



Armagh City  
Banbridge  
& Craigavon  
Borough Council

Local Development Plan

# Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

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MARCH 2018

[www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk](http://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk)

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This Sustainability Appraisal Scoping 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](http://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk)

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

<b>Planning Office</b> <b>Bridgewater House</b> 23A Castlewellan Road Banbridge BT32 4AX	<b>Craigavon Civic and Conference Centre</b> 66 Lakeview Road Craigavon BT64 1AL
<b>Banbridge Civic Building</b> Downshire Road Banbridge BT32 3JY	<b>Palace Buildings</b> <b>The Palace Demesne</b> 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](mailto: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)

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## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

### Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Local Development Plan

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon 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 Council has a key role in meeting the needs of citizens who live and work in the Borough through the provision of services directly, or with other partners. The Corporate Plan, 2015-2017, has a clear aim to *“Prosper the Place, Serve the People and Strengthen our Position”*. The Vision for the Local Development Plan (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.”*

The primary aim of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS), the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) is to further sustainable development. The LDP is required to ‘take account’ of the regional policy context. Therefore it is vital that the LDP facilitates development in a manner that enables our social and economic priorities to be pursued, whilst ensuring that our built and natural environment is appropriately managed, both now and into the future.

### 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 Scoping Report is to:

- Identify other policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives of relevance to our LDP.
- Collect relevant baseline information about the environmental, social and economic conditions in the Borough, and consider how these might change in the future.
- Identify sustainability issues and challenges which could affect or be addressed by our LDP.
- Develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework, consisting of sustainability objectives and appraisal prompts which will form the basis for assessment of our LDP.
- Invite comment on the scope and method of the Sustainability Appraisal.

### Sustainability Appraisal Objectives for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

A total of fourteen social, economic and environmental topics were identified. For each topic sustainability objectives were identified by considering the wider strategic and policy context, and reviewing baseline information for our council and any evidence of trends and issues. The 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.

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# CONTENTS

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY .....	I
CONTENTS .....	V
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS .....	VII
1. INTRODUCTION .....	9
1.1 Purpose of this Scoping Report .....	9
1.2 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Local Development Plan .....	9
1.3 Sustainable Development.....	9
1.4 Strategic Environmental Assessment .....	9
1.5 Integrated Sustainability Appraisal .....	10
1.6 Stages in Sustainability Appraisal .....	10
1.7 Other Assessments .....	11
1.8 Scoping Report Structure .....	12
2. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL: THE APPROACH.....	13
2.1 Introduction .....	13
2.2 Principles .....	13
2.3 Involving Others .....	13
2.4 The Evidence Base.....	14
2.5 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework.....	14
2.6 Significant Effects .....	14
2.7 Assessment Method.....	14
2.8 Appraisal of reasonable alternatives for the Preferred Options Paper .....	15
2.9 Plan Strategy .....	16
2.10 Local Policies Plan.....	16
2.11 Cumulative Effects.....	16
3. ARMAGH CITY, BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN....	17
3.1 Context – Requirement to Prepare a Local Development Plan .....	17
3.2 Preparation.....	17
3.3 Overview of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.....	17
4. OVERVIEW OF THE BASELINE EVIDENCE .....	20
4.1 Presentation of Baseline Evidence .....	20
4.2 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies.....	21
4.3 Strategic Context .....	21
4.4 Baseline Information .....	24
4.5 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan .....	25
4.6 Key Sustainability Issues .....	25
4.7 Proposed Sustainability Objectives.....	25
5. THE EVIDENCE BASE .....	26

5.1	Health and Well-being.....	26
5.2	Community.....	40
5.3	Housing.....	51
5.4	Education and Skills.....	54
5.5	Economy and Employment .....	61
5.6	Material Assets.....	69
5.7	Physical Resources .....	74
5.8	Transport and Accessibility.....	80
5.9	Air Quality.....	85
5.10	Climate Change .....	89
5.11	Water .....	95
5.12	Natural Resources .....	106
5.13	Landscape.....	111
5.14	Historic Environment and Cultural Resources .....	114
6.	THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK.....	121
6.1	The Sustainability Objectives.....	121
6.2	Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives .....	123
6.3	Next Steps .....	123
6.4	Difficulties Encountered in Compiling the Scoping Report.....	123
	APPENDIX 1: COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT .....	124
	APPENDIX 2: SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AND RELATIONSHIP TO SEA TOPICS.....	126
	APPENDIX 3: COMPATIBILITY OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES.....	127
	APPENDIX 4: REVIEW OF POLICIES, PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES.....	128
	APPENDIX 5: SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL GUIDE FOR ARMAGH CITY, BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL PREFERRED OPTIONS PAPER.....	174
	APPENDIX 6: CONSULTATION BODY COMMENTS ON THE SCOPING REPORT TEMPLATE .....	191
	APPENDIX 7: HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT BASELINE REPORT .....	198

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAP	Area(s) of Archaeological Potential
ACBCBC	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
AoHSV	Area of High Scenic Value
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
ASAI	Area(s) of Significant Archaeological Interest
ASQ	Area of High Scenic Quality
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest
ATC	Area(s) of Townscape Character
AVC	Area(s) of Village Character
AWB	Artificial Waterbody
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
BHARNI	Built Heritage at Risk in Northern Ireland
BRES	Business Register and Employment Survey
CCC	Committee on Climate Change
COE	Council of Europe
cSAC	Candidate Special Areas of Conservation
DAERA	The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DCCAE	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
DE	The Department of Education
DEA	District Electoral Area
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
DETI	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
DfC	Department for Communities
DfE	Department for the Economy
DfI	Department for Infrastructure
DOE	Department of the Environment
DoH	Department of Health
DoJ	Department of Justice
dPFG	Draft Programme for Government
EA	Education Authority
EAPP	Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes
EC	European Commission
EO	The Executive Office
ESCR	Earth Science Conservation Site
Four Nations	Devolved Administrations and English Government (NI Lead Department indicated in brackets)
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan
GEP	Good Ecological Potential
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GHQ12	12 Item General Health Questionnaire
HED	Historic Environment Division
HMWB	Heavily Modified Waterbody
HSCB	Health and Social Care Board
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LDP	Local Development Plan
LGD	Local Government District
LLPA	Local Landscape Policy Area
NA	Not Applicable
NAP	National Adaptation Programme
NBRBD	Neagh Bann River Basin District
NCN	National Cycle Network
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NERBD	North Eastern River Basin District

NI	Northern Ireland
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
NIFRS	NI Fire and Rescue Service
NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
NINIS	Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service
NIRLCA	Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
NIW	Northern Ireland Water
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PfG	Programme for Government
PFRA	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for NI
POP	Preferred Options Paper
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
pSPA	Proposed SPA
QOF	Quality and Outcomes Framework
RBD	River Basin District
RDS	Regional Development Strategy
ROI	Republic of Ireland
ROMPs	Review of Old Mineral Permissions
RPA	Review of Public Administration
SA	Sustainability appraisal
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SAR	Standardised Admissions Rate
SCA	Smoke Control Area
SCI	Sites of Community Importance
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SFRA	Significant Flood Risk Area
SHSCT	Southern Health and Social Care Trust
SIR	Standardised Incidence Rate
SLNCI	Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
SOA	Super Output Area
SONI	System Operator for Northern Ireland
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPPS	Strategic Planning Policy Statement
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
SWaMP	Southern Waste Management Group
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
UK	United Kingdom
UK Gov.	UK Government
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WMP	Waste Management Plan
WMU	Water Management Unit
WTW	Water Treatment Works
WwTW	Waste Water Treatment Works

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Purpose of this Scoping Report

This scoping report is the first formal output of the Sustainability Appraisal process for the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Local Development Plan (LDP). It presents information about the topics being assessed under the Sustainability Appraisal, which incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment. It outlines the assessment methodology and approach for future Sustainability Appraisal reports. The Scoping Report will be updated throughout Plan preparation and will be included with all Sustainability Appraisal Reports published as part of the consultation process for the LDP.

## 1.2 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Local Development Plan

The LDP timetable was published in August 2017 and sets out indicative timeframes for the key stages in the production of the LDP. Chapter 3 describes the approach we are taking to plan preparation in more detail and provides an overview of the Borough.

## 1.3 Sustainable Development

The Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy - *'Everyone's Involved'*<sup>1</sup>, stated that sustainability policy 'is driven by intergenerational equity; to secure a quality of life for present and future generations that is positive and rewarding.'

Achieving sustainable development is a requirement set out in Provision 25 of The Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006. This requires all Departments and Councils in Northern Ireland, in exercising their functions, to act in the way they consider best calculated to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. In doing this they must have regard to any strategy or guidance relating to sustainable development published by Northern Ireland departments.

Within planning legislation, Section 5 of The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (as amended) requires those who exercise any function in relation to Local Development Plans to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development.

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

The Sustainable Development Strategy identifies 32 strategic objectives in the following Priority Areas:

- Building a dynamic, innovative economy that delivers the prosperity required to tackle disadvantage and lift communities out of poverty.
- Strengthening society so that it is more tolerant, inclusive and stable and permits positive progress in quality of life for everyone.
- Driving sustainable, long-term investment in key infrastructure to support economic and social development.
- Striking an appropriate balance between the responsible use and protection of natural resources in support of a better quality of life and a better quality environment.
- Ensuring reliable, affordable and sustainable energy provision and reducing our carbon footprint.
- Ensuring the existence of a policy environment which supports the overall advancement of sustainable development in and beyond Government.

## 1.4 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

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<sup>1</sup> NI Executive (2010) Everyone's Involved - Sustainable Development Strategy

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' ('the SEA Directive'). In Northern Ireland the SEA 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 programmes. Appendix 1 records how these regulations are being complied with.

## 1.5 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 LDPs 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'<sup>1</sup>. 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.

## 1.6 Stages in Sustainability Appraisal

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

**Table 1.6.1: Stages of Sustainability Appraisal**

Stage	Description	Location
Stage A (1) Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	Identify other relevant policies, plans, programmes and Sustainability Objectives.	Appendix 4
	Collect baseline information	Chapter 4 & 5
	Consult the Consultation Body on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.	Consulted NIEA 17/10/17, response received 15/11/17, recommendations incorporated where appropriate (refer to Appendix 6) and will be further addressed in the updated Scoping Report for Plan Strategy.
	Identify environmental issues and challenges	Chapter 5
	Develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework	Chapter 6
	Produce draft Scoping Report and share with stakeholders	Section 2.3

<sup>1</sup> DOE (2015) Development Plan Practice Note 04: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment

Stage	Description	Location
Stage A (2) Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report	Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report, assessment of reasonable alternatives against agreed Sustainability Appraisal framework and undertaking public consultation along with the Preferred Options Paper (POP).	Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report published with POP
Stage B	Assessment of alternatives and any likely significant effects on the draft plan against Sustainability Appraisal framework, taking into account the evidence base and where necessary, proposing mitigation measures for alleviating any adverse effects.	Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report published with POP
Stage C	Sustainability Appraisal Report to document the appraisal process and findings.	Not at this stage (Plan Strategy and LPP)
Stage D	Consultation with the public, environmental authorities and any EU member state affected on the Sustainability Appraisal Report and draft plan.	Not at this stage
Stage E	Sustainability Appraisal Statement to show how the Sustainability Appraisal and opinions/consultations have been taken into account, the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted and the proposed measures to monitor the plan.	Not at this stage
Stage F	Monitoring: Establishing arrangements to monitor the significant effects of the implementation of the plan, to identify unforeseen adverse effects and undertake appropriate remedial action.	Not at this stage

## 1.7 Other Assessments

### 1.7.1 Habitats Regulations Assessment

Habitats Regulations Assessment is a provision of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended). The regulations require assessment of possible adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas) as a result of plans and policies in the Local Development Plan, this is also carried out for Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance under the provisions of the Ramsar Convention). Baseline information for Habitats Regulations Assessment is included in Appendix 7 of this 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.

### 1.7.2 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 the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) provides advice on carrying it out in ‘Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing’<sup>1</sup> and ‘A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 for Public Authorities’<sup>2</sup>. Rural proofing is the process by which all major policies and strategies are assessed to determine whether they have a differential impact on rural areas. Where appropriate, adjustments are made to take account of particular rural circumstances.

This 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 will be considered in more depth. A rural proofing checklist, reflecting the ‘Rural Needs Impact Assessment Template’<sup>3</sup>, will be included in the Sustainability Appraisal for Plan Strategy.

## 1.8 Scoping Report Structure

Chapter 2 details the proposed approach to Sustainability Appraisal while Chapter 3 provides an overview of plan preparation. Chapter 4 gives an overview of the baseline information and each topic is reported on in Chapter 5 with the context, relevant baseline information, trends, key issues and the implications for the LDP. Chapter 6 presents the Sustainability Framework and outlines the next steps in the Sustainability Appraisal.

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<sup>1</sup> DAERA (2015) Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing

<sup>2</sup> DAERA (2017) A guide to the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 - May 2017

<sup>3</sup> DAERA (2017) Rural Needs Impact Assessment Template

## 2. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL: THE APPROACH

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the overall approach taken to Sustainability Appraisal throughout the LDP preparation process. Chapters 4 to 6 are the application of this approach for the Scoping Report for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council LDP.

### 2.2 Principles

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

#### *Role*

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

#### *Integrated*

Sustainability Appraisal is an essential part of the plan making process which is integral to and carried out through the whole of plan preparation and subsequent monitoring. It helps to test the effects of options and inform the selection of proposals. It will provide evidence of the decision making process and any changes brought about to ensure sustainability of the LDP.

#### *Shared Information*

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

#### *Relevant*

The Sustainability Appraisal focuses on context and data that is relevant to the plan. It will not detail issues that cannot be addressed within the remit of the LDP.

#### *Connected*

The LDP may be influenced by or have an impact on neighbouring areas. This Sustainability Appraisal considers strategies and plans beyond the Borough where there is potential for significant positive or negative effects. Neighbouring councils will be invited to comment on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report and Sustainability Appraisal Report. It is also acknowledged that the Borough has indirect connectivity with the marine environment through its river systems.

#### *Proportionate*

The Sustainability Appraisal avoids duplication therefore, for example, international strategies are not included where they have been given effect in a national or regional strategy. Where more detailed information is available in another document the essentials are included here and a link provided to that document.

#### *Up-to-date*

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

#### *Future proof*

Potential future changes within and beyond the life of the plan are considered to anticipate needs and to try to maintain opportunities for long term sustainable development.

### 2.3 Involving Others

Informal and formal consultation with stakeholders and the public is an essential part of Sustainability Appraisal, to ensure that the topics and issues have been fully considered. The first formal consultation

required on this Scoping Report is with the Consultation Body. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) acts as the lead for the Consultation Body and was consulted on the outline of this Scoping Report in October 2017. The NIEA's comments have been incorporated, where appropriate, in this report and will further inform future updates to the Scoping Report and Appraisal Reports.

Where possible, experts with general and local knowledge of all topics have been consulted to inform the technical papers and Chapter 5. Statutory consultees will be invited to comment on the Sustainability Appraisal Reports. A register of consultation responses is being maintained and will be provided in a future version of this report.

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council adjoins Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Mid Ulster District Council. It also shares a boundary with Antrim, Newtownabbey Borough Council in Lough Neagh. These councils will be invited to comment on the Preferred Options Paper and Sustainability Appraisal Reports.

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

## 2.4 The Evidence Base

The evidence base is arranged according to a number of topics and for each topic a consistent approach to reporting is followed. The approach is described in more detail in Chapter 4 and the evidence base is presented in Chapter 5.

The evidence base was prepared using all available information sources. Every effort has been made to ensure that the document refers to the most recent information available, however it is an evolving document and will be reviewed and updated at each stage of appraisal.

## 2.5 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

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

The Sustainability Appraisal Framework consists of Sustainability Objectives with prompts which are used to assess plan proposals against the baseline. All stages of plan-making will be assessed using the Framework which may be updated as further information becomes available. The Sustainability Reports to accompany the Plan Strategy will include proposed indicators for monitoring any significant effects of delivery of the LDP in relation to the Sustainability Objectives.

## 2.6 Significant Effects

The Sustainability Appraisal will assess the significant effects of options both positive and negative. There is no single definition of a significant effect, therefore assessment is a matter of judgement taking account of the extent of the effect spatially and in time.

## 2.7 Assessment Method

The key stages are Sustainability Appraisal of:

- options and reasonable alternatives for the Preferred Options Paper;
- the Plan Strategy; and

- the Local Policies Plan.

The proposed method for the appraisal of each part of the LDP follows.

## 2.8 Appraisal of reasonable alternatives for the Preferred Options Paper

In the Preferred Options Paper, strategic proposals are presented with options for delivery. The options are reasonable alternatives where these can be identified. The Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report accompanying the POP evaluates these options using the appraisal matrix shown in Table 2.8.1. The matrix includes:

The plan topic and delivery options to be assessed

A score indicating the nature of the effect for each option in the short, medium and long term with an explanation of why the score was given.

A summary comparing the options and recommending the preferred approach together with any mitigation recommended to address negative effects and measures, where appropriate, to enhance positive effects.

**Table 2.8.1: 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"> <li>▪ Summary and comparison of alternative options against the sustainability objectives.</li> <li>▪ Identification of the most sustainable option.</li> <li>▪ Identification of the preferred option.</li> <li>▪ Summary of what, if any, significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option.</li> <li>▪ Summary of mitigation measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and/or offset as fully as possible any significant adverse effects of the preferred option.</li> <li>▪ Summary of measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.</li> </ul>												

Table 2.8.2: Scores and definitions for Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

Rating		Description
++	<b>Significant Positive</b>	Policy/ proposal would greatly help to achieve the objective
+	<b>Minor Positive</b>	Policy/ proposal would slightly help to achieve the objective
0	<b>Neutral / no effect</b>	Policy/ proposal would have no overall effect
-	<b>Minor Negative</b>	Policy/ proposal would slightly conflict with the objective
--	<b>Significant Negative</b>	Policy/ proposal would greatly conflict with the objective
?	<b>Uncertain</b>	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	<b>Short Term</b>	Up to five years
MT	<b>Medium Term</b>	Five to 15 years
LT	<b>Long term</b>	Over 15 years

Key:	++ Significant positive	+ Minor positive	0 No overall effect	- Minor negative	-- Significant negative	? Uncertain
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## 2.9 Plan Strategy

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

## 2.10 Local Policies Plan

In advance of preparation of the Local Policies Plan (LPP) criteria will be developed to help guide the appraisal of sites. The proposals in the Local Policies Plan will be appraised using the Sustainability Appraisal Framework and a Sustainability Appraisal Report will be published as part of the consultation on these papers.

## 2.11 Cumulative Effects

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

### 3. ARMAGH CITY, BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

#### 3.1 Context – Requirement to Prepare a Local Development Plan

Part 2 of The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 provides for the preparation of a Local Development Plan (LDP) by a Council for its district, which will (when adopted) replace current development plans. The Local Development Plan will comprise two development plan documents.

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

The LDP should fulfil the following functions:

- provide a 15-year plan framework to support the economic and social needs of a council's district in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing for the delivery of sustainable development;
- facilitate sustainable growth by co-ordinating public and private investment to encourage development where it can be of most benefit to the well-being of the community;
- allocate sufficient land to meet society's needs;
- provide an opportunity for all stakeholders, including the public, to have a say about where and how development within their local area should take place;
- provide a plan-led framework for rational and consistent decision-making by the public, private and community sectors and those affected by development proposals; and
- deliver the spatial aspects of a council's current community plan.

#### 3.2 Preparation

The purpose of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council 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) (DRD, 2012) 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)<sup>1</sup>, the UK Marine Policy Statement and, when published, the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)<sup>2</sup> and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs)<sup>3</sup>.

#### 3.3 Overview of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

The Borough extends to an area of approximately 1,440 square km and borders adjoining council areas of Mid-Ulster; Newry, Mourne and Down; Lisburn and Castlereagh; Antrim and Newtownabbey and Monaghan County Council in the Republic of Ireland.

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<sup>1</sup> DRD (2012) Regional Development Strategy 2035

<sup>2</sup> DOE (2015) Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) Planning for Sustainable Development

<sup>3</sup> Planning NI Planning Policy Statements and Supplementary Planning Guidance

[https://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/planning\\_statements\\_and\\_supplementary\\_planning\\_guidance.htm](https://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/planning_statements_and_supplementary_planning_guidance.htm)

In 2016 the population of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council area was estimated at 210,260 (Mid-2016 Population Estimates, published 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 for Northern Ireland)<sup>1</sup>. 104,323 (49.6%) males and 105,937 (50.4%) females. This was made up of the following age groups:

- 46,804 children aged 0-15 years (22.3% of total);
- 65,612 aged 16-39 years (31.2% of total);
- 66,161 aged 40-64 years (31.5% of total); and
- 31,683 aged 65 years and older (15.0% of total).

From the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) 2014-based population projections<sup>2</sup> it is estimated that the population of the Borough is expected to grow from 208,070 in 2015 to 238,414 in 2030, which is a projected population increase of 30,344 (14.2 %). This is projected to be the largest growth in population of all 11 NI Council areas

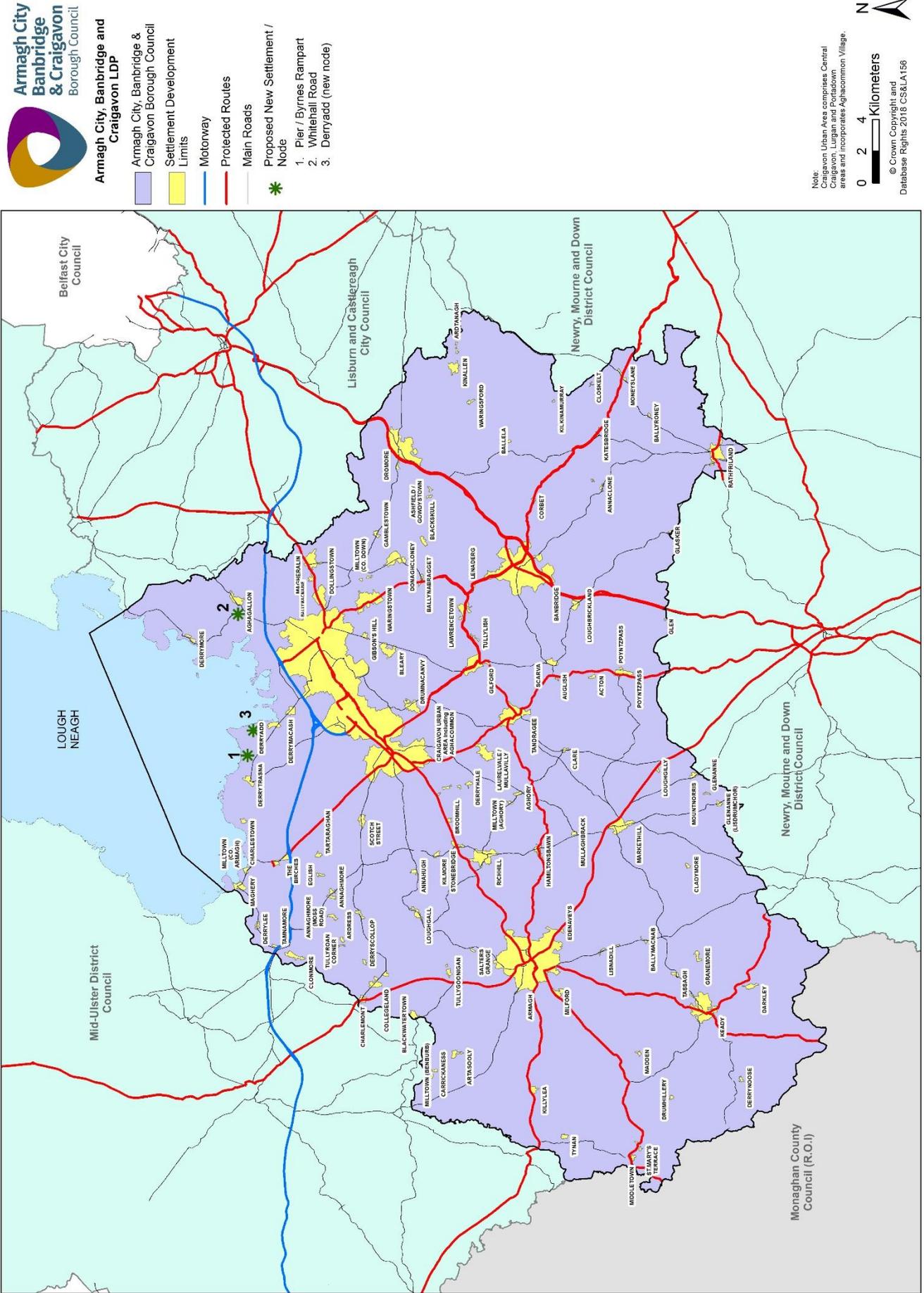
The 2011 Census data show that the Borough is made up of 75,506 households. 38,279 (50.7%) of these households are located within the Hubs of Armagh City, Banbridge Town and Craigavon Urban Area. 7,519 (10%) within local towns, 8,812 (11.7%) in villages and 20,896 (27.7) in the rural remainder (small settlements and countryside).

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<sup>1</sup> NISRA 2016 Mid Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland (Published 22 June 2017)

<sup>2</sup> NISRA 2014-based Population Projections for Areas within Northern Ireland (published 25 May 2016)

Figure 3.3.1: Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough



## 4. OVERVIEW OF THE BASELINE EVIDENCE

### 4.1 Presentation of Baseline Evidence

The baseline evidence is presented in Chapter 5 for fourteen topics which span the social, economic and environmental themes. Many topics overlap, therefore Table 4.1.1 presents an outline scope for each topic to clarify where the information is presented.

**Table 4.1.1: Scope of Sustainability Topics**

Topic	Includes
1. Health and Well-being	Health profile, physical activity, access to health care, access to open space and recreation, quiet areas and noise.
2. Community	Community identity, shared space, social inclusion, crime prevention and community safety and good relations.
3. Housing	Housing, urban capacity and settlements.
4. Education and Skills	Primary through to third level and apprenticeships.
5. Economy and Employment	Employment, economic growth, investment, tourism, industry and commerce, town centres and retailing.
6. Material Assets	Infrastructure relating to energy / heat generation and distribution, telecommunications, waste management and pipelines; derelict and contaminated land; manufactured goods; renewable energy and cemeteries.
7. Physical Resources	Earth science, minerals, land and soil (including land use) and geothermal resources.
8. Transport and Accessibility	Public, private transport, traffic and efficient movement.
9. Air	Air quality and short term changes (aspects relating to climate are covered in Climate Change).
10. Climate Change	Northern Ireland in global context of climate change; greenhouse gas emissions; current weather conditions, implications of climate change, mitigation and adaptation.
11. Water	Water quality and resources, water levels (flood risk).
12. Natural Resources	Biodiversity, fauna, flora, designated sites, green and blue infrastructure and ecosystems services.
13. Landscape	Landscape and countryside/rural area.
14. Historic Environment and Cultural Resources	Historic environment, archaeology including built heritage, industrial, townscape and cultural heritage assets.

Each topic is presented using the same structure, using the general headings listed below:

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

## 4.2 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The Sustainability Appraisal must include a review of other policies, plans, programmes and strategies that have an influence on the content of the LDP. The aims of this review are:

- to identify all external social, economic and environmental objectives which have a bearing on the Sustainability Appraisal of the LDP;
- to reflect sustainability objectives contained in regional policies and strategies;
- to identify any other sustainability issues that might influence the preparation of the plan;
- to highlight whether other policies, plans or programmes might give rise to cumulative effects when combined with the LDP.

Consideration of this context also helps ensure that the LDP will deliver obligations for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council which are within the scope of the LDP. Appendix 4 presents the strategies, policies, programmes and plans that have been considered with their key objectives and implications for the LDP. This will be updated throughout plan preparation.

## 4.3 Strategic Context

The following regional strategies are overarching and form a backdrop to the LDP. Each is introduced here and key relevant aspects are described in more detail under each topic in Chapter 5.

### 4.3.1 Regional Development Strategy

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

The RDS recognises the important role of Belfast in generating regional prosperity and that Londonderry is the focus for economic growth in the North West. It recognises that Craigavon Urban Area performs a strong sub-regional function, offering a wide range of services and facilities, including an acute hospital. However, to ensure all areas benefit from economic growth, it also reflects the Programme for Government approach of balanced sub-regional growth and recognises the importance of key settlements as centres for growth and prosperity. The RDS has a statutory basis, is material to decisions on individual planning applications and appeals, and Councils must take account of the RDS when drawing up their LDPs.

### 4.3.2 Strategic Planning Policy Statement

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

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

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

The latter part of the SPPS contains 72 regional strategic objectives across 16 subject areas, in addition to the introduction of new policy for retailing.

### 4.3.3 Sustainable Development Strategy

The Sustainable Development Strategy identifies 32 strategic objectives in the following Priority Areas:

- Building a dynamic, innovative economy that delivers the prosperity required to tackle disadvantage and lift communities out of poverty.
- Strengthening society so that it is more tolerant, inclusive and stable and permits positive progress in quality of life for everyone.
- Driving sustainable, long-term investment in key infrastructure to support economic and social development.
- Striking an appropriate balance between the responsible use and protection of natural resources in support of a better quality of life and a better quality environment.
- Ensuring reliable, affordable and sustainable energy provision and reducing our carbon footprint.
- Ensuring the existence of a policy environment which supports the overall advancement of sustainable development in and beyond Government.

The strategic objectives that are key are highlighted under the relevant topic.

### 4.3.4 Draft Programme for Government

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

The draft PfG contains 14 Strategic Outcomes supported by 48 Indicators. The outcomes touch on every aspect of government including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and confident and peaceful communities. The outcomes are intended to meet statutory obligations and to make real improvements to the quality of life of citizens.

While efforts continue to restore the institutions of Government, Departments continue to act, operating within the adjusted indicative departmental financial allocations announced to Parliament by the Secretary of State, in line with the direction set by previous Ministers and the Executive in their draft Programme for Government.

### 4.3.5 UK Marine Policy Statement and Marine Plan for Northern Ireland

The UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS), the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 provide the policy and legislative framework for the management of the marine area in Northern Ireland. The UK vision for the marine environment, set out in the MPS, is the attainment of 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas'.

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 is a UK-wide Act which includes a number of provisions for the management of the UK's marine area. For Northern Ireland, key provisions within this Act include a licensing system for management of development within the marine area from the mean high water spring tide out to 12 nautical miles (the inshore region).

The Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 includes duties to protect and enhance the marine area. This includes provisions to prepare and adopt a Marine Plan for the Northern Ireland inshore region; and provision to improve marine conservation and protection. A Marine Plan for Northern Ireland is in preparation. It will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of the marine area through a strategic framework with spatial elements.

Section 58 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA) and Section 8 of the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, require a public authority to have regard to the appropriate marine policy documents. For all Public Authorities, this means that currently, for example, in the preparation of Local Development Plans and all associated documents, Public Authorities, are legislatively required to have regard to the UK Marine Policy Statement (UK MPS).

#### 4.3.6 Community Planning

Community Planning is a process whereby councils, statutory bodies and the community work together to develop and implement a shared vision for promoting the well-being of their area and pave the way for the most efficient use of scarce resources. It involves everyone working together to make life better for local people and deliver real improvements. It means planning ahead to improve the big issues that matter to people like health, education, employment, safety and the environment.

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council's Community Plan, entitled '*Connected*,' sets out the future direction of the Borough and aims to shape the areas in which people live, work and visit from now until 2030.

The Council has led on the community planning process for the Borough and has worked collaboratively with a wide range of partners and residents including representatives from statutory, business, education, health, community and voluntary sectors to develop our first plan. As partners we are all committed to our Vision for the Borough:

*'We have a happy, healthy and connected community, a vibrant and sustainable economy and appealing places for living, working and learning.'*

It is our aim to deliver on this vision through ongoing collaboration, review, development and delivery of more integrated people centred public services. To help us achieve this we have agreed nine joint long-term outcomes:

**Confident Community** - Everyone has opportunities to engage in community life and shape decisions - we have a strong sense of community belonging and take pride in our area.

**Healthy Community** - People are making positive lifestyle choices. They are more resilient and better equipped to cope with life's challenges.

**Welcoming Community** - The Borough is a safe, respectful and peaceful environment.

**Enterprising Economy** - The Borough is a centre of excellence for entrepreneurship, innovation and investment.

**Skilled Economy** - People are better equipped to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by our dynamic economy.

**Tourism Economy** - The Borough is the destination of choice for international visitors.

**Creative Place** - The Borough is an inspirational and creative place offering quality, inclusive arts and cultural experiences.

**Enhanced Place** - Our rich and varied built heritage and natural assets are protected, enhanced and expanded for current and future generations to enjoy.

**Revitalised Place** - Our distinctive and vibrant urban and rural areas are at the heart of community and economic life.

#### 4.3.7 Corporate Plan

Our current Corporate Plan 2015 - 2017 has three Corporate Priorities on which our efforts and resources are focussed:

**Place** - increasing prosperity through developing the economy, employment, connectivity and environment

**People** - improving everyone's quality of life, opportunity, safety and well-being

**Position** - giving the leadership to tackle the issues that matter and influencing decision makers at all levels.

#### 4.3.8 Masterplans and Regeneration

Town Centre Masterplans are non-statutory documents which focus on regeneration and public realm improvements. They set out a vision for a particular town centre and identify key proposals for realising that vision over a set period of time. Recent examples of masterplans for the Borough are:

- Armagh City Centre Masterplan
- Banbridge Town Centre Masterplan
- Craigavon Integrated Development Framework (includes guidance on the development of Central Craigavon, Lurgan and Portadown Town Centres)
- Dromore Town Centre Masterplan

Non-statutory Village Plans have also been prepared for various settlements throughout the Borough to encourage village renewal and development.

#### 4.4 Baseline Information

A desk-based review has been undertaken to identify baseline conditions in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon. Each sustainability topic is presented in Chapter 5 with a review of relevant current information available. Where it has not been possible to provide Council specific information, information for Northern Ireland has been used and where there are critical data gaps these are identified.

Information sources include data collected for our LDP preparatory papers and for the preparation and monitoring of the Community Plan found at:

<https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/developing-our-plan/>

The Community Plan was developed with engagement through six thematic working groups:

- Health and Well-being
- Communities
- Physical and Environmental Regeneration
- Competition/Education and Employment Skills
- Infrastructure, Energy and Transport
- Tourism, Arts and Culture

In 2015 a NISRA statistician was procured to provide a comprehensive baseline statistical report for the Borough. The reports provide a robust overview of the demography of the area as well as key statistics, grouped under each of the thematic working groups.

The baseline topics for the Sustainability Appraisal have a wider scope than the LDP evidence gathering requirements. Data sources in 'Local Development Plans: DAERA Environmental Evidence and Information'<sup>1</sup> have been referred to as well as the 'Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report'<sup>2</sup>.

In addition to the LDP and Community Plan evidence, we have used evidence presented on the NISRA website. NISRA is the principal source of official statistics and social research on Northern Ireland. Much data at Council or sub-Council level was sourced from the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) website. NINIS is a sub-section of NISRA. It aims to make small area information held within Central Government and Non-Departmental Public Bodies available to as wide an audience as possible. The NINIS website contains datasets on a range of socio-economic themes at small-area statistical geographies.

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<sup>1</sup> DAERA (2017) Local Development Plans: DAERA Environmental Evidence and Information

<sup>2</sup> DAERA (2017) Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2017

## 4.5 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

This section highlights trends in the baseline information and describes how the baseline might evolve without the LDP. This also helps identify key issues for each topic and identifies potential sustainability problems or opportunities that could be addressed through the LDP.

Our Borough was included within four previous Area Plans and one Town Centre Plan prior to April 2015:

- Armagh Area Plan (AAP) 2004 & AAP 2004 Alteration No. 1 :Armagh Countryside Proposals
- Craigavon Area Plan (CAP) 2010
- Craigavon Town Centre Boundaries and Retail Designation Plan (CTC BRDP) 2010
- Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan (BNMAP) 2015
- Dungannon & South Tyrone Area Plan (DSTAP) 2010

These Plans have been prepared across a broad timescale and do not reflect the new Council, nor our Community Plan, *'Connected'*.

## 4.6 Key Sustainability Issues

Drawing on the policies, plans, programmes and strategies review, the baseline information and the likely evolution of the baseline without the LDP, Key Sustainability Issues are set out for each topic. These reflect the local area and are mainly ones that are relevant to and may be influenced by the LDP. These Key Sustainability Issues will also identify the potential for cumulative effects which should be considered in preparation of the LDP.

## 4.7 Proposed Sustainability Objectives

The key sustainability issues inform the sustainability objectives. These are presented in Chapter 6 with a short rationale and description of what each objective seeks to achieve. There are several overlaps between objectives which support each other.

## 5. THE EVIDENCE BASE

### 5.1 Health and Well-being

#### 5.1.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

This topic considers the health profile for the Borough, needs for and access to health care, physical activity and the effects of noise. It overlaps with most other topics, for example where they shape the environment in which we live, interactions with others and opportunities for employment and education. It also overlaps with the natural heritage topic which considers open space.

The common thread of relevant policies is that actions should improve the outcomes for everyone's mental and physical health and well-being. Policy measures seek to prolong healthy life and reduce preventable deaths. Contributors to this include improving health in pregnancy and improving mental health, which can have long term effects on healthy life. They also acknowledge that the health conditions of those who are most deprived are significantly worse. Consequently, programmes have been developed such as 'Delivering Social Change', an Executive programme that seeks to reduce inequalities. Northern Ireland health-related strategies are supportive of international strategies and the Sustainable Development Strategy.

Part of supporting good health is encouraging physical activity. There are several strategies and initiatives for this purpose including 'Sport Matters', 'A Fitter Future for All', the 'Outdoor Recreation Action Plan', and 'Exercise, Explore, Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways'. These include creating the environment and specific facilities to encourage increased physical activity, including active transport.

The 'Transforming your Care: Strategic Implementation Plan' and the 'Southern Health and Social Care Trust Population Plan' inform infrastructure requirements for health care. 'Making Life Better' is a ten-year strategic framework for public health launched in 2014. It provides direction for policies and actions to improve the health and well-being of the people of Northern Ireland and reduce inequalities in health. Outcome 12 of this framework 'Making the Most of the Physical Environment' is highly relevant to the LDP. Actions can be grouped into the following general themes:

- To improve and maintain the environment in terms of air quality, water quality, waste management and environmental noise;
- To enhance the capacity of our physical infrastructure to protect, support and provide access to healthy and active living and well-being through, for example, creating environments that promote social interaction and mental well-being, are safe for all ages and incentivise physical activity.

The SPPS reflects this, in particular through six regional strategic objectives that require provision of and accessibility for all to open space with high standards of design.

The Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 locally implement the European Noise Directive (END), the aim of which is to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, of exposure to environmental noise. The Regulations apply to noise from major road, railway, airport and industrial sources. These existing sources are not subject to planning control, but may be considered in the context of proposed development which could be affected by environmental noise. A range of legislation is in place to establish permitted noise levels and manage noise emissions from domestic, industrial and commercial sources. The 2014 Noise Policy Statement for Northern Ireland provides clarity on current noise policies and practices.

One of the three priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2017 is 'People' with the objective of 'improving everyone's quality of life, opportunity, safety and well-being.' The Plan's well-being priorities are to:

- Promote well-being and reduce health inequalities;
- Support people to be safe, healthy and productive;

- Encourage active citizenship and volunteering;
- Facilitate healthy lifestyle choices; and
- Encourage recreational use of shared open spaces.

One of the three themes of ‘*Connected*’, our Community Plan 2017-2030, is a ‘Healthy Community,’ through which it hopes to achieve the following short-term outcomes:

- People have a greater understanding of the benefits of adopting healthy lifestyle choices and how to protect, manage and improve their physical health;
- People feel more comfortable talking about mental health and understand the importance of achieving emotional well-being and positive mental health throughout their lifetime; and
- The adoption of a more collaborative approach, centred on community knowledge, skills and resources has increased our understanding of health in disadvantaged populations to focus our resources where they are most needed.

These priorities will be delivered through: programmes and projects in partnership with other agencies and the wider community; implementing the Council’s environmental health enforcement duties and public awareness raising; enabling access to leisure facilities and the outdoors through placement of access paths, signage, trails and interpretation information; and developing and implementing existing anti-poverty and health and well-being strategies.

### 5.1.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Community Planning (CP) Baseline Report for Health and Well-being. Data has also been sourced from the Community Plan and Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Paper 1: ‘Population & Growth’; Paper 9: ‘Health, Education and Community Uses’ and Paper 10: ‘Open Space, Recreation & Leisure’. The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is the principal source of official statistics and social research on Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Inequalities Monitoring System (HSCIMS) enables the examination of health inequalities within sub-regions of Northern Ireland and includes a comparison between the average and the most deprived areas in each geographical area. This topic overlaps with the Community, Housing, Transport and Accessibility, Air Quality, Climate Change, Water and Natural Resources topics.

#### Overview

In addition to providing high quality opportunities for physical activity and sports participation through the public, private and voluntary sectors, the area delivers quality healthcare provision for residents through the Craigavon Area Hospital, Lurgan hospital, Armagh Community Hospital and St Luke’s Hospital, Armagh.

Of 41 health indicators analysed at regional level by the Information Analysis Directorate, the Borough has health outcomes better than the NI average for 17 indicators, similar to the average for 22 indicators and only two indicators where health outcomes are worse than the NI average.

#### Population profile

The future population profile is relevant as it informs health care needs. The most recent population projections published by NISRA are based on population data from 2014<sup>1</sup>. These show that by 2030 the population of the Borough is projected to have increased from its 2014 level by 15.9% or 32,700 people—almost double the rate of population increase projected for NI as a whole (7.6% increase). As with NI as a whole, the Borough has both a growing and an ageing population. The Health and Well-being CP Baseline Report notes that in addition to above average increases in the number of children in the Borough over the LDP period, there will be significant increases (+8,331, 62%) in the population of the Borough aged over 65 and within that the number of persons aged 85 and over is expected to double to

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<sup>1</sup> NISRA 2014-based Population Projections for Areas within Northern Ireland (Date published: 25 May 2016)

around 7,000 individuals by mid-2030. This growth of the older age groups will increase the requirement for late and end-of-life care.

Live birth rate data for the new LGD boundaries is only available for the years 2008-2015. These figures have shown a decrease in the birth rate for Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council from around 3,100 per year to 2,950 per year through this period. Data from the preceding separate Council areas is available from 1974. Combined figures for the three legacy Councils show that the live birth rate has had a generally increasing trend since 1975, when it was around 2,500. A dip in birth rate occurred around the year 2000, where the rate dropped to around 2,300, before peaking at almost 3,150 in 2010. Teenage birth rates in are lower than average in ACBCBC at 1.92 per 1000 for under 17s (*NI 2.02*) and 11.51 per 1000 for under 20s (*NI 11.58*). However the <17 birth rate is 102% higher and the <20 rate 82% higher in the most deprived area than the average for ACBCBC. This is a high inequality gap which has fluctuated significantly (up to 20%) in the past 10 years.

### *Life expectancy*

The life expectancy at birth in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon is similar to NI overall. Males born in ACBCBC are expected to live 78.6 years (*NI 78.1*) and female 82.8 years (*NI 82.4*) in 2011-2013. As discussed in the Health and Well-being CP Baseline Report, average life expectancy in ACBCBC has increased over the decade 2001-2003 to 2011-2013 by 2.7 years for males and 2.1 years for females. However, within ACBCBC male life expectancy at birth in the most deprived District Electoral Area (DEA) is 3.3 years lower than the average and 1.0 year lower than average for females.

Healthy life expectancy for males in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust for 2010-2012 was 58.9 years, and 61.6 years for females. Disability-free life expectancy for males in the Southern HSCT for 2010-2012 was 61.1 years, and 61.7 years for females, again similar to the NI average of 60.2 years for males and 60.8 years for females.

### *Causes of Death*

The three main causes of deaths in the Borough in 2014 were cancers (30%), circulatory diseases (26%), and respiratory disease (11%) which combined accounted for 68% of all deaths.

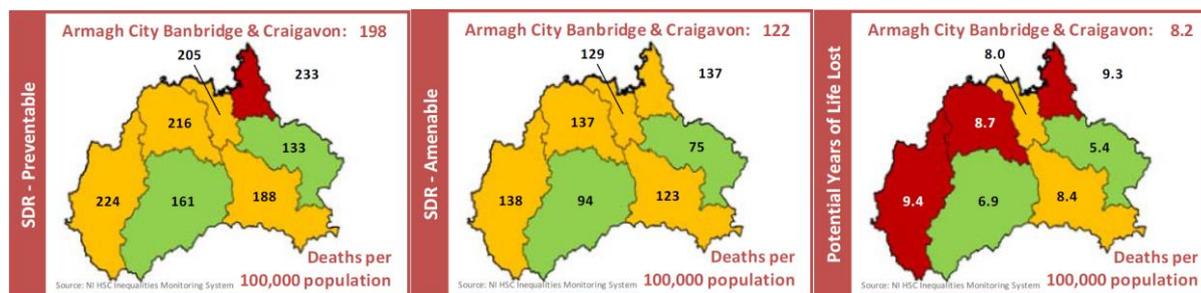
Standardised Death Rate (SDR) due to Preventable Causes is used as one of the indicators of health inequality. The SDR is calculated by standardising the average death rate over a five year period, the most recently published being 2000-14. 'Preventable Causes' are causes of death considered to be preventable by broad public health interventions. The 2010-2014 SDR due to Preventable Causes in ACBCBC (198) was around 6% lower than the NI average (211) and the overall rate is improving. However the most deprived DEA had a SDR for Preventable Causes of 311, 57% more than the average for ACBCBC. This % gap in inequality has remained largely unchanged over the past 10 years<sup>1</sup>. The SDR due to Amenable Causes (causes of death considered to be amenable to medical intervention) was 8% lower in ACBCBC (122) than the NI average (132), but the gap between the most deprived DEA (187) and the average for the Borough was 53% and has remained at a steady level for 10 years. More detailed statistics on potentially avoidable deaths are in the CP Baseline Report.

The Health Inequalities Sub-Regional Report also publishes 'Potential Years of Life Lost' (PYLL) – This is a summary measure of premature mortality which provides an explicit way of weighting deaths occurring at younger ages due to preventable or amenable causes. In ACBCBC for 2010-2014 this was 8.2 years lost per 100 persons, 4% lower than the NI average (8.5 years) and the rate has been improving over the past 10 years. However the figure for the most deprived DEA in ACBCBC was 12.3 years, a difference of 49%. This inequality gap is shown in the report to have fluctuated over the past ten years.

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<sup>1</sup> Information Analysis Directorate Health Inequalities Sub-Regional Report 2017

Figure 5.1.1: SDR due to Preventable and Amenable Causes and Potential Years of Life Lost for ACBCBC District Electoral Areas



DEA **better than**, **similar to** or **worse than** the Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council average.

Source: Information Analysis Directorate Health Inequalities Sub-Regional Report 2017

The CP Baseline Report notes that in 2014 ACBCBC had the second highest number of alcohol-related deaths (20) after Belfast.

### Admission Rates

Between 2009/10 and 2014/15 the overall Standardised Admission Rate (SAR) for all hospital admissions in ACBCBC decreased by 1.9% from 23,939 to 23,476 (NI 24,940). The 2014/15 rate was third lowest of all LGDs. The Health Inequalities Sub-Regional Report 2017 records the SAR for the most deprived DEA as being 26,721, 14% higher than average, an inequality gap that has shown a widening trend. This report also shows that although the average SAR for respiratory disorders in ACBCBC was 11% lower than for NI, it was 31% higher than the Borough's average in the most deprived DEA. These data show that not only has the overall SAR increased in both the LGD and NI over the past 10 years, but within ACBCBC the inequality gap has widened significantly by 16-17% over the same period. The SAR for circulatory disorders is 2% lower in ACBCBC than for NI. This rate has remained stable since 2006 and has lower inequality gap of 10%.

The SAR from Drugs Related Causes in 2010-14 was 6% higher than the NI average, with a very high inequality gap of 98%. For Alcohol Related causes the SAR was 16% lower than the NI average but the inequality gap within the Borough is very high at 97%. Admissions due to Self-Harm were 8% higher than the NI average and again saw a very large inequality gap of 102% between the most deprived DEA and the average for ACBCBC. Self-Harm admission rates were also around 25% higher for men than for women.

The SIR (Standardised Incidence Rate) for cancer is broadly equal in ACBCBC (594) and NI (592). This rate has shown an increasing trend in both ACBCBC and NI. The SIR in the most deprived DEA in ACBCBC is 653, 10% higher than average. This inequality gap has shown an increasing trend over the past 10 years.

### Physical Health

A person is described as having a limiting long term health problem if they have a health problem or disability that limits their daily activities and which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months. Results from the 2011 Census are published in the Health and Well-being CP Baseline Report.

Four fifths of people in the Borough reported themselves as having 'good' or 'very good' general health, with the highest proportions of 'good' health in Lagan River DEA and lowest proportions in Lurgan and Portadown DEAs.

One fifth (20%) of people (or 39,861 individuals) in ACBCBC had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities, similar to NI at 21%. Within ACBCBC, Lurgan and Portadown DEAs had slightly higher levels (22%), compared to Lagan River which had lower levels (16%). The most common conditions reported by residents were 'A mobility or dexterity difficulty' (11%), followed by 'Long-term pain or discomfort' (10%) then 'shortness of breath or difficulty breathing' (8%). These were generally the same as levels for NI overall. Similar proportions were seen in each of the seven DEAs.

The Health and Well-being CP Baseline Report also notes that the most common disease in ACBCBC in 2015 was hypertension, followed by obesity, asthma and diabetes. In ACBCBC the rate of prevalence of all diseases recognised through the DHSSPS Quality and Outcomes Framework was lower than the NI average for all diseases except cancer.

The prevalence for dementia at 6.12 per 1000 patients is lower than average (NI 7.03), however it has seen a steady increase in the past three years for which data at LGD level is available. 2017 figures show 1,330 patients in ACBCBC on the dementia register. This disease, along with osteoporosis, may see further increases associated with an ageing population.

In 2015 ACBCBC had the second highest Standardised Dental Registration Ratio of all LGDs.

### *Providing Care*

At the 2011 census, 11.57% of residents in ACBCBC (NI 11.81%) stated that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others in association with a long term physical or mental health problem, or old age. Maps in the CP Population and Growth Discussion Paper show that higher proportions of caregivers are found in the Bann Valley and North East. At February 2016, there were 22,250 people claiming Disability Living Allowance, 5,790 claiming Attendance Allowance and 7,520 people claiming Carer's Allowance in ACBCBC. This information is helpful in assessing the distribution of services and facilities and the future needs of the less able bodied, particularly those on lower incomes.

### *Physical Activity*

The Health and Well-being CP Baseline Report has collated available data on physical activity and sport participation for the Health Trust areas and LGDs, commencing on page 15. The data includes information from the Health Survey 2013/14, which recorded slightly lower levels of physical activity within the Southern Trust (which covers the geographical area of ACBCBC) than in NI overall. This study recorded that a third (32%) of respondents in the Southern Trust were 'inactive' (NI 28%) while only around half (51%) met the Chief Medical Officer's minimum recommended levels of physical activity (NI 53%). The CP Baseline report also identifies that in a 2010 survey conducted by Sport NI, the most popular sports in ACBCBC were fitness club activities, walking, jogging and swimming. Participation in sport was lower for those with lower educational attainment, those aged 50+ and people with disabilities. In ACBCBC, 65% of adults were satisfied with sports provision in their local area, compared to 62% of adults in NI overall.

The CP Baseline Report also includes excerpts from 2015 research carried out by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL). This research found that a higher proportion of males (63%) than females (47%) had taken part in at least one sport in the previous year. 50% of adults in NI had participated in walking for recreation in the previous year, 22% in swimming or diving, 16% in keep-fit, aerobics, dance or yoga, 15% in jogging and 15% in cycling for recreation. The proportion of adults who participated in sport or walked for recreation had increased, year on year, over the previous four years.

The *Health Survey NI 2013/14* found that across NI the level of activity correlates with levels of deprivation, with 37% of the most deprived respondents getting less than 30 minutes exercise a week compared to 22% for the least deprived quartile. Little difference in activity levels was noted between urban and rural dwellers.

The *Continuous Household Survey 2014-15*<sup>1</sup> also surveyed households on the frequency of leisure time spent outdoors. This survey found that 61% of residents of ACBCBC spend leisure time outdoors more than once a week, the third lowest value of all Councils (NI 65%). Eleven percent of respondents said that they never spend any leisure time outdoors, equal to the NI average.

There are many sports grounds, parks and open spaces, footpaths and cycle routes, and other recreational assets in the Borough, including many of its tourism assets. Opportunities also exist in the Borough for water-based sports such as canoeing, boating, water-skiing, kayaking and jet-skiing. These

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<sup>1</sup> NISRA Continuous Household Survey 2014-15

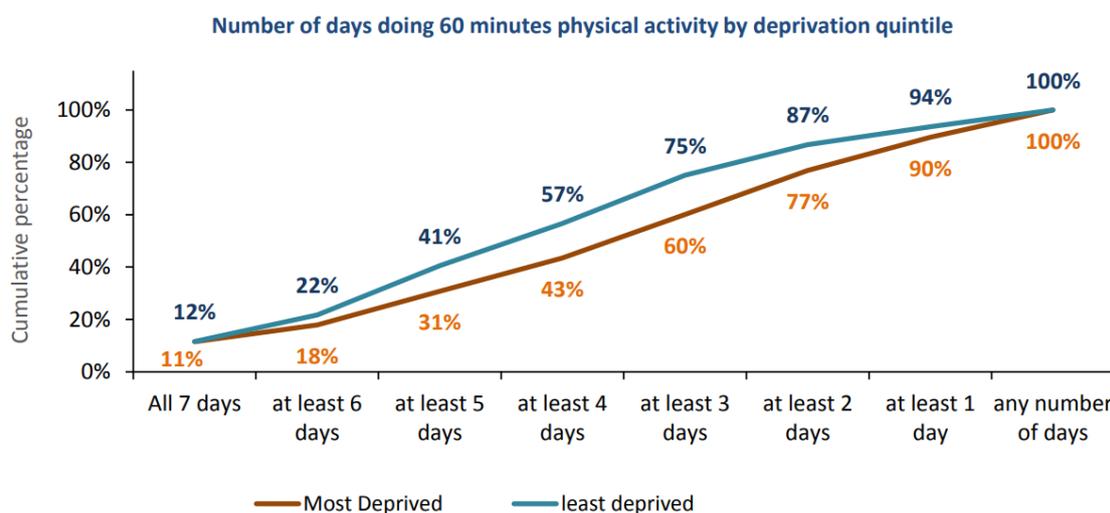
are referred to in the Natural Environment and Transport and Accessibility parts of this report and in Discussion Paper 10: 'Open Space, Recreation & Leisure'. Green-blue infrastructure is further discussed in Section 5.8.

### Children and Physical Activity

ARK (Access Research Knowledge - a joint initiative between Queens University and the University of Ulster) carries out an annual survey of P7-aged children and 16 year olds in NI. Commencing in 2015, ARK has been commissioned by Sport NI to include questions on sport and physical activity in the surveys, to provide a baseline and allow policy progress to be measured<sup>1,2</sup>.

The surveys found that around half (49%) of P7 children and four out of ten 42% 16 year olds reported that they walked or cycled to and from school. However only a third (32%) of P7 children and less than one in ten (8%) 16-year olds met the United Kingdom (UK) guideline target of a minimum 60 minutes of physical activity per day. Large proportions of children are therefore are not engaging regularly in physical activity. One in ten children felt they could not play freely with their friends in their community and children reported being able to play more freely with friends in school (84%), compared with being able to play with friends when in their communities or homes (77%). Children reported feeling safer when playing in school (89%), compared with feeling safe when playing in their communities or homes (73%). This reflects the findings of several UK studies<sup>3</sup> which found, among other things, that a fifth of children did not play outside at all on an average day and less than one in ten children regularly played in wild spaces compared to half of children a generation ago.

Figure 5.1.2: 5-18 year olds participating in physical activity by deprivation quintile (NI)



Source: Information Analysis Directorate's Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitude Survey 2016 (Health Modules) p20.

The Information Analysis Directorate's Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitude Survey 2016 (Health Modules) found that 8% of children and young people aged 5-18 do not achieve 60 minutes of moderate physical activity even one day a week. As shown in Figure 5.1.2 the survey also found that although the number of children achieving 7 days of physical exercise is similar between the most deprived and least deprived quintiles, there are a quarter fewer from the most deprived areas achieving 4 days or more (43%) compared with the least deprived (57%). Boys (17%) are twice as likely as girls (8%) to achieve 60 minutes every day.

<sup>1</sup> Schubotz, D., Lloyd, K. & McKnight, M. (2016) 'A Question of Sport - Perspectives of Children and Young People' ARK Research Update 107.

<sup>2</sup> McQuade, L., Kehoe, S. & Emerson, L. (2015) 'Are children getting the opportunities to realise their right to play?' ARK Research Update 98

<sup>3</sup> The Guardian, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2016 'Three-quarters of UK children spend less time outdoors than prison inmates – survey' (accessed 28.11.17)

### *Infant and Child Health*

Infant mortality rates within the Borough (2009-2013) were slightly better than average at 4.5 per 1,000 (NI: 4.7) but worse in 2010-14 (5.02, NI 4.63). The rate of infant mortality in NI is higher than in the rest of the UK and in 2014 and 2015 was one of the highest rates in Europe. The State of Child Health Report 2017<sup>1</sup> found that breastfeeding levels in NI remain the lowest in the UK, with less than 28 per cent of babies receiving breastmilk at 6 weeks. The report also highlights that in the UK, socio-economic status is strongly associated with infant mortality, with increasing risk associated with higher levels of maternal deprivation. There is a higher incidence of poor ante-natal health among expectant mothers in deprived areas, with smoking in pregnancy linked to low birth weights. Conditions related to preterm birth are the most common causes of death in infancy. Deprivation is also linked with higher rates of avoidable deaths in infants such as poisoning, blind cord-related fatalities, drownings and infant co-sleeping deaths.

The death rate in NI for older children aged 10-19 is also higher at 26.2 per 100,000 population than in England and Wales (16.7 per 100,000). Suicide, injuries /violence and road traffic deaths are among the main causes of death in teenagers with the risk of dying for young men is notably higher than for young women. Deprivation and mental health problems were noted to increase the risk of death throughout adolescence.

### *Diet*

Health Survey Northern Ireland data<sup>2</sup> suggests that overall trends in diet have remained fairly consistent for the period 2010 to 2016 and that foods high in sugar and/or fat remain popular. For example 51% of respondents eat biscuits, 29% have sugary fizzy drinks and 28% eat confectionery on most days of the week.

The consumption of processed meats and foods high in sugar and/or fat is linked to deprivation, with greater proportions of persons living in the most deprived quintiles consuming processed meat, chips/roast potatoes, confectionery, sugary fizzy drinks and savoury snacks on most days of the week than those in the least deprived quintiles. The consumption of fruit and vegetables on most days of the week is also linked with deprivation, with the least deprived areas having a greater proportion of persons consuming fruit and vegetable on most days of the week. Only 33% of respondents in the most deprived quintile met the recommended '5 a day' guideline for fruit and vegetables compared with 48% in the least deprived quintile.

### *Obesity*

The Health and Well-being CP Baseline Report includes selected information on obesity at NI and Health and Social Care Trust level. In 2014/15 in NI a quarter of adults (25%) were obese with a further 35% classed as overweight. The proportion of adults classed as overweight or obese (60%) has remained relatively constant since 2005/06. Males and those in older age groups were more likely to be obese. Levels in the Southern HSCT (59% overweight or obese) were similar to NI.

NISRA has published 'Childhood BMI' data under its 'Health of the Population' subset (Figure 5.1.3). This figure shows the proportion of children who are classified as overweight or obese according to their BMI, extracted from the Child Health System (CHS) for the 3-Year Aggregate Grouped Years (School Year): 2010/11-2012/13. This data shows that in P1, a fifth (20.8%) of all children in ACBCBC had a BMI in the 'overweight or obese' range (NI 21.4%) and 5.4% had a BMI in the 'obese' range (NI 5.1%).

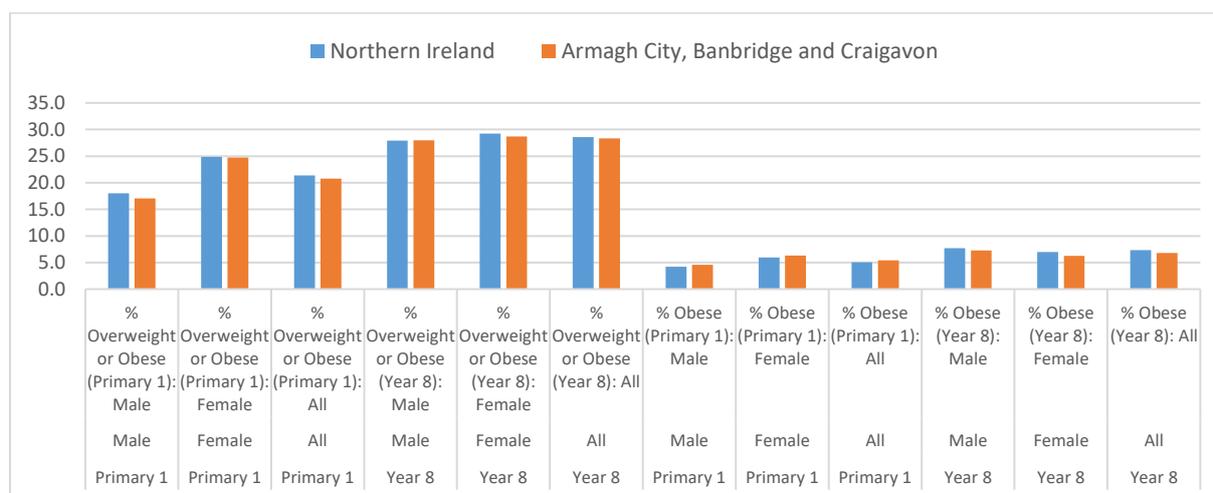
In Year 8, 28.3% of all children in ACBCBC had a BMI in the 'overweight or obese' range (NI 28.6%), of which 6.8% had a BMI in the 'obese' range (NI 7.3%).

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<sup>1</sup> Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (2017) State of Child Health

<sup>2</sup> Health Survey Northern Ireland: First Results 2016/17: Health Survey NI Trend Tables (Date published: 24 October 2017)

Figure 5.1.3: Childhood BMI 2010-2012 for P1 and Year 8 pupils NI and ACBCBC



Source NISRA NINIS Health and Social Care – Health of the Population Theme 1 - Giving Every Child the Best Start - Childhood BMI

The ‘State of Child Health’ Report notes that children living in the most deprived areas are more likely to be overweight or obese compared with children in the least deprived areas and that weight status at the end of primary school is an important predictor of health outcomes later in life.

### Mental Health

The Health Survey NI 2016/17 reported that across NI one in six respondents (17%) scored highly on the GHQ12<sup>1</sup> (General Health Questionnaire) suggesting they may have a possible mental health problem. The proportion of females indicating a possible mental health problem fell from 21% in 2015/16 to 18% in 2016/17. The findings for males remained unchanged at 16%. Respondents in the most deprived areas (27%) were twice as likely to record a high GHQ12 score as those in the least deprived areas (14%). Over a fifth of respondents (22%) reported they had missed time at work / school / university due to mental health concerns.

Mental health baseline data for ACBCBC is presented in the CP Baseline Report for Health and Well-being (p28). Levels of well-being surveyed in the adult population measured through the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale have little variation across NI’s Health Trusts. The Southern Health and Social Care Trust score is 51 (out of 70) which is equal to the NI average and comparable to Scotland (50) and England (50.8).

The CP Baseline Report notes that in ACBCBC many of the indicators for mental health appear to show a lower than average quality of mental health. The Council has the third highest prescription rate among LGDs for anxiety and mood drugs and anti-depressants, with deprived areas having prescription rates one third higher than that of the overall Borough.

As discussed under ‘admission rates’ above, ACBCBC also had the second highest number of hospital admissions for self-harm in 2013/2014. The crude suicide death rate in the Borough of 14.5 per 100,000 in 2010-2014 was slightly below the NI average (15.9), but the rate for males (23.1) was almost four times that for females (6.1). The suicide rate for the 20% most deprived areas in the Borough was almost double the Borough’s overall rate.

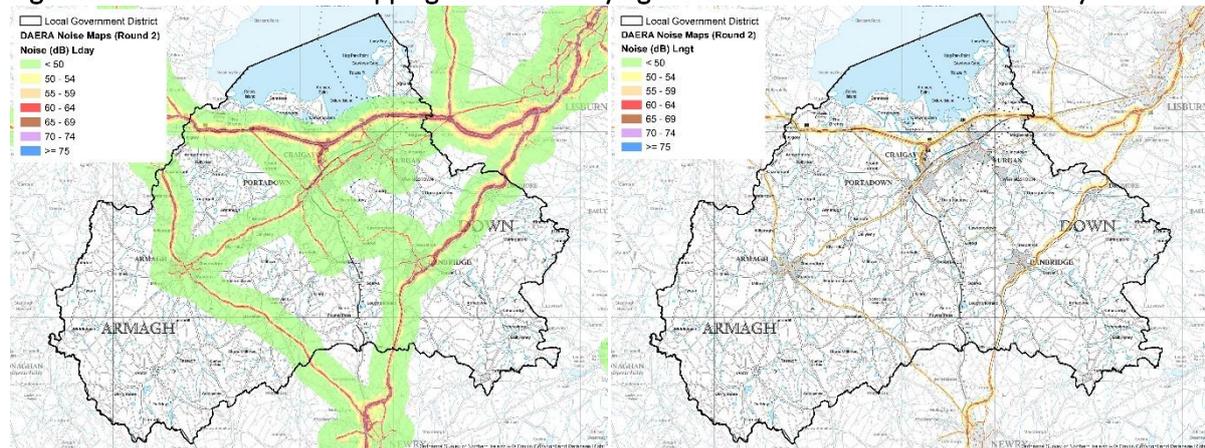
### Noise

In accordance with the END, noise modelling and mapping has been carried out over two stages for major roads (roads with more than 3 million vehicle passages annually), major railways (railways with more than 30,000 train passages annually), major airports (airports with more than 50,000 movements annually) and agglomerations (urban areas with more than 100,000 inhabitants), taking into account the

<sup>1</sup>The General Health Questionnaire (GHQ) 12 is a screening device for identifying minor psychiatric disorders in the general population and within community or non-psychiatric clinical settings.

above sources and additionally, other roads, railways, aircraft movements and industrial premises. There are no agglomerations, airports or railways that meet the thresholds for noise mapping within ACBCBC, however noise modelling has been carried out within the Borough for a number of major roads including the M1 and M12 motorways and the A1 & A3 roads (see Figure 5.1.4). The noise mapping shows that the major roads can be significant sources of environmental noise and has allowed areas where people or properties may be exposed to adverse levels of noise to be identified. There are two Candidate Noise Management Areas (CNMAs) in the Borough, both in Armagh City. The END also places a requirement to identify 'Quiet Areas' within agglomerations, however none have been identified to date within ACBCBC.

**Figure 5.1.4: Round 2 Noise mapping for roads carrying more than 3 million vehicles annually**



'Lday' is the  $L_{Aeq}$  over the period 0700 – 1900, local time (for strategic noise mapping this is an annual average).

'Lngt' is the  $L_{Aeq}$  over the period 2300 – 0700, local time (for strategic noise mapping this is an annual average).

Source: Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs - Air and Environmental Quality Unit via OpenData NI

Within ACBCBC, the majority of noise complaints (78.8%) in 2015 were in relation to domestic noise, with the two leading reasons being loud music/TV/parties and animal noise. Industrial noise, including agriculture and single wind turbines in addition to industry/manufacturing accounted for 8% of complaints. Construction noise was the basis of 3.9% of complaints. Commercial and leisure premises account for 3.6% of complaints, as does noise in the street, the main source of which is anti-social behaviour. Transport only accounted for 1.2% of complaints and there were no complaints in regards to aircraft or train noise.

#### *Health Care Facilities and Ambulance Response Times*

ACBCBC is covered by the Southern Health and Social Care Trust. There are four hospitals within ACBCBC, with acute services carried out at Craigavon Area Hospital and mental health care primarily carried out at St Luke's Hospital, Armagh. A full description of the services provided by each hospital is included in the 'Health, Education and Community Uses' Discussion Paper. This paper also includes details of average journey times to A&E services and minor injury units from within the three legacy Council areas. The average ambulance response time for ACBCBC in 2013 was 7 minutes 28 seconds, ranking 7<sup>th</sup> place overall out of the 11 Councils, but was more the NI average of 6 minutes 48 seconds. In rural locations for all of NI the median ambulance response time has increased from under 12 minutes in 2011 to over 15 minutes in 2015. Peripheral areas of the Borough (such as Maghery, Derrynoose, Middletown, Mountnorris, Moneyplane and Derrymore) are likely to have significantly higher travel times than the district average.

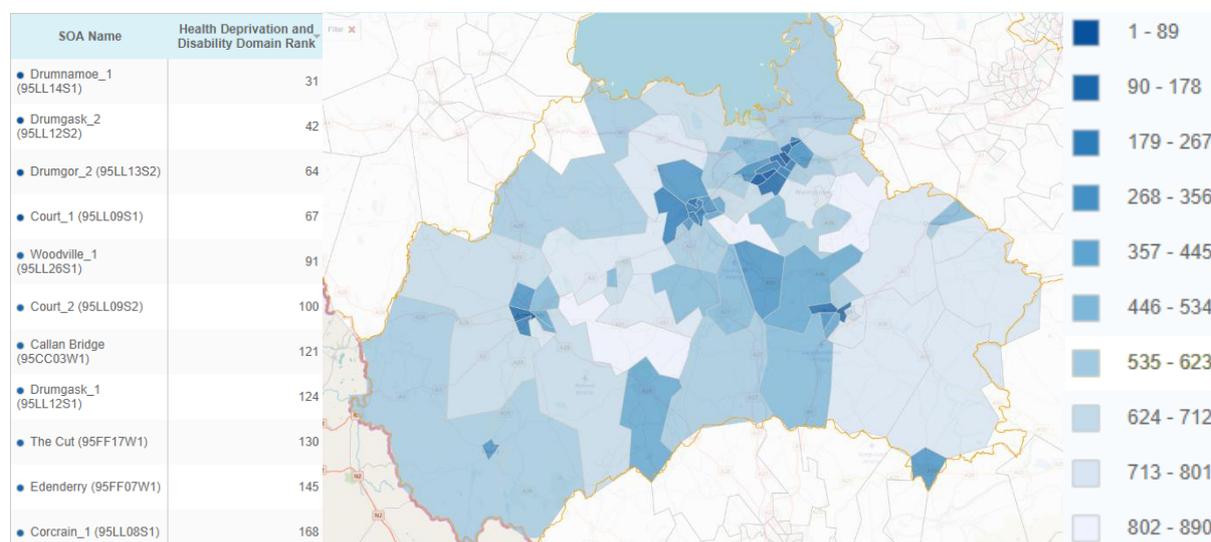
There are additional provisions for emergency response which are not accounted for in these figures. These are Rapid Response Vehicles and paramedics and Community First Responders who may be the first person to arrive on the scene in rural areas and are trained to provide life-saving treatment while waiting on an ambulance or rapid response vehicle.

As discussed in section 4.13 and Appendix 2 of the 'Health, Education and Community Uses' Discussion Paper, GP surgeries in ACBCBC are largely centred within the main hubs of Armagh, Portadown, Lurgan and Banbridge. Information on care providers for elderly/vulnerable persons and Special Education Centres for Physical and Learning Disabilities within the Borough is also provided in sections 4.14-4.15 and Appendix 5 of this paper. A Community Treatment and Care Centre exists at Portadown and there are future plans to build two further new centres at Lurgan and Armagh.

### Inequalities

New statistics measuring the geographical distribution of deprivation or disadvantage were published by NISRA in November 2017. The updated Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM2017) replace the NIMDM 2010, however the older NIMDM2010 has been used for the Health Inequalities Report discussed below. Those Super Output Areas<sup>1</sup> (SOAs) which are in the 20% most deprived areas (ranked 1-178) in terms of health and disability are shown on the left side of Figure 5.1.5. It can be seen that the highest ranked (most deprived) SOAs are clustered within the settlements of Armagh, Banbridge, Lurgan and Portadown.

Figure 5.1.5: Health Deprivation and Disability Domain Rank 2017 from NIMDM2017.



Source: NINIS Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, Health Deprivation and Disability Domain.

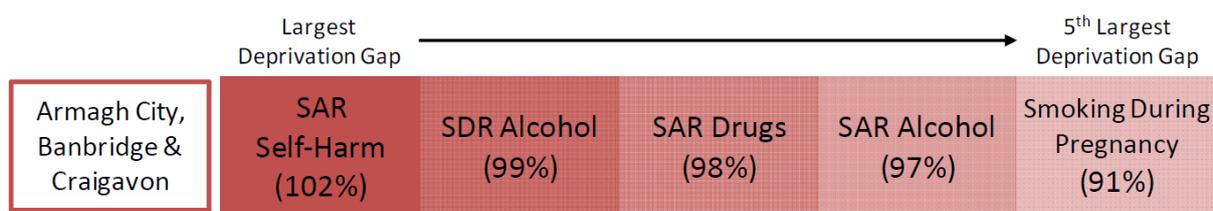
The Health Inequalities Sub-Regional Report 2017 compares trends in indicators of health across deprivation levels within the five HSC Trust areas and the eleven LGD areas. In addition to an analysis of gaps between the Trust/LGD and its most deprived areas, an assessment of the gap between the Trust/LGD and NI is also presented as contextual information. In that report, 'inequality gaps' refer to:

- The difference between health outcomes for the 20% most deprived Super Output Areas (SOA) within an area (as defined using the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010) and the area's average.
- The Trust or LGD and the regional average.

The report found that from the previous year's average, inequality gaps in ACBCBC have narrowed for four of the indicators, remained unchanged or were fluctuating for 31 indicators and have widened for five indicators. The five health indicators with the widest inequality gap are shown on the graphic in Figure 5.1.6.

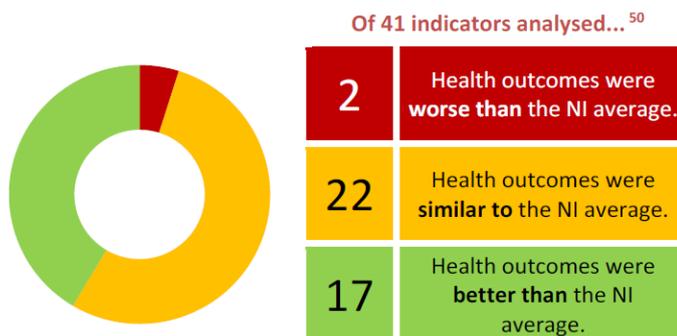
<sup>1</sup> Super Output Areas are statistical geography boundaries created by NISRA to allow the reporting of small area statistics.

Figure 5.1.6: Key Findings of Health Inequalities Sub-regional Report for ACBCBC



**KEY FINDINGS**

**Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon - NI Inequality Gaps**



**Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Deprivation Inequality Gaps**

Largest Deprivation Inequality Gaps	Most Notable Narrowed Deprivation Inequality Gaps	Most Notable Widened Deprivation Inequality Gaps
SAR – Self-Harm	SAR – Alcohol Related Causes	Smoking During Pregnancy
SDR – Alcohol Related Causes	SDR – Cancer (U75)	SIR – Lung Cancer
SAR – Drug Related Causes	Primary 1 BMI: Obese	SAR – Respiratory (U75)
SAR – Alcohol Related Causes	SAR – Self-Harm	SAR – Respiratory
Smoking During Pregnancy	Male Life Expectancy at 65	Crude Suicide Rate

<sup>50</sup> The under 75 drug related mortality rate was not robust for comparison with NI, due to small numbers in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon.

Source: Health Inequalities Sub-Regional Report 2017, p94.

*Health Survey Northern Ireland*

‘Health Survey Northern Ireland’ is a Department of Health survey that has run annually since 2010. Results are based on survey responses from 4,144 individuals and therefore are not able to be broken down to LGD level. The survey report focuses on differences that are statistically significant and the most recently published results are in the ‘Health Survey NI First Results 2016/17’. In this, nearly three-quarters of respondents (73%) described their health as being good or very good, an increase from the 70% reported the previous year. The prevalence of cigarette smoking has fallen to 20%, from the 22% reported in 2015/16, however smoking prevalence in the most deprived areas (32%) continues to be around three times that in the least deprived areas (11%).

Respondents living in urban areas and those in the most deprived areas were more likely to report signs of loneliness than those in rural areas and the least deprived areas respectively. There was no discernible trend when considering sex or age-group.

*Safety*

The Borough is under the Southern Area command of the NI Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) with area headquarters based in Portadown. There are stations at Lurgan, Dromore, Banbridge, Armagh, Keady and Rathfriland. The CP Communities Baseline Report notes that From April 2012 - March 2015 there were 334 dwelling fires and 151 fires in other buildings attended by NIFRS in the Borough, both are the third highest number of incidents after Belfast and Derry City and Strabane. Looking at special service

calls over the same time period, there were 260 Road Traffic Collision incidents attended by NIFRS in the Borough, the highest of all the Council areas.

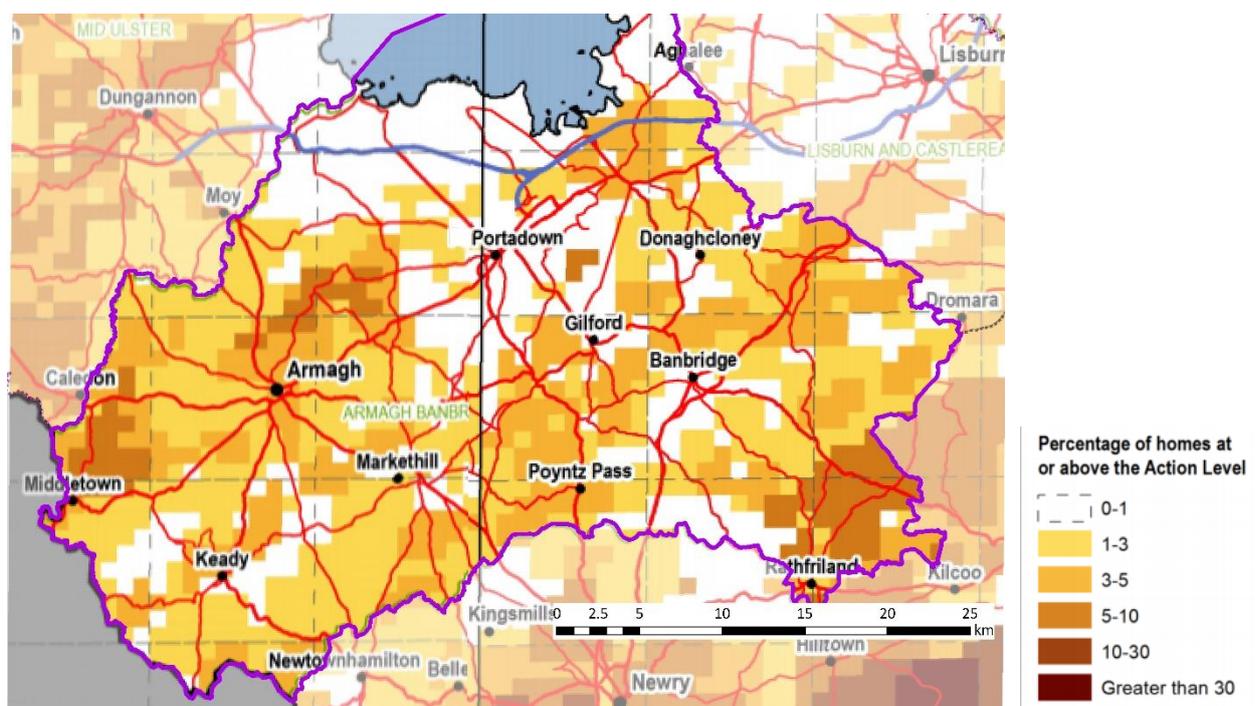
The total number of road traffic collisions with police-recorded injuries in ACBCBC in 2016 was 873, which represented 9% of the NI total for that year (down from 899 in 2015). One eighth (12.4%) of these road traffic collisions resulted in driver or passenger(s) being killed or seriously injured, third highest of all LGDs.

### Radon

Radon is a natural radioactive gas that occurs at low levels outside but which can become concentrated in enclosed places, such as houses, workplaces and other buildings. Long-term exposure to radon increases the risk of lung cancer, particularly in smokers. After smoking, radon exposure is the second greatest cause of lung cancer. It is estimated to cause 30 deaths per year in NI.

An indicative atlas of Radon levels in homes throughout Northern Ireland has been published by Public Health England with the Geological Survey. An extract from this atlas is shown below in Figure 5.1.7. The darker colours on the radon map indicate a greater probability of high radon levels in a building. The government has recommended that householders take action to reduce their radon levels where they exceed the 'action level' of 200 Becquerels per cubic metre.

Figure 5.1.7: Extract from 'Radon in Northern Ireland: Indicative Atlas' showing ACBCBC area



Source: Public Health England / British Geological Society 'Radon in Northern Ireland: Indicative Atlas' 2015 pp11-12

The atlas shows that in ACBCBC, many areas have between a 1% and a 10% probability of exceeding the recommended action level but some areas, e.g. north of Armagh, east of Portadown and Rathfriland have a greater than 10% probability. The map helps to inform where measurement of Radon levels may be required at dwellings, and if necessary, where action may be required to protect homes.

### 5.1.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new LDP in place, the Regional Development Strategy (RDS), the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and relevant planning policy statements (PPSs), would still be applied.

However, adverse baseline trends relevant to health and well-being, such as below average levels of physical activity and outdoor leisure time for residents within the Borough may continue. Opportunities to improve the large discrepancies in health and well-being between the most deprived communities and

the average in the Borough could be missed. The opportunity to plan strategically for an environment that encourages active travel and physical activity and improve the environment in the most deprived areas could also be missed.

Some of the measures of health such as respiratory disease may be exacerbated if there is no change or a deterioration in environmental conditions. While there are other environmental controls in place, the lack of a plan would mean that there is less opportunity to site development to reduce negative interactions between uses.

The LDP could support national and regional strategies, through planning and designing development to ensure high standards of homes which support people through all stages of life, enabling access to healthcare facilities and helping enhance living and working environments in areas of greatest deprivation. It can promote accessible spaces for all ages and active travel to incentivise physical activity and encourage social interaction as well as protecting and enhancing the environment to minimise adverse effects on health and to support healthy living.

#### 5.1.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Health and Well-being

- By 2030 the population of the Borough is projected to have increased from its 2014 level by 15.9% or 32,700 people, almost double the predicted average rate for NI.
- Population trends indicate an ageing population with potentially a higher number of older dependents e.g. the number of people aged 85 and over is expected to double by around 3,580 individuals by mid-2030.
- An increase in the proportion of older people in the population will increase the requirement for care. There is a need to meet the future needs for care and support for older people at home or in communal homes and to improve access to health services, other facilities and services.
- Participation rates in physical activity are lower than the NI average and significantly lower than recommended minimum levels.
- There is a need to promote and incentivise regular participation in physical activity through provision of and ensuring good accessibility to sports facilities (including water sports facilities), open space, green infrastructure and walking and cycling routes.
- Less than half of children in NI walk or cycle to school.
- There is a particular need for children to have accessible play in places where they feel safe.
- There will be an increasing need to create accessible means for older people to engage in physical activity to prolong their healthy lives.
- Development should be sited and designed to connect with greenways where possible.
- Need to protect and enhance biodiversity to promote positive health benefits.
- Levels of adult obesity in NI and the UK are high by global standards, reflecting poor diet and a relatively sedentary lifestyle.
- Obesity in children is slightly lower in ACBCBC than the NI average, however over one fifth of P1 children and over one quarter of Year 8 children were overweight or obese in 2010-2012.
- In ACBCBC many of the indicators for mental health appear to show a lower than average quality of mental health.
- Noise and environmental quality are not identified as being significant adverse effects at present however they can impact on health and therefore environmental quality should be improved, or sustained where it is good, to minimise adverse health impacts.
- Road safety for all users should be a key consideration of planning and design.
- The location of and access to emergency services can impact on response times. Rural areas require accessibility to general practice and non-emergency healthcare services.
- ACBCBC shows a lower rate of health deprivation and disability compared with the NI average, but there are large inequalities in health and well-being with most measures of health being significantly worse in the most deprived areas.
- Good spatial planning can reduce health inequalities by providing a high standard of design and place making, open space, capacity for any additional services required and accessibility.

- Need to plan the relative location of industry and housing, open space and public facilities to minimise use conflicts.
- Major transport infrastructure has the potential to cause noise disturbance, air pollution or safety risks which can be reduced through siting and design.
- There are some communities within the Council area which experience problems of multiple deprivation particularly in parts of Armagh, Banbridge, Lurgan, Portadown and Keady, where income and employment are the key concerns.
- Parts of ACBCBC may have increased probability of the incidence of Radon at actionable levels.

## 5.2 Community

### 5.2.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Community considers demographics, community identity, shared space, prosperity and social inclusion, crime prevention and community safety, good relations and the rural population.

An understanding of changes in the makeup of the population informs future needs for the plan area for housing, employment, infrastructure, facilities and amenities. Models of the future population take account of other policies, net migration and, for example, health initiatives, which are likely to have an influence on births, deaths. A consistent requirement of policies related to the various demographic groups is the need to incorporate equality of treatment and opportunity.

The NI Executive's programme 'Delivering Social Change' seeks to reduce inequalities, often through targeted approaches and the draft Programme for Government includes 'we have a more equal society' as one of its outcomes. It incorporates measures to reduce poverty, health and educational inequality and also relates to employment.

The Regional Strategic Objective of the SPSS to 'sustain a vibrant rural community by supporting rural economic development of an appropriate nature and scale' is representative of regional rural policy. It seeks to enable people to live and work in rural communities with reasonable provision of facilities while retaining the intrinsic character and value of the countryside and small communities. This echoes the Rural White Paper Action Plan which also refers to improved infrastructure, transport and key services; strong community infrastructure which can avail of economic, social and cultural opportunities; and better linkages between rural and urban areas.

There is growing recognition of the need for provision to take account of the varying needs of different age groups. The World Health Organisation promotes 'an Age-friendly world is a place that enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities. It is a place that treats everyone with respect, regardless of their age. It is a place that makes it easy to stay connected to those around you and those you love. It is a place that helps people stay healthy and active even at the oldest ages. It is a place that helps those who can no longer look after themselves to live with dignity and enjoyment.' This is reflected in the objectives of the Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Strategy 2017-2027 and the Active Ageing Strategy 2016-2021.

The Executive programme 'Together: Building a United Community' has a vision for 'a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance'. It includes a commitment to create a 10-year Programme to reduce, and remove by 2023, all interface barriers including an Interface Barrier Support Package.

The 'Community Safety Action Plan' includes the action for Councils 'to support a sense of pride and ownership within neighbourhoods, deter anti-social behaviour and to address growing amenity problems associated with dilapidated or unsightly buildings and neglected sites'.

The Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (ACBCBC) Corporate Plan 2015 – 2017 identifies 'Community' as a priority under its theme of 'People'. It sets out the following objectives:

- Create welcoming communities and neighbourhoods;
- Develop community planning capacity and involvement in local decision making;
- Celebrate diversity, promote equality and good relations to build a peaceful shared society; and
- Increase the range of activities for young and old alike'.

The overarching aim of the Community theme in 'Connected', a Community Plan for ACBCBC 2017-2030, is that 'We live in a caring and safe Borough, where people lead healthy, fulfilling lives and take pride in shaping, nurturing and enriching community life.'

## 5.2.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Community Planning (CP) Baseline Report for 'Communities'. Data has also been sourced from the Community Plan and Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Paper 1: 'Population & Growth'; Paper 2, 'Housing' and Paper 9: 'Health, Education and Community Uses'. Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) data in general and its Area Profile for ACBCBC at November 2017 have been important data sources. The baseline data also refers to the 2011 Equality Awareness Survey of over 1,000 people which measured attitudes towards specific equality groups and perceptions and experiences of unfair treatment. This topic overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Housing, Transport and Accessibility and Historic Environment topics.

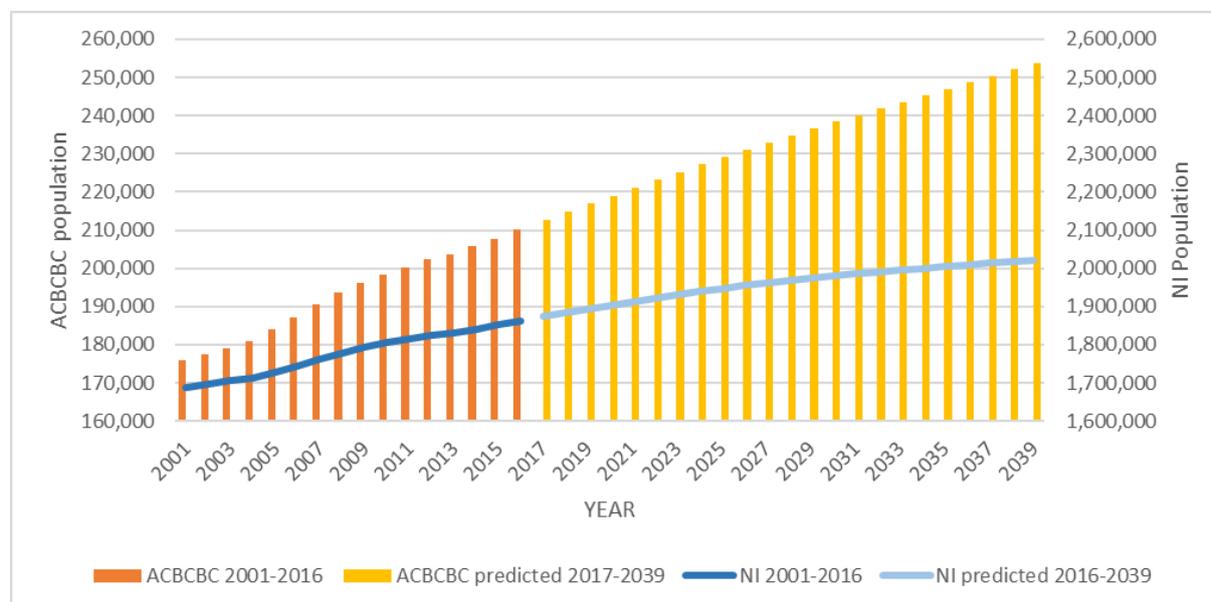
### Population

Population trends are largely influenced by other factors such as birth and death rate which in turn reflect many other factors such as health. Migration is subject to external influences such as national policy and the regional economy, however it can also be directly influenced by the physical, economic and social environment. Planning can have an influence on this by creating the conditions for investment and place-shaping to make the area more attractive to live in. What the data tells us about population is summarised here, however the future impact on housing is considered in more detail in section 5.3.

At the time of the 2011 Census, the population of ACBCBC was 199,693 accounting for 11.03% of the NI total. This represents a 13.83% increase since the 2001 Census. The population density, at the census, was 148.70 usual residents per square kilometre, slightly above the NI average of 133.8. The most recent population estimates for 2016 are that the population density has increased to 156.1 per square kilometre compared to 137.3 for NI.

As seen in Figure 5.2.1, for the period 2001-2016 the rate of population growth in ACBCBC been almost double that for NI as a whole, with an estimated increase of 19.5% compared with 10.3% for NI.

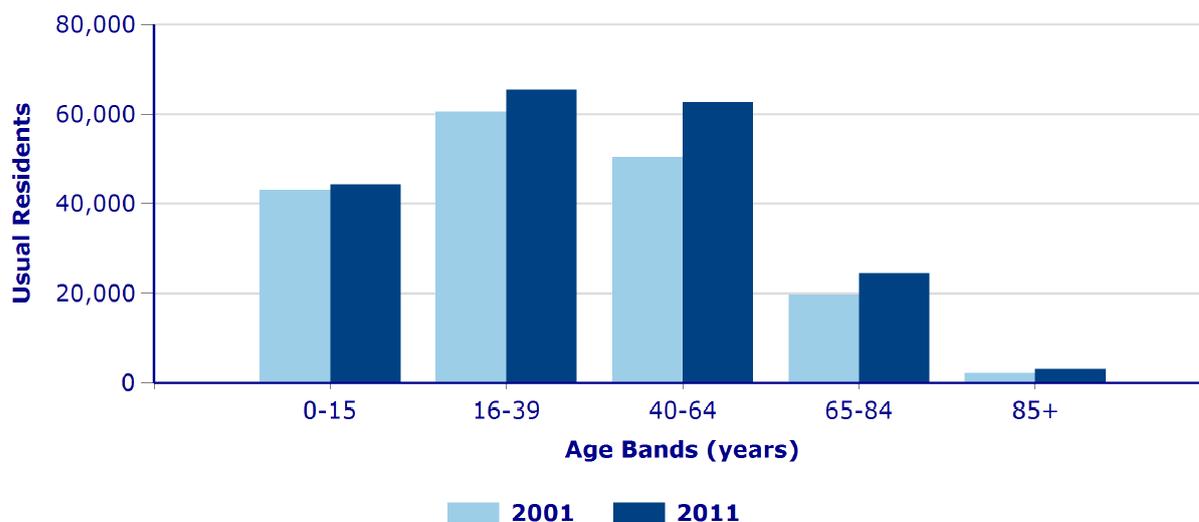
**Figure 5.2.1: Population Growth 2001-2016 and predicted growth 2017-2039**



Source: NISRA 11 LGDs – population totals (2001-2016) and NISRA 2014-based Population Projections for Areas within Northern Ireland

Figure 5.2.2 shows how the age structure has changed during the inter-censal period 2001-2011, with the greatest increase seen in the 40-64 age band.

Figure 5.2.2: Age structure of the usually resident population, 2001 and 2011



Source: NINIS Area Profile Report (November 2017)

Predicted population growth in ACBCBC from 2017 to 2030 is set to be significantly higher at 19.4% than the NI rate of growth which is predicted to be 7.9%. As discussed in the CP Baseline Report for Communities, in the 2014 projections ACBCBC is predicted to have the highest growth rate of all 11 LGDs with higher rates of birth and in-migration the main factors in the predicted growth. NISRA has noted that, with the influence of Brexit, these figures may be adjusted in the next round of population estimates.

Based on 2011 census data there is a high proportion (25.1-28.8%) of Under 16s in some parts of Lurgan (the Super Output Areas (SOA)<sup>1</sup> of Drumgask 1 & 2, Drumgor 1 & 2 and Taghnevan) and Armagh (SOA Callan Bridge) and in the rural SOA, Derrynoose. With the exception of Drumgor 1, these SOAs are all ranked among the most deprived quintile of SOAs in ACBCBC under the NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 (NIMDM 2017).

The greatest proportions of over 65s are found in the urban SOAs of Edenderry 2 and Brownstown 2 (Armagh), Court 2 (Lurgan), Fort (Banbridge) and the rural SOA of Hockley. Of these, only Court 2 would be ranked within the most deprived areas in ACBCBC under the NIMDM2017. Hockley and Fort would rank among the least deprived SOAs in the LGD.

#### Religious belief

On Census Day, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011, 43% of the ACBCBC resident population recorded that they belonged to or were brought up in the Catholic religion (NI 45%) and 52% belonged to or were brought up in a 'Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)' religion (NI 48%). A further 1% belonged to or had been brought up in Other Religions and Philosophies, while 5% neither belonged to, nor had been brought up in, a religion. Religious composition can vary significantly across the Borough. Of the 87 SOAs in the Borough, 20 (23%) had more than 75% of the resident population belonging to or brought up in the Catholic religion. Thirty one SOAs (35%) had more than 75% of the resident population belonging to or brought up in a 'Protestant and Other Christian' religion. These localised variations mean that planning policies at a spatial level could potentially be perceived to discriminate between religions.

#### Political opinion

Position Paper 1 reports on political opinion based on the three legacy Council areas at 2011. The paper shows that the level of support for unionist parties was much higher than for nationalist and other parties or independents. There is likely to be variation across the Borough.

<sup>1</sup> Super Output Areas are statistical geography boundaries created by NISRA to allow the reporting of small area statistics.

**Table 5.2.1: Political Opinion: First Preference Votes**

	2011 Local Government Elections			2014 Local Council Elections
	Armagh	Banbridge	Craigavon	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon
Unionist parties	49.3%	68.7%	53.9%	57.10
Nationalist parties	46.1%	24.6%	40.0%	34.95
Other parties/independent	4.5%	6.7%	6.2%	7.95

Source: Local Govt. Election results ARK Economic and Social Research Council, Craigavon Borough Council website/2014 Local Council Election Results

### *Country of Birth and Ethnic Group*

On Census Day 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011, in ACBCBC 1.45% of the resident population were from an ethnic minority population (including Irish Traveller); and the remaining 98.54% were white. The 2011 Census recorded 136 Irish Travellers in the ACBCBC area. Within ACBCBC, 50.49% of the population indicated that they had a British national identity, 25.18% had an Irish national identity and 28.85% had a Northern Irish national identity<sup>1</sup>. Table 5.2.2 shows that the non-white population of 1.45% is lower than the Northern Ireland level of 1.79%. The largest ethnic minorities were Mixed ethnicity (605 individuals), Chinese (528 individuals) and Other Asian (463 individuals).

**Table 5.2.2: Ethnic Group ACBCBC in comparison to Northern Ireland**

Census 2011	NI	ACBCBC
Ethnic group: White (%)	98.21	98.54
Ethnic group: Chinese (%)	0.35	0.26
Ethnic group: Irish Traveller (%)	0.07	0.07
Ethnic group: Asian (%)	0.71	0.53
Ethnic group: Black (%)	0.2	0.17
Ethnic group: Mixed (%)	0.33	0.3
Ethnic group: Other (%)	0.13	0.12

Source: NISRA Census 2011 Ethnicity, Identity, Language and Religion Ethnic Group: KS201NI (administrative geographies)

The 2011 census showed that in the population of ACBCBC aged 3 years and over:

- 10.3% had some knowledge of Irish (NI 10.7%)
- 6.0% had some knowledge of Ulster-Scots (NI 8.1%)
- 4.3% did not have English as their first language (NI 3.1%).

The 2011 census recorded that a smaller proportion of residents of ACBCBC were born in the UK or Ireland compared with the overall NI average and a greater proportion were born in an EU country (see Table 5.2.3). The LDP 'Population & Growth' Preparatory Studies Paper notes that the majority of the resident population born in one of the EU countries are from the eight central and eastern European (A8) countries (Poland, Lithuania, Slovakia, Latvia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Estonia and Hungary). The legacy Craigavon Council area has the largest proportion of residents born in an EU country (5.3%) while Banbridge has the smallest (1.5%). However recent evidence suggests that, since the economic downturn, the number of migrants has been declining and that natural growth is the main influence on population change (NISRA).

<sup>1</sup> \*Respondents could indicate more than one national identity

**Table 5.2.3: Country of birth for residents of ACBCBC in comparison to NI overall at 2011 Census**

Country of Birth	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland (%)	89.0	88.8
England (%)	3.1	3.6
Scotland (%)	0.7	0.9
Wales (%)	0.1	0.1
Republic of Ireland (%)	1.8	2.1
Other EU: Member countries prior to 2004 expansion (%)	0.7	0.5
Other EU: Accession countries 2004 onwards (%)	3.2	2.0
Other (%)	1.6	2.0

Source: NISRA Country of Birth: KS204NI (administrative geographies)

The 2011 Equality Awareness Survey found that in NI, although attitudes towards the different ethnic groups were generally positive, negative attitudes existed towards Travellers (30%) and Eastern European migrant workers (21%).

### Age

On Census Day 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011, in ACBCBC:

- 22.14% of the usually resident population were aged under 16 years and 13.83% were aged 65 and over;
- 36 years was the average (median) age of the population.

The changing age structure of the population is illustrated in Figure 5.2.2. Different age groups have particular needs, for example safe access to age appropriate play and recreational facilities for children and young people and greater need for accessibility to health facilities for older people. However many of the needs overlap for example for access to public transportation, open space, leisure and cultural facilities. A 2016 AgeNI Survey for NI found that the main concerns for older people are

- Access to Health and Social Care 69.3%
- Transport 50.6%
- Keeping Warm in winter/Energy prices 49.3%
- Fear of Crime 48.2%

The 2011 census found that 12.28% of the resident population (NI 12.04%) lived in households with adaptations to accommodate a disability or impairment<sup>1</sup>, with the most common adaptations being for wheelchair use, followed by other adaptations for physical or mobility issues. Overall there was a slightly higher rate of adaptation than the NI average. Of those aged 65+ years 35% said that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot, 24% a little and 41% were not limited, which are similar proportions to the NI average.

### Disability

The 2011 Census found that one fifth people (or 39,861 individuals) in the Borough had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities, similar to NI at 21%. Within the Borough Lurgan and Portadown District Electoral Areas had slightly higher levels (22%), compared to Lagan River which had lower levels 16%. A similar pattern was shown when considering only 16-64 year olds. At a lower geographical level, Super Output Areas, levels of limiting long-term health problems ranged from 12% to 37%.

<sup>1</sup> Adaptation of Accommodation: KS406NI (administrative geographies)

### Marital status

Table 5.2.4 presents Census data on marital status. This shows that within the separate legacy Council areas of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon in 2011, 33.64% of the usual residents were single (2.5% fewer than the NI average) and 54.73% married (3.1% greater than NI average). The proportion of divorced (5.18%) and widowed (6.52%) was close to that for NI. The proportion of single people increased by 2.9% during the intercensal period 2001-2011 while the proportion of married people decreased by 3.3%. The proportion of single people is predicted to show a steady increase, although these statistics may include cohabiting couples that choose not to marry or enter into civil partnership.

**Table 5.2.4: Table - Marital /Civil Partnership Status**

	2011		2001	
	NI	ABC ***	NI	ABC ***
Single (never married) (%)	36.1	33.6	33.1	30.7
Married /Civil Partnership* (%)	51.6	54.7	55.0	58.0
Divorced / Formerly in a Civil Partnership, now legally dissolved (%)	5.5	5.2	4.1	3.7
Widowed** (%)	6.8	6.5	7.8	7.6

\*includes those that have either re-married or are legally separated but still married.

\*\* 2011 Widowed includes surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership.

NISRA Census 2001 Marital Status UV007 (administrative geographies) and NISRA Census 2011 Marital Status KS103NI (administrative geographies)

When those that were divorced or widowed are included, almost half the population (48.4%) of the three Council areas in 2011 were single. Single people have different housing requirements and may have less purchasing power or different social needs to those who are married. Young, single people may be a key consideration in the economy of town centres, as they can provide a significant part of the market for the evening economy, for example in pubs, clubs and restaurants. However, single people may also experience social exclusion, particularly the elderly, disabled and single parents.

### Sexual orientation

Data on sexual orientation is not available at local government level and there are no direct measures therefore, while it can be assumed that the population includes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, there is no indicator of the proportion of the population represented by these groups. The 2011 Equality Awareness Survey did illustrate negative attitudes towards transgender persons (22%) and although negative attitudes towards lesbian, gay or bisexual persons decreased from 21% in 2008 to 15% in 2011, the change was to neutral rather than positive views.

### Gender

The table below presents the gender structure for ACBCBC which shows that the proportion of males and females are similar to those for Northern Ireland as a whole and there are slightly more females than males.

**Table 5.2.5: Gender balance of Population - 2011**

Sex	ABC*	N. Ireland
Male	49.46%	49%
Female	50.54%	51%

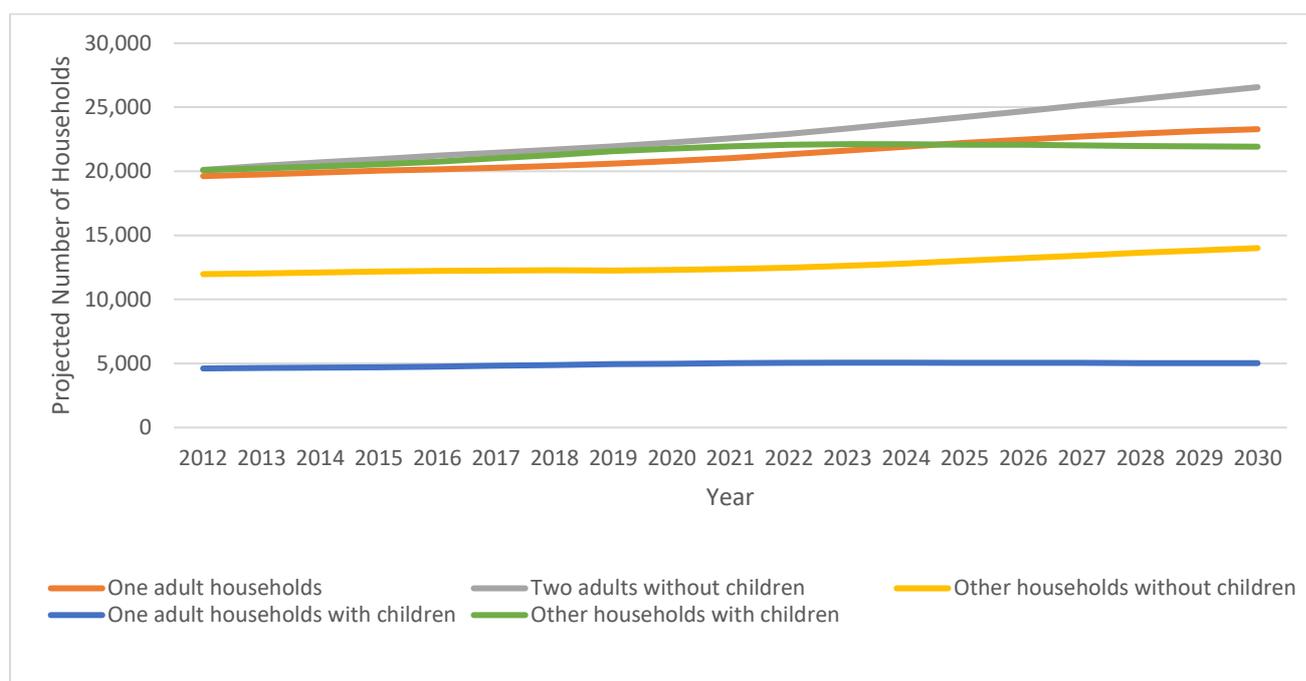
Source: NISRA Census 2011. \*ABC figure is a total of 3 Council 2011 NISRA figures

### People with dependants and people without

Sections 1.24 to 1.26 of Position Paper 1 report on data relating to households with dependent children for ACBCBC. Table 8 in the Paper presents census data for households with dependent children. The proportion of these has decreased from 48.53% in 1981 to 33.76% in 2011 (NI 31.15%).

Figure 5.2.3 illustrates the projected trends in broad household composition from NISRA based on 2012 data. It can be seen that the numbers of single and two-person households (without children) are expected to increase at a greater rate than other household types in the years up to 2030. Single-parent households and households with more than two children are predicted to begin declining in numbers around the mid-2020s.

**Figure 5.2.3: Projected change in numbers of household type in ACBCBC (2012-based)**



Source: NISRA 11 LGDs - household projections (2012-2037)

### Deprivation

The NIMDM2017 shows that of the 87 SOAs making up the Borough, there are 13 (15%) that have a multiple deprivation measures (MDM) rank within the 20% most deprived SOAs in NI (shown in Table 5.2.6). Fourteen SOAs (15%) are ranked within the 20% least deprived in NI. The NIMDM2017 also shows:

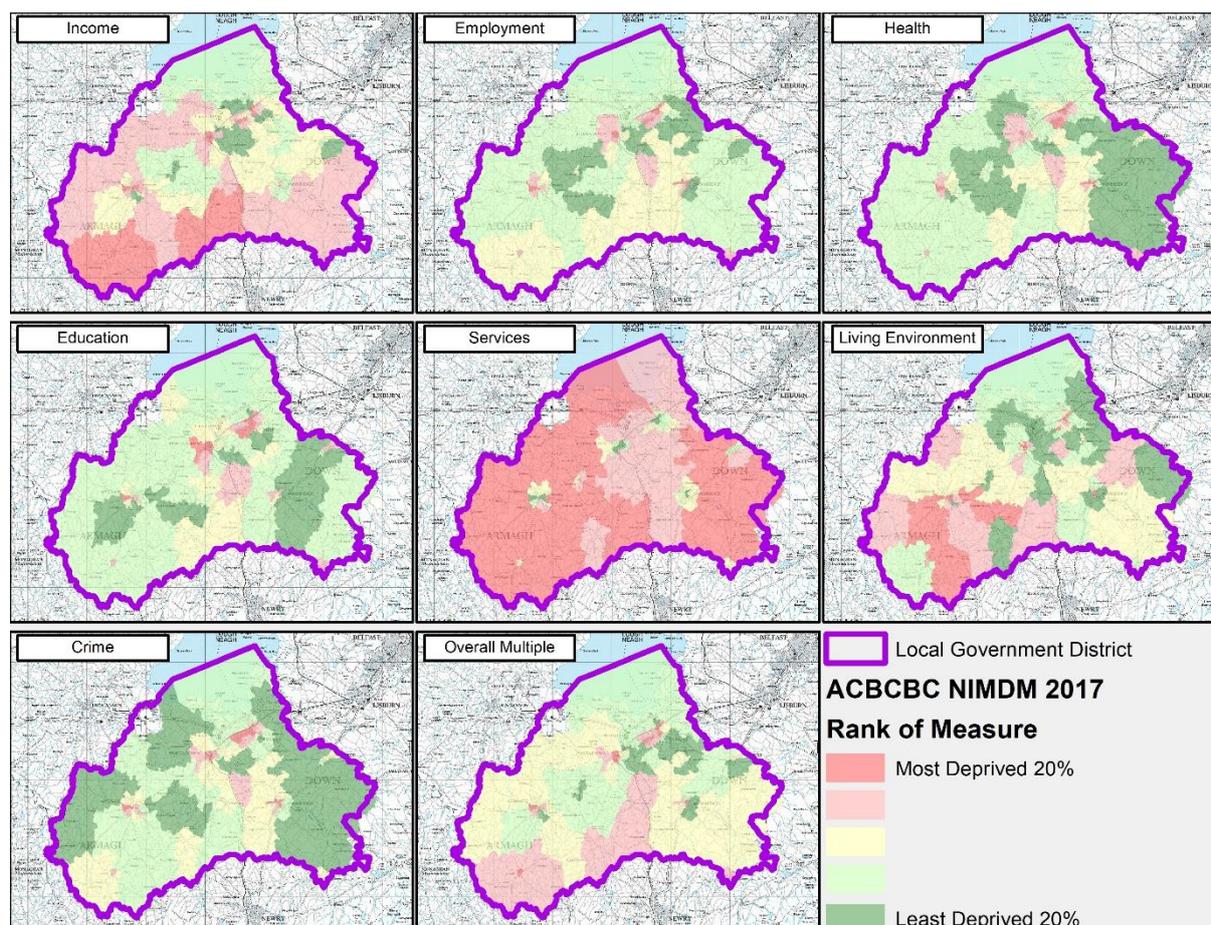
- Sixteen SOAs (18%) rank among the 20% most deprived in NI for Income, twelve (14%) ranked among the 20% least deprived)
- Eleven SOAs (13%) rank among the 20% most deprived in NI for Employment, fourteen (16%) ranked among the 20% least deprived)
- Eleven SOAs (13%) rank among the 20% most deprived in NI for Health Deprivation and Disability, fifteen (17%) ranked among the 20% least deprived)
- Fifteen SOAs (17%) rank among the 20% most deprived in NI for Education, Skills and Training, thirteen (15%) ranked among the 20% least deprived)
- Twenty SOAs (23%) rank among the 20% most deprived in NI for Access to Services, eight (9%) ranked among the 20% least deprived)
- Twelve SOAs (14%) rank among the 20% most deprived in NI for Living Environment, twenty four (28%) ranked among the 20% least deprived)
- Twelve SOAs (14%) rank among the 20% most deprived in NI for Crime and Disorder, twenty (23%) ranked among the 20% least deprived)

Table 5.2.6: ACBCBC SOAs among the 20% most deprived in NI for Multiple Deprivation Measures

SOA NAME	Urban or Rural (2015)	Multiple Deprivation Rank (where 1 is most deprived, 890 least deprived)
Woodville_1	Urban	14
Drumgask_2	Urban	52
Court_1	Urban	54
Callan Bridge	Urban	61
Church	Urban	62
Annagh_2	Urban	73
Drumgor_2	Urban	81
Drumnamoe_1	Urban	83
Corcraín_2	Urban	108
The Cut	Urban	120
Keady	Rural	125
Corcraín_1	Urban	129
Tavanagh	Urban	164

Source NISRA Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures 2017 (SOA Results)

Figure 5.2.4: NI MDM Individual Domain Rank Groups showing rank of ACBCBC SOAs



Source NIMDM 2017 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures 2017 (SOA Results)

It can be seen in Figure 5.2.4 that for the 'Income' and 'Access to Services' domains, ACBCBC has a greater proportion of SOAs ranked among the 'most deprived' quintiles. Conversely, many areas, particularly in the east of the Borough, are among the least deprived in terms of 'Crime' and 'Health'. The figure also shows that there are differences between urban and rural SOAs.

In 2012/13-2014/15, 21.1% of the population were in relative poverty (before housing costs) in ACBCBC, compared with 20.4% in Northern Ireland. 23.4% of children were in relative poverty, compared with 22.8% in Northern Ireland. Figure 5.2.5 shows that the percentage of individuals and children in relative poverty has risen from being below the NI average prior to 2012/13, to being above the NI average.

**Figure 5.2.5: Relative Poverty Statistics, 2004-2015**



Source NINIS Poverty: Grouped Years (administrative geographies) 2002-2014

### Rural

The NISRA's 2015 Urban-Rural Classification identifies 244 (52.7%) of the 463 Small Areas in the LGD as being urban, 24 (5.2%) as being mixed rural/urban and 195 (42.1%) as being rural. Across NI more people (68.7%) are urban dwellers.

Four rural SOAs in ACBCBC have a drive time of more than 20 minutes to the nearest city/town centre. They are: Derrynoose, Poyntz Pass, Gransha, Katesbridge and Rathfriland.

### Crime

The Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Policing District covers the Borough. There are two local policing teams, based in Lurgan and Armagh. There are four neighbourhood policing teams, based in Armagh, Mahon Road and Lurgan Police Stations.

The total number of crimes recorded in the local Policing District in 2016 was 10,014; this was the second highest number after Belfast. Of these, 24.1% resulted in a charge or summons, the highest of all the local Policing Districts. The SOAs which ranked highly in the NIMDM2017 for crime and disorder are shown in dark pink in Figure 5.2.4. For the period April-October 2016 to April-October 2017, overall crime figures decreased by 2%. Under the individual statistics, crimes involving violence against a person or persons increased by 5.3%, Sexual Offences decreased by 2.3% and Theft offences decreased by 15.3%, within which burglaries decreased by almost a third (31.8%). Drug Offences increased by 9.5% and Possession of Weapons increased by 11.9%. Public order offences decreased by 17.2%.

The NI Crime Survey 2015/16<sup>1</sup> reported that 6% of the population in ACBCBC perceive that their quality of life is greatly affected by their 'fear of crime'. This was higher than any other LGD apart from Derry and Strabane. The principal perceived categories of anti-social behaviour reported as being a 'very' or 'fairly' big problem were: rubbish or litter lying around (24%), people using or dealing drugs (22%), teenagers hanging around on streets (14%), people being drunk or rowdy in public places (13%) and vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property (9%).

### *Shared Space and Community Facilities*

Discussion Paper 9: Education, Health and Community Facilities details community facilities in the Borough. There are 11 libraries across the Borough which, although opening hours for many have been reduced, provide important hubs for accessing information and communication and act as shared spaces. They are:

- Armagh (City Library)
- Armagh (Irish & Local Studies)
- Banbridge
- Lurgan
- Brownlow (Craigavon)
- Dromore
- Keady
- Portadown
- Rathfriland
- Richhill
- Tandragee

There are also mobile library services that serve 34 areas, and provide an important social and well-being function to those that they serve.

The Council provides a range of community facilities / venues either via direct ownership or via financial support. These include five leisure centres, four recreation centres and three community centres offering sports facilities. The Open Space, Recreation and Leisure Paper reports that there are 91 play parks located across the Borough along with 32 NEAPs (Neighbourhood Equipped Playground), MUGAs (Multi-Use Games Areas) and Outdoor Gyms.

### 5.2.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

The legacy area plans were not prepared in the context of the new council area and do not reflect our more up to date understanding of economic growth and social development in our area. Therefore, in the absence of a new plan, there is a risk that policies and provision for development will not reflect the needs of the Borough or support delivery of our Community Plan. A new plan brings an opportunity to develop a plan led system and to reflect the most recent strategies.

### 5.2.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Community

- There will be a growing population and the plan will need to meet the need for more dwellings.
- Some areas have seen substantial growth in recent years, there is a need to ensure that facilities meet the needs of the population.
- Some areas have seen significant population decline in recent years, there is a need to ensure that this does not have a long term adverse effect on them as places to live or do business.
- A decline in household size will increase the number of homes required per capita and influence the type of dwellings required.
- People may be more likely to stay in a home long term if it meets their changing needs and facilities and amenities that they wish to use are as accessible as possible through their lives.
- A greater proportion of older people will increase the need for suitable housing that is accessible for those who may not drive and enables support to be provided.
- Levels of deprivation vary widely throughout the council area.
- Rural communities have relatively good access to urban areas, however some of their populations may not have good proximity to services.
- There is a commitment and desire to promote social inclusion through shared, welcoming and accessible places.

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<sup>1</sup> Perceptions of Crime: Findings from the 2015/16 Northern Ireland Crime Survey. Research and Statistical Bulletin 31/2016

- Need to plan for and meet the needs of diverse groups in the council area, this may include allowing for facilities to meet specific needs.
- Some parts of ACBCBC have populations which predominantly reflect one religion or political opinion.
- There is a need to provide appropriate shared space and apply place making to make areas inclusive for all backgrounds and income levels.
- The needs and experience of different parts of ACBCBC society differ and are best expressed by representatives of the range of groups. Some of this may be gained through the Community Planning process and also through being proactive in inviting comment on and participation in plan preparation from all groups.
- There will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability.
- The community is not ethnically diverse, but there is a higher than average proportion of people born in an EU country resident in the Council area. The needs of minority groups such as Irish Travellers must be taken into account.
- There will continue to be a need for childcare facilities, nursery, primary and secondary schools as well as accessibility to community and leisure facilities particularly in the short term.

## 5.3 Housing

### 5.3.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Good quality sustainable housing is a fundamental need of society and can make a significant positive contribution to community cohesion and the character of our built and natural environment. It is the role of the LDP to proactively facilitate land for the delivery of homes to meet the variety of future housing needs, together with creating the opportunities for people living there to make healthy lifestyle choices and benefit from community services and facilities.

Our regional policy recognises the importance of housing in relation to sustainable development. It acknowledges the potential links between good quality sustainable housing and enabling access to jobs, facilities, services and infrastructure and their ability to bring benefits to wider society. Policy encourages housing located near to public transport links and in residential areas with adequate facilities already in place. Consideration of local character and the environment, as well as attractive design, are also viewed as key elements for sustainable development.

Good quality housing is essential to safety and well-being. Availability of appropriate housing and access to community and social services influences the independence and quality of life of older people. New homes should be capable of being lifetime homes and be built to wheelchair accessible standards. Good quality housing developments promote well-being and health improvement through development design, which encourages walking and cycling, and use of open space for recreation. Fuel poverty can be addressed through housing design that aims for a low-carbon future, which also helps local air quality and our contributions to climate change mitigation.

Regional policy recognises that housing growth needs to be managed to achieve sustainable patterns of residential development. This can be achieved by promoting housing within existing hubs and clusters and by using vacant and underutilised land - brownfield sites. The needs of rural dwellers, those on low incomes, the vulnerable, the elderly, the disabled and the homeless should also be considered in housing policy.

The Community Plan for Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, 'Connected Community Plan' states 'we want people to live in well-designed, sustainable and connected communities, benefitting from quality, affordable housing and accessible services and amenities. To ensure this, we will need to provide adequate housing for future population needs, to include appropriate land use, and supporting infrastructure development.'

One of the aspects of the vision of our Corporate Plan includes that 'the area offers a good quality of life for all its residents, and will be safe and affordable for families and older people to live in'.

### 5.3.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the LDP Preparatory Studies Paper 2: Housing.

#### *Overview*

The following summarises the position in relation to housing:

- Household Tenure – In 2011, 70.43% of households were owner occupied, 18.31% private rented and other and 11.27% social homes. The proportion of social housing within ABC has fallen considerably over the period 2001-2011 and the proportion of private rented and other dwellings has risen significantly during this period which is consistent with the regional trend.
- Dwelling Prices – Cost of a typical home in the Borough is £117,637 making the Borough one of the most affordable areas in Northern Ireland from the (NI House Price Index Oct - Dec 2017).
- Age (Elderly) – 15% of the ABC population is 65+ years which is the same as the average for Northern Ireland as a whole.
- Age (Children) – 22% of the ABC population is under 16 years – compared to NI proportion of 21%

- Low income families- 27 Super Output Areas within the Council have higher proportions of children living in low income families than the Northern Ireland average (21.4%). The SOA's with the highest proportions of children living in low income families were Drumgask 2, Drumnamoe 1, Callan Bridge, Woodville 1 and Drumgor 1.
- Health/Disability – 20% of people in the Borough suffer with some form of limiting long term illness;
- Social Housing Needs – Over the three legacy districts, only 24% of those who applied for social housing (waiting list) were successful. There is a latent demand for additional social housing provision across the Borough and in particular in Craigavon.
- Social Housing Needs – Across all three legacy districts the majority of those remaining in housing stress were comprised of small families and older people, indicating a need for smaller housing units.

#### *Affordable Housing*

Affordable Housing Needs – For quarter 3 of 2017, the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council area had a standardised price (from the housing price index) of £117.637 which makes the area the second most affordable in Northern Ireland. However this figure has risen by 6.7% over the last 12 months. Nevertheless, affordability remains an issue for first time buyers who cannot access mortgage finance.

#### *Rural Housing*

Rural housing continues to make a contribution to overall housing supply, albeit at a reduced rate since the introduction of Planning Policy Statement 21 (PPS21).

#### *Fuel Poverty*

A fuel-poor household is one needing to spend in excess of 10% of its household income on all fuel use to achieve a satisfactory standard of warmth. It assesses the ability to meet all domestic energy costs including space and water heating, cooking, lights and appliances.

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

#### *Unfit dwellings and Decent Homes*

The 2011 Housing Condition Survey shows a small increase in unfitness across Northern Ireland associated with an increase in the rate of vacancy, particularly in isolated rural areas. In 2011 the levels of unfit homes in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon was 4-5%.

'Decent homes' considers a range of factors beyond unfitness including meeting modern standards. The proportion of houses that failed to meet this standard was 10-14% across the Borough. Taking account of the NI average (11.4%) the condition of housing remains important as a consideration in planning policy and provision for housing.

#### **5.3.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan**

Without a new LDP there would be fewer opportunities to consider current zonings for housing and adapt to meet the areas of greatest need. There would also be fewer opportunities to design housing policy to accommodate the changing demography of the Borough and the identified social housing need for more 'single elderly' and 'small family' units.

Applying sustainability appraisal will enable a more strategic and balanced plan for the future. Considerations for future housing include the availability of or capacity to provide necessary infrastructure, energy efficiency, a good quality environment, accessibility to employment and services, and to forms of transport that reduce reliance on private cars and social considerations such as shared space, the vitality of towns and provision of care.

#### 5.3.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Housing

- For the period 2001 to 2011, the rate of population growth overall for the council area was above the Northern Ireland average and particularly high in the legacy councils of Banbridge and Craigavon.
- The number of households has increased rapidly over the period 2001 to 2011 with a trend for smaller household sizes. A decline in household size will increase the number of homes required per capita and influence the type of dwellings required.
- Overall the proportion of social housing has dropped over the period 2001 to 2011, alongside an increase in the proportion of private rented accommodation used.
- A changing demography has created a high demand within social housing amongst young people, single parents, migrant workers and the elderly.
- There continues to be a demand across Armagh, Craigavon and Banbridge for social housing provision particularly in Craigavon.
- The number of people presenting themselves as homeless between 2009/10 and 2013/14 has increased across the council area by 3-5%.
- There is scope to bring vacant dwellings into use to contribute to the housing stock.
- As life expectancy of the population rises this will increase the need for suitable housing that is accessible for the elderly and which enables support to be provided.
- There will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability.
- There are advantages to providing life time homes that are accessible and adaptable to all and meet wheelchair standards.
- New housing should be low carbon and reduce the problems of fuel poverty.
- Affordable housing is required for a variety of housing types and sizes. Despite an overall improvement in affordability in 2012, affordability remains an issue for first time buyers, alongside difficulties in securing mortgages.
- All new housing should help to support healthy lifestyles.
- Housing provision should enable social cohesion in families and communities and promote vibrancy of settlements.
- Rural housing continues to make a contribution to overall housing supply in the council area albeit at a reduced rate since the introduction of PPS 21.

## 5.4 Education and Skills

### 5.4.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Education and skills takes account of learning from primary to third level education in addition to vocational training. Good educational and skills outcomes support people to succeed economically, have better life chances and opportunities for better health.

Low educational attainment and low skills levels significantly constrain life chances and increase the risk of poverty and poor health. Significant inequality in educational attainment exists within Northern Ireland. Access to high quality education and skills training can be increased through cooperation between statutory agencies and other institutions. Overarching policies recognise that the education and skills levels of the population must improve in order meet the needs of communities and businesses. This will allow businesses to make use of opportunities for regional and global trade, and help create conditions for increased high quality employment.

Education is one of the most significant investments in developing the individual, society and the economy. The overall vision of the Department of Education is to see *'every young person achieving to his or her full potential at each stage of his or her development'*.

In recent years there have been a number of influential publications which set out to all those involved in the education sector a challenge to consider new approaches. This includes sharing facilities which would promote a more cohesive and tolerant society and provide a better use of the resources available to education.

In 2009 the Department of Education introduced the 'Sustainable Schools Policy' followed by an area planning process in 2011, designed to address the long-term primary school needs from 2012-2025. The overall output of these is the assessment of schools against a set of criteria for sustainable enrolment levels, delivery of quality education and financial sustainability.

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

The Community Plan for Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, *'Connected'* Community Plan states *'It is our ambition to have a thriving and prosperous economy underpinned by the skills base of local people. The Borough benefits from a diverse range of quality and accessible educational and training provision, dedicated staff and excellent relationships with a range of voluntary and community based groups, services and facilities that promote and support lifelong learning and advancement.'*

One of the aspects of the vision of our Corporate Plan includes that *'young people will be able to realise their dreams through first class education and training provision...'*

### 5.4.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the LDP Preparatory Studies Paper 9: 'Health, Education and Community Uses' (March 2016).

The Department of Education (DE) has overall responsibility for education policy and the Education Authority (EA) oversee the delivery of education, youth and library services. Within the context of our Borough, the Southern regional of the EA is responsible for the provision of Primary and Secondary education. An Area Plan has been produced for the region in conjunction with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) and the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education is also a key stakeholder.

### *Pre-school Education*

For Nursery provision there are 12 nursery schools or units within the Borough and a further 11 playgroups within or associated with primary schools. There are also 21 playgroups in the Borough that are not linked with schools<sup>1</sup>.

### *Primary School Education*

In the former Armagh City and District, as of October 2013, primary education was provided by 39 schools catering for 5, 884 pupils across 3 sectors; 20 controlled schools, 18 maintained schools and 1 integrated school. The Education Area Plan estimates that by the year 2025, the number of primary pupils in the former Armagh City and District will rise by approximately 386 to around 6632. With an approved enrolment in 2025 of 7,401 pupils this increase will mean that there is still adequate primary school provision in this area.

In the former Banbridge District, as of October 2013, primary education was provided by 23 schools catering for 4, 823 pupils in 3 sectors; 10 maintained schools, 12 controlled schools and 1 integrated school. The Education Area Plan estimates that by the year 2025, the number of primary pupils in the former Banbridge LGD will increase marginally by 33 to around 4, 856. With enrolment staying the same at 5, 536, there will still be adequate provision in 2025.

In the former Craigavon Borough Council Area, in 2014, primary education was provided by 32 schools catering for 8,921 pupils across three sectors; 13 maintained primary schools, 18 controlled primary schools and one Integrated School. The Education Area Plan estimates that by the year 2025, the number of primary pupils in the former Craigavon LGD will have risen by approximately 1,158 to around 10,712. With an approved enrolment of 10,812 this means that there is no need for additional primary school spaces in the Craigavon Area. However when this is considered by sector, whilst there is adequate provision for controlled primary spaces, there may be a deficit in spaces available in the integrated sector moving towards 2025 and beyond.

There is one primary school within the area that transferred at RPA from the legacy Dungannon Borough Council Area.

### *Post Primary Education*

Secondary education in the former Armagh LGD is provided at eight sites; four maintained schools and four controlled schools. Of these eight schools could be classed as 'oversubscribed' and one has been approved for closure. According to the Regional Area Plan, by 2025 the number of secondary pupils will have risen to around 5,813. This increase in pupil numbers will mean that there will need to be an additional 541 places provided for the area up to 2025 and beyond to the end of the plan period.

In the former Banbridge LGD secondary education is provided at six sites, four controlled schools, one maintained school and one Integrated School. Of these six schools, three are classed as oversubscribed. According to the regional Education Area Plan, by 2025, the number of secondary pupils will have risen from 4, 004 to around 4, 683. With an approved enrolment in 2025 of around 4, 250, this increase in pupil numbers will mean that there will be approximately 433 more pupils than approved spaces by the year 2025.

In 2013/14 Secondary education in the Craigavon Area catered for 6659 pupils at 12 sites; six Controlled, five Maintained and one Integrated School. Since these figures were released, three schools in the maintained sector were amalgamated to form a new school, St Ronan's in Lurgan. Three schools were considered to be over-subscribed in 2013/14, Craigavon Senior High, Lurgan College and Portadown College. According to the regional Area Plan, post primary pupil numbers will have risen to approximately 8,550 by the year 2025. With an approved enrolment in 2025 of approximately 8,250 this increase in pupil numbers means that there will be more pupils than spaces.

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<sup>1</sup> NICVA, Department of Education (NI) (via Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service)

There are no post primary schools within the area transferred at RPA from the legacy Dungannon Borough Council area.

#### Further Education

Further Education provision exists in all the main hubs of the Borough, provided by the Southern Regional College (SRC). There are campuses in Armagh, Banbridge, Portadown and Lurgan.

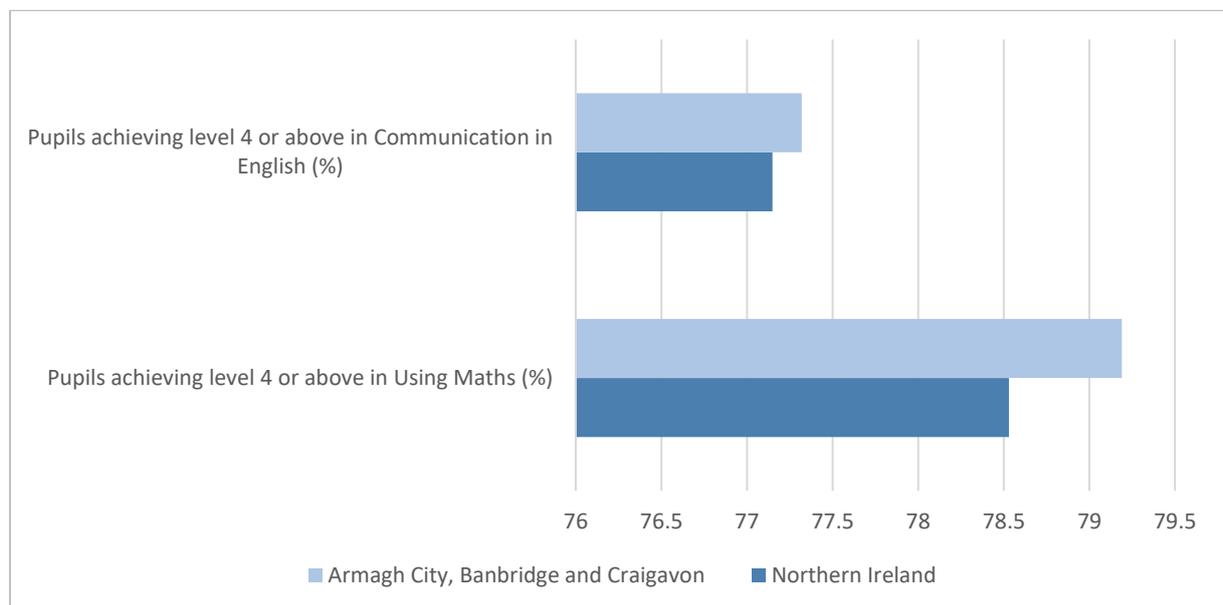
#### Special Education

There are three special schools in the Borough. These provide for pupils with severe learning difficulties from pre-school to Key Stage 5.

#### Educational Attainment

Figure 5.4.1 below shows the primary school Key Stage 2 attainment results for 2012. This is the main primary school attainment measure. It shows that Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon had an overall higher average figure than Northern Ireland for both communication in English, and in using maths.

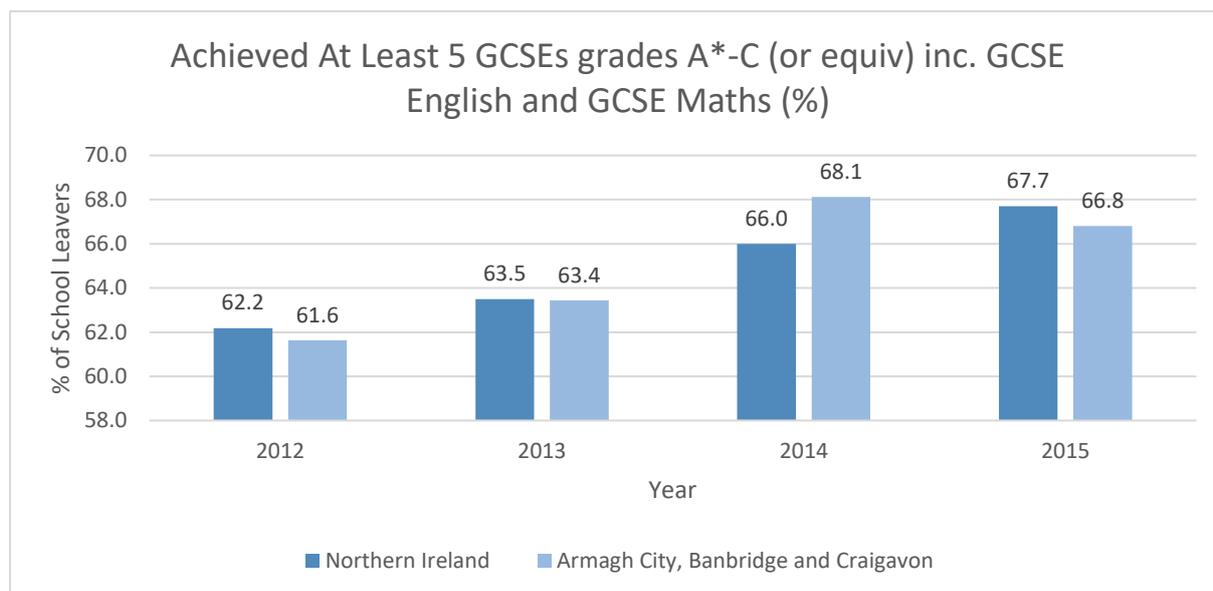
**Figure 5.4.1: Percentage of primary school children reaching level 4 in Key Stage 2 Assessment at Primary School in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon and Northern Ireland in 2012.**



Source NINIS – Children Education and Skills – School Leavers (administrative geographies 2015)

When we consider post-primary attainment the figure below demonstrates that between 2012 and 2015, schools in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon area showed an increase in the percentage of students attaining five or more GCSEs at grade A\*-C including Maths and English over the period which was over 2% above the Northern Ireland average in 2014.

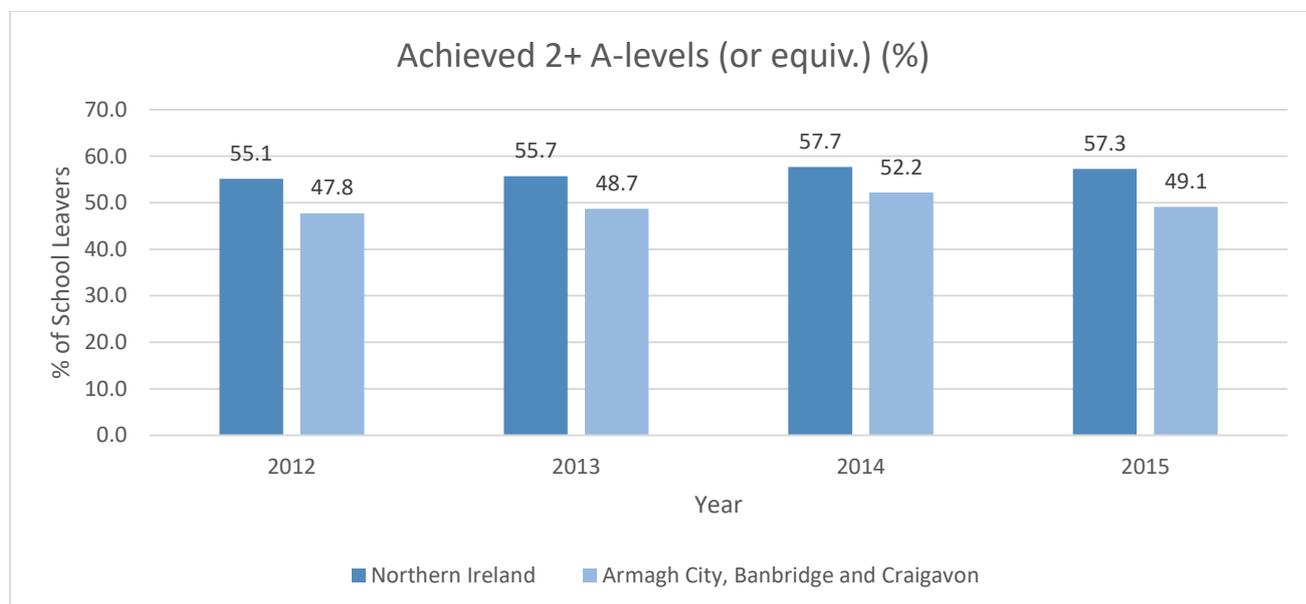
Figure 5.4.2: Percentage of school-leavers who achieved at least 5 GCSEs including Maths and English between 2012 and 2014, in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon and Northern Ireland.



Source NINIS – Children Education and Skills – School Leavers (administrative geographies 2015)

Attainment at A level is also shown in Figure 5.4.3. A-level attainment between 2012 and 2015 is below the Northern Ireland average and but, like the Northern Ireland average, is showing an increasing trend.

Figure 5.4.3: Percentage of school-leavers who achieved at least 2 A Levels between 2012 and 2014 in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon and Northern Ireland.



Source NINIS – Children Education and Skills – School Leavers (administrative geographies 2015)

#### Attainment Variation

The Borough has demonstrated an overall good level of achievement in post-primary qualifications. If we consider the data for students achieving 5 GCSE at grades A\*-C including English and mathematics by individual DEAs in 2014/2015 we can see variation across the Borough. In that year 68.1% of students in the Borough sitting GCSEs gained at least 5 GCSE passes at grades A\*-C including English and mathematics, which was above the Northern Ireland average of 66%. However the DEA's of Craigavon, Lurgan and Portadown fall below the NI average for that year.

Table 5.4.1: Percentage of school-leavers who achieved 5 GCSEs A\*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths % in 2015/2016 for DEAs in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.

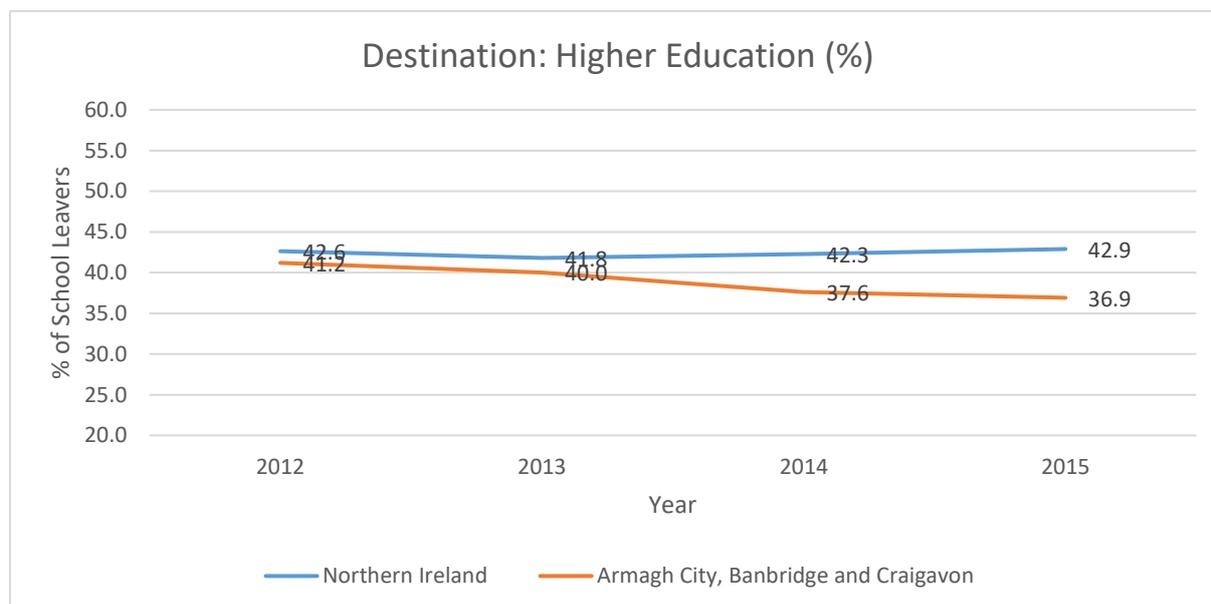
District Electoral Area	Achieved 5 GCSEs A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths % in 2014/2015.	Achieved 5 GCSEs A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths % in 2015/2016.
Armagh	74.7	70.6
Banbridge	70	68.7
Craigavon	60.4	62.5
Cusher	72.3	70.3
Lagan River	70.7	73.6
Lurgan	60.3	61.9
Portadown	65.2	62.0
Northern Ireland	66.0	67.7

Source NINIS – Children Education and Skills – School Leavers (administrative geographies)

#### Higher Education Enrolments

Figure 5.4.4 shows a decrease in Higher Education enrolments between 2012 and 2015. This contrasts with the trend in Northern Ireland over the same period, which has remained broadly stable.

Figure 5.4.4: Percentage of school-leavers who entered higher education after post-primary school in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland.

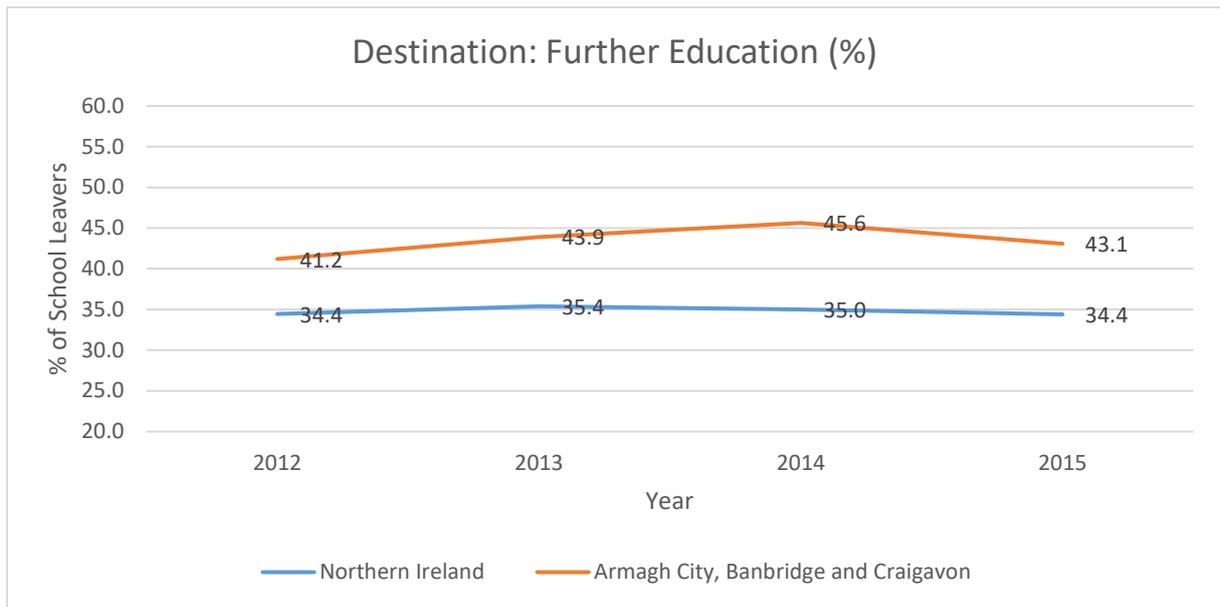


Source NINIS – Children Education and Skills – School Leavers (administrative geographies 2015)

#### Further Education Enrolments

Figure 5.4.5 shows that Further Education enrolments for school leavers in the Borough rose by around 4.4% between 2012 and 2014 and have been approximately 7-10% above the Northern Ireland average over the period 2012-15.

Figure 5.4.5: Percentage of school-leavers who entered further education after post-primary school in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland.

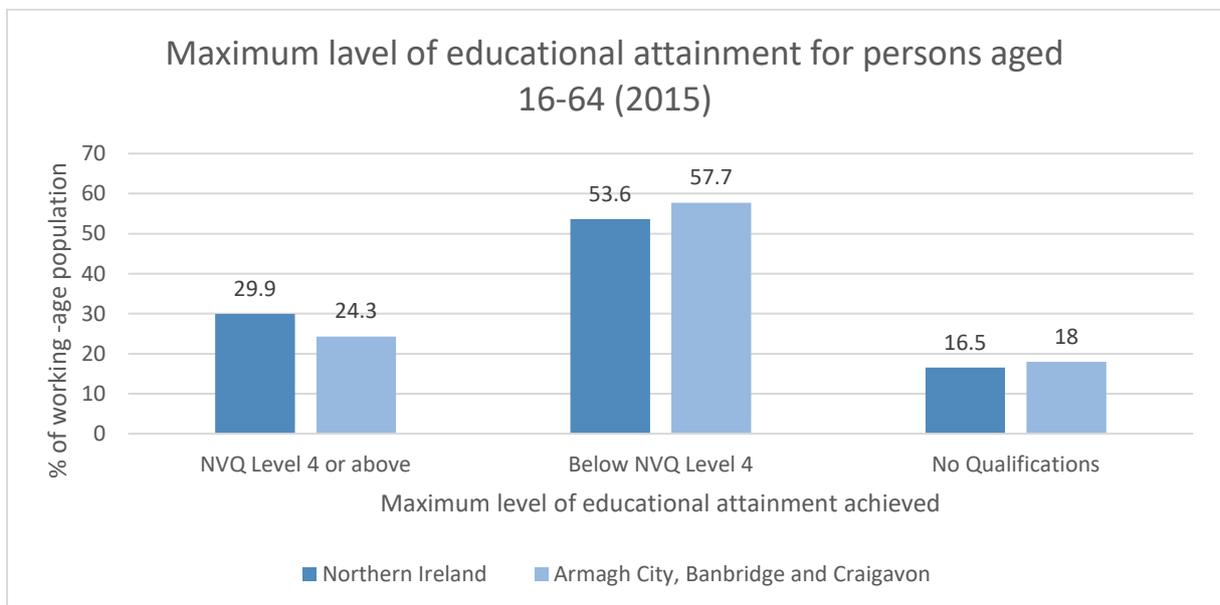


Source NINIS – Children Education and Skills – School Leavers (administrative geographies 2015)

#### Skills Level of Working age population

Figure 5.4.6 considers the level of qualifications of the working age population. It shows that ACBCBC has a level below the Northern Ireland average for NVQ level 4 and above, but a higher than NI average for qualifications up to NVQ level 4. The proportion of the population of working age with no qualifications is slightly higher than the Northern Ireland average.

Figure 5.4.6: Qualification level of the working age population for ACBCBC and Northern Ireland 2014.



NINIS - Labour Force Survey 2015 Local Area Database

#### 5.4.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline within the Local Development Plan

Without a new LDP there may be fewer opportunities to look at settlement pattern and school sustainability or to facilitate skills training.

#### 5.4.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Education and Skills

- Although the council area has a high level of educational achievement at all levels, this is not consistent between DEAs.
- Between 2012 and 2014 there has been a decrease in higher education enrolments (below the Northern Ireland average level) but an increase in further education enrolments (above the Northern Ireland average level).
- Within qualifications of the working age population in 2014, ABC has a level below the Northern Ireland average for NVQ level 4 and above, but a higher than NI average for qualifications up to NVQ level 4. The level of no qualifications was the same as Northern Ireland.
- Sharing facilities has been recognised as a way to promote a more cohesive and tolerant society and make better use of the resources available to education.

## 5.5 Economy and Employment

### 5.5.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Creating the conditions to achieve and maintain stable economic growth are key aims of all relevant strategies locally, regionally and within a European context. Economic growth is driven by a healthy business sector, which itself relies on a base of high quality education, and delivery of relevant skills to the workforce.

The common thread of relevant economic policies is to achieve sustainable growth of the economy. In particular, policy recognises the priority in Northern Ireland (NI) to raise competitiveness through increased export, and to identify opportunities in new, emerging and developed markets. The need to support the development of a more innovation-based economy is also identified and this links to a high potential for research and development. The Draft Northern Ireland Tourism Strategy 2020 was identified in the draft Programme for Government as one of the ‘building blocks’ to underpin the first strategic priority of growing a sustainable economy and investing in the future.

Within current planning policy, it is recognised that planning authorities should take a positive approach to sustainable economic development and enable job creation, giving priority to large scale proposals with job creation potential, through zoning land and promoting developments in settlement hubs. Policy also refers to the importance of creating the right conditions for investment through supporting urban and rural renaissance, ensuring that settlements remain vital. In terms of regional policy there is a recognition that accessible land should be made available to promote job creation and to promote sustainable economic growth at key locations. ‘Transform’, the Council’s Tourism Strategy 2017-2022, sets out the Council’s objectives for developing and managing tourism in the Borough.

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council’s Corporate Plan has ‘Place’ as one of its strategic themes. The Plan sets out the following priorities for economy and employment:

Economy	Employment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Support business development and business growth</li><li>▪ Increase the tourism, hospitality and entertainment economy</li><li>▪ Maximise external funding opportunities</li><li>▪ Campaign to increase inward investment</li><li>▪ Bid for large scale signature events</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Develop the skills of the workforce, now and for the future</li><li>▪ Safeguard public administration jobs</li><li>▪ Support local businesses to grow and increase jobs</li><li>▪ Stimulate entrepreneurship and wealth creation.</li></ul>

‘Connected’, the Council’s Community Plan 2017-2030, has ‘Economy’ as its second theme, with ‘Enterprising Economy’, ‘Skilled Economy’ and ‘Tourism Economy’ as three of its priorities. The Community Plan’s economic outcomes include: ‘Our Borough is a centre of excellence for entrepreneurship, innovation and investment’. ‘People are better equipped to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by our dynamic economy’ and ‘Our Borough is the destination of choice for international visitors’.

### 5.5.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in a number of Local Development Plan Position Papers, including ‘Employment and Economic Development’ (Paper 3), ‘Town Centres and Opportunity Sites’ (Paper 4) and ‘Tourism’ (Paper 7). Data has also been sourced from Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and the Department for Economy. This topic overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Natural Resources, Physical Resources and Historic Environment topics.

#### Overview

Craigavon urban area is made up of the three centres of Lurgan, Portadown and Central Craigavon with a growing population of around 65,000. It is the third largest centre of population in Northern Ireland and

performs a strong sub-regional function offering a wide range of services and facilities including an acute hospital. Central Craigavon is a distinct town centre with a built form that dates back less than 40 years. It has a well-established retail function, a strong manufacturing and industry base and benefits from a lakeside setting with leisure and tourism functions. It is well connected to both Belfast and Dublin.

Lurgan benefits from its location on the Belfast-Dublin railway line and easy access to the M1 motorway. Lurgan Park, the largest urban park in Northern Ireland is located immediately adjacent to the town centre. Oxford Island National Nature Reserve is situated on the outskirts of Lurgan. Portadown benefits from its drive time to Belfast of around 30 minutes and a stop on the Belfast-Dublin Railway line. Portadown's potential for a rediscovered and rejuvenated riverside area will lead it to become a location for modern mixed use development, centred around leisure and town centre living.

Banbridge has a good quality natural and built environment, excellent sports and leisure facilities, an abundance of parks and open spaces and a robust telecommunications infrastructure. Banbridge benefits from its strategic location on the Belfast-Dublin road corridor and will continue to have a key role as an important retail and commercial centre within the cluster.

Armagh City with a population of around 15,000 has a unique sense of place in Ireland with a significance and influence felt across the island for 6500 years. It has been the spiritual capital of Ireland since around 445AD. Armagh is a rich heritage and tourism destination with an abundance of cultural product – the rich Georgian architecture, cathedrals, museums, planetarium and Navan Fort. Armagh's potential in tourism terms relies largely upon strategic improvements to the transport corridor around the city.

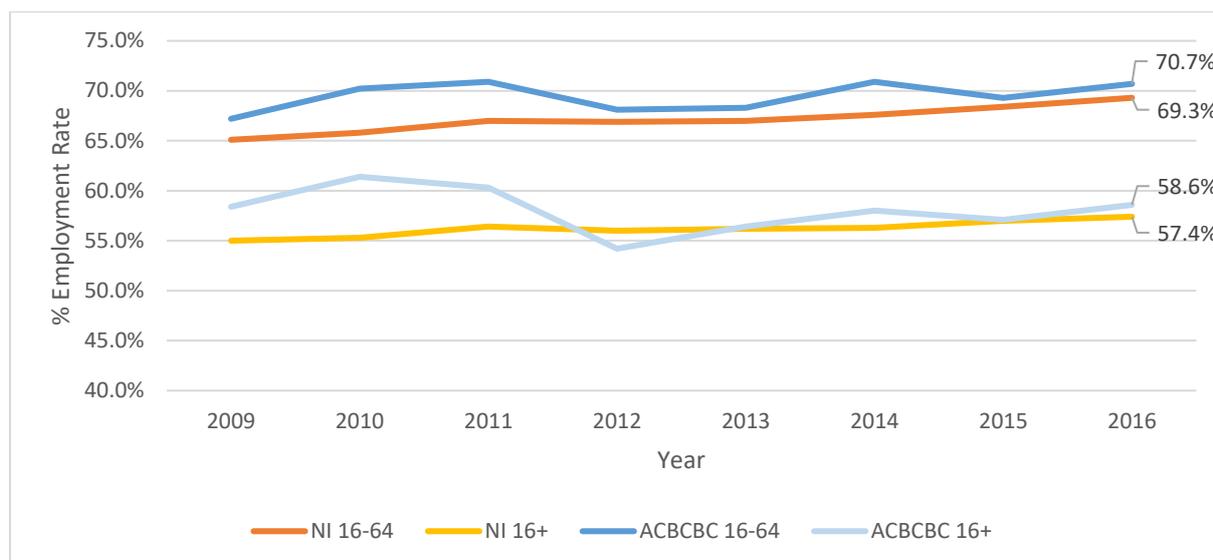
Craigavon, Banbridge and Armagh have the potential to cluster and to capitalise on their strategic position on the Belfast/Dublin and Belfast/Enniskillen/Sligo economic corridors.

#### *Economic Activity and Employment*

Employment rates are published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) for all persons aged 16 and over and for persons of working age (16-64). In 2014, three quarters of 16-64 year olds in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough were economically active (this includes those in employment and those seeking work) and one quarter were economically inactive (not looking for work or not available for work; this will include all those who are looking after a home, long term sick or disabled, students and retired). The economic activity rate in the Borough (74.6%) was slightly above the NI rate (74%).

Since 2009 the age 16+ and 16-64 employment rates (Figure 5.5.1) for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon have both been generally comparable with the NI average. The employment rate for persons aged 16-64 has shown a slightly increasing trend over the period 2009-16 however the rate for persons aged 16+ has shown a slightly decreasing trend over the same period. In 2016, 64,000 persons in the Council area aged over 16 (38.6%) were described as economically inactive (*NI 38.8%*).

Figure 5.5.1: Employment Rate 2009-2016 for Persons Aged 16+ and 16-64 compared with NI



Source: NISRA, Labour Force Survey Tables for Local Government Districts 2016

### Employment Sectors

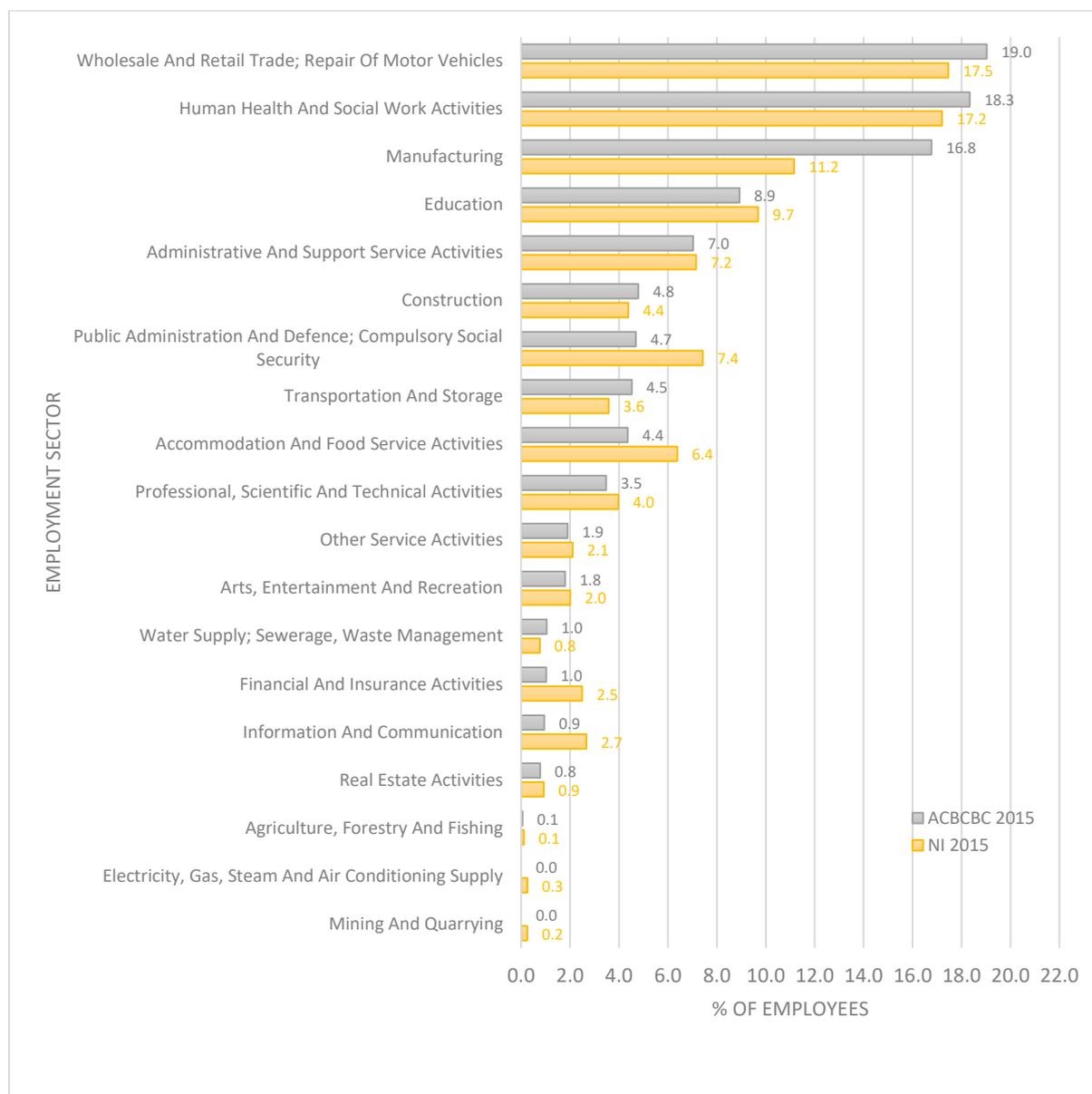
The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) is a statutory two yearly survey of employers in NI by the Department for Economy. It covers employee jobs but excludes agriculture, the self-employed, HM Armed Forces, private domestic servants, homeworkers and non-employed trainees such as those on internships. It presents information by Council area, which is primarily based on the location of the jobs rather than the residence of the employee.

The distribution of employees across the various employment sectors in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon in 2015 is shown in Figure 5.5.2. When compared to NI as a whole, these results show that a greater than average proportion of employees working in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon are employed in the 'Manufacturing' sector and 'Wholesale and Retail Trade / Motor Vehicle Repairs' sector. The proportion employed in the 'Human Health / Social Work' sector is also higher than the NI average. These differences are likely due to the Borough being home to some of NI's largest and most successful companies including Hyster-Yale Group, Ulster Carpet Mills, Moy Park, Tayto, Fane Valley, Irwin's, Almac, Turkington's and Wilson's. In comparison to NI as a whole, a smaller proportion of employees are employed in the Public Administration and Defence, Accommodation and Food Service and Information Communication sectors. Position paper 3 has estimated that up to 12,233 new jobs will need to be created over the period 2015-2030. The majority (approximately 80%) of these are expected to be provided within the service sector.

In 2015, the BRES estimated 70,101 employee jobs in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area. Employee numbers have seen some fluctuations in recent years, particularly in 2011-12, but appear to be steadily increasing. 48.4% of employee jobs in 2015 were held by males and 51.6% by females, however a significantly greater proportion (40%) of male employees were working full time (>30 hrs per week) with only 26% of female employees working full time. The 2015 Labour Market statistics for claimants seeking unemployment benefit of 3,825 claimants (2.9%) was lower than the NI average (3.7%). Latest figures<sup>1</sup> show a significant improvement, with the percentage claimant count significantly lower than the NI average (Oct. 2017: 2,436 claimants (1.8%) v NI at 2.5%, a decrease of 11.5% over the previous year).

<sup>1</sup> NISRA (2017) Claimant Count Tables – October 2017 (published 15 Nov. 2017)

Figure 5.5.2: Percentage of Employee Jobs by Industry Sector vs NI overall (2015)



Source: NISRA, Census of Employment, Business Registration Employment Survey 2015

Note: Figures exclude agriculture but include animal husbandry service activities and hunting, trapping and game propagation.

The BRES does not record the number of self-employed or those that earn their living from agriculture. In 2015 there were estimated to be 9,000 self-employed persons in the Borough<sup>1</sup>, representing 10% of those in employment (NI 12%). The Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) recorded 8,105 businesses in the Borough in 2016, 11.6% of all businesses in NI and the third highest amount in NI. Of these, 29% were in the Agriculture sector (NI 25%). The IDBR excludes smaller businesses and the self-employed who fall below the VAT registered/PAYE thresholds. 90% of the businesses on the IDBR are micro-businesses, with 0-9 employees and a further 8% are small businesses with 10-49 employees.

### Earnings from Employment

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings<sup>2</sup> by Local Government Districts is published by the Department for the Economy (DfE). The 2016 (provisional) survey results gave the value for those persons living in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon a median gross annual salary of £20,196 (up from £19,299 in

<sup>1</sup> Invest NI Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Area Profile June 2017 (accessed 16/11/2017)

<sup>2</sup> Department for the Economy Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by NI geographies, by place of work and place of residence, 2016 (provisional) and 2015 (revised) (accessed 31/10/2017)

2015), which is in the middle of the range of all the Council areas. The median gross annual salary for all of NI in 2016 was £20,953. The median gross annual salary in 2016 for those working in the Borough was £19,452, slightly lower than for those living in the Borough. This discrepancy in earnings between those living and working in the Borough is due to a tendency for workers to commute out of the Borough for higher earning employment.

### *Business Start-ups and Success*

The office for National Statistics publishes an annual bulletin of Business Demography which presents the number of active enterprises and charts the births of new enterprises, and deaths of enterprises. The number of enterprises active in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Council area in 2015 was 6,115, a decrease of just over 500 from 6,620 in 2010<sup>1</sup>. In the Borough, the five-year survival rate for businesses established in 2010 was 38.9% (NI 40.4%). Businesses in the former Banbridge Council areas (42.9%) performed significantly better than those in the former Armagh and Craigavon Council areas (36.4% and 37.5%). 2012 was a particularly difficult year, with the lowest number of new start-ups (400) and the greatest number of enterprise deaths (175). In 2015, 605 new business start-ups were recorded; a significant increase on the five previous years which averaged around 460.

The statistics show that although the Borough has similar entrepreneurial and business start-up rates to Northern Ireland overall, these are relatively low in comparison to other parts of the UK. The consultees surveyed for the Community Plan agreed that a focus on encouraging and nurturing new business ideas would help the Council increase and sustain economic growth.

### *Innovation*

It is widely recognised that improving the ability of the economy in NI to be innovative is a key factor in improving economic growth and employment. The most recent innovation figures are published by DfE in the UK Innovation Survey (UKIS) 2015. These show that in 2012-14, more NI businesses were innovation active than in 2010-12. 45% of enterprises in NI were estimated to be innovation active in the three year period 2012-14 (up from 40% in 2010-12). However this remains lower than the equivalent UK figure of 53% (up from 45% in 2010-12) and NI remains the second least innovation active region of the UK.

Within NI, 'Manufacturing' was the most innovative sector in 2012-14. In particular, 'Manufacturing of Electrical and Optical Equipment' (87% innovation active) and 'Manufacturing of Transport Equipment' (84% innovation active). Currently, large enterprises with 250 or more employees are reported as being more likely to engage in some sort of innovation activity, with 48% innovation active, as opposed to 40% of Small-Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Improving the quality of goods or services was the main factor driving innovation in NI and the UK as a whole.

### *Competiveness*

No data is available at Council level on levels of competitiveness. Total external sales by companies in NI to markets outside of NI were estimated to be worth £23 billion in 2015<sup>2</sup>, representing an increase of 1.3% (£300 million) from 2014. These figures are broken down as £18.3 billion (79.6%) for goods (a slight decrease of 0.5% on 2014) and £4.7 billion (20.4%) for services (an increase of 8.8% over 2014). These figures exceed the previously recorded peak in 2014 (£22.7 billion), and external sales are therefore at their highest level since 2011. External sales account for just over a third (34.4%) of all sales by companies in NI in 2015 (£66.7 billion).

### *Retailing*

The Council has a settlement hierarchy with five main town centres (Armagh, Portadown, Craigavon, Lurgan and Banbridge) and six smaller local towns (Keady, Markethill, Tandragee, Dromore, Rathfriland and Gilford). Section 3.2 of the 'Town Centres and Opportunity Sites' Discussion Paper summarises the results of surveys carried out on the main town centres in 2014. The town centres display a strong presence of independent retailers and service providers which helps provide an attractive alternative to national operators and contributes to the local distinctiveness of each centre. The proportion of 'other'

<sup>1</sup> Pre 2015 ONS figures are published under the three former local government district areas of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.

<sup>2</sup> NISRA Northern Ireland Broad Economy Sales and Exports Statistics (BESES): Goods and Services Results 2015 – published 11 May 2017

town centre uses is notably higher in NI than the UK average. The ‘other’ category includes transport services, employment and commercial activities, religious buildings, wholesale trade, civic and unclassified buildings. Having a range of other uses within town centres should be considered a positive attribute which confirms town centres are performing as a hub for a range of activities thereby contributing to overall vitality and viability. There is only one notable out-of-centre retail park (the Outlet) in the Borough. The Town Centres and Opportunity Sites Discussion Paper notes that the Outlet ‘may be considered as the biggest threat to the vitality of Banbridge Town Centre or alternatively a centre which will complement the offer and attractiveness of Banbridge as a whole’.

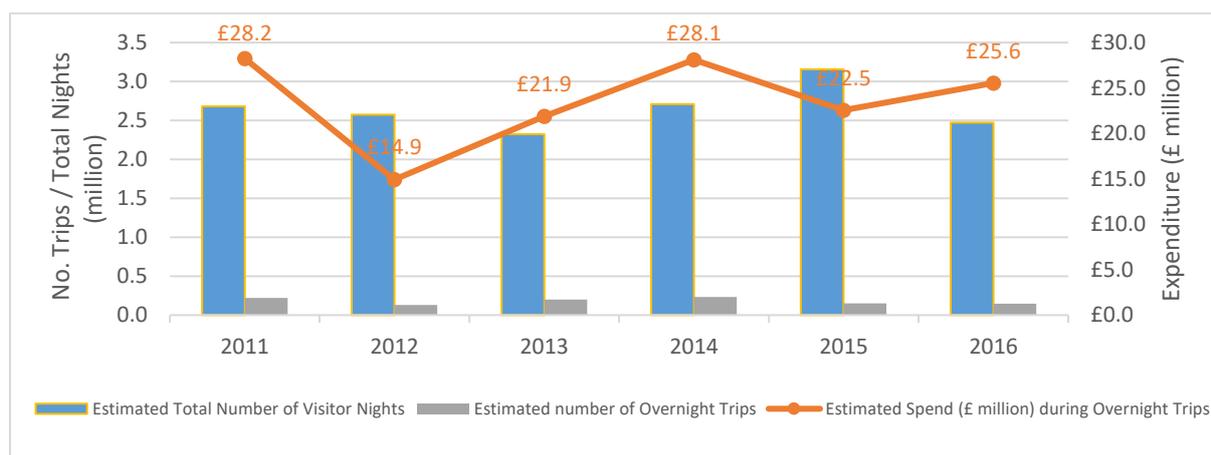
With the exception of Craigavon, vacancy rates in 2015 in the main towns were high in comparison to the rest of NI. Surveyed vacancy rates were: Armagh 20.37%, Banbridge 14.33%, Craigavon 5.63%, Lurgan 17.32% and Portadown 22.63% (NI 16%). Only two towns in NI recorded higher vacancy rates than Portadown, Armagh and Lurgan, however Craigavon had the lowest vacancy rate of all the towns surveyed. The Outlet, located outside Banbridge, has particularly high vacancy rates (37% in 2015). With the changing and dynamic scale and nature of retailing, a comprehensive up-to-date Retail Capacity Study will be required for the LDP.

The Borough shares a border with County Monaghan in Ireland. The ‘Town Centres and Opportunity Sites’ Discussion Paper mentions that Keady in particular benefits from strong cross border trade and cultural associations with the nearby towns of Castleblaney and Monaghan. The uncertainty surrounding ‘Brexit’ and related fluctuations in exchange rates may add to the challenges experienced in towns along the border area.

### Tourism

Investment in tourism brings new facilities to our towns, villages and surrounding landscapes and makes a vital contribution to the Borough in terms of the revenues it generates, the employment opportunities it provides, and the potential it creates for economic growth. It also provides the opportunity to get maximum benefit from our wealth of environmental and heritage assets; our waterways, landscapes and historic environment. There are also health benefits to be gained by a more active resident population who are motivated to be out and about exploring more of the Borough’s tourism assets.

Figure 5.5.3: Estimated overnight Trips, Nights and Expenditure 2011 -16 for ACBCBC



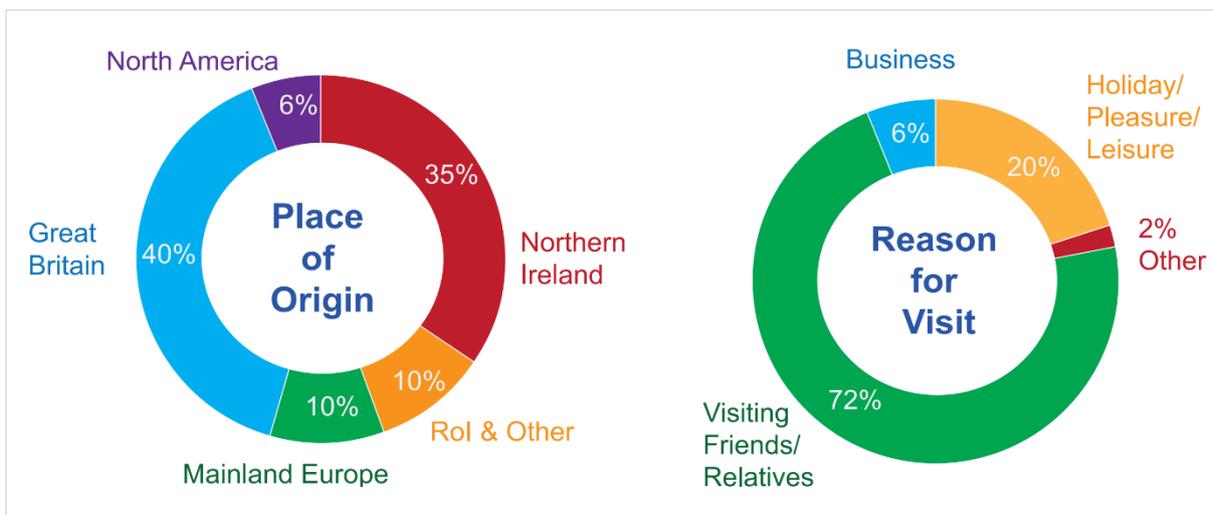
Source: NISRA, Local Government District tourism statistics publications (additional tables) (published 6 July 2017)

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council is among the least visited of the local government districts as an overnight tourism destination. The Borough has lower numbers of available tourist accommodation than most other local government districts, having the second lowest number of bed spaces in 2015 (1,173 spaces) and third lowest in 2016 (1,249 spaces) - around 3% of the NI total. Excluding day visits, tourism was worth around £25.5m to the Borough in 2016 from overnight expenditure (around 3% of the NI total of £850m). In 2015, tourism-related employment supported 4,266 jobs in the Borough, around 6% of all employment.

Overnight visitors to Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon typically stay there for longer than when visiting other areas in NI, with the average number of overnights per trip in 2016 being 5.0 (NI 3.3 nights). NISRA's annual tourism survey estimates show that for the three year period 2014-16, the Borough attracted a greater than average proportion of visitors from mainland Europe and North America (Figure 5.5.4). A lower than average proportion (34.8%, NI 46.7%) of visitors travelled from elsewhere in NI to stay in the Borough, however a greater than average proportion of visitors (39.6%, NI 29.1%) originated from Great Britain.

Figure 5.5.4 also shows almost three-quarters (72%) of overnight stays in the Borough for the period 2014-16 were to visit friends/relatives. This proportion is much higher than in any other Council area (NI 41%). Only 20% of overnight visits were for holiday/leisure/pleasure; a much lower proportion than for any other local government district (NI 47%).

**Figure 5.5.4: Overnight Visits - Place of Visitor Origin and Principal Reason for Visit (2014-2016)**



Source NISRA Local government district tourism statistics infographics (Date published: 06 July 2017)

In 2016 Oxford Island National Nature Reserve, Kinnego Marina, Tannaghmore Gardens & Rare Breeds Animal Farm and the Lough Neagh Discovery centre were the most popular visitor attractions in the Borough. Lurgan Park was the second most visited park in NI, with 634,000 visitors.

The estimated tourism expenditure per trip averaged around £150 in 2016, which was slightly lower than the average for NI (£164). Annual average hotel room occupancy rates in the Borough have remained fairly constant around 52% over the past five years, while the occupancy rate for other commercial accommodation has more than doubled from an average of 19% for 2013-15, to 43% in 2016 (NI: 34%). Self-catering unit occupancy has also increased from an average of 24% for 2011-14 to 37% in 2015 and 2016 which is slightly better than the NI average (NI: 36%).

The Council's Tourism Strategy 2017-2022 has identified a number of initiatives it wishes to develop to enhance the Borough's ability to stand out in a crowded market. It proposes that the tourism offer in its widest sense will be developed on the basis of appealing to the higher spend 'Free Independent Traveller' as opposed to pursuing a strategy of purely higher volume, lower yield business. Themes it will focus on include culture, heritage and high quality / artisan food and drink.

### 5.5.3 Likely Evolution of baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without a new LDP in place, the opportunity to make plans for growth in line with recent evidence and to develop a plan-led system may be missed. The absence of a LDP to address local needs could further disadvantage those on lower incomes in terms of access to places of work. High levels of retail building vacancy in village and town centres might continue which would be detrimental to the vitality and viability these centres. The Council would be unable to facilitate sustainable tourism growth to adequately reflect the needs and assets unique to the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon area.

#### 5.5.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Economy and Employment

- Identifying and zoning appropriate land is a vital part of creating the conditions to sustain economic development that meets employment needs and supports economic growth.
- Many of the large settlements in the Council are located on key transport corridors. In selecting land for development, it is important to provide sites with quality environments located on transport corridors to attract businesses.
- Need to ensure that the Council area is attractive to investors, and higher skilled people, by supporting the vitality and vibrancy of the wider area and facilitating a high quality local environment through appropriate land use, design and layout. This relates particularly to quality of provision, location, and accessibility of office/manufacturing/retail space.
- Proposed new employment locations should be readily accessible by active travel and/or public transport.
- A higher than average percentage of people in the Council area are economically active.
- The Council area has a high proportion of people employed in the wholesale / retail trade, manufacturing and health sectors.
- Employee salaries are broadly average for NI.
- The business birth rate and survival rate is average for NI, but lower than the rest of the UK. A focus on encouraging and nurturing new business ideas would help the Council increase and sustain economic growth.
- Within the Council area, there is a vibrant rural entrepreneurial spirit within the villages and open countryside. It is important that the Plan provides policy which can facilitate appropriate sustainable rural businesses.
- Within retail, there have been a number of challenges in recent years, however the market is in recovery and is evolving.
- Town centres should be supported by encouraging occupation of vacant buildings.
- The out-of-town retail park (The Outlet) should be supported to increase its unit occupancy and usage in a manner that complements nearby town centres rather than taking business from them.
- 'Brexit' and exchange rate fluctuations may disproportionately affect businesses in border areas.
- Almost three quarters of overnight visits to the Council area are to visit friends and relatives. The proportion of overnight visitors staying for holiday/pleasure/leisure is the lowest in NI.
- There are a wealth of heritage and cultural, natural and landscape tourism assets within the Council area with significant future potential.
- Activity tourism has the potential to create important economic benefits, particularly in the rural area.
- Water sport activities, including those based on connections to Lough Neagh, have important tourist potential; Oxford Island and Kinnego Marina were the most popular visitor attractions in the Council area (excluding country parks/parks/forests).

## 5.6 Material Assets

### 5.6.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The material assets sustainability theme covers a range of policy areas, including telecommunications, electrical infrastructure, energy distribution, renewable energy, derelict/contaminated land and waste management.

Overarching regional and strategic planning policy strives for the sustainable development of land to help ensure the integration of material assets. Growth of infrastructure should be enabled in an efficient and effective manner whilst environmental impacts are minimised. The National Renewable Energy Action Plan for the UK 2010, the Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-15 and beyond and the NI Waste Management Strategy are all relevant to material assets. DETI's (now Department for Economy) Strategic Energy Framework 2010-2020 has been under review but at its core is decarbonisation of the energy mix. The overriding aim of these plans is sustainable development. The multifunctional use of land is encouraged; significant increases in renewables to the energy mix recommended; and reductions in waste and increases in recycling rates targeted.

Investing in telecommunications, particularly in rural areas and considering the infrastructure required for renewable energy projects and strengthening of the grid for future energy demands are encouraged at the regional level. New gas infrastructure is also supported as the move to gas helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet UK climate change commitments. Climate change concerns encourage the use of renewables and a move toward a more sustainable energy mix that reduces emissions and improves air quality. Sustainable waste management is also acknowledged as an opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by focusing on the waste management hierarchy and the proximity principle. Impacts should be considered of all types of installation on the environment and a strategic approach to the sustainable development of land could include multiple uses. For example, derelict land could be used to treat waste, which could in turn produce energy for local distribution.

The Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2017 focuses on place, people and position. Sustainable management of our material assets will be integral to delivering on the Plan. Ensuring our material assets are fit for purpose can not only stimulate innovation, investment and employment, but also futureproof the Borough for a reduced reliance on fossil fuels, an increase in the use of renewables and a culture of resource efficiency based on the proximity principle.

### 5.6.2 Baseline Evidence

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the 'Public Utilities' Local Development Plan preparatory study. This topic also overlaps with the Economy and Employment, Physical Resources, Climate Change and Landscape topics of this report.

#### *Telecommunications/Electrical Infrastructure*

Northern Ireland has an excellent standard of telecommunications including broadband infrastructure. Some areas and businesses in the Council have already benefitted from several broadband related projects including fibre optic links to the United States for Armagh and Portadown under Project Kelvin.

Although the Borough is generally well connected with 82% of premises having access to superfast fixed line broadband<sup>1</sup>, some rural areas remain limited in their connectivity, with 2,300 premises (2.7%) unable to receive 2Mbit/s in 2017. Download speeds published by OFCOM in the 2017 'Connected Nations' report vary greatly, ranging between 0.1 Mbit/s and 80 Mbit/s, with an average speed of 28Mbit/s, fourth lowest of all LGDs (average across NI 35.5Mbit/s).

Mobile coverage in the Borough is best across the wider Craigavon area, but OFCOM reports that that mobile coverage in Northern Ireland, particularly indoor coverage and outdoor coverage on A & B roads,

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<sup>1</sup> OFCOM Connected Nations 2017 – data downloads

is lower relative to the rest of the UK. Both 3G and 4G are available in the Council but 3G is the most common.

51% of premises in the Borough can receive a 3G signal indoors from all four providers, fourth lowest amongst the LGDs (NI average 66%). 0.5% of premises cannot receive 3G from any provider. 29% of premises in the Borough can receive a 4G signal indoors from all providers. There is a need to improve mobile data services across the Council.

The System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) manages the large-scale electrical transmission infrastructure across the country. SONI is the independent Transmission System Operator for Northern Ireland and operates 1,500 km of transmission power lines and 45,000 km of distribution power lines. Currently all customers are connected to the distribution network for their electricity<sup>1</sup>.

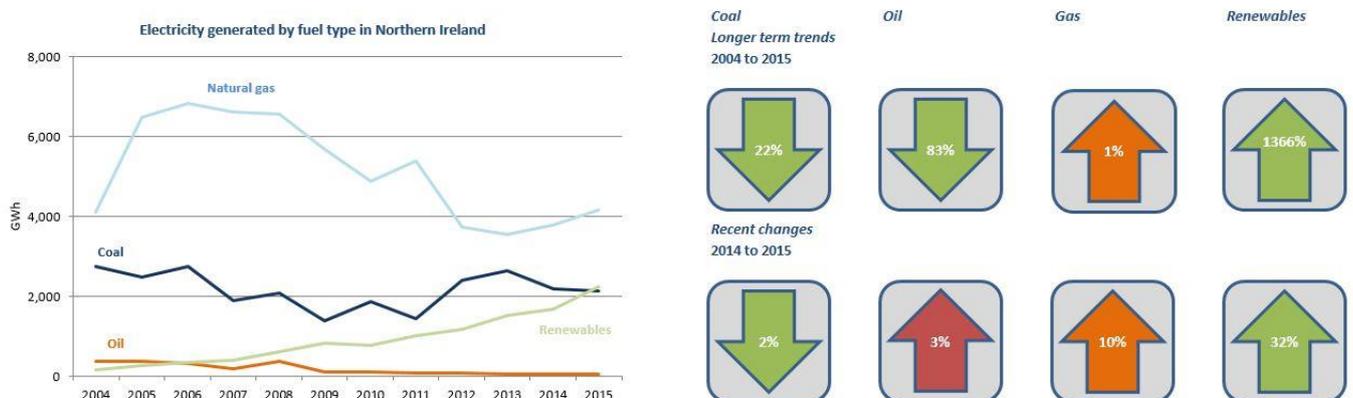
SONI presents a live link [www.soni.ltd.uk](http://www.soni.ltd.uk) to the current energy mix for Northern Ireland and connected sources of power generation including renewables. It is important for the grid to remain fit-for-purpose as this helps to ensure security of supply. This also supports increased diversity within the system, by enabling additional connections from renewable projects to both the transmission and distribution systems.

The North-South Interconnector planning application is partially located within the Borough. The line would improve the existing connection already in place with the Republic and would help to improve both transmission speeds and volumes across the network. The proposed line would be predominantly through agricultural and rural lands. The planning application is contentious and has gone to public inquiry twice because of the amount of concern linked to its potential impacts. It is important for the Council to consider the proposal in the context of both its potential impacts and its association with the future proofing of the transmission system in Northern Ireland.

### Energy Supply and Distribution

In total Northern Ireland has three fossil fuelled power stations although Kilroot is due to close in 2018. Two are located on the east Antrim coast at Ballylumford and Kilroot, and the third is located at Coolkeeragh on the southern shore of Lough Foyle. Although no power stations are located within or near the Borough, there are no issues with access to energy supply. Two of the three plants now use natural gas for generating electricity, rather than coal or oil. The changing sources of electricity generation can be viewed in Figure 5.6.1, with the growth of renewables and the decrease in the use of oil for domestic heating both evident.

Figure 5.6.1: Electricity generation by fuel type 2004-2015



Source: DAERA, Carbon Intensity Indicators 2017

The use of natural gas for domestic heating has also significantly increased in Northern Ireland since its introduction in 1996 and this growth is likely to continue where the infrastructure is feasible.

<sup>1</sup> Northern Ireland Electricity: Briefing on Grid Capacity in Northern Ireland in the context of enabling Economic Growth April 2015

As changes in policy direct the energy market towards reduced GHG emissions and a low carbon future, changes in the operations of all the fossil-fuelled power stations in Northern Ireland will have to occur. In the draft Programme for Government, GHG emissions will be used to help indicate environmental sustainability in Northern Ireland.

### *Renewable Energy*

The Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-2015 and beyond, is endorsed by the NI Executive and has a target of 40% of electricity consumption to be from renewables by 2020. Northern Ireland is currently on its way to meeting this target as renewables make up 27% of our electricity needs<sup>1</sup>. This is in support of commitments made under the UK Climate Change Act.

Wind dominates the renewables market in Northern Ireland with onshore wind making up 78% of installed capacity but other technologies are evident – solar, hydro, anaerobic, biomass and heat extraction<sup>2</sup>. With the growth of renewables in Northern Ireland, seen in Figure 5.6.1, the ability of the grid to accommodate new connections is becoming more of an issue. The Renewable Integration Development Project (RIDP) 2007 found that the Borough has areas where the feasibility of new connections to the grid is limited and a number of substations require upgrading. Affected areas include Keady and Dromore.

In the Borough, three windfarms have been approved and 253 single turbines. There are physical constraints, such as lower elevations, that possibly make the Borough less attractive to investors of large scale wind projects. Other constraints are landscape related in the Slieve Croob and Slieve Gullion areas but the market for single turbines has been evident right across the Borough. The Northern Ireland Electricity Heat Map shows areas where grid connections have reached saturation point and Council areas include Keady, Markethill and Kinallen. The grid needs to be upgraded to be able to manage the amount of renewable energy connections that are planned for from both small scale and large-scale producers. There needs to be a diversity of renewables to help ensure sustainability of the energy system however, in Northern Ireland, financial incentives to support the uptake of renewables have ceased.

### *Waste Management*

Regional policy promotes the waste management hierarchy to – reduce, reuse, recycle, recover and dispose. The Borough is within the Southern Waste Management Group (SWaMP) and expected to align with most recent SWAMP Waste Management Plan (WMP) dated up to 2020.

There is a domestic recycling collection, provision of bottle banks and nine recycling centres for residents in the Borough. These should go some way to helping the Borough achieve the 60% recycling target set by the Department for municipal waste. This will become increasingly important, as there are no active landfill sites in the Borough.

The amount of municipal waste collected in the Borough for recycling (reuse, recycle and compost) is 48.01%. This is the second highest amount collected from all of the Councils and above the Northern Ireland average of 42.2%.

The Council recognises that recyclable waste has a value and that the non-recyclable waste can be used as an energy source.

### *Derelict / contaminated land*

The Land Use Database held by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) provides a record of approximately 14,000 sites that have had previous industrial land use(s). This database was originally developed in 1997 based on historic maps and records held provided by the Local Councils for the period 1834 to 1960. More recently this database was further updated using NIEA datasets such as the Industrial Heritage database, Waste Management License Database and Pollution Incidents Database.

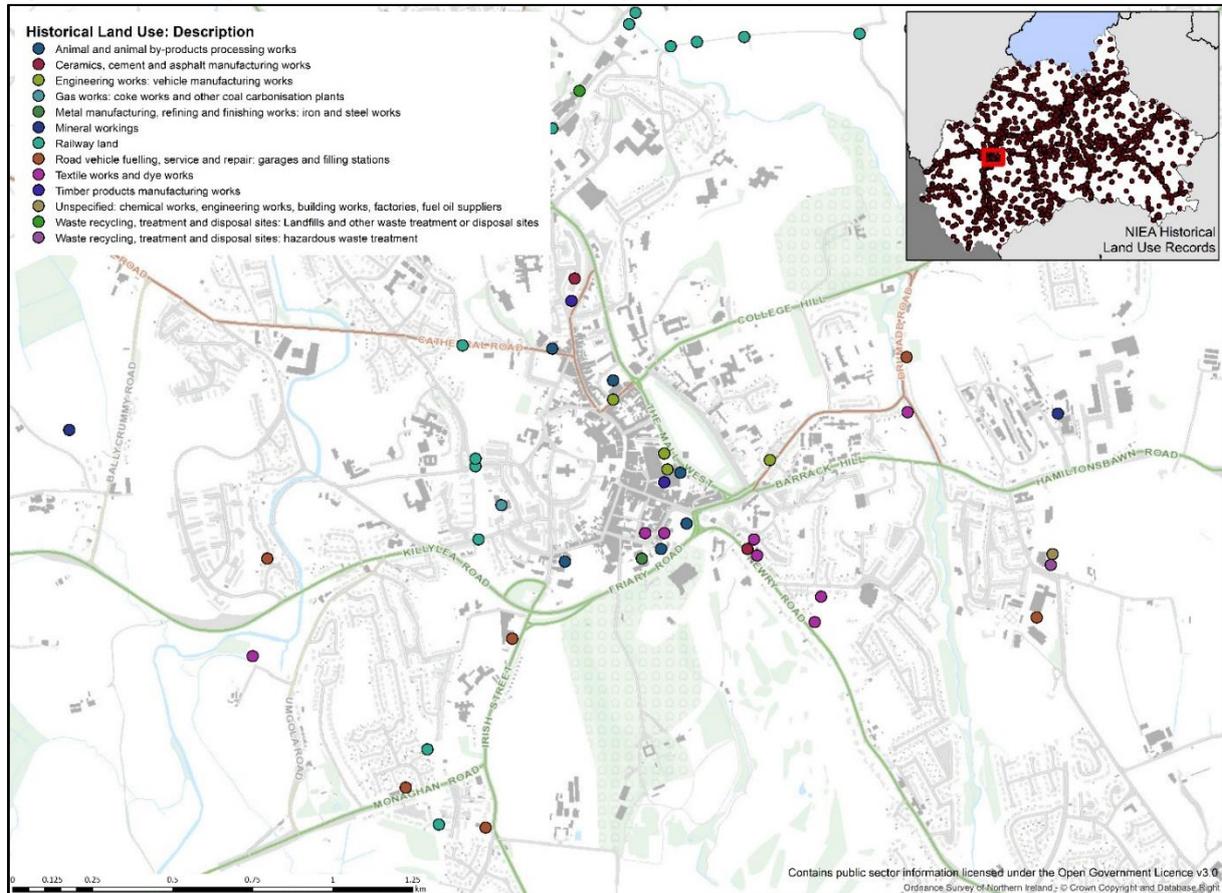
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<sup>1</sup> Climate NI July 2017

<sup>2</sup> More information on geothermal energy is in the Physical Resources section.

There are 1,738 records on the Land Use Database in our area. An excerpt from the database, showing Armagh City is shown as an example of the information in Figure 5.6.2.

Figure 5.6.2: Excerpt from Land Use Database, Armagh City



Source: DAERA Historical Landuse Database

### 5.6.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, it may become more difficult to sustainably manage provision and integration of material assets, as land is more likely to be developed without appropriate infrastructure in place or planned for.

### 5.6.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Material Assets

- Sustainably improve the telecommunications network in areas with slow download speeds and in rural areas to help ensure those residents, communities and businesses are not disadvantaged.
- Adopt a spatial approach to the sustainable planning of our material assets to help ensure energy sources and distribution to users are located as efficiently as possible in relation to one other.
- Work with partners to help sustainably develop gas infrastructure projects.
- Continue to support appropriate sustainable renewable projects and associated infrastructure to help increase the diversity of renewables supplying energy to the grid, to help meet commitments made under the UK Climate Change Act.
- The lack of financial incentives for renewable projects may affect the demand to develop renewables.
- Consider community based renewable projects that can make more efficient use of land and reduce environmental impacts including landscape related issues.
- Consider alternative renewable technologies to wind in areas where wind technology may cause concern for landscape issues.

- Look for sustainable opportunities within the waste management industry that support resource efficiency and align with the Southern West Management Plan (SWaMP).
- Reduce non-recyclable wastes and educate people about alternatives in accordance with the principles of the waste management hierarchy – avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover.
- Ensure equal access to waste management facilities across the Council based upon the proximity principle and use the LDP to enable consideration of derelict/contaminated land for waste management facilities.

## 5.7 Physical Resources

### 5.7.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The physical resources sustainability theme covers minerals, earth science sites, geothermal energy, land and soil. Physical resources provide us with the building blocks we need for everyday life and are mostly finite in their supply.

The sustainable management of physical resources is a common theme of regional, strategic and subject planning policy. The need to safeguard sufficient land to provide physical resources into the future is evident. Land is recognised as multifunctional in that it can act as a connective wildlife corridor; provide amenity value, building resources, adaptation for climate change; remove water and soil pollution; support biodiversity and create landscape character. Adequate amounts of land are required to deliver all of these functions. Some physical resources such as soil can become so contaminated from pollution that they no longer adequately function.

The overarching aims of current government policy and programmes are sustainable development and sustainable land management, as these will underpin sustainable economic growth and a sustainable energy supply. Current policy strives to ensure that physical resources are safeguarded for the future and that sufficient local supplies are available.

Our Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2017 focuses on place, people and position and integral to achieving its outcomes will be sustainable management of our physical resources. Ensuring the sustainable management of our land, including our mineral reserves, will help to both drive the economy and also safeguard the environment, and at the same time enable development of new concepts like geothermal energy projects.

#### *Baseline Information*

A baseline of information is presented in the Local Development Plan Public Utilities Discussion paper, the Minerals paper and the Pressure Analysis paper. This topic also overlaps with the Material Assets, Climate Change, Air Quality, Water Resources, Natural Resources and Landscape sections of this report.

#### *Minerals*

There are 25 operating sites in the Borough area that quarry or extract limestone, sandstone, sand and gravel, peat, granite, basalt and granite. There are old lead mines in parts of the Borough and the presence of gold is known. There are several hard rock quarries across the west and east of the Borough and to a lesser amount, sand and gravel quarries in the centre of the Borough and along the shores of Lough Neagh. The largest area of constraint on mineral development lies between the southern shore of Lough Neagh and the M1.

The underlying geology of the Borough means a wide range of mineral resources are available. Minerals resource maps can be accessed at [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk). The maps show the dominance of clay on the southern shores of Lough Neagh, of lower grade sandstone and limestone across the north of the Borough and the majority of land through the central Council area dominated by higher grade sandstone. Igneous rocks also begin to dominate in the south east of the region.

Sectoral figures show that currently the minerals industry employs 250 people within the Borough and that £14.5 million is generated annually<sup>1</sup>. The Department for Economy recognises that the concept of sustainability is different within the industry because reserves are finite but the industry can still play a part in the circular economy<sup>2</sup>. The Department also encourages Councils to be mindful of the role their area has to the regional economy. Some Councils have more reserves than others and are advised by the Department to be mindful of the need to both export and import for micro-economies.

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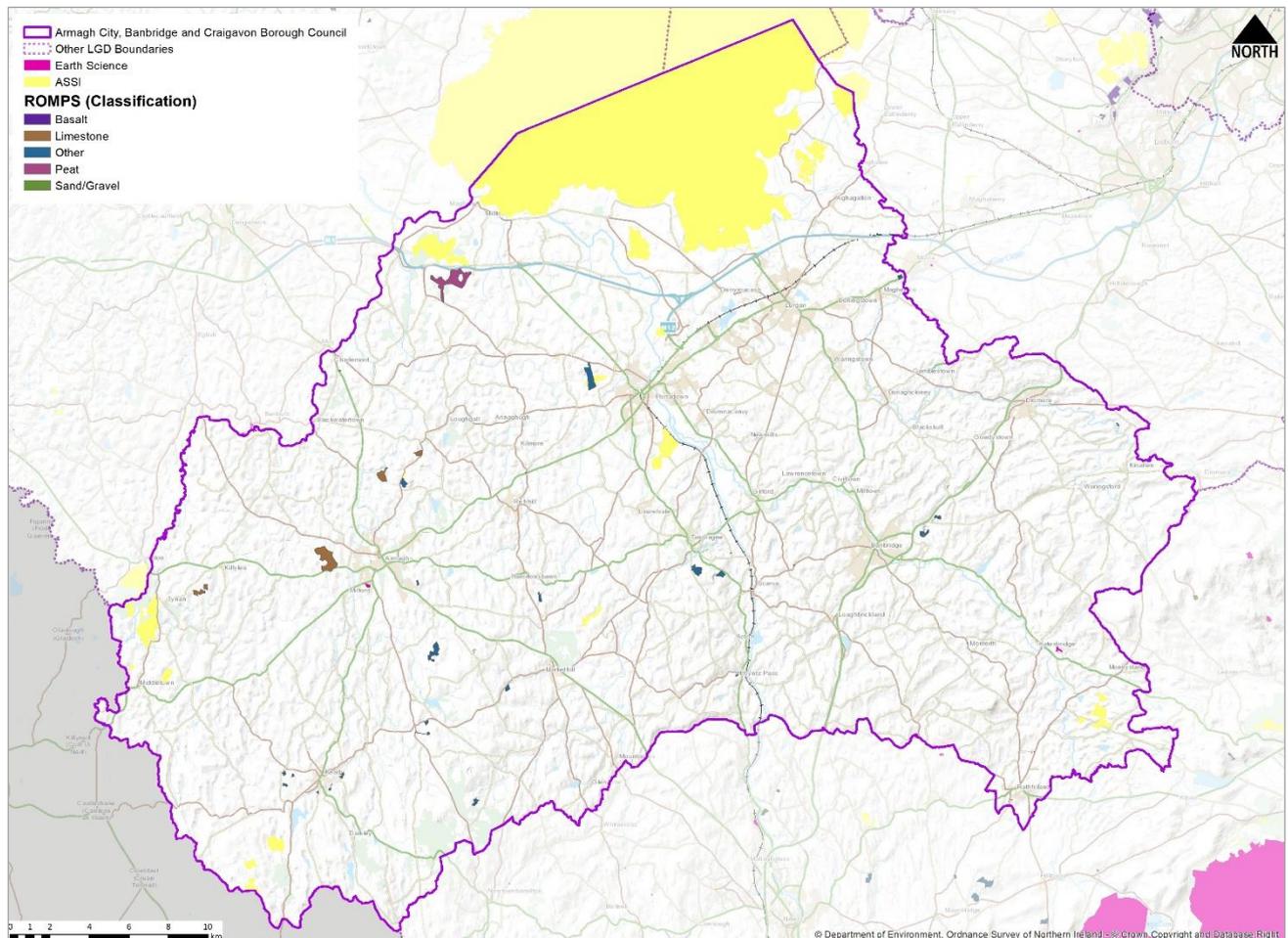
<sup>1</sup> Information from ABC Planning Team 2017

<sup>2</sup> Department for the Economy Information note on Minerals, Geothermal Energy, Groundwater and Geohazards 2017

After an area has been mined, it may become an important educational resource, or a site for local recreation. Sites often become important for local nature conservation and may merit protection. With or without restoration, redundant sites can become part of green/blue infrastructure, connecting habitats and species across the wider landscape and helping to maintain local biodiversity.

Current planning policy aims to minimise the impacts from the minerals industry on local communities and the environment. This is expected through sustainable minerals development that carefully considers impacts on the local area and includes the safe restoration of sites with an appropriate reuse. In Northern Ireland, older mineral workings from the 1970s and 1980s had little emphasis placed on managing their environmental impacts or restoration. Recent changes to our planning legislation through the Planning Act (NI) 2011, enables Councils to review these older mineral permissions (ROMPs). However, a further Order is needed before Councils can begin this review.

**Figure 5.7.1: Location of Council’s ROMP sites**



Source: Spatial NI, DAERA

In total, there are 23 ROMP sites in the Borough. A significant amount of these are located in and around the Armagh City area and Keady, with a few sites in and around Tandragee and Banbridge. The majority of these were worked for limestone or ‘other’ materials. A relatively large peat site is also located just southwest of Lough Neagh.

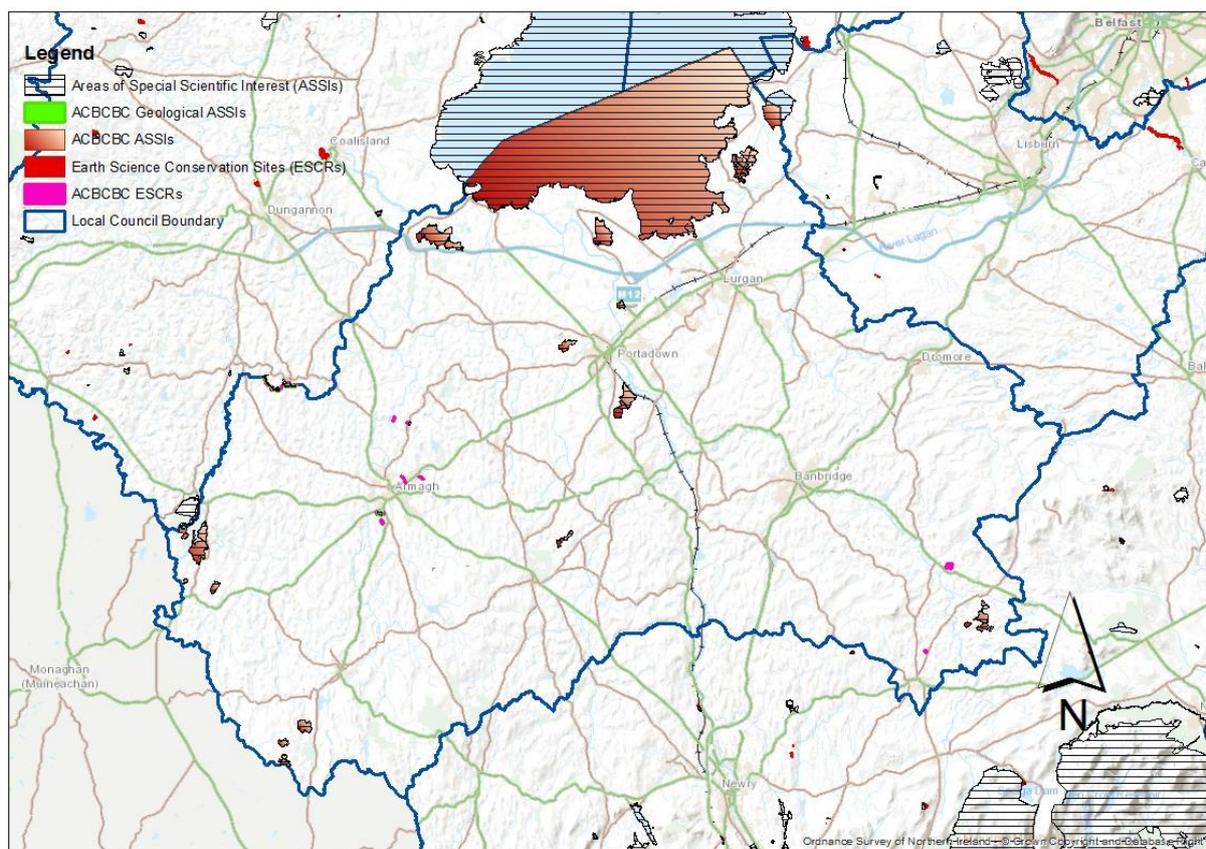
Some of the ROMPs overlap with, or are adjacent to, existing ASSI or ESCR designations. This is the case with the peat ROMP site south west of Lough Neagh that is near to Peatlands Park ASSI; a limestone ROMP north of Armagh City overlaps with Carganamuck Quarry; a ROMP site east from Carganamuck lies adjacent to Annacramph Meadows ASSI and Annacramph Lane ESCR; and a ROMP site west of Portadown overlaps with Selshion ASSI.

## Earth Science

There are 12 earth science sites across the Borough. These are recognised for various geological features and are found in streams and rivers, quarries and cliffs, and as open ground features. There is a relatively low number of earth science sites compared to other Councils. The sites are mostly located in the Milford/Armagh and Benburb areas.

There are also 19 Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) in the Borough and four of these have geological features, Aughnavallog, Benburb/Milltown, Drumarg and Shannaghan Hill. Geological sites can also provide habitat for local wildlife and help to maintain local biodiversity. There is a direct link between the geology and the geomorphology of an area and its physical character and natural heritage. Very often protection of geological features enables a site to also become locally important for habitats and species and accountable as green/blue infrastructure. There are nine Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs) recognised for their geological importance<sup>1</sup>.

Figure 5.7.2: Council Earth Science Sites and geological Areas of Special Scientific Interest



Source: Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)

## Geothermal Energy

Naturally occurring heat is stored in ground layers ranging from core depths to shallow layers. It can be used as a source of heating for buildings and possible electricity. This naturally occurring ground heat is called 'geothermal energy' and in Northern Ireland, the Lough Neagh basin and the Mourne Mountains are good examples of geothermal aquifers. Armagh City, Craigavon & Banbridge Borough Council has the potential for use of both of these sources.

Shallow geothermal energy could be available right across Northern Ireland as this can be accessed at only a couple of metres depth using ground source heat pumps. Geothermal energy is low carbon, renewable (without fluctuation) and potentially viable with existing technology. It could become a viable part of the future energy mix, if investment and the necessary infrastructure were provided.

<sup>1</sup> Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council planning team

Consideration of its installation and integration is recommended at an early design stage alongside other infrastructure. The UK National Renewable Energy Action Plan refers to ground heat and the Strategic Energy Framework (SEF)<sup>1</sup> discusses shallow geothermal energy. Ground source heat pumps have been installed in the Borough.

### *Land*

There are six operational public cemeteries provided and maintained by the Council. Two of these are not expected to suffice over the plan period, affecting both the Armagh and Craigavon areas. The remaining cemeteries will have adequate provision but it is an issue for our Council to consider where future cemeteries are needed and are feasible.

There is also potential pressure from renewables. Although windfarms are low in number relative to other Council areas, the single turbine approvals since 2002 are widely distributed across the Borough. Pressure from single turbines is more evident in the rural hinterlands south of Portadown as shown in Map 8 of the LDP *'Pressure Analysis'* Discussion Paper 13. Single turbines and associated infrastructure can place pressure on land. Community based renewable energy projects can help to reduce these impacts.

Rural housing approvals from 2010 onward are shown in Map 7 of the LDP *'Pressure Analysis'* Discussion Paper 13. These appear to be widely distributed across the Borough's rural area with an approval rate of 81% between 2004 and 2016. There is some additional pressure from rural housing within the southern hinterland of Lough Neagh.

Sub-surface planning is another new concept that is promoted by the Department though this may be more applicable in urban areas to help deal with land/space issues. The local geology needs to be understood before any sub-surface planning would be feasible.

### *Forestry and Woodland*

The Borough has approximately 5,600ha of woodland identified on the Forest Service's Woodland Register (Figure 5.7.3). Of this, approximately 1,500ha is forestry that is managed by the Forest Service. c.26ha has been identified by the Woodland Trust as 'ancient woodland'. NIEA has identified around 1,200ha of woodland in the Borough as 'priority habitat' under the E.U. Habitats Directive.

### *Land cover*

The Northern Ireland Countryside Survey (2007)<sup>2</sup> found that the main changes in land cover were the loss of semi natural habitats to agricultural grassland and rural buildings. The trend for land conversion to improved grassland and curtilage was observed in the 1998 survey. Building was mostly on neutral or improved grassland indicating pressure on agricultural land but semi natural habitat losses were also recorded.

### *Soil*

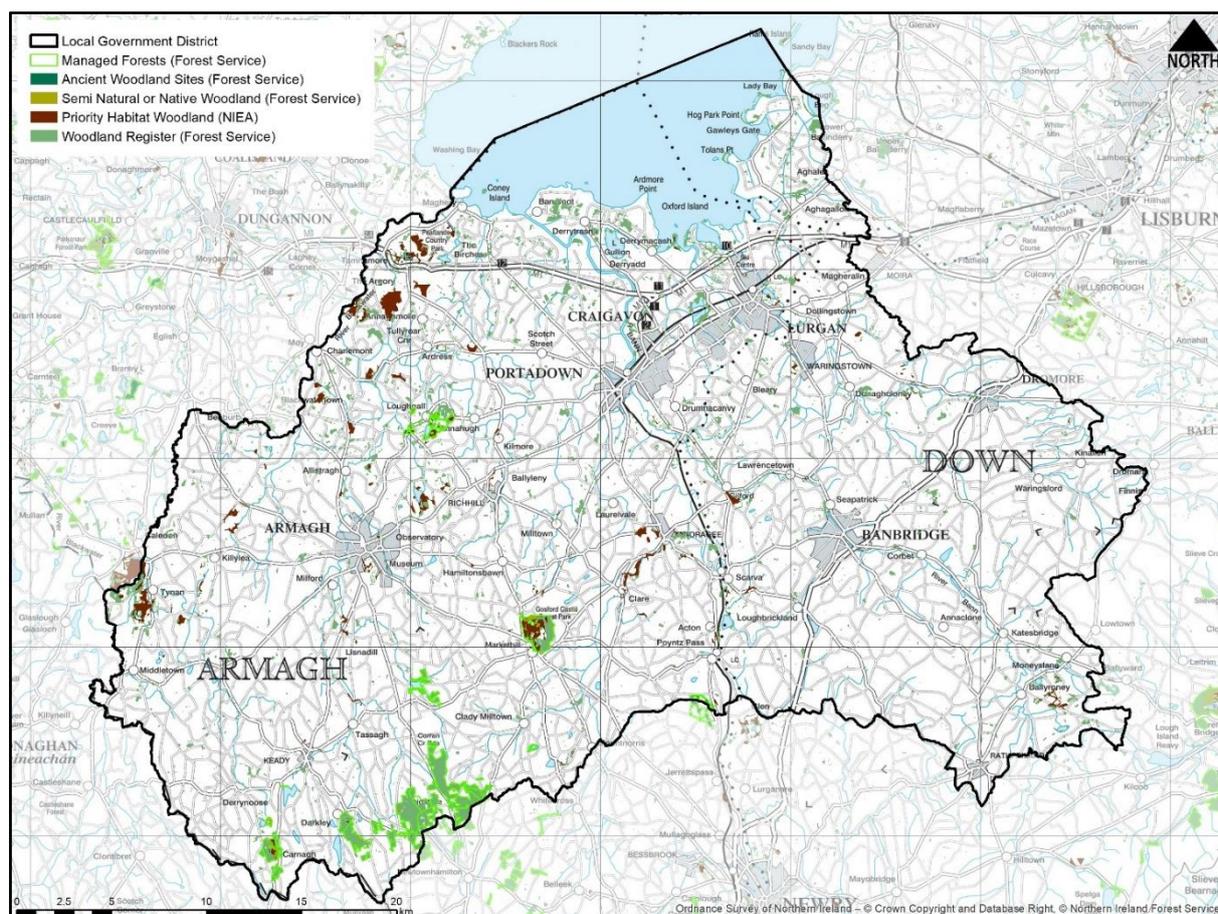
Soil quality is not currently protected under any specific legislation but it is a fundamental physical resource. It acts as a store and source of gases like oxygen and carbon dioxide. A proper, functioning soil should be less vulnerable to erosion, reduce flooding, filter pollution and store essential nutrients that can support plants and animals. Development can affect soil through pollution and erosion.

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<sup>1</sup> DETI (2010): Strategic Energy Framework for Northern Ireland

<sup>2</sup> Cooper, A. *et al* (2009): Northern Ireland Countryside Survey (2007): Broad Habitat Change 1998-2007. Northern Ireland Environment Agency Research and Development Series No. 09/06

Figure 5.7.3: Forestry and Woodland



Source: Forest Service, NIEA, Woodland Trust

### 5.7.2 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there could be less opportunity to spatially plan and sustainably manage our physical resources so that reserves are safeguarded, environmental damage avoided and geological sites conserved. It may become more difficult to manage local development pressures on our physical resources and to avoid inappropriate development, pollution and erosion.

### 5.7.3 Key Sustainability Issues for Physical Resources

- Mineral reserves should be safeguarded from inappropriate development and their future use and accessibility protected.
- Spatial Joint Mineral Plans with other Councils should be a consideration to help Council's and the industry manage as a regional resource.
- Older mineral sites (ROMPs) may be causing undue damage or deterioration to the local environment and could be providing multiple benefits with appropriate restoration as well as adding to local green/blue infrastructure. (tbc if applicable)
- Peat extraction still takes place in the Council but peatlands are also important for a range of ecosystem services provision (i.e. water/carbon stores, habitat for specialist plants/animals) requiring their conservation.
- Promoting the circular economy could reduce the demand for some minerals.
- ACBCBC holds a unique position with regards to potential development of deep geothermal energy in Northern Ireland and the integration of its infrastructure as it is situated between both potential aquifers of Lough Neagh and the Mourne Mountains.
- Shallow geothermal energy could be incorporated in development.

- The potential effects of sub-surface development should be assessed at an early stage to determine feasibility and to avoid any adverse effects.
- ACBCBC needs to consider the future need for cemetery provision in some areas.
- Local development pressure from single turbines, rural dwellings, and in some areas cemetery provision may require local site-specific measures.
- Soil quality should be protected using effective conservation measures.

## 5.8 Transport and Accessibility

### 5.8.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Overarching regional planning policy for transport, aims to deliver a balanced approach to transport infrastructure. Integral to this is an underlying drive to improve transport connectivity, accessibility, efficiency and social inclusivity. Regional policy also aims to reduce our carbon footprint and mitigate and adapt to climate change whilst improving air quality. Some measures to achieve this are directly linked to transport and include reducing emissions from transport, improving energy efficiency and protecting Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).

Encouraging people to use public transport and to consider active travel options like walking and cycling will be key to achieving regional policy outcomes. This is reflected in the policy objectives for transport in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement along with objectives for adequate parking facilities and road safety. The Plan will also be fundamental to promoting and enabling sustainable transport but a behavioural shift within society is also required, both at home and in the workplace.

The draft Programme for Government (dPFG) has 14 strategic outcomes. One is based on connecting people and opportunities through infrastructure, which links to providing a sustainable transport system. Improving transport connections, increasing the use of public transport and active travel, increasing environmental sustainability and improving air quality are four indicators to measure progress on this strategic outcome.

The Corporate Plan 2015-2017 has three corporate priorities. These are based around place and developing the economy and connectivity; people and improving everyone's quality of life; and position in that the lead will be taken to influence important decisions. A sustainable and accessible transport system that enables active travel will be key to achieving corporate priorities and helping to deal with the concerns of residents.

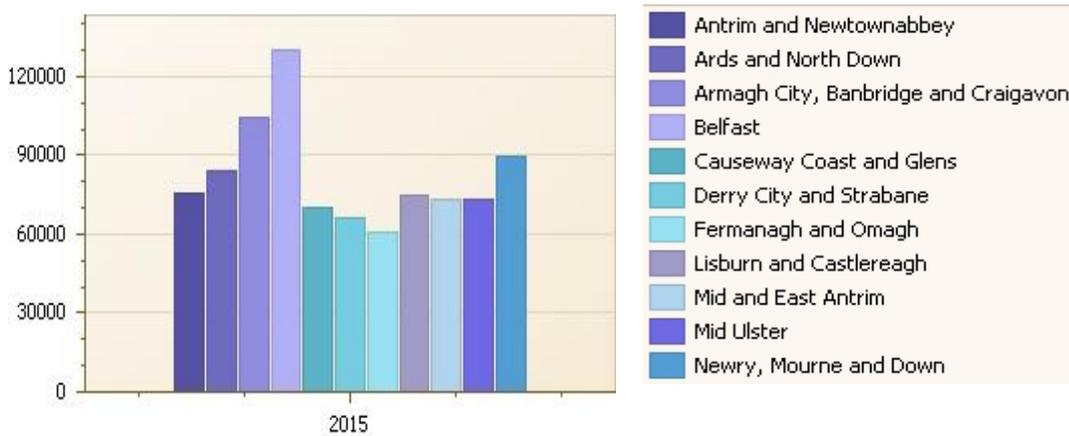
Connectivity is a major theme of our community plan as we believe connectivity is integral to improving quality of life. One of our short term outcomes is 'We have improved the promotion, accessibility and use of local assets, services and facilities through combining skills, knowledge and connections'. During development of the community plan traffic congestion, and exhaust fumes, were raised by people as their top environmental concerns.

### 5.8.2 Baseline Information

#### *Car ownership*

In 2015, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council had the second highest level of licensed cars relative to other Councils at 104,627. Census 2011 data showed that 41.14% of households had access to one vehicle, 30.29% had access to two vehicles, 7.33% had access to three vehicles and 3.04% had access to four vehicles. The Borough has a slightly higher than average amount of households with access to two, three, four or more vehicles. In total, 82% of households had access to at least one car or van. This leaves a considerable number of households that do not have any access and are therefore reliant on public transport, car sharing or active travel options.

Figure 5.8.1: Licensed Cars 2015



Source: NINIS

### Roads

Some of the main roads in the Borough include the M1, A1, A3, A27, A28 and the A29. The M1 is a key transport corridor and is recognised for its importance at a regional level. Total road length in the Borough is 3,562 kilometres. Several main transport routes cross the Borough including 27.2 km of motorway. Relative to the other councils, the Borough has the greatest length of A class dual carriageway at 29.9 km and the fourth highest amount of both A class single carriageway at 231 km and B class roads at 399.3 km.

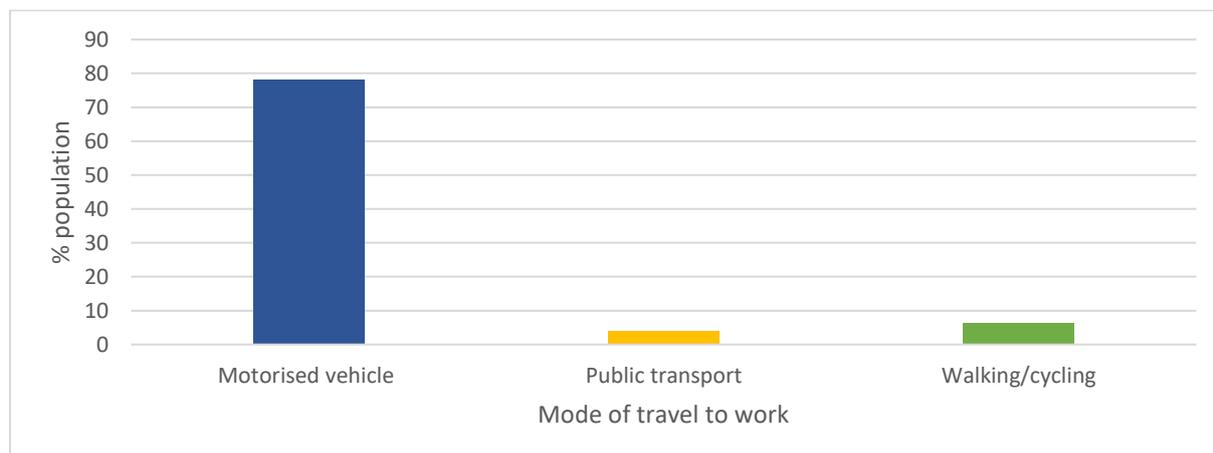
Figure 5.8.2: Principal Transport Routes and Public Transport Hubs in the Borough



Source: Spatial NI Roads Service Road Network (NI) (INSPIRE View Service)

At the time of the Census 2011, the number of employed people of working age in Armagh City Banbridge, Craigavon Borough Council was 84,382. Of these 78.23% were driving to work by motorised vehicle (car/van (61.4%) – including car passenger (5.23%)/pool (10.26%)); taxi (0.96%); motorbike (0.37%). Just over 4% used public transport with 2.33% opting for the bus and 1.72% using the train. There were 6.23% of people in the Borough walking to work, which is more than those using public transport. Cycling was least popular with 0.64% of people using this mode.

**Figure 5.8.3: Mode of travel to work in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council**



Source: NINIS

### *Public Transport*

There are both bus and rail services available to people in the Borough. The main passenger bus stations are in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon. All other towns and villages are served by bus stops but there are generally limited timetables based on school times. The rail service in the Borough provides a number of routes, one of which is part of the route that connects Belfast to Dublin. Likewise, there is a Belfast to Dublin bus service runs through Banbridge.

There are two park and ride/share sites in the Borough located near to the M1 at Lurgan, and the A1 at Banbridge. A focus on providing additional sites at strategic locations could enable more citizens to access car sharing arrangements, public transport routes and if feasible, active travel routes.

### *Greenways*

Regional policy highlights the potential use of existing features like disused railway lines for alternative modes of transport. In 2016, the Department for Infrastructure published a strategic plan for a network of greenways in Exercise – Explore – Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways. These greenways can connect cities, towns and villages to the countryside across all eleven Councils. The Primary Greenway Network extends into a Secondary Greenway Network and aims to bring back into use much of the disused railway network and provide people with access to a safe traffic-free environment for health and well-being, active travel and leisure. The strategic greenway network is shown in Figure 5.8.6. Both primary and secondary routes are evident in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.

A primary route in the Borough was identified as the old Portadown to Armagh railway line. In the Craigavon Area Plan, a disused rail track between Portadown and Dungannon was protected. Potential routes also exist from Lisburn to Banbridge, Banbridge to Scarva, and Banbridge to Ballyrone.

The National Cycle Network has a number of routes running through the Council Area. The NCN Route 91 runs west from Portadown to Tynan via Armagh and route 9 / 94 (The Craigavon Cycle Trail) starts and finishes in nearby Portadown. The Ulster Way also traverses part of the Council Area with routes from Portadown to Newry (along the Newry Canal Tow Path ) and from Scarva to Aughnacloy.

Figure 5.8.4: Map of Primary and Secondary Greenway Routes



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

The Armagh City Centre Masterplan 2030 proposed a network of greenways that would follow the local rivers such as along the Callan and Ballynahone Rivers. Disused railways to Monaghan, Portadown and Castleblayney were also highlighted as potential greenways. Likewise in the Banbridge Town Centre Masterplan a number of potential greenway links to the River Bann were highlighted. These included a riverside greenway between Solitude Park and the leisure centre, a boardwalk at the River Bann bridge and a pedestrian link on the old Rathfriland Road to Downshire Road railway line with potential links to the Mournes.

Further information on active travel is below and on blue infrastructure in the Natural Resources topic of this report.

### Active Travel

There have been proposals for a continuous pedestrian network in Banbridge that would connect all the main locations in the town including schools and clinics. These primary routes could be improved to increase connectivity across the town as found in a Sub Regional Transport Plan 2015<sup>1</sup>. For example, in the Banbridge Town Centre Masterplan, new footbridges and cycle lanes are proposed to improve connectivity between Solitude Park and the leisure centre.

The Craigavon Community Greenway Project made a seven mile cycle corridor between Portadown and Lurgan linking the train stations and some of the main facilities and communities together. The project has enabled much improved active travel for citizens in the local area. A second project called the ‘Black Path’ also linked the centres of Craigavon, Portadown and Lurgan together for both cyclists and pedestrians.

<sup>1</sup> Local Development Plan background information to Environmental Assets paper

### 5.8.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there would be a lack of up to date spatial information that reflects the new Council area. Without this information there would be a higher risk of missing key opportunities to integrate sustainable and active travel options to new and existing developments. The most sustainable use of land for a transport system that enables people to reduce their reliance on the private car and connects people and places together would be less feasible. This could be problematic for some aspects such as use of disused railways due to differing policies within legacy Area Plans.

### 5.8.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Transport and Accessibility

- The Council has several main transport routes crossing through it that make it an important area for transport connections moving north and south, east and west but there are also a significant amount of smaller routes and unclassified roads that culminate in the Council with the second highest amount of transport routes.
- There is a slightly higher than average number of households with access to two, three, four or more vehicles and a high reliance on the private car/van for transport.
- Traffic congestion is one of the top environmental concerns of people in the Borough.
- Over three quarters of workers in the Council rely on some form of motorised transport to get to work rather than using public transport, walking or cycling.
- Nearly a quarter of all households in the Borough have no access to any vehicle which means a considerable amount of the population is dependent on public transport, car sharing and active travel options.
- A considerable amount of people walk to work rather than use any other mode of transport and this trend could be encouraged by providing appropriate services and walkways/greenways to enable more people to commute this way.
- Less than 1% of commutes to work are by bike so there may be a need to investigate measures (design, connectivity) that could help enable more people to commute by bike.
- The Council benefits from being part of the rail network and is part of the connection between Belfast and Dublin.
- The amount of people who choose to use public transport to commute to work is lower than those that choose to walk and significantly lower than those relying on a car/van so there is a need to investigate measures that could help enable more people to commute by bus or train.
- A considerable amount of people car share and this trend could be encouraged by providing additional park and ride/share facilities at strategic locations to enable more citizens to commute this way and enable much stronger transport connections for rural communities to urban hubs and reduce traffic congestion.
- The Council will need to futureproof itself for an evolving transport system that will be using electric / hybrid vehicles and integrate more sustainable and active travel options.
- Planning active travel links/projects to existing greenways could help reflect strategic plans for a greenway network at the local level and help to encourage citizens to walk or cycle enabling easier access to the outdoors with benefits for health and well-being.
- The primary walking routes and cycling lanes in the hubs of the Council could be improved by adding new links that would increase connectivity and accessibility for citizens to the key locations but also out to the wider countryside and attractions such as the Mournes

## 5.9 Air Quality

### 5.9.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Air quality is an important indicator of local, regional and international environmental conditions as it helps to indicate levels and sources of air pollutants and air pollution trends. Air pollution is both an urban and a rural issue that can affect human health but when levels of certain substances such as nitrogen, sulphur or ammonia are exceeded, the effects on ecosystems can also be adverse.

The Department and Councils manage air quality in Northern Ireland in compliance with domestic legislation (the Environment Order 2002, the Air Quality Regulations (NI) 2003 and the Air Quality Standards Regulations (NI) 2010). These stem from European Air Quality Directives but an Air Quality Strategy for Northern Ireland 2007 provides the strategic framework for air quality in Northern Ireland (NI).

Air quality objectives are set at a regional level and include limits for air pollutants. These are primarily based on ensuring protection of human health and sensitive habitats. Other measures include Smoke Control Areas (SCA) and Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA).

Overarching regional planning guidance highlights agriculture, transport and energy supply as the three sectors contributing most to a warming climate in Northern Ireland. Agricultural land makes up a significant amount of land cover in Northern Ireland; we remain heavily reliant on private car use for journeys; and we are mostly dependent on fossil fuels for our energy supply. All these sources emit air pollutants including greenhouse gas emissions. Regional policy thus recommends developing policy links between air quality and climate change and fully supports an air quality strategy.

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

Our Council's Corporate Plan focuses on place, people and position. Priorities include things like developing the economy and connectivity; improving everyone's quality of life; and safeguarding the environment. Achieving these outcomes will depend upon maintaining and improving air quality. In the future, we are also planning for a renewable energy strategy and an increase in greenways, both of which should help to improve local air quality.

### 5.9.2 Baseline Information

A baseline of information is presented in the Local Development Plan papers. This topic also overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Transport and Accessibility, Climate Change, Water Resources and Natural Resources sections of this report.

#### *Air Pollution*

Information on current air quality can be accessed at [www.airqualityni.co.uk](http://www.airqualityni.co.uk), where recent progress reports and screening assessments can also be found. There is one continuous monitoring site located in Armagh City at Lonsdale Road. Monitoring takes place for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and particulate matter (PM<sup>10</sup>), both generated from fossil fuel combustion. NO<sub>2</sub> is primarily from traffic or industrial sources and can be a severe respiratory irritant. Nitrogen oxides can readily mix with other chemicals to form acid rain or other pollutants like ground level ozone which can affect ecosystems and the built environment. PM<sup>10</sup> can also cause respiratory and carcinogenic issues. There have been no exceedances of NO<sub>2</sub> at this

location<sup>1</sup> but other parts of the Borough continue to exceed NO<sub>2</sub> health-based limits and these are further detailed below.

There are some smoke control areas (SCAs) in the Borough, which have been enforced to help improve local air quality by reducing smoke and other air pollutants/emissions from burning fossil fuels. The SCAs are in Armagh City at Newry Road/Barrack Street and across the entire Craigavon Urban Area.

#### *Air Quality Management Areas*

There are currently two active Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the Borough. These are for NO<sub>2</sub> generated from road traffic because levels exceed health-based limits<sup>2</sup>. Road traffic in the Borough accounts for 85% of all air emissions and in the main towns, frequent road congestion adds to local air pollution. NO<sub>2</sub> levels are an indicator of traffic pollution. Maps for all of the AQMAs can be accessed at [www.airqualityni.co.uk](http://www.airqualityni.co.uk).

The most recent 2015 Updating and Screening Assessment for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council reported, *“whilst air quality has not significantly worsened, no significant improvement has been made to the local air quality.”* NO<sub>2</sub> from traffic emissions is the main cause of concern for the Borough as there are no other major sources of air pollution from industrial, agricultural or constructional sources. There are plans to designate the entire Council to help focus Borough wide on reducing emissions.

#### *Transport Sources*

As discussed in section 5.8.2, the Borough encompasses an extensive road network. The predominantly rural nature of the Borough has shaped the high number of smaller roads but as a transport hub, the Borough also has major routes including the M1, A3, A27, A28 and the A29. Commuters can reach mid-Ulster, the Republic and the south-east of Northern Ireland through the Borough. In the Borough, reliance on the private car is high.

In addition to this, the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016 shows that NO<sub>2</sub>, which is emitted from transport, has not decreased since 2012. It shows that since 2004 urban levels have generally increased and no declining trend is evident.

PM<sup>10</sup> which is also emitted from transport sources, has generally shown a decreasing trend in urban sites since 2003. PM<sup>10</sup> in urban areas can come from road traffic and other fossil fuel combustion sources.

Ground level ozone is produced during the chemical reactions of nitrogen oxides from sources such as vehicle emissions and can cause respiratory issues. Urban sites show ozone levels are not in decline but remain variable. This is why in the UK from 2040, all vehicles will be electric or hybrid as diesel and petrol vehicles will be phased out to help significantly reduce air pollutant emissions<sup>3</sup>.

As also reported in section 5.8.2, car ownership in the Borough relative to other Councils is high at 104,627<sup>4</sup>, second only to Belfast. This is unlikely to change without investment in improved public transport, which in some areas is quite poor and even more so at weekends and on Sundays<sup>5</sup>. This may be why the use of public transport is significantly below the Northern Ireland average and yet there is a sizeable proportion of residents without access to any vehicle (18%). These are mostly people from older age groups and single parents.

In the UK from 2040, road vehicles will be electric or hybrid as diesel and petrol vehicles are due to be phased out to help significantly reduce air quality pollutant emissions<sup>6</sup>. There are already a number of

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<sup>1</sup> Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council: 2015 Updating and Screening Assessment

<sup>2</sup> Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council: 2015 Updating and Screening Assessment

<sup>3</sup> Climate NI website

<sup>4</sup> NINIS

<sup>5</sup> Armagh City, Craigavon & Banbridge Borough Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Transportation Paper

<sup>6</sup> Climate NI website

electric charging points in the Borough, mainly focused along the arterial routes of the M1, A1, A27, A28 and A29. To meet future demand, the number of charging points will need to increase significantly.

There are proposals for a continuous pedestrian network in Banbridge that would link key locations and the town centre together<sup>1</sup>. Likewise, a cycle network linking all arterial routes to the town has previously been identified. As with all other areas, a modal shift is required to help move people away from the private car to public transport options, cycling or walking. The Council can help to achieve this with the LDP.

### *Human Health*

There is an important link between air quality and human health. Recent Departmental figures for Northern Ireland indicate that 553 deaths can be attributed to PM<sup>10</sup>, and 330 to NO<sub>2</sub>. PM<sup>10</sup> pollution is composed of fine particles from natural and man-made sources; pollen, sand dust, road traffic, coal burning, and construction work are all potential sources<sup>2</sup>. PM<sup>10</sup> can cause respiratory issues and carcinogenic risks whilst NO<sub>2</sub> can also cause respiratory issues. It is currently estimated that in the UK, life expectancy is shortened by eight months because of poor air quality<sup>3</sup>.

### *Agricultural Sources*

Ammonia is an air pollutant usually associated with the agriculture sector. Ammonia is not included as an objective in the Air Quality Regulations, but it can be linked to the deterioration of habitats. Ammonia emissions (NH<sub>4</sub>) have been reported in the NI Environmental Statistics Report 2016 as 93% from livestock and 7% from the application of fertilisers. NH<sub>4</sub> emissions from livestock have been increasing since 2010. NH<sub>4</sub> emissions from fertiliser use has significantly reduced by 39% but overall NH<sub>4</sub> emissions have only fallen by 5%. This indicates other sources of ammonia<sup>4</sup>. Trends for declines in NH<sub>4</sub> emissions from livestock on a UK-wide basis may not be reflected in NI, because cattle numbers have declined by a much lesser extent, and pig and poultry numbers have increased.

### *Energy generation*

As discussed in section 5.6.2, electricity supplied from renewables in Northern Ireland has generally increased every year since 2001 and Figure 5.6.1 shows that there has been a 1,366% increase in the number of energy units generated by renewables over the period between 2004 and 2015. Currently, nearly 25% of electricity consumed in Northern Ireland is from onshore wind and 27% of electricity consumption is from renewable sources<sup>5</sup>. This type of diversification in our energy use means that carbon emissions and other pollutants from fossil fuel combustion have been reducing. There has also been a rise in the use of natural gas for residential heating and a move away from oil and coal for domestic heating purposes.

## 5.9.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there may be the risk of decreasing air quality through inappropriately located development and fewer opportunities to spatially influence development and/or help improve local air quality. The likelihood of congested areas and AQMAs improving in any way would be unlikely (see also section 5.8.3).

## 5.9.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Air Quality

- Two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) for NO<sub>2</sub> are located in the main towns and directly linked to road traffic emissions.
- Key regional transport routes are located within the Council making it a transport hub for residents and visitors across the country and continuously producing air traffic pollution.

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<sup>1</sup> Armagh City, Craigavon & Banbridge Borough Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Transportation Paper

<sup>2</sup> [www.airqualityni.co.uk](http://www.airqualityni.co.uk)

<sup>3</sup> DAERA draft Programme for Government Air Quality Stakeholder Consultation, August 2016

<sup>4</sup> DAERA (2016): Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016 Issue 8

<sup>5</sup> Climate NI 2017

- Road traffic generates 85% of emissions and is the largest contributor to air pollution in the Council.
- Traffic congestion in Armagh City continues to be an air quality issue.
- Traffic congestion is one of the top three environmental concerns of residents.
- Public transport options need to be improved to help reduce reliance on the private car particularly in rural areas but also in the main towns where congestion is frequent.
- Continued support for renewables in appropriate locations should be encouraged through initiatives like the Council's Renewable Energy Strategy to help reduce air pollutants from fossil fuels.
- Air quality should be a consideration when planning the location of land uses, particularly when residential areas may be affected or other sensitive receptors

## 5.10 Climate Change

### 5.10.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

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

There are several factors that affect our climate. These include how near to the sea and how far from the equator we are located, as well as local topography, wind direction and ocean current. During the last few decades, it has become more and more accepted that human activity is affecting the climate.

Carbon and sulphur dioxide from fossil fuel combustion and deforestation, and nitrous oxide and methane from transport, agriculture and other practices, have all been entering the atmosphere from man's activities at an accelerated rate since the Industrial Revolution. These additional gases add to the natural background levels, which increases the natural warming of the planet known as the 'greenhouse effect'. This is the cause of anthropogenic climate change, which is climate change influenced by man.

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

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) met in Paris 2015. It agreed ambitious GHG reductions from 2020 in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to limit global warming to no more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century. The Paris Agreement also encourages efforts to be pursued to limit temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. It aims for a low carbon future based on sustainable development. The IPCC Fifth Assessment Report claims GHG emissions need to reduce by 40-70% by 2050 to have a likely chance of avoiding the 2°C increase. The first UK National Adaptation Programme (UK NAP) was published in July 2013 for each devolved administration and Northern Ireland's NAP was launched in 2014.

The Regional Development Strategy 2035 recommends we reduce our carbon footprint, adapt to climate change and deliver a sustainable and secure energy supply. Reducing GHG emissions is the only way to mitigate climate change. In the SPPS, which was informed by the NAP, climate change is viewed as a central challenge to achieving sustainable development. The SPPS promotes the planning system as a tool to shape new and existing developments to help combat climate change by promoting sustainable patterns of development and transport, renewables, energy efficiency and using the natural environment as green/blue infrastructure.

The devolved administrations of the UK are expected to contribute to the reductions stated in the UK Climate Change Act 2008, which means by 2050 an 80% reduction of GHG emissions based on 1990 levels should be evident. The latest projections published by DAERA<sup>1</sup> in December 2017 indicate that greenhouse gas emissions will be 31.2% lower in 2030 than in 1990 which is close to the target. The 2nd Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP) (2018-2023) will provide local level evidence with targeted local adaptation information.

The draft Programme for Government includes greenhouse gas emissions as an indicator of environmental sustainability<sup>2</sup>. This has actions currently being taken forward by Departments to contribute to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. This will be used to report on progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/ni-ghg-projection-tool-update-2016.PDF>

<sup>2</sup> Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021

In our Corporate Plan 2015-2017, there are three main corporate priorities. These are focused around place, people and position, with ‘growing our local economy top of the agenda.’ Our economic growth will be considered alongside the needs of society and the environment. The LDP could help to deliver climate change mitigation and adaptation by providing land for renewables, integrating green/blue infrastructure, enabling shorter journeys and protecting carbon stores and floodplains.

### 5.10.2 Baseline Information

Relevant information is presented in the LDP Discussion Papers on Transportation, Public Utilities, Environmental Assets and Pressure Analysis. This topic also overlaps with the Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport and Accessibility, Air Quality, Water, Natural Resources and Landscape sections of this report.

#### *Global Context*

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

#### *UK Context*

The second Climate Change Risk Assessment Evidence Report is due to be presented to Parliament in 2017. The Adaptation Sub Committee has prepared the independent evidence report which sets out the latest risks and opportunities to the UK from climate change. An interim report has been published entitled The UK Synthesis Report 2017. The priority areas identified to be managed for climate change risks are flooding and coastal change, high temperatures, risks to natural capital, water shortages, impacts on global food systems and risks from new and emerging pests/diseases.

#### *Northern Ireland Context*

There are nine climate-monitoring stations for temperature and precipitation across Northern Ireland (NI), one of which is located in the Borough at Loughgall. Research informed by this monitoring predicts that increases in temperature will be evident across Northern Ireland and it will become increasingly warmer toward the end of the 21st century. Overall precipitation is projected to fall slightly but winter is projected to be wetter and the summer to be drier<sup>2</sup>. The Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2017 also reports an increasing average temperature for Northern Ireland and a trend for increasing levels of rainfall in winter months.

Northern Ireland accounted for 4.2% of UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2015<sup>3</sup>. This is high relative to the contribution made to gross domestic product and the proportion of the UK population. Estimated GHG emissions were 20.7 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, which was an increase of 0.6% compared to 2014. The longer term trend showed a decrease of 17.8% compared to the 1990 base year.

Carbon dioxide accounted for 68% of all GHG emissions in Northern Ireland in 2015 (Figure 5.10.1). It was the most common gas emitted across sectors with the transport, energy supply and residential sectors the largest contributors. The agriculture sector had significant emissions of methane and nitrous oxide that exceeded emissions of carbon dioxide. Northern Ireland accounts for a much larger share of the UK’s emissions of these gases due to the importance of agriculture to the Northern Ireland economy. Methane was also the main GHG emitted from the waste management sector via landfills.

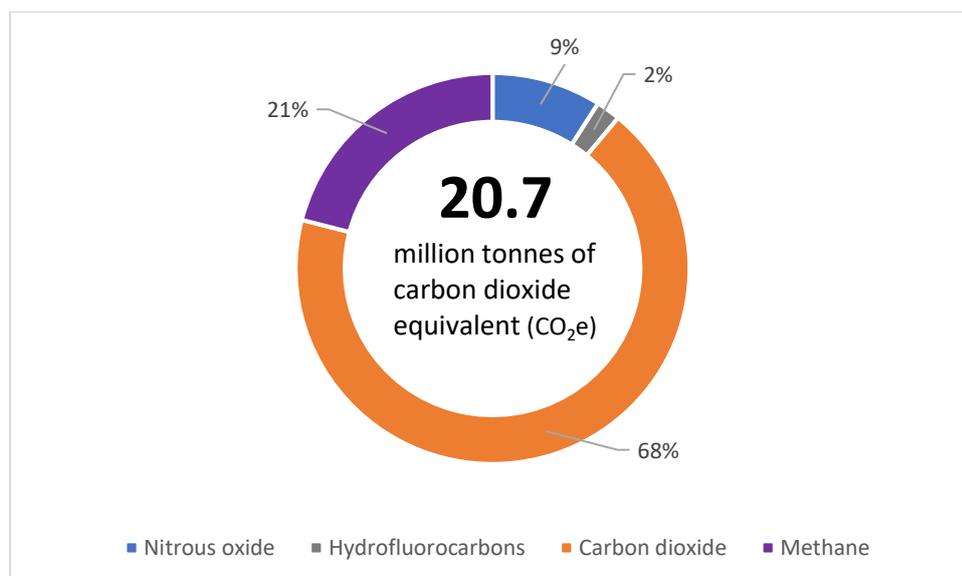
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<sup>1</sup> UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Synthesis Report 2016

<sup>2</sup> D.Mullan@qub.ac.uk; [http://pure.qub.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/donal-mullan\(8fb7a607-4799-49a1-a5f4-7f32c0aa8665\).html](http://pure.qub.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/donal-mullan(8fb7a607-4799-49a1-a5f4-7f32c0aa8665).html)

<sup>3</sup> DAERA Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2015 Statistical Bulletin

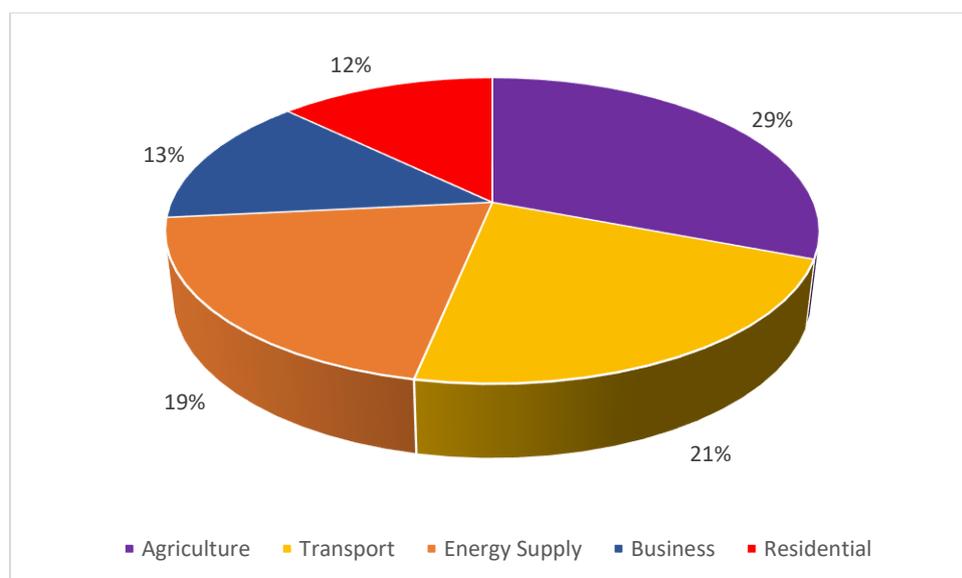
Figure 5.10.1: Greenhouse gas emissions by type in Northern Ireland 2015



Source: DAERA, Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2015 Statistical Bulletin

The top five sectors in terms of GHG emissions in Northern Ireland were Agriculture (29%), transport (21%), energy supply (19%), business (13%) and residential (12%). GHG emissions from these sectors are by-products from farming practices, emissions from vehicles and the general burning of fossil fuels for energy/electricity or heating. Most sectors have shown a long-term decreasing trend in emissions since the base year, with the largest decreases in terms of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, the energy supply, residential and waste sectors. However, between 2014 and 2015, emissions increased from the transport (2.1%) and agricultural (1.3%) sectors due to increased demand for road transport and increased numbers of livestock. Together these sectors account for 50% of total GHG emissions in Northern Ireland. Overall, Northern Ireland has reduced GHG emissions since the base year by 18% but across the UK, the reduction is much higher at 38%.

Figure 5.10.2: Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector



Source: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2015 Statistical Bulletin

### Agriculture

In 2015, the agriculture sector continued to be the main contributor of GHG emissions in Northern Ireland, totalling 29% of all emissions. Emissions from the agricultural sector have reduced by 3.3% since

the baseline year (1990) but the sector remains the biggest contributor of GHG emissions. Livestock and nitrogen fertiliser are two sources of GHG emissions from within the sector and account for 93% and 7% of all ammonia emissions<sup>1</sup>. The agriculture sector is also the main source of methane and nitrous oxide emissions accounting for 85% and 90% of total emissions. Although the sector emits a relatively low amount of carbon dioxide, it emits nitrous oxide to a significant level and is therefore the biggest contributor by sector of GHG emissions. Nitrous oxide emissions from the agriculture sector are difficult to estimate.

### *Energy*

The energy sector has been one of the main contributors to reductions in GHG emissions from 27.8% in 1990 to 19% in 2015. This is due to the switch to natural gas from coal or oil, improved energy efficiency and the uptake in renewable generation<sup>2</sup>. There are three power stations in Northern Ireland; two are gas powered and the third is dual coal and oil. The switch to gas has helped to reduce the GHG emissions in energy generation and heat production. The Borough benefits from existing gas infrastructure but could benefit from more. Further information on energy supply and distribution in the Material Assets section of this report.

### *Renewable Energy*

Renewables are not reliant upon fossil fuel combustion and they can help reduce GHG emissions from the energy sector because they use natural energy. The NI Executive endorsed a target of 40% of electricity consumption to be from renewables by 2020 whilst the UK has a target to reduce GHG emissions from 1990 baseline records by 80% by 2050. Both targets will require further investment in renewables and a transition away from traditional fossil fuels.

Nearly a quarter of all of Northern Ireland's electricity is from onshore wind and the total amount from renewables is 27%<sup>3</sup>. Planning applications for wind energy projects (farms and single turbines) have dominated the renewables market with 35 sites in the Borough up to 2014. Solar, hydroelectric, biomass, geothermal and anaerobic digestion are also potential renewable energy sources that could be developed. There is evidence of network capacity limitations in our area which could constrain future development of renewables. Further information on renewables is in the Material Assets section and on geothermal energy in the Physical Resources section of this report.

### *Transport*

The transport sector accounts for 21% of all GHG emissions in Northern Ireland, with an increase of 30% from the baseline year 1990. It is a significant contributor of carbon dioxide but nitrogen dioxide is also emitted from the combustion of fossil fuels. This is a pollutant that can cause respiratory issues and partly why in the UK from 2040, all vehicles will be electric or hybrid, as diesel and petrol vehicles will be banned<sup>4</sup>. More information on Transport is in the Transport and Accessibility section of this report.

### *Residential*

The residential sector accounts for 12% of all GHG emissions in Northern Ireland and is a significant contributor of carbon dioxide<sup>5</sup>. Northern Ireland remains heavily dependent on fossil fuels for home heating but in recent years, there has been a transition away from coal and oil to gas for heating purposes. Gas is less carbon intensive and more energy efficient so preferred to other fossil fuels in terms of both GHG emissions and efficiency.

### *Waste Management*

The waste management sector is responsible for 3% of GHG emissions and has seen one of the largest decreases in GHG emissions from 1990 to 2015 of 68%. Methane is the dominant GHG emitted from the waste management sector due to landfill practices<sup>6</sup>. Landfilling of waste releases methane that can be

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<sup>1</sup> DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report – March 2017

<sup>2</sup> DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016 Issue 8 March 2016

<sup>3</sup> Climate NI 2017

<sup>4</sup> Climate NI website

<sup>5</sup> DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report – March 2017

<sup>6</sup> DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report – March 2017

flared or piped as an energy source but in the past was released to the atmosphere. There has been a decreasing trend in emissions from the sector since the baseline year (1990) due to the closure of landfills and the increase in reusing, recycling and recovery practices. We are one of the top performing Councils for recycling. By the end of 2015, just over 80% of municipal waste was diverted from landfill and the least amount of all Councils was sent to landfill<sup>1</sup>. More information on waste management is in the Material Assets section of this report

### *Flood Vulnerability*

One of the predicted impacts of climate change is increased incidences of flooding in areas that are already flood prone and in new areas. Flooding can occur at the coast, along rivers, at lakes and reservoirs but also on the roads and paths from surface water. This predicted increase in flooding will be in part due to increased levels of precipitation, flash storm events and coastal surges. Climate NI<sup>2</sup> has reported that, within recent years, one in ten homes in the UK has been built in flood risk areas. Development in flood risk areas not only places it at risk but can increase flood risk on adjacent sites, as well as downstream, and increase pressure on natural floodplains. To date nine Significant Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs) have been identified in the Council. More information on flooding and the SFRAs is in the Water section of this report.

### *Biodiversity*

Climate change is viewed as a threat to local biodiversity because changing climatic factors can cause habitats to alter and species to move. In certain locations, these changes may enable non-native species to thrive and/or cause native species to relocate in an attempt to stay within their preferred habitat. Local biodiversity depends on green/blue infrastructure but buffer zones may also be needed around habitats/sites to help with any future movement due to climate change. The Local Biodiversity Action Plan lists peatlands, wetlands, rivers and canals, as some of the main habitat types present in the Council. These habitat groups are important natural ecosystems that can help reduce the impacts of climate change by acting as natural carbon and water stores. More information on ecosystems services and local biodiversity is in the Natural Resources section of this report.

### 5.10.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there will be a higher risk of missing opportunities to integrate sustainable development patterns. Without up to date spatial information, it would become more difficult to locate development away from areas at risk of flooding, to design efficient transport routes and to zone lands for the most appropriate use. Considering the most sustainable use of land that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and reliance on fossil fuels, whilst also enabling adaptation measures for climate change (e.g. preservation of peatlands and blue/green infrastructure) would not be feasible.

### 5.10.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Climate Change

- The Council has the ability to mitigate for climate change by looking for opportunities and introducing measures to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the top contributing sectors which includes transport and agriculture, which are both prominent within the Council.
- The LDP could be used to promote measures to reduce GHG emissions from the residential sector be it through new gas infrastructure, additional small-scale producers, community based renewable energy schemes and/or energy efficient new builds.
- There is a need for a spatial approach to the location of appropriate renewable energy projects to help mitigate for climate change and support commitments made under the UK Climate Change Act but this need must be balanced against the environmental impacts and where there is potential to negatively impact on citizens and/or sensitive features.
- Measures including financial support should be investigated to help encourage the uptake of appropriate renewables.

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<sup>1</sup> Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Infrastructure, Energy and Transport Report July 2016

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.climatenorthernireland.org.uk/>

- Measures are needed to ensure the grid is fit-for-purpose and new connections can be facilitated.
- The transport sector in Northern Ireland has experienced increasing levels of GHG emissions and the Council will need to investigate local measures to help reduce these emissions.
- The Council should continue to develop local measures that can help citizens reduce waste production and increase recycling rates across all sectors.
- The LDP should consider adjacent development zonings in the context of predicted flood areas under climate change scenarios and the increased risk of pollution from runoff.
- Ensuring buffer zones and wildlife corridors exist around designated sites and priority habitats will help futureproof for the movement of species and habitats in a changing climate.
- It is important to protect the function of wetlands and peatlands not just for their biodiversity value but as natural carbon and water stores that can help to reduce the impacts of climate change.

## 5.11 Water

### 5.11.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

This topic encompasses water as a resource for ecological services, water supply and treatment. It also considers the management of water storage and flow, flood risk and measures to avoid or manage flood risk.

European Directives and regional legislation, plans and strategies seek to protect the quality and supply of water to maintain natural resources and protect human health. The 'Water Framework Directive' (2000/60/EC) requires waterbodies to be protected from deterioration and, where necessary and practicable, to be restored to 'good' status. The 'Groundwater Daughter Directive' (2006/118/EC) includes criteria for the assessment of 'good' chemical status and for identifying and reversing upward trends in pollution of groundwater. The Nitrate Directive (91/676/EEC) and Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive (96/61/EC) also require the implementation of standards for the control and prevention of pollution of water by nitrates from agricultural sources and by phosphorus and other pollutants from agricultural, industrial and waste water sources.

The Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) (91/271/EEC) is designed to reduce the pollution of freshwater, estuarine and coastal waters by domestic sewage and industrial wastewater (collectively known as urban waste water). The Directive sets minimum standards for the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water. Minimum standards for the provision of sewerage systems and treatment of sewage are set by the Directive according to the population served by sewage treatment works, and the sensitivity of receiving waters. The 'Floods Directive' (2007/60/EC) requires flood risk to be assessed and mapped and management plans to be developed for the most significant flood risk areas.

At the Northern Ireland level each of these Directives has been transposed into local legislation in order to facilitate their implementation. These include regulations to prevent pollution, to control the use of water through either abstraction or impoundment and to protect water supplies. There are also a number of pieces of drainage legislation to control water levels and flows.

Three River Basin Districts (RBD) have been identified in Northern Ireland under the Water Framework Directive (WFD): the North Eastern (NE), the Neagh – Bann (NB) and the North Western (NW) RBDs. River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the WFD, taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile, as well as wetlands which are directly associated with ground or surface water. In 2013 separate EU Directives for the protection of waters supporting shellfish and freshwater fish and to control the discharge of certain polluting substances were subsumed into the WFD, to allow the legislation covering water quality to be streamlined.

Under the WFD, each member state must also create and maintain a register of protected areas. The register consists of an inventory of protected area sites representing the protected area categories outlined below:

- Waters used for the abstraction of drinking water (drinking water protected areas);
- Areas designated to protect economically significant aquatic species (these are areas designated under the former Freshwater Fish and Shellfish Directives);
- Recreational waters designated under the Bathing Water Quality Directive (2006/7/EC);
- Nutrient Sensitive Areas (comprising nitrate vulnerable zones designated under the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and areas designated as sensitive under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC); and
- Areas designated for the protection of habitats or species (Natura 2000 sites) under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). These also include Ramsar Sites (Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention).

Every six years, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in partnership with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) produces a River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for each River Basin District within Northern Ireland. The second and current RBMP cycle extends from 2015 – 2021. The WFD requires action to meet good ecological and chemical status and prevent deterioration of our water bodies by 2027. Each RBMP therefore sets out the current state of our water environment and the measures to be put in place to achieve further improvements to the water environment over their six year period. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council extends across two River Basin Districts, the North Eastern and the Neagh Bann and therefore two RBMPs are relevant.

It is essential that RBMPs are integrated with a wide range of strategies and initiatives impacting on the water environment in Northern Ireland. This exploits commonality across regional, national and European wide requirements and directives, ensuring efficient and cost effective delivery. A Long Term Water Strategy has been developed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in partnership with Northern Ireland Water (NIW), DAERA and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). The Strategy aims to encourage a sustainable and integrated approach to managing the different water needs within a catchment while promoting regional development without compromising the environment or increasing flood risk.

DAERA is working with the agricultural sector to promote good practice in nutrient management and safer, more effective slurry spreading. The Nitrates Action Programme has been a key element in providing safeguards for the water environment since 2007 and farmers' cooperation has been a key factor in the success of this scheme. The Nitrates Directive has been applied across all of NI using the total territory approach. This is the main tool for reducing diffuse pollution through the Nitrates Action Programme and Nutrient Management Plans. This has delivered significant improvements to date in water quality in the last 10-15 years, reducing failures due to nutrients from around 60% to 40%. An equivalent reduction of a further 20% is required by 2021 to meet WFD requirements.

The 'Bathing Water Quality Directive' (2006/7/EC) complements the WFD by setting quality standards for a number of parameters to safeguard public health and protect the environment. The most important of these are the standards relating to the coliform and streptococcal groups of bacteria, which, in general, can be taken as an indication of the amount of sewage or the other faecal contaminants present. In addition to monitoring the bathing waters, DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division monitors rivers which run into the sea at beaches. Pollution problems at beaches often arise from within river catchments.

The Floods Directive, transposed through The Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) in 2009, has led to the identification of 20 Significant Flood Risk Areas (SFRA) in NI and the preparation of a Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP). The FRMPs have been developed to align with the six year cycle of the WFD and a separate FRMP has been prepared for each River Basin District. Each FRMP highlights hazards and risks in the SFRAs from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. The FRMPs identify the measures that will be undertaken over their six year period to address flooding and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together with communities to reduce the flood risk. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area is therefore covered by two separate FRMPs.

The fundamental policy message arising from the SPPS is that the most effective means of managing flood risk is to avoid the risk, by locating new buildings and infrastructure outside flood risk areas. The LDP should ensure that land identified as being at risk of flooding is not zoned for development. Such development would be at an unacceptable risk of flooding, may cause flooding elsewhere and may impair the natural function of the floodplain in storing flood water. The Council should adopt a precautionary approach to the identification of land through the LDP process and the determination of development proposals, in those areas susceptible to flooding where there is a lack of precise information on present day flood risk or climate change flood risk.

The Regional Development Strategy 2035 includes protective measures for water such as:

- Adopt grey water recycling
- Minimise development in areas at risk from flooding from rivers, the sea and surface water run-off
- Promote a more sustainable approach to the provision of water and sewerage services and flood risk management.
- Integrate water and land-use planning.
- Manage future water demand.
- Encourage sustainable surface water management.

The Strategy for Promoting the Use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) also encourages the incorporation of measures to ameliorate the impacts of development on water quality and flow.

Our Corporate Plan includes the objectives to ‘lead the way in the environmental management of the Borough’ and to ‘plan for the whole area taking a balanced approach to economic, environment and social progress’, with ‘safeguard and manage the environment for future sustainable use’ as one of its main priorities.

Our Community Plan, ‘*Connected*’, includes the theme of ‘*Enhanced Place*’. This theme has the desired long term outcome that ‘our rich and varied built heritage and natural assets are protected, enhanced and expanded for current and future generations to enjoy’. The theme’s short-term outcomes includes that ‘our physical and environmental assets are accessible. Everyone appreciates and takes responsibility for their protection, preservation and enhancement.’

#### 5.11.2 Baseline information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in a number of LDP Preparatory Study Discussion Papers including ‘Public Utilities’ and ‘Environmental Assets’. The Water Management Unit (WMU) of the DAERA has published digital datasets of the water environment online and created an online River Basin Map Viewer<sup>1</sup>. The DfI has also created an online maps portal<sup>2</sup>. This topic also overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Physical Resources, Transport and Accessibility, Air Quality, Climate Change, Natural Resources and Landscape topics.

##### *River Basin Management Plans*

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

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council falls under two of the RBMPs published for Northern Ireland; the North-Eastern and the Neagh Bann River Basin Districts (RBDs). The boundaries of the RBDs are shown in blue in Figure 5.11.1.

Within the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area the principal river systems are the Bann, Blackwater, Tall, Cushier and Callan rivers, which drain into Lough Neagh. Upper sections of the

<sup>1</sup> Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs WMU Digital Dataset Downloads

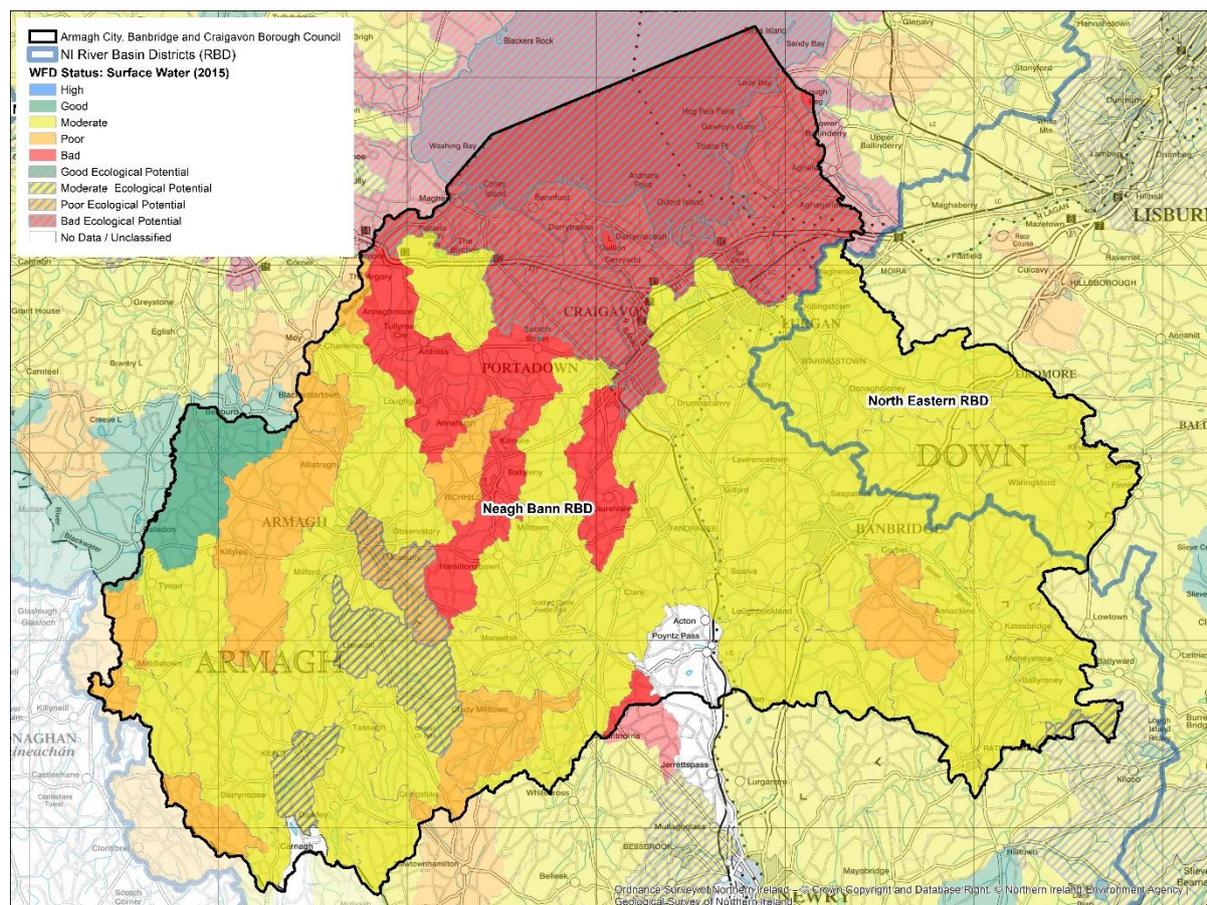
<sup>2</sup> Department for Infrastructure Mapping Portal

River Lagan and its tributaries, within the North Eastern River Basin District, are also covered by the Borough.

There are 50 river waterbodies (including five heavily modified waterbodies and one artificial waterbody) in the Borough. There are three lake waterbodies in the Borough: Lough Neagh (identified as a heavily modified waterbody), Lough Gullion and Portmore Lough.

Figure 5.11.1 shows the overall ecological status classification of the surface waterbodies within the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area at the conclusion of the first WFD cycle in 2015. These results are summarised in Table 5.11.1.

**Figure 5.11.1: Water Framework Directive overall classification, 2015**



Source: DAERA WMU Digital Dataset Downloads (Accessed 18/10/17)

Table 5.11.1 presents a summary of the ecological status for the surface waterbodies within the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.

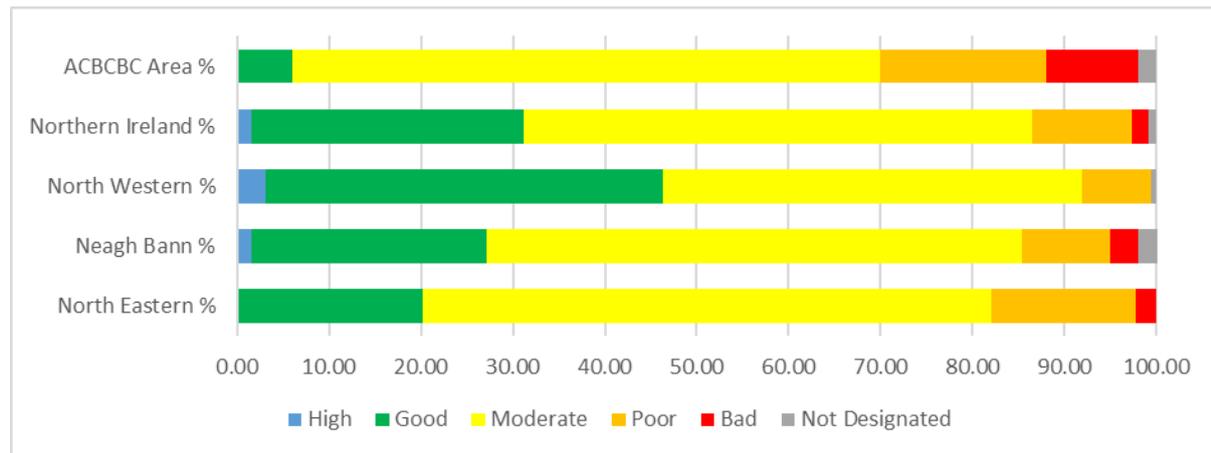
**Table 5.11.1: Summary of 2015 WFD classification of surface water bodies**

River Water Bodies		Lake Water Bodies		Heavily Modified* Water Bodies	
44	Total Number of RWB	2	Total Number of LWB	7	Total Number of HMWB
0	High Eco. Status	0	High Eco. Status	0	Good Eco. Potential
3	Good Eco. Status	0	Good Eco. Status	4	Moderate Eco. Potential
28	Moderate Eco. Status	0	Moderate Eco. Status	1	Poor Eco. Potential
8	Poor Eco. Status	0	Poor Eco. Status	2	Bad Eco. Potential
4	Bad Eco. Status	2	Bad Eco. Status	* includes AWB	

Source: DAERA WMU Digital Dataset Downloads (Accessed 18/10/17)

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Council area had significantly worse river water quality in 2015 than the overall Northern Ireland average (Figure 5.11.2). Only three of the waterbodies (6%) in the Borough achieved good or better status compared with 31.2%<sup>1</sup> for all river water bodies in Northern Ireland. 65% of river waterbodies in the Borough were classified as ‘moderate’, 18% as ‘poor’ and 10% as ‘bad’ and are thus failing to meet the standard. There are five heavily modified river waterbodies in the Borough, one heavily modified lake waterbody and one artificial waterbody. None of these heavily modified water bodies have achieved ‘good’ status and all three of the lake waterbodies have been classified at ‘bad’ status or ‘bad’ ecological potential (compared with 26.11% of all lake waterbodies in NI achieving ‘good’ status and 49.72% achieving ‘moderate’ status).

**Figure 5.11.2: Water Framework Directive River Waterbodies Overall Classification (%), 2015**



Source: DAERA WMU Digital Datasets and Northern Ireland Reported Water Body Status & Objective Figures 2015 (Published 07/11/2017)

As part of the River Basin Planning process, a Programme of Measures has been established to detail the improvements required to meet ‘Good’ status, the actions required and the delivery mechanisms. The programme of measures aims to address the key pressures by concentrating efforts on those pressures that pose the greatest threat to the water environment. The most significant sources of pressure preventing water bodies in this area from achieving ‘good’ status are diffuse pressures from agricultural sources and point source pressures from Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTWs), urban wastewater and development and industrial discharges. Nutrient enrichment has been identified in both the NE and NB RBDs as a principal reason for failure in lake waterbodies, and for failure of 15% (NE) - 20% (NB) of river waterbodies as it is linked to failures in diatoms, macrophytes and soluble reactive phosphorus, which have occurred in many waterbodies either individually or in combination.

The CatchmentCARE project is an INTERREG VA funded project which is proposed to run 2018-2022. This aim of the £13.5M project is to establish three water quality improvement projects, one of which is will take place in the Blackwater Catchment. The actions of the project will address many water quality issues, for example point and diffuse sources of pollution and farm nutrient practices. A pilot scheme linked with the Sustainable Agricultural Land Management Strategy for Northern Ireland is also under way. The scheme is providing free soil sampling and analysis for farms within specific catchments in the Upper Bann by enabling farmers to monitor soil health and to accurately target the application of slurry, manure and chemical fertiliser. The scheme’s aim is to improve farm productivity with the additional benefit of reducing the amount of nutrients entering watercourses.

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

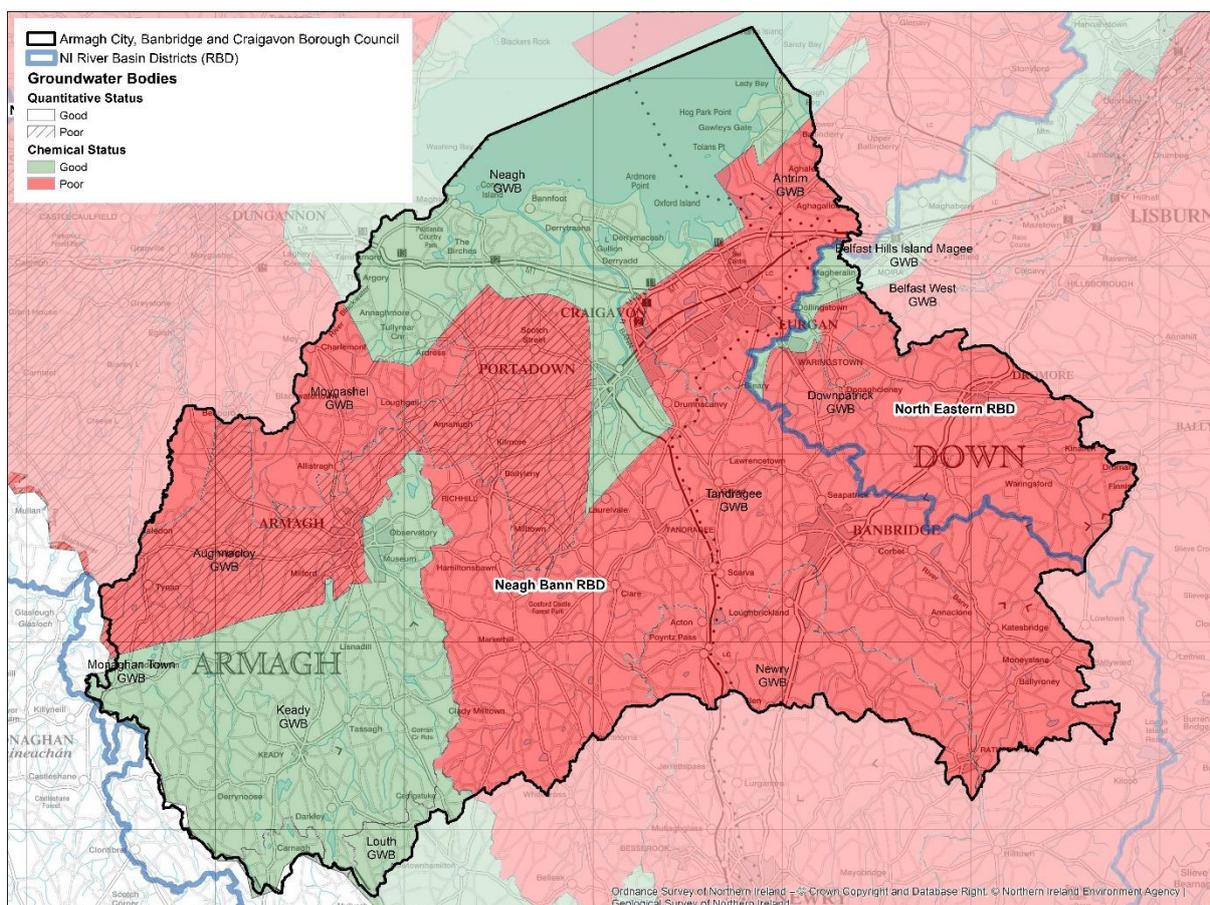
<sup>1</sup> DAERA NI Northern Ireland Reported Water Body Status & Objective Figures 2015 (Published 07/11/2017)

## Groundwater

There are 12 groundwater bodies intersecting the Borough (Figure 5.11.3). Unlike surface water, groundwater bodies are classified as 'good' or 'poor' for quantitative and chemical status, which combine to produce an overall status. Of these, five were classified as overall 'good' status in 2015 and seven were classified as having 'poor' status.

The main pressure in the Aughnacloy, Keady, Tandragee, Downpatrick and Antrim groundwater bodies is diffuse phosphorus which in turn contributes to phosphorus loading in surface water because of groundwater baseflow contributions. Possible sources include agricultural or septic tanks. Pesticides were detected in a monitoring well in Banbridge. Increased electrical conductivities and chloride concentrations, which can be an indicator for intrusion of water of different quality, are detected within monitoring wells in the Aughnacloy groundwater body.

Figure 5.11.3: Groundwater Status, 2015



Source: DAERA WMU Digital Dataset Downloads (Accessed 18/10/17)

## Drinking Water Protected Areas

There are three drinking water protected areas for surface water catchments used for the abstraction of drinking water and supplying Water Treatment Works (WTW) in the Borough:

- Lough Neagh (Dunore, Castor Bay, Moyola)
- Seaghan
- Clay Lake

The Lough Island Reavy catchment is also on the register of protected areas, however only 3.8 km<sup>2</sup> of this catchment is within the Borough and the majority is within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. All groundwater bodies except the Lough Neagh groundwater body are also on the register of protected areas.

### *Economically Significant Aquatic Species – Freshwater Fish*

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council has 780 km of rivers and three lakes designated for freshwater fish. Twenty four out of 37 monitored river waterbodies in the NB RBD and two out of three lake waterbodies have their fish quality element failing to achieve 'good' status. Each RBMP has established a programme of measures to detail the improvements required to meet 'good' status, the actions required and the delivery mechanisms. Measures include addressing the various sources of diffuse and point source pollution and morphological enhancement such as the improvement of flows in rivers, levels in lakes and removing obstructions to fish migration.

### *Nutrient Sensitive Areas*

A total territory approach has been adopted in Northern Ireland for the Nitrates Directives. There are three Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive sensitive areas in the Borough:

- North Eastern RBD – River Lagan Catchment
- Neagh Bann RBD – Lough Neagh Catchment, Newry River Catchment

There has been a trend toward significant reductions in mean nitrate concentrations in groundwater. Long-term trends show that average nitrate concentrations in rivers in Northern Ireland are predominantly decreasing or stable over the 20-year period, 1992-2012, which may be attributed to the measures implemented through the Nitrates Action Programme so that levels are well within EU standards.

### *Bathing Waters*

The Borough has no recreational waters designated under the Bathing Water Quality Directive.

### *Flood Risk*

The implementation of the EU 'Floods Directive' (2007/060/EC) has resulted in strategic flood risk assessment and mapping being carried out for all of NI and the publication of detailed Flood Hazard and Risk Maps for the areas determined to be at potential significant flood risk. These maps are continuously updated and are accessible from the DfI website<sup>1</sup>.

Three towns in the Borough have been identified as SFRA (Figure 5.11.4 overleaf). They are Lurgan, Portadown and Banbridge, all of which are in the NB RBD. Fluvial flood risk in the Borough is further discussed in the Council's 'Public Utilities' Topic Paper (Discussion Paper 6).

Four settlements, also shown in Figure 5.11.4, were identified in the PFRA as having a moderate risk of flooding and have been classified as Areas for Further Study. These are:

- Waringstown and Dromore in the North Eastern RBD; and
- Armagh and Keady in the Neagh Bann RBD.

The Floods Directive aims to manage flood risk by:

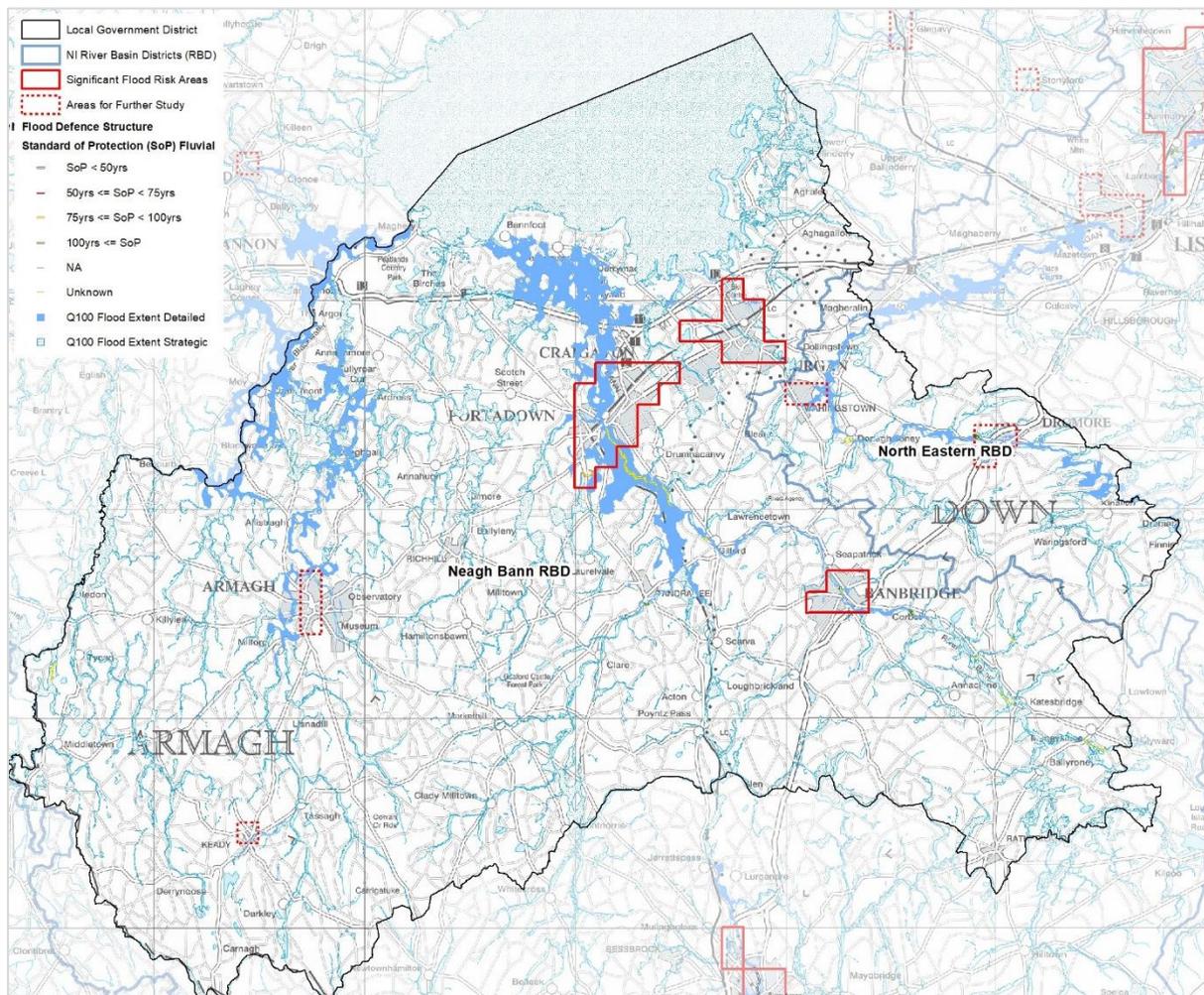
- Prevention: avoiding construction of houses and industries in flood-prone areas; by adapting future developments to the risk of flooding; and by promoting appropriate land-use, agricultural and forestry practices.
- Protection: taking measures, both structural and non-structural, to reduce the likelihood and impact of floods.
- Preparedness: informing the public about flood risk and what to do in the event of a flood.

The multi-layered strategic Flood Hazard and Risk Maps provide information on flood defences, historical flood events and predicted extreme flood events for river and coastal flooding as well as the potential for surface water flooding. Additional information is available in maps representing the 1 in 100 year flood risk taking account of the impacts of climate change.

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<sup>1</sup> DfI Rivers Agency: Flood Maps NI <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/rivers-and-flooding/flood-maps-ni>

Figure 5.11.4: Significant Flood Risk Areas and Areas for Further Study with DfI Rivers Modelled Strategic and Detailed Q100 Fluvial Flood Extents



Source Department for Infrastructure (Rivers) Flood Maps (NI)

The Capital works programme published in the FRMPs includes the following works planned in the Borough for the current FRMP cycle:

Flood Alleviation Project	Stage	Planned Implementation
Portadown Significant Flood Risk Area	Pre-feasibility Study	2019-20
Banbridge-Showgrounds Stream II	Design	2019-20
Lurgan Significant Flood Risk Area	Pre-feasibility Study	2020-21

Lands that are currently defended by flood defences within the Borough include Glendinning Housing Development, Mahon Road, Portadown; Church Square & Downshire Road, Banbridge; Sinton's factory site at Glebe Hill Manor, Tandragee; Balleevy Mill, Castlewellan Road, Banbridge; and Lagan Street, Lurgan Road, Dromore. During the development of Craigavon, the Craigavon Lakes were established to balance the flow of storm water from the new settlement.

Increasingly, reliance on traditional drainage systems is proving inadequate to address the issue of storm drainage. Alone, such systems may not cope with the demands made by new development, in addition to the more intense and increasingly unpredictable rainfall arising from climate change. It is preferable that a range of SuDS solutions be employed as these are more sustainable and often less costly than using traditional piped infrastructure. They also offer multiple benefits such as biodiversity and amenity

provision. Examples include localised source control measures such as green roofs, permeable paving and soakaways, or larger passive treatment areas such as ponds and wetlands which can be incorporated into wider green-blue infrastructure (see Section 5.8).

### Water Supply

Information on water supply, quantity and quality is not reported at Council level and must be extracted from regional data sets or trends described at a Northern Ireland level. Some of this has been presented in the 'Public Utilities' Discussion Paper.

Significant investment in water treatment works, service reservoirs and mains distribution has resulted in improvements in compliance across Northern Ireland with the drinking water standards, from 99.22% in 2004 to 99.86% in 2016. Within the Borough, the compliance rate at the customer tap was 99.7%<sup>1</sup>.

The provision of water supply in Northern Ireland is the responsibility of NI Water. There are eight NIW water supply zones in the Borough which are supplied with water from four sources: Lough Neagh (Castor Bay), Fofanny & Spelga Dams, Clay Lake and Seagahan Dam with four associated Water Treatment Works (WTW). There also are approximately 28 service reservoirs used in the distribution of water, listed in Table 8 of the Public Utilities LDP discussion paper. Improvements to the distribution system in Portadown have been completed whilst improvements in the Lurgan area are currently ongoing. A network analysis of the water distribution system for the rest of the Borough is underway to identify necessary improvements to the year 2020.

The most recent Drinking Water Annual Quality Report lists 24 Capital Works Programmes affecting the Borough in 2016. NI Water is also carrying out trial schemes to promote use of weedwiping equipment rather than spraying for rush control in the Seagahan WTW drinking water catchment, as part of an innovative campaign to help reduce levels of the herbicide MCPA in raw water.

### Reservoirs

There are 14 'controlled reservoirs' (i.e. an impoundment  $\geq 10,000$  cubic metres) in the Borough and these are detailed in Table 5.11.2 below.

**Table 5.11.2: Controlled Reservoirs**

NAME OF RESERVOIR	LOCATION
Castle Dillon Lake	NW of Armagh City
Clay Lake	SW of Keady
Darkley	Darkley
Lough Shark	West of Acton
Lowry's Lough	SE of Armagh City
Seagahan Dam	NE of Keady
Shaws Lake	North of Glenanne
Tullynawood Lake	East of Carnagh
Corbet Lough	Corbet
Lough Shark	West of Acton
Pond (Barronstown Road)	Between Dromore & Banbridge
Craigavon Lakes	Craigavon
Magheralin Pond (Drumnabreeze)	Magheralin
The Park Lake (Lurgan)	Lurgan

Reservoir Flood Mapping for Emergency Planning is also published on the DfI Rivers Agency GIS mapping portal <http://dfi-ni.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>.

<sup>1</sup> NI Water (2017) Drinking Water Quality Annual Report 2016

### Wastewater Treatment

The provision of wastewater treatment works (WwTWs) in the Plan Area is also the responsibility of NI Water. NIW has provided the Council with information on the current capacity of WwTWs serving the Borough as well as an estimate of future capacity based on applying a settlement growth factor of 10%, 20% and 30%. At present (October 2017) there are 110 settlements in the Borough served by 'large' WwTWs. Of these, 59 settlements have capacity available and new connections permitted. Twenty settlements have limited capacity and restrictions are in place on new connections. Eighteen settlements have no capacity and new connections are refused. No data is available for 13 settlements.

**Table 5.11.3: Capacity of Wastewater Treatment Works**

	Estimation of Capacity based on Growth Factor			
	Current	+10%	+20%	+30%
Works has 'Reasonable Capacity'	59	54	37	28
Works 'At or reaching Capacity'	20	18	29	20
Works has 'Insufficient Capacity'	18	25	31	49
N/A	13	13	13	13
Total	110	110	110	110

It can be seen in the table above that, in the absence of any works being undertaken to increase capacity, with a 30% settlement growth factor applied the estimated number of settlements with 'Reasonable Capacity' will reduce to just 28. The number of settlements with 'Insufficient Capacity' for new development will increase to 49.

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

#### 5.11.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan there will be less certainty about the need for supply or treatment of water, therefore infrastructure may not be developed in the most efficient manner. There is a risk that cumulative effects from development will counteract the goals of plans such as the 2015 River Basin Management Plans to achieve 'good' ecological status. While planning policies address issues such as flood risk, the opportunity to take a more strategic approach would be missed. There is a risk that taking decisions in the absence of an up to date plan could result in development that does not make the most sustainable use of infrastructure or which subsequently requires further measures to address knock-on effects. The plan will enable space for surface water management to be identified when zoning land. LDP policy could require, either generally or for specific zonings, that schemes are put in place that minimise surface water runoff as part of their design.

#### 5.11.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Water Resources

- By comparison to the rest of Northern Ireland, surface water quality is generally lower in ACBCBC; a quarter of the waterbodies in the Council area are at 'poor' or 'bad' ecological status.
- Development may lead to contaminated runoff which may increase pollution of waterbodies.
- Developments without access to mains sewers can incorporate sewage treatment on site, but it is important that there is capacity for safe disposal of treated discharges and for maintenance of the treatment system to ensure that it remains effective in the long term.
- Other wastes may also cause pollution at the point where they are disposed of or utilised. Wastes from livestock, food processing or primary treatment such as sewage or anaerobic digesters have the potential to cause pollution elsewhere.

- Lurgan, Portadown and Banbridge are identified as SFRAs and there are four other settlements at moderate risk of flooding.
- Constructed flood alleviation and defence measures are expensive and should, where possible, be avoided and alternative methods of flood risk management considered.
- Climate change will increase the probability and extent of flood risk.
- Development should be planned to avoid areas at significant risk from flooding, now or in the future, or where development may increase the flood risk elsewhere.
- Development may lead to changes in the rate of surface water runoff, or the capacity of a receiving watercourse may be altered which in turn has the potential to increase flood risk.
- There are benefits in retaining and restoring natural flood plains and watercourses as a form of flood alleviation - this can support objectives of the Water Framework Directive.
- A safety issue arises because there are not currently legal requirements relating to impounded water therefore there are considered to be risks in potential inundation zones below reservoirs.
- Sustainable drainage (SuDS) measures should be incorporated and maintained in new development and redevelopment or regeneration schemes.
- Plan proposals should be compatible with the Flood Risk Management Plans published by Rivers Agency in December 2015.
- The high use of untargeted methods to apply herbicides and pesticides has caused pollution in waterbodies.
- There are issues with elevated levels of nutrients entering watercourses and polluting waterbodies.
- Development in general requires a water supply therefore can increase demands for sources, treatment and distribution infrastructure. This can be offset by measures to make more efficient use of water.
- There are capacity issues at a number of WWTWs and unless infrastructure is upgraded development requiring new connections to municipal treatment works will not be possible in certain areas. This may limit or delay potential for development.

## 5.12 Natural Resources

### 5.12.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Natural resources covers biodiversity, fauna, flora, green/blue infrastructure, access and ecosystems services. It includes intertidal and coastal zones as well as the wider marine environment. Natural resources are protected in our regional policy that aims to conserve, protect and enhance our natural environment using a spatial approach. It also aims to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate mitigation and adaptation to climate change whilst improving air quality.

One of the aims of the draft Programme for Government is for people to live and work sustainably, whilst protecting the environment. Indicators include increasing environmental sustainability and improving the country's attractiveness as a destination. Between the draft Programme for Government and Northern Ireland's Sustainable Development Strategy, the benefits of protecting the natural environment for goods and services, and an improved quality of life are clear.

Sites containing specific standards of nature conservation value are designated under International, European and national legislation. Regional strategies and policy highlight the diversity of Northern Ireland's natural environment. They provide protection for designated sites, species, habitats and other natural features as assets and directly link these to economic, social and environmental benefits. Local Biodiversity Action Plans aim to protect the natural environment and its biodiversity value but they can also ensure provision for recreational value.

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

In our Corporate Plan's vision 2015-2017, there is a commitment to protect the environment for future generations and to preserve the rural character of the Council for all citizens. Although there is an overall sense of developing the local economy, there is also an awareness that the natural environment is a resource that can facilitate leisure and recreational activities. The Council priorities to help achieve this vision focus on place, people and position and refer to completing environmental improvement and regeneration schemes, conserving architectural heritage and safeguarding the environment for future sustainable use. There is also a legislative duty on Councils, 'to further the conservation of biodiversity', as stated in the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act 2011.

Our Community Plan, '*Connected*', includes the theme of '*Enhanced Place*'. This theme has the desired long term outcome that 'our rich and varied built heritage and natural assets are protected, enhanced and expanded for current and future generations to enjoy'. The theme's short-term outcomes includes that 'our physical and environmental assets are accessible. Everyone appreciates and takes responsibility for their protection, preservation and enhancement.'

### 5.12.2 Baseline Information

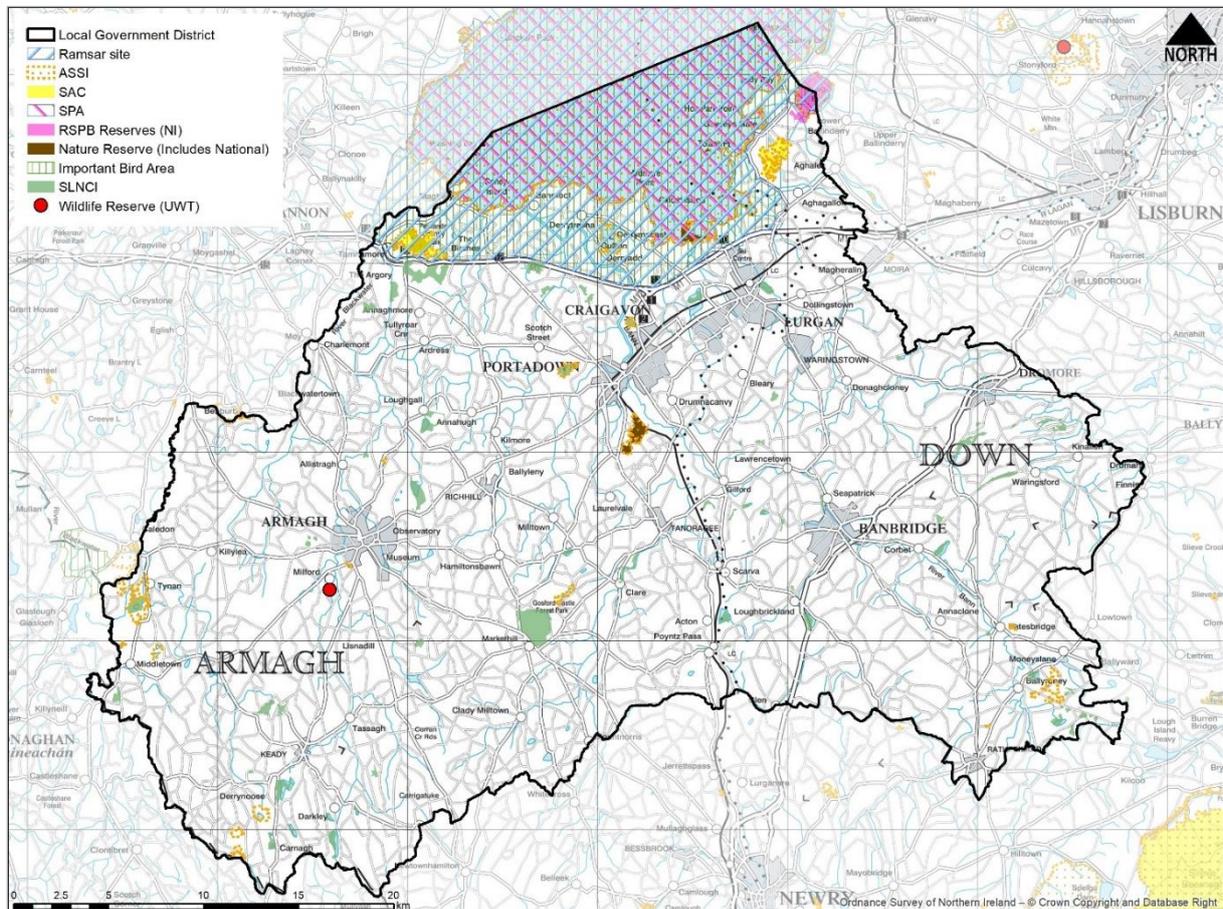
Relevant information is presented in the LDP Environmental Assets, Open Space, Landscape Character and Pressure Analysis papers. This topic also overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport and Accessibility, Air Quality, Climate Change, Water and topics of this report.

#### *Nature Conservation Sites*

The Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council encompasses an area of around 1,338km<sup>2</sup> of land, plus part of Lough Neagh and has a variety of habitats including wetlands, woodlands and peatlands. Protection of the diverse natural environment is achieved using a variety of International, European, regional and local level designations that help to protect the most important areas for nature

conservation and amenity value. At the same time, these sites help to maintain and enhance local biodiversity and green/blue infrastructure linkages across the Borough.

Figure 5.12.1: Natural Resources in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council



Source: DAERA digital data, Ulster Wildlife Trust, RSPB.

Lough Neagh and Lough Beg is a Ramsar wetland of International importance and a Special Protection Area (SPA) of European importance and is recognised as an Important Bird Area. These wetland designations primarily denote the site’s importance for wintering birds but it is also recognised regionally for its importance to breeding birds and specialist plants and animals through the Ramsar site and as an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI). For the most part the Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Ramsar boundary is similar to the SPA boundary however in our council area it extends further south with the M1 forming its boundary. Portmore Lough which is part of these designations is an RSPB Reserve. Two wetland and peatland sites, Montiagh’s Moss and Peatlands Park Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), are found north of the M1. There are several ASSIs concentrated around the north western and western parts of the Council and a few within centre. Oxford Island is located in the south eastern corner of Lough Neagh in the Borough and is an exemplar National Nature Reserve for conservation, public use, education and tourism. Peatlands Park is also important for public access.

As shown in Figure 5.7.3 woodland is particularly evident across the Borough, with larger tracts in the uplands of the west and east. These woodlands consist of Forest Service sites which include more biodiverse areas of semi-natural, native and ancient woodland. The Woodland Trust also has ancient woodland records across the Council. SLNCIs, which were identified by NIEA for their local biodiversity value, are widespread across the Borough, as too are Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) that the Council has identified.

### *Biodiversity*

A Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for the Borough was published in 2014 to help reduce the loss of biodiversity across the Borough. There are a variety of habitats that range from the large open waterbody of Lough Neagh in the north, to the bogs, orchards, rivers and woodlands lying further south. In total, 14 animals and plants were identified as priorities for protection because of their local or regional importance. Some examples include the Irish damselfly, the Cryptic Wood-white, the Barn owl, bats, smooth newt and orchids. Six key habitat groups were identified. These are woodland, wetland, grassland, rivers and canals, peatlands and open mosaic habitats. Common threats to local biodiversity levels are development pressure from housing and associated infrastructure, agricultural improvement of land, nutrient enrichment, climate change and non-native species. More information on development pressure is in the Physical Resources topic. The vision of the LBAP is to provide a landscape rich in animals and plants that can be used and enjoyed by citizens. To help enable this, habitats and wildlife corridors need to be protected and have access where appropriate. The LBAP also refers to the benefits that the natural environment provides, be it resources, processes or amenity. More information on this is provided in the ecosystem services section of this chapter.

### *Green/blue Infrastructure*

Green/blue infrastructure is promoted in the SPPS and all natural green and blue spaces and features can be classified as green/blue infrastructure. This includes all of the types of designation referred to in Figure 5.12.1 but also undesignated or unprotected ponds, streams, floodplains, parks, gardens, allotments and street trees. For example, there are 81 Tree Preservation Orders in the Borough but unprotected trees also contribute to green infrastructure.

Green/blue infrastructure is often multifunctional land and may be able to integrate walking and cycling routes. These green spaces can also provide an amenity value and enable recreational use. Planning can help protect green/blue infrastructure to connect natural features and habitats together across landscapes. By doing so, this can help to maintain and enhance local biodiversity by creating wildlife corridors and help to strengthen natural infrastructure that may act as floodplain, or a carbon or water store. More information on active travel and greenways can be found in the Transport and Accessibility section of this report.

### *Canal network*

The waterways in the Borough, including its canals, can be considered blue infrastructure. These include the Newry, Ulster and Lagan Canals. One of the proposals for green spaces in the Banbridge Town Centre Masterplan referred to a canoe trail on the Upper River Bann that could also connect to the area's linen heritage. The Council has already been involved in plans to open sections of the Ulster Canal to Caledon, with further plans to connect to Lough Neagh. Canoe NI helps ensure the provision of canoe trails; current canoe trails are shown in Figure 5.12.2.



- Local development pressure from rural housing and renewables is evident in some parts of the Council and in areas that are more sensitive, local level measures may be needed to help avoid environmental impacts.
- The three main non-governmental nature conservation organisations in Northern Ireland are present in the Council with National Trust sites mostly located in the north west, Ulster Wildlife present south of Armagh and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds located to the north east at Portmore Lough.
- The vision of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan presents an opportunity for partnership working, community involvement and environmental education to help combat threats to local biodiversity.
- The Council has a statutory duty to further biodiversity conservation within its functions.
- The LDP should use opportunities to increase the Council's green/blue infrastructure network by linking existing green and open space together and creating greenways with access whilst also investing in the canal network.
- The LDP should encourage the sustainable development of land as a multifunctional resource and promote ecosystems services with multiple benefits for stakeholders

## 5.13 Landscape

### 5.13.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Landscape protection in Northern Ireland is evident at the regional level with a key aim in the Regional Development Strategy to protect and enhance the environment for its own sake. The environment in Northern Ireland is seen as one of its greatest assets and regional policy encourages protection of natural heritage assets and landscape character.

The SPSS also recognises the importance of the countryside as a significant asset. It aims to avoid inappropriate development and provide a high standard of landscape protection that also reflects regional and local differences. Protection of landscape as a consideration is evident within several subject policies including development in the countryside, minerals, open space, sport and outdoor recreation, renewable energy, telecommunications and other utilities.

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

Much of what is valued in a landscape is a blend of natural features and social and cultural history. It is the viewer's perception that provides an intrinsic value. This can help to define a region and provide a sense of place. Landscape is increasingly being realised in economic terms as an asset for tourism but also as a motivator to encourage people to purchase a home or to invest in a new location.

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2017 includes 'Place' as one of its three themes. It includes initiatives to safeguard and manage the environment for future sustainable use.

The 'Connected' Community Plan 2017-2030, recognises that the Borough's landscape is unique and remarkably diverse and that *'its protection, promotion and enhancement is a key priority for us'*. It also recognises that *'our habitats, wildlife, landscapes and natural features are also important assets that provide a wide range of opportunities for enjoyment, recreation, play and economic activity.'*

### 5.13.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the LDP Discussion Papers on Landscape Character Assessment, Environmental Assets and Pressure Analysis. This topic also overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Economy, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Natural Resources and the Historic Environment and Cultural Resources sections of this report.

#### *Landscape Character*

The Borough is covered by 23 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) under the Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment (NILCA 2000). LCAs were developed as a means to identify and describe variations in the landscape. The 23 LCAs in the Borough range from the Portmore Lough Fringe and Lough Neagh Peatlands in the north, to the Loughgall Orchard Belt and the Armagh Drumlins towards the west. Several LCAs cover the rest of the Borough including the Craigavon Plateau, the Lower Slieve Croob Foothills and the Armagh/Banbridge Hills. These provide a diversity of landscapes that range from flat fenland to rolling drumlins with historic estates to rocky outcrops, rolling ridges to stone walled fields.

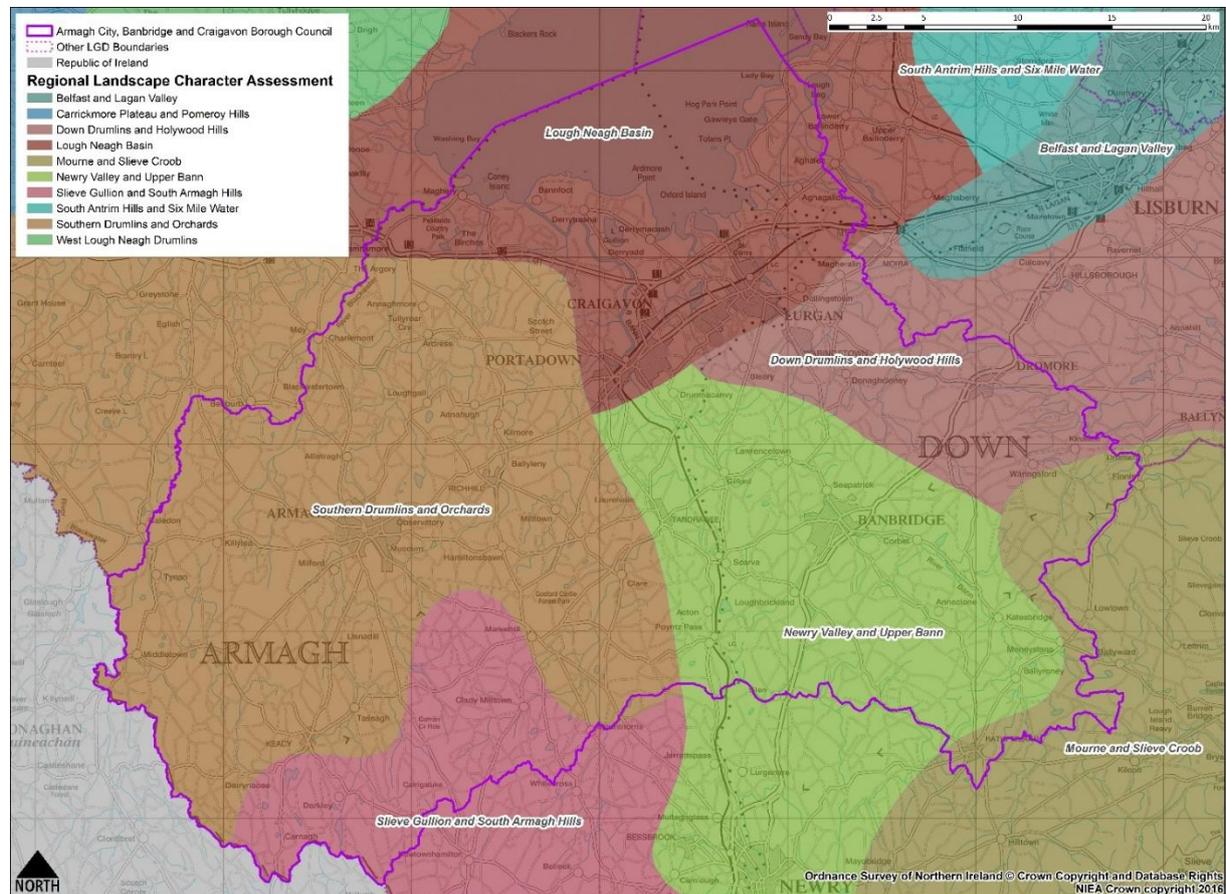
The majority of LCAs are of low to medium/high sensitivity to change but four LCAs are of high sensitivity. These are the Lough Neagh Peatlands, the Blackwater Valley, the Slieve Croob Foothills and the Mourne Foothills. A full list of LCAs is in the LDP discussion paper on Landscape Character Assessment and further information can be found at [www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/landscape-character-northern-ireland](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/landscape-character-northern-ireland).

#### *Regional Landscape Character*

The Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA) divides the country into 26 distinct areas known as RLCAs, which provide a regional overview of landscape character. The RCLAs are

based upon a combination of factors including people, place, nature, culture and perception. Descriptions for each RLCA include subjects like location, setting and key characteristics; forces and indicators of change and ecosystem services are also included.

**Figure 5.13.1: Regional Landscape Character Assessment for Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council**



Source: DAERA

Six RLCAs are represented in the Borough all of which extent into neighbouring councils. These are the Lough Neagh Basin, the Southern Drumlins and Orchards, the Slieve Gullion and South Armagh Hills, the Newry Valley and Upper Bann, Mourne and Slieve Croob, and the Down Drumlins and Holywood Hills. These range in character from low-lying, boggy ground, to rolling drumlins or rounded hills with characteristic open heath and bog. More information on the RLCAs can be found in the LDP Landscape Character Assessment discussion paper and on the DAERA website<sup>1</sup>.

### Areas of Scenic Quality

Areas of Scenic Quality (ASQ) are areas without major intrusion that are visually pleasing due to a combination of landscape features. They may also have important natural, cultural or historic features. The Borough has no AONBs but it does have two potential ASQs. These are the Lough Neagh Shores and the Blackwater Valley. The Lough Neagh Shores ASQ encompasses several smaller landscape areas and nature conservation designations. The Blackwater Valley includes two Landscape Character Areas (LCAs). More information and a map is provided in the LDP Landscape Character Assessment discussion paper.

### Local Landscape Policy Areas

Numerous Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) in the Council have been designated to maintain the setting of local settlements. LLPAs protect natural features and spaces, as well as views from settlements to other landscape features. Together these aspects combine to help create a sense of place and the

<sup>1</sup> Landscape Character of Northern Ireland <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/landscape-character-northern-ireland>

character of a settlement. LLPAs can protect features that are of value to the local setting and that make an area attractive. There is guidance on protection of the main features of each LLPA. In total, there are 101 LLPAs in the Borough however none were designated in the legacy Dungannon and South Tyrone Area Plan 2010. LLPAs contain features that are individual to that area and add to its character. There is likely to be an opportunity to review existing LLPAs and to add to these.

#### *Tree Preservation Orders*

Trees are an obvious natural feature that can be part of an LLPA that also provide biodiversity and amenity value. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) can be placed on trees that are considered under threat from development.

#### *Area of Significant Archaeological Interest*

There is one Area of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI) in the Borough at Navan Fort. The ASAI adds a level of protection to the local landscape helping to maintain a cultural asset, which is important for local tourism and education. More information on the ASAI is in section 5.14.2 of this report.

#### *Development Pressure*

There is evidence of development pressure within the Borough from single rural dwellings. Planning applications for single dwellings peaked in 2005-2008 and approvals peaked in 2012 at 576. More recently applications and approvals have decreased but pressure in rural areas for housing remains and includes some areas more sensitive to change such as the Lough Neagh shore. More information on development pressure is in the Physical Resources section of this report.

### 5.13.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there could be an increased risk of losing or degrading landscapes due to over development or inappropriate siting of structures. It could become increasingly difficult to spatially manage new development in the context of local landscape character.

### 5.13.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Landscape

- Although there is no AONB in the Council there are a wide variety of landscape types across it including 23 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), six Regional Landscape Character Areas (RLCAs) and 101 Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) that make the Council unique in its own right and therefore attractive to investors for housing, recreation and business ventures.
- There are two potential Areas of Scenic Quality (ASQ) that could, if designated, help add to the protection awarded to landscape in those areas.
- The Council may need to consider local level landscape studies and in some areas more sensitive to change, further local measures to help avoid negative impacts from development pressures such as rural housing.
- There is an opportunity to use the LDP process to designate more LLPAs across the Council and particularly in the Dungannon and South Tyrone legacy Council area where there are none.
- The Mourne Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) borders the Council on its south eastern flank and is an example of where management of landscape issues could particularly benefit from partnership working with other stakeholders

## 5.14 Historic Environment and Cultural Resources

### 5.14.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe 1992 and the European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe 1987 (known respectively as the Valetta Convention and the Granada Convention) place responsibility on member states to consider the conservation of archaeological resources and to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. The Xi'an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas (2005) aims to contribute through legislation, policies, planning processes and management to better protect and conserve the world's heritage structures, sites and areas in their settings. In the regional context PPS 6: Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage, along with its addendum, sets out planning policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and built heritage features. Supplementary planning guidance in the form of booklets incorporating local policies, design guides and baseline audits are published for Conservation Areas.

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

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

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

- Secure the protection, conservation, and, where possible, the enhancement of our built and archaeological heritage.
- Promote Sustainable Development and environmental stewardship with regard to our built and archaeological heritage.
- Encourage the link between conservation and economic prosperity.

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2017 has 'Place' as a theme. It includes initiatives to promote and sensitively regenerate the architectural heritage and to safeguard and manage the environment for future sustainable use. These will be delivered through a new regeneration and development strategy with measures such as encouraging the sustainable use of historic buildings for the economic and social benefit of the area. The Corporate Plan also has 'People' as a priority and includes the aim to develop a coherent cultural package for the area based on its rich heritage including St Patrick, Lough Neagh, The Brontës, Ecclesiastical centres, the Armagh Museum, the Orange Order, Navan Fort and the Iron Age.

The '*Connected*' Community Plan 2017-2030, recognises that archaeological and built heritage forms an integral part of our environment. They are important sources of information about our past, and represent significant landmarks in the present townscape and countryside. It is important that residents feel connected to the wealth of heritage and natural attributes around them, regularly accessing and enjoying them, and contributing to their protection and enhancement.

### 5.14.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in a number of LDP Preparatory Study Discussion Papers including 'Environmental Assets', 'Landscape Character Area Report' and 'Strategic Settlement Evaluation'. The Historic Environment Division (HED) of the Department for Communities (DfC) has also

published its digital datasets of the historic environment online<sup>1</sup> and has created a Historic Environment Map Viewer<sup>2</sup>. This topic overlaps with the Economy and Employment and Landscape topics.

### *Overview*

The Borough has a rich heritage of archaeological sites, monuments and buildings, representing the aspiration and achievements of past societies and providing evidence of settlements from 9,000 years ago to the present day. Highlights include the historic towns of Armagh, Banbridge and Dromore, the many State Care and scheduled monuments, which include Navan Fort and associated sites, the Danes Cast and the Newry Canal. Several of the settlement patterns have their origins in the medieval period and the town of Armagh merits specific consideration as a settlement where complex and extensive below ground archaeological remains as well as historic fabric incorporated into later structures, are known to exist.

Armagh City has a unique sense of place with a significance and influence felt across the island for 6500 years. It has been the spiritual capital of Ireland since around 445AD. The historic centre of Armagh has a prime place in history as one of the earliest urban settlements, having formed as a hilltop settlement over a period of 1500 years. The city is of great ecclesiastical, historical, architectural and archaeological importance, and is likely to owe its origin to the proximity of Navan, the capital of the Kings of Ulster. Banbridge has a strong industrial heritage, being a centre for flax and linen production in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. The quality of the built heritage in parts of the Borough is therefore high and with this comes the need to protect and conserve it for our own and future generations to enjoy.

### *Listed Buildings*

There are a total of approximately 1,071 Listed Buildings<sup>1</sup> in the Borough, 33 of which have been assigned Grade A status. The majority (25) of the Grade A buildings are located in or close to Armagh City, including Armagh Observatory, St Patrick's Cathedral, the Public Library and the Bank of Ireland building. Others outside Armagh City include Gosford Castle, Richhill House and Tynan Abbey. These are documented in the Local Development Plan Preparatory Paper 8: Environmental Assets. A further 194 (approx.) buildings are listed, but are 'record only' or have not yet been allocated a grade.

### *Buildings at Risk*

The Ulster Architecture and Heritage Society in conjunction with the Department for Communities (DfC), has compiled an online list of Built Heritage at Risk in Northern Ireland (BHARNI)<sup>3</sup>. The BHARNI register contains a selection of listed buildings, scheduled monuments and other historic structures, ranging from dwellings to large industrial complexes, which are may not have a sustainable future without intervention. It highlights the vulnerability of our historic built environment and will act as a catalyst for its restoration and reuse. Within the Borough there are a total of 79 'buildings at risk', of which 74 are listed. Twenty two 'buildings at risk' have been saved and three have been demolished. Some examples of buildings at risk include: Flatfield Hall in Craigavon, The Old Court House in Tynan and Brookfield House, Banbridge.

### *Sites and Monuments Record*

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area has a rich record of archaeological sites and historic monuments. Scheduled sites are archaeological and historic sites and monuments that are afforded protection under Article 3 of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 and there are 166<sup>1</sup> such Scheduled sites in the Borough (Figure 5.14.1). The Schedule of Historic Monuments maintained by the Historic Environment Division (HED) of the DfC lists a further 1,311<sup>1</sup> unscheduled Sites and Monuments located across the Borough. Two sites, which are bridges of the Ulster Canal, are currently proposed for scheduling. The Schedule includes assets such as Neolithic tombs, earthworks and settlement sites, early Christian era raths and crannogs and more modern features such as World War II pillboxes and an air raid shelter. Potentially, more sites may be discovered

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<sup>1</sup> Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 02 August 2017)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/historic-environment-map-viewer>

<sup>3</sup> Department for Communities Buildings at Risk Register for Northern Ireland (accessed 13/10/2017)

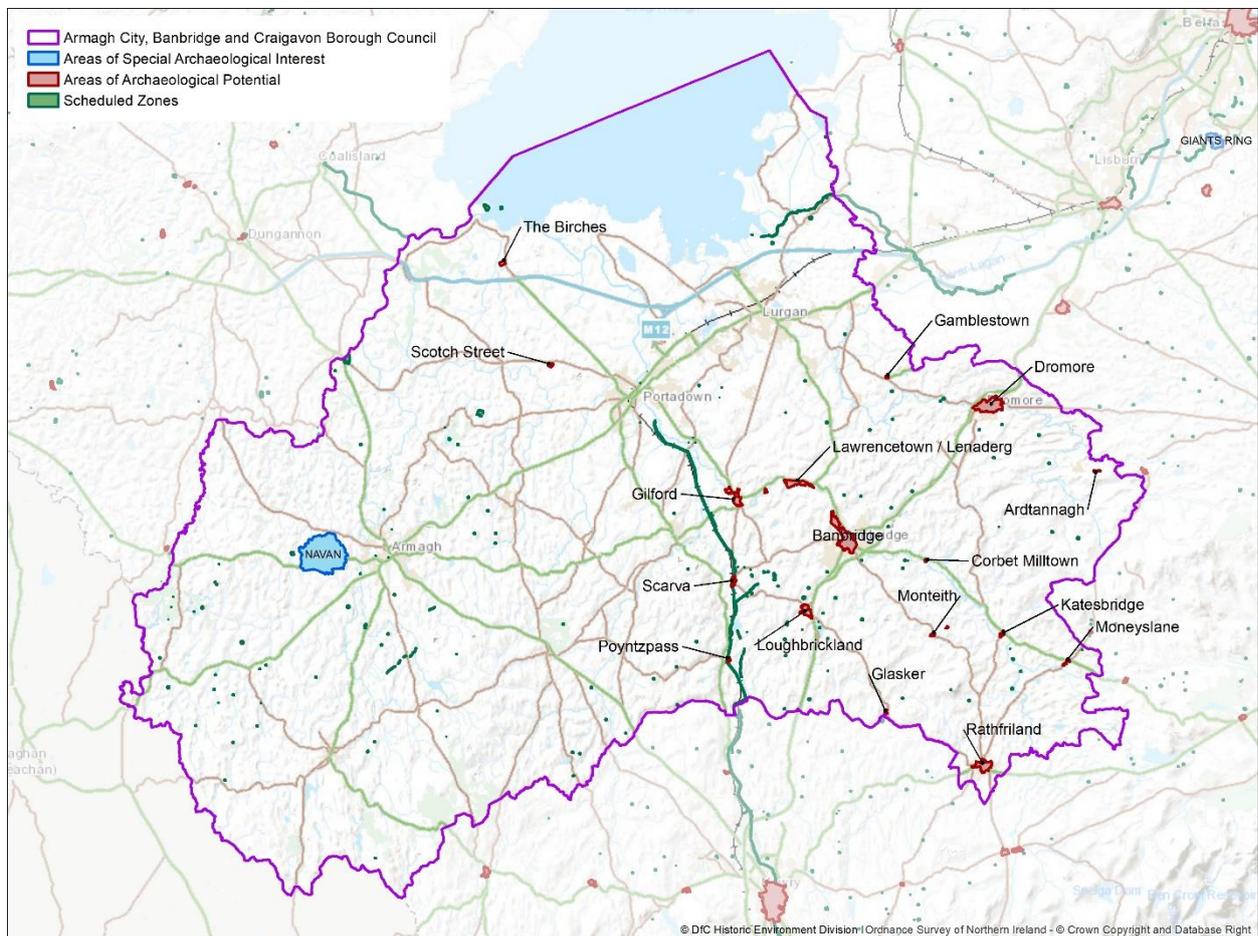
through archaeological work, during development operations or through agricultural activity. The Borough has 15 Monuments in State Care, which are listed in Section 3.7 and shown on Appendix 1: Map (iii) of the Environmental Assets LDP discussion paper.

### Areas of Special Archaeological Interest

There is one Area of Special Archaeological Interest (ASAI) in the Borough, at the Navan complex (Figure 5.14.1). Navan Fort (Eamhain Mhacha) is the focus of a group of monuments which together form one of the most important areas of historic landscapes in Ireland. The main monuments in the Navan Complex as known at present are: Navan Fort, Haughey's Fort, Loughnashade, the King's Stables and a group of megalithic tombs. The Navan Fort complex is owned and managed by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council. The site is of sufficient importance to merit its inclusion on the tentative list for nomination as a World Heritage Site as part of The Royal Sites of Ireland.

One new candidate ASAI, around the earthworks at Lisnagade and Lisnavaragh, east of Scarva, has been identified by HED and is currently under consideration.

**Figure 5.14.1: Historic Environment: ASAI, AAP and Scheduled Zones**



Source: Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 01 March 2018)

### Area of Archaeological Potential

There are 19 settlements in the Borough with identified Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAP). These are:

- |                 |                         |               |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Annaclone       | Glasker                 | Poyntzpass    |
| Ardannagh       | Katesbridge             | Rathfriland   |
| Banbridge       | Lawrencetown / Lenaderg | Scarva        |
| Corbet Milltown | Loughbrickland          | Scotch Street |

Dromore  
Gamblestown  
Gilford

Moneyslane  
Monteith

The Birches  
Tullylish

Source: Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 02 August 2017)

There are various existing policies for Areas of Archaeological Potential and Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest within the Armagh Area Plan 2004 (Alteration No 1) and the Banbridge/Newry & Mourne Area Plan 2015.

The Gazetteer of Nucleated Historic Settlements is the result of a program of work within the DfC to identify historic settlement centres and from these, in some cases, identify new AAP or modify existing AAP. The draft Gazetteer includes 55 entries within the Borough, of which 36 do not have an existing AAP associated. These include areas of Clonmore, Keady, Loughgall, Lurgan, Magheralin and Waringstown. The new LDP will consider the designation of new ASAI and AAP through consultation with the DfC.

### *Industrial Heritage*

The Borough also contains a wealth of remains from the industrial past, which are reminders of the economic as well as the social development of the area. Sites of industrial heritage can be found not only in the city and main towns, but also in rural locations. They include many remnants of the former flax and linen industries, tanneries, quarries, windmills and gasworks. There are numerous bridges, tunnels and other engineering features remaining from the former Great Northern Railway and also bridges, aqueducts, locks and other features of the Ulster, Newry and Lagan canals. As discussed in section 5.8, parts of these former railway and canal routes are under consideration for the development of new greenways.

### *Defence Heritage*

The Borough contains many defence heritage assets, largely associated with World War II and many of which are focused along the route of the Portadown- Newry railway. Defence heritage assets include pillboxes, observation posts, searchlight batteries and an air raid shelter. One defence feature within the Borough has been recognised as a scheduled monument, the WWII Pillbox (DHP no.226) which is located on the top of the Belfast-Dublin railway embankment and can be accessed off Watson Street, Portadown. This asset was considered to be in good condition and worthy of the higher protection this designation would bring to it. The majority of former airfields in the Borough are now derelict, some have been reused or altered, and others are in a state of decay or have been demolished.

### *Historic Parks and Gardens*

Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes reflect planned and managed landscape enhancement carried out since the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. The Borough has a total of 16 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes on the Register which are considered to be of exceptional importance within Northern Ireland. These include 268 ha surrounding Tynan Abbey and 257 ha surrounding Gosford Castle. A further 18 supplementary sites have also been identified as having a high level of interest and are included as an appendix to the main Register.

	<b>Armagh</b>	<b>Banbridge</b>	<b>Craigavon</b>
<b>Register</b>	Ardress	Elmfield	Brownlow House (Lurgan Park)
	Benburb Manor House	Gilford Castle	Coney Island
	Gosford Castle	Gill Hall	Waringstown House
	Manor House (Loughgall)	Loughbrickland House	
	The Argory	Scarva House	
	The Mall		
	The Palace		
	Tynan Abbey		

**Supplementary**

**Armagh**

- Abbey House
- Castle Dillon
- Deans Hill
- Fellows Hall
- Hockley Lodge
- Summer Island
- Tandragee Castle
- The Observatory
- Umgola

**Banbridge**

- Brookfield House
- Lawrencetown House
- Lisnabrague Lodge
- Moyallon House
- Wood Bank

**Craigavon**

- Eden Villa
- Fairview House /
- Tannaghmore Gardens
- Raughlan
- Straw Hill

Source: Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 02 August 2017)

There are also three Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes not detailed above which have a small portion within the ACBCBC Plan Area but which mainly fall within an adjoining Council area. These are Caledon House and Benburb Manor House (Mid-Ulster) and Drumbanagher Estate (Newry, Mourne and Down).

*Conservation Areas*

A Conservation Area is an area deemed to be of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve and enhance, as designated under Article 50 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991. The Borough has a total of five Conservation Areas. They are:

- Armagh City
- Dromore
- Richhill
- Loughgall
- Lurgan

Great importance is attached to the preservation of the existing character and appearance of such areas allied to the promotion of their economic well-being.

*Areas of Townscape Character*

Areas of Townscape and Village Character are designated by the Council through the local development plan with accompanying local policies for the control of development within these areas. There are currently 16 Areas of Townscape Character (ATC) within the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Boroughs as detailed below. There are currently no designated Areas of Village Character (AVC) in the Borough.

**Armagh City District Council**  
(AAP 2004)  
None

**Banbridge District Council**  
(BNMAP 2015): 12

- Annaclone
- Banbridge Town: (3 areas)
- Dromore: (2 areas)
- Gilford: (2 areas)
- Loughbrickland
- Rathfriland
- Scarva
- Tullyish

**Craigavon Borough Council**  
(CAP 2010): 4

- Lurgan - College Walk, Lough Road
- Portadown – Bachelor’s Walk, Bridge street
- Donaghcloney
- Charlestown.

*Local Landscape Policy Areas*

The features or combination of features that contribute to the environmental quality, integrity or character of a Local Landscape Policy Area (LLPA) are specific to individual settlements and differ from place to place. Within the Boroughs extant area plans (Armagh Area Plan 2004, Banbridge/Newry & Mourne Area Plan 2015 & Craigavon Area Plan 2010), there are 101 Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) within and adjoining the majority of the settlements. No LLPAs were designated in the Dungannon and South Tyrone Area Plan 2010 within the three villages (Clonmore, Derrylee and part of Tamnamore) that transferred to ACBCBC post-RPA.

### 5.14.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without the LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, extant Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied. Stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. However, in the absence of a new plan, opportunities to consider the historical and cultural assets in the Borough in future growth plans and place-shaping may be missed.

There are a very large number of strategic heritage assets in the Borough, dating from the Mesolithic period through to World War II. Without a new LDP in place, opportunities to designate new areas of special archaeological interest and areas of archaeological potential in the LDP might also be missed. Opportunities might also be missed to take advantage of the potential that archaeological, industrial, and defence heritage assets have as part of our tourism and visitor offer, leading to reduced economic benefit for local communities.

The protection, conservation and regeneration of historic places can contribute to well-being in society through providing people with enjoyment, inspiration, learning opportunities, mental and physical health benefits, and a sense of place and identity.

It has been recognised that there is evidence of incremental erosion of historic/architectural character and appearance within some of the designated conservation areas. In the absence of a LDP the 'setting' of historic assets or places, which may extend far beyond the boundary or curtilage of the site, may not be taken into consideration. A new LDP is an opportunity to consider the reasons for these issues and identify the positive role that planning can play.

### 5.14.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Historic Environment and Cultural Resources

- The Historic Environment and Cultural Resources play a role in maintaining and enhancing the sense of place in our settlements and rural locations which can be supported by building design recognising historic environment evidence in both urban and rural locations.
- Heritage assets are at risk from neglect, decay, development pressures and vacancy.
- 'Buildings at Risk' should continue to be identified and efforts made to maintain their regular use and/or support their restoration.
- The Council area's rich cultural and heritage assets can contribute to a high quality built environment that helps to create attractive places for living, investing in and visiting.
- The Council area contains centres, villages and towns which each have a unique sense of place, and character. Protecting this sense of place aspect has benefits for people and their pride in their community.
- Protecting built heritage features, and recognising their value extends beyond listing and enforcement. Consideration should be given to the setting of those features, and the scale and context of surrounding buildings.
- The Council area has a rich archaeological heritage, and this could be further explored through identifying new Areas of Archaeological Potential.
- The Navan Fort Complex is of sufficient importance to merit its inclusion on the tentative list for nomination as a World Heritage Site. Development in this area should be managed to support nomination.
- The Council area has a rich industrial heritage through milling, linen and textiles production, its 18th and 19th Century transport engineering and defence heritage associated with World War II.
- Opportunities to link these heritage assets with present-day uses could be explored.
- Appreciating the value of built heritage should also apply to new buildings.
- There is ongoing loss of certain non-designated heritage assets such as historic farmsteads and buildings in the countryside, industrial and defence heritage, and historic shopfronts in some towns and settlements. Non-designated buildings which are of heritage or architectural importance in the context of overall landscape, townscape or heritage value should be recognised for their role in conserving these settings.

- A number of Conservation Areas and Townscape Character Areas may be at risk of flooding both with and without the effects of climate change.
- There may be opportunities to maintain or reflect historic routeways and townland boundaries.
- Traffic pollution, air quality, noise pollution and other problems are affecting the historic environment.

## 6. THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

Sustainability objectives have been identified through consideration of intentional, national, regional and local policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives; baseline information at regional and, where available, at local level and apparent trends.

The following Sustainability Objectives are informed by the topic review and key sustainability issues identified in Chapter 5. The rationale for selecting each is outlined. The prompts used to assess plan options against the Sustainability Objectives are presented in the Sustainability Appraisal Guide in Appendix 5.

### 6.1 The Sustainability Objectives

#### **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.

## 6.2 Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives

A comparison has been drawn between all of the sustainability objectives to identify any conflicts between them and is presented in Appendix 3. No sustainability objectives were considered to be incompatible with the rest of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. In some cases, however the effect is uncertain.

## 6.3 Next Steps

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

## 6.4 Difficulties Encountered in Compiling the Scoping Report

With the establishment of our Council in 2015 and the new statutory Community Planning duty there has been a great deal of data collection for a variety of purposes including the Community Plan. It has not always been possible to align all of the evidence used for this scoping report with other evidence as timeframes and purpose for which data was collected may differ. The scoping report evidence will be reviewed and updated, where necessary, before publication of the Sustainability Report at Plan Strategy.

Predicting effects and trends always involves an element of uncertainty or a need for assumptions to be made. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by gaps in the baseline and understanding of future trends. In some cases information is either not available at Council level or there is not a series of data to inform trends.

## 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 Scoping Report or the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report is identified.

Requirement	Location
1. An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	An introduction to the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Local Development Plan (LDP) is presented in Chapter 3.  Appendix 4 outlines the relationship with other plans, programmes and policies.
2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	Baseline information is presented in Chapter 5, under topic sections and each section highlights the likely evolution of the baseline without the LDP.
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	The environmental characteristics of the Borough are outlined in Chapter 5. More detail will be added to this at Plan Strategy stage.
4. Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds(9) and the Habitats Directive.	Chapter 5 identifies environmental problems and Appendix 4 of the Interim Report 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.	Appendix 4 outlines the relationship with other plans, programmes and policies.  Each section of Chapter 5 outlines the main policy themes for that topic.
6. The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as –  (i) biodiversity; (ii) population; (iii) human health; (iv) fauna; (v) flora; (vi) soil; (vii) water; (viii) air; (ix) climatic factors; (x) material assets;	These issues are all covered in the 14 sustainability objectives in the Sustainability Appraisal Framework used to assess the options and reported in Appendix 5 of the SA Interim Report.  Interrelationships are covered in Chapter 2 and Appendix 3 of the SA Interim Report.

Requirement	Location
(xi) cultural resources, including cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage; (xii) landscape, and (xiii) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub paragraphs (i) to (xii).	
7. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	This is considered in the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report Chapter 3 and in the matrices presented in Appendix 5.
8. An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	Chapter 2 of the SA Interim Report considers this in general and Chapter 3 and Appendix 5 provide more detail on the options appraised and assumptions and limitations encountered in the appraisal.
9. A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 16.	Not required at this stage
10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.	A non-technical summary is provided at the opening of this report.

## APPENDIX 2: SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AND RELATIONSHIP TO SEA TOPICS

The objectives for sustainable development are to...	SEA Directive Topic
1...improve health and well-being.	Population Human Health
2 strengthen society.	Cultural Heritage including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage  Population
3...provide good quality, sustainable housing.	Population Human Health
4...enable access to high quality education.	Population
5...enable sustainable economic growth.	Population Human Health
6 manage material assets sustainably.	Material Assets
7...protect physical resources and use sustainably.	Material Assets  Soil
8...encourage active and sustainable travel.	Human Health  Population  Climatic Factors
9...improve air quality	Air
10...reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	Climatic Factors
11...protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	Water
12...protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	Biodiversity  Flora, Fauna
13...maintain and enhance landscape character.	Landscape
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	Cultural Heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage  Landscape

## APPENDIX 3: COMPATIBILITY OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

Sustainability Objectives	1 Improve health and well-being.	2 Strengthen society.	3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4 Enable access to high quality education.	5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	6 Manage material assets sustainably.	7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	9 Improve air quality.	10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	14 protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.
1 Improve health and well-being.														
2 Strengthen society.	✓													
3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	✓	✓												
4 Enable access to high quality education.	✓	✓	✓											
5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	✓	✓	✓	✓										
6 Manage material assets sustainably.	✓	0	0	0	✓									
7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓								
8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0							
9 Improve air quality.	✓	✓	✓	0	?	✓	✓	✓						
10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	✓	✓	✓	0	?	✓	✓	✓	✓					
11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	✓	0	✓	0	?	✓	✓	0	✓	✓				
12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	✓	✓	0	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	✓	✓	0	0	✓	?	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓		
14 protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	✓	✓	?	0	✓	0	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Compatible ✓ No relationship 0 Uncertain relationship ? Incompatible ✕

## APPENDIX 4: REVIEW OF POLICIES, PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES

### Introduction

This is a list of Policies, Plans and Programmes and Strategies that have been considered in scoping the sustainability appraisal. It will be updated at each stage of plan preparation. Some additional documents, including local plans, may be referred to in the plan evidence papers or the body of the Scoping Report and these will be incorporated in this table in the updated scoping report which will accompany the draft Plan Strategy.

A number of cross cutting publications are presented first. Following that the publications are listed according to the most relevant topic however some may be apply to two or more topics. Year is the year of publication and scale indicates the spatial area it applies to. The lead is the department or organisation currently responsible for the publication and was not necessarily the one responsible for preparation of the publication.

For each publication a summary of the key objectives, requirements or advice is given with emphasis on what is most relevant to the Local Development Plan (LDP). A short comment is included on the implications of these for the LDP and/or how they will be addressed in plan preparation.

Acknowledgement is given to work carried out by Mid Ulster District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and the Strategic Planning Division of the Department for Infrastructure which formed part of the source information for this review of plans, policies and programmes.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
<b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b>					
<b>Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</b>	2015	International	UN	Seeks to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. It also aims to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities. Expressed through 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets.	Through the influence of the sustainability appraisal the LDP seeks to contribute to these goals where they are within the scope of development planning.
<b>Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Cohesion Policy 2014-2020</b>	2014	Europe	EC	Almost 70% of the EU population lives in an urban area, and these areas generate more than two thirds of the EU's GDP. However, they are also the places where persistent problems such as unemployment, segregation and poverty, as well as severe environmental pressures, are concentrated. Measures concerning physical urban renewal should be combined with measures promoting education, economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection.	The principles of integrated sustainable urban development.
<b>General Union Environmental Action Plan (2020)</b>	2013	Europe	EC	This will guide European environment policy until 2020 but has a longer term vision: "In 2050, we live well, within the planet's ecological limits. Our prosperity and healthy environment stem from an innovative, circular economy where nothing is wasted and where natural resources are managed sustainably, and biodiversity is protected, valued and restored in ways that enhance our society's resilience. Our low-carbon growth has long been decoupled from resource use, setting the pace for a safe and sustainable global society." It identifies three key objectives: to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital; to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy; to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing.	The LDP should support the 4 key areas of work set out in the EAP.
<b>The Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)</b>	2004	Europe	EC	The Environmental Liability Directive (ELD) has the objective of making operators of activities which cause environmental damage financially liable for that damage (the 'polluter pays' principle). It imposes duties on operators of economic activities to take immediate steps to prevent damage if there is an imminent threat, and to control damage which is occurring so as to limit its effects.	The LDP will take account of this Directive and local relevant legislation.
<b>Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment</b>	2001	Europe	EC	Provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.	The LDP will take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive at the national level. Requirements of the Directive will be addressed through the Sustainability Appraisals.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
<b>A Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development</b>	2001	Europe	EC	A framework for a long-term vision of sustainability in which economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection go hand in hand and are mutually supporting. Particular environmental protection objectives include increasing the use of clean energy and natural resources to combat climate change, reducing noise and air pollution through promotion of sustainable transport, and conserving and managing the overall use of water and air.	This Strategy aligns with many of the objectives of the LDP including those related to transport and natural heritage, as well as renewable energy. In applying the policy requirements of the SPPS the LDP will also contribute to the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.
<b>Securing the Future - delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy</b>	2005	UK	Four Nations (DAERA)	The Strategy takes account of developments since the 1999 Strategy, both domestically and internationally; the changed structure of government in the UK with devolution to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; greater emphasis on delivery at regional level and the new relationship between government and local authorities. The five guiding principles are: living within environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance and using sound science responsibly. Four agreed priorities are sustainable consumption and production, climate change, natural resource protection and sustainable communities.	The SPPS has a strong sustainable development theme, which aligns with the priorities of this Strategy, most notably in terms of climate change, renewable energy, sustainable consumption, waste management etc. In complying with the SPPS and carrying out sustainability appraisal the plan will support this.
<b>Everyone's Involved – Sustainable Development Strategy (May 2010)</b>	2010	NI	DAERA	Everyone's Involved – Sustainable Development Strategy, aims to put in place economic, social and environmental measures to ensure that we can continue to grow our economy, improve our society and communities and utilise our natural resources in an environmentally sustainable manner. The Strategy also intends to strengthen the framework to address global issues such as climate change and sets out the following six principles: living within environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy, just and equal society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; using sound science responsibly; and promoting opportunity and innovation.	Plan objectives largely support the strategy and the sustainability appraisal will help shape proposals to be sustainable.
<b>DOE Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS): Planning for Sustainable Development</b>	2015	NI	DfI	Sets out the Department's regional strategic policies for securing the orderly and consistent development of land in Northern Ireland. Planning authorities should pursue social and economic priorities alongside the careful management of our built and natural environments in order to achieve sustainable development. The SPPS sets out five core planning principles: Improving health and well-being; Creating and enhancing shared space; Supporting sustainable economic growth; Supporting good design and positive place making; and Preserving and improving the built and natural environment.	The provisions of the SPPS must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans, and are also material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.
<b>Regional Development Strategy 2035</b>	2012	NI	DfI	This document provides an overarching strategic planning framework influencing spatial development for the Region up to 2035, facilitating and guiding the public and private sectors. Taken into account are key drivers such as population growth and movement, demographic change, increasing number of households, transportation needs etc. It addresses economic, social and environmental issues aimed at achieving sustainable development and social cohesion. The eight aims of the RDS are to: Support strong, sustainable growth for the benefit of all parts	The LDP will support the RDS as part of the wider Government policy framework and should therefore be closely aligned with its objectives.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				of NI; Strengthen Belfast as the regional economic driver and Derry/Londonderry as the principal city of the North West; Support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential; Promote development which improves the health and well-being of communities; Improve connectivity to enhance the movement of people, goods, energy and information between places; Protect and enhance the environment for its own sake; Take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaption to climate change; and Strengthen links between north and south, east and west, with Europe and the rest of the world. The RDS contains a Spatial Framework and Strategic guidelines.	
<b>Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021</b>	2016	NI	NI Executive	The PfG contains 14 strategic outcomes which touch on every aspect of government, including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and confident and peaceful communities. The outcomes are supported by 48 indicators which will show how the Executive is performing in relation to the outcomes and will provide a basis to monitor progress. In due course, the Programme for Government will provide the strategic context for other key Executive strategy documents, including the Investment Strategy, the Economic Strategy and a Social Strategy.	The LDP is required to support delivery of the Programme for Government. How it achieves this will be assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal.
<b>Focus on the Future - Sustainable Development Implementation Plan</b>	2011	NI	NI Executive	While this implementation plan has expired some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. DHSSPS committed to liaise with DOE Planners on the benefits of Health Impact Assessments and their potential to assist in encouraging the development of Healthy Urban Environments. DOE proposed to make legislation to enable the designation of National Parks by 2012.	The health impact assessment approach is not a statutory requirement but will be considered if there is development on this during plan preparation. Health and well-being is considered through sustainability appraisal.
<b>Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006</b>	2006	NI	NI Executive	Requires departments and district councils to exercise their functions in the manner they consider best calculated to promote the achievement of sustainable development.	Implementing sustainability appraisal throughout plan preparation will help achieve this requirement.
<b>OTHER CROSS-CUTTING</b>					
<b>European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)</b>	1999	Europe	EC	Economic and social cohesion across the community. Conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage. Balanced competitiveness between different tiers of government.	Through the influence of the sustainability appraisal the LDP should make a contribution towards fulfilling the goals of the ESDP.
<b>Aarhus Convention - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 1998</b>	1998	Europe	UNECE	The Aarhus Convention and its Protocol empower people with the rights to access easily information, participate effectively in decision-making in environmental matters and to seek justice if their rights were violated. They protect every person's right to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being. Ratified in UK in 2005. Established a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment. Local authorities should provide for: The right of everyone to receive environmental information; The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision making; The right to challenge in a court of law public decisions that have been made without respecting the two rights above or environmental law in general.	The plan will achieve this through the consultation process, as outlined in the Statement of Community Involvement. Ensure that public are involved and consulted at all relevant stages of SA production. This should be reflected in the Statement of the Community Involvement

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<b>Our Passion, Our Place - Northern Ireland Environment Agency Strategic Priorities 2012 to 2022</b>	2012	NI	DAERA	The plan outlines the strategic direction for NIEA. Four priority areas: healthy natural environment, people and places, sustainable economic growth and using resources well with a series of strategic goals. In respect of development planning NIEA will make sure planning decisions and business practices are guided by sound environmental principles and apply a risk based approach to its regulatory activities. Provide timely and authoritative input to strategic planning and development projects. Adopt an ecosystems approach in the advice it provides.	The majority of the sustainability appraisal objectives can be linked to the strategic aims of this document. NIEA advice and evidence will be used to inform plan preparation.
<b>The Environmental Liability (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (as amended)</b>	2009	NI	DAERA	Implements the Environmental Liability Directive in Northern Ireland and introduces financial liability on the 'polluter pays' principle for environmental damage which has significant adverse effects on reaching or maintaining favourable conservation status of species and natural habitats protected under EC legislation; damage that significantly adversely affects the ecological, chemical and/or quantitative status and/or ecological potential of waters falling within the scope of the water framework directive; land contamination that creates a significant risk of human health being adversely affected as a result of direct or indirect introduction in, on or under land of substances, preparations, organisms and micro-organisms. Note subject to amendments.	Development arising from the LDP will be subject to these regulations with the operator being responsible for liability should damage within the terms of these regulations occur.
<b>Framework for Co-operation Spatial Strategies of Northern Ireland &amp; the Republic of Ireland</b>	2010	NI & RoI	Dfi	This document examines the key planning challenges faced by both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland and discusses the potential for co-operation in spatial planning. It sets out a framework for cooperation at different levels within the public sector which should result in mutual benefits. These benefits can be at the local border area level and at the wider level. Four priority areas for cooperation are: Enhancing Competitiveness, Competitive Places (i.e. linked cross-border cities), Environmental Quality and Spatial Analysis.	At the local level it will be important that the guidance in the RDS and [Irish] NSS is incorporated into regional planning guidelines, development plans, community plans and regeneration schemes and that there is support for cross border projects and initiatives for both urban and rural areas. Integrated planning processes at the local level, where agencies and authorities in both jurisdictions are essential in enhancing the potential and quality of strategic places on the island, that straddle such cross border locations.
<b>A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland</b>	1993	NI	Dfi	In seeking to protect the environment and encourage sustainable development the PSRNI set out policies to meet the development needs of the rural area. The majority have been superseded by PPSs and SPPS however Strategic Policies 2, 3, 4 and 18 still apply relating to Towns, Villages, Regeneration of Rural Settlements and Design in Towns and Villages.	The remaining provisions of 'A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland' will be cancelled when all eleven councils have adopted a new Plan Strategy for the whole of their council area. However, to ensure that there is continuity in planning policy for taking planning decisions whilst councils bring forward operational policies tailored to local circumstances within new LDPs, the following transitional arrangements shall apply. Also relevant to the objectives of: Economy and Employability Physical Resources Transport and

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					Accessibility Landscape Historic Environment and Cultural Resources
<b>Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011</b>	2011	NI	NI Executive	Part 2 of the act details the requirements of local development plans and Section 5 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires those who exercise any function in relation to local development plans to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development. Sections 8(6) and 9(7) of the 2011 Act requires an appraisal of sustainability to be carried out for the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, respectively.	The LDP will take account of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. This scoping report forms part of the SA process.
<b>Building a better future The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011-2021 (ISNI)</b>	2011	NI	NI Executive	The Investment Strategy sets out the forward programme for investment in public infrastructure. It identifies priority areas for investment in sustainable 21st century infrastructure and is intended to assist government and private sector partners to plan ahead. The 'Procurement Pipeline' identifies 197 infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.	The 'Procurement Pipeline' available on the home page identifies 197 infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.
<b>Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, Equality of opportunity</b>	1998	NI	NI Executive	Section 75 promotes 'equality of opportunity' which means that everyone in society should be able to compete on equal terms. All government departments, agencies and councils must also give the nine key groups consideration when creating a policy. These are people with different religious belief, people of political opinion, people of different racial groups, people of different ages, people of different marital status, people of different sexual orientation, men and women generally, people with a disability and people without, people with dependants and people without	The council is required to ensure that their local development plans are prepared in accordance with Section 75 statutory obligations. Consequently, a council will have to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) to determine if there will be any potential impacts upon Section 75 groups as a result of the policies and proposals contained in their local development plans.
<b>Border Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022</b>	2010	Rol	NWRA	The Guidelines are prescriptive in setting out a long term planning framework for the proper planning and development of the Region, and have been closely aligned with the National Spatial Strategy and National Development Plan in Ireland, and the Regional Development Strategy in Northern Ireland. The key aim of the Guidelines is to provide a good quality of life for the Region's population, through ensuring high quality residential, recreational and working environments, and improving water quality.	This applies to all the border counties in Ireland. There is potential for both synergies and conflicts between the LDP and this document as well as the potential for complementing each other.
<b>1..HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b>					
<b>Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise (the Environmental Noise Directive (END))</b>	2002	Europe	Council of Europe	The END is the main EU instrument to identify noise pollution levels and to trigger the necessary action both at Member State and at EU level. It focuses on three action areas: (1) The determination of exposure to environmental noise. (2) Ensuring that information on environmental noise and its effects is made available to the public (3) preventing and reducing environmental noise where necessary and preserving environmental noise quality where it is good.	The Directive applies to noise to which humans are exposed, particularly in built-up areas, in public parks or other quiet areas in an agglomeration, in quiet areas in open country, near schools, hospitals and other noise-sensitive buildings and areas. It does not apply to noise that is caused by the exposed person himself, noise from domestic activities, noise created by neighbours, noise at work places or noise inside means

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					of transport or due to military activities in military areas.
<b>Noise Policy Statement for Northern Ireland</b>	2014	NI	DAERA	Through the effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise the Noise Policy aims to: (1.) Avoid or mitigate significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life; (2.) Mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and (3.) Where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life.	The LDP can help with applying the shared principles that underpin the Executive's Sustainable Development Strategy: Living within environmental limits - Ensuring a strong, healthy, just and equal society - Achieving a sustainable economy - Using sound science responsibly - Promoting opportunity and innovation - Promoting good governance.
<b>Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Recreation, 2009-2019</b>	2009	NI	DfC	The Strategy's vision is "a culture of lifelong enjoyment and quality, quantity and access to places for sport is a key development input to the two primary development outcomes of increased participation in sport and physical recreation and improved sporting performances. In particular, the Strategy will ensure that every person in Northern Ireland has access to a range of new, improved and shared world-class and locally available sports facilities. The Strategy outlines a broad Government commitment to sport and physical recreation. Its vision is for "...a culture of lifelong enjoyment and success in sport...." It sets key strategic priorities for sports and physical recreation over the 10 year period; informing future investment by all stakeholders across the public, private and community/voluntary sectors underpinning three areas: Participation, Performance and Places. The successful delivery of the Strategy requires stakeholders to reflect the Strategy in their business and development plans. At the core of the Strategy is to ensure that every person in Northern Ireland has access to a range of new, improved and shared world-class and locally available sports facilities.	This is supported by the inclusion of Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation in the Subject Policies list for the SPPS. As long as delivery of such development does not conflict with environmental policies (flood risk, heritage,
<b>Design and Access Statements - A guide for Northern Ireland</b>	2015	NI	Dfi	The following planning applications must be accompanied by a D&AS: An application which is a major development; or where any part of the development is in a designated area, development consisting of – (i) the provision of one or more dwelling houses, or (ii) the provision of a building or buildings where the floor space created by the development is 100m <sup>2</sup> or more.	Provides for early consideration of the need and provision for open space, access and landscaping and addressing external factors such as noise and traffic safety. Also relevant to the objectives of: Housing, Transport and Accessibility.
<b>The Planning (Hazardous Substances) (No.2 ) Regulations (NI) 2015</b>	2015	NI	Dfi	The Regulations transpose Directive 2012/18/EU (The 'Seveso III Directive') on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances in respect of land-use planning in Northern Ireland.	The LDP must take account of the aims of the Directive in planning policies and decisions, including maintaining appropriate safety distances between major hazard sites (referred to as establishments") and other development and protecting areas of natural sensitivity.
<b>Northern Ireland's Road Safety Strategy to 2020</b>	2011	NI	Dfi	Sets out the vision and presents measures for improving road safety in Northern Ireland up to 2020, including targets for reductions in deaths and serious injuries to be achieved over that period. Key Challenges include: Continuing to reduce the	The LDP may have scope to contribute to addressing the challenges in its transport, infrastructure and rural development policies.

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				numbers of road deaths and serious injuries; Focusing specifically on improving safety on rural roads; Working particularly to protect young drivers and motorcyclists; Reducing inappropriate and illegal road user behaviours; and improving our knowledge and understanding of, and broadening involvement in, solving road safety problems.	
<b>Planning Policy Statement 8 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (DOE 2004)</b>	2004	NI	DfI	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection of open space, in association with residential development and the use of land for sport and outdoor recreation, and advises on the treatment of these issues in development plans.	Retained however six policies are incorporated in SPPS.
<b>A fitter future for all - Outcomes framework 2015 - 2019</b>	2015	NI	DoH	Following a review of the first years of the plan an updated framework has been published for 2015-2019.	Creating a safe environment to encourage and promote increased physical activity.
<b>Making Life Better: A Whole Strategic Framework for Public Health 2013-2023 Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (June 2014)</b>	2013	NI	DoH	The strategic framework for public health designed to provide direction for policies and actions to improve the health and well-being of people in Northern Ireland and to reduce health inequalities. The framework is not just about actions and programmes at government level, but also provides direction for work at both regional and local levels with public agencies, including local government, local communities and others, working in partnership. Through strength of coordination and partnership, the framework will seek to create the conditions for individuals and communities to take control of their own lives, and move towards a vision for Northern Ireland where all people are enabled and supported in achieving their full health and well-being potential.	Many aspects are directly relevant for example promoting age friendly environments and Quiet Areas.
<b>Connected Health Economy</b>	2013	NI	DoH	Developing a connected health economy: the economy and jobs initiative included a number of measures to help support economic growth, including a commitment to establish a Task and Finish Group under the remit of the Connected Health and Prosperity Board, to exploit the economic opportunities from the health and social care (HSC) sector.	This may inform future economic investment in the health and social care sector.
<b>A Fitter Future For All: Framework for Preventing and Addressing Overweight and Obesity in Northern Ireland</b>	2012	NI	DoH	Fitter Future for All is a framework to help reduce the harm related to overweight and obesity. This framework aims to: empower the population of Northern Ireland to make health choices, reduce the risk of overweight and obesity related diseases and improve health and well-being, by creating an environment that supports and promotes a physically active lifestyle and a healthy diet. New outcomes to aid implementation of the framework over the 2015-19 period have been developed.	Creating a safe environment to encourage and promote increased physical activity.
<b>Transforming Your Care Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety</b>	2011	NI	DoH	Twelve major principles for change including: providing the right care in the right place at the right time; population-based planning of services; ensuring sustainability of service provision; incentivising innovation at a local level. 99 separate proposals for change across the range of health and social care services.	Can inform where facilities may be required to improve access to and quality of health services.

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				There is a Strategic Implementation Plan and Population Plan for each Health Care Trust.	
<b>Transforming your Care: Strategic Implementation Plan</b>	2013	NI	HSCNI	This Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP): Describes a planned approach for the delivery of the TYC proposals over the next 3 to 5 years (starting from 2011/12 baseline). Sets out the key commitments and the major changes which will drive service transformation in Section 4.2. Presents the big themes for each of the Programmes of Care over the next 3 to 5 years across the 5 Local Commissioning Group (LCG) areas (Section 4.4). At the heart of this are the 5 local Population Plans, which provide the building blocks for this SIP. These set out in detail the service transformation initiatives for delivery of the TYC proposals for each of the 5 local areas. In terms of the changes in capital infrastructure needed to fully implement TYC, the Population Plans will require a detailed working up of the capital implications and requirements over the 3 year planning period. There will be continuing focus on reducing delayed discharge from hospital with investment in community infrastructure.	Identifies need for infrastructure including for community care.
<b>The Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006</b>	2006	NI	NI Executive	Transposes into NI legislation the requirements of the European Noise Directive (END). The three main actions that the END requires of Member States are to: (1) determine the noise exposure of the population through noise mapping (2) make information on environmental noise and its effects available to the public (3) establish Action Plans based on the mapping results. The END requires that noise mapping and action planning be completed every five years. The END also requires Member States to 'preserve environmental noise quality where it is good' through the identification and protection of designated Quiet Areas within agglomerations (urban areas with a minimum population density).	Existing 'quiet areas' must be preserved. Further areas could be identified and designated. Zoning of residential areas should have regard for existing noise generators such as roads, rail, airports and industry.
<b>Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 - 2024.</b>	2014	NI	Outdoor NI	This strategy aims to generate approximately £25 Million to the local economy per annum as a direct result of mountain biking by 2024.	Informs potential source of outdoor recreational activity and tourism opportunity. Also relevant to the objective of Economy and Employment.
<b>Southern Health and Social Care Trust Population Plan</b>	2013	Regional	SHSCT	This sets out in detail the service transformation initiatives for delivery of the TYC proposals for this trust area. It includes the capital implications and requirements over the 3 year planning period. There will be continuing focus on reducing delayed discharge from hospital with investment in community infrastructure.	Although expired may inform unmet infrastructure requirements.
<b>2. COMMUNITY</b>					
<b>Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016</b>	2016	NI	DAERA	The Act received Royal Assent in May 2016 and once commenced in 2017 will place a duty on public authorities, including district councils, to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans and designing and delivering public services. It also requires public authorities to provide information to DAERA on how they have fulfilled this duty on an annual basis to be published in a monitoring report to be laid before the Assembly.	Rural needs have been fully considered in plan preparation, assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal and appropriate provisions are or will be included in the plan.

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<b>Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing</b>	2015	NI	DAERA	The objective is to ensure robust consideration and integration of rural issues at the outset of the policy making process. It should help to ensure fair and equitable treatment for rural areas through the development of policies which are proportionate to need.	Objective (a) (iii) seeks To provide for vital and vibrant rural communities whilst protecting the countryside in which they live by accommodating sustainable growth within the countryside proportionate to the extent of existing rural communities
<b>Rural White Paper Action Plan</b>	2012	NI	DAERA	This document sets out the vision for NI's rural areas and the actions which Departments will take in support of achieving that vision and to help ensure the future sustainability of rural areas. The vision includes vibrant and strong rural communities; improved infrastructure, transport and key services; strong community infrastructure which can avail of economic, social and cultural opportunities; and better linkages between rural and urban areas.	Policies are proposed in relation to sustainable development in the countryside, transport and land use. Planning policy will promote sustainable development, well-being and economic development which are aligned with the vision for rural areas. There does seem to be a focus on town centres and city centre vitality, which could take attention away from rural issues. The LDP objectives support this. It sets out to support vibrant rural communities, facilitate development of new, accessible, community facilities, and improve connectivity between/within settlements in terms of telecommunications and transport infrastructure in particular. The Plan will promote sustainable development, well-being and economic development which are aligned with the vision for rural areas. Also relevant to the objective of Transport and Accessibility
<b>Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation</b>	2012	NI	DAERA	This framework sets out the goals, objectives, priority action areas and outcomes for the Programme for Government commitment to bring forward a package of measures to help target the root causes of social isolation and help those in poverty in rural areas. In addition it aims to provide the necessary tools to identify the needs of vulnerable people/groups in rural areas, develop programmes/interventions to help alleviate poverty/social isolation and complement/add value to existing government strategies intended to tackle these issues.	Plan preparation includes consideration of the needs of those living in small settlements and the countryside to ensure that they have access to suitable and affordable housing as well as facilities. The Sustainability Appraisal incorporates Rural Proofing.
<b>Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework</b>	2013	NI	DfC	This Policy Framework sets out the Department's policy objectives for urban regeneration and community development in Northern Ireland for at least the next decade. It will provide a clear strategic direction for the Department and inform its partners in central and local government and in the voluntary and community sector. The Framework sets out four Policy Objectives that will form the basis of any future policy or programme development in urban regeneration and community development: 1. To tackle area-based deprivation. 2. To strengthen the competitiveness of our towns and cities. 3. To improve linkages between areas of need and areas of opportunity. 4. To develop more cohesive	This Policy Framework is wide-reaching in terms of the subjects it covers, for example Policy Objective 3 contains key actions relating to environmental improvement, protection and improvement of (historic) buildings and open spaces and developing an integrated transport network, whilst other Objective actions include development of commercial sites. The two documents are thus aligned in many areas even though the SPPS does not specifically refer to

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				and engaged communities. It also contains a set of four Supporting Actions: 1. We will maximise the potential of regeneration and community development by supporting an evidence- based policy environment. 2. We will maximise the resources available to regeneration and community development by supporting an innovative financial environment. 3. We will support the development of skilled and knowledgeable practitioners in regeneration and community development. 4. We will promote an effective and efficient voluntary and community sector	regeneration. The LDP objectives broadly aligns with this framework, in particular strengthening the hubs, improving connectivity and facilitating community development. The LDP will indirectly support this aim by accommodating development for disadvantaged groups, such as the elderly and disabled, with emphasis on ‘sustainable growth’, facilitating new community facilities and promoting ‘shared spaces’. Also relevant to the objective of Economy and Employability.
<b>Planning Policy Statement 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside</b>	2010	NI	Dfi	PPS 21 sets out planning policies for development in the countryside. For the purpose of this document the countryside is defined as land lying outside of settlement limits as identified in development plans. The provisions of this document apply to all areas of Northern Ireland's countryside.	16 policies which allow for development in the countryside in tightly defined circumstances. Many of these are carried forward through the SPPS. The LDP will have to comply with these and other regional policy in any variation of these policies. Also relevant to the objective of Housing.
<b>Community Safety action plan 2015 to 2017</b>	2015	NI	DoJ	The action plan includes an action for the DOE and councils: to support a sense of pride and ownership within neighbourhoods, to address the disorder (graffiti, litter, vandalism) that acts as a signal for ASB by contributing to the development of legislative framework to deal with the growing amenity problems associated with dilapidated or unsightly buildings and neglected sites.	The LDP may have scope to contribute to addressing this through place shaping.
<b>Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities: A Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012-2017</b>	2012	NI	DoJ	Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities’ sets the direction for reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime in Northern Ireland over the next five years. It builds on the positive progress made in recent years in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, both by continuing to focus on what works, as well as a stronger emphasis on the guiding principle that prevention is better than cure. This Strategy provides the overall direction for community safety in Northern Ireland, and will help guide the work of a range of stakeholders including the Executive, local government, the voluntary and community sector and local communities.	The LDP will take account of this Strategy. It aligns with listed objective (a) (vii) to accommodate cultural differences between Catholic and Protestant communities whilst promoting “shared spaces” to bring people together with equality and opportunity.
<b>The Child Poverty Strategy</b>	2016	NI	EO	The four high-level outcomes are, that: Families experience economic well-being; Children in poverty learn and achieve; Children in poverty are healthy; and Children in poverty live in safe, secure and stable environments. Indicators of success against these outcomes include those relating to employment levels in households with children, levels of obesity, hospital admissions for accidents at home or on the road and number of homeless families. Some of the most relevant actions to spatial planning are: Create jobs; Upskill the workforce and support young people and their family members into higher skilled, more secure and better paid employment; Reduce living costs; Ensure childcare is accessible	Promotion of employment opportunities, provision for housing, increasing accessibility and creating safer environments will contribute to the objectives of this strategy.

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				and affordable; Promote health and well-being; Promote child, road, home and community safety.	
<b>Together: Building a United Community 2016/17 Update Report</b>	2016	NI	EO	The Strategy outlines how we in Government, in communities and as individuals will work together to build a united community and facilitate change in the key priorities of: Our children and young people; Our shared community; Our safe community; and Our cultural expression.	By creating and shaping places spaces that are accessible and welcoming to all the plan will support this strategy. In some areas there will be specific requirements to address Interface Barriers.
<b>Together: Building a United Community</b>	2013	NI	EO	The strategy outlines how government, community and individuals will work together to build a united community and achieve change against the following key priorities: our children and young people; our shared community; our safe community; and our cultural expression. Its vision is 'a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance'. Includes a commitment to Create a 10-year Programme to reduce, and remove by 2023, all interface barriers including an Interface Barrier Support Package	By creating and shaping places spaces that are accessible and welcoming to all the plan will support this strategy. In some areas there will be specific requirements to address Interface Barriers.
<b>Delivering Social Change framework</b>	2012	NI	EO	The DSC framework was established to deliver a sustained reduction in poverty and associated issues across all ages and to improve children and young people's health, well-being and life opportunities. A Delivering Social Change Fund was established to support The Social Investment Fund; The Delivering Social Change Signature Programmes; Childcare. The six initial Signature Programmes included support for Family Support Hubs; Nurture Units, Social Enterprise Hubs. Three new Signature Programmes announced in 2014 include support for people with dementia and their families and carers; early intervention services for young families and expansion of shared education, supporting schools to share resources and people. The Social Investment Fund is under a separate entry in this register.	The programme has resulted in some new and proposed community facilities that should be considered in plan preparation. It may identify needs for new facilities. The Social Investment Fund is under a separate entry in this register. Also relevant to the objectives of: Education and Skills, Economy and Employability.
<b>Lifetime Opportunities – Government's Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for Northern Ireland</b>	2006	NI	EO	As part of the Northern Ireland Executive's commitment to tackling poverty and social exclusion this document outlined what would be done by the Northern Ireland departments and the Northern Ireland Office in working towards its overall objectives of: working towards the elimination of poverty and social exclusion in Northern Ireland by 2020; and halving child poverty by 2010 on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020. The strategy is structured into four key life stages – Early Years (0 – 4), Children and Young People (5 – 16), Working Age Adults and Older Citizens. Each of the life stages is expressed in terms of an overarching goal followed by a series of long-term targets that will work towards achieving the goal. This strategy overlaps with some more recent strategies but continues to be reported on.	Identifies the conditions for bringing people out of poverty including fuel, employment, older people and those in the rural community and for promotion inclusion for all. LDPs proposals and policies consider these needs and support delivery against them.

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<b>NIHE Good Relations Plan</b>	2007	NI	NIHE	The Housing Executive commits to Respond quickly and effectively to the needs of people in danger as a result of community conflict; Work in partnership with others to address the complex housing needs of a divided society; Respect the rights of people who choose to live where they wish; Facilitate and encourage mixed housing as far as this is practicable, desirable and safe.	This plan aligns with objective (a) (vii) to accommodate cultural differences between Catholic and Protestant communities whilst promoting “shared spaces” to bring people together with equality and opportunity.
<b>NIHE - Race Relations Policy</b>	2006	NI	NIHE	The five Race Relations Policy themes can be summarised as follows; Mainstreaming black and minority ethnic issues in policy development; Racial harassment and intimidation; Promoting black and minority ethnic social inclusion; Community participation and development; Migrant worker issues	This broadly aligns with listed objective (a) (vii) which ‘seeks to bring people together with equality and opportunity’.
<b>3. HOUSING</b>					
<b>Northern Ireland Empty Homes Strategy and Action Plan 2013 – 2018</b>	2013	NI	DfC	The Empty Homes Strategy is to ensure that the number of empty properties is kept to a minimum and to identify new opportunities to encourage owners to bring them back into use.	The LDP can help to support these objectives.
<b>Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 -2017</b>	2012	NI	DfC	Government has three main roles in relation to housing: Helping to create the right conditions for a stable and sustainable housing market that supports economic growth and prosperity; Providing support for individuals and families to access housing, particularly the most vulnerable in society; and Setting minimum standards for the quality of new and existing homes and for how rented housing is managed. This strategy sets out how we intend to fulfil these roles over the next five years. The strategy also envisages housing playing a fourth role in driving regeneration within communities, particularly those suffering from blight and population decline.	This strategy aligns with a number of aspects of the proposed SPPS, namely sustainable development, economic development, quality residential environments, etc. The strategy may put pressure on the environmental aspects of the SPPS, such as natural heritage, archaeology, flood risk, etc. Similarly, the SPPS may inhibit house building due to environmental or design constraints. A balance will need to be found through considered planning decisions. This strategy aligns with a number of aspects of the proposed LDP, namely objective (a) (iv) ‘To provide for 10,950 new homes by 2030 via a range of housing to meet the needs of families, the elderly, and disabled’. The strategy may put pressure on the environmental aspects of the LDP such as natural heritage, archaeology, flood risk, etc. Similarly, the LDP may inhibit house building due to environmental or design constraints. A balance will need to be found through considered planning decisions.
<b>Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland Action Plan Update September 2015</b>	2012	NI	DfC	The action plan includes 33 actions relating to the supply and quality of housing across all sectors.	This strategy aligns with a number of aspects of the proposed SPPS, namely sustainable development, economic development, quality residential environments, etc. The strategy may put pressure on the environmental aspects of the SPPS, such as natural heritage, archaeology, flood risk, etc. Similarly, the SPPS may inhibit house building due to environmental

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
					or design constraints. A balance will need to be found through considered planning decisions. This strategy aligns with a number of aspects of the proposed LDP, namely objective (a) (iv) 'To provide for 10,950 new homes by 2030 via a range of housing to meet the needs of families, the elderly, and disabled'. The strategy may put pressure on the environmental aspects of the LDP such as natural heritage, archaeology, flood risk, etc. Similarly, the LDP may inhibit house building due to environmental or design constraints. A balance will need to be found through considered planning decisions.
<b>Planning Policy Statement 7 (Addendum): Safeguarding the Character of Established Residential Areas</b>	2010	NI	Dfi	This document is a second addendum to PPS 7 'Quality Residential Environments' and must be read in conjunction with the policies contained within this PPS and within the previous addendum – 'Residential Extensions and Alterations' (published in March 2008). The addendum provides additional planning policies on the protection of local character, environmental quality and residential amenity within established residential areas, villages and smaller settlements. It also sets out regional policy on the conversion of existing buildings to flats or apartments. In addition, the addendum contains policy to promote greater use of permeable paving within new residential developments to reduce the risk of flooding from surface water run-off.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
<b>Planning Policy Statement 7 (Addendum): Residential Extensions and Alterations</b>	2008	NI	Dfi	PPS 12: Housing in Settlements Planning Policy Statement 12 'Housing in Settlements' has been prepared to assist in the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy to guide the future pattern on housing by managing future housing growth and distribution, support urban renaissance and achieve balanced communities. Development management policy for affordable housing is still contained within Planning Policy Statement 12 'Housing in Settlements' (PPS 12), published in July 2005. Under transitional arrangements, until a Plan Strategy is adopted, PPS 12 is still a material consideration for deciding planning applications. PPS 12 contains a development management policy, Policy HS 2, which "will be applied where a need for social housing is established through a local housing needs assessment and the development plan for the area has not provided for it."	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
<b>Planning Policy Statement 12 Housing in Settlements</b>	2005	NI	Dfi	PPS 12: Housing in Settlements Planning Policy Statement 12 'Housing in Settlements' has been prepared to assist in the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy to guide the future pattern on housing by managing future housing growth and distribution, support urban renaissance and achieve balanced communities. Development management policy for affordable housing	Regional planning policy on housing with specific policies on residential use at business premises; social housing; travellers accommodation; and housing type and size with the need for a mix of types where

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				is still contained within Planning Policy Statement 12 'Housing in Settlements' (PPS 12), published in July 2005. Under transitional arrangements, until a Plan Strategy is adopted, PPS 12 is still a material consideration for deciding planning applications. PPS 12 contains a development management policy, Policy HS 2, which "will be applied where a need for social housing is established through a local housing needs assessment and the development plan for the area has not provided for it."	
<b>PPS 7: Quality Residential Environments</b>	2001	NI	Dfi	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for achieving quality in new residential development and advises on the treatment of this issue in development plans with a requirement for a Concept Master Plan for large developments.	This requires that all residential development is of good quality and sustainable and does result in unacceptable damage to the local character, environmental quality or residential amenity of these areas. The process of sustainability appraisal will help ensure this.
<b>Creating Places: Achieving Quality in Residential Developments incorporating guidance on layout and access.</b>	2000	NI	Dfi	Aims to promote: More sustainable patterns of living, working and travelling, more effective integration between land-use planning and transport, the creation of attractive places in which people are happy to live, work and take their leisure.	Supplementary planning guidance - the creation of attractive residential environments with a genuine sense of place is a prerequisite to achieving sustainability.
<b>Delivering Sustainable Healthy Homes in Northern Ireland, NIHE, TPCA, Belfast Healthy Cities (March 2016)</b>	2016	NI	NIHE	Guidance and good practice on how planning, health, housing and energy professionals can use new planning powers and responsibilities for community planning to support integrated local approaches to sustainable homes and communities, for energy and health and well-being.	Taken into account in preparation of the LDP.
<b>Social Housing Development Programme, Unmet Social Housing Need Prospectus</b>	2016	NI	NIHE	The prospectus provides information for housing associations and developers in respect of locations where there is unmet social housing need or shortages of development sites contained in the published SHDP. These are locations where the Housing Executive would consider suitable proposals/schemes.	This informs potential requirements for social housing which can inform the LDP.
<b>NIHE Social housing Development Programme (SHDP) - 2015/16 – 2017/18</b>	2015	NI	NIHE	The Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) is a three year rolling programme of planned social housing construction and provision. The SHDP is split into three individual programme years and is a mechanism used by the Department to inform social housing funding investment decisions. The SHDP is the outcome of a formulation and assembly exercise undertaken by Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). Responsibility for the actual development of social housing for rent rests with registered Housing Associations. The 3-Year SHDP is published together with an Unmet Social Housing Need Prospectus. The Prospectus is an integral part of the SHDP formulation process, which recurs on an annual basis. The Prospectus document highlights areas throughout Northern Ireland with the greatest level of un-met housing need and a current shortage of	The LDP will take account of ongoing annual reporting and to prospectus will be used to inform social housing zonings within the plan area.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				acquired development sites. The Housing Executive would welcome development proposals for these areas.	
Housing Executive Environmental Policy	2015	NI	NIHE	Includes commitments to prevent pollution of air, land and water; support initiatives to develop sustainable local communities; and enhance and protect biodiversity cross all Housing Executive landholdings.	The LDP can help to support these commitments.
Housing Executive Corporate Plan - Regional Services	2015	NI	NIHE	Objective 1 Identification of housing requirements across Northern Ireland; Objective 2 Investing in homes and neighbourhoods; Objective 3 Improving People's Homes; Objective 4 Transforming people's lives; Objective 5 Enabling sustainable neighbourhoods.	The LDP can help to support these objectives.
Housing Executive Community Involvement Strategy	2015	NI	NIHE	Vision: ... to give residents a real say in making their neighbourhoods better places in which to live.	Opportunity to cooperate in place shaping.
Housing Executive Corporate Plan - Landlord Services	2015	NI	NIHE	Objective 1 Delivering quality services; Objective 2 Delivering better homes; Objective 3 Fostering vibrant communities	The LDP can help to support these objectives.
Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 - 2017	2012	NI	NIHE	In response to the statutory duty (the Housing (NI) Order 1988 as amended) to produce a homelessness strategy, our strategic approach remains focused on addressing the issues that lead to homelessness as well as meeting the temporary and permanent accommodation needs of those who present as homeless.	In enabling housing need to be addressed the LDP will contribute to delivery of the objectives of this strategy.
Housing Investment Plan 2015-2019	2015	Council	NIHE	NIHE has prepared four year Housing Investment Plans for each Council to provide a long term, holistic, cross tenure look at local housing markets. The Housing Investment Plans set out ten outcomes under five themes, which performance can be measured against. The themes are Identify and meet housing need and demand; Improving People's homes; Transforming people's lives; Enabling sustainable neighbourhoods; Delivering quality services.	The HIP is an important evidence base for the LDP and will help facilitate discussion on housing issues within each district. In addition, a purpose of the HIP is to inform Councils on the various programmes and initiatives the Housing Executive and Housing Associations are developing to meet local housing needs.
Northern Ireland Housing Market Areas	2010	Council	NIHE	This report commissioned by NIHE presents the findings of a study into the structure of housing market areas (HMA) across Northern Ireland. A housing market area is defined as a geographical area where most people both live and work and where most people moving home (without changing job) seek a house. HMA can overlap, and often do not marry well with local authority boundaries. Moreover, they are dynamic and HMA boundaries can change over time. 11 major HMAs were identified as operating across Northern Ireland: Belfast, Craigavon, Newry, Ballymena, Coleraine, Derry, Strabane, Omagh, Mid-Ulster, Dungannon and Enniskillen.	Movement patterns to work inform housing need. Reports for each HMA were prepared in 2011-2013 and are available on the home page.
<b>4. EDUCATION AND SKILLS</b>					
Department of Education Annual Business Plan 2016/2017	2016	NI	DE	Corporate Goal 1: Improving the Well-Being of Children and Young People – includes rights, play and participation. Corporate Goal 2: Raising Standards for All – includes early years and childcare. Corporate Goal 3: Closing the Performance	This is a short term plan that is relevant to the facilities required for e.g. childcare, early years, primary and secondary school, special educational needs and

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				Gap, Increasing Access and Equality – includes Special Education Needs; youth work and sustainable schools. Corporate Goal 5 is Improving the learning environment – making sure that strategic investment supports the delivery of the area plans; that the premises in which young people grow and learn are safe, fit for purpose and conducive to learning; and that the environment provides opportunities for sharing and for building a more cohesive society. This Corporate Goal supports the draft PfG Indicator 13: Improve the quality of education.	youth. There is no current Corporate Plan for the Department. DE has agreed to provide a comprehensive list of all regional policies, programmes, strategies and action plans which may be influenced and supported by spatial planning by councils, these will be added to the register. Also relevant to the objective of Community.
<b>Every school a good school - a policy for school improvement</b>	2009	NI	DE	Mainly focused on delivery of quality education meeting needs of pupils. Recognises that school premises are a resource that could be better used by local communities and that providing for increased community use of school premises can be an effective way of building links between schools and their local communities. Legislation already provides for schools to make their premises available to outside groups and the Department wants to encourage more community use of school premises. Commits to identifying and disseminating good practice with a particular focus on community use of schools to help schools in building stronger links with their parents and local communities.	Creates the conditions for increased use of schools for community benefit which should be considered in planning for communities.
<b>Schools for the Future: A Policy for Sustainable Schools</b>	2009	NI	DE	The policy has as its vision an estate of educationally sustainable schools planned on an area basis, with focus on sharing and collaboration. It provides a framework for early consideration of emerging problems and possible remedial action to address questions of viability. The primary objective of the policy is to ensure that all children get a first class education in fit for purpose facilities, regardless of background or where they live. The policy sets out six criteria to be considered in assessing a school's educational viability, as follows: quality educational experience; stable enrolment trends; sound financial position; strong leadership and management; accessibility; strong links with the community.	The LDP should enable development/expansion of school facilities where required to meet the needs of the policy.
<b>Development Control Advice Note 13: Crèches, Day Nurseries and Pre-School Play Groups</b>	1993	NI	Dfl	The purpose of this Advice Note is to give general guidance to intending developers, their professional advisors and agents. It is designed to provide advice on the Planning criteria to be applied when an application for this form of development is being considered. It is not a specific statement of Departmental policy but rather one of advice and guidance.	If this is the most up to date advice on the topic it should be considered in LDP preparation however noting that there may be changes in the sector that also need to be taken into account.
<b>5. ECONOMY AND EMPLOYABILITY</b>					
<b>Europe 2020 Economic Strategy</b>	2010	Europe	EC	Europe 2020 is the European Union's ten-year jobs and growth strategy. It was launched in 2010 to create the conditions for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Five headline targets have been agreed for the EU to achieve by the end of 2020. These cover employment; research and development; climate/energy; education; social inclusion and poverty reduction and targets are set for each for example on energy efficiency.	LDP objectives and supporting policies are likely to be support delivery of this strategy.
<b>Going for Growth - a strategic action plan</b>	2014	NI	DAERA	In May 2012, DARD and DETI appointed the industry led Agri-Food Strategy Board (AFSB) to make recommendations in respect of the growth targets, strategic	Committed to centralised and more streamlined processing for poultry house planning applications

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				priorities and actions to be included in that Plan. The report, Going for Growth, includes more than 100 recommendations aimed at accelerating the growth of farming, fishing and food and drink processing in Northern Ireland to 2020 and beyond. In response the NI Executive has agreed an action plan, outlining actions to be progressed across relevant Departments and Agencies.	while DOE was the planning authority. Commitment to supporting Sustainable Use of Poultry Litter loan scheme may address some of the environmental effects of pig and poultry production and also lead to new development.
<b>Economy 2030: an Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland [DRAFT]</b>	2017	NI	DfE	Sets out a plan to turn Northern Ireland into one of the world's most innovative and competitive small advanced economies. "Our ambition to build a globally competitive economy will be based around the following five priority pillars for growth: Accelerating Innovation and Research; Enhancing Education, Skills and Employability; Driving Inclusive, Sustainable Growth; Succeeding in Global Markets; Building the Best Economic Infrastructure.	The LDP can help support opportunities that are most likely to lead to strong and sustained economic growth
<b>DETI (2010) Draft Northern Ireland Tourism Strategy</b>	2010	NI	DfE	The original 2010 draft is not available. The vision was to: create the new NI experience; get it on everyone's destination wish list; and double the income earned from tourism by 2020. The draft strategy, had the aim of providing the strategic direction for the development of NI's tourism experience to the year 2020 and a targeted Action Plan to deliver it. At the core of the strategy was the intention to grow income from visitor numbers with tourist revenue increased from £536 million in 2010 to £1 billion by 2020. An updated draft strategy, is currently being developed by The Department for the Economy and is due for consultation by the end of 2016.	By encouraging sustainable development, the LDP may also indirectly support development that enables tourism e.g. visitor centres, attractions, services, transport etc. As with any development, environmental considerations will need to be considered.
<b>A Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020</b>	2010	NI	DfE	To provide strategic direction and targets for the development of NI's tourism experience to the year 2020 and a targeted Action Plan to deliver it. At the core of the strategy was the intention to grow income from visitor numbers with tourist revenue increased from £536 million in 2010 to £1 billion by 2020.	The Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 identified nine key tourism destinations. The LDP can indirectly support development that enables tourism.
<b>Planning Policy Statement 16 Tourism</b>	2013	NI	Dfi	Policies in relation to tourism and safeguarding tourism assets.	Retention of some or all of these policies will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
<b>Planning Policy Statement 4 – Planning and Economic Development (DOE 2010)</b>	2010	NI	Dfi	Policies for sustainable economic development and stipulates how these can be brought forward in development plans.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
<b>Northern Ireland Economic Strategy: Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity. Building a better Future</b>	2012	NI	NI Executive	Sets out how the Executive plans to grow a prosperous local economy over the short, medium and longer term to 2030. The economic vision for 2030 is: 'An economy characterised by a sustainable and growing private sector, where a greater number of firms compete in global markets and there is growing employment and prosperity for all'. There is an emphasis on redressing a dependency on the public sector through the following: stimulate innovation, R&D and creativity so that we widen and deepen our export base; improve the skills and employability of the entire workforce so that people can progress up the skills ladder, thereby delivering higher productivity and increased social inclusion; compete effectively within the global economy and be internationally	The LDP can support this strategy by enabling economic growth and shaping an environment with sustainable infrastructure that attracts investment and supports innovation. Also relevant to the objectives of: Health and Well-being, Transport and Accessibility, Natural Resources.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				regarded as a good place to live and do business; encourage business growth and increase the potential of our local companies, including within the social and rural economies; and develop a modern and sustainable economic infrastructure that supports economic growth.	
<b>Economic Strategy Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity - Building a better Future</b>	2012	NI	NI Executive	The overarching goal of this Strategy is to improve the economic competitiveness of the Northern Ireland economy. In order to achieve this, we are committed to strengthening our competitiveness through a focus on export led economic growth. This means we are prioritising the need to deepen and diversify our export base in order to increase employment and wealth across Northern Ireland. The key drivers of this will be innovation, R&D and the skills of our workforce.	The LDP can support this strategy by enabling economic growth and shaping an environment with sustainable infrastructure that attracts investment and supports innovation. Also relevant to the objectives of Education and Skills.
<b>Armagh City Centre Masterplan 2030</b>	2016	Local	DfC	This Masterplan for Armagh City Centre was commissioned to help identify and address challenges and opportunities within Armagh relating to employment and services, development and buildings, transport and communities. It takes a fresh look at the City in a holistic manner, so that key aspects of its social, physical and economic character can be jointly understood.	LDP will take account of this plan. Also relevant to Communities, Transport and Accessibility and Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage.
<b>Banbridge Town Centres and Opportunity Sites Centre Masterplan</b>	2016	Local	DfC	The purpose of the Banbridge Masterplan is to set out the vision and associated action plan for the next 15 years for Banbridge Town Centre. The Masterplan will provide a framework for the promotion, implementation and timing of urban regeneration initiatives in the town centre. Whilst the wider context of the settlement has been considered, the town centre is the geographical focus of the study.	LDP will take account of this plan. Also relevant to Communities, Transport and Accessibility and Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage.
<b>6. MATERIAL ASSETS</b>					
<b>Renewable energy Directive 2009 EC2009/28/EC2</b>	2009	Europe	EC	The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU to limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and promote cleaner transport. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets. All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020.	The LDP will take account of the Directive.
<b>Directive 2008/98/EC on waste</b>	2008	Europe	EC	Establishes the five tier hierarchy of waste. This waste hierarchy aims to encourage the management of waste materials in order to reduce the amount of waste materials produced, and to recover maximum value from the wastes that are produced. It encourages the prevention of waste, followed by the reuse and refurbishment of goods, then value recovery through recycling and composting. Waste disposal should only be used when no option further up the hierarchy is possible. Prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness. The recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation. Recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without using processes that could harm the environment.	The LDP will reflect the Waste Hierarchy approach to Waste management. The LDP will provide for appropriate waste management facilities. The LDP will bring forward policies in regards of renewable energy including biomass. The LDP should make appropriate actions reflecting the need to manage wastes according to this directive.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
<b>Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste</b>	1999	Europe	EC	Prevent or reduce negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills. The objective of the Directive is to prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment, in particular on surface water, groundwater, soil, air, and on human health from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills. The Landfill Directive defines the different categories of waste (municipal waste, hazardous waste, non-hazardous waste and inert waste) and applies to all landfills, defined as waste disposal sites for the deposit of waste onto or into land. Landfills are divided into three classes: landfills for hazardous waste; landfills for non-hazardous waste; landfills for inert waste.	The LDP will take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies contained in the SPPS.
<b>Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste</b>	1994	Europe	EC	Harmonise the packaging waste system of Member States. Reduce the environmental impact of packaging waste.	The LDP will take account of the Directive.
<b>National Renewable Energy Action Plan for the United Kingdom</b>	2010	UK	BEIS	Aims to provide a framework which enables the land based and rural sectors to realise the potential opportunities in the development of renewable energy. Focus is on assisting meeting targets for renewable energy production at a regional, national and EU level in a balanced and sustainable way. Other key objectives of the development include energy security, emissions reductions and wider economic advantages.	Policy(ies) relating to renewable energy are proposed, helping to meet the objectives of this plan. Design and sustainable development policies should also encourage renewable energy as part of these developments. Planning decisions will have to balance need for renewables with environmental concerns and it may be that the need for renewable developments is outweighed by environmental protection. Also relevant to the Climate Change objective.
<b>The UK Renewable Energy Strategy</b>	2009	UK	BEIS	This UK Roadmap shows where we are now; analysis of how deployment may evolve by 2020, together with separate estimates of the market's view of the potential; and the actions required to set us on the path to achieve the deployment levels anticipated in our analysis. While renewable deployment across all technologies will be important, the Roadmap focuses in particular on the technologies that have either the greatest potential to help the UK meet the 2020 target in a cost effective and sustainable way, or offer great potential for the decades that follow. These are Onshore wind, Offshore wind, Marine energy, Biomass electricity, Biomass heat, Ground source and air source heat pumps and Renewable transport.	Evidence that informs future energy needs and renewable provision. Also relevant to the Climate Change objective.
<b>The revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy "Delivering Resource Efficiency"</b>	2013	NI	DAERA	The revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy sets the policy framework for the management of waste in Northern Ireland, and contains actions and targets to meet EU Directive requirements and the Department's Programme for Government commitments. It builds on and retains the core principles of the 2006 Strategy, and places a renewed emphasis on the Waste Hierarchy. The new Strategy moves the emphasis of waste management in	The proposed focus of the SPPS is likely to support this strategy, namely with development making sustainable use of available resources and having a sustainable approach to waste designed in. Waste management is one of the Subject Policies. The economic considerations of the SPPS will support 'green jobs'

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				Northern Ireland from resource management, with landfill diversion as the key driver, to resource efficiency i.e. using resources in the most effective way while minimising the impact of their use on the environment.	and ensure that the economy will benefit from planning decisions. Improved waste management will be good for the environment. Paper 1 objective (c)(ii) recognizes the need to 'accommodate investment in waste management' As stated In Para 6.8 of Paper 8 Utilities, the local development plan (LDP) have regard to the new Waste Management Plan for Mid Ulster, which is currently being prepared. The proposed focus of the LDP is therefore likely to support this strategy, namely with development making sustainable use of available resources and having a sustainable approach to waste designed in. The economic considerations of the LDP will support 'green jobs' and ensure that the economy will benefit from planning decisions. Improved waste management will be good for the environment.
<b>Renewable Energy in the Land Based Sector A way forward. Interim Renewable Energy Action Plan 2013/14</b>	2013	NI	DAERA	Follow up to the Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010. Strategic aim to Promote sustainable farming and forestry practices to deliver greater resource efficiency and reduced environmental impact, by supporting the sector to make a contribution to and benefit from renewable energy opportunities. Focus on enabling the land based and rural sectors to realise the potential opportunities in the development of renewable energy through capacity building, research and promotion of opportunities.	LDP preparation will have to balance need for renewables with environmental concerns and it may be that the need for renewable developments is outweighed by environmental protection'. Also relevant to the Climate Change objective.
<b>Ireland's second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan</b>	2014	RoI	DCCAE	Ireland's third National Energy Efficiency Action Plan to 2020. The Department has reviewed, updated and replaced certain actions from the first Plan as appropriate to ensure it remains on track to meet national and EU targets, Sets a clear vision for each of the six areas covered by the Action Plan: Public Sector, Residential, Business, Transport, Energy Supply, and Cross Sectoral.	Delivery of renewable energy in Mid Ulster may benefit cross border areas if energy generated was supplied there. However, it may be at variance with the well-being aspect of the Mid Ulster LDP for impacts from renewable energy and other energy development to be borne within the district whilst the benefits are exported elsewhere. However, there would certainly be an economic benefit, aligning with objective (b) (v) 'the need to encourage and use of energy ('energy use') as a means of generating money for the local economy'. Also relevant to the Climate Change objective.
<b>Strategy for Renewable Energy: 2012-2020</b>	2012	RoI	DCCAE	The strategy outlines how it is planned that sustainable power, when developed, is maximised as it is returned to the State. Five strategic goals are set out in the document, these include increasing on and offshore wind, building a sustainable	There is little information on whether renewable energy generation and networks will focus on use within NI or whether cross-border outcomes will also be sought. With any renewable development,

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				bioenergy sector, fostering R&D in renewables, growing sustainable transport and building out robust and efficient networks.	environmental considerations will be part of the planning process and this would apply to renewable developments in Ireland that may have cross-border impacts. The LDP could therefore indirectly benefit or be a constraint to this Strategy. Also relevant to the Climate Change objective.
<b>A Resource Opportunity: Waste Management Policy in Ireland</b>	2012	RoI	DECLG	This policy document sets out the measure through which Ireland will make the further progress necessary to become a recycling society, with a clear focus on resource efficiency and the virtual elimination of landfilling of municipal waste.	There may be cross border implications for e.g. recycling facilities.
<b>Envisioning the Future: Considering Energy in Northern Ireland to 2050</b>	2015	NI	DfE	A vision of what might happen by 2050: the outcomes are neither a prediction nor a plan and the study does not, therefore, propose a strategy. Instead, the vision is intended to guide thinking on what can be achieved in 2050 and what early decisions and activities may be needed to support development towards 2050.	Evidence that informs future energy needs and provision. Also relevant to the Climate Change objective.
<b>Draft Onshore Renewable Electricity Action Plan</b>	2013	NI	DfE	The aim of the Action Plan is to maximise the amount of renewable electricity generated from onshore renewable sources in order to enhance diversity and security of supply, reduce carbon emissions, contribute to the 40% renewable electricity target by 2020 and beyond and develop business and employment opportunities for Northern Ireland companies.	Provision in the LDP to support delivery of this will need to align with the renewable energy subject policy of the SPPS, though it could conflict with the natural heritage and other environmental policies. Also relevant to the Climate Change objective.
<b>DETI (2012) Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-2015</b>	2012	NI	DfE	The Action Plan aims to assist with the implementation of the Strategic Energy Framework (2010-2020). DETI set out numerous “main actions for the future” regarding renewables and other aspects of sustainable energy. Of particular relevance are the commitments to: Contribute to the growth of the NI sustainable energy sector (through Invest NI) to 8.9% of NI GVA by 2015: Work with DOE, developers, planners and those responsible for environmental consents to ensure that the need for renewable energy to address the environmental impacts of climate change is recognised, that good quality applications are made and that clear, consistent and proportionate procedures are in place for the consenting of renewable installations; Undertake “capacity studies” (including landscape capacity study, ecological study and bird migration study, with DOE and others) in order to determine with more accuracy how much development could be accommodated in different locations across Northern Ireland before significant cumulative effects start to emerge; Develop a continuous monitoring framework (with DOE and others) where the key potential cumulative effects identified from the assessment are reviewed on a regular basis in response to growth of the onshore wind industry. There are also a number of socio-economic commitments, such as supporting construction of electricity network or refurbishing schools with renewable technologies for example.	A number of socio-economic objectives are included in the Action Plan requiring the development of facilities and service infrastructure, as well as proposing funding for additional development such as renewables or farm diversification. Also relevant to the Climate Change objective.

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<b>DETI (2010) Energy: A Strategic Framework for Northern Ireland</b>	2010	NI	DfE	Contains goals and targets, but does not include the detail of how targets could be achieved. It does aim to ensure future access to secure, competitively priced and sustainable energy supplies for all of NI. Also it provides a direction for NI energy policy over the next ten years concentrating on key areas of electricity, natural gas and renewable energy sources. Under review in 2016.	Renewable and sustainable development policies will indirectly accord with this framework, by providing for renewable development. There may be a conflict between this framework and environmental policies (natural heritage, cultural heritage, flood risk etc.) when it comes to developing gas facilities and electrical networks. Also relevant to the Climate Change objective.
<b>Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009)</b>	2009	NI	Dfi	Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 18 sets out the planning policy for development that generates energy from renewable resources. The PPS aims to facilitate the siting of renewable energy generating facilities in appropriate locations within the built and natural environments.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies. Also relevant to the Climate Change objective.
<b>Planning Policy Statement 10 Telecommunications</b>	2002	NI	Dfi	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for telecommunications development. It embodies the Government's commitment to facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunications systems whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum. The PPS also addresses health issues associated with telecommunications development.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
<b>Planning Policy Statement 11 Planning and Waste Management (DOE 2002)</b>	2002	NI	Dfi	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the development of waste management facilities. It seeks to promote the highest environmental standards in development proposals for waste management facilities and includes guidance on the issues likely to be considered in the determination of planning applications. In addition, it explains the relationship between the planning system and authorities responsible for the regulation and management of waste.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
<b>The Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997</b>	1997	NI	NI Executive	Implements the European Commission (EC) Framework on Waste in NI. The Order makes a number of provisions such as: transfer of responsibility for waste regulation from the district councils to the Department of Environment (DOE), focused within the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) introduction of measures designed to increase control over the processing and handling of waste including Waste Management Licensing, Duty of Care, Registration of Carriers, Special Waste and Producer Responsibility introduction of measures relating to the identification of contaminated land, designation of special sites, duties of enforcing authorities to require remediation, determination of appropriate persons to bear responsibility for remediation, liability of contaminating substances which escape to other land and contaminated land registers.	The Contaminated Land regime which is set out in Part 3 of the Waste Management and Contaminated Land Order (Northern Ireland) 1997, has been enacted but is not yet in force. Also relevant to the Natural Resources objective.
<b>Southern Waste Management Partnership (SWAMP 2008) Draft Waste Management Plan.</b>	2008	Regional	None	This waste management group which was responsible for preparing a sub-regional waste management plan which some or all of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, Mid Ulster and Fermanagh and Omagh councils.	There is a need to reflect any follow on waste strategies in each of the councils that were formerly in this plan.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
<b>7. PHYSICAL RESOURCES</b>					
<b>The Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection</b>	2006	Europe	Council of Europe	In September 2006 the Commission adopted a Soil Thematic Strategy including a proposal for a Soil Framework Directive. This originated from the need to ensure a sustainable use of soils and protect their function in a comprehensive manner in a context of increasing pressure and degradation of soils across the EU.	The commitment to sustainable soil use is in line with the Seventh Environment Action Programme, (7th EAP) which provides that by 2020 "land is managed sustainably in the Union, soil is adequately protected and the remediation of contaminated sites is well underway" and commits the EU and its Member States to "increasing efforts to reduce soil erosion and increase organic matter, to remediate contaminated sites and to enhance the integration of land use aspects into coordinated decision-making involving all relevant levels of government, supported by the adoption of targets on soil and on land as a resource, and land planning objectives". It also states that "The Union and its Member States should also reflect as soon as possible on how soil quality issues could be addressed using a targeted and proportionate risk-based approach within a binding legal framework".
<b>Delivering our Future, Valuing our Soils: A Sustainable Agricultural Land Management Strategy for Northern Ireland</b>	2016	NI	Independent Expert Working Group on Sustainable Land Management	Improving the health of Northern Ireland's agricultural soils is the central focus of this strategy. Healthier soils will deliver better yields of crops and grass which are higher in quality. This will provide the raw material necessary for the increased productivity and profitability envisaged by 'Going for Growth' and will also deliver environmental improvement simultaneously.	This strategy document is mainly targeted at agricultural practitioners adopting more sustainable land use practices. It contains some information on best practice for sustainable land management which may be translatable to the use of public lands, e.g. blue/green infrastructure and enhancement of biodiversity.
<b>8. TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY</b>					
<b>Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways</b>	2016	NI	DfI	Sets out the plans for a network of greenways, connecting towns and cities to the villages and countryside from east to west and north to south across all eleven councils. Objectives include: improving health and well-being, increasing access to greenways, improving safety, improving social inclusion, economic development.	Greenways can produce both environmental and social benefits, because they are easily accessible and can bring nature and people together. The development of traffic free infrastructure, particularly greenways, can also have a positive impact on social inclusion and encouraging new and harder to reach groups to take up cycling and walking. The LDP can help to support these objectives. Also relevant to the objectives of: Health and Well-being, Transport and Accessibility, Natural Resources, Landscape.
<b>Department for Infrastructure Strategic Plan for Greenways</b>	2016	NI	DfI	This is the base report for 'Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic plan for Greenways'. It presents a strategic approach and overview to the development of	Greenways can produce both environmental and social benefits, because they are easily accessible and can bring nature and people together. The development of

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				a shared greenway network which is planned at a regional level and allows people to link to places locally, regionally and nationally by active modes of travel.	traffic free infrastructure, particularly greenways, can also have a positive impact on social inclusion and encouraging new and harder to reach groups to take up cycling and walking. The LDP can help to support these objectives. Also relevant to the objectives of: Health and Well-being, Transport and Accessibility, Natural Resources, Landscape.
<b>Strategic Park &amp; Ride Delivery Programme 2016-2020 (Draft)</b>	2016	NI	Dfi	Department is currently developing a Strategic Park & Ride Delivery Programme for the next four years which will deliver additional Park & Ride and Park & Share spaces	May inform policies relating to provision of park and ride facilities and connectivity between transport modes.
<b>Northern Ireland Changing Gear: A Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland</b>	2015	NI	Dfi	The Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland is the first step in achieving the Minister's vision for cycling. It aims to set out progressively how we can transform Northern Ireland into a place where travelling by bicycle is a healthy, every day activity. It will be supported by a Bicycle Strategy Delivery Plan which will outline specific time bound actions to realise this vision. It takes a 3 pillar approach: 'Build' [a comprehensive network for the bicycle], 'Support' [People who choose to travel by bicycle] and 'Promote' [The bicycle as a mode of transport for everyday journeys].	This strategy is closely linked with 'Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways'. The LDP can help to support the objectives of the strategy by supporting the establishment of new or improved cycle routes and cycling infrastructure.
<b>Railway Investment Prioritisation Strategy May-14</b>	2015	NI	Dfi	The Strategy sets out the strategic direction for future railway investment over the next 20 years and the high level initiatives that need to be delivered to support the Strategy. Objectives include: maintain and improve passenger capacity, remove bottlenecks and assist development along TEN-T (Trans European) core network corridor; enhance or extend TEN-T comprehensive network. The Strategy will also look at new halts and opportunities to develop out-of-town rail-based park and ride at new halts.	The LDP can support aspects of the Strategy, such as the aim to build additional park and ride facilities and station upgrades/ refurbishment which include enhancing accessibility and safety features.
<b>Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future - A New Approach to Regional Transportation.</b>	2011	NI	Dfi	How the Department will develop regional transportation beyond 2015, when the current transport plans reach their conclusion. The new approach to regional transportation complements the Regional Development Strategy and aims to achieve the transportation vision: "to have a modern, sustainable, safe transportation system which benefits society, the economy and the environment and which actively contributes to social inclusion and everyone's quality of life". The new approach starts with the assumption that the decision to travel has been made. It seeks to provide the infrastructure and services that will ensure that travel and transport are as sustainable as possible.	The SPPS includes seven Subject Policies specific to transport and others that address the High Level Transport Aims and Strategic Objectives of Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future so in meeting the requirements of the SPPS the requirements of this strategy will also be met. Planning to enable people to live and work near the services and facilities they require and policies that allow more people to work from home will support this strategy and the LDP will also need to consider any requirement for new or improved transport infrastructure. The LDP will support this Plan. Objective (iii) recognises the need for improved connectivity 'through accommodating investment in transportation to improve travel time

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
					and more sustainable modes of transport'. Objectives laid out in Paper 5 Transport & Infrastructure would also align with this approach. The need for new or improved infrastructure will need to be assessed against environmental policies, though following good design and sustainable development should achieve the best possible solutions to the need.
<b>Sub-Regional Transport Plan (SRTP)</b>	2007	NI	Dfi	While this implementation plan has expired, some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. The Sub-Regional Transport Plan deals with the transport needs of the whole of Northern Ireland with the exception of the Belfast Metropolitan Area and the rail and trunk road networks which are covered in earlier transport plans. The purpose of the SRTP is to study the needs of the designated areas in detail and to confirm a package of transport schemes, consistent with the general principles and indicative levels of spend in the RTS. This package of schemes and initiatives must aim to service the future transport demands taking account of financial allocation, planned developments and any changes in Government policy.	Although expired, the STRP may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.
<b>Planning Policy Statement 3 – Access, Movement and Parking (2005) &amp; PPS3 clarification (DOE 2006)</b>	2005	NI	Dfi	Policies for vehicular and pedestrian access, transport assessments, the protection of transport routes and parking. Provides for a sustainable transport system which promotes road safety.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
<b>Planning Policy Statement 13 Transportation and Land Use</b>	2005	NI	Dfi	Assists in bringing forward the integration of transportation and land use as per the RDS.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
<b>Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan 2015</b>	2004	NI	Dfi	While this implementation plan has expired, some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. The RSTN of Northern Ireland comprises the complete rail network, five Key Transport Corridors (KTCs), four Link Corridors, the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Corridors and the remainder of the trunk road network. The Plan consists of proposals for the maintenance, management and development of this transport network up to the end of 2015.	Although expired, the RTSN may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.
<b>Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) for Northern Ireland 2002-2012</b>	2002	NI	Dfi	The Regional Transport Strategy for Northern Ireland 2002-2012 for identifies strategic transportation investment priorities and considers potential funding sources and affordability of planned initiatives over the strategy period.	Although expired, and replaced by 'Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future', the RTS may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.
<b>Translink Strategy 'Get on Board' 2016-2021</b>	2016	NI	Translink	Translink's plan to transform public transport and support the growth and prosperity of Northern Ireland. 'Get on Board' has been developed in the context of the Regional Development Strategy 2035 and The New Approach to Regional Transportation. It aims to deliver a transformation in public transport, providing integrated services which connect people, enhance the economy and improve the environment, enabling a thriving Northern Ireland" Incorporates a number of	The LDP will support this strategy and will consider measures to make public transport services and sustainable transport more accessible and more integrated with other transport modes.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				key goals including: Making services inclusive and accessible to all; Working with all stakeholders to support social inclusion in local communities; Support modal shift toward sustainable transport; and Forging partnerships to deliver cost effective and integrated travel solutions to rural communities.	
<b>Network Utilisation Strategy, Translink NI Railways, (Published October 2015)</b>	2015	NI	Translink	The Network Utilisation Strategy (NUS) seeks to find a balance between supply and demand. It sets out a long Term vision for rail in Northern Ireland for the next 30 years. It provides the evidence base to support targeted investment in infrastructure, rolling stock and services such that the network is fit for the purpose of supporting the growth of the Northern Ireland economy.	Programme document not available online – implications currently uncertain.
<b>9. AIR QUALITY</b>					
<b>Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)</b>	2010	Europe	EC	The IED aims to achieve a high level of protection of human health and the environment taken as a whole by reducing harmful industrial emissions across the EU, in particular through better application of Best Available Techniques (BAT). Installations undertaking the industrial activities listed in Annex I of the IED are required to operate in accordance with a permit (granted by the authorities in the Member States). The integrated approach means that the permits must take into account the whole environmental performance of the plant, covering e.g. emissions to air, water and land, generation of waste, use of raw materials, energy efficiency, noise, prevention of accidents, and restoration of the site upon closure. For certain activities, i.e. large combustion plants, waste incineration and co-incineration plants, solvent using activities and titanium dioxide production, the IED also sets EU wide emission limit values for selected pollutants.	Location of land for industrial use should be considered in relation to people and sensitive environmental receptors.
<b>Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe</b>	2008	Europe	EC	This Directive merged most of existing legislation into a single directive with no change to existing air quality objectives and added new air quality objectives for PM <sup>2.5</sup> (fine particles). Establishes the need to reduce pollution to levels which minimise harmful effects on human health, paying particular attention to sensitive populations, and the environment as a whole, to improve the monitoring and assessment of air quality including the deposition of pollutants and to provide information to the public. Emissions of harmful air pollutants should be avoided, prevented or reduced.	The LDP should consider the implications of the LDP on air pollution and take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies contained in the SPPS.
<b>Defra, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and DOE (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland</b>	2007	UK	Four Nations (DAERA)	This updated strategy sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues; sets out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved; introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles and identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives. It includes the requirement, under the local air quality management, for every local authority to regularly review and assess air quality in their area which is a statutory requirement under the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002. If national objectives are not met, or at risk of not being met, the local	Local Plans can affect air quality in a number of ways, including through what development is proposed and where, and the encouragement given to sustainable transport. Therefore in plan making, it is important to take into account air quality management areas and other areas where there could be specific requirements or limitations on new development because of air quality. Drawing on the review of air quality carried out for the local air quality management

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				<p>authority concerned must declare an air quality management area and prepare an air quality action plan. This identifies measures that will be introduced in pursuit of the objectives and can have implications for planning.</p>	<p>regime, the Local Plan needs to consider the potential cumulative impact of a number of smaller developments on air quality as well as the effect of more substantial developments; the impact of point sources of air pollution (pollution that originates from one place); and ways in which new development would be appropriate in locations where air quality is or likely to be a concern and not give rise to unacceptable risks from pollution. This could be through, for example, identifying measures for offsetting the impact on air quality arising from new development including supporting measures in an air quality action plan or low emissions strategy where applicable. Provision for renewable energy and measures to reduce car use are examples of contributors to improving air quality. Meeting air quality targets will improve health and well-being for the public thereby also aligning with objective C (ii) and also have environmental benefits as well.</p>
<b>10. CLIMATE CHANGE</b>					
<b>The Paris Agreement</b>	2015	Inter-national	UN	<p>The Paris agreement which entered into force in November 2016 provides an international framework to hold the increase in global temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to keep the more stringent target of below 1.5 degrees in sight. The agreement provides a broad framework for countries to work together, share information and build experience to increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience. It aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change. To reach these ambitious goals, appropriate financial flows, a new technology framework and an enhanced capacity building framework will be put in place, thus supporting action by developing countries and the most vulnerable countries, in line with their own national objectives. The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. This includes requirements that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts.</p>	<p>The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.</p>
<b>The Kyoto Protocol Adopted 1997, came into force in 2005.</b>	2005	Inter-national	UN	<p>The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which commits its Parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets. Recognizing that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions</p>	<p>The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.</p>

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity, the Protocol places a heavier burden on developed nations under the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities." The protocol looks at limiting the emission of harmful greenhouses gases. Parties committed to reduce GHG emissions by at least 18 percent below 1990 levels in the eight-year period from 2013 to 2020. It was updated by the Doha Amendment in 2012.	
<b>The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</b>	1994	Inter-national	UN	The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994 and has near-universal membership. The UNFCCC is a "Rio Convention", one of three adopted at the "Rio Earth Summit" in 1992. Its sister Rio Conventions are the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification. It now also incorporates the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Preventing "dangerous" human interference with the climate system is the ultimate aim of the UNFCCC.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
<b>2030 Framework for climate and energy</b>	2014	Europe	EC	EU-wide targets aim to help the EU achieve a more competitive, secure and sustainable energy system and to meet its long-term 2050 greenhouse gas reductions target. The strategy sends a strong signal to the market, encouraging private investment in new pipelines, electricity networks, and low-carbon technology. Targets for 2030 are a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels; at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption; at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.	Local Plans can affect air quality in a number of ways, including through what development is proposed and where, incorporation of energy efficiency, enabling renewable energy and encouraging sustainable transport. Also relevant to the objective of Economy and Employability.
<b>The EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change</b>	2013	Europe	EC	The EU Adaptation Strategy encourages all Member States to adopt comprehensive adaptation strategies. It 'Climate-proofs' action at EU level by promoting adaptation actions which include mainstreaming of climate change (mitigation and adaptation) into EU sector policies and funds, including marine and inland water issues, forestry, agriculture, biodiversity, infrastructure and buildings, but also migration and social issues. It supports better informed decision-making through Climate-ADAPT a platform which provides several useful resources to support adaptation policy and decision making, such as a toolset for adaptation planning and promotion of green infrastructure and ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation. Comprises a series of documents on adaption in different situations such as coastal and marine, infrastructure and rural development.	This Strategy aligns with the climate change focus of the SPPS. Adaptation to climate change should be considered for LDP proposals.
<b>Directive 2012 on the energy efficiency 2012/27/EU</b>	2012	Europe	EC	Under the Energy Efficiency Directive EU countries make energy efficient renovations to at least 3% of buildings owned and occupied by central government; EU governments should only purchase buildings which are highly energy efficient; EU countries must draw-up long-term national building renovation strategies which can be included in their National Energy Efficiency Action Plans.	The need for energy efficiency will influence the design on new and renovated buildings.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
<b>Directive 2010 on the energy performance of buildings 2010/31/EU</b>	2010	Europe	EC	Under the existing Energy Performance of Buildings Directive energy performance certificates are to be included in all advertisements for the sale or rental of buildings; EU countries must establish inspection schemes for heating and air conditioning systems or put in place measures with equivalent effect; all new buildings must be nearly zero energy buildings by 31 December 2020 (public buildings by 31 December 2018); EU countries must set minimum energy performance requirements for new buildings, for the major renovation of buildings and for the replacement or retrofit of building elements (heating and cooling systems, roofs, walls, etc.); EU countries have to draw up lists of national financial measures to improve the energy efficiency of buildings. In 2016 the Commission proposed an update to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive to help promote the use of smart technology in buildings and to streamline the existing rules.	The need for energy efficiency will influence the design on new and renovated buildings.
<b>Industrial Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency Roadmaps</b>	2015	UK	BEIS	Reports that set out potential pathways for the eight most heat-intensive industrial sectors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency. The cross-sectoral report suggests clustering as a long term strategy to deliver energy savings and more efficient use of waste and by-products.	Zoning and enabling infrastructure investments (in roads, ports, pipelines, etc.) would strengthen existing clusters and enable new ones to develop.
<b>Climate Change Act 2008</b>	2008	UK	UK Gov.	Covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland established a legislative framework to enable the reduction of UK GHG emissions by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050 and by 34% by 2020. It also introduced legally binding five-year carbon budgets, which set a ceiling on the levels of GHGs the UK can emit on course to the longer-term target. The Climate Change Act 2008 covers all of the UK with targets set at the UK level. Climate Change Risk Assessment is a statutory requirement of the Act.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
<b>UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report, Summary for Northern Ireland</b>	2017	NI	CCC	The objective of the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) is to inform adaptation policy by assessing the current and future risks and opportunities posed by the impacts of climate for NI to the year 2100. The main finding is that extreme weather is still predominant among potential risks related to climate change but that other risks, such as water scarcity are becoming increasingly important. Highlights need for more strategic planning for increased water scarcity in vulnerable locations, including re-evaluation of land use options and if necessary investment in storage infrastructure to maximise use of surplus winter rainfall. Notes that land use planning is mainly based upon protecting prime agricultural land from development, on the assumption that prime land will remain in current locations into the future which may not be the case. Advises that more action is needed to manage current risks to people from cold temperatures through addressing fuel poverty. Highlights that there have been requests for new sea defence structures around the coast. There will need to be a system in place to decide which areas must be protected and where realignment	SPPS states that no development should take place in areas known to be at risk from coastal erosion. SPPS promotes and encourages developers to use SUDS and also indicates that council's should continue to promote the use of SUDS through their Local Development Plans. SPPS recognises the importance of peatlands to Northern Ireland for biodiversity, water and carbon storage. The LDP will need to consider areas at risk from coastal erosion and vulnerable to flooding and to promote use of SuDS and protect peatlands. Measures that help reduce fuel poverty will address some social impacts of cold temperatures. Some infrastructure such as clean and waste water treatment will be more vulnerable to flooding therefore may need to be modified or relocated.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				is more appropriate however no shoreline management plans or other policies that assess and plan for changes to coastal communities have been developed for Northern Ireland.	
<b>The appropriateness of a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act – December 2015 Update</b>	2015	NI	CCC	In October 2015 the Northern Ireland Executive Minister asked the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) to provide an update on a CCC report produced in 2011 on 'The appropriateness of a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act' to inform the case for bringing forward Northern Ireland climate change legislation in the next Assembly term. The Committee concluded that the range of circumstances that are unique to Northern Ireland suggest local legislation is appropriate. However, the benefits of specific legislation only outweigh the costs if it is possible to pass local legislation without adding undue additional costs on to the Northern Ireland Executive, ministries or the wider economy.	None at present but a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act (Bill) could influence future plans.
<b>Discussion Paper – Proposals for Taking Forward NI Climate Change Legislation - DOE on 1 December 2015</b>	2015	NI	DAERA	The aim of a NI Climate Change Bill which is still in development is to establish a long-term framework for future action on climate change to drive greater efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and so help ensure that Northern Ireland is better prepared to adapt to the impacts of unavoidable climate change. Proposals include: setting a long term target of 80% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050 (compared to 1990 baseline levels); setting interim targets that are consistent with achieving the 2050 targets; placing a duty to set limits in 5-year carbon budgets on the total amounts of GHG emissions that can be emitted in NI.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
<b>Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP). 2014-2019</b>	2014	NI	DAERA	Contains the Northern Ireland Executive's response to the risks and opportunities identified in the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) for Northern Ireland, which was published in January 2012, as part of the overall UK CCRA. The Adaptation Programme provides the strategic objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, the proposals and policies by which each department will meet these objectives, and the timescales associated with the proposals and policies identified in the period up to 2019. The priority areas are flooding, natural environment, water and agriculture and forestry.	The LDP will need to consider areas at risk from coastal erosion and vulnerable to flooding and to promote use of SuDS and protect peatlands. Some infrastructure such as clean and waste water treatment will be more vulnerable to flooding therefore may need to be modified or relocated.
<b>Efficient Farming Cuts Greenhouse Gases Implementation Plan 2016-2020</b>	2013	NI	DAERA	The plan is focused on encouraging the implementation of a series of on-farm efficiency measures which can improve farm performance and reduce the carbon intensity of local food production and signposts the support available to facilitate this.	Aspects of relevant to planning are promotion of renewable energy, nutrient management including anaerobic digestion, energy efficiency and ventilation in livestock building.
<b>Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action Plan (revised 2016/17 Mitigation Plan)</b>	2012	NI	DAERA	This document sets out a Cross-Departmental Action Plan to tackle the established strategies together, including how Northern Ireland is and will continue to reduce its carbon footprint. Specifically how the Programme for Government target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by 2025 will be delivered. Status is not clear as not available on any departmental website. Plan has been updated with a Mitigation Action Plan in 2016/17	Encouraging sustainable development, good standards of design, renewable energy and overall sustainability will contribute to this action plan. Though a push on economic development could inhibit a reduction in greenhouse gases, the application of sustainability principles in development will lead to more efficient

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
					infrastructure. Scope for protection of or increase of carbon sinks in soil and trees.
<b>Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015 - 2030</b>	2015	Rol	DfE	The White Paper is a complete energy policy update, which sets out a framework to guide policy between now and 2030. Its objective is to guide a transition to a low carbon energy system, which provides secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy. It does not set out detailed proposals, which can be found in specific work programmes that are either in place or under development. It places great value on the relationship with Northern Ireland and will continue close cooperation on a range of energy matters including the regulation of the all-island single electricity market (SEM) (in which Northern Ireland and Ireland are equal partners) the development of the Integrated-Single Electricity Market (I-SEM), energy transmission and the proposed North-South transmission line.	Will influence the overall energy production requirement and may necessitate cross border distribution infrastructure. Also relevant to the objective of Economy and Employability.
<b>National Climate Change Adaptation Framework: Building Resilience to Climate Change</b>	2012	Rol	DHPCLG	Ireland's first National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (NCCAF) aims to ensure that adaptation actions are taken across key sectors and also at local level to reduce Ireland's vulnerability to climate change. The NCCAF requires the development and implementation of sectoral and local adaptation plans which will form part of the national response to the impacts of climate change. Each relevant Government Department (or State Agency, where appropriate) is required to prepare adaptation plans for their sectors. 12 Sectors were identified in total including Transport, Flood Defence, Agriculture and Energy. The objectives are: providing the policy context for a strategic national adaptation response to climate change; promoting dialogue and understanding of adaptation issues; identifying and promoting adaptation solutions; and committing to actions to support the adaptation process.	Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI plans will support this. This will result in due course to the development of sectoral and local government Adaptation Strategies in Ireland which will also need to be taken into account to ensure that development in Northern Ireland does not conflict. A National Climate Change Adaptation Framework to build on and supersede this framework is being developed for publication by December 2017 and this will also need to be considered.
<b>The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015</b>	2015	Rol	Irish Parliament	Ireland's national policy in response to climate change is determined, in part, by legislation. In particular, Ireland's first-ever dedicated climate change law, the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, provides for the making of: five-yearly National Mitigation Plans to specify the policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and a National Adaptation Framework to specify the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change.	While the legislation is for Ireland measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI policy and strategies will also support the objectives of this legislation.
<b>Climate Action and Low-Carbon Development - National Policy Position Ireland</b>	2014	Rol	Irish Parliament	The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050. Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.	Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI plans will also support this.
<b>11. WATER</b>					
<b>Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources</b>	2012	Europe	EC	The "Blueprint" outlines actions that concentrate on better implementation of current water legislation, integration of water policy objectives into other	The Blueprint is expected to drive EU water policy over the long term. It is reflected in Sustainable Water.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				policies, and filling the gaps in particular as regards water quantity and efficiency. The objective is to ensure that a sufficient quantity of good quality water is available for people's needs, the economy and the environment throughout the EU.	
<b>Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks</b>	2007	Europe	EC	Directive aims is to reduce and manage risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity and applies to inland waters as well as all coastal waters across the whole territory of the EU. It required identifying the relevant river basins and associated coastal areas at risk of flooding, drawing up flood maps and establishing flood risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness between 2011 and 2015. This has been coordinated with Water Framework Directive River Basin Planning.	Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive. Integrating flood risk management into development planning will contribute to compliance with this directive.
<b>The Water Framework Directive - EU Directive 2000/60/EC (the Water Framework Directive)</b>	2000	Europe	EC	Introduces 'good status', a more rigorous water quality standard. The Directive requires 'River Basin Management Plans' which should influence Development Plans and be influenced by them.	Contribute, wherever possible and appropriate, to achievement of water targets. Plan policies on the design, location of development & sustainable water management to ensure that the LDP does not create adverse pressures on the aquatic environment.
<b>Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption</b>	1998	Europe	EC	Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.	This is reflected in Sustainable Water.
<b>Directive 91/676/EEC on nitrates from agricultural sources.</b>	1991	Europe	EC	The Directive seeks to reduce the level of water pollution caused by the run off of nitrates into waterways/ground water from agricultural sources. In particular, it is about promoting better management of animal manures, chemical nitrogen fertilisers and other nitrogen-containing materials spread onto the land.	The LDP will take account of the Directive. The SEA will consider the likely significant effect of the plan on the aquatic environment.
<b>Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment</b>	1991	Europe	EC	Protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.	This is reflected in Sustainable Water.
<b>Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015-2040)</b>	2016	NI	Dfi	The Strategy presents a framework for action which will facilitate implementation of a range of initiatives aimed at delivering the long term vision to have a sustainable water sector in Northern Ireland. the following four high level aims have been developed by government to cover the key water needs within a catchment and they form the chapters of the Long-Term Water Strategy: provide high quality sustainable supplies of drinking water to households, industry and agriculture; manage flood risk and drainage in a sustainable manner; achieve the environmental requirements of the Water Framework Directive in a sustainable manner; provide sustainable reliable water and sewerage services that meet customers' needs. A strategy implementation action plan will now be prepared containing actions aimed at delivering the high level proposed measures in the Strategy.	The strategy will inform the provision of infrastructure for water supply and treatment and approaches to flood risk management and environmental protection which will all inform the spatial capacity for development. The plan will need to enable development of infrastructure for example by accommodating investment in power, water and sewerage infrastructure in the interests of public health and to support measures relating to flood risk management and environmental protection.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
<b>Planning Policy Statement 15 (Revised) – Planning and Flood Risk</b>	2014	NI	Dfi	Planning policies to minimise and manage flood risk to people, property and the environment.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
<b>Social and environmental guidance for Water and Sewerage Services (2015-2021)</b>	2014	NI	Dfi	The purpose of this document is to provide the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation with guidance on the key environmental and social policies the Minister for Regional Development expects it to contribute to in carrying out its role in regulating the water industry during the 2015-21 period. Sets out how NI Water should deliver to meet International, National and Local legislative and strategic commitments.	The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.
<b>Flood Maps (NI)</b>	2011	NI	Dfi - Rivers Agency	Flood Maps highlights the areas throughout Northern Ireland that are prone to flooding and its potential adverse impacts. The map is designed to: help Rivers Agency and others to plan and manage our work to reduce flood risk; encourage people living and working in areas prone to flooding to find out more and take appropriate action; inform anyone applying for planning permission if flooding is likely to be an important consideration.	Provides information on vulnerability to flooding throughout Northern Ireland which informs constraints on development,
<b>Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for NI</b>	2011	NI	Dfi - Rivers Agency	A key objective of the PFRA was to identify areas of potentially significant flood risk for which detailed flood maps would be produced. On the basis of the PFRA, it was determined that detailed flood maps should be produced for 20 Significant Flood Risk Areas and 49 Areas for Further Study and this work was completed as required by the EU Directive in December 2013.	Identifies areas of potentially significant flood risk which informs constraints on development.
<b>Northern Ireland Message on Water</b>	2011	NI	Dfi, DAERA	In 2011 the UKCIP (formerly UK Climate Impacts Programme) decided to create a number of messages which could be used to engage with policy makers across the UK. NI Water, NIEA and Rivers Agency worked together to help prepare a headline message for Northern Ireland focused on Water and climate impacts. This describes the potential impacts of climate change on flood risk and stormwater capacity and identifies the need for investment to provide capacity to store and transfer surface water. This includes measures to deal with surface water runoff such as sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). It also considers potential effects on water quality and supply which may require the construction of more impounding reservoirs and raw water transfer pipelines.	Highlights potential long term problems and relating to water supply and flow including flooding investment needs to mitigate these.
<b>North Western and Neagh Bann International River Basin Districts River Basin Management Plan</b>	TBC	RoI	EPA	For the 2nd Cycle of the WFD, in the North Western and Neagh Bann International River Basin Districts a single administrative area will be established in the Republic of Ireland portion of these two IRBDs for the purpose of coordinating their management with authorities in Northern Ireland. The WFD's aims are: 1. Protect/enhance all waters (surface, ground and coastal waters) 2. Achieve "good status" for all waters by December 2015 3. Manage water bodies based on river basins or catchments 4. Involve the public.	The plan will be published during preparation of the LDP and therefore will need to be taken into account once available. Measures to protect water quality, quantity and ecological resources will support the plan objectives which derive from the Water Framework Directive.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
<b>Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016</b>	2016	NI	NI Executive	The Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 confers a power on NI Water to require the construction of sustainable drainage systems as a condition of agreeing to adopt a drain or sewer. The Act also introduces new restrictions to the right to connect surface water sewers to the public sewer network. NI Water is able to take account of upstream sustainable drainage systems and is also able to refuse connection to the public sewer network if other suitable alternative means of dealing with surface water exist or could reasonably be provided. Suitable alternative means of dealing with surface water can include natural features or other arrangements known as soft sustainable drainage systems.	The overall aim of the Act is to make sustainable drainage the preferred option for dealing with surface water in all new developments, where possible. This aim should be reflected in all Local Development Plans.
<b>Reservoirs Act (Northern Ireland) 2015</b>	2015	NI	NI Executive	The Reservoirs Act aims to ensure that reservoirs are managed and operated to minimise any risk of flooding due to an uncontrolled release of water resulting from dam failure and therefore protecting people, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. The legislation will apply to reservoirs that are capable of holding 10,000 cubic metres or more of water above the natural level of the surrounding land. These reservoirs will be known as 'controlled reservoirs'.	Reservoirs falling under this Act may require to be identified in the LDP.
<b>PC 15 NIW's draft expenditure plan 2015-2021</b>	2015	NI	NIW	This sets out NI water's long term strategy for providing water and wastewater services customers throughout Northern Ireland. Over the 6-year PC15 period investment will include 9 water treatment works schemes and upgrades to 19 large wastewater treatment works and 45 small works.	The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.
<b>Our Strategy for NI Water</b>	2014	NI	NIW	Sets out NI Water's long term strategy for providing water and wastewater services to customers in Northern Ireland. Its goal is 'to provide a range of essential services and associated contact channels which meet the rising expectations of our customers.' The strategy outlines the key challenges and opportunities facing the Northern Ireland water industry in the years to come. It outlines aspirations for customers in 2040 and priorities to 2020/21. Some of the priorities Invest available funding to minimise constraints in development caused by lack of capacity at wastewater treatment works and in sewerage networks. Prioritise investment to address issues in the sewerage system which lead to flooding from sewers. Increase the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Solutions. Invest in key water and wastewater treatment works and other critical sites to improve flood resilience. Expand use of sustainable wastewater treatment solutions which protect the environment, improve carbon efficiency and reduce operating costs. Undertake a focused programme of repair and renewal in relation to gravity sewers, CSO structures, pumping stations and syphons. Invest to improve our ability to transfer water from one area to another, remove bottlenecks and increase storage capacity.	The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.
<b>NI Water Water Resources Management Plan 2012</b>	2012	NI	NIW	The Water Resources Management Plan explains how NIW intends to meet the drinking water needs of the population of Northern Ireland over the period 2010	The LDP may need to accommodate water supply infrastructure development and capacity for

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				to 2035. The WRMP takes into account expected demands from forecast changes in population, housing and water usage and incorporates any predicted changes to our climate. The WRMP will be complemented by the company's Drought Plan (not published) that will set out the short-term operational steps that the company will take if a drought develops which increases the risk to security of supplies and whether capital investment is needed to mitigate such events. It provides a strategic plan for managing water resources by setting the framework at the Water Resource Zone level within which investment decisions should be taken. Investment at smaller spatial scales will still need to be justified through other more local studies, such as trunk main studies, detailed zonal studies and targeted leakage initiatives. Preparation of a Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan is underway with a target for publication in 2017.	development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply. The Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan due to be published in 2017 should also be considered.
<b>Guidelines for Planning Authorities 20: The Planning System and Flood Risk Management</b>	2009	RoI	OPW	The core objectives of the Guidelines are to: Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding; Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off; Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains; Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth; Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders; and Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management.	There are a small number of catchments where transboundary impacts may need to be considered.
<b>North Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2015 - 2021</b>	2015	Regional	DAERA	River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD), taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile. This plan aims to: Provide at least good status for all water bodies; Prevent deterioration in status; Promote sustainable development; Achieve specific standards for protected areas. The north eastern river basin district (NE RBD) covers an area of around 4000 km <sup>2</sup> , including 1000km <sup>2</sup> of marine waters. It takes in large parts of Counties Antrim and Down and a smaller portion of Londonderry. The principle river systems are the Lagan, Bush and Quoile as well as the smaller systems draining from the glens of Antrim, and the County Down Coastline. The NE RBD has an extensive coastline including Larne, Belfast and Strangford Loughs, with Lough Mourne, Clea Lakes and Silent Valley the main lakes.	The objectives of this plan will be taken into account in plan preparation so that development does not adversely affect its delivery. The siting and extent of development and measures to prevent pollution can help support delivery of the River Basin Management Plan objectives. Good water quality and aquatic habitats contribute to health and well-being and the economy.
<b>Neagh Bann River Basin Management Plan 2015 - 2021</b>	2015	Regional	DAERA	River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD), taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and	The objectives will be taken into account in LDP preparation so that development does not adversely affect its delivery. The siting and extent of development and measures to prevent pollution can

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				coastal waters out to one nautical mile. This plan aims to: Provide at least good status for all water bodies; Prevent deterioration in status; Promote sustainable development; Achieve specific standards for protected areas. The Neagh Bann river basin district (NB RBD) covers an area of around 5740 km <sup>2</sup> . It includes all of County Armagh, large parts of Counties Antrim, Londonderry, Down and Tyrone and a small area County Fermanagh. The principal river system is the Bann, with its tributaries the Moyola, Ballinderry, Blackwater, Six Mile Water and Main. The Newry river system drains into Carlingford Lough. Lough Neagh, located in the centre of the district is the main lake, with other smaller ones include Lough Fea, Portmore, Ross and Beg. This district has a limited coastline to the north where the River Bann enters the Atlantic and to the south where the Newry system enters Carlingford Lough.	help support delivery of the River Basin Management Plan objectives. Good water quality and aquatic habitats contribute to health and well-being and the economy. Also relevant to the objective of Natural Resources.
<b>Eel management plan: North Eastern River Basin District</b>	2010	Regional	DAERA	Measures to be carried out for the recovery of the stock of European eel including mitigation of hydropower and other barriers to passage.	May inform policies relating to hydropower and in river works. Also relevant to the objective of Natural Resources.
<b>Neagh Bann River Basin Flood Risk Management Plans 2015</b>	2015	Regional	Dfl - Rivers Agency	The Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) is aimed at reducing the potential adverse consequences of significant floods on human health, economic activity, cultural heritage and the environment. There are three FRMPs which together highlight the flood hazards and risks in the 20 most significant flood risk areas in Northern Ireland from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. The plans identify the measures that will be undertaken over the next 6 years and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together and with communities to reduce the flood risks.	One of the aims of the FRMP is to inform the development planning process to ensure, as far as possible, that new zonings within local development plans are located outside flood risk areas. Northern Ireland's planning policies, informed by PPS15 and the SPPS adopt a precautionary approach to development that aim to prevent future development that may be at risk of flooding or that may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. This will be reflected in the LDP.
<b>North Eastern River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan 2015 DARD</b>	2015	Regional	Dfl - Rivers Agency	The Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) is aimed at reducing the potential adverse consequences of significant floods on human health, economic activity, cultural heritage and the environment. There are three FRMPs which together highlight the flood hazards and risks in the 20 most significant flood risk areas in Northern Ireland from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. The plans identify the measures that will be undertaken over the next 6 years and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together and with communities to reduce the flood risks.	One of the aims of the FRMP is to inform the development planning process to ensure, as far as possible, that new zonings within local development plans are located outside flood risk areas. Northern Ireland's planning policies, informed by PPS15 and the SPPS adopt a precautionary approach to development that aim to prevent future development that may be at risk of flooding or that may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. This will be reflected in the LDP.
<b>12. NATURAL RESOURCES</b>					
<b>North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Commission Precautionary Approach Agreement</b>	1982	International	NASCO	NASCO and its Contracting Parties agree to adopt and apply a Precautionary Approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of salmon in order to protect the resource and preserve the environments in which it lives. Accordingly, NASCO and its Contracting Parties should be more cautious when information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate. The absence of adequate	The LDP will take account of this. Increased fisheries resource will result in increased angling opportunities in the council area with the economic and social benefits this will bring.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				scientific information should not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures.	
<b>North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Commission Convention For The Conservation Of Salmon In The North Atlantic Ocean</b>	1982	Inter-national	NASCO	Aims to promote the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean through international co-operation.	The LDP will take account of this. DAERA is the lead authority in NI to take this forward and reports annually to the commission as to status of populations and actions taken to maintain and enhance them. Increased fisheries resource will result in increased angling opportunities in the council area with the economic and social benefits this will bring.
<b>The Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2024</b>	2016	Inter-national	Ramsar Convention	The Fourth Ramsar Strategic plan lays out a new vision under the Convention mission, with four overall goals and 19 specific targets which are designed to support the efforts of Parties, partners and other stakeholders in preventing, stopping and reversing the global decline of wetlands. The strategic goals are Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss And Degradation; Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network; Wisely Using All Wetlands; Enhancing Implementation.	These objectives are reflected in NI strategies and plans.
<b>The Ramsar Convention. The convention of Wetland of International Importance (1971 and amendments)</b>	1971	Inter-national	Ramsar Convention	Seeks to protect and conserve wetlands, particularly those established as a habitat for waterfowl. The Convention uses a broad definition of wetlands which includes all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, estuaries, tidal flats, and all human-made sites such as artificial coastal lagoons.	The LDP must reflect the Ramsar designations, and the need to protect and conserve them. Many Ramsar designated sites are also SACs or SPAs.
<b>EU Biodiversity Strategy</b>	2011	Europe	EC	The EU Biodiversity Strategy aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU and help stop global biodiversity loss by 2020. It reflects the commitments taken by the EU in 2010, within the international Convention on Biological Diversity. The six targets to address the main drivers of biodiversity loss, and reduce the main pressures on nature and ecosystem services include protect species and habitats, maintain and restore ecosystems and combat invasive alien species. The strategy promotes the increased use of green infrastructure. A 2015 European Parliament Resolution on the mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 'notes that the 2020 targets will not be achieved without additional, substantial and continuous efforts' and among many statements 'Stresses that habitat destruction is the most important factor driving biodiversity loss and is a particular priority when it comes to addressing this loss' and 'Deplores the fact that, in Europe, around a quarter of wild species are at risk of extinction and many ecosystems are degraded, giving rise to severe social and economic damage for the EU.'	Natural heritage policies which will afford some protection from inappropriate development are included in the SPPS which informs the context for the LDP.
<b>Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (Codified version of</b>	2009	Europe	EC	The Directive provides a framework for the conservation and management of, and human interactions with, wild birds in Europe. It sets broad objectives for a wide range of activities, although the precise legal mechanisms for their	Any development project or plan likely to have a significant effect (either directly or indirectly) on a Natura 2000 site must be subject to assessment. This

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Directive 79/409/EEC as amended) ('The Birds Directive')				achievement are at the discretion of each Member State. In Northern Ireland, the provisions of the Birds Directive are implemented through the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, and The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & etc.) Regulations 1995.	will be taken into account through consideration of all SPAs and by Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP.
European Eel Regulation 2007 (EC) No 1100/2007	2007	Europe	EC	Aims to establish measures for the recovery of the stock of European Eel and requires member states to prepare and implement eel management plans. As a result, eel fisheries are now managed under long-term plans drawn up by the EU countries at river-basin level.	The LDP will take account of any plan arising from the Regulations
Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of wild Fauna and Flora ('The Habitats Directive')	1992	Europe	EC	The main aim of the Habitats Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species listed on the Annexes to the Directive at a favourable conservation status, introducing robust protection for those habitats and species of European importance. The Directive creates a network of sites in Europe for the conservation of biodiversity. In applying these measures Member States are required to take account of economic, social and cultural requirements, as well as regional and local characteristics. These sites are designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (collectively known as 'Natura 2000' sites).	Any development project or plan likely to have a significant effect (either directly or indirectly) on a Natura 2000 site must be subject to assessment. This will be taken into account through consideration of all SACs and by Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP.
UK Marine Policy Statement	2011	UK	Four Nations (DAERA)	The MPS will facilitate and support the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives and thereby: Promote sustainable economic development; Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects; Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and our heritage assets; and Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues	The marine environment is not mentioned specifically at this stage of the SPPS preparation, though it could feasibly be merged with a possible new subject policy on the coast, whilst it could also be incorporated into natural heritage. Any development arising from the SPPS will need to be in conformity with the MPS and NI Marine Plan once the latter is adopted in order to protect the marine environment.
Marine Plan for Northern Ireland (in preparation)	n/a	NI	DAERA	The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of our marine area through a strategic framework with spatial elements. It will consist of a series of policy statements covering cross-cutting marine planning issues that apply to all decision making in the marine area and to relevant sectors. It will not bring forward new policies governed by other departments but will align with and contribute to the policy objectives for key marine activities as set out in the UK Marine Policy Statement and will support and complement existing plans and policies. A draft Marine Plan is proposed to be published in late 2016.	Public authorities taking authorisation or enforcement decisions, which affect or might affect the marine area, must do so in line with marine policy documents, such as Marine Plans and the Marine Policy Statement (MPS), unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise. A public authority must explain any decision not made in line with an adopted plan or the MPS.
Valuing Nature - A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020	2015	NI	DAERA	A strategy for Northern Ireland to meet its international obligations and local targets to protect biodiversity and ensure that the environment can continue to	Actions include: Restoring 240 hectares of ancient woodland and delivering peatland and wetland habitat restoration around the Lough Neagh basin with

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				support our people and economy. Contains 57 actions to impact positively on the loss of biodiversity up to 2020.	emphasis on an ecosystems approach. LDP proposals and policies should support delivery of these actions where appropriate.
<b>DOE (2013) Northern Ireland Invasive Species Strategy</b>	2013	NI	DAERA	In response to the threats posed by invasive alien species the Department of Environment published 'An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Northern Ireland'. The aim of the Strategy is to minimise the risk posed, and reduce the negative impacts caused, by invasive alien species in Northern Ireland.	Invasive species may be a constraint for some sites and consideration will need to be given to measures to minimise the risks caused by invasive species.
<b>Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000</b>	2013	NI	DAERA	The Prioritised Action Framework sets out the prioritised actions for managing the Natura 2000 network to be taken to address unfavourable conservation status of habitats in Annex I and species in Annex II of the Habitats Directive and Annex 1 of the Birds Directive. These are intended to help achieve the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2000. Priorities include measures such as agri-environmental schemes and an ecosystems approach. It states that the Department will publish guidance ...to advise developers and other key stakeholders ..., especially those who regulate development, to encourage them to minimise adverse impacts on habitats and species and to provide for biodiversity where possible.	This will be taken into account through Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP and planning proposals carried out under it which may have a significant effect on site selection features of European sites. Any advice from the Department will be taken into account.
<b>Draft Northern Ireland Marine Position Paper</b>	2012	NI	DAERA	The Position Paper set out the Executive's objectives and lead departments for the sustainable development of the marine area including energy production and infrastructure development; tourism and recreation; port development; sewerage services; flood risk management and drainage; integrated coastal zone management; climate change; coastal change; and protection of the historic environment. It was intended to identify the policy context within which a Northern Ireland Marine Plan will be developed. The status of this document is not clear.	LDP proposals and policies may directly support natural and cultural heritage aspects of Marine Position Paper, or have an indirect relationship, for example regarding outdoor recreation, access, transportation and sustainable development.
<b>Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter: safeguarding our rocks and landscape</b>	2017	NI	DfE	Guidance document that sets out a clear ambition to recognise geodiversity as a vital and integral part of the economy, environment heritage and future sustainable development. This is necessary to safeguard and manage geodiversity for both current and future generations.	May inform decision making and support policy at strategic level for the conservation management of geodiversity.
<b>Planning Policy Statement 2 – Planning and Nature Conservation</b>	2013	NI	Dfi	Policies for the conservation of natural heritage.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
<b>Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth - An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland</b>	2012	Rol	MCG	The vision for this plan is 'Our ocean wealth will be a key element of our economic recovery and sustainable growth, generating benefits for all our citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.' It includes an action: Continue to foster a North/South and East/West approach in developing/enabling the marine sector (e.g. grid/all-island energy strategy, marine tourism and leisure) through existing structures and bodies.	Should an LDP have specific proposals for its coastline, including facilitating developments that utilise the marine environment, these could be either supportive or in conflict with this plan. The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will need to fully consider this related plan.

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<b>Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016 - Ireland's National Biodiversity Action Plan</b>	2011	Rol	NPWS	This plan outlines the measures Ireland will take in preparing for pressures and losses in the level of biodiversity, and they are presented as 102 actions under a series of 7 strategic objectives. The objectives cover the conservation of biodiversity in the wider countryside and in the marine environment (within and outside protected areas), mainstreaming of biodiversity across the decision making process, the strengthening of the knowledge base on biodiversity, and increasing public awareness and participation.	Biodiversity is a cross-border objective. Developments either side of the border will have cross-border impacts. In addition, nature conservation species, in particular, will not necessarily respect this border. Therefore, the LDP may have an impact on the implementation of this plan. This may be positive or negative depending on how the LDP is implemented locally and the nature of any developments consented under relevant policy.
<b>Forest Service - Down Plan 2015</b>	2015	Regional	DAERA	Forest Management plans set out the management objectives for the forests and woodlands Forest Service looks after. Plans are currently prepared for Down, Armagh, Sperrin, West Tyrone, East Fermanagh and East Tyrone.	Relevant plans may inform land use, landscape and recreational use of forests in the plan area.
<b>Lough Neagh Fishery Management Plan</b>	2015	Regional	DAERA	The aim of the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) is to provide this strategic approach to the sustainable management of the fisheries resources and its habitat whilst also maximising its value to the economy and the environment and ensuring stakeholder input to it. The FMP sets out how DAERA Inland Fisheries will seek to manage the fishery and what scientific information is required to fully inform this process. It also highlights many of the key issues / concerns raised by stakeholder in consultation meetings that have taken place to date. There is wide recognition that the Lough Neagh catchment has the potential to play an even more significant role in contributing to the development of the local economy.	LDP will take account of this plan. Also relevant to the objective of Economy and Employability.
<b>Forest Service - Armagh Planning Review 2014</b>	2014	Regional	DAERA	Forest Management plans set out the management objectives for the forests and woodlands Forest Service looks after. Plans are currently prepared for Down, Armagh, Sperrin, West Tyrone, East Fermanagh and East Tyrone.	Relevant plans may inform land use, landscape and recreational use of forests in the plan area. Also relevant to the objective of Landscape.
<b>Lough Neagh Biodiversity Action plan</b>	2008	Regional	LNP	This includes an audit of the state of biodiversity in and around Lough Neagh and a series of species and habitat action plans. The species for which there are action plans are Barn Owl; Bats (All species); Breeding Waders (Curlew, Lapwing, Redshank); Common Tern; Dyschirius obscurus (Ground Beetle); Irish Damselfly; Irish Hare; Tree Sparrow; Whooper Swan. Plans have been prepared for the following habitats: Eutrophic Standing Water; Fen; Floodplain Grazing Marsh; Hedgerow; Lowland Meadow; Lowland Raised Bog; Purple Moor-grass and Rush Pasture; Reedbed; Rivers and Streams; Wet Woodland. The implementation of these plans will help towards ensuring the biodiversity of Lough Neagh is maintained and enhanced.	There is a need to protect habitats and species and to enhance important habitats where possible. Information on priority species and habitats, where available, needs to be part of evidence base for LDP. Need to sieve potential development sites for impact on protected species and habitats both direct and indirect and identify mitigation or potential measures at early stage.
<b>13. LANDSCAPE</b>					
<b>European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)</b>	2000	Europe	COE	The European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues. It covers all landscapes, including natural, managed, urban and peri-urban areas, and special, every day and also	The LDP should support the aims of the convention, seeking to protect, manage and enhance the landscape.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				degraded landscape. Articles 5 and 6 commit signatory states to a number of actions which include the need to recognise landscapes in law, to establish policies aimed at landscape planning, protection and management and the integration of landscape into other policy areas.	
<b>A National Landscape Strategy for Ireland</b>	2015	RoI	AHRRGA	The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing it while positively managing its change. It is a high level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape. There are six high level objectives with associated actions: the three most relevant to the LDP being: to recognise landscapes in law; to develop a National Landscape Character Assessment, to develop landscape policies. Following completion of the National Landscape Character Assessment, statutory guidelines on local Landscape Character Assessments will be prepared for Planning Authorities. These regional and local landscape character assessments will inform and guide landscape policy, action plans and local authority development plans.	The council shares a boundary with Ireland therefore the LDP has the potential to impact on this strategy. The strategy and the national and local Landscape Character Assessments will be taken into account as they become available.
<b>Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment</b>	2016	NI	DAERA	The purpose of the Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA) is to provide an evidence base which can be used equally by planners, developers and the public. It describes forces for change through climate change, land use, agriculture, energy and invasive species and outlines the types of ecosystem services provided in each region. The assessment provides a strategic overview of the landscape and subdivides the countryside into 26 Regional Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) based upon information on people and place and the combinations of nature, culture and perception which make each part of Northern Ireland unique. This evidence base can be used to enable informed decisions to be made about the future protection, management and sustainable development of Northern Ireland's landscapes and can be complemented by more detailed local studies.	This is not policy but it provides analysis of all of Northern Ireland Landscapes at a regional level which provides further evidence to inform the LDP. Also relevant to the objective of Natural Resources.
<b>Northern Ireland Seascape Character Assessment</b>	2014	NI	DAERA	Twenty-four different regional seascape character areas have been identified round the coast of Northern Ireland. The Seascape Character Assessment describes these areas, their key characteristics and the different influences that mould each as a unique part of the coastline.	This can inform planning of development in the coastal zone. The description and mapping of regional seascape character can provide evidence to assist in responding to the increasing demands being placed upon the related marine and terrestrial environments. This can also help to inform the planning, design and management of a range of projects taking place on and around the coastline.
<b>Northern Ireland's Landscape Charter</b>	2014	NI	DAERA	Invites organisations and individuals to sign the charter and commit to delivering its vision by approaches including the following: adopt and promote best practice to ensure all development works with and enhances sense of place; ensure sense	This requires consideration of all landscapes to enhance them, respect sense of place and promote

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				of place is central to all decision making about landscape and empower people locally to be involved.	sympathetic design. [Note whether council has signed the charter]
<b>Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment</b>	2000	NI	DAERA	The Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment subdivided the countryside into 130 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), each based upon local patterns of geology, landform, land use, cultural and ecological features. For each LCA, the key characteristics were described and an analysis of landscape condition and its sensitivity to change was made. While the original assessment was published in 2000 many landscape character areas have been updated more recently.	This is not policy but it provides a comprehensive analysis of all of Northern Ireland Landscapes, including their vulnerability and sensitivity to change which informs the state of the landscape, capacity for development and areas meriting protection. Also relevant to the objective of Natural Resources.
<b>Building on Tradition: A sustainable Design Guide for the NI Countryside</b>	2012	NI	Dfi	'Building on Tradition: A Sustainable Design Guide for the Northern Ireland Countryside' provides assistance to all those involved with sustainable development in the Northern Ireland countryside to understand the requirements of PPS21. The guide promotes quality and sustainable building design in Northern Ireland's countryside.	This can be used to inform siting and design standards for development in the countryside to achieve better landscape integration.
<b>Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Supplementary Planning Guidance Wind Energy Development in Northern Ireland's Landscapes.</b>	2010	NI	Dfi	The SPG provides broad, strategic guidance in relation to the visual and landscape impacts of wind energy development. The guidance is based on the sensitivity of Northern Ireland's landscapes to wind energy development and contains an assessment of each of the 130 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) in Northern Ireland by referencing the characteristics and values associated with each LCA.	Informs the relative capacity for wind energy in respect of landscape. Also relevant to the objective of Economy and Employability.
<b>Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Supplementary Planning Guidance Anaerobic Digestion</b>	2010	NI	Dfi	The SPG provides broad, strategic guidance in relation to the visual and landscape impacts of wind energy development. The guidance is based on the sensitivity of Northern Ireland's landscapes to wind energy development and contains an assessment of each of the 130 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) in Northern Ireland by referencing the characteristics and values associated with each LCA.	Informs the relative capacity for wind energy in respect of landscape. Also relevant to the objective of Economy and Employability.
<b>14. HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>					
<b>Xi'an Declaration On The Conservation Of The Setting Of Heritage Structures, Sites And Areas</b>	2005	Inter-national	ICMOS	To contribute through legislation, policies, planning processes and management to better protect and conserve the world's heritage structures, sites and areas in their settings.	LDP can assist with implementing the measures outlined in the agreement: Acknowledging the contribution of setting to the significance of heritage monuments, sites and areas; Understanding, documenting and interpreting the settings in diverse contexts; Developing planning tools and practices to conserve and manage settings; Monitoring and managing change affecting setting; Working with local, interdisciplinary and international communities for co-operation and awareness in conserving and managing setting.

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<b>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992)</b>	1992	Europe	COE	The new text (revision of the 1985 Granada Convention) makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. It is concerned in particular with arrangements to be made for co-operation among archaeologists and town and regional planners in order to ensure optimum conservation of archaeological heritage. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. Protection of the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be investigated archaeologically both on land and underwater. Creation of archaeological reserves and conservation of excavated sites.	Consideration should be given to conservation of archaeological resources including potential archaeological reserves.
<b>The European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention)</b>	1987	Europe	COE	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.	Consideration should be given to conservation of archaeological heritage.
<b>Protection of Military Remains Act 1986</b>	1986	UK	UK Gov.	Under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 all aircraft that have crashed whilst in military service are automatically protected. Maritime vessels (e.g. ships and boats) lost during military service are not automatically protected. The MoD can, however, designate wrecks lost within the last 200 years, whose position is known, as 'controlled sites', and can designate named vessels lost on or after 4th August 1914 (Britain's entry into World War I), whose location is unknown, as 'protected places'. It is not necessary to demonstrate the presence of human remains for wrecks to be designated as either 'controlled sites' or 'protected places'. It also covers vessels of a foreign state e.g., German U-Boats	This may apply to military shipwrecks and aircraft discovered in the nearshore area and/or Lough Neagh / Lough Erne
<b>UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)</b>	2001	UK	UNESCO	The Convention sets out basic principles for the protection of underwater cultural heritage. Amongst its main principles are an obligation to preserve underwater cultural heritage, with in situ preservation as first option, and a ban on its inappropriate commercial exploitation. While the UK has not ratified the Convention, it publicly supports the majority of its articles and has publicly recognised the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for archaeology	The Local Plan will recognise the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for underwater archaeology.
<b>Historic Buildings of Local Importance: A guide to their Identification and Protection</b>	2017	NI	DfC	This good practice guide aims to assist councils achieve a consistent approach when identifying and protecting Historic Buildings of Local Importance.	One way to protect unlisted historic buildings of local importance is to include a policy in the Local Development Plan.
<b>Regeneration: The Value of our Built Heritage. Position Paper 2017</b>	2017	NI	DfC	This paper sets out the potential value of effective architectural regeneration throughout our villages, towns and cities. It highlights Northern Ireland's unique	Paper recommends that heritage buildings are incorporated and made a priority in new council community planning. The protection and promotion of

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				architectural heritage as well as the social and economic value of older building stock, and the added qualities it can bring to our communities.	Heritage should be integrated into community plans and new planning policy. Policy needs to be integrated and support building users.
<b>Protocol for the Care of the Government Historic Estate Northern Ireland Guidance February 2012</b>	2012	NI	DfC	A document set out by the Executive explaining how departments and agencies will put their commitment into practice for caring and protecting historic estates. Includes protecting heritage assets through regular condition surveys, maintenance and renovation using appropriately experienced practitioners and working to keep buildings in active use.	This document is recommended as good practice for councils to adopt.
<b>Study of the economic value of Northern Ireland's historic environment</b>	2012	NI	DfC	The purpose of this study is to help make the case for investment in the Northern Ireland historic environment. The four objectives of the study are to: (1.) Determine the current value of economic activity generated by Northern Ireland's historic environment and its distribution; (2.) Gauge the level of historic environment-related employment in Northern Ireland, including indirect employment, the distribution of this employment, and its relative importance compared with other sectors; (3.) Conduct a credible analysis of the wider community benefits that Northern Ireland's historical environment provides to the economy using a series of case studies, and (4.) Make an assessment of the potential for the use of Northern Ireland's historic environment to aid sustainable growth of the economy and make recommendations as to how this could be realised.	This document can help to inform the LDP and identify areas where links can be made between the Historic Environment and other themes, e.g. community, economic development, tourism, etc.
<b>Planning Policy Statement 23 – Enabling Development</b>	2014	NI	Dfi	PPS23 sets out planning policy for assessing proposals for Enabling Development in support of the re-use, restoration or refurbishment of heritage assets such as historic buildings, scheduled monuments, industrial heritage and historic parks, gardens and demesnes. It provides a policy to maintain and enhance the standard of a wide range of community facilities in Northern Ireland including cultural, educational, social, health, built heritage and leisure facilities and the restoration and creation of wildlife habitat.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
<b>Living Places - An Urban Stewardship and Design Guide for NI</b>	2014	NI	Dfi	Aims to establish the key principles behind good place making to inform those involved in the process of managing (stewardship) and making (design) urban places, with a view to raising standards across Northern Ireland. The focus of the guide is urban areas, by which is meant all of our cities, towns, villages and neighbourhoods. It recognises the wider economic, cultural and community benefits of achieving excellence in the stewardship and design of these important places, be they existing or newly proposed.	Principles inform spatial, design and policy measures that can be incorporated in the LDP to maximise contribution to strengthening society, protecting cultural heritage, promoting well-being, enhancing access and creating economic growth.
<b>Planning Policy Statement 6 – Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage (and Addendum ATC)</b>	1999	NI	Dfi	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and features of the built heritage.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.

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<b>Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995</b>	1995	NI	NI Executive	Article 3 of this Order provides for the scheduling of monuments for protection. Monuments are selected for scheduling on the basis of published criteria, which are found in Annex B of Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS 6): Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage (1999).	Scheduled monuments will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
<b>Lurgan Conservation Area Design Guide Booklet</b>	2004	Local	Dfi	The purpose in producing general design guidelines for proposed new building alterations and extensions within Lurgan Conservation Area is to help ensure that such proposals do not detract from the character and special qualities of the area.	Supplementary Planning Guidance
<b>Loughgall Conservation Area Design Guide Booklet</b>	1993	Local	Dfi	The purpose in producing general design guidelines for proposed new building alterations and extensions within Loughgall Conservation Area is to help ensure that such proposals do not detract from the character and special qualities of the area.	Supplementary Planning Guidance
<b>Richhill Conservation Area Design Guide Booklet</b>	1993	Local	Dfi	The purpose in producing general design guidelines for proposed new building alterations and extensions within Richhill Conservation Area is to help ensure that such proposals do not detract from the character and special qualities of the area.	Supplementary Planning Guidance
<b>Armagh Conservation Area Design Guide Booklet</b>	1992	Local	Dfi	The purpose in producing general design guidelines for proposed new building alterations and extensions within Armagh City Conservation Area is to help ensure that such proposals do not detract from the character and special qualities of the area.	Supplementary Planning Guidance
<b>Dromore Conservation Area Design Guide Booklet</b>	1992	Local	Dfi	The purpose in producing general design guidelines for proposed new building alterations and extensions within Dromore Conservation Area is to help ensure that such proposals do not detract from the character and special qualities of the area.	Supplementary Planning Guidance

## APPENDIX 5: SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL GUIDE FOR ARMAGH CITY, BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL PREFERRED OPTIONS PAPER

<p>1. The objective for sustainable development is to improve health and well-being.</p>
<p><b>Rationale</b></p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>Key issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ By 2030 the population of the Borough is projected to have increased from its 2014 level by 15.9% or 32,700 people, almost double the predicted average rate for NI.</li> <li>▪ Population trends indicate an ageing population with potentially a higher number of older dependents e.g. the number of people aged 85 and over is expected to double by around 3,580 individuals by mid-2030.</li> <li>▪ An increase in the proportion of older people in the population will increase the requirement for care. There is a need to meet the future needs for care and support for older people at home or in communal homes and to improve access to health services, other facilities and services.</li> <li>▪ Participation rates in physical activity are lower than the NI average and significantly lower than recommended minimum levels.</li> <li>▪ There is a need to promote and incentivise regular participation in physical activity through provision of and ensuring good accessibility to sports facilities (including water sports facilities), open space, green infrastructure and walking and cycling routes.</li> <li>▪ Less than half of children in NI walk or cycle to school.</li> <li>▪ There is a particular need for children to have accessible play in places where they feel safe.</li> <li>▪ There will be an increasing need to create accessible means for older people to engage in physical activity to prolong their healthy lives.</li> <li>▪ Development should be sited and designed to connect with greenways where possible.</li> <li>▪ Need to protect and enhance biodiversity to promote positive health benefits.</li> <li>▪ Levels of adult obesity in NI and the UK are high by global standards, reflecting poor diet and a relatively sedentary lifestyle.</li> <li>▪ Obesity in children is slightly lower in ACBCBC than the NI average, however over one fifth of P1 children and over one quarter of Year 8 children were overweight or obese in 2010-2012.</li> <li>▪ In ACBCBC many of the indicators for mental health appear to show a lower than average quality of mental health.</li> <li>▪ Noise and environmental quality are not identified as being significant adverse effects at present however they can impact on health and therefore environmental quality should be improved, or sustained where it is good, to minimise adverse health impacts.</li> <li>▪ Road safety for all users should be a key consideration of planning and design.</li> <li>▪ The location of and access to emergency services can impact on response times. Rural areas require accessibility to general practice and non-emergency healthcare services.</li> <li>▪ ACBCBC shows a lower rate of health deprivation and disability compared with the NI average, but there are large inequalities in health and well-being with most measures of health being significantly worse in the most deprived areas.</li> <li>▪ Good spatial planning can reduce health inequalities by providing a high standard of design and place making, open space, capacity for any additional services required and accessibility.</li> </ul>

- Need to plan the relative location of industry and housing, open space and public facilities to minimise use conflicts.
- Major transport infrastructure has the potential to cause noise disturbance, air pollution or safety risks which can be reduced through siting and design.
- There are some communities within the Council area which experience problems of multiple deprivation particularly in parts of Armagh, Banbridge, Lurgan, Portadown and Keady, where income and employment are the key concerns.
- Parts of ACBCBC may have increased probability of the incidence of Radon at actionable levels.

#### Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Improve access to health care</li> <li>b) Reduce response times for the emergency services</li> <li>c) Provide opportunities for and encourage health lifestyles and physical activity for all ages</li> <li>d) Create open space with public access</li> <li>e) Increase social contact and intergenerational contact (including family cohesion)</li> <li>f) Support those providing care</li> <li>g) Provide suitable accommodation for those with long term health problems or disability</li> <li>h) Maintain good air quality</li> <li>i) Avoid or reduce noise impacts that may affect health</li> <li>j) Improve ability to reach schools and workplaces by active travel</li> <li>k) Reduce the risk of traffic accidents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>l) Reduce access to health care</li> <li>m) Increase response times for the emergency services</li> <li>n) Discourage healthy lifestyles and physical activity</li> <li>o) Reduce open space with public access</li> <li>p) Decrease social contact and intergenerational contact</li> <li>q) Lack of support for carers</li> <li>r) Shortage of suitable accommodation for those with long term health problems or disability</li> <li>s) Decrease in air quality</li> <li>t) Increase noise impacts that may affect health</li> <li>u) Make it harder to reach schools and workplaces via active travel</li> <li>v) Increase the risk of traffic accidents</li> </ul>

<b>2. The objective for sustainable development is to strengthen society</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	
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.	
<b>Key issues</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There will be a growing population and the plan will need to meet the need for more dwellings.</li> <li>▪ Some areas have seen substantial growth in recent years, there is a need to ensure that facilities meet the needs of the population.</li> <li>▪ Some areas have seen significant population decline in recent years, there is a need to ensure that this does not have a long term adverse effect on them as places to live or do business.</li> <li>▪ A decline in household size will increase the number of homes required per capita and influence the type of dwellings required.</li> <li>▪ People may be more likely to stay in a home long term if it meets their changing needs and facilities and amenities that they wish to use are as accessible as possible through their lives.</li> <li>▪ A greater proportion of older people will increase the need for suitable housing that is accessible for those who may not drive and enables support to be provided.</li> <li>▪ Levels of deprivation vary widely throughout the council area.</li> <li>▪ Rural communities have relatively good access to urban areas, however some of their populations may not have good proximity to services.</li> <li>▪ There is a commitment and desire to promote social inclusion through shared, welcoming and accessible places.</li> <li>▪ Need to plan for and meet the needs of diverse groups in the council area, this may include allowing for facilities to meet specific needs.</li> <li>▪ Some parts of ACBCBC have populations which predominantly reflect one religion or political opinion.</li> <li>▪ There is a need to provide appropriate shared space and apply place making to make areas inclusive for all backgrounds and income levels.</li> <li>▪ The needs and experience of different parts of ACBCBC society differ and are best expressed by representatives of the range of groups. Some of this may be gained through the Community Planning process and also through being proactive in inviting comment on and participation in plan preparation from all groups.</li> <li>▪ There will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability.</li> <li>▪ The community is not ethnically diverse, but there is a higher than average proportion of people born in an EU country resident in the Council area. The needs of minority groups such as Irish Travellers must be taken into account.</li> <li>▪ There will continue to be a need for childcare facilities, nursery, primary and secondary schools as well as accessibility to community and leisure facilities particularly in the short term.</li> </ul>	
<b>Appraisal Prompts</b>	
<b>Positive Effects</b>	<b>Negative Effects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Promote inclusion of all groups</li> <li>b) Retain, create, or enhance shared space</li> <li>c) Increase accessibility to shared space</li> <li>d) Promote positive social interaction</li> <li>e) Give rural communities appropriate access to facilities and services</li> <li>f) Reduce the factors causing inequalities</li> <li>g) Meet identified needs that will reduce inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>h) Inhibit inclusion of all groups</li> <li>i) Shared space reduced or deteriorates</li> <li>j) Decrease accessibility to shared space</li> <li>k) Decrease positive social interaction</li> <li>l) Rural communities less access to facilities and services</li> <li>m) Exacerbate the factors causing inequalities</li> <li>n) Maintains or increases inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities</li> </ul>

<b>3. The objective for sustainable development is to provide good quality, sustainable housing.</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	
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.	
<b>Key issues</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Between 2001-2011 the rate of population growth overall for the council area was above the Northern Ireland average and particularly high in the legacy councils of Banbridge and Craigavon.</li> <li>▪ The number of households has increased rapidly between 2001-2011 with a trend for smaller household sizes. A decline in household size will increase the number of homes required per capita and influence the type of dwellings required.</li> <li>▪ Overall the proportion of social housing has dropped between 2001-2011, alongside an increase in the proportion of private rented accommodation used.</li> <li>▪ A changing demography has created a high demand within social housing amongst young people, single parents, migrant workers and the elderly.</li> <li>▪ There continues to be a demand across Armagh, Craigavon and Banbridge for social housing provision particularly in Craigavon.</li> <li>▪ The number of people presenting themselves as homeless between 2009/10 and 2013/14 has increased across the council area by 3-5%.</li> <li>▪ There is scope to bring vacant dwellings into use to contribute to the housing stock.</li> <li>▪ As life expectancy of the population rises this will increase the need for suitable housing that is accessible for the elderly and which enables support to be provided.</li> <li>▪ There will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability.</li> <li>▪ There are advantages to providing life time homes that are accessible and adaptable to all and meet wheelchair standards.</li> <li>▪ New housing should be low carbon and reduce the problems of fuel poverty.</li> <li>▪ Affordable housing is required for a variety of housing types and sizes. Despite an overall improvement in affordability in 2012, affordability remains an issue for first time buyers, alongside difficulties in securing mortgages.</li> <li>▪ All new housing should help to support healthy lifestyles.</li> <li>▪ Housing provision should enable social cohesion in families and communities and promote vibrancy of settlements.</li> <li>▪ Rural housing continues to make a contribution to overall housing supply in the council area albeit at a reduced rate since the introduction of PPS 21.</li> </ul>	
<b>Appraisal Prompts</b>	
<b>Positive Effects</b>	<b>Negative Effects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Encourage low carbon homes</li> <li>b) Encourage the building of life-time homes with potential for adaptability, such as wheelchair access</li> <li>c) Encourage affordable housing</li> <li>d) Reduce homelessness</li> <li>e) Meet the needs of specific groups e.g. single people, families, retired people, ethnic minorities, disabled</li> <li>f) Reduce the number of unfit homes</li> <li>g) Provide housing which meets locally identified needs (in terms of type, tenure and size)</li> <li>h) Provide a mix of housing types</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Decrease energy efficiency</li> <li>j) Homes not suited for lifetime use</li> <li>k) Reduced affordable housing</li> <li>l) Increase homelessness</li> <li>m) Does not meet the needs of specific groups e.g. single people, families, retired people, ethnic minorities, disabled</li> <li>n) Does not reduce the number of unfit homes</li> <li>o) Does not meet local need for housing type/quantity</li> <li>p) Does not provide a mix of housing types</li> </ul>

4. The objective for sustainable development is to enable access to high quality education.	
Rationale	
Good education improves opportunities for employment and also contributes to avoidance of poverty and healthier lifestyles. The provision of suitable accommodation for educational establishments in appropriate, accessible locations should play a part in making schools more sustainable and reducing inequalities in education.	
Key issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Although the council area has a high level of educational achievement at all levels this is not consistent between DEAs. ]</li> <li>▪ Between 2012 and 2014 there has been a decrease in higher education enrolments (below the Northern Ireland average level) but an increase in further education enrolments (above the Northern Ireland average level).</li> <li>▪ Within qualifications of the working age population in 2014, ABC has a level below the Northern Ireland average for NVQ level 4 and above, but a higher than NI average for qualifications up to NVQ level 4. The level of no qualifications was the same as Northern Ireland.</li> <li>▪ Sharing facilities has been recognised as a way to promote a more cohesive and tolerant society and make better use of the resources available to education.</li> </ul>	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Improve education level and employability of the population</li> <li>b) Promote access to education</li> <li>c) Promote access to skills training</li> <li>d) Help rural communities access education and skills training</li> <li>e) Improve opportunities for multiple use of facilities</li> <li>f) Help educational establishments to provide modern sustainable accommodation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>g) Does not help improve education level and employability of the population</li> <li>h) Decrease access to education</li> <li>i) Decrease access to skills training</li> <li>j) Makes rural communities access to education and skills training harder</li> <li>k) Under use of public facilities</li> <li>l) Inhibit provision of suitable educational facilities</li> </ul>

5. The objective for sustainable development is to enable sustainable economic growth.

Rationale

Regional policy seeks to develop a strong, competitive and regionally balanced economy. It is necessary to provide suitable locations for employment, with flexibility where necessary, to reflect current and future distribution of jobs across sectors, encourage new business 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.

Key issues

- Identifying and zoning appropriate land is a vital part of creating the conditions to sustain economic development that meets employment needs and supports economic growth.
- Many of the large settlements in the Council are located on key transport corridors. In selecting land for development, it is important to provide sites with quality environments located on transport corridors to attract businesses.
- Need to ensure that the Council area is attractive to investors, and higher skilled people, by supporting the vitality and vibrancy of the wider area and facilitating a high quality local environment through appropriate land use, design and layout. This relates particularly to quality of provision, location, and accessibility of office/manufacturing/retail space.
- Proposed new employment locations should be readily accessible by active travel and/or public transport.
- A higher than average percentage of people in the Council area are economically active.
- The Council area has a high proportion of people employed in the wholesale / retail trade, manufacturing and health sectors.
- Employee salaries are broadly average for NI.
- The business birth rate and survival rate is average for NI, but lower than the rest of the UK. A focus on encouraging and nurturing new business ideas would help the Council increase and sustain economic growth.
- Within the Council area, there is a vibrant rural entrepreneurial spirit within the villages and open countryside. It is important that the Plan provides policy which can facilitate appropriate sustainable rural businesses.
- Within retail, there have been a number of challenges in recent years, however the market is in recovery and is evolving.
- Town centres should be supported by encouraging occupation of vacant buildings.
- The out-of-town retail park (The Outlet) should be supported to increase its unit occupancy and usage in a manner that complements nearby town centres rather than taking business from them.
- ‘Brexit’ and exchange rate fluctuations may disproportionately affect businesses in border areas.
- Almost three quarters of overnight visits to the Council area are to visit friends and relatives. The proportion of overnight visitors staying for holiday/pleasure/leisure is the lowest in NI.
- There are a wealth of heritage and cultural, natural and landscape tourism assets within the Council area with significant future potential.
- Activity tourism has the potential to create important economic benefits, particularly in the rural area.
- Water sport activities, including those based on connections to Lough Neagh, have important tourist potential; Oxford Island and Kinnego Marina were the most popular visitor attractions in the Council area (excluding country parks/parks/forests).

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Support innovation and competitiveness within the local economy b) Ensure sufficient land supply in appropriate locations for economic growth	j) Does not promote innovation and competitiveness within the local economy k) Restricts the supply of land in locations appropriate for economic growth

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c) Support creation of a range of job types that are accessible especially to areas of greatest deprivation</li> <li>d) Support enhancement of the skills base.</li> <li>e) Help make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest</li> <li>f) Make the best use of key location along major road and rail corridors</li> <li>g) Ensure the vitality and vibrancy of city and town centres can be improved</li> <li>h) Increase the number of people coming to the Borough to work</li> <li>i) Create and sustain tourism assets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>l) Does not support creation of a range of job types that are accessible especially to areas of greatest deprivation</li> <li>m) Does not support enhancement of the skills base.</li> <li>n) Does not help make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest</li> <li>o) Does not make use of location along major road and rail corridors</li> <li>p) Vitality and vibrancy of city and town centres may decline.</li> <li>q) Does not increase the number of people coming to the Borough to work</li> <li>r) Does not enhance use of tourism assets.</li> </ul>
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## 6. The objective for sustainable development is to manage material assets sustainably.

### Rationale

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

### Key issues

- Sustainably improve the telecommunications network in areas with slow download speeds and in rural areas to help ensure those residents, communities and businesses are not disadvantaged.
- Adopt a spatial approach to the sustainable planning of our material assets to help ensure energy sources and distribution to users are located as efficiently as possible in relation to one other.
- Work with partners to help sustainably develop gas infrastructure projects.
- Continue to support appropriate sustainable renewable projects and associated infrastructure to help increase the diversity of renewables supplying energy to the grid, to help meet commitments made under the UK Climate Change Act.
- The lack of financial incentives for renewable projects may affect the demand to develop renewables.
- Consider community based renewable projects that can make more efficient use of land and reduce environmental impacts including landscape related issues.
- Consider alternative renewable technologies to wind in areas where wind technology may cause concern for landscape issues.
- Look for sustainable opportunities within the waste management industry that support resource efficiency and align with the Southern West Management Plan (SWaMP).
- Reduce non-recyclable wastes and educate people about alternatives in accordance with the principles of the waste management hierarchy – avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover.
- Ensure equal access to waste management facilities across the Council based upon the proximity principle and use the LDP to enable consideration of derelict/contaminated land for waste management facilities.

### Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Sufficient telecommunications can be provided or are feasible</li> <li>b) Electrical infrastructure is fit for purpose</li> <li>c) Enables renewable energy production/connections</li> <li>d) Supports development of renewables</li> <li>e) Increases reusing/recycling/composting rates</li> <li>f) Makes reusing/recycling/composting easier</li> <li>g) Reduces waste production per household</li> <li>h) Uses/encourages the proximity principle for location of material assets</li> <li>i) Reduces the amount of derelict/contaminated land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>j) Existing telecommunications poor or unlikely to become available</li> <li>k) Adequate electrical infrastructure unavailable or unfeasible</li> <li>l) Infrastructure not fit for purpose</li> <li>m) Halts development of renewables</li> <li>n) Unlikely to improve recycling rates or make recycling easier</li> <li>o) Does not adopt the proximity principle for location of material assets</li> <li>p) Doesn't take advantage of derelict/contaminated land</li> </ul>

7. The objective for sustainable development is to protect physical resources and use sustainably.

Rationale

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

Key issues

- Mineral reserves should be safeguarded from inappropriate development and their future use and accessibility protected.
- Spatial Joint Mineral Plans with other Councils should be a consideration to help Council's and the industry manage as a regional resource.
- Older mineral sites (ROMPs) may be causing undue damage or deterioration to the local environment and could be providing multiple benefits with appropriate restoration as well as adding to local green/blue infrastructure. (tbc if applicable)
- Peat extraction still takes place in the Council but peatlands are also important for a range of ecosystem services provision (i.e. water/carbon stores, habitat for specialist plants/animals) requiring their conservation.
- Promoting the circular economy could reduce the demand for some minerals.
- ACBCBC holds a unique position with regards to potential development of deep geothermal energy in Northern Ireland and the integration of its infrastructure as it is situated between both potential aquifers of Lough Neagh and the Mourne Mountains.
- Shallow geothermal energy could be incorporated in development.
- The potential effects of sub-surface development should be assessed at an early stage to determine feasibility and to avoid any adverse effects.
- ACBCBC needs to consider the future need for cemetery provision in some areas.
- Local development pressure from single turbines, rural dwellings, and in some areas cemetery provision may require local site-specific measures.
- Soil quality should be protected using effective conservation measures.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Earth science features can be protected</li> <li>b) Enables the minerals industry to operate sustainably</li> <li>c) Enables materials to be locally sourced</li> <li>d) Considers minerals across Council boundaries</li> <li>e) Enable future use/benefit of quarries</li> <li>f) Enables potential future use of geothermal energy</li> <li>g) Avoids/minimises loss of greenfield sites</li> <li>h) Retains semi natural land cover/biodiversity</li> <li>i) Avoids soil erosion/pollution</li> <li>j) Potential for sub-surface planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>k) Earth science features unlikely to be protected</li> <li>l) Reduces the ability for minerals industry to operate sustainably</li> <li>m) Considers minerals only within the Council area</li> <li>n) Does not protect potential future use/benefit of quarries</li> <li>o) Inhibits the future use of geothermal energy</li> <li>p) Increases loss of greenfield sites</li> <li>q) Reduces semi natural land cover/biodiversity</li> <li>r) Soil erosion/pollution likely</li> <li>s) Sub-surface planning unlikely due to geology</li> </ul>

8. The objective for sustainable development is to encourage active and sustainable travel.

Rationale

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

Key issues

- The Council has several main transport routes crossing through it that make it an important area for transport connections moving north and south, east and west but there are also a significant amount of smaller routes and unclassified roads that culminate in the Council with the second highest amount of transport routes.
- There is a slightly higher than average number of households with access to two, three, four or more vehicles and a high reliance on the private car/van for transport.
- Traffic congestion is one of the top environmental concerns of people in the Borough.
- Over three quarters of workers in the Council rely on some form of motorised transport to get to work rather than using public transport, walking or cycling.
- Nearly a quarter of all households in the Borough have no access to any vehicle which means a considerable amount of the population is dependent on public transport, car sharing and active travel options.
- A considerable amount of people walk to work rather than use any other mode of transport and this trend could be encouraged by providing appropriate services and walkways/greenways to enable more people to commute this way.
- Less than 1% of commutes to work are by bike so there may be a need to investigate measures (design, connectivity) that could help enable more people to commute by bike.
- The Council benefits from being part of the rail network and is part of the connection between Belfast and Dublin.
- The amount of people who choose to use public transport to commute to work is lower than those that choose to walk and significantly lower than those relying on a car/van so there is a need to investigate measures that could help enable more people to commute by bus or train.
- A considerable amount of people car share and this trend could be encouraged by providing additional park and ride/share facilities at strategic locations to enable more citizens to commute this way and enable much stronger transport connections for rural communities to urban hubs and reduce traffic congestion.
- The Council will need to futureproof itself for an evolving transport system that will be using electric / hybrid vehicles and integrate more sustainable and active travel options.
- Planning active travel links/projects to existing greenways could help reflect strategic plans for a greenway network at the local level and help to encourage citizens to walk or cycle enabling easier access to the outdoors with benefits for health and well-being.
- The primary walking routes and cycling lanes in the hubs of the Council could be improved by adding new links that would increase connectivity and accessibility for citizens to the key locations but also out to the wider countryside and attractions such as the Mournes.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Will help reduce traffic congestion b) Encourage modal shift to active travel and/or public transport c) Improve access to and efficiency of public transport d) Will benefit those without access to a vehicle	f) Unlikely to reduce traffic congestion g) Does not promote modal shift to active travel and/or public transport h) Unlikely to improve access to and efficiency of public transport i) Unlikely to benefit those without access to a vehicle

e) Retain, create, or enhance walking or cycling routes	j) Does not retain, create, or enhance walking or cycling routes
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<b>9. The objective for sustainable development is to improve air quality.</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	
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.	
<b>Key issues</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Four (3 or 4 tbc) Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) for NO2 are located in the main towns and directly linked to road traffic emissions.</li> <li>▪ Key regional transport routes are located within the Council making it a transport hub for residents and visitors across the country and continuously producing air traffic pollution.</li> <li>▪ Road traffic generates 85% of emissions and is the largest contributor to air pollution in the Council.</li> <li>▪ Traffic congestion in Armagh City continues to be an air quality issue.</li> <li>▪ Traffic congestion is one of the top three environmental concerns of residents.</li> <li>▪ Public transport options need to be improved to help reduce reliance on the private car particularly in rural areas but also in the main towns where congestion is frequent.</li> <li>▪ Continued support for renewables in appropriate locations should be encouraged through initiatives like the Council's Renewable Energy Strategy to help reduce air pollutants from fossil fuels.</li> <li>▪ Air quality should be a consideration when planning the location of land uses, particularly when residential areas may be affected or other sensitive receptors.</li> </ul>	
<b>Appraisal Prompts</b>	
<b>Positive Effects</b>	<b>Negative Effects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Will help achieve AQMA objectives</li> <li>b) Likely to improve air quality</li> <li>c) Able to reduce traffic congestion</li> <li>d) Will encourage other modes of transport to the car</li> <li>e) Promotes/supports/enables projects/behaviour that will improve air quality</li> <li>f) Able to avoid/reduce air pollution</li> <li>g) Will avoid increase of ammonia emissions (near to sensitive receptors)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>h) Unlikely to help meet AQMA objectives</li> <li>i) Unlikely to improve air quality</li> <li>j) Unlikely to reduce traffic congestion</li> <li>k) Maintains/increases car use</li> <li>l) Inhibits/stops projects/behaviour that will improve air quality</li> <li>m) Likely to increase air pollution</li> <li>n) Likely to increase ammonia emissions (near to sensitive receptors)</li> </ul>

10. The objective for sustainable development is to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.

Rationale

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

Key issues

- The Council has the ability to mitigate for climate change by looking for opportunities and introducing measures to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the top contributing sectors which includes transport and agriculture, which are both prominent within the Council.
- The LDP could be used to promote measures to reduce GHG emissions from the residential sector be it through new gas infrastructure, additional small-scale producers, community based renewable energy schemes and/or energy efficient new builds.
- There is a need for a spatial approach to the location of appropriate renewable energy projects to help mitigate for climate change and support commitments made under the UK Climate Change Act but this need must be balanced against the environmental impacts and where there is potential to negatively impact on citizens and/or sensitive features.
- Measures including financial support should be investigated to help encourage the uptake of appropriate renewables.
- Measures are needed to ensure the grid is fit-for-purpose and new connections can be facilitated.
- The transport sector in Northern Ireland has experienced increasing levels of GHG emissions and the Council will need to investigate local measures to help reduce these emissions.
- The Council should continue to develop local measures that can help citizens reduce waste production and increase recycling rates across all sectors.
- The LDP should consider adjacent development zonings in the context of predicted flood areas under climate change scenarios and the increased risk of pollution from runoff.
- Ensuring buffer zones and wildlife corridors exist around designated sites and priority habitats will help futureproof for the movement of species and habitats in a changing climate.
- It is important to protect the function of wetlands and peatlands not just for their biodiversity value but as natural carbon and water stores that can help to reduce the impacts of climate change.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Will reduce greenhouse gas emissions b) Likely to reduce energy consumption c) Likely to reduce the need to travel by vehicle d) Increases/supports/promotes/enables renewable energy e) Enables/promotes public transport, walking/cycling. f) Helps reduce consumption/waste production and increases recycling g) Protects designated sites, locally important habitats and/or wildlife corridors h) Protects floodplains i) Protects peatlands j) Incorporates measures to adapt to climate change	k) Likely to increase greenhouse gas emissions l) Unlikely to reduce energy consumption m) Unlikely to reduce vehicle use n) Restricts/inhibits/detracts from renewable energy o) Maintains reliance on vehicles and discourages public transport, walking/cycling. p) Encourages consumption and increases waste levels q) Damages designated sites, habitats and/or wildlife corridors r) Removes/damages/reduces the extent or holding capacity of floodplains s) Removes/damages/reduces the peatlands t) Does not consider adaptation for climate change

11. The objective for sustainable development is to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.

Rationale

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

Key issues

- By comparison to the rest of Northern Ireland surface water quality is generally lower in ACBCBC; a quarter of the waterbodies in the Council area are at 'poor' or 'bad' ecological status.
- Development may lead to contaminated runoff which may increase pollution of waterbodies.
- Developments without access to mains sewers can incorporate sewage treatment on site, but it is important that there is capacity for safe disposal of treated discharges and for maintenance of the treatment system to ensure that it remains effective in the long term.
- Other wastes may also cause pollution at the point where they are disposed of or utilised. Wastes from livestock, food processing or primary treatment such as sewage or anaerobic digesters have the potential to cause pollution elsewhere.
- Lurgan, Portadown and Banbridge are identified as SFRAs and there are four other settlements at moderate risk of flooding.
- Constructed flood alleviation and defence measures are expensive and should, where possible, be avoided and alternative methods of flood risk management considered.
- Climate change will increase the probability and extent of flood risk.
- Development should be planned to avoid areas at significant risk from flooding, now or in the future, or where development may increase the flood risk elsewhere.
- Development may lead to changes in the rate of surface water runoff, or the capacity of a receiving watercourse may be altered which in turn has the potential to increase flood risk.
- There are benefits in retaining and restoring natural flood plains and watercourses as a form of flood alleviation - this can support objectives of the Water Framework Directive.
- A safety issue arises because there are not currently legal requirements relating to impounded water therefore there are considered to be risks in potential inundation zones below reservoirs.
- Sustainable drainage (SuDS) measures should be incorporated and maintained in new development and redevelopment or regeneration schemes.
- Plan proposals should be compatible with the Flood Risk Management Plans published by Rivers Agency in December 2015.
- The high use of untargeted methods to apply herbicides and pesticides has caused pollution in waterbodies.
- There are issues with elevated levels of nutrients entering watercourses and polluting waterbodies.
- Development in general requires a water supply therefore can increase demands for sources, treatment and distribution infrastructure. This can be offset by measures to make more efficient use of water.
- There are capacity issues at a number of WWTWs and unless infrastructure is upgraded development requiring new connections to municipal treatment works will not be possible in certain areas. This may limit or delay potential for development.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Improve the quality of surface and ground water to meet objectives	l) Reduce quality of surface and ground water and fail to meet water quality objectives
b) Lead to more efficient use of water	m) Lead to waste of water
c) Minimise risks from flooding	n) Increase risks from flooding (now or in future)

d) Avoid the need for flood defence	o) Risk creating a need for flood defence
e) Protect or enhance floodplains	p) Reduce the extent or holding capacity of floodplains
f) Maintain water flows for good ecological quality	q) Water flows/temperature not suitable for good ecological quality.
k) Protect aquatic food resources	r) Unsustainable impacts on aquatic food resources

<b>12. The objective for sustainable development is to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	
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.	
<b>Key issues</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Significant areas of Lough Neagh and Portmore Lough are within the Council and are protected under numerous nature conservation designations with varying features of interest.</li> <li>▪ There is a lack of formally designated nature conservation areas through the majority of the Council's interior, the focus of which is over the wetlands of Lough Neagh and its southern fringe and Portmore Lough.</li> <li>▪ Local development pressure from rural housing and renewables is evident in some parts of the Council and in areas that are more sensitive, local level measures may be needed to help avoid environmental impacts.</li> <li>▪ The three main non-governmental nature conservation organisations in Northern Ireland are present in the Council with National Trust sites mostly located in the north west, Ulster Wildlife present south of Armagh and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds located to the north east at Portmore Lough.</li> <li>▪ The vision of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan presents an opportunity for partnership working, community involvement and environmental education to help combat threats to local biodiversity.</li> <li>▪ The Council has a statutory duty to further biodiversity conservation within its functions.</li> <li>▪ The LDP should use opportunities to increase the Council's green/blue infrastructure network by linking existing green and open space together and creating greenways with access whilst also investing in the canal network.</li> <li>▪ The LDP should encourage the sustainable development of land as a multifunctional resource and promote ecosystems services with multiple benefits for stakeholders.</li> </ul>	
<b>Appraisal Prompts</b>	
<b>Positive Effects</b>	<b>Negative Effects</b>
a) Protects and/or enhances Lough Neagh and Portmore Lough	f) Unlikely to protect or enhance Lough Neagh or Portmore Lough
b) Protects and/or enhances designated sites and their buffers	g) Unlikely to protect or enhance designated sites or their buffers
c) Protects and/or enhances local biodiversity	h) Unlikely to protect or enhance local biodiversity
d) Protects/enhances/incorporates green/blue infrastructure (G/BI)	i) Removes/damages/excludes green/blue infrastructure (G/BI)
e) Supports/provides ecosystem services	j) Negatively impacts on ecosystem services

<b>13. The objective for sustainable development is to maintain and enhance landscape character.</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	
International and national policies seek to conserve the natural character and landscape of the coast and countryside and protect them from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development. This objective seeks to maintain the character and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes and to protect and enhance open spaces and the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors.	
<b>Key issues</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Although there is no AONB in the Council there are a wide variety of landscape types across it including 23 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), six Regional Landscape Character Areas (RLCAs) and 101 Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) that make the Council unique in its own right and therefore attractive to investors for housing, recreation and business ventures.</li> <li>▪ There are two potential Areas of Scenic Quality (ASQ) that could, if designated, help add to the protection awarded to landscape in those areas.</li> <li>▪ The Council may need to consider local level landscape studies and in some areas more sensitive to change, further local measures to help avoid negative impacts from development pressures such as rural housing.</li> <li>▪ There is an opportunity to use the LDP process to designate more LLPAs across the Council and particularly in the Dungannon and South Tyrone legacy Council area where there are none.</li> <li>▪ The Mourne Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) borders the Council on its south eastern flank and is an example of where management of landscape issues could particularly benefit from partnership working with other stakeholders.</li> </ul>	
<b>Appraisal Prompts</b>	
<b>Positive Effects</b>	<b>Negative Effects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Continue to protect areas designated for landscape</li> <li>b) Minimise any visual intrusion</li> <li>c) Protect and/or enhance the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors</li> <li>d) Sensitively integrate new development to protect and enhance local distinctiveness</li> <li>e) Able to appropriately consider any impacts on the Mourne AONB and any other neighbouring landscape designations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f) Negatively impact on areas designated for landscape</li> <li>g) Increase any visual intrusion</li> <li>h) Detract from the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors</li> <li>i) Enable new development without considering local distinctiveness</li> <li>j) Unable to consider relevant landscape related management plans in neighbouring jurisdictions</li> </ul>

**14. The objective for sustainable development is to protect, conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage.**

**Rationale**

Built and cultural heritage are resources that inform our history and bring character and sense of place. They also attract visitors and contribute to the economy and bring vibrancy to the places where we live, work and relax. This can be achieved by protecting and enhancing Conservation Areas, townscapes and other sites of historic and cultural value including their setting.

**Key issues**

- The Historic Environment and Cultural Resources play a role in maintaining and enhancing the sense of place in our settlements and rural locations which can be supported by building design recognising historic environment evidence in both urban and rural locations.
- Heritage assets are at risk from neglect, decay, development pressures and vacancy.
- ‘Buildings at Risk’ should continue to be identified and efforts made to maintain their regular use and/or support their restoration.
- The Council area’s rich cultural and heritage assets can contribute to a high quality built environment that helps to create attractive places for living, investing in and visiting.
- The Council area contains centres, villages and towns which each have a unique sense of place, and character. Protecting this sense of place aspect has benefits for people and their pride in their community.
- Protecting built heritage features, and recognising their value extends beyond listing and enforcement. Consideration should be given to the setting of those features, and the scale and context of surrounding buildings.
- The Council area has a rich archaeological heritage, and this could be further explored through identifying new Areas of Archaeological Potential.
- The Navan Fort Complex is of sufficient importance to merit its inclusion on the tentative list for nomination as a World Heritage Site. Development in this area should be managed to support nomination.
- The Council area has a rich industrial heritage through milling, linen and textiles production, its 18th and 19th Century transport engineering and defence heritage associated with World War II.
- Opportunities to link these heritage assets with present-day uses could be explored.
- Appreciating the value of built heritage should also apply to new buildings.
- There is ongoing loss of certain non-designated heritage assets such as historic farmsteads and buildings in the countryside, industrial and defence heritage, and historic shopfronts in some towns and settlements. Non-designated buildings which are of heritage or architectural importance in the context of overall landscape, townscape or heritage value should be recognised for their role in conserving these settings.
- A number of Conservation Areas and Townscape Character Areas may be at risk of flooding both with and without the effects of climate change.
- There may be opportunities to maintain or reflect historic routeways and townland boundaries.
- Traffic pollution, air quality, noise pollution and other problems are affecting the historic environment.

**Appraisal Prompts**

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Protect and conserve built and cultural heritage b) Enhance built and cultural heritage c) Allow ‘sense of place’ to be conserved in townscape and rural settings d) Protect and enhance local distinctiveness e) Allow archaeological features to be assessed, recorded and preserved	j) Loss of built and cultural heritage k) Deterioration of built and cultural heritage l) Lose ‘sense of place’ in townscape and rural settings m) Reduce local distinctiveness n) Archaeological features not assessed, recorded and preserved

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f) Preserve and enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets</li> <li>g) Support access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment</li> <li>h) Enable assessment of impacts of development on complex and extensive archaeological sites adjacent to settlements</li> <li>i) Provide opportunities for cultural activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o) Damage the setting of cultural heritage assets</li> <li>p) Reduce access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment</li> <li>q) Impacts of development on complex and extensive archaeological sites adjacent to settlements not understood</li> <li>r) Decrease opportunities for cultural activities</li> </ul>
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## APPENDIX 6: CONSULTATION BODY COMMENTS ON THE SCOPING REPORT TEMPLATE

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
<b>General Comments</b>	DAERA: NIEA 15/11/2017	<p>We are broadly content with the envisaged layout of the SEA report template.</p> <p>A number of baseline data sources and relevant strategies/reports are detailed in the Local Development Plans, DAERA Environmental Evidence and Information Guidance available at: <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/development-plan-evidence-guide-documents">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/development-plan-evidence-guide-documents</a></p> <p>There is likely to be some overlap between the information required for the SEA assessment and the information that is gathered for technical LDP papers such as Countryside Assessments. However, it should be noted that we have not reviewed technical reports as part of this scoping consultation and there may be additional significant environmental issues affected by new development that should be considered in the environmental report such as cumulative loss of habitat or changes to air quality, both urban and rural.</p> <p>The scope and level of detail of information in the SEA should be proportionate to the content and purpose of the plan. Whilst regional or district based trends and indicators may help to assess certain high level and strategic aspects of the plans more detailed and spatially specific information would be required to assess other elements of the plan in particular any aspects of the plan with a spatial dimension or influence.</p> <p>The Development Plan Practice Note for Sustainability Appraisal incorporating SEA was produced by the former Department of the Environment in 2015. This document is intended to guide users through the key requirements of a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and SEA and deals primarily with procedures as well as good practice. Some of its content may be useful when developing the SEA documents associated with the LDP such as Preferred Options papers.</p> <p><a href="http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/advice/practicenotes/dp_practice_note_4_sa.pdf">http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/advice/practicenotes/dp_practice_note_4_sa.pdf</a></p>	<p>Noted, data referred to in <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/daera-environmental-evidence-guide-may-2017.pdf">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/daera-environmental-evidence-guide-may-2017.pdf</a> has been accessed and, where available, information at council level has been sourced. The need to access more spatially specific information to inform spatial designations is noted and will be considered at Plan strategy.</p>
<b>Natural Resources</b>	DAERA: NIEA 15/11/2017	<p>We are broadly content with the envisaged layout of the SEA report template.</p> <p>We welcome the inclusion of Biodiversity, Green and Blue Infrastructure and Landscape within the scope of the Natural Resources SEA topic. We would expect that this will also include priority habitats and species. There are significant interactions between Biodiversity and the topics Health &amp; Well-being, Physical Resources, Water, Air, Landscape and Climatic Factors.</p> <p>We acknowledge that most of the information required to inform the SEA will have been collected as part of the preparation of technical papers such as the Countryside Assessment.</p> <p><u>Baseline Evidence</u></p> <p>Information sources include: NIEA Natural Heritage Digital datasets which includes protected sites and priority</p>	<p>The interactions between this topic and other objectives has been noted and section 5.12.1 updated. Appendix 7 provides baseline information about European and Ramsar sites. The need to access more spatially specific information (e.g. priority species and non-designated priority habitat) to inform spatial designations is noted and will be considered at Plan strategy</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<p>habitats <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/download-digital-datasets">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/download-digital-datasets</a></p> <p>Northern Ireland State of the Environment Report 2013 <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/state-environment-report-2013">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/state-environment-report-2013</a></p> <p>Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2017 <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-environmentalstatistics-report-2017">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-environmentalstatistics-report-2017</a></p> <p>National Ecosystems Assessment, Chapter 18 on Northern Ireland <a href="http://uknea.unepwcmc.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=m%2BvhAV3c9uk%3D&amp;ta">http://uknea.unepwcmc.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=m%2BvhAV3c9uk%3D&amp;ta</a></p> <p>Priority species records can be obtained from the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR). These can be accessed by contacting CEDaR, National Museums NI, 153 Bangor Road, Cultra, Holywood, BT18 0EU. Website: <a href="http://www.nmni.com/cedar">http://www.nmni.com/cedar</a></p>	
<b>Water Natural Resources Historic Environment</b>	DAERA: NIEA 15/11/2017	<p><u>Marine/Coastal</u></p> <p>When taking any decision which relates to any function capable of affecting (or which might affect) the marine area, which is not an authorisation or enforcement decision, Section 58 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA) and Section 8 of the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, require a public authority to have regard to the appropriate marine policy documents. This means that currently, in the preparation of your Local Development Plan and all of its associated documents, including the Sustainability Appraisal, you, as the Public Authority, are legislatively required to have regard to the UK Marine Policy Statement (UK MPS). Once adopted, you will also have to have regard to the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland (in addition to the UKMPS). Although Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon Council area is land locked, there is the potential to affect the marine area of Northern Ireland, for example, through hydrological systems.</p> <p>Careful attention must therefore be paid to the UK MPS and the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland (once adopted) alongside terrestrial planning documents, such as, the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS).</p> <p>Consideration of the marine aspect is not limited to 'environment' related topic areas. There must also be a wider consideration of the potential impact both on and from the marine, in relation to social and economic SA topic areas. Therefore, you must have regard to the marine area across all SA topic areas in the preparation of your plan and all of its associated documents.</p> <p>Some specific points to consider are noted below:</p> <p>Pg. 10, 3.2 Principles, connected: include the marine area as a neighbouring area.</p> <p>Pg. 13, 3.11 Cumulative Effects: consideration of cumulative effects should include those on the marine area</p> <p>Pg. 14, 4.2 para.3 Preparation: The UK Marine Policy Statement and when, published, the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland, should be included here.</p>	<p>Details of the strategic context referred to have been included in Section 4.3.5 and Appendix 4 and/or Water or Natural Heritage topics where available.</p> <p>Reference to the NI Marine Plan will be updated once it is published.</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<p>Pg. 17, 5.2 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies: The UK Marine Policy Statement and when, published, the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland, should be included here.</p> <p>Pg. 18, 5.3 Strategic Context: The UK Marine Policy Statement and when, published, the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland, should be included here.</p> <p>Pg. 33, Appendix 4: Both the UK MPS and the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland are cross cutting and therefore consideration should be given to marine aspects across all SA topic areas.</p>	
<b>Air Quality</b>	DAERA: NIEA 15/11/2017	<p>We are not sure to what degree air quality has been considered in technical papers accompanying the LDPs. A general list of things that should be considered in the SA/SEA in terms of air quality are:</p> <p>Recent Review and Assessment Reports of Air Quality by the Council which should include a review of recent trends in monitored levels of air pollutants and consider some of the points below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Any Air Quality Action Plans that the Council currently has in place.</li> <li>▪ Any Air Quality Detailed Assessments that the Council has carried out.</li> <li>▪ The presence and location of Air Quality Management Areas.</li> <li>▪ The presence and location of Smoke Control Areas.</li> <li>▪ The consideration of road traffic (current and projected) and the influence that this has/could have on air pollutant levels.</li> </ul> <p>Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance LAQM PG NI(09): <a href="http://www.airqualityni.co.uk/news-and-reports/useful-guidance">http://www.airqualityni.co.uk/news-and-reports/useful-guidance</a></p> <p>Information is available at the website: <a href="http://www.airqualityni.co.uk">www.airqualityni.co.uk</a> which has many of the documents mentioned above, as well as the annual 'Air Pollution in Northern Ireland' report.</p>	<p>A variety of these sources were used in the Air quality topic. AQMAs have been referred to.</p> <p>Transport routes and vehicles, and types of journey made are referred to in the Transport section, which is cross-referenced with the Air Quality section.</p> <p>Transport routes and reliance on car also referred to in Air Quality. The 'Likely Evolution' section of the transport section has been updated to help reflect potential future traffic levels. This aspect is also noted for future plan stages.</p> <p>Transport strategies are in preparation by DfI and will also inform this section.</p>
<b>Noise</b>	DAERA: NIEA 15/11/2017	<p>We note that 'Noise' is one of the 'Health and Well-being' topics. Considerations should include:</p> <p>Noise maps for Northern Ireland that the Department has produced which can be found at <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/noise">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/noise</a></p> <p>Relevant guidance and standards for noise as well as the Noise Policy statement: <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doe/noise-policy-statement-ni.PDF">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doe/noise-policy-statement-ni.PDF</a></p> <p>The presence and location of any Quiet Areas.</p>	<p>Noise mapping data has been sourced and presented in the Health and Well-being section.</p> <p>There are no Quiet Areas in the Borough.</p>
<b>Historic Environment Division (HED)</b>	DAERA: NIEA 15/11/2017	<p><u>Historic Environment</u></p> <p>We note and welcome the inclusion of Historic Environment issues as a heading in your scoping template document and in Strategic Objective 14. The National Monuments and Buildings Record for Northern Ireland contains a great deal of information on the historic environment and Historic Environment Division (HED) encourage local authorities to utilize this resource in LDP preparation. We would highlight the following GIS spatial data evidence bases which are critical for use in your scoping exercise.</p>	<p>Noted, the section on Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage has been expanded to reflect this input. Information is summarised however it is not considered proportionate to include very detailed information at this strategic stage of plan preparation. It will inform</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<p>The attached link <a href="https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/historic-environment-digital-datasets">https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/historic-environment-digital-datasets</a> makes available spatial evidence on a wide variety of historic environment assets, including Scheduled and State Care monuments, which are afforded statutory protection under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 and Listed Buildings, afforded protection under Article 42 of the Planning Order 1991. Further datasets are available on the Sites and Monuments Record, Industrial Heritage, Historic Parks Gardens and Demesnes, Battlesites, Defence Heritage, ASAs and AAPs. Please ensure to recheck our datasets to download up to date versions as they are subject to change as new sites are designated or recognised.</p> <p>GIS spatial datasets on the marine historic environment, can be requested from Rory McNeary, <a href="mailto:rory.mcneary@daera-ni.gov.uk">rory.mcneary@daera-ni.gov.uk</a></p> <p>The Gazetteer of Nucleated Historic Settlements. Information on request from HED. This is the result of a programme of work undertaken by HED to identify historic settlement centres and from these in some cases, areas of archaeological potential, identifying new ones and potentially modifying others. While the zones are in draft it will nonetheless be a useful tool going forward in the LDP process. We will in due course supply some text in relation to each zone identified and the history of the settlement. This draft map <a href="https://dfcgis.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=ec66f1afc1254c68bf301283d89fe426">https://dfcgis.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=ec66f1afc1254c68bf301283d89fe426</a> also allows you to view ASAs in and draft candidate ASAs in your borough.</p> <p>Historic Ordnance Survey Mapping. We would also highlight the many other sites of heritage interest in your district which are not/are not yet listed in our records. These include historic boundaries such as townland and parish boundaries and some later historic cemeteries. The evidence used in populating your scoping report should cross reference to assessments and LDP documentation which your council area has already prepared (E.g. countryside assessment). The report should identify key characteristics of the historic environment and also demonstrate consideration, understanding and awareness of international conventions, as well as local legislation and policies which provide protection for the historic environment in Northern Ireland. A document of particular worth in the preparation of your LDP would be the published "<i>An Archaeological Survey of County Armagh</i>".</p> <p>HED highlight the importance of recognizing the relationship of the historic environment to other headings including health and well-being, education and economic growth (e.g. tourism), and sustainable use of physical resources. In relation to the compatibility matrix in Appendix 3 of your report we comment that Provision of good quality housing has an uncertain relationship and is not always compatible with the historic environment</p>	<p>spatial considerations at a later stage.</p> <p>Appendix 3 is updated to reflect the comment that provision of good quality housing has an uncertain relationship and is not always compatible with the historic environment objectives.</p> <p>Information on marine and submerged archaeology has been sourced from DAERA, but no records relevant to this Council area are present.</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<p>objectives. –For example new housing can sometimes lead to dereliction of historic stock, or large schemes might adversely impact on previously unrecorded archaeological remains. In relation to Appendix 2 we highlight that historic environment and landscape are intertwined as each have influenced the evolution of the other</p> <p>We further point out the very large number of strategic heritage assets in your area. Highlights include the historic towns of Armagh, Banbridge and Dromore, the many State Care and scheduled monuments, which include Navan Fort and associated sites, the Danes Cast and the Newry Canal. Several of the settlement patterns in your district have their origins in the medieval period and the town of Armagh merits specific consideration as a settlement where complex and extensive below ground archaeological remains as well as historic fabric incorporated into later structures, are known to exist. HED have also identified a candidate ASAI around the earthworks at Lisnagade and Lisnavaragh.</p> <p>We stress the opportunity that the local development plan presents to realise the potential of the historic environment in your district, for economic, social and health and environmental benefits.</p> <p>HED maintain an independent role in relation to the drafting of LDPs and emphasise the importance of authorities being able to demonstrate how they have utilized the evidence on the historic environment in characterizing their landscape, and in considering zonings for development and forms of mitigation such as appropriate designation or key site requirements.</p>	
<b>Water Quality</b>	DAERA: NIEA 15/11/2017	<p>We are not sure to what degree water quality is considered in technical papers accompanying the LDPs. It is key that the Local Development Plan takes the statutory River Basin Management Plans into consideration and the achievement of the objectives therein. As a public body, the council has a duty to have regard to –</p> <p>(a) the River Basin Management Plan for that district; and</p> <p>(b) any supplementary plan published under regulation 16 in exercising their duties.</p> <p>River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD), taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile. Revised River Basin Management plans were published in December 2015.</p> <p>Updated information on the water quality classifications of surface waters and groundwater in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council area should be obtained from <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/water">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/water</a></p> <p>As part of the River Basin Planning process, a Programme of Measures has been established to detail the improvements required to meet ‘Good’ status, the actions required and the delivery mechanisms. The programme of</p>	<p>Noted, information on water quality specific to the Council was obtained from NIEA and incorporated in the Water section.</p> <p>Flooding has been addressed under the water and climatic factors topics and was fully considered in appraisal.</p> <p>The RBMPs and FRMPs were reviewed and information incorporated into the scoping at a proportionate scale for this stage of the Plan process. SES will retain the main reference to flooding within the Water chapter, with the agreement of DfI Rivers Agency.</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<p>measures aims to address the key pressures by concentrating efforts on those pressures that pose the greatest threat to the water environment. From pressure assessments conducted we have identified two significant sources of pressure preventing water bodies from achieving good status. These are diffuse pressures from agricultural sources and point source pressures from WWTWs and industrial discharges. Other pressures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ diffuse and point source pollution – pollution arising from a number of other sources including forestry, sediment, urban catchments, quarries &amp; mines, waste &amp; contaminated land and chemicals;</li> <li>▪ water quantity and flow – taking too much water from rivers, lakes and groundwater which causes problems for wildlife, reduces the amount of water available for people to use and affects the environmental ecology;</li> <li>▪ the physical condition of the water environment – man made changes to the natural habitat of rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters, for example flood defences and weirs, and changes to the natural river channels for land drainage and navigation. These modifications alter natural flows, may cause excessive build-up of sediment, increase erosion, reduce the quality of habitats and may also present a barrier to fish movement;</li> <li>▪ invasive alien species – the negative effects on the health of the water environment and native plants and animals from those species originating outside Northern Ireland and introduced to the Northern Ireland water environment; and</li> <li>▪ other pressures – factors that affect fish populations and habitat not captured above.</li> </ul> <p>The Programme of Measures have been brigaded under topics and each of the documents are available from the DAERA web-site, under the following Programme of Measures topic headings: Agriculture; Sewage &amp; Industry; Forestry; Sediment; Urban Catchment; Quarries &amp; Mines including Oil &amp; Gas exploration; Waste &amp; Contaminated land; Chemicals; Abstraction &amp; Flow Regulation; Morphology; Invasive Alien Species; and Fisheries.</p> <p>The SA/SEA should be proportionate in assessing these measures against the likely impact of Local Development Plan documents. A full list of the measures has been included as an Annex to this letter, for ease of future reference.</p> <p><u>Waste Water Treatment Provision</u></p> <p>A technical paper for the LDP (or the SA/SEA) should identify all the waste water treatment works (WWTW's) and sewerage networks in your Council area and assess them against their current capacity, and environmental performance, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ their predicated capacity during the lifetime of the Local Development Plan. This information should be aligned with Northern Ireland Waters infrastructure</li> </ul>	

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<p>investment strategy set out in their price Control processes and the Long Term Water Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sustainable Water – A Long Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland</li> <li>▪ PC15 (NIW’s draft expenditure plan 2015-2021).</li> </ul> <p>This information should be used proportionately in the different stages of the LDP SA/SEA process.</p> <p>At some stage in the process suitable mitigation measures may be required to ensure the zoning of land and the timing of the release of that land for development is aligned with the availability of suitable waste water treatment infrastructure to service the developments to ensure there is adequate protection for the water environment.</p> <p>Please contact the SEA Team at <a href="mailto:seateam@daera-ni.gov.uk">seateam@daera-ni.gov.uk</a> should you have any queries or require clarification.</p>	

## APPENDIX 7: HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT BASELINE REPORT

### Introduction

The requirement for Habitats Regulations Assessment is introduced in section 1.7.1. Habitats Regulations Assessment is an iterative process carried out in parallel with Local Development Plan (LDP) preparation and will be updated in line with knowledge of potential plan effects and any changes relating to European sites. This report provides a long list of sites for which effects of the plan will be reviewed. These will be considered in the context of how they are connected with the LDP area and potential effects of the LDP on its own and in combination with other plans and projects.

This screening takes a precautionary approach. There will be no conceivable effect on many of the long listed sites, for example on those that are over 10km away and have no ecological or infrastructure connection, therefore a number of these sites will be excluded from further consideration at the next stage of assessment. It must be emphasised that only some of the potential impacts may arise. Measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate for impacts will be incorporated in the plan where necessary and feasible or proposals amended to avoid adverse effects on site integrity.

The policies and spatial zonings proposed within the plan will be assessed to determine whether any of the potential impacts could materialise as a result of the plan. This will consider the source of potential impacts, any pathways to European sites and whether the impact could have a likely significant effect on site selection features, their conservation objectives and site integrity along with any avoidance and mitigation measures identified in the course of assessment and plan preparation. The evidence in Table A.7.1 and further evidence available at each stage of assessment will be taken into account.

**Table A.7.1: Evidence to inform baseline data and further Habitats Regulations Assessment**

<b>JNCC Standard Data Forms</b>	JNCC Standard Data Forms <sup>1</sup> generated from the Natura 2000 Database submitted to the European Commission on 22/12/2015.
<b>NIEA Conservation Objectives</b>	The most recent NIEA Conservation Objectives for each site found on DAERA website <sup>2</sup> .
<b>Banbridge / Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 HRA</b>	Habitats Regulations Assessment on the Banbridge / Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2013 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Spatial Data Local Government</b>	Spatial NI Data Layers for Local Government boundaries 13/3/2018
<b>Spatial Data European and Ramsar sites</b>	NIEA Data Layers for designated and proposed European and Ramsar sites 13/3/2018

<sup>1</sup> <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=4>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/biodiversity-land-and-landscapes/protected-areas>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/development\\_plans/devplans\\_az/bnm2015\\_habitats\\_regulations\\_assessment\\_report.pdf](https://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/development_plans/devplans_az/bnm2015_habitats_regulations_assessment_report.pdf)

## Overview

This is a summary of the long list of sites to be considered, how they are connected to the LDP area and potential issues. The sites listed are those for which there is a potential pathway allowing a connection with the plan area. In total 18 sites are listed, 8 Special Conservation Areas (SACs), 1 candidate SAC, 3 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and 1 proposed SPA, 2 Ramsar sites, 1 proposed Ramsar site and 1 SAC and SPA in the Republic of Ireland. Sites within 15km of the LDP area (Figure A.7.1) have also been considered and any distances listed are to the nearest 0.5km. The sites are listed in Table A.7.2 and locations relative to the plan area are shown in Figures A.7.1 – A.7.4. All Maps: Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland - © Crown Copyright and Database Right. Definitions of each type of connection follow.

### *Within or Adjacent*

This means all or part of the European or Ramsar Site is within or directly adjacent to the plan area. There are four designated sites within or directly adjacent to the Council area. Two wetland and peatland sites, Montiagh's Moss and Peatlands Park Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are found north of the M1. Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA encompasses the whole of the Loughs, Portmore Lough and a fringe of shoreline. For the most part the Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Ramsar boundary is similar to the SPA boundary however in our council area it extends further south with the M1 forming its boundary.

### *Ecological*

This applies where the European or Ramsar Site is ecologically connected to the plan area. Ecological connections include linkages by ecological corridors such as river systems; hydrological links between the LDP area and peatland or wetland sites; known areas of land in the LDP area which are regularly used by birds which also use a SPA; and sites that form part of the freshwater ecosystem to which the LDP area is connected. All the sites that are partly or wholly in the council area are ecologically connected. There may be non-designated areas which support species from designated sites in or beyond the council area and this includes whooper swan flight paths along the River Bann. These are also considered to have an ecological connection. There are some more distant sites which are downstream of our council, for example part of the River Lagan catchment is in our area and it flows in to Belfast Lough which is subject to several current designations and is proposed to be part of an East Coast (Marine) SPA.

### *Within 15km*

This indicates European or Ramsar sites which are within 15km of the LDP area. This brings a further seven sites into consideration. Most, such as Murlough SAC and Rostrevor Wood, have no hydrological connection or are upstream of the council area therefore it is unlikely that any effects will be possible. There are two sites on the Republic of Ireland which are also within 15 km and are therefore considered in this long list of sites.

### *By Infrastructure*

These sites are ones where the European or Ramsar Site is connected by infrastructure with the plan area. Infrastructure connectivity is related to the potential linkage of sites to the LDP area by infrastructure services such as water abstraction or waste water discharges. There are eight NIW water supply zones in the Borough which are supplied with water from four sources: Lough Neagh (Castor Bay), Fofanny & Spelga Dams, Clay Lake and Seagahan Dam with four associated Water Treatment Works. The Eastern Mourne and Lough Neagh are therefore also linked to the plan area by infrastructure. The connection between water supply and European sites will be examined in the Habitats Regulations Assessment at Plan Strategy.

Waste water treatment works (WwTW) may discharge to or upstream of designated sites and could have impacts if there was insufficient capacity for treatment. At October 2017 there were 110 settlements in the Borough served by 'large' WwTWs. Of these, 59 settlements have capacity available and new connections permitted. Twenty settlements have limited capacity and restrictions are in place on new connections. Eighteen settlements have no capacity and new connections are refused. No data is available for 13 settlements. In the absence of any works being undertaken to increase capacity the number of settlements with 'Reasonable Capacity' will reduce significantly. Therefore there are

potentially significant constraints on growth and careful consideration also needs to be given to housing not serviced by WwTW. This will be assessed in the Habitats Regulations Assessment at Plan Strategy.

**Table A.7.2: Potential pathways between Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and European Sites for effects**

European Site Name	Connection with plan area				Potential Pathways <i>(Summary of features)</i>
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	Within 15 km	By Infra-structure	
Montiaghs Moss SAC	●	●			<i>Marsh fritillary butterfly</i> Within council area and potential for direct impacts and hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.
Peatlands Park SAC	●	●			<i>Raised bog, woodland</i> Within council area and potential for direct impacts and hydrological or aerial pathways for effects. The site is also a visitor attraction and used for recreation therefore further development could lead to habitat damage.
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA	●	●	●	●	<i>A number of wintering and breeding bird species.</i> Partly within council area, ecological and hydrological connection and water source. There are areas outside the SPA which are used by whooper swans, a site selection feature. Impacts causing disturbance, a significant deterioration of water quality, major increase in demand for water or disturbance to species within the site or supporting habitat should be considered.
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Ramsar Site	●	●	●	●	<i>A number of wintering and breeding bird species, wetlands, rare invertebrates, plants and pollan (fish).</i> Partly within council area, ecological and hydrological connection and water source. There are areas outside the

European Site Name	Connection with plan area				Potential Pathways <i>(Summary of features)</i>
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	Within 15 km	By Infra-structure	
					SPA which are used by whooper swans, a site selection feature. Impacts causing disturbance, a significant deterioration of water quality, major increase in demand for water or disturbance to species within the site or supporting habitat should be considered.
Belfast Lough Ramsar		●			<i>Waders</i>  Part of River Lagan catchment is within council area. Nearest point 45 km from LDP area and there is a hydrological connection. Impacts causing a major deterioration of water quality.
Belfast Lough SPA		●			<i>Waders and seabirds</i>  Part of River Lagan catchment is within council area. Nearest point 45 km from LDP area and there is a hydrological connection. Impacts causing a major deterioration of water quality.
Belfast Lough Open Water SPA		●			<i>Great crested grebe</i>  Part of River Lagan catchment is within council area. Nearest point 45 km downstream of LDP area and there is a hydrological connection. Impacts causing a major deterioration of water quality.
East Coast Marine proposed SPA		●			<i>Sea birds</i>  Part of River Lagan catchment is within council area. Nearest point 45 km downstream of LDP area and there is a hydrological

European Site Name	Connection with plan area				Potential Pathways <i>(Summary of features)</i>
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	Within 15 km	By Infra-structure	
					connection. Impacts causing a major deterioration of water quality.
North Channel cSAC		●			<i>Harbour porpoise</i>  Part of River Lagan catchment is within council area. Nearest point 63 km downstream of LDP area and there is a hydrological connection. Impacts causing a major deterioration of water quality.
Carlingford Shore SAC (ROI)		●	●		<i>Shoreline habitats</i>  Nearest point 14.5 km, part of the catchment of the Newry River is in the council area therefore there is a hydrological connection.
Rea's Wood and Farr's Bay SAC		●	●	●	<i>Alluvial forests</i>  Connected through Lough Neagh, 14.5 km from nearest shoreline in council area. Hydrological and ecological connection and water source. Major increase in demand for water should be considered.
Eastern Mournes SAC			●	●	<i>Heaths, active blanket bog</i>  Nearest point 5.0 km, part of the site drains into the council area however upstream and no pathway for effects. Is a water source. Major increase in demand for water should be considered.
Derryleckagh SAC			●		<i>Transition mire and quaking bog, oak woods</i>  Nearest point 9.5 km, no direct hydrological connection.

European Site Name	Connection with plan area				Potential Pathways <i>(Summary of features)</i>
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	Within 15 km	By Infra-structure	
Derryleckagh proposed Ramsar Site			●		<i>Not published, assumed to be same as for SAC.</i> Nearest point 9.5 km, no direct hydrological connection.
Murlough SAC			●		<i>Dunes and marsh fritillary butterfly</i> Nearest point 11.0 km, no hydrological connection.
Slieve Gullion SAC			●		<i>Dry heath</i> Nearest point 9.0 km, part of the site drains into the council area however upstream and no pathway for effects.
Rostrevor Wood SAC			●		<i>Oak woods</i> Nearest point 14.0 km, no hydrological connection.
Slieve Beagh SPA (ROI)			●		<i>Hen harrier</i> Nearest point 13.0 km, no hydrological connection, part of the site drains into the council area however upstream and no pathway for effects. The selection feature of hen harrier ranges beyond the SPA so it has an ecological connection with a wider area.

Figure A.7.1: SACs in or within 15km of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

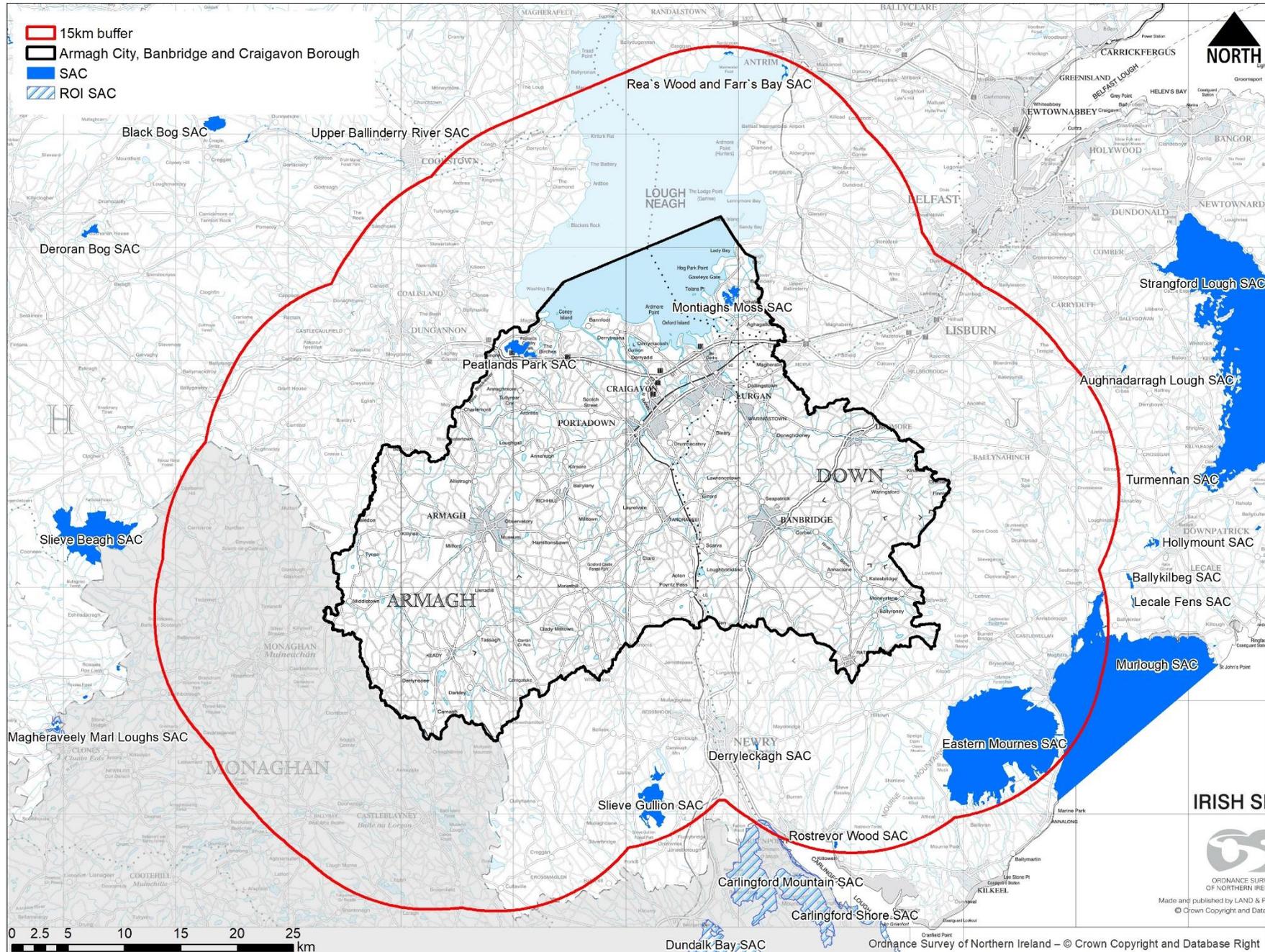


Figure A.7.2: SPAs in or within 15km of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

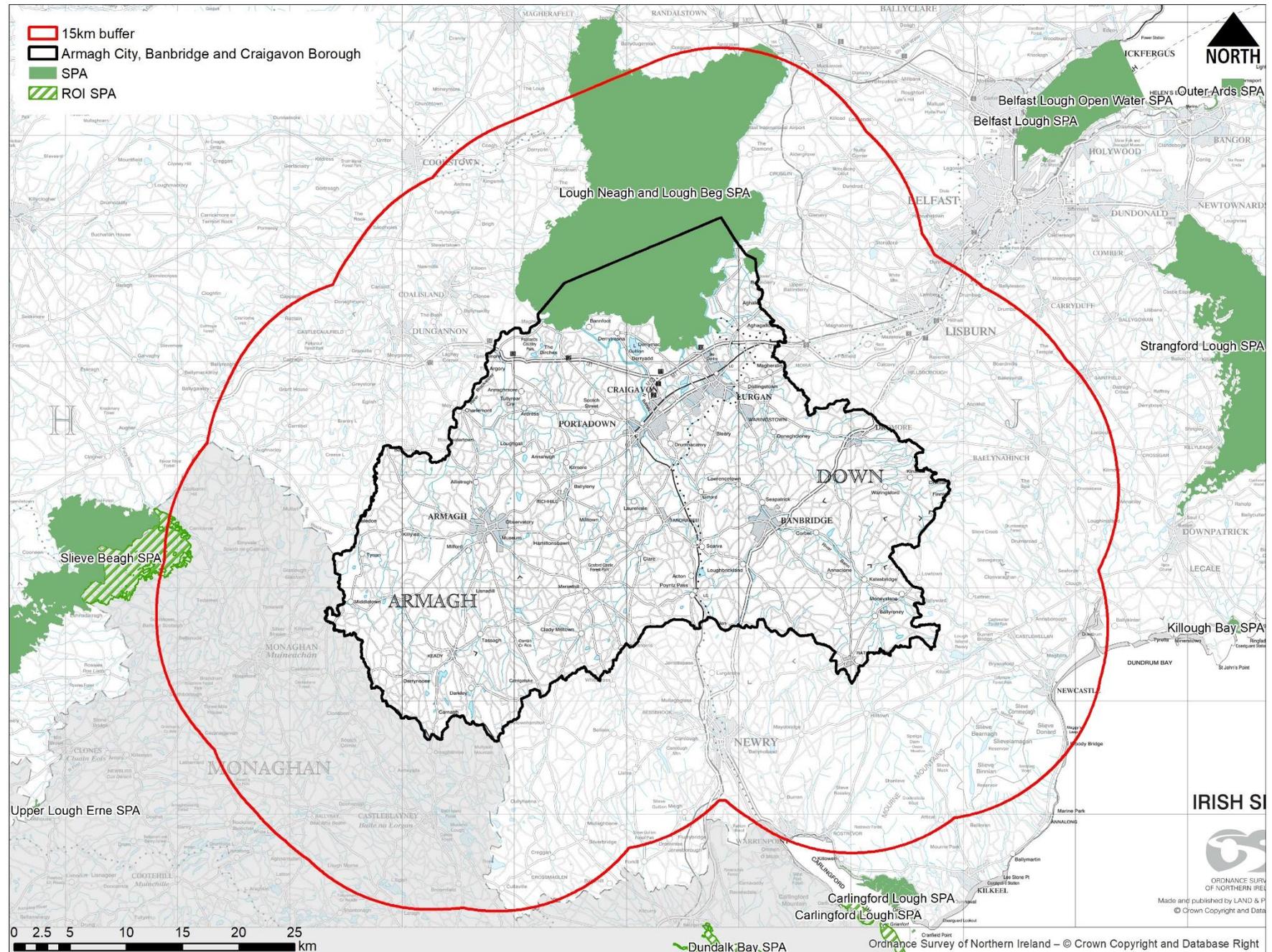
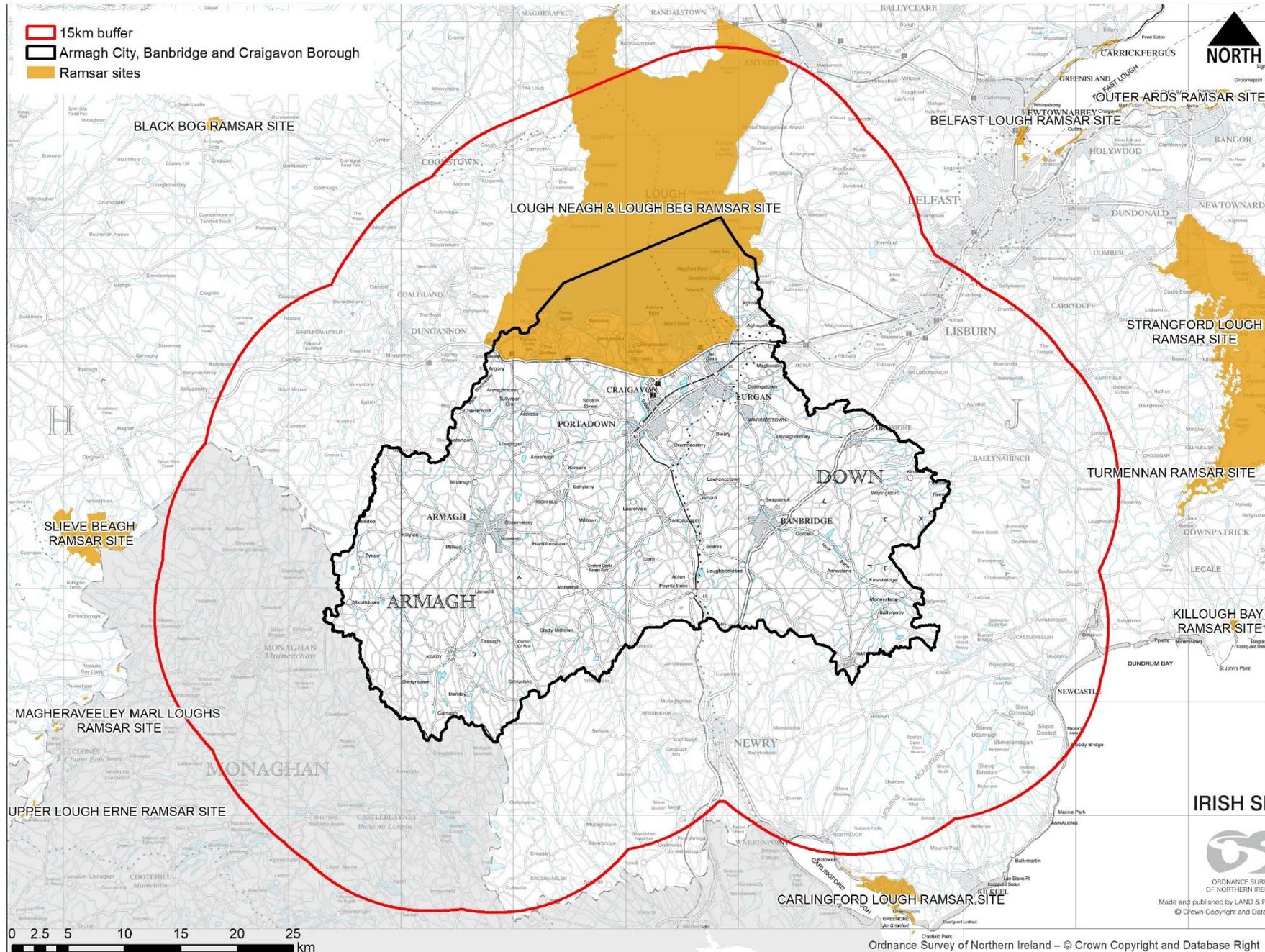


Figure A.7.3: Ramsar sites in or within 15km of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council





## Overall Potential Impacts

More detailed description follows in Table A.7.3 of potential development impacts that could arise as a result of the LDP. As more details of impacts that may arise through LDP delivery emerge these will be assessed in relation to European sites and their features. Note that this is a full list and some of the effects listed may not apply to the selection features of sites connected with the plan area.

**Table A.7.3: Potential development impacts to be assessed in relation to European sites**

Potential Impacts	Activities arising from the implementation of LDP
<b>Loss, fragmentation, damage of habitats and / or species:</b>	Construction activities associated with LDP could lead to the loss, fragmentation (or obstruction of movement) or damage of habitats and / or species through:
	Direct land take and / or land clearance and the use of machinery/materials.
	Direct and indirect impacts resulting from the construction and operation of built development and required infrastructure.
	Impacts caused during repair and maintenance activities for built development and required infrastructure.
	Direct impacts associated with mineral development in the plan area.
	Removal, fragmentation or physical changes to important connectivity features could create barrier effects to species, alter habitat availability or ecological functioning or result in changes in breeding, roosting, commuting and foraging behaviour.
<b>Disturbance: physical, noise, lighting</b>	Noise or activity during construction and operational activities could have adverse impacts on sensitive species (marine mammals and birds in particular).
	Increased lighting from construction or additional built development could: create barrier effects to species; result in changes in species breeding, roosting, commuting and foraging behaviour; or increase predation.
<b>Biological Disturbance: invasive species, human disturbance</b>	Sensitive habitats and species may experience adverse impacts from the introduction of invasive species, non-native, competitive or predatory species through construction activities and associated machinery, movement of soils and waste or from garden escapes.
	Increased human activity (including recreation; increase in pet ownership; increased incidence in fires) close to sensitive habitats and species may cause disturbance that could impact negatively on these features and lead to displacement of sensitive species from certain locations.
<b>Contamination of land</b>	Waste arising from the operation of developments associated with LDP could cause contamination of land which could have a direct detrimental impact on sensitive habitats or species or indirect impacts if subsequent emissions to water occur.

Potential Impacts	Activities arising from the implementation of LDP
Emissions by air	The construction and operation of developments associated with LDP (in particular industrial developments) have the potential to generate chemical and dust emissions and could make a contribution to acid rain or nutrient deposition resulting in significant adverse impacts to animals and sensitive habitats for example they could cause localised smothering of vegetation or potential health issues in animals e.g. birds.
	Increased traffic generation could lead to increased air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions which could have localized impacts on sensitive habitats or species.
Emissions by water and changes to hydrology	There is potential for an increased transport of chemical contaminants reaching the aquatic environment during the construction and operation of development associated with the LDP. This could range from transportation of fuels to cleaning or waste water treatment materials and associated drainage and discharges into watercourses. Changes to water quality can have harmful effects on fish, invertebrates, and vegetation, e.g. as a result of lowered oxygen levels.
	Surface run off and sediment release from construction works and operational activities associated with LDP can increase sediment deposition and turbidity within aquatic systems. This can adversely impact on associated wildlife by causing shading effects that can inhibit plant and algal growth and smother organisms thereby limiting productivity and survival.
	Water abstraction from streams or lakes required for construction and operation of developments associated with LDP could have physical impacts on water levels, fish species at intakes, affect populations of fish or alter the configuration or availability of breeding gravels.
	Construction and operation of development associated with BDLP could alter the hydrology of sensitive habitats and species by either increasing or decreasing runoff or water percolation into aquifers.
	Increased demands on waste water treatment works or for septic tanks could lead to increased nutrient enrichment of waterbodies which could change water quality and increase eutrophication. This in turn could have a harmful effect on the ecological functioning of these systems.



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