key Issue ENV6: Urban / Rural Landscape Wedges.

Options	Preferred Option ENV 6A: Review existing open space wedges and policy zones as potential urban landscape wedges and in addition, identify both new urban and rural landscape wedges with associated policy.				Alternative Option ENV 6B: Retain existing policy and designations on protecting landscape as set out in the existing area plans (open space wedges and policy zones).			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Open space wedges in urban and rural areas can provide opportunities for exercise, recreation which contribute to physical and mental health. There is also potential for future urban and rural landscape wedges to provide linkages to other places for exercise and recreation.	0	-	-	These designations were not considered in all of the previous local area plans, so retaining this would treat the Borough inconsistently. The benefits to health and well-being such as places for recreation would not be applicable to the areas covered by the previous plans for Banbridge and Craigavon. This could have a negative impact on this objective in the medium and long term.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Open space wedges in urban and rural areas contribute towards accessible shared spaces. New open space wedges can be chosen to help to provide open space for more socially deprived areas. These areas can help to reinforce the local identity of an area and contribute to pride in an area.	0	-	-	These designations were not considered in all of the previous local area plans, so retaining this would treat the Borough inconsistently. The benefits to strengthening society such as places to meet, and shared spaces resulting from open space wedges would not be applicable to the areas covered by the previous plans for Banbridge and Craigavon. This could have a negative impact on this objective in the medium and long term.
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	Open space wedges in urban and rural areas can contribute to the local tourism offer and can make the area more attractive to live or invest in. They may add to the local setting for other features in the area. However, this approach may inhibit economic development on these sites. Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	These designations were not considered in all of the previous local area plans, so retaining this would treat the Borough inconsistently. Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.

6.... manage material assets sustainably.	-	-	-	Protecting urban and rural landscape wedges can inhibit the development of some telecommunications and renewable energy infrastructure. They can also reduce the land options available for the development of waste management infrastructure.	?	?	?	These designations were not considered in all of the previous local area plans, so this approach would treat the Borough inconsistently. This would have an uncertain effect on this objective.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	This option will retain semi-natural and greenfield land, avoiding soil erosion and keeping open space land with its natural function.	0	-	-	These designations were not considered in all of the previous local area plans, so this approach would treat the Borough inconsistently. The benefits recognised would not be applicable to the areas covered by the previous plans for Banbridge and Craigavon. This could have a negative impact on this objective in the medium and long term through possible loss of semi-natural and greenfield land.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Landscape wedges in urban and rural areas have potential to feed into other travel networks such as greenways for walking and cycling and park and ride/share facilities, helping to create a more integrated transport system. This can encourage active travel and increase transport options for those without access to a car.	0	-	-	These designations were not considered in all of the previous local area plans, so retaining this approach would treat the Borough inconsistently. The potential benefits from open space wedges for this objective such as linking into other travel networks such as greenways for walking and cycling benefits recognised would not be applicable to the areas covered by the previous plans for Banbridge and Craigavon. This could have a negative impact on this objective in the medium and long term.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Encouraging active travel may improve local air quality, and local landscape wedges could provide a buffer between housing and transportation links. However overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	These designations were not considered in all of the previous local area plans, so this approach would treat the Borough inconsistently. The potential benefits to local air quality would not be applicable to the areas covered by the previous plans for Banbridge and Craigavon. However overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Urban and rural landscape wedges may allow water ways and wooded areas to be maintained, which are important features for absorbing carbon dioxide and providing local adaption to future flooding events as a result of climate change. They may also contribute towards a modal shift in transport patterns towards active and sustainable travel which could mean less greenhouse gas emissions in the	0	0	0	These designations were not considered in all of the previous local area plans, so this approach would treat the Borough inconsistently. The benefits associated with wooded and semi-natural areas in urban and rural wedges would not be applicable to the areas covered by the previous plans for Banbridge and Craigavon. These areas could contribute to climate change adaption. However

				future. However overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.				overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Urban and rural landscape wedges may allow water ways and wooded areas to be maintained, which help to slow the speed of rainfall entering water courses and providing local adaption to future flooding events. These can positively influence the quality of surface and ground water.	0	-	-	These designations were not considered in all of the previous local area plans, so this option would treat the Borough inconsistently. This could miss an opportunity to influence the quality of surface and ground water through protecting landscape wedges, and providing local adaption to future flooding events in the areas covered by the previous plans for Banbridge and Craigavon. This could have a negative impact on this objective in the medium and long term.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	++	++	++	The protection of urban and rural landscape wedges could significantly help to ensure natural resources and biodiversity are enhanced and maintained. It could allow important local wildlife corridors to be maintained, and keep the network of blue and green infrastructure in place, necessary for the provision of eco-system services.	0	-	-	These designations were not considered in all of the previous local area plans, so this approach would treat the Borough inconsistently. The benefits recognised would not be applicable to the areas covered by the previous plans for Banbridge and Craigavon. This could have a negative effect on natural resources and biodiversity in potential urban and rural landscape wedges in the legacy Banbridge and Craigavon council areas. This could have a negative impact on this objective in the medium and long term.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	++	++	++	Protecting urban and rural landscape wedges allows settlement settings to be maintained, allowing visual intrusion from new development to be minimised.	0	-	-	These designations were not considered in all of the previous local area plans, so retaining this would treat the Borough inconsistently. The benefits recognised would not be applicable to the areas covered by the previous plans for Banbridge and Craigavon. This could have a negative effect on landscapes in potential urban and rural landscape wedges in the legacy Banbridge and Craigavon council areas. This could have a negative impact on this objective in the medium and long term.

<p>14.... protect, conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage.</p>	+	+	+	<p>Landscape wedges in urban and rural context can help to retain local distinctiveness and sense of place, whilst protecting the setting of historic environment features.</p>	0	-	-	<p>These designations were not considered in all of the previous local area plans, so this approach would treat the Borough inconsistently. The benefits recognised would not be applicable to the areas covered by the previous plans for Banbridge and Craigavon. This could have a negative effect the setting of historic environment assets in potential urban and rural landscape wedges in the legacy Banbridge and Craigavon council areas. This could have a negative impact on this objective in the medium and long term.</p>
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives</p>				<p>Option ENV 6A was considered to have a positive effect on improving health and well-being and strengthening society. It was given a negative scoring for managing material assets as this approach to protecting urban and rural landscape wedges could inhibit the development of some telecommunications and renewable energy infrastructure or reduce the land options available for the development of waste management infrastructure within those areas. However the option was considered to have a positive scoring for protecting physical resources and their sustainable use, and protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably through protecting greenfield land and allowing wooded areas and water courses to be maintained. The option was considered to have a significantly positive effect on protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity as it could allow important local wildlife corridors to be maintained, and keep the network of blue and green infrastructure in place, necessary for the provision of eco-system services. The option was also given a significantly positive score for the objective on maintaining and enhancing landscape character as it can contribute towards allowing settlement settings to be maintained, and visual intrusion from new development to be minimised. Many of the other objectives were considered to not be influenced by this option and were given a neutral score in the appraisal.</p> <p>Option ENV 6B was considered to have a neutral effect on both improving health and wellbeing and strengthening society in the short term but becoming negative over the medium and long term. This reflects that these designations were not considered in all previous local plans, which could mean some areas would not benefit from some potential opportunities for using urban and rural landscape wedges for recreation and creation of meeting places. The option was considered to have an uncertain effect on the objective on managing material assets sustainably as these designations were not considered in all of the previous local area plans. The objective on protecting physical resources and using them sustainably has a neutral scoring in the short term but becoming negative in the medium and long term. This reflects a possible loss of green-field and semi-natural land through development. This option also had a neutral scoring for active and sustainable travel, becoming negative in the medium and long term for the objectives on encouraging active and sustainable travel,</p>				

	<p>protecting managing and using water resources sustainably, protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting conserving and enhancing the historic environment. This reflects that in the medium and long term, a lack of this option to designate urban and rural landscape wedges could lead to a deterioration or risk to achieving the aims of these objectives. Many of the other objectives were considered to not be influenced by this option and were given a neutral score in the appraisal</p> <p>Option ENV 6A was considered to be the most sustainable option.</p>
The preferred option	ENV 6A
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	Significant positive effects are envisaged for maintaining and enhancing landscape character, and protecting, conserving and enhancing built and cultural heritage.
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Local level policy measures.

Key Issue ENV7: Development within areas of flood risk (flood plains)

Options	Preferred Option ENV 7A: Adopt a precautionary approach in line with existing policy and guidance by having a presumption against development in flood plains other than in exceptional circumstances. The precautionary principle will be applied to areas which are currently subject to flood risk or in the future.				Alternative Option ENV 7B: No development in areas of flood risk (flood plains)			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	This option can help to reduce risks to public safety and any risks to the emergency services. It can help to ensure quick access to areas/people if an emergency arises. The option enables space for recreation which contributes to physical and mental health.	?	?	?	Positive for safety as no development feasible therefore no risks to people from associated accidents to flooding. Less risk of traffic related accidents. However negatives also associated with this option as the quickest routes for emergency services may be impacted upon and there may be other associated negatives for people's mental wellbeing if option means they are in some way more cut off from health services/facilities.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Option helps with shared space as a resource and enables more access for people to open space. This can help to reduce inequalities and links to enhanced shared space.	-	-	-	With this option, where no development is permitted in areas of flood risk, opportunities for appropriate recreational activities could be lost. These could contribute to strengthening society through helping employment and creating places for people to meet and share activities.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Option can encourage or promote housing in appropriate areas that will not flood and support sustainable housing in terms of long term protection from flood risk. Bit of uncertainty in the discussion of this option against this objective but overall it was deemed to be a minor positive. Option has flexibility within it for certain cases to be considered.	-	-	-	Option won't allow inappropriate housing in areas that flood but option also does not enable replacement dwellings or adaptations to houses that are already in flood risk areas. There is no flexibility with this option. Although this option would ensure safe housing in areas not prone to flooding, it could be perceived as unfair to some existing homeowners and landowners.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Schools could use areas for access or as playing fields even though the land may at times flood however there isn't a direct link between this option and the objective.	0	0	0	There is no direct link between the option and delivery of the objective.

5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Land in some areas of the Borough is prone to flooding for example near to rivers and in Portadown but there is ample employment land available and this option shouldn't stifle sustainable economic development. Option enables business to exist but in areas that would be safer for those assets which is a positive for those businesses.	-	-	-	Option would avoid inappropriate development in flood risk areas and avoid risks to businesses from flood related events. All types of business however would be affected so tourism ventures, recreational businesses and leisure related activities would all be potentially unfairly impacted upon with this option as it does not enable any flexibility within the decision making process.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Option can enable development in flood risk areas where it is considered appropriate and this could be related to material assets i.e. energy related. Renewable energies (hydro, wave, tidal) may be able to considered and mitigated for in appropriate locations and where appropriate the development of flood risk areas may be required.	-	-	-	No development is feasible under this option and so associated development to hydro, wave or tidal renewable energies couldn't be considered. Option may also impede some developments that may need to span flood risk areas. There is no flexibility with this option.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Enables some areas to be developed under certain circumstances but does not enable or promote inappropriate development of land so option would still be able to protect physical resources i.e. minerals, earth science sites, land and soil. Option does enable development which usually means the loss of land and this may be greenfield land but a sustainable approach would be adopted and mitigation remains feasible to avoid or reduce impacts on for example soil.	+	+	+	Option avoids development of land which protects it as a resource and helps to avoid soil/land erosion. Option could impede on some minerals extractions if the land is in a flood risk area but this scenario not thought to be very likely in the Borough. The impact on development of geothermal energy would need to be carefully considered under this option.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Option may enable use of suitable land for green/blue infrastructure ventures. Option enables flexibility for the consideration of land for suitable uses and this could be used to support active travel options. Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	-	-	-	May impede greenway developments and also affect other blue/green infrastructure ventures such as water related ventures i.e. CanoeNI. Option has no flexibility so even small scale associated development in flood risk areas wouldn't be feasible.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the objective.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the objective.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Option still enables protection of floodplains and peatland areas but can allow some development where it may be appropriate. The option cannot be used to enable inappropriate development and still presumes against development in flood risk areas.	+	+	+	Option protects flood plains and their function in their entirety.

11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Option protects floodplains by avoiding inappropriate development. Some development can be allowed if feasible and any risks of pollution mitigated for which enables a more sustainable approach to the management of water resources.	?	?	-	Option protects floodplains and their function but no works are feasible under this option so anything related to WWTWs, flood defences, or ecosystem services related infrastructure wouldn't be feasible. The option could be detrimental to water resource management in the long term.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Option protects floodplains and associated habitats and species. Development feasible but only in certain cases. This option delivers more for this objective	+	+	+	Option protects floodplains and associated habitats and species. Option likely to enhance protection of certain sites and priority habitats. This option delivers more for this objective.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Option able to minimise visual intrusion and help protect settlements by protecting flood risk areas from development, apart from in exceptional circumstances.	+	+	+	Protects landscape by limiting development. Helps to maintain landscape and settings. No potential to enhance it but able to protect what is currently there. This option delivers more for this objective.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Option will help to provide protection for the setting of historic environment and cultural heritage flood risk areas. Some works to conserve local history and cultural heritage related to the waterways and canals and linen heritage may be permitted, where required.	+	?	?	Option will help to provide protection for the setting of historic environment and cultural heritage flood risk areas. However some works to conserve local history and cultural heritage related to the waterways and canals and linen heritage may be precluded. Also this option may not enable conservation of historic buildings and development of related walks/trails. Long term this could add to the deterioration of certain local settings that are in flood risk areas even though they may be connected to the local historic and cultural identity i.e. linen heritage, canals etc. This option could have a negative impact on the ability to attract investment for heritage infrastructure in some cases. Long term this option could have an uncertain effect on this objective.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				<p>Option ENV 7A is considered to have a slight positive effect on the majority of objective directly through reducing risk, appropriate location of development and providing for climate change adaptation. It also has some indirect positive effects on for example natural resources and landscape by reducing development near watercourses. There was considered to be no influence on education, travel or air quality.</p> <p>Option ENV 7B, which is more restrictive on development, does support objectives for physical, natural and water resources as well as landscape. However it is considered to have a number of negative effects for example on strengthening society through reducing opportunities for recreation and enabling economic growth The</p>				

	<p>objectives on enabling access to high quality education and improving air quality were considered to not be influenced by this option.</p> <p>Option ENV 7A was considered to be the most sustainable option.</p>
The preferred option	Option ENV 7A
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Flood risk assessments, other planning policy (flooding, natural heritage), green/blue infrastructure links, sediment traps.

Key Issue ENV8. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS)

Options	Preferred Option ENV 8A: Encourage the introduction of SUDS into new developments by including favourable reference in the plan to integrating these drainage systems at the design stage. This option would make SUDS the preferred method of managing surface water drainage within any new development where feasible.			Alternative Option ENV 8B: Continue in line with the existing policy led approach in that each application will be assessed on a case by case basis.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	++	This approach can contribute to the provision of open space areas within and adjacent to development. Long term these areas could form part of green networks. Reducing the risk of flooding will mean less stress and anxiety for residents and reduce risks to health and safety during flood events.	0	-	-	The current policy led approach does not actively encourage the use of SUDS. This approach could contribute to further flooding incidents in and around development, leading to stress and possible health and safety problems for people. It also will not contribute towards a network of green spaces.
2.... strengthen society.	+	+	+	This approach can contribute to the provision of open space areas within and adjacent to development. These areas could provide places for people to meet, as a community resource. Having resources in place to reduce the risk of flooding also will reduce the risks and costs associate with flooding including in deprived communities.	0	-	-	The current policy led approach does not actively encourage the use of SUDS. This approach could contribute to further flooding incidents in and around development, which can affect those living in deprived communities severely. It also will not contribute towards a network of green spaces which could provide places to meet as a part of a wider network of spaces.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	++	++	++	This approach will play a key role in ensuring new housing developments will be safe in terms of reduced flood risk, in suitable locations. This option is considered to contribute significantly towards achieving this objective.	0	-	-	The current policy led approach does not actively encourage the use of SUDS. This approach could contribute to further flooding incidents in and around development, leading to stress and possible health and safety problems for people. It also will not contribute towards a network of green spaces.
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.	+	+	+	This option will contribute to making the council area attractive to live in and invest in long term. It will also contribute slightly to the growth of new skills needs in construction methods. Flooding events have a negative impact on people's lives including their ability to work and be productive. This option will ensure that in new developments this risk is minimised.	-	-	-	Flooding events can lead to lost trading days and higher insurance costs, and can also affect tourism activities in the council area. All of these are considered to have a negative impact on enabling sustainable economic growth.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	This approach could make derelict land more likely to be developed, and reduce the incidence of storm water flooding events which can lead to pollution and contamination of land.	-	-	-	This option could mean infrastructure coming under additional pressure or risk from flooding such as green boxes used for telecommunications delivery. This option also does nothing to reduce the likelihood of flooding events leading to pollution and possible land damage This objective is considered to have a negative effect on managing material assets sustainably.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	This option will avoid pollution of land, possible erosion and help to retain biodiversity and semi-natural land in and adjacent to development.	-	-	-	This option will continue the trend of flooding events in prone areas which could lead to damage to land through erosion and possible pollution risks although to a limited extent.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Potentially if these areas associated with Sustainable Urban Drainage were incorporated into a wider green network, they could contribute towards active travel. However, overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	There would be limited opportunity to use sustainable urban drainage infrastructure to provide linkages as part of a network of green spaces and walking and cycling routes. However, overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Each flooding event experienced has a high recovery cost, including the energy used to dry and replace items and rebuild infrastructure. This energy use has impacts on air quality in terms of local and wider afield from fuels burned. As such this option, through reducing flooding risk, has a very slight positive effect on air quality. However, overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Each flooding event experienced has a high recovery cost, including the energy used to dry and replace items and rebuild infrastructure. This energy use has impacts on air quality in terms of local and wider afield from fuels burned. As such this option, through reducing flooding risk, has a very slight negative effect on air quality. However, overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.

10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	++	++	This approach will contribute to climate change adaption by reducing additional pressure on natural and manmade water capture systems.	-	-	--	This approach will continue the pressures on natural and manmade water capture systems and as such will not help adapt to the future pressures from flooding due to climate change. This, long term may present a significant risk in terms of flooding, as a part of the effects of climate change.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	++	++	++	This option would reduce additional pressure being placed onto natural and manmade water capture systems. It could reduce the need for flood defences and avoid risk of flood. It will also work to protect water quality and protect aquatic food resources.	-	-	--	The current policy does not provide any new solutions to the problems associated with surface water flooding and pollution events that can occur as a result. This option is considered to have a slight negative effect in the short and medium term becoming significant in the long term as a lack of SUDS in new development could potentially lead to a greater frequency of surface water flooding and local water pollution from flood events.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	++	++	Using technologies and resources associated with sustainable urban drainage systems can contribute to areas of blue and green infrastructure forming part of wildlife corridors, and areas which are semi-natural and supporting biodiversity.	-	-	-	This option has the potential to lead to more surface water flooding and pollution events, which have negative effects on water quality and maintaining aquatic and riverine habitats in good condition.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Using sustainable urban drainage techniques can contribute features such as reed beds which minimise the visual intrusion of development and allow it to soften the appearance of an area of new buildings in the landscape.	0	0	0	The current policy approach does not consider landscape in the provision of drainage services.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Providing a further degree of protection from flooding can help to protect historic environment assets.	0	-	-	This option will not afford any additional protection from flooding to historic environment assets. This may become more negative over the long term.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				<p>Option ENV 8A was considered to have a significant positive impact on several objectives as it will bring a more consistent and proactive approach to promoting use of SuDS. This could have a direct benefits for the objective for water by managing the flow and quality of water and indirect benefits through, for example, provision for biodiversity and access to open space. The objectives on enabling access to high quality education, encouraging active and sustainable travel, and improving air quality were not considered to be influenced by this option.</p> <p>Option ENV 8B was considered to have a significant negative impact as it does not encourage adaptation for climate change or management of water resources. This option was thought to impede most of the indirect</p>				

	<p>benefits that were identified for ENV 8A and risk minor negative effects through for example flooding and erosion.</p> <p>Option ENV 8A was considered to be the most sustainable option</p>
The preferred option	Option ENV 8A
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	Option ENV 8A was found to have significant positive effects for the objective to improve health and well-being (in the long term) and the objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing. It was also found to have significant positive effects for the objective to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change (in the medium and long term), the objective to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably and protect and the objective to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity (in the medium and long term).
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Water pollution prevention guidelines, key site requirements, design guides, flood risk assessments, use of buffers.

Key Issue ENV9: Identification of any sensitive landscapes that may not be suited to renewable energy infrastructure.

Options	Preferred Option ENV 9A: An approach in line with existing policy on renewable energy development but in addition identify areas of sensitive landscape which may be unsuitable for particular forms of renewable energy development.			Alternative Option ENV 9B: Continue in line with the existing policy led approach in relation to renewable energy development. Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis.				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Controls are feasible to help reduce impacts on people's health and well-being i.e. noise, odours, dust and any other nuisances. Policy, guidance and conditions can all be used for this objective. It is noted that some people have a very low tolerance of renewables and in particular wind energy and these people may remain affected even when measures are in place.	0	0	0	Controls are feasible to help reduce impacts on people's health and well-being i.e. noise, odours, dust and any other nuisances. Policy, guidance and conditions can all be used for this option. It is noted that some people have a very low tolerance of renewables and in particular wind energy and these people may remain affected even when measures are in place.
2.... strengthen society.	0	0	0	Can bring groups of people together within communities to either protest against or for these developments. Can lead to resident association groups that can help to strengthen communications across the generations within the communities. Community owned/shared ownership renewable projects can also be promoted. As comments not all positive, option deemed neutral for this objective.	0	0	0	Can bring groups of people together within communities to either protest against or for these developments. Can lead to resident association groups that can help to strengthen communications across the generations within the communities. Community owned/shared ownership renewable projects can also be promoted. As comments not all positive, option deemed neutral for this objective.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the objective.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the objective.
4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	There are some links to this objective as the option enables provision of a range of job roles with potential opportunities for site visits and skills training but not enough to score the option against this objective.	0	0	0	There are some links to this objective as the option enables provision of a range of job roles with potential opportunities for site visits and skills training but not enough to score the option against this objective.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	++	++	++	By protecting the most sensitive landscapes from certain types of renewable development, a more tailored approach is applied under this option that does not inhibit economic development but also enables protection of landscape. Under this option, renewables would have to consider the	+	+	+	Option still facilitates renewables but there may be a risk of impacts on landscape even with other policies in place. Renewables can help with innovation as new technologies with new issues are being considered, developed and

				environmental and social considerations to a much greater level in some areas, which could benefit some other industries to a much greater level such as tourism, recreation and to some extent housing. Renewables can help with innovation as new technologies with new issues are being considered, developed and operated. Can also help with farm diversification schemes and increasing job roles and the employment skills base.				operated. Can also help with farm diversification schemes and increasing job roles and the employment skills base.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	++	++	++	Option may help to encourage a greater variety of renewables within the energy sector by having a tailored approach to the locations of projects and their impacts on landscape. The tailored but spatial approach may also help in guiding a more sustainable approach to the development of the electrical infrastructure to being fit-for-purpose and highlighting where the demand for connections is most evident but also feasible. Option able to deliver more on this objective.	?	?	?	Option enables renewables to be promoted and developed and can help to indicate areas of most need with regards to demand for fit-for-purpose electrical infrastructure. Case by case approach uses other policies to help reduce any impacts but may have an uncertain effect on the delivery of infrastructure in the most appropriate locations for efficient connection to the grid.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Land take occurs under this option but the tailored approach to the location of renewables may help ensure minimal land take but also lesser impacts on land of a higher biodiversity value and semi natural land. This benefit will depend on the location and size of the project. The option should still enable development of geothermal energy with appropriate mitigation. The option may encourage the use of brownfield sites or investigation of more sustainable sites. As this option allows areas to be identified that are sensitive to some kinds of renewable development, it is able to deliver more for this objective.	+	+	?	Land take occurs but with mitigation, this can be minimised and more biodiverse areas avoided. Mitigation can be applied to reduce or avoid impacts. Projects considered under this option should not inhibit geothermal energy if ever a consideration. Option takes a case by case approach so other policies can still be applied to decisions but there may be more risk of impacts on sensitive locations over time as development pressure increases and more sensitive areas remain with the same level of protection as other areas.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the objective.	0	0	0	No direct link between the option and the objective.
9.... improve air quality.	+	+	+	In theory able to improve air quality by reducing dependence on fossil fuels and reducing emissions/pollutants.	+	+	+	In theory able to improve air quality by reducing dependence on fossil fuels and reducing emissions/pollutants.

<p>10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.</p>	<p>++</p>	<p>++</p>	<p>++</p>	<p>Option enables renewables that help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions which in turn helps to combat climate change. Renewables enable less dependence on fossil fuels and a move away from carbon heavy energy sources. This tailored option may help to encourage a higher diversity of renewables as certain renewables may not be as appropriate as others in or near to some of the more sensitive areas but without this type of identification there would be a higher chance of the status quo for wind energy remaining. A diversity of renewables is needed for renewables to compete with fossil fuels. This option may be able to deliver more for this objective.</p>	<p>++</p>	<p>++</p>	<p>++</p>	<p>Option could enable development of renewable energy projects that help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions which in turn helps to combat climate change. Renewables enable less dependence on fossil fuels and a move away from carbon heavy energy sources. Wind is the dominant renewable in NI but a diversity of renewables is needed for them to be able to compete with fossil fuels.</p>
<p>11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>Renewables pose less risk of water pollution than that posed from fossil fuels due to their cleaner energy sources but mitigation/planning conditions are usually still required to help reduce any potential impacts and risks on sites. Some types of project pose more of a risk than others due to their aquatic environment (hydro/marine/tidal) but mitigation can be applied to help manage risks. This tailored approach may be able deliver more if sensitive areas are near wetlands or peatlands but now this information is not available.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>Renewables pose less risk of water pollution than that posed from fossil fuels due to their cleaner energy sources but mitigation/planning conditions are usually still required to help reduce any potential impacts and risks on sites. Some types of project pose more of a risk than others due to their aquatic environment (hydro/marine/tidal) but mitigation can be applied to help manage risks.</p>
<p>12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>Have to consider environmental impacts and developments often require statutory consultation with mitigation/planning conditions applied to help reduce any impacts on natural heritage. There is also a bit of an indirect link where appropriately located renewables that are regulated/mitigated for helps to avoid mining for fossil fuels in other countries (India, China) and helps to reduce impacts on the natural environment in those areas. This tailored option may be able to deliver more for this objective if the sensitive areas also have a higher level of biodiversity or natural heritage value but this information is not currently available.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>Have to consider environmental impacts and developments often require statutory consultation with mitigation/planning conditions applied to help reduce any impacts on natural heritage. There is also a bit of an indirect link where appropriately located renewables that are regulated/mitigated for helps to avoid mining for fossil fuels in other countries (India, China) and helps to reduce impacts on the natural environment in those areas.</p>

<p>13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.</p>	<p>++</p>	<p>++</p>	<p>++</p>	<p>Mitigation/planning conditions remain feasible to help reduce any impacts on landscape but this option also offers a more tailored approach to projects by defining areas more sensitive in terms of landscape, which means a higher level of consideration would avail in some areas as to the most appropriate renewable. This spatial approach still enables renewables but encourages appropriate renewables which should help to reduce visual intrusion. This option can deliver more for this objective.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>Other policies applicable for landscape and mitigation/planning conditions to reduce any impacts on landscape also feasible. Renewables remain facilitated whilst landscape is considered. The case by case approach and less of a spatial approach may pose more risk over time due to development pressure for renewables and difficulties in a level playing field for decisions.</p>
<p>14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>++</p>	<p>++</p>	<p>++</p>	<p>Option still enables the historic/cultural environment to be considered but with the tailored approach and more sensitive sites identified additional protection could be given to any historic environment features present in these areas. The option could help add to a sense of place and local distinctiveness but at same time still enable appropriate renewables in the right locations.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>Other policies applicable for historic environment and mitigation/planning conditions feasible to help reduce any impacts on the historic/cultural heritage. The case by case approach may pose more risk over time due to development pressure for renewables and difficulties in a level playing field for decisions.</p>
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives</p>				<p>Option ENV 9A was considered to have positive effects for all the sustainability objectives that it may contribute to with the potential for a significant positive effect on economic growth, materials assets, climate change, landscape and historic environment as it can support the renewable energy industry but also consider the needs of the local tourism sector in terms of landscape and a tailored approach will allow potential impacts on local distinctiveness to be considered in decision making.</p> <p>Option ENV 9B was also considered to have positive effects across several of the sustainability objectives and was found to have significant positive effects for the objective to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change. For three of the objectives, those to protect physical resources and use sustainably, maintain and enhance landscape character and protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources, the option was found to have positive effects in the short and medium term but becoming uncertain in the long term. This reflects the long term uncertainties around using a case-by-case approach.</p> <p>Option ENV 9A was considered to be the most sustainable option.</p>				
<p>The preferred option</p>				<p>Option ENV 9A</p>				
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?</p>				<p>The preferred option was found to have significant positive effects for the objectives to enable sustainable economic growth, manage material assets sustainably reduce the causes of and adapt to climate change,</p>				

	maintain and enhance landscape character and protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Other relevant policies such as for landscape and flooding. Mitigation measures/planning conditions – location of technologies and associated infrastructure, avoiding and buffering sensitive sites, using screening. Regulations and guidance for sites. Construction method statements/Construction Environmental Management Plans. Key site requirements. Environmental/visual impact assessments. Precautionary approach to decision making.

Key Issue ENV10: Facilitating sustainable waste management

Options	Preferred Option ENV 10A: An approach in line with existing criteria based waste management policy but tailored to meet our specific needs. In addition identify suitable locations for waste management facilities were appropriate.			Alternative Option ENV 10B: Adopt existing policy approach to waste management				
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1.... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Health and safety aspect to tailored collections as able to reduce litter, odour and other nuisances waste by providing tailored waste management practices at source. This can have a significant impact on people’s health and well-being if not done correctly. Can help to maintain local air quality with regards to odours but also vehicle emissions if able to plan efficient routes and collections that can meet demand/waste production levels. New sites can be considered in the context of adjacent land uses and sensitively located to ensure peoples’ health and well-being.	0	0	-	Current area plans do not identify sites and plans are inconsistent so an ability to meet local needs is reduced. This is likely to become more difficult over the lifetime of the plan.
2.... strengthen society.	0	0	+	Able to appropriately consider any new sites in context of existing hubs and clusters and needs of local communities that could in turn support local communities with an improved quality of life through adequate waste management provision. This may be particularly important in rural communities where services and facilities tend to be more restricted. This option could deliver more over time. This option would be supported by a change in mind-set to consider waste as a resource as a part of the circular economy. This could involve the educational and voluntary sectors, alongside social enterprise and community organisations.	0	0	-	Current area plans do not identify sites and plans are inconsistent so ability to meet local needs and provide a level playing field across Council is unlikely. This is likely to become more difficult over the lifetime of the plan. Benefits for strengthening society could be better if new sites in appropriate locations were feasible but under this option a status quo approach is promoted and no real opportunity to improve.
3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Potential for waste management facilities to develop into a more sustainable sector that could add to the quality of housing and quality of life in the area by enabling efficient and appropriate waste management facilities based also on the proximity principle but option is unable to directly deliver on the objective.	0	0	0	Current area plans do not identify sites and plans are inconsistent so ability to meet local needs and provide a level playing field across Council is unlikely. Although good waste management provision is linked to housing and a certain quality of life, this option is unable to directly deliver on this objective.

4.... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Potential for skills employment and provision of a range of roles with associated learning opportunities that could have benefits for local schools, colleges, unemployed people and so on. Addition of new sites in key locations with appropriate waste management facilities could provide more people in the local communities with more training and learning opportunities. Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.	0	0	0	Current area plans do not identify sites and plans are inconsistent so ability to meet local needs and provide a level playing field across Council is unlikely. Potential for skills employment and provision of a range of roles with associated learning opportunities that could have benefits for local schools, colleges, unemployed people and so on. Overall this option is considered to have a negligible effect on this objective.
5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	++	++	++	Aligns with the circular economy and focuses on reusing resources and investing in new types of venture that can help to stimulate and grow the economy whilst reducing use of natural resources, energy consumption and waste generation. This option helps to promote waste as a resource, which is also key to the circular economy approach. New sites and review of existing sites to align to appropriate provision of services and facilities will help to create a range of jobs and add to the local/regional employability skills base.	+	+	?	Current area plans do not identify sites and plans are inconsistent so ability to meet local needs and provide a level playing field across Council is unlikely. Option does remove waste and provides jobs whilst helping to also move society toward a circular economy by enabling and promoting recycling and composting but it is unable to identify new sites and cannot improve beyond current status quo. In the long term, the provision of waste management facilities/services may become so misaligned with local needs that it is no longer part of a sustainable economy.
6.... manage material assets sustainably.	++	++	++	Option enables waste to be viewed as a positive resource and not a by-product as it looks at appropriate waste management facilities that can reuse waste. New sites can be considered in the context of the proximity principle and therefore aimed for as close to source as feasible, which would be a sustainable approach.	-	-	-	Current area plans do not identify sites and plans are inconsistent so ability to meet local needs and provide a level playing field across Council is unlikely. Landfill is promoted in some of the legacy area plans and the waste management hierarchy is not promoted. This approach is out of date with modern waste management provisions.
7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Option enables materials to be treated near to source based on the proximity principle so option should be a more sustainable approach in terms of land use. Able to use suitable derelict/contaminated land for appropriate waste management facilities/services. There could still be some loss of greenfield land under this option but as to be considered in the context of specific needs and new suitable locations then there is less risk	-	-	-	Current area plans do not identify sites and plans are inconsistent so ability to meet local needs and provide a level playing field across Council is unlikely. Option does not enable new sites and locational criteria have not been as detailed as they could be so land as a physical resource is not being used in a sustainable manner under this option. Higher risk of losing greenfield land.
8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Proximity principle approach enables shorter journeys for employees and users of facilities but also for the vehicle routes used by the waste management service provider.	0	0	0	Current area plans do not identify sites and plans are inconsistent so ability to meet local needs and provide a level playing field across Council is unlikely. Current sites

				There is still a level of travel required by the workers, users and within the service provision and to some extent it can be planned and operated to reduce length of and number of journeys made in relation to waste management. Workers are more likely to be able to walk/cycle to work or use public transport if based on the proximity principle but option not able to deliver enough on this option to score it.				may enable walking/cycling for employees and users but transport very likely required and definitely used for operations/collections. Option does not enable new sites based on provision of appropriate facilities and the proximity principle. Option unable to directly deliver against this objective.
9.... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Option should enable shorter journeys for employees, operational vehicles and users of facilities. Able to plan more efficient routes to operate based on the proximity principle and the location of appropriate facilities for local needs. This should enable less vehicle movements and pose less risk of odours building from uncollected wastes. The option should help to maintain air quality but as transport movements are still necessary, and incineration and landfill options remain within the waste management hierarchy, it is unlikely that this option will be able to deliver on this objective enough to score it. Regulations also help to manage air pollution within the sector.	0	0	?	Current area plans do not identify sites and plans are inconsistent so ability to meet local needs and provide a level playing field across Council is unlikely. Option unlikely to be able to change behaviours much more than current status quo and as transport will remain important for the functioning of the current facilities air quality is unlikely to improve. Landfill remains an option in the waste management hierarchy under this option and is promoted in some of the older area plans and this will not improve air quality due to landfill emissions and disposal route (transport) emissions. Air quality may deteriorate depending on the future needs of hubs and clusters, changing waste streams and the planned waste collections in both frequency and route. Over time this option could deliver less for this objective.
10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	++	++	++	The option enables reduced number and length of journeys which helps to reduce emissions from transport. This approach to facilitating appropriate facilities for local needs aligned with existing policy also enables diversion of waste from landfill which helps to reduce emissions. Option promotes reusing, recycling and composting which together helps to reduce consumption of resources and to some extent energy by adding into the circular economy. Option delivers well for this objective.	+	+	+	Current area plans do not identify sites and plans are inconsistent so ability to meet local needs and provide a level playing field across Council is unlikely. Waste is managed under this option to help reduce it with recycling and composting options available but landfill remains an option too. Gas can be captured from the landfills and reused for electricity which helps to reduce emissions.
11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Alternative options to landfill are feasible under this option and options for waste streams that ultimately reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. Groundwater protected through this approach and potential for runoff into surface waters also reduced. Waste sector/landfill practices are well	+	+	+	Current area plans do not identify sites and plans are inconsistent so ability to meet local needs and provide a level playing field across Council is unlikely. Managed sites where controls are in place to help protect water quality and water as a resource. Site mitigation can be used to help

				regulated to help reduce any impacts on water. Option can identify new sites and these would be appropriately considered in the context of potential environmental impacts on water sources and avoid areas that flood or may be at risk of flooding.				reduce discharges and run off from entering the local water environment.
12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Option would enable any new sites to be chosen in the context of avoiding environmental impacts including avoiding any sensitive sites. Mitigation can still be applied to any new sites and on older sites to help mitigate impacts on local biodiversity and natural heritage. Regulations also applicable to help reduce any impacts from nuisances. Option can deliver for natural resources but maybe not enough to score it.	0	0	0	Current area plans do not identify sites and plans are inconsistent so ability to meet local needs and provide a level playing field across Council is unlikely. Mitigation such as key site requirements can be applied to help reduce any impacts on local biodiversity. Sensitive natural heritage sites should have been avoided with existing facilities.
13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Option enables new sites to be chosen but these would be in the context of modern waste management policy and in the context of both the proximity principle and adjacent land uses. The potential impact on landscape character should therefore be minimised but other policies are in place to help protect landscape character and the option unlikely to impact on it.	0	0	0	Current area plans do not identify sites and plans are inconsistent so ability to meet local needs and provide a level playing field across Council is unlikely. Other policies can be applied to help manage any impacts on landscape and protect it.
14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	Option enables new sites to be chosen but these would be aligned with modern waste management policy and the proximity principle so sites and structures unlikely to cause risk to the historic environment (features, settlements or buildings). There should be enough sites available to ensure appropriate facilities in the most efficient locations and therefore any potential impacts on the historic environment should be minimised. Other policies are in place to help protect the historic environment and mitigate risks. Option unlikely to deliver on this objective.	0	0	0	Current area plans do not identify sites and plans are inconsistent so ability to meet local needs and provide a level playing field across Council is unlikely. Other policies can be applied to help protect the historic environment.
Summary and comparison of options against the sustainability objectives				Option ENV 10A was found to have positive effects across many of the sustainability objectives. Significant positive effects were found for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth, as it will encourage a circular economy. Option ENV 10A was also considered to have significantly positive effect for the objective to manage material assets sustainably, as it will view waste as a resource allowing it to be processed according to the proximity principle. Under the objective to reduce the causes of and adapt to climate change, the appraisal found significant positive effects as there are opportunities to decrease transportation of waste, and will aim to				

	<p>reduce the degree of greenhouse gases emitted. This option was also considered to have positive effects for the objectives to improve health and well-being, strengthen society (in the long term) protect physical resources and use sustainably and protect, manage and use water resources sustainably. The option was considered to have neutral effects for the remainder of the sustainability objectives.</p> <p>Option ENV 10B was found to have positive effects for some of the sustainability objectives. It was given a positive scoring for the objectives to reduce the causes of and adapt to climate change and protect, manage and use water resources sustainably. It was also considered to have positive effects for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth in the short and medium term, becoming uncertain in the long term. The option was also considered to have negative effects for the objectives to improve health and well-being and strengthen society in the long term. This option was also considered to have negative effects for the objectives to manage material assets and protect physical resources and use sustainably across all time periods. Long term this option was considered to have uncertain effects on air quality. The option was found to have neutral effects for the remainder of the objectives.</p> <p>Option ENV 10A was considered to be the most sustainable option.</p>
The preferred option	Option ENV 10A
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?	Sustainable economic growth, material assets and climate change.
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects of the preferred option?	No significant negative effects were identified for the preferred option.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects	Regulations – noise, odour, incineration. Waste management practices and waste management hierarchy. Key site requirements – protecting natural heritage, using buffers. Planning conditions/mitigation – timing of works, biodiversity measures, native planting schemes. Environmental impact assessments. Other relevant planning policies – landscape, historic environment.



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