Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Local Development Plan: Draft Plan Strategy

Sustainability Appraisal Report

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

Final report
Prepared by LUC
May 2026

Version	Status	Prepared	Checked	Approved	Date
1	Draft Report	H Ennis A Ahmed L Haddad R Myerscough M Andrew	S Underwood	S Underwood	28.04.2026
2	Final Report	H Ennis A Ahmed L Haddad R Myerscough M Andrew	S Underwood	S Underwood	18.05.2026

EMS566057 FS566056 OHS627041

Land Use Consultants Limited
Registered in England. Registered number 2549296. Registered office: 250 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8RD. Printed on 100% recycled paper

Contents

Chapter 1 1
Introduction

The Local Plan area 1
Draft Plan Strategy 3
Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment 11
Meeting the requirements of the SEA Regulations 13
Structure of the SA Report 16

Chapter 2 18
Methodology

Stage A (1): Scoping 20
SA Stage A (2): SA Interim Report 22
SA Stage B/C: SA Report 24
SA Stage D: Consultation on the Plan Strategy and the SA Report 24
SA Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the Plan Strategy 24
Appraisal methodology 25
Difficulties and data limitations 26

Chapter 3 28
Sustainability Context

Relationship with other relevant plans or programmes 28
Sustainable development 29
International policy 30
National plans, policies and programmes 31
Sub-national plans, policies and programmes 32
Surrounding development plans 32
Baseline information 33
Key sustainability issues 34
The SA framework 50

Chapter 4 59
SA of the Preferred Options Paper

SA Objective 1: Improve health and wellbeing 59
SA Objective 2: Strengthen society 60
SA Objective 3: Provide good quality sustainable housing 62
SA Objective 4: Enable access to high quality education 63
SA Objective 5: Enable sustainable economic growth 63
SA Objective 6: Manage material assets sustainably 65
SA Objective 7: Protect physical resources and use sustainably 66
SA Objective 8: Encourage active and sustainable travel 67
SA Objective 9: Improve air quality 68
SA Objective 10: Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change 69
SA Objective 11: Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably 71
SA Objective 12: Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity 72
SA Objective 13: Maintain and enhance landscape character 74
SA Objective 14: Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage 75

Chapter 5 **77**
SA of the Draft Plan Strategy

Strategic Policies 77
Spatial Growth Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy 79
General Policies for All Development 82
Design and Placemaking 87
Housing 92
Retailing and Town Centres 111
Tourism 115
Minerals Development 121
Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation 129
Community and Cultural 136
Economic Development 138
Telecommunications, Utilities and Infrastructure 148
Transportation 150
Historic Environment 156
Natural Heritage 166
Flood Risk and Drainage 172
Renewable and Low Carbon Energy 177
Waste Management 178
Environmental Protection 184
Other Specialised Areas 186
Mitigation and enhancement 187
Cumulative, Secondary and Synergistic effects 191

Duration of effects 210

Chapter 6 **212**
Monitoring

Chapter 7 **217**
Conclusions

Next steps 217

Appendix A **218**
Consultation Comments

Appendix B **236**
Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

Appendix C **349**
Baseline Information

Appendix D **442**
Policy Recommendations

Appendix E **452**
SA Findings of the Preferred Options

References **474**

Chapter 1
Introduction

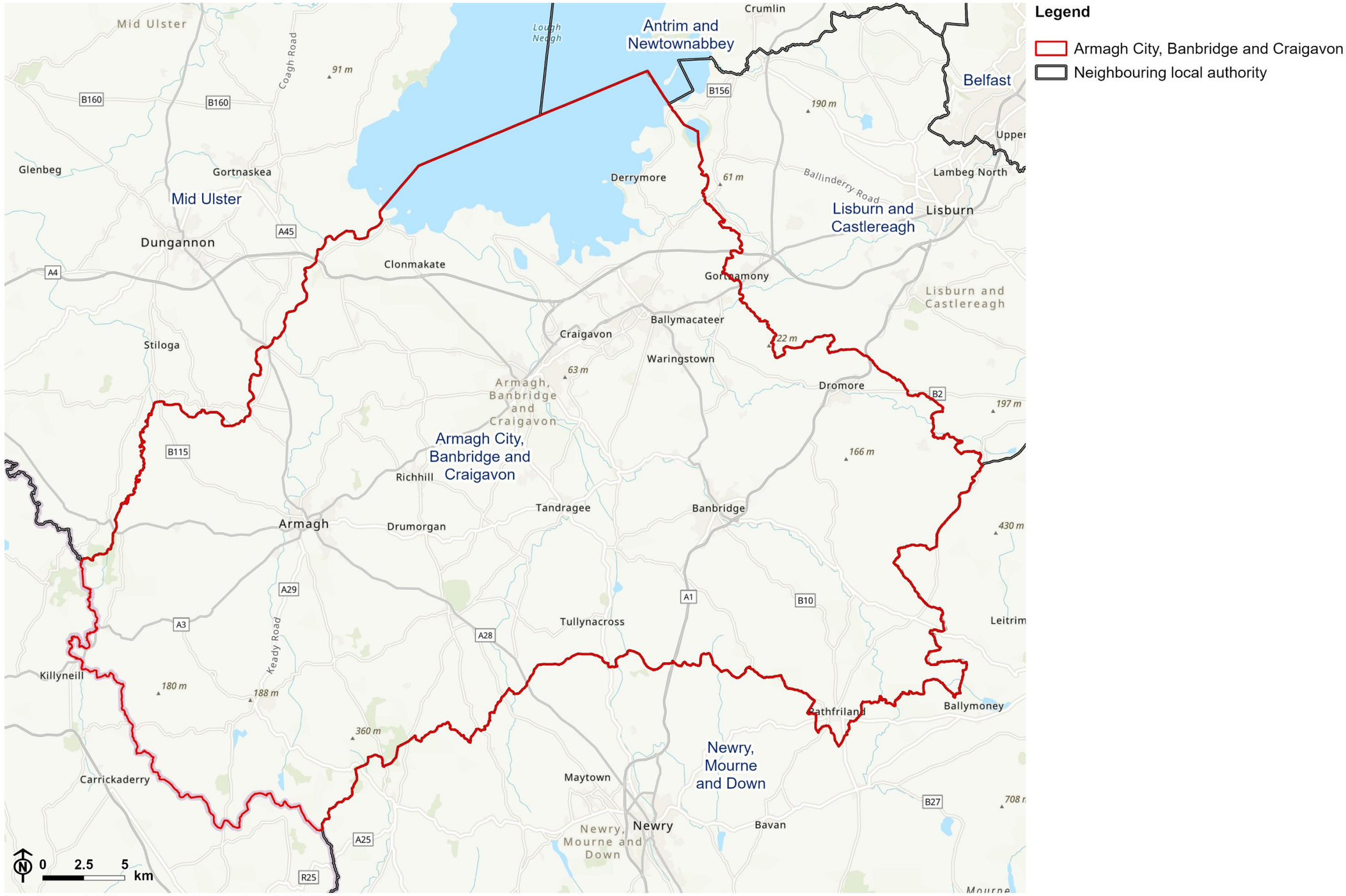
1.1 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council commissioned LUC in March 2026 to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the draft Plan Strategy as part of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Local Development Plan. The Plan Strategy will set the planning framework for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough up to 2035 and will set out policies to address housing needs and other economic, social and environmental issues. Once adopted, the Council will begin working on the Local Policies Plan. Both the draft Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan form the Local Development Plan. The Local Development Plan will replace the current Armagh Area Plan 2004 & Alteration No. 1; Armagh Countryside Proposals 2004; Craigavon Area Plan 2010; Craigavon Town Centre Boundaries and Retail Designation Plan 2010; Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015; and, the Dungannon and South Tyrone Area Plan 2010. This SA report relates to the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Draft Plan Strategy (2026) and it should be read in conjunction with that document.

The Local Plan area

1.2 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough lies in the south-east of Northern Ireland (see Figure 1.1), sharing a boundary with the Republic of Ireland, and covers an area of approximately 554 square miles.

1.3 The population of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at the time of the 2021 Census was 218,656 accounting for 11.48% of the Northern Ireland total population. The population of the Borough is expected to grow to 241,823 in 2035 which is a projected population increase of 23,167 (10.6 %). The Borough is one of 11 local authorities in Northern Ireland. The major settlements within the Borough are Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon. The rest of the Borough is made up of rural settlements and large areas of countryside.

Figure 1.1: Location of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough



Created by LUC - Figure 1.1: Location 01/05/2026

ONS licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2026. Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Draft Plan Strategy

1.4 The following documents currently make up the Local Development Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Local Development Plan:

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

1.5 The new Local Development Plan is being prepared within the context of the Council's Corporate Plan and takes full account of the Council's Community Plan, ensuring a positive and coordinated approach to shaping the future of the area. It also reflects the wider regional policy framework set by the Northern Ireland Executive and Central Government, including the Sustainable Development Strategy, the Regional Development Strategy and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement.

1.6 As part of the plan-making process, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council undertook consultation on the Preferred Options between March and May 2018 to seek views on potential growth and strategy options as well as policy options within Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. The Preferred Options Paper contained the vision, spatial growth strategy options and policy options under the social, economy and environmental themes. The vision for the Draft Plan Strategy is:

> Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough will be a place of choice to live, work and visit, with a vibrant and sustainable economy, healthy and connected communities and a high quality natural and historic environment.

1.7 As part of the plan-making process, the Council are also preparing a number of evidence base documents to support the Local Development Plan. These include an economic development survey; landscape; and open space study.

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

1.9 The outcomes of the Preferred Options have fed into the preparation of the Draft Plan Strategy. The Draft Plan Strategy sets out objectives which will support the delivery of the overarching Vision for the Borough. There are also 130 policies which are structured as follows:

Strategic Policies

- SP 1: Furthering Sustainable Development and Climate Change Resilience
- SP 2: Positive Design and Placemaking

Spatial Growth Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy

- SGS 1: Spatial Growth Strategy
- SGS 2: Settlement Hierarchy

Housing Strategy

- SGS 3: Strategic Housing Allocation
- SGS 4: Management of Housing Supply

Economic Development Strategy

- SGS 5: Strategic Economic Development Lands Allocation

Retail Strategy

- SGS 6: Retail Strategy

Tourism Strategy

- SGS 7: Tourism Strategy

Transport Strategy

- SGS 8: Transport Strategy

Open Space Strategy

- SGS 9: Open Space Strategy

Countryside Strategy

- SGS 10: Sustainable Development in the Countryside
- SGS 11: Strategic Landscape Policy Areas

Heritage Strategy

- SGS 12: Heritage Strategy

Policies

General Policies for All Development

- GP 1 Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change
- GP 2 Infrastructure Requirements for Development
- GP 3 Public Safety and Human Health
- GP 4 Amenity

Design and Place-Making

- DES 1 Design Quality
- DES 2 Rural Design and Character in the Countryside
- DES 3 Trees and Hedgerows
- DES 4 Shopfront Design
- DES 5 Advertisements

Social Theme

Housing

- HOU 1 Protecting Zoned Housing Land
- HOU 2 Protected Housing Areas in City and Town Centres
- HOU 3 Design Concept Statements, Concept Master Plans and Comprehensive Planning

- HOU 4 Quality in Residential Development
- HOU 5 Residential Mix
- HOU 6 Affordable Housing in Settlements
- HOU 7 Conversion or Change of Use of Existing Buildings to Flats or Apartments
- HOU 8 Houses in Multiple Occupation
- HOU 9 Specialist Residential Accommodation
- HOU 10 Travellers Accommodation
- HOU 11 Householder Development
- HOU 12 New Dwellings in an Existing Cluster
- HOU 13 Replacement Dwellings
- HOU14 Infill and Ribbon Development
- HOU 15 Dwellings on a Farm
- HOU 16 Dwellings for Non-Agricultural Business Enterprises
- HOU 17 Personal and Domestic Circumstances
- HOU 18 Affordable Housing in the Countryside
- HOU 19 Residential Caravans and Mobile Homes

Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

- OSR 1 Protection and Provision of Open Space
- OSR 2 Public Open Space in new Residential Development
- OSR 3 Outdoor Recreation in the Countryside
- OSR 4 Intensive Sports Facilities
- OSR 5 Noise Generating Sports and Outdoor Recreational Facilities
- OSR 6 Development of Facilities ancillary to Water Sports
- OSR 7 The Floodlighting of Sports and Outdoor Recreational Facilities
- OSR 8 Green and Blue Infrastructure

Community and Cultural

- CCF 1 Community and Cultural Facilities

Economic Theme

Economic Development

- ECN 1 Economic Development in the Countryside
- ECN 2 Expansion of an Established Economic Development Use in the Countryside
- ECN 3 Redevelopment of an Established Economic Development Use in the Countryside
- ECN 4 Major Economic Development in the Countryside
- ECN 5 Small Scale Economic Development Projects
- ECN 6 Farm Diversification
- ECN 7 Agricultural and Forestry Development
- ECN 8 Economic Development in Settlements
- ECN 9 Retention of Zoned Lands and Economic Development Uses
- ECN 10 Development incompatible with Economic Development Uses

Retailing and Town Centres

- RTC 1 Retailing and Other Main Town Centre Uses
- RTC 2 District Centres
- RTC 3 Local Centres
- RTC 4 Villages and Small Settlements
- RTC 5 Retailing in the Countryside
- RTC 6 Roadside Service Facilities

Tourism

- TOU 1 Tourism Development in Settlements

- TOU 2 Tourist Amenities in the Countryside
- TOU 3 Hotels, Guest Houses and Tourist Hostels in the Countryside
- TOU 4 Major Tourism Development in the Countryside- Exceptional Circumstances
- TOU 5 Self Catering Accommodation in the Countryside
- TOU 6 New and Extended Holiday Parks in the Countryside
- TOU 7 Safeguarding Tourism Assets

Minerals Development

- MIN 1 Minerals Development
- MIN 2 Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development
- MIN 3 Minerals Safeguarding
- MIN 4 High Value Minerals
- MIN 5 Hydrocarbon Development
- MIN 6 Peat Extraction
- MIN 7 Restoration and Aftercare of Minerals Sites
- MIN 8 Development at Risk associated with Past Underground Mineral Extraction

Telecommunications, Utilities and Infrastructure

- TUI 1 Telecommunications Development
- TUI 2 Infrastructure, Utilities and Overhead Lines

Transportation

- TRAN 1 Accessible Environments
- TRAN 2 Access to Public Roads
- TRAN 3 Access to Protected Routes
- TRAN 4 Safeguarding New Transport Schemes
- TRAN 5 Protection of Disused Transport Routes

- TRAN 6 Transport Assessment
- TRAN 7 Parking and Servicing Arrangements
- TRAN 8 Active Travel including Walking and Cycling
- TRAN 9 Provision of Car Parks

Environmental Theme

Historic Environment

- HE 1 The Preservation of Archaeological Remains of Regional Importance and their Settings
- HE 2 The Protection of Archaeological Remains of Local Importance and their Settings
- HE 3 Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation
- HE 4 Archaeological Mitigation
- HE 5 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes of Special Historic Interest
- HE 6 Listed Buildings- Change of Use and/or Extension or Alteration of a Listed Building
- HE 7 Demolition of a Listed Building
- HE 8 Development Affecting the Setting of a Listed Building
- HE 9 New Development in a Conservation Area
- HE 10 Demolition in a Conservation Area
- HE 11 Demolition in Areas of Townscape or Village Character
- HE 12 New Development in Areas of Townscape or Village Character
- HE 13 Enabling Development
- HE 14 Conversion and Re-Use of Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Natural Heritage

- NH 1 Protection of European and Ramsar Sites (International)
- NH 2 Species Protected by Law

- NH 3 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (National)
- NH 4 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (Local)
- NH 5 Habitats, Species, Biodiversity or Features of Natural Heritage Importance
- NH 6 Local Landscape Polic Areas
- NH 7 Landscape Wedges
- NH 8 Area(s) of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Flood Risk and Drainage

- FRD 1 Development in Fluvial (River) Flood Plains
- FRD 2 Protection of Flood Defence and Drainage Infrastructure
- FRD 3 Development and Surface Water (Pluvial) Flood Risk outside Flood Plains
- FRD 4 Artificial Modification of Watercourses
- FRD 5 Development in Proximity to Controlled Reservoirs

Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

- RLED 1 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development

Waste Management

- WMT 1 Environmental Impact of a Waste Management Facility
- WMT 2 Waste Collection and Treatment Facilities
- WMT 3 Waste Disposal
- WMT 4 Land Improvement
- WMT 5 Development in the vicinity of Waste Management Facilities

Environmental Protection

- EP 1 Environmental Pollution
- EP 2 Land Contamination

Other Specialised Areas

- DC1 Developer Contributions

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.10 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) focuses on the environmental effects of a plan. SEA is a systematic process for evaluating the environmental consequences of proposed plans or programmes, to ensure environmental issues are fully integrated and addressed at the earliest stage of plan preparation and decision making. Introduced to the UK through EU Directive 2001/42/EC8, SEA was transposed into Northern Ireland law by the 'Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (NI) 2004 (EAPP) **[See reference** 1**]**, and is referred to as the 'SEA Directive'.

1.11 SA is wider in scope, and is a tool for appraising the social, economic and environmental effects of a plan, with the view of promoting sustainable development. It is a statutory requirement under Sections 8(6) and 9(7) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

1.12 The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct, although it is possible to satisfy both using a single appraisal process, whereby users can comply with the requirements of the SEA Regulations through a single integrated SA process – this is the process that is being undertaken in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. From here on, the term 'SA' should therefore be taken to mean 'SA incorporating the requirements of the SEA Regulations'.

1.13 The Northern Ireland Development Plan Practice Note 04 (DPPN) provides councils with direct guidance on the SA process, and the preparation and production of SA reports **[See reference** 2**]**.

1.14 The SA process comprises a number of stages, as shown below.

- Stage A(1) SA Scoping Report
  - Identify other relevant policies, plans, programmes & sustainability objectives
  - Identify existing environmental issues and challenges
  - Establishing the SA Framework
  - Consultation

- Stage A(2) SA Interim Report
  - Assessment of preferred options and reasonable alternatives
  - Consultation alongside Preferred Options Paper and SA Scoping Report
- Stage B Assessment
  - Test the LDP objectives against the SA Framework
  - Assessment of reasonable alternatives
  - Assessment of likely evolution without the LDP
  - Evaluate likely significant effects of the draft plan and alternatives
  - Mitigation measures for addressing adverse / beneficial effects
- Stage C SA Report
  - Documents appraisal process, findings, including SEA Directive requirements
- Stage D Consultation on the SA Report & Draft Plan Strategy
  - Consult public, environmental authorities and any affected EU member state
- Stage E SA Statement
  - Identify how the SA & consultations have been taken into account
  - Reasons for choosing the plan as adopted
  - Proposed monitoring measures
- Stage F Monitoring
  - Establish arrangements to monitor significant effects of plan implementation
  - Identify unforeseen adverse effects
  - Undertake appropriate remedial action

Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.15 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) 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 polices in the Local Development Plan, this is also carried out for Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance designated under the provisions of the Ramsar Convention).

1.16 The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

1.17 A draft HRA will be published for consultation with the Draft Plan Strategy and an updated version will be prepared for the Draft Local Policies Plan. A final HRA will be published when each of these plans are adopted.

Equality Impact Assessment

1.18 Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, Equality of Opportunity, places a statutory requirement on councils to promote equality of opportunity **[See reference 3]**. This applies to persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation. The council must also recognise and consider the need to promote good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group. The Council are required to ensure that the Local Development Plan is prepared in accordance with the Section 75 statutory obligations.

Rural Needs Assessment

1.19 The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 requires the council to consider rural needs when preparing and implementing policies, plans or programmes. Rural proofing is the process where any major policy and strategy is assessed to determine whether it will have an impact on rural areas, and where appropriate, adjustments should be made in the Local Development Plan to take account of particular rural circumstances. The Council are required to inform the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) on how this duty has been fulfilled on an annual basis. Rural proofing has been incorporated within the SA to ensure rural areas are properly considered as part of the Local Development Plan preparation, in line with the DAERA guidance note, ‘Thinking Rural – a Guide to Rural Proofing’. A Rural Needs Impact Assessment is also published alongside the draft Plan Strategy.

Meeting the requirements of the SEA Regulations

1.20 The relevant sections of this SA Report that are considered to meet the SEA Regulations requirements are signposted below to show how the requirements of the SEA Regulations have been met throughout the SA process.

Environmental report

1.21 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 report shall identify, describe, and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of the following (requirements are shown in green shaded text, and where each requirement is met is provided in bullets below):

An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.

- Covered in Chapter 1 and Appendix B.

The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.

- Covered in Chapter 3 and Appendix C.

The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.

- Covered in Chapter 3 and Appendix C.

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 a European site (within the meaning of regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017).

- Covered in Chapter 1, Chapter 3 and Appendix C.
- A Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Draft Plan Strategy will be published alongside this SA Report.

The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national 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.

- Covered in Chapter 1, Chapter 3 and Appendix B.

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

- (a) biodiversity;
- (b) population;
- (c) human health;
- (d) fauna;
- (e) flora;
- (f) soil;
- (g) water;
- (h) air;
- (i) climatic factors;
- (j) material assets;
- (k) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;
- (l) landscape; and
- (m) the interrelationship between the issues referred to in sub paragraphs (a) to (l).

- Covered in Chapter 4 and Chapter 5.

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.

- Covered in Chapter4 and Chapter 5.

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.

- Covered in Chapter 2 and Chapter 4.

A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17.

- Covered in Chapter 6.

A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.

- A separate non-technical summary document has been prepared to accompany this report.

Structure of the SA Report

1.22 This chapter describes the background to the preparation of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Local Development Plan and the requirement to undertake SA. The remainder of this SA Report is structured into the following sections:

- Chapter 2 describes the approach that is being taken to the SA of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Plan Strategy.
- Chapter 3 describes the relationship between the Plan Strategy and other relevant plans, policies and programmes; summarises the environmental, social and economic characteristics of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and identifies the key sustainability issues facing the Borough.
- Chapter 4: presents a summary of the SA findings for the issues and options detailed in the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report (March 2018).
- Chapter 5 presents the SA findings for the policies that have been considered for the Draft Plan Strategy including the cumulative effects.
- Chapter 6 presents suggested indicators for monitoring the potential sustainability effects of the Draft Plan Strategy.
- Chapter 7 summarises the conclusions of the SA of the Draft Plan Strategy and describes the next steps to be undertaken.

1.23 The report is supported by Appendices:

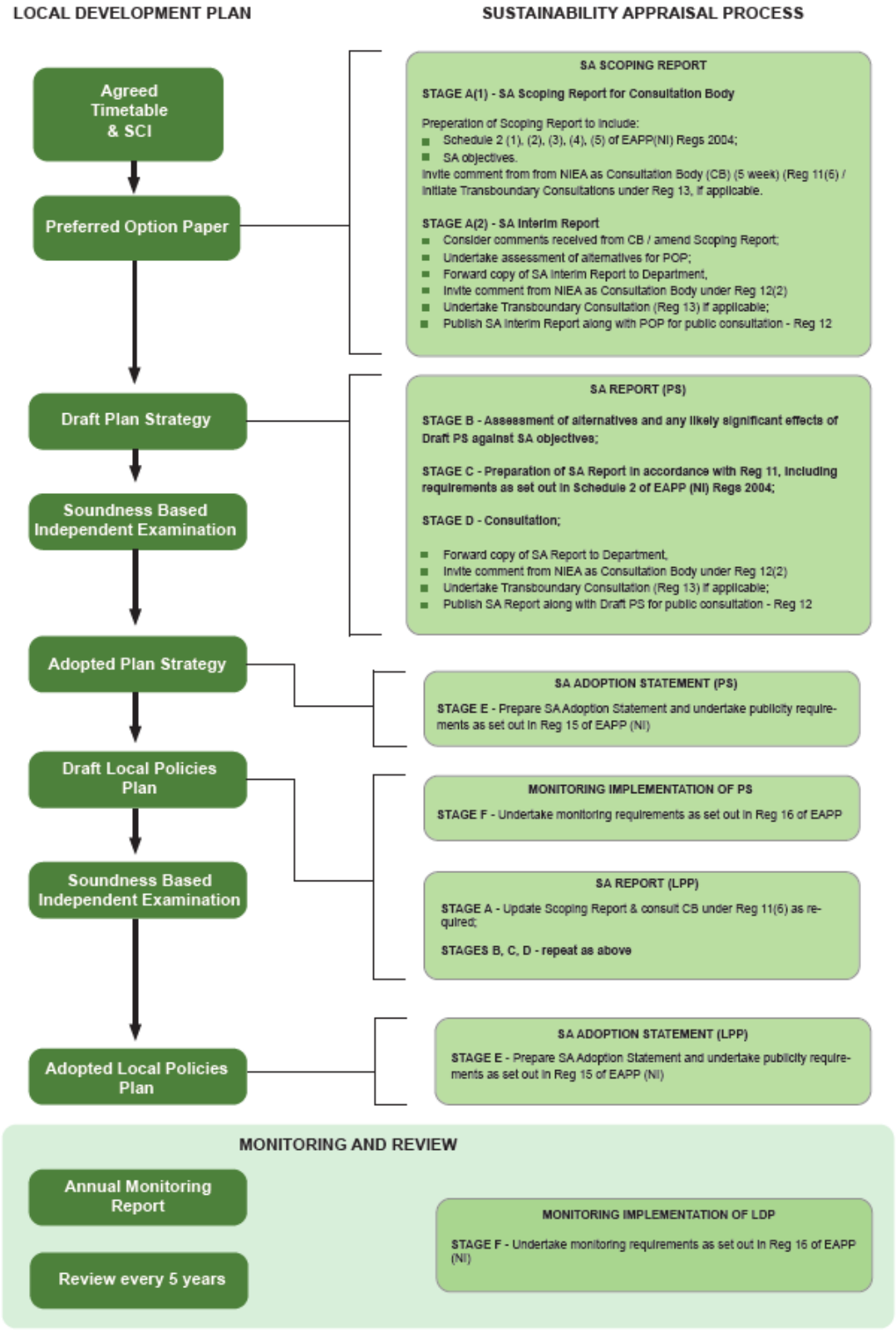
- Appendix A presents a summary of the consultation comments received in relation to the SA Scoping Report and a response to each.
- Appendix B presents a review of international, national and local plans, policies and programmes of relevance to the SA.

- Appendix C presents the baseline information for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough
- Appendix D presents the policy recommendations made to the Council.
- Appendix E presents the findings of the preferred options detailed in the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report (March 2018).

Chapter 2
Methodology

2.1 In addition to complying with legal requirements, the approach being taken to the SA of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Plan Strategy is based on current good practice and the guidance on SA/SEA set out in the Northern Ireland Development Plan Practice Note 04 (DPPN). This is illustrated in Figure 2.1 overleaf.

Figure 2.1: Corresponding stages in plan-making and SA



2.2 The sections below describe the approach that has been taken to the SA of the Plan Strategy to date and provide information on the subsequent stages of the process.

Stage A (1): Scoping

2.3 The Scoping stage of SA involves understanding the environmental, social and economic baseline for the plan area as well as the sustainability policy context and key sustainability issues and using these to inform the appraisal framework as follows. A Scoping Report for the new Plan Strategy was prepared by Shared Environmental Service in conjunction with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and consulted between March and May 2018. The Scoping Report was updated in February 2026 to take account of consultation responses received at this time. A further consultation on the Scoping Report was undertaken in February 2026 and was subsequently updated in March 2026 to take account of consultation responses received.

Review other relevant plans, policies and programmes to establish the policy context

2.4 A Plan Strategy is not prepared in isolation; rather it is prepared within the context of other plans, policies and programmes. The SEA Regulations require the environmental report to describe the relationship of the plan with other relevant plans and programmes. It should also be consistent with environmental protection legislation and support the attainment of sustainability objectives that have been established at the international, national and regional/sub-regional levels.

2.5 A review was therefore undertaken of other plans, policies and programmes at the international, national, regional and sub-regional levels that were considered to be relevant to the scope of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Local Development Plan.

2.6 The policy review has since been updated as part of an update to the Scoping Report in February 2026 and is presented in Appendix B.

Collect baseline information to establish sustainability context

2.7 Information on existing environmental, social and economic conditions in the plan area provides the baseline against which the plan's effects can be assessed in the SA and monitored during the plan's implementation.

2.8 Baseline information can also be combined with an understanding of drivers of change that are likely to persist regardless of the plan to understand the likely future sustainability conditions in the absence of the plan.

2.9 The SEA Regulations require the environmental report to describe relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and how they are likely to evolve without the plan.

2.10 The SEA Regulations require an assessment of effects in relation to the following 'SEA topics': biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage), landscape and the inter-relationship between these. Baseline information was therefore collected in relation to the SEA topics as well as additional sustainability topics covering broader socio-economic issues such as housing, access to services, crime and safety, education and employment. This reflects the integrated approach that is being taken to the SA and SEA processes. As part of the preparation of this SA Report, the baseline information for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough which was originally presented in the SA Scoping Report has been reviewed and updated. The updated baseline information for the borough is presented in Appendix C.

Identify key sustainability issues

2.11 The baseline information also allows the identification of existing sustainability issues, including problems as required by the SEA Regulations.

2.12 Key sustainability issues facing Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough were identified in the Scoping Report and are presented in Chapter 3 along with an analysis of their likely evolution without the Local Plan.

Develop the SA framework

2.13 Development of an SA framework is not a requirement of the SEA Regulations but is a recognised way in which the likely sustainability effects of a plan can be transparently and consistently described, analysed and compared. The SA framework comprises a series of sustainability objectives and supporting criteria that are used to guide the appraisal of the policies and proposals within a plan.

2.14 The SA framework that was used for the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report has been subject to some minor amendments but remains largely the same. These changes are outlined below.

- Reference to geological features was included in SA Objective 7: Physical resources.

2.15 The current SA framework for the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Plan Strategy is presented in Chapter 3.

Consult on the scope and level of detail of the SA

2.16 Public and stakeholder participation is an important element of the SA and wider plan-making processes. It helps to ensure that the SA Report is robust and has due regard for all appropriate information that will support the plan in making a contribution to sustainable development.

2.17 The SEA Regulations require the statutory consultation body (Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)) to be consulted "when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included" in the SA Report. The scope and level of detail of the SA is governed by the SA framework. The consultation undertaken on the Scoping Report has therefore incorporated consultation with the statutory consultee on the SA framework. This consultation on the SA Scoping Report was undertaken in between March and May 2018 and February 2026.

2.18 Appendix A lists the comments that were received on the scope of the SA during this period of consultation and describes how each one was addressed in the final SA Scoping Report. In light of the comments received, a number of amendments were made to the review of plans, policies and programmes, the baseline information, key sustainability issues and their likely evolution without the Plan Strategy. These amendments were reflected in the final SA Scoping Report and have been carried through into this current SA Report, which accompanies consultation on the Draft Plan Strategy.

SA Stage A (2): SA Interim Report

2.19 Developing options for a plan is an iterative process, usually involving a number of consultations with the public and stakeholders. Consultation responses and the SA can help to identify where there may be other 'reasonable alternatives' to the options being considered for a plan.

2.20 Section H of Annex 1 of the 2001 SEA Directive requires that:

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

2.21 The SEA Regulations require that the alternative policies considered for inclusion in a plan that must be subject to SA are 'reasonable', therefore alternatives that are not reasonable do not need to be subject to appraisal. Examples of unreasonable alternatives could include policy options that do not meet the objectives of the plan or national policy (e.g. the Strategic Planning Policy Statement) that are unavailable or undeliverable.

2.22 The SA findings are not the only factors taken into account when determining a preferred option to take forward in a plan. Indeed, there will often be an equal number of positive and negative effects identified by the SA for each option, such that it is not possible to rank them based on sustainability performance in order to select a preferred option. Factors such as public opinion, deliverability, other pieces of evidence and conformity with national policy will also be taken into account by plan-makers when selecting preferred options for their plan.

2.23 The consideration of reasonable alternatives has been a key focus of attention within the SA process. This section provides an overview of how policy and site options have been identified by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, which ones are reasonable alternatives and therefore have been subject to SA, and how this appraisal work has fed into the development of the Draft Plan Strategy.

Spatial options

2.24 The Council published their Preferred Options Paper in March 2018. The Preferred Options Paper set out the Key Issues of strategic significance deemed to affect the Borough, along with the preferred options to address them. The Key Issues emerged from the Councils evidence base, engagement with Elected Members and formal and informal consultation with Statutory Consultation Bodies. A total of 38 key issues (3 Key Issues for Spatial Growth Strategies, 7 Social Key Issues, 18 Economic and 10 Environmental) were identified. Each key issues was appraised through the SA. A summary of the Preferred Options is contained within Chapter 4 with the full appraisal results contained within Appendix E.

SA Stage B/C: SA Report

2.25 This SA Report describes the process that has been undertaken to date in carrying out the SA of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Plan Strategy. The Draft Plan Strategy that is the subject of this SA Report contains a number of strategic policies and operational policies.

2.26 Likely significant effects, both positive and negative, have been presented, taking into account the likely secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term and permanent and temporary effects where possible.

2.27 The SA findings are set out in Chapter 5 of this SA Report along with recommendations for mitigating potential negative effects and maximising the potential benefits of the Plan Strategy. Initial recommendations were made prior to the appraisal of the policies. Any recommendations taken forward and subsequent policy amendments were appraised as part of the SA appraisal of policies. Following the policy appraisal, further recommendations were made in relation to the policies.

SA Stage D: Consultation on the Plan Strategy and the SA Report

2.28 Appendix A presents the consultation comments received in relation to the SA Scoping Report produced in March 2018 (updated in February 2026 post-consultation).

2.29 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council is inviting comments on the Plan Strategy and this accompanying SA Report. These documents are being published on the Council's website for consultation.

SA Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the Plan Strategy

2.30 Chapter 6 contains draft recommendations for monitoring the likely significant environmental, social and economic effects of implementing the Plan Strategy, which will be updated as appropriate at the next stage of the SA.

Appraisal methodology

2.31 The contents of the Draft Plan Strategy have been appraised against the SA objectives in the SA framework (see Chapter 3), with symbols being attributed to each option to indicate their likely effects on each SA objective as shown in Table 2.1. Where a potential positive or negative effect is uncertain, a question mark was added to the relevant symbol (e.g. +? or -?) and the symbol was colour coded in line with the potential positive, negligible or negative effect (e.g. green, white, yellow, etc.).

2.32 The likely effects of options need to be determined and their significance assessed, which inevitably requires a series of judgments to be made. The appraisal has attempted to differentiate between the most significant effects and other more minor effects through the use of the symbols shown in Table 2.1. The dividing line in making a decision about the significance of an effect is often quite small. Where either (++) or (--) has been used to distinguish significant effects from more minor effects (+ or -) this is because the effect of an option or policy on the SA objective in question is considered to be of such magnitude that it will have a noticeable and measurable effect taking into account other factors that may influence the achievement of that objective.

Table 2.1: Key to symbols and colour coding used in the SA of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Draft Plan Strategy

Symbol and colour code	Description
++	Significant positive effect likely
+	Minor positive effect likely
0	Negligible effect likely
-	Minor negative effect likely
--	Significant negative effect likely
++/-	Mixed significant positive and minor negative effects likely
--/+	Mixed significant negative and minor positive effects likely
+/-	Mixed minor positive and minor negative effects likely

Symbol and colour code	Description
++/--	Mixed significant positive and significant negative effects likely
?	Likely effect uncertain
N/A	Not applicable

Difficulties and data limitations

2.33 Annex 1 of the 2001 SEA Directive requires the SEA Directive to take account of any data limitations or other difficulties encountered during the SEA process.

2.34 A number of difficulties and limitations arose in the course of the SA as follows:

- With the establishment of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council in 2015 and the new statutory Community Planning duty there has been significant data collection to support plan making. Therefore, some of the recent data collected doesn't always align with previous evidence studies. In addition, data was collected for specific purposes and therefore may not be suitable for using in other plans.
- The extended timescale of the LDP development, and therefore environmental assessments, have meant that baseline information for the Plan, SEA and HRA has had to be updated to take account of real-world changes.
- As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) datasets compiled from its Household Surveys had a reduced sample size. As a result, NISRA was unable to compile sub–Northern Ireland geographies from April 2020 to the time the scoping report baseline was reviewed and updated in mid-2022.
- Local Government Districts-scale results of the 2021 Census had not been published.
- Where more recent statistical data are not available, there remains confidence that the pre-2020 data provide a satisfactory baseline for the evaluation of significant effects.
- 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. Considering the success of a policy when reliant on

behavioural change is also difficult to consider objectively. As an iterative process, the SA may have different sources of available information than the Plan team, and vice versa.

2.35 Additional evidence is expected to be produced as the Local Development Plan process advances and will be taken into account in the SA as appropriate.

Chapter 3
Sustainability Context

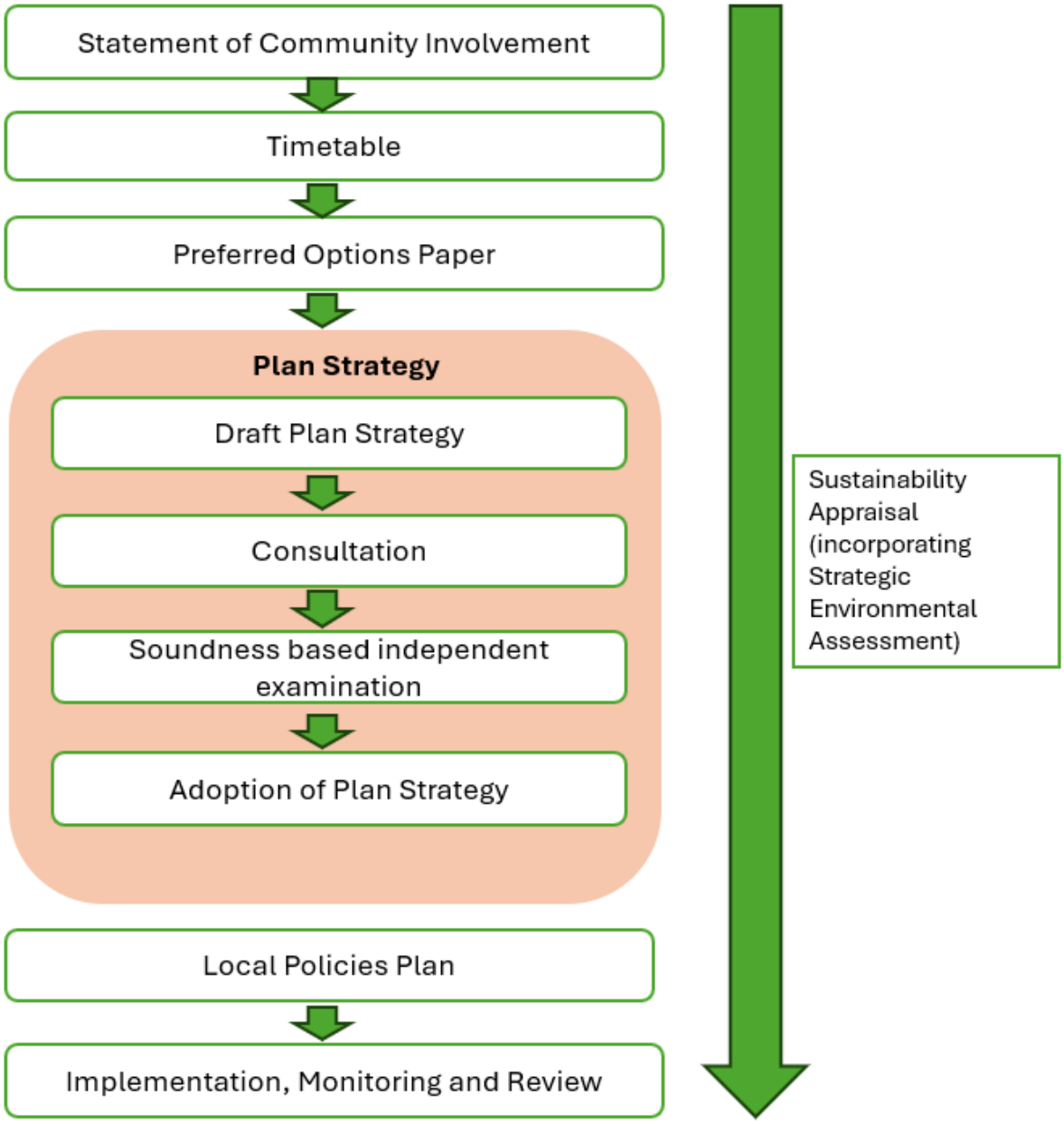
3.1 Annex 1 of the 2001 SEA Directive (Section A and E) requires:

- An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes
- The environmental protection objectives, established at international, community or national 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.

Relationship with other relevant plans or programmes

3.2 The Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Local Development Plan is not prepared in isolation and must be in conformity with a range of international and national plans and programmes. The new Local Development Plan will eventually replace the Armagh Area Plan 2004 & Alteration No. 1; Armagh Countryside Proposals 2004; Craigavon Area Plan 2010; Craigavon Town Centre Boundaries and Retail Designation Plan 2010; Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015; and, the Dungannon and South Tyrone Area Plan 2010. The Local Plan is supported by other documents such as the Statement of Community Involvement, Local Development Timetable, Authority Monitoring Report and Supplementary Planning Documents. Figure 3.1 overleaf presents the Local Development Plan preparation process.

Figure 3.1: Local Development Plan preparation process



Sustainable development

3.3 The Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS) defines sustainable development as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' **[See reference 4]**.

3.4 The Northern Ireland Executive's Sustainable Development Strategy (May 2010) 'Everyone's Involved' sets out key principles to strengthen social, economic and environmental measures to respond to major threats such as climate change. The 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.

3.5 Section 25 of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 **[See reference 5]** requires councils to carry out their functions in the best way possible to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Section 5 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 **[See reference 6]** reinforces this duty by requiring the council to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development.

3.6 Therefore, sustainable development principles are fully integrated throughout the Local Development Plan preparation process within Northern Ireland and should be embedded at the core of the Draft Plan Strategy appraisal.

International policy

3.7 At the international level, there is a wide range of plans and programmes which act to inform and shape national level legislation. Planning policy at a national and local level (i.e. the Strategic Planning Policy Statement and Local Development Plan) should be aware of and in conformity with the relevant legislation. The main sustainability objectives of international plans and programmes which are of most relevance for the Local Development Plan and the SA are provided in Appendix B.

National plans, policies and programmes

3.8 There is an extensive range of national plans, policies and programmes that are relevant to the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Local Development Plan and the SA process. A pragmatic and proportionate approach has been taken with regards to the identification of key national plans, policies and programmes, focusing on those that are of most relevance. A summary of the main objectives of the Regional Development Strategy and Strategic Planning Policy Statement of relevance to the Local Development Plan and the SA is provided below. In addition, the main sustainability objectives of other national plans and programmes which are of most relevance to the Local Plan and SA are summarised in Appendix B.

Regional Development Strategy

3.9 The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) **[See reference 7]** 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.

3.10 The RDS sets out a strategic, long-term vision on the future development of NI up to 2035. It provides an overarching strategic planning framework and influences the future distribution of development throughout NI. The RDS contains strategic regional guidance which provides policy direction in relation to economic, social and environmental matters aimed at achieving sustainable development and social cohesion.

3.11 The RDS recognises the important role of Belfast in generating regional prosperity and that Londonderry is the focus for economic growth in the Northwest. 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.

3.12 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.

Strategic Planning Policy Statement

3.13 The Strategic Planning Policy Statement 2nd Edition 2025 (SPPS) **[See reference 8]** 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.

3.14 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.

3.15 The Republic of Ireland also has its own National Planning Framework First Revision 2025 (NPF, Project Ireland 2040), and an Eastern & Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES, 2019). The NPF and RSES establishes a policy framework that supports joined-up approaches and the mechanisms to deliver co-ordinated growth in the border region.

Sub-national plans, policies and programmes

3.16 Below the national level there are further plans and programmes which are relevance to the Local Development Plan and SA process. These plans and programmes sit mostly at the local level, and further details are provided in Appendix B.

Surrounding development plans

3.17 Development in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough will not be delivered in isolation from those areas around it. Given the interconnection between it and the surrounding areas there is potential for cross-boundary and in-combination effects where development is proposed through development plans in neighbouring authorities. As such, a summary of the following plans for local authority areas which

surround Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough is also provided in Appendix B:

- Mid Ulster (shares a boundary with Lough Neagh)
- Newry, Mourne and Down
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City
- Antrim and Newtownabbey (shares a boundary with Lough Neagh).
- Monaghan

3.18 Under the provisions of the SEA Directive, the appraisal must also consider whether a plan or programme is likely to have any significant adverse transboundary effects on the environment of another EU Member State. As outlined above, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough lies adjacent to the border with the Republic of Ireland, and adverse transboundary effects need to be considered. Based on the findings of the SA, the council is satisfied that there is not likely to be any significant adverse transboundary effects on the environment of the Republic of Ireland or any other Member State.

Baseline information

3.19 Baseline information provides the context for assessing the sustainability of proposals in the Local Plan and it provides the basis for identifying trends, predicting the likely effects of the plan and monitoring its outcomes. Baseline data must be relevant to environmental, social and economic issues, be sensitive to change and should ideally relate to records that are sufficient to identify trends.

3.20 Annex 1 of the 2001 SEA Directive requires that the environmental report includes descriptions of:

- The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.
- The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.

3.21 The SEA Regulations requires the likely significant effects of the plan on the environment to be assessed in relation to: biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage), landscape and the inter-relationship between these. As an integrated SA and SEA is being carried out, baseline information relating to other ‘sustainability’ topics has also been included, for

example, information about housing, social inclusiveness, transport, energy, waste and economic growth.

3.22 Information on existing environmental, social and economic conditions in the plan area provides the baseline against which the plan's effects can be assessed in the SA and monitored during the plan's implementation. Baseline information can also be combined with an understanding of drivers of change that are likely to persist regardless of the Plan Strategy to understand the likely future sustainability conditions in the absence of the Plan Strategy.

3.23 The baseline information for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough is presented in Appendix C.

3.24 SEA guidance recognises that data gaps will exist but suggests that where baseline information is unavailable or unsatisfactory, authorities should consider how it will affect their assessments and determine how to improve it for use in the assessment of future plans. The collection and analysis of baseline data is regarded as a continual and evolving process, given that information can change or be updated on a regular basis. Relevant baseline information will be updated during the SA process as and when data are published.

Key sustainability issues

3.25 Key sustainability issues for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough were originally identified in the SA Scoping Report. These issues have been reviewed and been subject to re-working as the Scoping Report was updated, in order to ensure that they are genuine 'key issues' for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough specifically, i.e. problems that the Draft Plan Strategy can seek to address. The set of key issues is presented in Table 3.1.

3.26 It is also a requirement of the SEA Directive that consideration is given to the likely evolution of the environment in the plan area (in this case Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough) if the Plan Strategy was not to be implemented. This analysis is also presented in the final column of Table 3.1 in relation to each of the key sustainability issues.

Table 3.1: Key sustainability issues for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon and their likely evolution in the absence of the Plan Strategy

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without the new Plan Strategy
Health and well-being ■ By 2035 the population of the Borough is projected to have increased from its 2021 level by 10.6% from 218,656 in 2021 to 241,823 in 2035, significantly above 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 Northern Ireland average and significantly lower than recommended minimum levels. ■ 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.	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

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without the new Plan Strategy
■ Need to protect and enhance biodiversity to promote positive health benefits. ■ Levels of adult obesity in Northern Ireland and the UK are high by global standards, reflecting poor diet and a relatively sedentary lifestyle. ■ 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. ■ 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. ■ There is a lower rate of health deprivation and disability compared with the Northern Ireland average, but there are large inequalities in health and well-being with most measures of health being significantly worse in the most deprived areas. ■ There are some communities within the Council area which experience problems of multiple deprivation particularly in parts of Armagh City, Banbridge, Lurgan, Portadown and Keady, where income and employment are the key concerns.	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.

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without the new Plan Strategy
■ Parts of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough may have increased probability of the incidence of Radon at actionable levels.	
Community ■ 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.	The legacy area plans were not prepared in the context of the new council area and do not reflect the council's 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.

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without the new Plan Strategy
■ The needs and experience of different parts of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough society differ and are best expressed by representatives of the range of 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.	
Housing ■ For the period 2011 to 2021, the rate of population growth overall for the council area (11.5%) was significantly above the Northern Ireland average and the Borough had the largest increase in population of all 11 NI LGDs. ■ The number of households has increased rapidly over the period 2001 to 2021 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.	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.

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without the new Plan Strategy
■ 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%. ■ 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.	
Education and skills ■ Although the council area has a high level of educational achievement at all levels, this is not consistent between DEAs. ■ Since 2023 there has been a 0.5% decrease in the number of enrolments in schools within the Borough. There has also been a decrease of 6.4% in 2024 of the number of children enrolled in pre-school education. Post-primary has seen a 18.6 increase in enrolments since 2015/16 while Special Schools have seen the greatest percentage increase in enrolments from 2014/15 to 2024/25 rinsing by 54.3%. ■ In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough the percentage of residents aged 16 and over with no qualifications (25.2%) was slightly higher than Northern Ireland overall (23.8%). Level 1 qualifications and apprenticeships showed similar proportions in both the borough and Northern Ireland. Those with qualifications at level 4 and above was lower in the borough (30.4%) than Northern Ireland (32.1%).	Without a new LDP there may be fewer opportunities to look at settlement pattern and school sustainability or to facilitate skills training.

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without the new Plan Strategy
Economy and employment ■ A higher than Northern Ireland 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 Northern Ireland. ■ The business birth rate and survival rate is average for Northern Ireland, 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 retail, there have been a number of challenges in recent years, however the market is in recovery and is evolving. ■ '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 Norther Ireland.	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.
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.	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.

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without the new Plan Strategy
■ 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. ■ Reduce non-recyclable wastes and educate people about alternatives in accordance with the principles of the waste management hierarchy – avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover.	
Physical resources ■ The minerals industry makes an essential contribution both the local and regional economy and to people's quality of life, providing primary minerals for construction and as a valued provider of jobs and employment, particularly in rural areas. ■ Peat extraction still takes place in the Council but peatlands are also important for a range of ecosystem services (i.e. water/carbon stores, biodiversity including habitat for rare plants/animals) requiring their conservation. ■ Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough needs to consider the future need for cemetery provision in some areas.	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.

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without the new Plan Strategy
■ 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.	
Transport and accessibility ■ 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. ■ 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 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	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.

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without the new Plan Strategy
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.	
Air quality ■ One Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for NO_2 is located in a main town and directly linked to road traffic emissions. ■ 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. ■ Ammonia is known to have a damaging impact on biodiversity, including sensitive habitats, as well as human health. Reducing ammonia emissions across Northern Ireland is one of DAERA's key priorities.	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 harder to manage.

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without the new Plan Strategy
Climate change ■ Agriculture is a significant contributor to GHG emissions and opportunities to reduce emissions within the scope of the LDP need to be considered. ■ There is a need to encourage and increase options for active and sustainable travel across the Borough, to help reduce reliance on the car and reduce GHG emissions from the transport sector. ■ The waste management hierarchy and the proximity principle should continue to be used to guide waste management facilities and practices, based on the principles of sustainable development. ■ Any potential development in areas of flood risk needs to be carefully considered against the likely impact of flooding but also the likely impact of the development on adjacent or downstream areas, including the marine area. ■ It is important to protect ecosystems which provide habitat for local biodiversity, and which provide natural resilience against the effects of climate change. ■ Provisioning of buffer zones around designated sites and priority habitats could help enable species and habitats to move and reactively adapt in a changing climate. ■ A cross-sectoral approach involving various stakeholders will be needed to further develop and deliver Climate Change Action Plans.	In the absence of a new Plan, there could be fewer opportunities to apply land use planning to help reduce GHG emissions by integrating sustainable development patterns. 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. It could become increasingly difficult to locate renewable energy projects in the most sustainable locations in relation to both infrastructure and users. There may be fewer opportunities to integrate measures such as sustainable drainage systems, green/blue infrastructure and sustainable transport infrastructure.

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without the new Plan Strategy
Water ■ By comparison to the rest of Northern Ireland, surface water quality is generally lower in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough; a quarter of the waterbodies in the Council area are at 'poor' or 'bad' ecological status. ■ 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.	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.

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without the new Plan Strategy
■ 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. ■ 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. ■ 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.	
Natural resources ■ 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. ■ 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. ■ 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.	In the absence of a new plan, there is the risk that development may occur in inappropriate locations that could negatively impact upon nature conservation sites or green/blue infrastructure including wildlife corridors. It may become increasingly difficult to spatially manage development to avoid these negative impacts on the local environment and to maintain and enhance local biodiversity. Without current spatial information, opportunities to protect green / blue infrastructure and ecosystems services would be more likely to be missed.

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without the new Plan Strategy
Landscape ■ There is a small portion of AONB in the Council and there are a wide variety of landscape types across the area 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. ■ When considering landscapes within the borough, the Landscape Character Assessment concluded that two areas, Blackwater Valley and Lough Neagh environs should be as Strategic Landscape Policy areas as an acknowledgment of their unique landscape characteristics and sensitivity to inappropriate development. ■ 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 including Newry, Mourne & Down Council.	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 development. It could become increasingly difficult to spatially manage new development in the context of local landscape character.
Historic environment and cultural heritage ■ Heritage assets are at risk from neglect, decay, development pressures and vacancy. ■ Heritage at Risk should continue to be identified and efforts made to maintain their regular use and/or support their restoration.	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

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without the new Plan Strategy
■ 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. ■ 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 of the Navan site and the recently announced bid by Armagh Observatory and Planetarium (AOP) as part of the Astronomical Observatories of Ireland's bid for UNESCO World Heritage Status. ■ 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. ■ 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	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.

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without the new Plan Strategy
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. ■ Traffic pollution, air quality, noise pollution and other problems are affecting the historic environment.	

The SA framework

3.27 The SA Framework consists of 14 SA Objectives. This includes:

SA Objective 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.

- Appraisal prompts:
  - Improve access to health care?
  - Reduce response times for the emergency services?
  - Provide opportunities for and encourage health lifestyles and physical activity for all ages?
  - Create open space with public access?
  - Increase social contact and intergenerational contact (including family cohesion)?
  - Support those providing care?
  - Provide suitable accommodation for those with long term health problems or disability?
  - Maintain good air quality?
  - Avoid or reduce noise impacts that may affect health?
  - Improve ability to reach schools and workplaces by active travel?
  - Reduce the risk of traffic accidents?

SA Objective 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.

- Appraisal prompts:
  - Promote inclusion of all groups?
  - Retain, create, or enhance shared space?
  - Increase accessibility to shared space?
  - Promote positive social interaction?
  - Give rural communities appropriate access to facilities and services?
  - Reduce the factors causing inequalities?
  - Meet identified needs that will reduce inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities?

SA Objective 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.

- Appraisal prompts:
  - Encourage low carbon homes?
  - Encourage the building of life-time homes with potential for adaptability, such as wheelchair access?
  - Encourage affordable housing?
  - Reduce homelessness?
  - Meet the needs of specific groups e.g. single people, families, retired people, ethnic minorities, disabled?
  - Reduce the number of unfit homes?
  - Provide housing which meets locally identified needs (in terms of type, tenure and size)?
  - Provide a mix of housing types?

SA Objective 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.

- Appraisal prompts:
  - Improve education level and employability of the population?
  - Promote access to education?
  - Promote access to skills training?
  - Help rural communities access education and skills training?
  - Improve opportunities for multiple use of facilities?
  - Help educational establishments to provide modern sustainable accommodation?

SA Objective 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.

- Appraisal prompts:
  - Support innovation and competitiveness within the local economy?
  - Ensure sufficient land supply in appropriate locations for economic growth?
  - Support creation of a range of job types that are accessible especially to areas of greatest deprivation?
  - Support enhancement of the skills base?
  - Help make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest?

- Make the best use of key locations along major road and rail corridors?
- Ensure the vitality and vibrancy of city and town centres can be improved?
- Increase the number of people coming to the Borough to work?
- Create and sustain tourism assets?

SA Objective 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.

- Appraisal prompts:
  - Sufficient telecommunications can be provided or are feasible?
  - Electrical infrastructure is fit for purpose?
  - Enables renewable energy production/connections?
  - Supports development of renewables?
  - Increases reusing/recycling/composting rates?
  - Makes reusing/recycling/composting easier?
  - Reduces waste production per household?
  - Uses/encourages the proximity principle for location of material assets?
  - Reduces the amount of derelict/contaminated land?

SA Objective 7: Protect physical resources and use sustainably.

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

- Appraisal prompts:
  - Earth science features can be protected

- Enables the minerals industry to operate sustainably and be locally sourced?
- Considers minerals across Council boundaries?
- Enable future use/benefit of quarries?
- Enables potential future use of geothermal energy
- Avoids/minimises loss of greenfield sites?
- Retains semi natural land cover/biodiversity?
- Avoids soil erosion/pollution?
- Potential for sub-surface planning?

SA Objective 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.

- Appraisal prompts:
  - Will help reduce traffic congestion?
  - Encourage modal shift to active travel and/or public transport?
  - Improve access to and efficiency of public transport?
  - Will benefit those without access to a vehicle?
  - Retain, create, or enhance walking or cycling routes?

SA Objective 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.

- Appraisal prompts:
  - Will help achieve AQMA objectives?

- Likely to improve air quality?
- Able to reduce traffic congestion?
- Will encourage other modes of transport to the car?
- Promotes/supports/enables projects/behaviour that will improve air quality?
- Able to avoid/reduce air pollution?
- Will avoid increase of ammonia emissions (near to sensitive receptors)?

SA Objective 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 adaption is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change.

- Appraisal prompts:
  - Will reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
  - Likely to reduce energy consumption?
  - Likely to reduce the need to travel by vehicle?
  - Increases/supports/promotes/enables renewable energy?
  - Enables/promotes public transport, walking/cycling?
  - Helps reduce consumption/waste production and increases recycling?
  - Protects designated sites, locally important habitats and/or wildlife corridors?
  - Protects floodplains?
  - Protects peatlands?
  - Incorporates measures to adapt to climate change?

SA Objective 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.

- Appraisal prompts:
  - Improve the quality of surface and ground water to meet objectives?
  - Lead to more efficient use of water?
  - Minimise risks from flooding?
  - Avoid the need for flood defence?
  - Protect or enhance floodplains?
  - Maintain water flows for good ecological quality?
  - Protect aquatic food resources?

SA Objective 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.

- Appraisal prompts:
  - Protects and/or enhances Lough Neagh and Portmore Lough?
  - Protects and/or enhances designated sites and their buffers?
  - Protects and/or enhances local biodiversity?
  - Protects/enhances/incorporates green/blue infrastructure?
  - Supports/provides ecosystem services?

SA Objective 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.

- Appraisal prompts:
  - Continue to protect areas designated for landscape?
  - Minimise any visual intrusion?
  - Protect and/or enhance the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors?
  - Sensitively integrate new development to protect and enhance local distinctiveness?
  - Able to appropriately consider any impacts on the Mourne AONB and any other neighbouring landscape designations?

SA Objective 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.

- Appraisal prompts:
  - Protect and conserve built and cultural heritage?
  - Protects and/or enhances built and cultural heritage?
  - Allow 'sense of place' to be conserved in townscape and rural settings?
  - Protect and enhance local distinctiveness?
  - Allow archaeological features to be assessed, recorded and preserved?
  - Preserve and enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets?

- Support access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment?
- Enable assessment of impacts of development on complex and extensive archaeological sites adjacent to settlements?
- Provide opportunities for cultural activities?

Chapter 4
SA of the Preferred Options Paper

4.1 A Preferred Options Paper was published in March 2018. The Preferred Options Paper sets out the Key Issues of strategic significance deemed to affect the Borough, along with the preferred options to address them. The Key Issues have emerged from the Councils evidence base, engagement with Elected Members and formal and informal consultation with Statutory Consultation Bodies. The Preferred Options Paper sets out the vision, overarching principles and strategic objectives for the Draft Plan Strategy. A total of 38 key issues (3 Key Issues for Spatial Growth Strategies, 7 Social Key Issues, 18 Economic and 10 Environmental) were identified.

4.2 Preferred and alternative options for each key issue were tested through the SA **[See reference 9]**. Up to three options were identified for each Key Issue. In a few cases there was no feasible alternative and therefore only one option was put forward. All options were appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives. The scoring of all options and the appraisal findings are contained within Appendix E of this SA Report.

4.3 The cumulative assessment of the Preferred options against the 14 SA objectives is presented below.

SA Objective 1: Improve health and wellbeing

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

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

4.6 The preferred options in the Social theme were all given positive scores in the appraisal indicating a high level of correlation between the plans objectives and the

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

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

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

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

SA Objective 2: Strengthen society

4.10 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.

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

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

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

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

4.15 Almost all of the preferred options within the Environmental theme had positive effects for this objective. The preferred option for Protecting international, national

and local nature conservation designations (ENV2A) was found to have significant positive effects as it can provide places for people to meet.

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

SA Objective 3: Provide good quality sustainable housing

4.17 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.

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

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

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

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

4.22 The preferred option for Supporting Sustainable Rural Housing (SOC2) was also found to have significant positive effects for this objective because it will allow

tailoring of policies to meet local circumstances and may facilitate the provision of housing including social and affordable housing where a need is identified.

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

SA Objective 4: Enable access to high quality education

4.24 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.

4.25 The LDP has limited impact on access to high quality education and many of the aspects of our plan were considered to have a neutral effect.

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

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

SA Objective 5: Enable sustainable economic growth

4.28 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SA Objective 6: Manage material assets sustainably

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

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

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

4.39 When the appraisal considered the options presented in the Economic theme, many of the preferred options were given a positive scoring and one was found to have uncertain effects. Three preferred options were found to have significant positive effects. Zoning for Economic Development (ECN 1A) was found to

encourage effective use of land and provision of energy, whilst creating opportunities for more efficient recycling and waste management services. The preferred option for Facilitating Office Development (ECN 8A) was considered to focus development on the locations well served for provision of infrastructure and enable more potential economic ventures to be present in town centres through a sequential approach. The preferred option for Facilitating sustainable infrastructure, telecommunications and utilities development to meet the needs of the Borough (ECN 12A) was found to assist in the sustainable delivery of this objective.

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

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

SA Objective 7: Protect physical resources and use sustainably

4.42 Minerals, earth science sites, geothermal energy, land and soil are resources that require protection from degradation and safeguarding for future use. Sustainable use of physical resources can help to support the economy.

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

4.44 Within the Social theme two preferred options were considered to have positive effects and two to have negative effects. The preferred option for Supporting sustainable rural housing (SOC 2A) was considered to lead to a loss of greenfield land. Similarly the preferred option for Facilitating community and cultural facilities to meet the needs of the Borough (SOC 6A) was also considered to potentially mean

development of land, however this could be mitigated through the application of a relevant criteria-based policy.

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

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

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

SA Objective 8: Encourage active and sustainable travel

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

4.49 All of the preferred options which form the Spatial Growth Strategy were considered to positively encourage use of active and sustainable travel and one was found to have significant positive effects. Focusing growth using a settlement hierarchy will enable people to live in locations that allow convenient access to public transport, whilst supporting rural small settlements that act as hubs for rural public transport. Allocating economic development lands (SGS 3A) could significantly contribute towards encouraging active and sustainable travel as it would make use of the strong transport links that exist within the Borough.

4.50 The preferred options identified under the Social theme are almost all considered to have positive effects for this objective, except that for Supporting sustainable rural housing (SOC 2A) which had a negative scoring. This reflects the

rural nature of parts of the Borough and the challenges for these areas in terms of public transport and active travel.

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

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

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

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

SA Objective 9: Improve air quality

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

4.56 Two of the preferred options which form the Spatial Growth Strategy are considered to positively contribute to this objective as it will allocate the majority of growth into urban areas, increasing opportunities to move away from car use and

towards active travel. However, the preferred option for Allocating Economic Development Lands (SGS 3A) was given a negative scoring, reflecting that there would be an adverse impact on air quality associated with all economic development, no matter where it takes place.

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

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

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

4.60 Overall, the POP is considered to have a cumulative positive effect on improving air quality. More information is needed to fully assess the impacts of growth giving consideration to location. The effect of the preferred options on this objective will be strongly influenced by whether people change their behaviour and change their mode of transport especially for short journeys.

SA Objective 10: Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change

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

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

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

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

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

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

SA Objective 11: Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably

4.67 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.

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

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

4.70 Within the economic theme there was a mixed picture with most of the preferred options scoring either neutral or positive. Notably there were 2 options which scored negative and 1 which scored uncertain. The preferred option for Supporting sustainable rural economic development (ECN 4) was considered negative where there could be potential negative impacts associated with some types of development for example, supply of fresh water and disposal of foul waste for food production and processing. The preferred option for Protecting proposed strategic road improvement schemes (ECN 14) was considered to have potential negative impacts on the objective where new road development could lead to water run off adversely impacting water quality. The preferred option for Supporting sustainable minerals development (ECN 11) was considered uncertain where it was identified that there could be potential negative impacts associated with high water demand and excavation. However, these effects could be mitigated against. The uncertainty is linked to how the approach could be implemented.

4.71 Under the environment theme, three of the preferred options were considered to have significant positive effects for the objective. The preferred option for Protecting international, national and local nature conservation designations (that are designated outside the LDP process) (ENV 2A) was considered to play an important role in holding or slowing down water into the River Blackwater at peak periods of

rainfall making it significant positive in terms of reducing the risk of flooding and damage to water quality. The preferred option for Identifying and protecting Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) (ENV 5A) was considered to be significant positive for its potential to protect riparian habitats and reduce risk of pollution to water courses. The preferred option for Encouraging Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) (ENV8) was found to significantly support this objective where it could reduce additional pressure being placed onto natural and manmade water capture systems. It could also reduce the need for flood defences and avoid risk of flooding.

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

SA Objective 12: Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity

4.73 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.

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

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

4.76 When the appraisal considered the preferred options contained in the Economy theme, there is a mix of scorings with seven having a positive scoring. Two of the preferred options were determined to have significant positive effects. The preferred options for Protecting the Borough's Disused Transport Routes (ECN 15A) and Promoting and Enhancing access to greenways (ECN 18A) were both found to help to support wildlife corridors. Areas of green and blue infrastructure are important for biodiversity in urban and rural settings. However, within this theme, four preferred options were found to have negative effects for natural resources and biodiversity and will need to consider further assessment mitigation as we move to the next stage of the plan. One preferred option was found to have a mix of scores for this objective, Facilitating sustainable infrastructure, telecommunications and utilities development to meet the needs of the Borough (ECN 12A) and consideration of its potential effects will be important at the next stage of plan making.

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

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

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

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

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

SA Objective 13: Maintain and enhance landscape character

4.82 International and national policies seek to conserve the natural character and landscape of the coast and countryside and protect them from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development. This objective seeks to maintain the character and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes and seascapes and to protect and enhance open spaces and the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors.

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

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

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

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

4.87 Within the economic theme there was a mixed picture with most of the preferred options scoring either neutral or positive. Notably there were 2 options which scored negative and 1 which scored uncertain. The preferred option for Facilitating sustainable infrastructure, telecommunications and utilities development to meet the needs of the Borough (ECN 12) was found to be uncertain. This option would have an uncertain effect on this objective as the construction of telecoms and utilities infrastructure could have the potential to adversely impact landscape character however, negative impacts could be offset with the application of specific criteria that would restrict development.

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

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

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

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

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

SA Objective 14: Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage

4.93 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.

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

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

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

4.97 Under the Environment theme there was a high degree of linkage between the preferred options and this sustainability objective and where an effect was determined to be likely, it was usually a positive one. In total, three preferred options were considered to have significant positive effects for protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural resources. The preferred option for Protecting, conserving and enhancing built heritage and archaeological assets (ENV 1A) was found to have significant positive effects because it will allow assets to continue to be protected and conserved and gives the opportunity to enhance the number and extent of sites.

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

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

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

Chapter 5
SA of the Draft Plan Strategy

5.1 This chapter presents the SA findings for the policies presented in the Draft Plan Strategy. The SA findings for the policies have been presented to follow the order in which they appear in the Draft Plan Strategy. Due to the number of policies within the plan some policies have been appraised individually but where appropriate some policies have been grouped to streamline the appraisal and reduce duplication.

5.2 A number of initial recommendations were made for some of the policies to help strengthen the positive effects and mitigate the negative effects expected. The Council have responded to these recommendations and where they are deemed appropriate amendments were made to the policies. Therefore, the amended policies have been appraised as part of this SA. The list of initial recommendations and the Council's response are presented within Appendix D.

5.3 Reasonable alternatives have been identified for Policies SGS 2, SGS 3 and SGS 5. The Council explored a number of potential reasonable alternatives, but no others were identified as they were too similar to the chosen policy.

5.4 It is a requirement of the SEA Regulations to consider cumulative, secondary and synergistic effects. As such, the sustainability effects of the Draft Plan Strategy as a whole are considered below the assessment of the Draft Plan Strategy policies individually.

Strategic Policies

5.5 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- SP 1: Furthering Sustainable Development and Climate Change Resilience
- SP 2: Design and placemaking

5.6 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5.1 and 5.2 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.1: SA findings for Policy SP 1

SA objective	SP1
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	+
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	+
SA10: Climate change	++
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.7 Policy SP1 supports the creation of sustainable development that will help to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. This policy will support the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and help the Borough adapt and be resilient to the impacts of climate change. Therefore, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA10: Climate change. A reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as a result of this policy could have a positive impact on improving air quality within the Borough. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA9: Air.

5.8 A minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA7: Physical resources as the policy supports sustainable development which could encourage the sustainable use of natural resources particularly those which are finite.

Table 5.2: SA findings for Policy SP 2

SA objective	SP 2
SA1: Health and well-being	?
SA2: Society	?
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0

SA objective	SP 2
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	?
SA7: Physical resources	?
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	?
SA9: Air	?
SA10: Climate change	?
SA11: Water	?
SA12: Biodiversity	?
SA13: Landscape	?
SA14: Historic environment	?

5.9 Policy SP 2 sets out a requirement for all new development to contribute to the creation of successful and sustainable places by adhering to the principle of good design and positive place-making. The requirement for adhering to the principles of good design and positive place-making will likely result in positive effects across a number of SA objectives as these principles relate to a place based approach, protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic and natural environment, good quality sustainable design including climate mitigation and adaption, supporting sustainable movement and making safe and inclusive places for people. These effects are uncertain while the specific measures to create sustainable places are related to each development.

Spatial Growth Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy

5.10 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- SGS 1: Spatial growth Strategy
- SGS 2: Settlement hierarchy
- SGS 10: Sustainable development in the Countryside

5.11 The SA findings for the policies are presented in Tables 5.3 – 5.5 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.3: SA findings for Policy SGS 1

SA Objective	SGS 1
SA1: Health and well-being	+
SA2: Society	+
SA3: Housing	+
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	+
SA6: Material assets	+
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	+
SA13: Landscape	+
SA14: Historic environment	+

5.12 Policy SGS 1 sets out the overall spatial strategy for the Borough and will support the delivery of the overall LDP vision and strategic objectives. Therefore, the policy is expected to have largely positive effects across the majority of the SA objectives. Growth will be managed across the Borough in line with the settlement hierarchy and promote sustainable patterns of development. This will focus growth for housing, economic growth, retail, services, tourism, leisure and cultural facilities on the main settlements within the Borough. The spatial strategy will support growth in the small towns and rural communities ensuring development is at an appropriate scale and relates to the character of the existing settlement. The policy also supports sustainable development in the countryside while balancing the need to protect rural character and the environment.

Table 5.4: SA findings for Policy SGS 2

SA Objective	SGS 2
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	+
SA3: Housing	+
SA4: Education	0

SA Objective	SGS 2
SA5: Economic growth	+
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.13 Policy SGS 2 sets out the hierarchy as part of the Spatial Growth Strategy. The settlement hierarchy states that the main settlements (hubs) in the Borough are Armagh City, Banbridge town and Craigavon Urban Area with ~~then~~ small towns, villages and small settlements below the main settlements in the hierarchy. The hierarchy dictates the different scales of development appropriate within each tier, with the Tier 1 main settlements (hubs) being the focus for major population growth and economic development. The tiers recognise the role of settlements in providing different ranges of services both for the settlement and the surrounding hinterland. The settlement hierarchy therefore has minor positive effects in relation to SA2: Society, SA3: Housing and SA5: economic growth as it ensures that development is directed to the most appropriate locations to support the settlements and their hinterlands.

Reasonable alternative

5.14 An alternative approach has been presented which includes two additional small settlements. The main settlements, small towns and villages remain unchanged. The alternative including the additional small settlements was discounted due to their location near the Lough Neagh Ramsar site and concerns around the impact that development, in particular wastewater, would have on the Ramsar site.

Table 5.5: SA findings for Policy SGS 10

SA Objective	SGS 10
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	0

SA Objective	SGS 10
SA3: Housing	++
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	++
SA6: Material assets	+
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.15 Policy SGS 10 is expected to have a significant positive effect on SA3: Housing and SA5: Economic growth as the overarching purpose of the policy is to support a range of types of development in the countryside. The policy also requires any development in the countryside should contribute towards the aim of sustainable development and align with the policies contained within the Plan Strategy. A minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA6: Material assets as the policy states that non-residential development such as waste management, telecommunications and utilities may be acceptable in the countryside.

General Policies for All Development

Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change

5.16 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- GP 1 Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change

5.17 The SA findings for the policy are presented in Table 5.6 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.6: SA findings for Policy GP 1 Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change

SA Objective	GP 1
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	+
SA7: Physical resources	+
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	+
SA10: Climate change	++
SA11: Water	+
SA12: Biodiversity	+
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.18 Policy GP 1 is designed to ensure that all development proposals incorporate measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change through a range of environmental and resource efficiency requirements. The policy requires the integration of renewable and low carbon energy technologies, the use of passive solar design, and the incorporation of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), all of which directly contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change. Therefore, a significant positive effect is identified for SA10: Climate change.

5.19 The policy also promotes tree planting and biodiversity enhancement, alongside measures to conserve and reuse existing resources and buildings. These elements are likely to result in minor positive effects for SA12: Biodiversity by supporting habitat creation. The requirement for SuDS and improved surface water management will contribute to minor positive effects for SA11: Water, by reducing flood risk and supporting sustainable water management.

5.20 In addition, the efficient use of resources, including re-use of buildings and provision for recycling and waste management, supports more sustainable infrastructure use and waste minimisation, leading to minor positive effects for SA6: Material assets and SA7: Physical resources. The encouragement of low carbon

technologies and reduced emissions may also improve air quality, resulting in a minor positive effect for SA9: Air.

Infrastructure Requirements for Development

5.21 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- GP 2 Infrastructure Requirements for Development

5.22 The SA findings for the policy are presented in Table 5.7 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.7: SA findings for Policy GP 2 Infrastructure Requirements for Development

SA Objective	GP 2
SA1: Health and well-being	+
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	++
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	+
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	++
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	+
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.23 A significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA6: Material assets, as the policy directly supports the provision, upgrading and coordinated use of essential infrastructure needed to facilitate development. This will help ensure that development is served by adequate transport, water, wastewater and drainage infrastructure, and that infrastructure capacity is considered in a planned and

sustainable way. A significant positive effect is also identified for SA11: Water, as the policy explicitly requires suitable wastewater and drainage provision and seeks to avoid pollution problems, including tighter control in areas with identified pollution risk. This will likely help protect water quality and support the sustainable management of water infrastructure.

5.24 A minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA1: Health and well-being, as the policy requires that development should not have an unacceptable adverse impact on public health or amenity. In relation to SA8: Active and sustainable travel, a minor positive effect is identified because the policy requires consideration of the ability of the transport network to accommodate not only traffic but also other users generated by development, which may help support more sustainable and inclusive movement.

5.25 A minor positive effect is identified for SA objective 13: Landscape because the policy requires that development should not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the character of the area. This provides some of protection for local character and helps ensure that infrastructure requirements and servicing arrangements are addressed in a way that avoids harm to the surrounding environment.

Public Safety and Amenity

5.26 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- GP 3 Public Safety and Human Health
- GP 4 Amenity

5.27 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5.8 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.8: SA findings for public safety and amenity policies

SA Objective	GP 3	GP 4
SA1: Health and well-being	++	+
SA2: Society	+	+
SA3: Housing	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	0	0

SA Objective	GP 3	GP 4
SA6: Material assets	0	0
SA7: Physical resources	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0
SA9: Air	0	+
SA10: Climate change	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	0
SA13: Landscape	0	0
SA14: Historic environment	0	0

5.28 Policy GP 3 is expected to have a significant positive effect in relation to SA1: Health and well-being, as it directly seeks to prevent development that would cause demonstrable harm to human health or prejudice public safety. By requiring mitigation of risks and adverse impacts, the policy supports the creation of environments that are safe, clean and minimise exposure to hazards such as noise and other environmental effects. This will therefore benefit the health of residents, reducing inequalities and minimising harmful environmental influences. Policy GP 4 addresses amenity impacts such as overlooking, noise, odour and disturbance, resulting in a minor positive effect for SA1: Health and well-being through the protection of living conditions and environmental quality.

5.29 Both policies are expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA2: Society. Policy GP 3 supports safer environments by ensuring that risks to public safety are addressed, while Policy GP 4 promotes more pleasant and functional places by protecting the amenity of occupants and users. They both therefore help to reduce potential conflicts between land uses and contribute to places that feel safe and suitable for everyday use.

5.30 A minor positive effect is identified for SA9: Air in relation to Policy GP 4, as it explicitly requires the consideration and mitigation of pollution, including noise, odour and ‘other emissions that may affect amenity’. This will help to reduce adverse impacts on sensitive receptors and contribute to local environmental quality.

Design and Placemaking

Design Quality

5.31 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- DES 1 Design Quality

5.32 The SA findings for this policy is presented in Table 5.9 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.9: SA findings for design quality policy

SA Objective	DES 1
SA1: Health and well-being	+
SA2: Society	++
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	+
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	++/-
SA9: Air	+/-
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	+
SA13: Landscape	++
SA14: Historic environment	+

5.33 Policy DES 1 is focused on ensuring good quality design of new development within settlements. A significant positive effect is expected for SA2: Society and a minor positive effect is identified for SA1: Health and wellbeing as the policy encourages development that provides active street frontages to enable informal surveillance and vibrancy, provides open space, and fosters inclusive design by ensuring public spaces are accessible and useable by all. Development must also contribute to a safe and secure environment.

5.34 A minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA5: Economic growth as the policy supports the vibrancy and attractiveness of new development within settlements which will likely help make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work and invest. The policy also requires that new development is accompanied by the necessary infrastructure to enable connection to digital services.

5.35 An overall mixed effect (significant positive and minor negative) is expected for SA 8: Active and sustainable transport. The policy supports provision of a movement pattern that supports active and sustainable travel, enables movement for all, provides good connections, incorporates traffic calming measures where appropriate and respects existing rights of way. This is mixed with a minor negative effect as the policy supports the principle of adequate parking, which may further encourage car use within settlements. A mixed effect (minor positive and minor negative) is expected in relation to SA9: Air for the same reasons.

5.36 A significant positive effect is expected for SA13: Landscape as the policy is focused on respecting surrounding land uses and the site's topography and context. The policy requires development to maintain or enhance the visual amenity of the area through design that contributes to the local character and distinctiveness of the area. It encourages active street frontages, well designed open spaces and appropriate hard and soft landscaping. Development should identify important features of the historic environment, landscape and natural environment and ensure that these are integrated and protected within the design and layout, restored and enhanced where possible. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA 12: Biodiversity and SA14: Historic environment.

Rural Design and Character in the Countryside

5.37 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- DES 2 Rural Design and Character in the Countryside

5.38 The SA findings for this policy is presented in Table 5.10 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.10: SA findings for rural design and character policy

SA Objective	DES 2
SA1: Health and well-being	0

SA Objective	DES 2
SA2: Society	+
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	+
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0?
SA13: Landscape	++
SA14: Historic environment	+

5.39 Policy DES 2 is focused on ensuring that new development in the countryside is not detrimental to rural landscape character. A significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA13: Landscape. The policy requires that new development is sited and designed to blend with the landform and existing features of the natural landscape, respects the traditional pattern of settlement, avoids coalescence between settlements and does not create or exacerbate to a ribbon of development. It also requires that development proposals incorporate an appropriate hard and soft landscaping scheme. Related to these requirements, a minor positive effect is also identified for SA14: Historic environment.

5.40 Minor positive effects are also identified in relation to SA2: Society and SA8: Active and sustainable travel. Policy DES 2 requires that non-residential proposals should be designed to deter crime and promote safety and also provide a movement pattern that supports active travel, meets the needs of those whose mobility is impaired, respects existing public rights of way, and provides adequate and convenient public transport access.

Trees and Hedges

5.41 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- DES 3 Trees and Hedgerows

5.42 The SA findings for the policy are presented in Table 5.11 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.11: SA findings for trees and hedges

SA Objective	DES 3
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	+
SA10: Climate change	+
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	+
SA13: Landscape	+
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.43 Policy DES 3 is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA12: Biodiversity and SA13: Landscape as the policy supports the retention, integration and enhancement of trees and hedgerows with the Borough. The Policy states that new planting shall be provided where appropriate along with suitable replacements for any removal or loss of any trees and/or hedgerows. The planting of new trees and hedgerows could help to enhance the local landscape and townscape depending on the location of the trees. This will further support the creation of new habitats and ecosystems in the Borough.

5.44 The policy also states that suitable provision is made for the long-term management of both existing and proposed new trees and hedgerows which will strengthen the natural environment. In addition, the planting of new trees could increase greenhouse gas emission absorption, supporting climate change resilience. The Policy therefore is expected to also have a minor positive effect in relation to SA10 Climate change. Related to the role of trees in mitigating air quality impacts, particularly in close proximity to roads a minor positive effect is identified for SA9: Air.

Shopfront Design and Advertisements

5.45 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- DES 4 Shopfront Design
- DES 5 The Control of Outdoor Advertisement Proposals

5.46 The SA findings for this policy are presented in Table 5.12 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.12: SA findings for shopfront design

SA Objective	DES 4	DES 5
SA1: Health and well-being	+	0
SA2: Society	+	+
SA3: Housing	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	+	0
SA6: Material assets	0	0
SA7: Physical resources	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0
SA9: Air	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	0
SA13: Landscape	+	+
SA14: Historic environment	0	+

5.47 Minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA2: Society for Policies DES 4 and DES 5. Policy DES 4 requires shopfronts to ensure that their design maximises activity and passive surveillance on the street, and that ease of access is ensured for all users including wheelchair users, pedestrians and road users as far as practicable. Minor positive effects are also identified for SA 1: Health and well-being as the policy helps to enable people to access shops and services with mental and physical health benefits. Policy DES 5 ensures that advertisement proposals do not prejudice public safety, including road safety.

5.48 Policy DES 4 is expected to support the vibrancy and vitality of local high streets and commercial areas by maximising active frontages. Therefore, a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA5: Economic growth.

5.49 Minor positive effects are identified in relation to SA13: Landscape for Policies DES 4 and DES 5. Policy DES 4 is focused on ensuring that proposals for new, or alterations to existing, shopfronts meet certain criteria. This includes ensuring that proposals respect the design, architectural style and character of the local area. Policy DES 5 is concerned with the control of advertisements, including their design and appearance. The policy aims to ensure that advertisement proposals respect local amenity, including the character and appearance of the building or place where they are displayed.

5.50 A minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA14: Historic environment for Policy DES 5. The policy outlines specific criteria that advertisement proposals must meet in areas which may affect the historic environment, including on or within the setting of a listed building, Conservation Area or Area of Townscape or Village Character.

Housing

Housing Supply and Zoning

5.51 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- SGS 3: Strategic Housing Allocation
- SGS 4: Management of Housing Supply

5.52 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5.13 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.13: SA findings for Housing policies

SA objective	SGS 3	SGS 4
SA1: Health and well-being	0	0
SA2: Society	0	0
SA3: Housing	++	++

SA objective	SGS 3	SGS 4
SA4: Education	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	0	0
SA6: Material assets	0	0
SA7: Physical resources	?	?
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0
SA9: Air	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	0
SA11: Water	?	?
SA12: Biodiversity	?	?
SA13: Landscape	?	?
SA14: Historic environment	?	?

5.53 Policy SGS 3 and SGS 4 are both expected to have significant positive effect in relation to SA3: Housing. Policy SGS 3 makes provision for a total of 16,409 dwellings over the plan period to meet the housing need for the Borough. The majority of the housing allocations are proposed within the main settlements, particularly the Craigavon Urban Area. Policy SGS 4 relates to the management of housing land and the delivery of housing over two phases. This will ensure the steady delivery of housing over the plan period to meet need. Phase 1 of housing delivery includes any committed housing sites and uncommitted available zoned housing sites while phase 2 includes new housing zonings and retained available legacy housing zonings outside the urban footprint.

5.54 Uncertain effects are identified in relation to SA7: Physical resources, SA9: Biodiversity, SA11: Water, SA13: Landscape and SA14: Historic environment as the delivery of housing could impact on these environmental objectives; however, this will depend largely on the location of housing developments which is not determined through this policy. Any development of housing is likely to result in an increased demand for water and higher amounts of wastewater being produced.

Reasonable alternative

5.55 The alternative approach supports the delivery of 16,159 homes across the Borough. This approach allocates 250 less homes that the chosen housing need set out within Policy SGS 3. This approach has been discounted as the delivery of 16,159 homes does not align with the Dfl Housing Growth Indicators figure of 17,200 need for the Borough (2016-2030), which is an average of 1147 units per year. This approach would therefore risk negative effects on SA3: Housing compared to Policy

SGS 3. The chosen alternative housing allocation figure of 16,409 is considered in keeping with regional direction including Dfl's Housing Growth Indicator figure of 17,200 units for our Borough over the 15 period (2016-2030). It also directs more housing to our most sustainable main settlements which is also in keeping with regional direction.

Protected Housing Land

5.56 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- HOU 1 Protecting Zoned Housing Land
- HOU 2 Protected Housing Areas in City and Town Centres

5.57 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5.14 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.14: SA findings for Protected housing land policies

SA Objective	HOU 1	HOU 2
SA1: Health and well-being	0	0
SA2: Society	0	0
SA3: Housing	++	++
SA4: Education	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	0	0
SA6: Material assets	0	0
SA7: Physical resources	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0
SA9: Air	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	0
SA13: Landscape	0	0
SA14: Historic environment	0	0

5.58 Policies HOU 1 and HOU 2 both provide protection for zoned housing land and protected housing areas. Within protected housing areas in Armagh city and other

town centres, planning permission will not be granted for any development that results in the change of use from housing. On zoned housing land, planning permission will only be granted for non-residential uses where the proposed developments meet the criteria set out within Policy HOU 1. Therefore, both polices provide protection for housing land and will help ensure the delivery of housing within the Borough. Overall, a significant positive effect is expected for Policies HOU 1 and HOU 2 in relation to SA3: Housing.

Design of Residential Development

5.59 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- HOU 3 Design Concept Statements, Concept Master Plans and Comprehensive Planning
- HOU 4 Quality in Residential Development
- HOU 11 Householder Development

5.60 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5.15 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.15: SA findings for the Design of residential development policies

SA Objective	HOU 3	HOU 4	HOU 11
SA1: Health and well-being	+	+	+
SA2: Society	+	+	+
SA3: Housing	0	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	0	0	0
SA6: Material assets	0	+	0
SA7: Physical resources	0	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0	0
SA9: Air	0	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	+	+

SA Objective	HOU 3	HOU 4	HOU 11
SA13: Landscape	0	+	+
SA14: Historic environment	0	+	0

5.61 Policies HOU 3, HOU 4, and HOU 11 together establish a range of criteria to ensure the delivery of high-quality residential development in the Borough. Policy HOU 3 requires all planning applications for residential development to be accompanied by a Design Concept Statement clearly indicating how the proposal will deliver, or contribute to, a quality and sustainable residential environment. HOU 4 sets out standards for development quality, including the provision of appropriate public and private open space and landscaping. HOU 11 ensures that householder developments do not negatively impact neighbouring amenity, such as through overshadowing, loss of light, dominance or other impacts. It is expected that these requirements will help ensure the creation of functioning communities and allow for the integration of new developments into existing communities while limiting the potential for adverse effects. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected for Policies HOU 3, HOU 4, and HOU 11 in relation to SA1: Health and well-being and SA2: Society.

5.62 Policy HOU 4 supports the redevelopment of existing buildings and infilling of vacant sites in established residential areas to accommodate a residential development proposal subject to a number of criteria. This includes a requirement that the proposed density is not significantly higher than that of the surrounding area. This approach supports the efficient use of land and helps to minimise the need for additional land resources for new development. A minor positive effect is therefore expected for Policy HOU 4 against SA6: Material assets.

5.63 Policy HOU 4 sets a range of design criteria against which development proposals will be considered. New development will be required to make adequate and appropriate provision for public and private open space and landscaped areas as an integral part of the development. Additionally, where appropriate, planted areas or discrete groups of trees will be required along site boundaries. A minor positive effect is therefore expected for the Policy in relation to SA12: Biodiversity. Policy HOU 11 is similarly expected to have a minor positive effect against SA12. The Policy requires householder development proposals to avoid the unacceptable loss or damage of trees and other landscape features that contribute to environmental quality, biodiversity and amenity value. Where such loss is unavoidable, suitable compensatory planting or mitigation measures must be provided. The policy also promotes new planting and biodiversity enhancements appropriate to the scale, nature and location of the development, supporting integration with the surrounding environment and benefiting wildlife.

5.64 Policy HOU 4 requires residential development in the Borough to demonstrate a sound understanding of its context. Development proposals must incorporate appropriate boundary treatments that positively contribute to local character and the quality of the streetscape. Close-boarded fencing is restricted to private garden areas where it would not have an aspect onto a street/road, footpath, cycleway and/or public space. In established residential areas, development must not result in unacceptable harm to local character or environmental quality. Planning permission for the redevelopment of existing buildings or the infilling of vacant sites (including extended garden areas) will only be granted where the proposed density is not significantly higher than that of the surrounding area, and where the pattern of development reflects the established character and environmental quality. Proposals must also avoid over-concentration or clustering that would be detrimental to local amenity and character. As such, Policy HOU 4 is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA13: Landscape. Policy HOU 11 is expected to have a minor positive effect against SA13, as it requires the position, scale, massing and overall design of householder development, including materials and finishes, to be sympathetic to the existing property and to preserve the character and appearance of the surrounding area.

5.65 Policy HOU 4 is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA14: Historic environment. It requires that proposals involving the intensification of site usage or site coverage within primarily residential parts of Conservation Areas take a form that respects local character. This includes residential extensions that are in keeping with the scale and appearance of the dwelling and its surroundings, the sympathetic conversion of larger dwellings into smaller units in appropriate locations, and the development of significant gap sites within otherwise continuous frontages where this reflects the prevailing density and character. This will help ensure development remains in keeping with the local area while minimising impacts on the setting of heritage assets.

Residential Mix

5.66 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- HOU 5 Residential Mix

5.67 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5.16 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.16: SA findings for Policy HOU 5

SA objective	HOU 5
SA1: Health and well-being	+
SA2: Society	+
SA3: Housing	++
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	+
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.68 Policy HOU 5 is set out to help meet local housing needs and to deliver a diverse range of homes in the Borough. The Policy sets out that larger residential developments (ten or more units or sites over 0.5 ha) are required to provide a suitable mix of house-types and sizes to help meet local housing needs, while smaller schemes will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The mix should reflect local housing demand and the site's context. Additionally, apartment/flat developments of ten or more units will also be expected to provide units of variety of sizes. The policy also supports the delivery of accessible and adaptable homes, requiring developments for ten or more dwellings, or a site of 0.5 hectares, to provide at least 10% of units as Wheelchair standard Housing. This will help ensure that new homes meet the accessibility needs of residents and can be easily adapted in the future to meet changing needs. Therefore, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA3: Housing. Given the policy's support for the delivery of a range of housing types that meets the specific needs of various resident types, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA1: Health and well-being and SA2: Society.

5.69 Policy HOU 5 requires a mix of house-types and sizes based on the prevailing housing need in the area, the specific characteristics or the development, its size, location and context. A minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 13: Landscape, as this will ensure that the scale, form and design of development to be appropriate in relation to the settlement where it is located.

Affordable Housing

5.70 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- HOU 6 Affordable Housing in Settlements
- HOU 18 Affordable Housing in the Countryside

5.71 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5.17 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.17: SA findings for the affordable housing policies

SA objective	HOU 6	HOU 18
SA1: Health and well-being	+	+
SA2: Society	+	+
SA3: Housing	++	++
SA4: Education	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	0	0
SA6: Material assets	0	+
SA7: Physical resources	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0
SA9: Air	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	0
SA13: Landscape	0	+
SA14: Historic environment	0	0

5.72 Policy HOU 6 and Policy HOU 18 both support the delivery of affordable housing within the Borough, which will ensure that developments address local housing needs and contribute to the creation of balanced and mixed communities. Furthermore, ensuring affordable housing across all developments over a specified threshold promotes equality of access to housing, including deprived households. Policy HOU 6 also stipulates that affordable housing units are required to be interspersed with and not readily distinguishable from market housing. This could have positive effects on social cohesion. Therefore, Policies HOU 6 and HOU 18 are

expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA1: Health and well-being and SA2: Society.

5.73 Policies HOU 6 and HOU 18 are both expected to have significant positive effects in relation to SA3: Housing as they both aid in ensuring affordable housing needs are met. Policy HOU 6 provides for the level of affordable housing provision required to address the Borough's needs, while Policy HOU 18 seeks to provide a flexible approach to development of affordable housing in the countryside, applying a sequential test in terms of location.

5.74 Policy HOU 18 stipulates that affordable housing in the countryside must follow a sequential test in terms of location. Land adjacent to the existing settlement limit will be prioritised first, followed by sites close to the settlement limits which currently contain buildings or where the site is already in a degraded or derelict state and there is an opportunity to improve the environment. This will help to encourage the use of brownfield land, and therefore the Policy is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA6: Material assets.

5.75 Policy HOU 18 requires all proposals for affordable dwellings in the countryside to be appropriately sited and designed to integrate sensitively with their surroundings. The sequential approach to site location prioritises locations adjacent to existing settlement boundaries, which will help to ensure that development is well-related to existing built form and minimises visual intrusion. Where edge-of-settlement sites are not available, the sequential test also identifies suitable previously undeveloped sites in close proximity to the settlement where development could be visually integrated into the landscape. Therefore, the Policy is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA13: Landscape.

Conversion or Change of Use of Existing Buildings to Flats or Apartments

5.76 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- HOU 7 Conversion or Change of Use of Existing Buildings to Flats or Apartments

5.77 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5.18 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.18: SA findings for Policy HOU 7

SA Objective	HOU 7
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	+
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	+
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	+
SA14: Historic environment	+

5.78 Policy HOU 7 supports the conversion or change of existing buildings to flats or apartments where criteria contained within the policy is met. This will allow for increased opportunities for housing to be delivered in the area. The Policy is therefore expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA3: Housing. The policy also requires proposals to maintain or enhance the character and appearance of the existing building, including its form, design architectural features and setting. Therefore, a minor positive effect against SA13: Landscape and SA14: Historic environment is expected as the policy could enhance the surrounding townscape and appearance of individual buildings.

5.79 Minor positive effect are also likely in relation to SA6: Material assets as the re-use and conversion of buildings helps to reduce material use associated with construction. The policy will also minimise the loss of greenfield land through re-using existing buildings.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

5.80 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- HOU 8 Houses in Multiple Occupation

5.81 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5.19 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.19: SA findings for Policy HOU 8

SA Objective	HOU 8
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	+
SA3: Housing	+
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.82 Policy HOU 8 is generally supportive of the development of HMOs where the criteria set out within the policy are met. Policy HOU 8 states that HMO developments will be granted where they do not exceed 10% of the residential properties within a 50m radius of the application property. The Policy is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA3: Housing as this will support the provision of accommodation for those in need of this type of housing. The policy requires direct, safe and secure access to HMOs to the public street. This will help to ensure the safety of residents and could discourage anti-social behaviour. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA2: Society.

Specialist Residential Accommodation

5.83 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- HOU 9 Specialist Residential Accommodation

5.84 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5.19 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.20: SA findings for Policy HOU 9

SA Objective	HOU 9
SA1: Health and well-being	+
SA2: Society	+
SA3: Housing	++
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	+
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.85 A significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA3: Housing. This policy supports new developments that provide specialist residential accommodation, ensuring the design and associated elements are suitable for the intended occupants. This will allow for housing needs to be met in the area for a wider range of people within the Borough and it will help provide housing that meets the accessibility needs of residents.

5.86 The Policy is also expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA1: Health and well-being and SA2: Society as it supports the delivery of specialist residential accommodation that is conveniently located near local services and facilities. This will encourage social integration and the health and wellbeing of the residents by ensuring they have access to key services. Locating accommodation near public transport could encourage residents to walk more resulting in a positive impact on physical health.

5.87 A minor positive effect is also expected for SA8: Active and sustainable travel as the policy supports specialist residential accommodation that provides convenient access to public transport. This could encourage the use of public transport resulting in a shift away from private car usage.

Travellers Accommodation

5.88 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- HOU 10 Travellers Accommodation

5.89 The SA findings for Policy HOU 10 are presented in Table 5.21 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.21: SA findings for Policy HOU 10

SA objective	HOU 10
SA1: Health and well-being	+
SA2: Society	+
SA3: Housing	++
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	+
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	+
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.90 This policy is expected to have a significant positive effect on SA3: Housing as it seeks to provide for the specific accommodation needs of Travellers. Proposals for a transit site or serviced site will need to meet the sequential test if the need cannot be met on an existing site. As such, a minor positive effect is also likely in relation to

SA2: Society. In addition, the policy requires appropriate and suitable provision for workspace, play space, amenity buildings, communal buildings and general site facilities in relation to Travellers accommodation.

5.91 The criteria included in the policy address a wide range of topics and so are likely to have broadly positive effects across the SA objectives. A minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA1: Health and well-being as the policy requires proposals for traveller accommodation and transit sites and serviced sites to not have detrimental effect on residential amenity. The policy also requires adequate space for domestic purposes and private amenity.

5.92 In relation to environmental effects, the policy requires proposals to not have a detrimental impact on local character and appropriate hard and soft landscaping should be provided to minimise the visual impact of the site. For transit and serviced sites, the proposal should be in close proximity to a settlement and be visually integrated into the landscape, mitigating potential adverse effects on landscape. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA13: Landscape.

5.93 As part of the sequential test for transit sites and serviced sites, sites that are close to the settlement limits that have been previously developed or are in derelict or degraded state are deemed acceptable. This could provide an opportunity to make use of brownfield land and improve the environment of the site. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA6: Material assets.

New, Replacement and Infill Development

5.94 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- HOU 12 New Dwellings in an Existing Cluster
- HOU 13 Replacement Dwellings
- HOU 14 Infill and Ribbon Development

5.95 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5.22 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.22: SA findings for the HOU 12 New, replacement and infill development policies

SA Objective	HOU 12	HOU 13	HOU 14
SA1: Health and well-being	+	0	0
SA2: Society	+	0	0
SA3: Housing	+	+	+/-
SA4: Education	0	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	0	0	0
SA6: Material assets	0	+	0
SA7: Physical resources	0	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0	0
SA9: Air	0	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	0	0
SA13: Landscape	0	0	0
SA14: Historic environment	0	+	0

5.96 Policy HOU 12 is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA1: Health and well-being as the policy permits dwellings at existing clusters of development in the countryside where the cluster is associated with a focal point such as a social / community building / facility. This will help support limited rural development in locations with some level of existing community infrastructure, thereby improving access to local facilities. The Policy stipulates that the cluster of development must consist of four or more buildings, of which at least three are dwellings. This is expected to have a minor positive effect against SA2: Society as ensuring that new development in the countryside is located in proximity to existing dwellings will help to maintain a sense of community.

5.97 Policies HOU 12, HOU 13, and HOU 14 are all expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA3: Housing as they support the delivery of new homes. Policy HOU 12 supports new dwellings within existing clusters of development in the countryside. Policy HOU 13 allows for the replacement of existing dwellings where the building retains the essential characteristics of a dwelling, and as a minimum all external structural walls are substantially intact. Favourable consideration will also be given to the replacement of permanent redundant non-residential buildings with a single dwelling. Policy HOU 14 permits the infilling of small gap sites capable of accommodating up to two dwellings within otherwise substantial and continuously

built-up frontages. However, the minor positive effect of Policy HOU 14 in relation to SA3: Housing is mixed with a minor negative effect, as it also restricts development by refusing proposals that would create or contribute to ribbon development.

5.98 Policy HOU 13 is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA6: Materials assets. The policy supports the replacement of existing dwellings, which must be contained within the existing curtilage, thereby reducing the need for development on undeveloped land. This promotes the efficient use of land by making use of previously developed sites and existing building footprints, helping to minimise greenfield land take-up. Favourable consideration is also given to the replacement of permanent redundant non-residential buildings with a single dwelling, further supporting the reuse of existing structures.

5.99 Policy HOU 12 supports new dwellings at an existing cluster of development in the countryside provided that the proposed development will not significantly alter the existing character of the cluster or visually intrude into the open countryside, mitigating potential adverse effects on landscape. Policy HOU 13 is also expected to mitigate potential adverse effects on landscape, as the Policy provides stringent criteria to ensure that proposals for replacement dwellings do not adversely impact the character and visual integrity of the landscape. Replacement dwellings must not result in a materially greater visual impact than the existing building, and their design must be of high quality, appropriate to the rural setting, and reflective of local distinctiveness. Policy HOU 14 contributes to landscape protection by resisting ribbon development, which can harm the character and appearance of the countryside by creating continuous built frontage and reducing the visual openness of rural areas. The Policy does, however, permit limited infill development on small gap sites for up to two dwellings within otherwise substantial and continuously built-up frontages, provided that proposals respect the established pattern of development in terms of size, scale, siting and plot size. This will help to ensure that such development helps to maintain the landscape character of the countryside.

5.100 Policy HOU 13 prevents the replacement of listed buildings unless exceptional circumstances are demonstrated. Additionally, the Policy stipulates that the retention and sympathetic refurbishment of non-listed vernacular dwellings in the countryside, with adaptation, if necessary, will be encouraged in preference to their replacement. This will help protect the built heritage and local identity of the Borough, and as such, a minor positive effect is expected for Policy HOU 13 in relation to SA14: Historic environment.

Farm/Agricultural Dwellings

5.101 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- HOU 15 Dwellings on a Farm
- HOU 16 Dwelling for Non-Agricultural Enterprises
- HOU 17 Personal and Domestic Circumstances

5.102 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5.23 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.23: SA findings for the farm/agricultural dwellings policies

SA Objective	HOU 15	HOU 16	HOU 17
SA1: Health and well-being	0	0	+
SA2: Society	+	+	0
SA3: Housing	+	+	+
SA4: Education	0	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	+	+	0
SA6: Material assets	0	0	0
SA7: Physical resources	0	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	-	-	-
SA9: Air	-	-	-
SA10: Climate change	-	-	-
SA11: Water	0	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	0	0
SA13: Landscape	+	0+	0
SA14: Historic environment	0	0	0

5.103 Policy HOU 17 supports new dwellings in the countryside where there are compelling personal or domestic circumstances. The policy stipulates that there must be no alternative solutions to meet the particular circumstances of the case, thereby limiting development in the countryside to those with specific health requirements. The policy is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA1: Health and well-being by supporting suitable living arrangements in the countryside for individuals with personal or domestic circumstances.

5.104 Policies HOU 15 and HOU 16 collectively support rural livelihoods. Policy HOU 15 supports dwellings on active established farms, subject to stringent criteria, while Policy HOU 16 supports dwellings in connection with an established non-agricultural business enterprise where it can be easily demonstrated that there is a specific need that makes it essential for an employee of the business to live at the site of their work. These policies will help to ensure that agricultural and non-agricultural workers can live close to their place of work, thereby ensuring equal opportunity to work. As such, minor positive effects are expected for the policies against SA2: Society.

5.105 Policies HOU 15, HOU 16 and HOU 17 are expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA3: Housing as they support rural community needs through the provision of dwellings in the countryside. Policy HOU 15 supports proposals for dwellings on active and established farms, provided they meet the outlined criteria. Policy HOU 16 supports dwelling in connection with an established non-agricultural business enterprise, where it can be clearly demonstrated that there is a site specific need that makes it essential for an employee of the business to live at the site of their work. Policy HOU 17 supports new dwellings in the countryside where there are compelling personal or domestic circumstances.

5.106 Policies HOU 15 and HOU 16 support rural economic development by allowing new dwellings only where there is a clear functional need linked to an active and established business, and as such are both expected to have minor positive effect against SA5: Economic growth. Policy HOU 15 provides for accommodation on active and established farms subject to conditions including that the farm business is currently active and has been established for a minimum of six years. This will help to support the rural economy by ensuring that active farming businesses are supported by well-connected dwellings. Policy HOU 16 stipulates that planning permission will be granted for a dwelling in connection with an established non-agricultural business enterprise, where it can be clearly demonstrated that there is a site-specific need that makes it essential for an employee on the business to live at the site of their work.

5.107 Policies HOU 15 and HOU 16 are likely to result in increased reliance on private motor vehicles, as rural workers' dwellings are typically located in isolated countryside locations with limited access to key services, facilities, and public transport. Similarly, Policy HOU 17 supports new dwellings in the countryside to meet the long-term needs of applicants, which are also likely to be in locations that are remote from services and poorly served by sustainable transport options. Increased private car use is likely and so too are associated adverse impacts on air quality and greenhouse gas emissions. Minor negative effects are therefore expected in relation to SA8: Active and sustainable travel, SA9: Air, and SA10: Climate change.

5.108 HOU 15 requires that any new dwellings on an active or established farm are visually linked or sited to cluster with an established group of farm buildings on the farm holding. This will help to limit adverse visual impacts associated with new development in rural landscapes. Policy HOU 16 requires dwellings associated with non-agricultural rural businesses to be located beside or within the boundaries of the business enterprise and integrate with the businesses on the site. This will also help to ensure that new development is well-contained, avoiding adverse visual impacts. Therefore, Policies HOU 15 and HOU 16 are expected to have minor positive effects against SA13: Landscape.

Residential Caravans and Mobile Homes

5.109 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- HOU 19 Residential Caravans and Mobile Homes

5.110 The SA findings for the policy are presented in Table 5.24 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.24: SA findings for Policy HOU 19

SA Objective	HOU 19
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	+
SA3: Housing	+
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	+
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.111 Minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA3: Housing as Policy HOU 19 supports the provision of temporary residential caravans or mobile homes. This will help with meeting short-term housing needs within the Borough. The policy also helps to support the local needs of those with exceptional personal or domestic circumstances. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA2: Society as the policy may help to meet specific needs in relation to housing and support those who are vulnerable.

5.112 The Policy provides a three-year time limit for residential caravans and mobile homes which could have minor positive effect on SA6: Material assets as it optimises use of available land while ensuring it continues to be available for future use at the end of the temporary period.

Retailing and Town Centres

Retail

5.113 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- SGS 6: Retail Strategy
- RTC 1 Retailing and Other Main Town Centre Uses
- RTC 5 Retailing in the Countryside

5.114 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5.25 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.25: SA findings for the Retail policies

SA Objective	SGS 6	RTC 1	RTC 5
SA1: Health and well-being	0	0	0
SA2: Society	+	0	+
SA3: Housing	0	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	++	++	+
SA6: Material assets	0	0	0
SA7: Physical resources	0	0	+

SA Objective	SGS 6	RTC 1	RTC 5
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0	0
SA9: Air	0	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	0	0
SA13: Landscape	0	0	0
SA14: Historic environment	0	0	0

5.115 Significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA5: Economic growth for Policies SGS6 and RTC 1 as both policies promote economic vitality in both urban and rural environments which will make the Borough a more attractive place to live and work. Both SGS 6 and RTC 1 also adopt a town centre first approach, promoting a diverse range of uses which will further encourage job creation at locations where a high number of residents are able to access. This is further supported through the use of sequential testing and retail impact assessments within the policies. Policy RTC 5 supports the development of retail facilities within the countryside where there is a site-specific need. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA5: economic growth as some support for retail in the countryside could support the rural economy and job creation.

5.116 Policy RTC 1 and RTC 5 both require proposals to demonstrate there will be no adverse impact from proposals on the vitality and viability of an existing centre or settlement within a catchment, supporting a sustainable approach to retail development in the Borough. Policy RTC 1 also aims to limit concentrations of non-retail uses that would be harmful to the shopping function of the centre, this will ensure sufficient land supply in appropriate locations for economic growth.

5.117 Policy RTC 5 supports development of retail facilities in the countryside where a site-specific need has been demonstrated which will in turn give rural communities appropriate access to facilities and services. Policy SGS6 protects and enhances diversity in range of town centre uses such as leisure, cultural and community facilities which will support positive social interaction. Both policies are therefore expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA 2: Society.

5.118 A minor positive effect is also expected for SA 7: Physical resources in relation to RTC 5 as the policy will only permit new buildings in exceptional circumstances as the policy states retail facilities should be located within existing buildings where possible. This could encourage the take up of previously developed land.

Town Centres

5.119 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- RTC 2 District Centres
- RTC 3 Local Centres
- RTC 4 Villages and Small Settlements

5.120 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5.26 and are summarised below the table

Table 5.26: SA findings for the Town Centres policies

SA Objective	RTC 2	RTC 3	RTC 4
SA1: Health and well-being	0	0	0
SA2: Society	0	0	+
SA3: Housing	0	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	+	+	+
SA6: Material assets	0	0	0
SA7: Physical resources	0	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0	0
SA9: Air	0	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	0	0
SA13: Landscape	0	0	0
SA14: Historic environment	0	0	0

5.121 Policies RTC 2 and RTC 3 both support proposals for retail and other main town centre uses where proposals comply to provisions set out in Policy RTC 1. This will support the enhancement of attractive and vibrant district and local centres. Both policies are therefore expected to have minor positive effect in relation to SA5: Economic growth.

5.122 Minor positive effects are also expected in relation to SA5: Growth and SA2: Society for Policy RTC 4. The policy states that proposals for retail within villages and small settlements will be permitted where they meet an identified local need. This will enhance accessibility to services and facilities, encourage community cohesion and support economic growth in rural areas within the Borough.

Roadside Service Facilities

5.123 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- RTC 6 Roadside Service Facilities

5.124 The SA findings for the policy are presented in Table 5.27 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.27: SA findings for Policy RTC 6

SA Objective	RTC 6
SA1: Health and well-being	+
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	+
SA6: Material assets	+
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.125 A minor positive effect is identified for SA5: Economic growth, as the policy supports the development of roadside facilities which can contribute to the local economy by providing services to road users. However, the impact is expected to be

limited. The requirement to demonstrate need and avoid harm to existing centres ensures that economic benefits are balanced and do not undermine the viability of established settlements.

5.126 A minor positive effect is also identified for SA6: Material assets, as the policy promotes the provision of supporting infrastructure, including fuel and electric vehicle recharging facilities, which are important components of the transport network. The criteria relating to access and road safety will ensure that infrastructure is developed in a coordinated and safe manner. Ensuring road safety will have a minor positive effect on SA1: Health and well-being.

Tourism

Tourism Strategy

5.127 This section presents the SA findings for Policy SGS 7 in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- SGS 7: Tourism Strategy

5.128 The SA findings for Policy SGS 7 are presented in Table 5. and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.28: SA findings for Policy SGS 7

SA objective	SGS 7
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	+/-
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	++
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0

SA objective	SGS 7
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	+

5.129 Policy SGS 7 supports the sustainable development of the tourism industry within main settlements (hubs), small towns and settlements. The development of the tourism industry has the potential to support economic growth through providing employment opportunities, regeneration and conservation of assets within the Borough. Tourism development also offers the opportunity to boost the local economy as a result of visitor spending. Therefore, a significant positive effect is expected for SA5: Economic growth. As the policy supports tourism development that could aid conservation there is the potential for enhancement of assets with the Borough which could include historical assets. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA14: Historic Environment.

5.130 A mixed minor positive and minor negative effect is expected in relation to SA2: Society as the policy could instil a sense of pride and identity particularly within rural communities as a result of tourism development. However, tourism development can result in local impacts on communities in terms of visitor pressure.

Tourism Development in Settlements

5.131 This section presents the SA findings for Policy TOU 1 in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- TOU 1 Tourism Development in Settlements

5.132 The SA findings for Policy TOU 1 are presented in Table 5.25 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.259: SA findings for Policy TOU 1

SA objective	TOU 1
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0

SA objective	TOU 1
SA5: Economic growth	++
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.133 A significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA5: Economic growth as Policy TOU 1 supports tourism development within a settlement. Tourism development within a settlement has the potential to support economic growth within the settlement and the wider Borough by providing employment opportunities. Tourism development also offers the opportunity to boost the local economy as a result of visitor spending.

Tourism in the Countryside

5.134 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- TOU 2 Tourist Amenities in the Countryside
- TOU 3 Hotels, Guest Houses and Tourist Hostels in the Countryside
- TOU 4 Major Tourism Development in the Countryside- Exceptional Circumstances
- TOU 5 Self Catering Accommodation in the Countryside
- TOU 6 New and Extended Holiday Parks in the Countryside

5.135 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5. and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.30: SA findings for Tourism in the Countryside policies

SA objective	TOU 2	TOU 3	TOU 4	TOU 5	TOU 6
SA1: Health and well-being	0	0	0	0	+
SA2: Society	0	0	0	0	0
SA3: Housing	0	0	0	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0	0	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	++	++	++	++	++
SA6: Material assets	0	0	0	0	0
SA7: Physical resources	+	+	0	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0	0	0	0
SA9: Air	0	0	0	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	0	0	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0	0	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	+?	0	0	0
SA13: Landscape	0	0	0	0	0
SA14: Historic environment	0	0	0	0	0

5.136 Policy TOU 2 supports the development of tourist amenities within the countryside. Any tourist amenity of regional importance is required to demonstrate substantial benefit to regional tourism. Policy TOU 4 provides support for major tourism development where development will provide exceptional benefit to the industry and also benefit to the local area. Supporting tourist amenities and development could help the rural economy in the Borough to grow and provide employment opportunities outwith the main settlements. Policies TOU 3, TOU 5 and TOU 6 support the development of hotels, guest houses, tourist hostels as well as self catering accommodation and holiday parks in the countryside. Policy TOU 5 requires self catering accommodation to not be used as a permanent residence, and the design of the development must deter people from staying permanently. This will ensure that self catering accommodation remains available for visitors and continues to support the local and regional economy. Providing support for a range of visitor accommodation in the countryside could provide additional employment opportunities within the hospitality sector and encourage visitor spending within more rural communities. Therefore, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA5: Economic growth for Policies TOU 2, TOU 3, TOU 4, TOU 5 and TOU 6.

5.137 Policy TOU 6 requires adequate provision for communal open space, including play and recreation areas, as part of a holiday park. Therefore, a minor positive effect

is expected in relation to SA1: Health and well-being as the policy will support spaces for socialising and recreation.

5.138 A minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA7: Physical resources for Policy TOU 2 as the policy requires any buildings associated with tourism development to utilise existing or replacement buildings where possible. This includes the extension of existing buildings within the tourism industry. Utilising existing or replacements buildings could minimise the extraction of resources for new building materials and encourage the sustainable use of existing materials. A minor positive effect is also expected for Policy TOU 3 as it requires a sequential test approach in relation to new buildings on the edge of settlements. This will ensure that sites that are previously developed or in a derelict or degraded state with the opportunity to improve the environment should be developed first.

5.139 Extensions to existing tourist amenity (Policy TOU 2) will be supported where the proposal does not cause harm to the rural character, landscape quality or environmental integrity of the local area. Any extensions, conversion or new builds should also respect any historic or architectural interest present within the site. Policy TOU 3 requires that the replacement of an existing building should result in significant environmental benefit and the overall size of the new development should integrate with the surrounding landscape and not have a visual impact significantly greater than the existing building. The policy also requires that the existing building is not listed and any new building should make a contribution to local heritage or character. Expansion of existing hotels, guest houses and tourist hotels should respect the scale, design and materials of the original buildings. New build hotels, guest houses or tourist hostels will only be allowed on the edge of a settlement where they do not overly dominate; do not contribute to urban sprawl; and, can be visually integrated into the landscape.

5.140 New and extended holiday parks (Policy TOU 6) should be designed in a way that respects the surrounding landscape and rural character. In addition, the development should integrate into the landscape through using existing natural and built features with soft landscaping potentially required to soften the visual impact of the development. Furthermore, soft landscaping should be used to separate grouping or clusters of caravan pitches/motor homes. However, a negligible effect is expected in relation to SA13: landscape for Policy TOU 2, TOU 3 and TOU 6 as the policy will only mitigate against the negative effects caused by development.

5.141 Policy TOU 3 requires that the replacement of existing buildings will result in significant environmental benefit. Therefore a minor positive effect with uncertainty is expected in relation to SA12: Biodiversity as the policy could result in enhancements to local biodiversity but it is not clear what the environmental benefit may be.

Safeguarding Tourism Assets

5.142 This section presents the SA findings for Policy TOU 7 in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- TOU 7 Safeguarding Tourism Assets

5.143 The SA findings for Policy TOU 7 are presented in Table 5. and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.31: SA findings for Policy TOU 7

SA objective	TOU 7
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	+
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.144 Policy TOU 7 provides protection for tourism assets ensuring that development in close proximity to an asset will not cause harm. This will help to ensure the viability of the tourism industry and the employment opportunities associated with it. Therefore, minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA5: Economic growth.

5.145 Safeguarding tourism assets and ensuring development proposals cause no harm has the potential to protect cultural and historical assets within the Borough, particularly if they have historic and cultural value.

Minerals Development

Minerals Development

5.146 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- MIN 1 Minerals Development

5.147 The SA findings for Policy MIN 1 are presented in Table 5.2 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.32: SA findings for Policy MIN 1

SA Objective	MIN 1
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	+
SA7: Physical resources	+
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	+
SA12: Biodiversity	+
SA13: Landscape	+
SA14: Historic environment	+

5.148 Policy MIN 1 supports minerals development where it is demonstrated that such proposals will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on safety, human health, and the amenity of people living or working in proximity to the site.

5.149 Policy MIN 1 stipulates that minerals development proposals must demonstrate that they provide effective and sustainable solutions for the management of waste from extraction, including, where relevant, the reuse of

recycled and secondary material. The policy also requires that proposals will not have unacceptable cumulative impacts when considered alongside existing, approved, or planned minerals and other development. These requirements support more efficient use of resources thereby helping to minimise the exploitation of new resources and promoting more sustainable extraction practices. As such, minor positive effects are expected for the policy against SA6: Material assets and SA7: Physical resources.

5.150 The policy supports minerals development where it is demonstrated that such proposals will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the natural environment, historic environment, water environment, and landscape character and visual amenity. Further to this, Policy MIN 1 provides strong protection for designated and sensitive sites, stating that development will not normally be permitted where it would adversely affect the integrity of, or undermine sites or areas of landscape, amenity or heritage (natural, built or archaeological) value. The policy is therefore expected to have minor positive effects against SA11: Water, 12: Biodiversity, 13: Landscape and 14: Historic environment.

Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development

5.151 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- MIN 2 Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development

5.152 The SA findings for Policy MIN 2 are presented in Table 5.26 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.26: SA findings for Policy MIN 2

SA Objective	MIN 2
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	++

SA Objective	MIN 2
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	+
SA13: Landscape	+
SA14: Historic environment	+

5.153 Policy MIN 2 restricts development in designated Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMD) unless clearly defined exceptions are met. Key exceptions include where development relates to the extraction of a high-value mineral. Further exceptions may be permitted in an ACMD for an appropriate minor expansion of an existing mineral working or landing site or an appropriate short-term extraction. A significant positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA7: Physical resources as this will help to promote the sustainable and selective use of mineral resources, reducing the need for new extraction areas and minimising unnecessary resource sterilisation.

5.154 The policy stipulates that planning permission will not be granted for minerals development in a designated ACMD subject to clearly defined exceptions. ACMDs are designated in order to safeguard the most valuable or sensitive areas within the Borough from the detrimental impacts of minerals development. This will help to ensure that only activities of clear strategic importance are considered in these areas. In doing so, the policy is expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA13: Landscape and 14: Historic environment as it will help to conserve important assets that could otherwise by adversely affected by mineral development.

Minerals Safeguarding

5.155 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- MIN 3 Minerals Safeguarding

5.156 The SA findings for Policy MIN 3 are presented in Table 5.27 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.27: SA findings for Policy MIN 3

SA Objective	MIN 3
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	+
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	+
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.157 Policy MIN 3 stipulates that Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) will be defined around identified mineral resources of workable economic value, or conservation value, where appropriate. Minerals safeguarding will ensure that access to such mineral resources is not restricted, preventing mineral resources of economic value to not be sterilised by other incompatible surface-level development which would prejudice their exploitation. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA5: Economic growth and SA7: Physical resources by protecting finite resources that are critical for construction, manufacturing and other industries that provide economic benefits.

Minerals and Hydrocarbon

5.158 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- MIN 4 High Value Minerals
- MIN 5 Hydrocarbon Development

5.159 The SA findings for minerals and hydrocarbon policies are presented in Table 5.28 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.28: SA findings for the minerals and hydrocarbon policies

SA Objective	MIN 4	MIN 5
SA1: Health and well-being	0	0
SA2: Society	0	0
SA3: Housing	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	+	+/-
SA6: Material assets	0	0
SA7: Physical resources	+	+
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0
SA9: Air	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	-
SA11: Water	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	+
SA13: Landscape	0	0
SA14: Historic environment	0	0

5.160 Policy MIN 4 stipulates that there will not be a presumption against the exploitation of high value minerals in any area. High-value minerals are valuable to the economy by providing raw materials, and by supporting the exploitation of such materials, the policy is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA5: Economic growth.

5.161 Policy MIN 5 provides overall support for hydrocarbon development, involving exploration and extraction using conventional methods, where the proposal is in accordance with the requirements of Policy MIN 4 and other policies within the Draft Plan Strategy. The policy is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA5: Economic growth as hydrocarbons provide economic benefits by serving as the primary energy source for transport and electricity generation. This effect is coupled with a minor negative effect as the policy stipulates that in all locations there will be a presumption against the extraction of hydrocarbons by unconventional methods until there is sufficient and robust evidence on all environmental impacts associated with such methods. This could restrict the exploitation of hydrocarbon resources and associated economic opportunities. A minor negative effect is identified for climate

change, as further exploitation of hydrocarbons contributes to greenhouse gas emissions.

5.162 Policy MIN 4 states that there will not be a presumption against the exploitation of high value minerals in any area. The policy is expected to have a minor positive effect against SA7: Physical resources by supporting the utilisation of minerals with the greatest economic value. Policy MIN 5 is also expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA7 as the policy supports proposals for hydrocarbon development involving exploration and extraction using conventional methods. This will help to support the efficient use of important resources.

5.163 Policy MIN 4 states that where a mineral development proposal for high value minerals falls within a statutory or policy designation, or a proposed designation, due weight will be given to the reason for the designation. This is likely to provide a level of protection to designated sites.

Peat Extraction

5.164 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- MIN 6 Peat extraction

5.165 The SA findings for Policy MIN 6 are presented in Table 5.36 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.29: SA findings for Policy MIN 6

SA Objectives	MIN 6
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	+
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0

SA Objectives	MIN 6
SA10: Climate change	+/-
SA11: Water	+
SA12: Biodiversity	+
SA13: Landscape	+
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.166 Policy MIN 6 stipulates that planning permission will only be granted for commercial peat extraction where it can be demonstrated that the peatland is significantly degraded and is not reasonably capable of restoration. The policy is expected to have a minor positive effect against SA7: Physical resources as this prevents extraction from viable peatlands and discourages over-exploitation thereby promoting the sustainable use of peatlands.

5.167 Policy MIN 6 is expected to have minor positive effects against SA10: Climate change, SA11: Water, SA12: Biodiversity, and SA13: Landscape as restricting commercial peat extraction to areas of significantly degraded peatland that are not reasonably capable of restoration will help to safeguard functional peatland resources, which act as important carbon sinks that can help mitigate climate change, support priority species and habitats, help to maintain clean water, and contribute to landscape character. However, peat extraction contributes to emission of greenhouse gases and therefore a mixed effect is identified for SA10: Climate change.

Post Mineral Extraction

5.168 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- MIN 7 Restoration and Aftercare of Minerals Sites
- MIN 8 Development at Risk associated with Past Underground Mineral Extraction

5.169 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5.37 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.30: SA findings for the Post Mineral Extraction policies

SA Objective	MIN 7	MIN 8
SA1: Health and well-being	+	+
SA2: Society	0	0
SA3: Housing	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	0	0
SA6: Material assets	+	+
SA7: Physical resources	+	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0
SA9: Air	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	+	0
SA13: Landscape	+	0
SA14: Historic environment	0	0

5.170 Policy MIN 7 is expected to have a minor positive effect on SA1: Health and well-being, as it requires the satisfactory restoration and aftercare of mineral sites to ensure they are safe and secure following extraction. This will help to support safe and secure after-uses of former mineral sites. Policy MIN 8 is also expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA1 as it stipulates that a Mine Risk Assessment will normally be required to be submitted as part of a planning application for new built development in proximity to a known abandoned mine, shaft, or adit. This assessment will be used to determine risks, including to the proposed development, neighbouring property and public safety, and include any necessary and appropriate mitigation to ensure that the development and surrounding area will be stable and safe.

5.171 Policy MIN 7 stipulates that planning permission for all new minerals development proposals will be conditional upon the satisfactory restoration and aftercare of the mineral site. The policy goes on to state that restoration proposals must utilise materials from within the site as far as possible so as to limit the importation of materials. This will help to promote the efficient use of on-site materials and also reuse of land following mineral extraction. Therefore, Policy MIN 7 is expected to have minor positive effects against SA6: Material assets and SA7: Physical resources. Policy MIN 8 seeks to ensure that development in areas affected by historic mining is only permitted where risks such as land instability and other

hazards associated with historic mining are properly assessed and mitigated. This is likely to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA6 by reducing the likelihood of damage to material assets such as infrastructure.

5.172 Policy MIN 7 requires restoration proposals for new minerals development to take account of the specific characteristics of the excavation site and its local context, and to restore or, where possible, enhance landscape character and the overall environment, including biodiversity. As such, minor positive effects are expected for the policy against SA12: Biodiversity and SA13: Landscape.

Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

Open Space

5.173 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- SGS 9: Open Space Strategy
- OSR 1 Protection and Provision of Open Space
- OSR 2 Public Open Space in New Residential Development
- OSR 8 Green and Blue Infrastructure

5.174 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5.31 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.31: SA findings for the Open Space policies

SA Objective	SGS 9	OSR 1	OSR 2	OSR 8
SA1: Health and well-being	++	++	++	++
SA2: Society	+	0	+	+
SA3: Housing	0	0	+	0
SA4: Education	0	0	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	0	0	0	0
SA6: Material assets	0	0	0	0
SA7: Physical resources	0	0	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	+	0	0	+

SA Objective	SGS 9	OSR 1	OSR 2	OSR 8
SA9: Air	+	0	0	+
SA10: Climate change	0	0	0	+
SA11: Water	0	0	0	+
SA12: Biodiversity	+	+	+	++
SA13: Landscape	+	+	+	+
SA14: Historic environment	0	0	+	0

5.175 Policies SGS 9, OSR 1, 2 and 8 are expected to have significant positive effects in relation to SA1: Health and well-being as the protection and provision of new open space and green and blue infrastructure will increase opportunities for recreation, promoting heathier lifestyles. Policy SGS 9 seeks to protect existing and planned open space and support the provision and enhancement of high-quality open space, sports, recreation and children's play facilities in accessible locations. It also supports the delivery of new play space within and outside residential development where a need is identified, as well as the protection, enhancement and delivery of existing and planned greenways forming the Borough's strategic and community network. This will help to increase opportunities for recreation and physical activity, promoting healthier lifestyles. Policies OSR 1 and OSR 2 support the provision of open space, with Policy OSR 2 specifically requiring public open space within residential developments of 25 units or more (or sites of 1 hectare or more), and equipped children's play areas in larger developments of 100 units or more (or sites of 5 hectares or more). The policy also stipulates that new residential development must provide an appropriate quantity and type of open space for special groups, such as older people or people with disabilities. This will ensure that new housing growth is accompanied by inclusive and accessible open space, which will help to promote physical activity, community wellbeing, and healthier lifestyles for local communities. Policy OSR 8 seeks to protect and enhance green and blue infrastructure networks. By safeguarding connectivity and requiring new development to maintain or improve access to these networks, the policy will help to encourage physical activity and increased access to green and blue spaces.

5.176 Policies SGS 9 and OSR 2 collectively support the provision, protection and enhancement of high-quality open space, sports and recreational facilities in accessible locations. SGS 9 facilitates the upgrade of existing provision and the delivery of new play space for children and young people both within residential developments and in other locations where a need is identified. OSR 2 requires new residential development to incorporate public open space and equipped children's play areas, ensuring such spaces are designed to be safe, accessible and of clear recreational and/or amenity value. These policies therefore will both support the

creation and maintenance of spaces within which residents can interact, thereby promoting social integration, and support opportunities for recreation and community activity across all age groups. Both policies are therefore expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA2: Society. Policy OSR 8 is also expected to have a minor positive effect against SA2, as the Policy stipulates that where possible, development proposals should include on-site linkages to the green and blue infrastructure network as an integral part of the development. This policy approach will help to improve connectivity and access to shared spaces, thereby supporting social interaction and more well-connected communities.

5.177 Policy OSR 2 is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA3: Housing. The policy supports the quality and sustainability of residential development by requiring the provision of public open space and children's play areas, which will help to create more attractive, liveable and well-designed residential environments.

5.178 Policy SGS 9 is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA8: Active and sustainable travel as the policy seeks to facilitate the delivery, protection and enhancement of greenways that form the Boroughs strategic and community greenway network. This will help to support a modal shift away from private car usage towards active travel. Policy OSR 8 is also likely to have a minor positive effect against SA8 because the policy encourages development proposals to include on-site linkages to the green and blue infrastructure network as an integral part of the development, which is likely to enhance connectivity through new cycling or walking infrastructure, promoting modal shift through sustainable travel methods. Policies SGS 9 and OSR 8 are both expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA9: Air, given their potential to support a degree of modal shift towards less polluting modes of transport. Policy OSR 8 also stipulates that development proposals must, where necessary, include enhancements to the green and blue infrastructure network, which will encourage new vegetation. This will help to filter out air pollutants and reduce particulate matter.

5.179 Policy SGS 9 is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA10: Climate change as the delivery of an accessible and well-connected greenway network is likely to help limit the need to travel by car to open spaces and encourage active travel. As such the policy may help to limit carbon emissions and air pollution associated with vehicular traffic. Policy OSR 8 is also expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA10. Support for protecting, conserving, and enhancing green and blue infrastructure networks, particularly through the requirement for development proposals, where necessary, to include enhancements that mitigate any unacceptable adverse impacts on existing wildlife habitats or features of natural heritage, landscape, or recreational value, will help achieve multiple climate benefits.

These include reducing flood risk, the protection of soils resources, and strengthening ecosystem resilience to future climatic shocks.

5.180 Policy OSR 8 stipulates that sites and corridors that form part of the existing and planned green and blue infrastructure network will be protected. The policy also seeks to prevent development that would fragment or undermine the function, access, or future enhancement of green and blue infrastructure. By safeguarding blue infrastructure, the policy is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation SA11: Water.

5.181 Policies SGS 9, OSR 1, and OSR 2 are expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA12: Biodiversity. Policy SGS 9 seeks to safeguard existing and planned open spaces as well as facilitate the delivery, protection, and enhancement of greenways that form the Borough's strategic and community greenway network. Policy OSR 1 supports the provision of new or extended public open space and the protection of existing open spaces in the Borough. The Policy stipulates that all proposals must demonstrate that the loss of open space will have no significant detrimental impact on the amenity, character or biodiversity of an area. Policy OSR 2 supports the provision of public open space in new residential development, stipulating that public open space must retain important landscape, natural, and historic environment features and incorporate, protect, enhance, and restore these appropriately. Policy OSR 8 is expected to have a significant positive effect in relation to SA12 as the overarching aim of the Policy is to ensure that green and blue infrastructure is protected and enhanced. This will include through requiring mitigation and enhancement measures where necessary, and encouraging the creation of on-site linkages, which will help to support habitat connectivity and ecological networks.

5.182 Policies SGS 9, OSR 1, OSR 2 and OSR 8 are expected to have minor positive effects against SA13: Landscape. Policies SGS 9, OSR 1, and OSR 2 both seek to safeguard and provide new open space, which will enhance the quality of the public realm and hence the quality of the landscape. Policy SGS 9 also seeks to facilitate the provision of an accessible and well-connected greenway network for the Borough, which will enhance the quality of public realm and open spaces, and hence the quality of the landscape. Policy OSR 1 states that all proposals must demonstrate that the loss of open space will have no significant detrimental impact on the character of the area. Policy OSR 2 includes criteria for public open space in new residential development, including requirements for it to provide recreational and/or amenity value, enhance environmental quality and visual appearance, and retain important landscape, natural and historic environment features, while incorporating measures to protect, enhance, or restore them. Policy OS 2 is therefore also expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA14: Historic environment.

Policy OSR 8 states that development proposals must, where necessary, include enhancements to the green and blue infrastructure network to mitigate any potential unacceptable adverse impacts on existing wildlife habitats or features of natural heritage, landscape or recreational value.

Outdoor Recreation in the Countryside

5.183 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- OSR 3 Outdoor Recreation in the Countryside

5.184 The SA findings for the policy are presented in Table 5.39 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.32: SA findings for Policy OSR 3 Outdoor Recreation in the Countryside

SA Objective	OSR 3
SA1: Health and well-being	++
SA2: Society	+
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	+
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.185 A significant positive effect is identified for SA1: Health and well-being, as the policy facilitates outdoor recreational opportunities, which can encourage physical activity and improve mental health. Similarly, a minor positive effect is expected for

SA2: Society, as outdoor recreation can support social interaction, community cohesion and inclusive access to countryside activities.

5.186 A minor positive effect is also expected for SA8: Active and sustainable travel, as outdoor recreational uses may encourage walking and cycling, although this is likely to be limited by the rural location of the activities.

5.187 The policy explicitly requires no adverse impact on the natural and historic environment. This protective approach ensures that recreational development is carefully managed to conserve environmental assets, landscape character and heritage features. Development is also required to be compatible with other countryside uses in terms of nature, scale and extent.

Sports and Recreation Facilities

5.188 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- OSR 4 Intensive Sports Facilities
- OSR 5 Noise Generating Sports and Outdoor Recreational Facilities
- OSR 6 Development of Facilities ancillary to Water Sports
- OSR 7 The Floodlighting of Sports and Outdoor Recreational Facilities

5.189 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5. and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.40: SA findings for the Sports and recreation facilities policies

SA Objective	OSR 4	OSR 5	OSR 6	OSR 7
SA1: Health and well-being	+	+	+	+
SA2: Society	0	0	0	0
SA3: Housing	0	0	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	0	0	0	0
SA6: Material assets	0	0	0	0
SA7: Physical resources	0	0	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0	0	0

SA Objective	OSR 4	OSR 5	OSR 6	OSR 7
SA9: Air	0	0	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	0	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0	+	0
SA12: Biodiversity	+	+	+	+
SA13: Landscape	+	+	+	+
SA14: Historic environment	+	0	+	0

5.190 Policies OSR 4, 5, 6 and 7 are all expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA1: Health and well-being. These policies collectively support the provision and management of sports and recreational facilities, which will help to increase opportunities for physical activity and encourage healthier lifestyles. Additionally, Policies OSR 4 and OSR 5 seek to ensure that such facilities are designed and managed to minimise adverse impacts on nearby residents, including noise and light pollution, and general disturbance, while Policy OSR 7 supports proposals for floodlighting of sports and outdoor recreational facilities where there is no unacceptable adverse impact on the visual amenity of the locality. This will help to manage the potential effects of intensified use, including increased noise, traffic and light pollution, particularly in areas close to residential properties.

5.191 Policy OSR 6 provides stringent criteria for the development of facilities ancillary to water sports adjacent to inland lakes, reservoirs and waterways. The policy states that such development proposals must be compatible with any existing use of the water, including non-recreational uses, and ensure that there is no adverse impact on the natural and historic environment. This will help to conserve the environmental quality and character of inland bodies of water and protect them from harmful development, and therefore the policy is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA11: Water.

5.192 Policies OSR 4, 5, 6 and 7 are all expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA12: Biodiversity as the policies include provisions to protect the natural environment from potential adverse impacts associated with sports and recreational development. Policies OSR 4 and OSR 6 stipulate that development will be permitted where there is no adverse impact on the natural and historic environment. Policy ORS 5 supports noise generating sports and outdoor recreational facilities only where there is no unacceptable level of conflict, disturbance or nuisance caused to farm livestock and wildlife or to the enjoyment of environmentally sensitive features and locations or areas valued for their silence and solitude. Policy OSR 7 states that development proposals for floodlighting associated with a sports and outdoor recreational facility will only be permitted where there is no unacceptable adverse

impact on the visual amenity or character of the locality, which will help to limit light pollution, which can impact wildlife by disrupting their natural environment.

5.193 Policies OSR 4, 5, 6 and 7 are also all expected to have minor positive effects against SA13: Landscape as they include criteria for sports and recreational development to ensure that it does not adversely affect the visual amenity or character of surrounding areas. Policy OSR 4 states that development proposals for an intensive sports facility will only be permitted where they are located within a settlement, thereby helping to avoid inappropriate development in open countryside and protecting the wider landscape. Where development outside settlements is exceptionally permitted, strict criteria require it to be closely related to the settlement, not harm its setting, and be appropriate in scale. Policy OSR 5 helps to support landscape character by protecting areas valued for their tranquillity and reducing noise impacts that could detract from the experience of rural and sensitive landscapes. Policy OSR 6 requires that ancillary water sports development does not adversely affect visual amenity or local landscape character. Similarly, Policy OSR 7 seeks to ensure that floodlighting proposals are carefully controlled to avoid unacceptable impacts on the visual quality of the surrounding area.

5.194 Policy OSR 4 states that the development of an intensive sports facility will be required to demonstrate that there is no adverse impact on the natural and historic environment. Similarly, Policy OSR 6 requires proposals for facilities ancillary to water sports adjacent to inland lakes, reservoirs and waterways to ensure that there are no adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment. As such, minor positive effects are expected for the policy in relation to SA14: Historic environment.

Community and Cultural

5.195 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- CCF 1 Community and Cultural Facilities

5.196 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5. and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.41: SA findings for Policy CCF 1

SA objective	CCF 1
SA1: Health and well-being	+

SA objective	CCF 1
SA2: Society	++
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	+
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.197 Policy CCF 1 provides support for the development of community or cultural facilities within settlements and the development of community facilities within the countryside. The policy also provides protection for existing community and cultural facilities and change of use will only be acceptable where the policy requirements have been met. Therefore, significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA2: Society as the policy will help in providing places for communities to gather and places for social integration. The policy also supports the celebration of different cultures by supporting the provision of cultural facilities. A minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA1: Health and well-being as the creation of community facilities could offer space for recreation and physical activity. This would have a positive effect on physical and mental health.

5.198 Community and cultural facilities are required to be accessible by a variety of transport options which includes public transport and active travel modes. This could encourage the use of public transport and walking and cycling supporting shift away from private car use. Therefore, minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA8: Active and sustainable travel.

Economic Development

Economic Development Land

5.199 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- SGS 5: Strategic Economic Development Lands Allocation

5.200 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5. and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.42: SA findings for Policy SGS 5

SA objective	SGS 5
SA1: Health and well-being	+
SA2: Society	+
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	++
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.201 Policy SGS 5 supports the allocation of 340 ha of economic development land within the Borough. The majority of the economic development land allocation is within the main settlement of the Craigavon Urban Area. Land is allocated in Armagh City and Banbridge town with land also allocated in the settlements lower down on the hierarchy. The allocation of this land will support economic growth within the Borough and the creation of new employment opportunities. Therefore, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA5: Economic growth. The creation of new

employment opportunities will also have positive effects on SA1: Health and wellbeing and SA2: Society by providing opportunities for residents in the Borough.

Reasonable alternative

5.202 The alternative approach allocates a total of 329 ha of economic development within the Borough. This approach was discounted as it did not allow for flexibility in case some cannot be delivered during the plan period. This approach would therefore risk negative effects on SA5: Economic growth compared to Policy SGS 5. This approach also did not align with the methodology of SGS 3 and LDP housing allocation which acknowledges the inter-relationship of housing and economic development within sustainable development.

Economic Development in the Countryside

5.203 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- ECN 1 Economic Development in the Countryside
- ECN 4 Major Economic Development in the Countryside

5.204 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5. and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.43: SA findings for the Economic development in the countryside policies

SA Objective	ECN 1	ECN 4
SA1: Health and well-being	0	0
SA2: Society	0	0
SA3: Housing	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	++	++
SA6: Material assets	0	0
SA7: Physical resources	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	+
SA9: Air	0	0

SA Objective	ECN 1	ECN 4
SA10: Climate change	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	0
SA13: Landscape	0	0
SA14: Historic environment	0	0

5.205 Policy ECN 1 provides overall support for economic development uses within the countryside where the proposal is in accordance with other policies within the Draft Plan Strategy. Policy ECN 4 supports the development of major economic development which would make a significant contribution to the regional economy. The policies will therefore support growth within the local and regional rural economy and the creation of employment opportunities within the countryside. Therefore, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA5: Economic growth.

5.206 A minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA8: Active and sustainable travel as Policy ECN4 requires transport impacts to be taken into consideration when considering a development proposal. Policy ECN 4 also requires environmental impacts to be taken into consideration when assessing a development proposal. However, it is unclear what environmental impacts will be considered. Although the policy stipulates that industrial development should be located on the edge of a town, where possible. This will help to minimise the impact of development on the rural character and visual amenity.

Established Economic Development in the Countryside

5.207 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- ECN 2 Expansion of an Established Economic Development Use in the Countryside
- ECN 3 Redevelopment of an Established Economic Development Use in the Countryside

5.208 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5. and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.44: SA findings for established economic development in the countryside policies

SA Objective	ECN 2	ECN 3
SA1: Health and well-being	0	0
SA2: Society	0	+
SA3: Housing	0	+
SA4: Education	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	++	++
SA6: Material assets	+	+
SA7: Physical resources	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0
SA9: Air	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	0
SA13: Landscape	+	+
SA14: Historic environment	0	0

5.209 Policy ECN 2 and Policy ECN 3 both support the continued use and redevelopment of established economic sites in the countryside, thereby contributing positively to the rural economy. Policy ECN 2 facilitates the expansion of existing enterprises where this can be accommodated within the current site or through proportionate development. While Policy ECN 3 promotes the redevelopment and upgrading of existing sites, often with environmental improvements. Both policies are therefore expected to have significant positive effects in relation to SA5: Economic growth, as they support employment retention, business expansion, and rural economic resilience.

5.210 Policy ECN 3 requires that redevelopment proposals deliver environmental benefits and address the entire site comprehensively. This approach is likely to improve the efficiency and condition of existing infrastructure and land use, supporting a more sustainable use of material assets. Therefore, Policy ECN 3 is expected to have a minor positive effect on SA6: Material assets. Policy ECN 2 is also expected to have a minor positive effect as it stipulates that development proposals for the expansion of an established economic use in the countryside will be expected to be accommodated through the reuse or extension of existing buildings on site. This approach encourages the efficient use of land and existing resources by prioritising the reuse of buildings.

5.211 It is unclear what the environmental benefits are that should be provided as part of redevelopment of a site.

5.212 Both policies include provisions to ensure that development respects rural character and integrates with the surrounding area. Policy ECN 2 restricts large-scale expansion to exceptional circumstances and requires proposals to respect rural character, while Policy ECN 3 ensures that redevelopment does not significantly increase visual impact. This will help to limit potential adverse impacts on rural character and visual amenity. As such, both policies are expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA13: Landscape.

5.213 Policy ECN 3 allows for alternative uses such as tourism, recreation, community facilities, and in exceptional cases affordable housing on former industrial sites where appropriate. This flexibility may contribute to improved community cohesion and increased access to local services. The policy could also help to support any local affordable housing need within rural communities. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA2: Society and SA3: Housing.

Small Scale Economic Development and Farming

5.214 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- ECN 5 Small Scale Economic Development Projects
- ECN 6 Farm Diversification

5.215 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5. and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.45: SA findings for small scale economic development and farming policies

SA Objective	ECN 5	ECN 6
SA1: Health and well-being	0	0
SA2: Society	+	0
SA3: Housing	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	++	++
SA6: Material assets	+	+

SA Objective	ECN 5	ECN 6
SA7: Physical resources	0	+
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0
SA9: Air	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	0
SA13: Landscape	+	+
SA14: Historic environment	0	0

5.216 Policies ECN 5 and ECN 6 both support forms of small-scale economic development in rural areas, contributing to the resilience and vitality of local economies while applying controls to ensure that development remains appropriately scaled and sensitive to its surroundings. As such, both policies are expected to have significant positive effects in relation to SA5: Economic growth, as they enable business activity, support rural enterprise and encourage local employment opportunities.

5.217 Policy ECN 5 supports small-scale economic development projects associated with villages and small settlements, including start-ups and proposals contributing to community regeneration. This can help strengthen local communities, support social cohesion and contribute to settlement vitality. Therefore, a minor positive effect is identified in relation to SA2: Society.

5.218 Policy ECN 6 is expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA objective 6: Material assets and SA7: Physical resources, as it prioritises the re-use and adaptation of existing farm buildings and supports the continued viable use of agricultural and forestry land. This promotes the efficient use of existing built assets and helps avoid unnecessary new development, contributing to the sustainable use of land-based resources. A minor positive effect for Policy ECN 5 is expected in relation to SA6: Material assets as it sets out a sequential preference for sites adjacent to settlement limits and for sites containing existing or degraded/derelict buildings close to settlements. This may encourage the more efficient use and re-use of land and existing assets, helping to manage material assets more sustainably.

5.219 Both policies are expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA13: Landscape. Policy ECN 5 requires development to be clearly associated with settlements, not dominate them, and avoid adverse landscape impacts or urban sprawl, while also applying a sequential preference for sites adjacent to settlements or involving previously developed or degraded land. In addition, Policy ECN 6 prioritises the use of existing farm buildings and only permits new buildings in

exceptional circumstances where they are well integrated with existing building groups. These policies will therefore help to limit dispersed or visually intrusive development in the countryside and support the maintenance of landscape character.

Agricultural and Forestry Development

5.220 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- ECN 7 Agricultural and Forestry Development

5.221 The SA findings for this policy is presented in Table 5.33 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.33: SA findings for the agricultural and forestry development policies

SA Objective	ECN 7
SA1: Health and well-being	+
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	++
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	+
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	+
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.222 Policy ECN 7 supports agricultural and forestry development on an established and active holding or enterprise, where it is demonstrated that the development is necessary for the efficient use of the business and would not result in an unacceptable adverse impact on the amenity of residential dwellings outside the holding or enterprise. The policy also requires new buildings to be justified, confirms

that existing buildings should be used where suitable, and seeks the siting of new buildings beside existing farm or forestry buildings unless an alternative site is essential for operational efficiency or required for health and safety reasons. This provides support for the ongoing operation and efficient functioning of agricultural holdings and forestry enterprises in the Borough. A significant positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA5: Economic growth.

5.223 A minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA1: Health and well-being and SA9: Air, as the policy requires that development must not result in an unacceptable adverse impact on the amenity of residential dwellings outside the holding or enterprise, including problems arising from noise, smell and pollution. This will help protect nearby residents from amenity impacts associated with agricultural and forestry development and may help to reduce the potential for adverse effects on living conditions and air quality.

5.224 A minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA7: Physical resources. The policy outlines requirements regarding the efficient use of agricultural holdings and forestry enterprises, and therefore supports the continued productive use of land-based rural resources. In addition, by requiring applicants to demonstrate that no suitable existing buildings are available before proposing a new building, the policy encourages the efficient use of existing assets.

Economic Development in Settlements

5.225 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- ECN 8 Economic Development in Settlements

5.226 The SA findings for this policy is presented in Table 5.47 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.47: SA findings for Policy ECN 8

SA objective	ECN 8
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0

SA objective	ECN 8
SA5: Economic growth	++
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.227 Policy ECN 8 supports the development of Class B1 Business, Class B2 Light Industrial Use and Class B3 General Industrial Use and Class B4 Storage or Distribution Use in cities and towns within the Borough. In addition, proposals for Class B1, B2, B3 or B4 will be supported in villages and small settlements where they are in keeping with the character and setting of the settlement and compatible with any adjacent and nearby uses. Therefore, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 5: Economic growth as the policy supports job creation and the growth of the local and regional economy.

Economic Development Uses

5.228 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- ECN 9 Retention of Zoned Lands and Economic Development Uses
- ECN 10 Development incompatible with Economic Development Uses

5.229 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5.34 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.34: SA findings for economic development uses policies

SA Objective	ECN 9	ECN 10
SA1: Health and well-being	0	0
SA2: Society	+	0

SA Objective	ECN 9	ECN 10
SA3: Housing	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	+	+
SA6: Material assets	+	0
SA7: Physical resources	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0
SA9: Air	0	+
SA10: Climate change	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	0
SA13: Landscape	0	0
SA14: Historic environment	+	0

5.230 Policies ECN 9 and ECN 10 both support the protection and effective functioning of land used for economic development, helping to maintain a strong and competitive local economy. By safeguarding employment land and ensuring that incompatible development does not undermine existing or planned economic uses, both policies provide certainty for businesses and support the continued availability of suitable sites for employment-generating activities. Therefore, both policies are expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA5: Economic growth.

5.231 Policy ECN 9 specifically seeks to retain zoned and previously used economic development land, only allowing alternative uses in tightly defined exceptional circumstances. This approach helps to manage land as a finite resource, ensuring that land and buildings supporting economic infrastructure are not unnecessarily lost. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA6: Material assets.

5.232 A minor positive effect is expected for Policy ECN 9 in relation to SA2: Society, as it allows for a specific mixed-use regeneration initiative where it contains a significant element of economic development use and will bring substantial community benefits to the local area. This provides scope for regeneration proposals that can contribute positively to local communities while maintaining an economic development function.

5.233 In addition, Policy ECN 9 allows, in exceptional circumstances, alternative uses where this would secure the long-term future of buildings of architectural or historic interest. This provides some support for the conservation and viable reuse of heritage assets, resulting in a minor positive effect in relation to SA14: Historic environment.

Telecommunications, Utilities and Infrastructure

Telecommunications Development

5.234 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- TUI 1 Telecommunications Development

5.235 The SA findings for the policy are presented in Table 5.49 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.35: SA findings for Policy TUI 1

SA Objective	TUI 1
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	+
SA6: Material assets	++
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	+
SA13: Landscape	+
SA14: Historic environment	+

5.236 A significant positive effect is identified for SA6: Material assets, as the policy facilitates essential communications infrastructure while promoting mast sharing and use of existing structures where feasible, helping to make more efficient use of existing infrastructure. A minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA5: Economic growth, as the policy supports the provision and improvement of telecommunications infrastructure, which is important for business activity, investment and the functioning of the modern economy.

5.237 A minor positive effect is expected for SA12: Biodiversity, SA13: Landscape and SA14: Historic environment, as the policy explicitly requires proposals to avoid unacceptable harm to environmentally sensitive features and locations, and to minimise visual and environmental impacts. This includes specific reference to the natural and historic environment, which should help to protect biodiversity interests, landscape character and heritage assets from inappropriate telecommunications development. The requirement to consider mast sharing and better environmental solutions should further reduce the potential for unnecessary adverse effects.

Infrastructure, Utilities and Overhead Lines

5.238 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- TUI 2 Infrastructure, Utilities and Overhead Lines

5.239 The SA findings for the policy are presented in Table 5.50 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.50: SA findings for Policy TUI 2

SA Objective	TUI 2
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	+
SA6: Material assets	++
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	+
SA13: Landscape	+
SA14: Historic environment	+

5.240 A significant positive effect is expected for SA6: Material assets and a minor positive effect for SA5: Economic growth. This is because the policy provides a supportive framework for the delivery of essential infrastructure and utilities where there is an overriding regional or local requirement, which can help support communities, services and economic activity across the Borough. At the same time, the policy ensures that such infrastructure is planned and assessed carefully in order to minimise adverse effects.

5.241 A minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA12: Biodiversity, SA13: Landscape and SA14: Historic environment. This is because the policy explicitly requires that infrastructure and utilities proposals do not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the environment and on features of the natural and historic environment. In addition, the overhead lines section specifically requires proposals to avoid sensitive landscapes and designated natural and historic assets, minimise visual intrusion, and consider undergrounding in Strategic Landscape Policy Areas. These requirements should help protect biodiversity, maintain landscape character and safeguard the historic environment.

Transportation

Sustainable Transport

5.242 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- SGS 8: Transport Strategy
- TRAN 1 Accessible Environments
- TRAN 6 Transport Assessment
- TRAN 8 Active Travel including Walking and Cycling

5.243 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5. and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.51: SA findings for the sustainable transport policies

SA Objective	SGS 8	TRAN 1	TRAN 6	TRAN 8
SA1: Health and well-being	+	++	0	++

SA Objective	SGS 8	TRAN 1	TRAN 6	TRAN 8
SA2: Society	0	+	0	0
SA3: Housing	0	0	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	0	0	0	0
SA6: Material assets	0	0	0	0
SA7: Physical resources	0	0	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	++	+	+	++
SA9: Air	+	0	0	+
SA10: Climate change	+	0	0	+
SA11: Water	0	0	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	0	0	0
SA13: Landscape	0	0	0	0
SA14: Historic environment	0	0	0	0

5.244 Significant positive effects are identified in relation to SA8: Active and sustainable travel for Policies SGS 8 and TRAN 8. The overarching Transportation Strategy, SGS 8, aims to promote sustainable development by integrating transport and land use planning, supporting a modal shift from private vehicular use to active travel and public transport, and directing new development to locations with good connectivity and accessibility. The policy will also direct new development to locations with good connectivity and accessibility and facilitate the delivery of active travel networks. Policy TRAN 8 requires development to take account of pedestrian and cycle needs for development proposals providing housing, jobs, shopping, leisure and services including educational and community use. Where appropriate, this includes provision of safe and convenient pedestrian access, cycle parking and links to the wider active travel network. Minor positive effects are also expected in relation to SA9: Air and SA10: Climate change for SGS 8 and TRAN 8, associated with a reduction in transport emissions associated with supporting the modal shift away from private vehicles and towards sustainable and active travel choices.

5.245 Minor positive effects are expected for TRAN 1 and TRAN 6 in relation to SA8: Active and sustainable transport. TRAN 1 is focused on supporting accessible movement for all in new development. the policy will also support the delivery of EV charging points. TRAN 6 requires developers to submit a Transport Assessment for certain developments, which in some cases may need to be accompanied by a Travel Plan that sets out measures to ensure more sustainable travel patterns and reduce the level of private car traffic generated.

5.246 Significant positive effects are expected for SA1: Health and wellbeing for Policies SGS 8, TRAN 1 and TRAN 8. TRAN 1 seeks to ensure that developers take account of the needs of people with disabilities, and others whose mobility is impaired, in the design of new developments. In addition, the delivery of active travel networks through Policy SGS 8 will provide opportunities for recreation and physical activity. A minor positive effect is expected for SA2: Society for the same reasons, as the policy is supportive of ensuring accessible and inclusive environments, encouraging safety and social integration in new development for groups with protected characteristics. Policy TRAN 6 outlines requirements for active travel provision and connectivity in new development, which is expected to help support more active travel choices, thereby supporting health and wellbeing in the Borough.

Access

5.247 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- TRAN 2 Access to Public Roads
- TRAN 3 Access to Protected Routes

5.248 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5. and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.52: SA findings for access policies

SA Objective	TRAN 2	TRAN 3
SA1: Health and well-being	+	0
SA2: Society	0	0
SA3: Housing	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	0	0
SA6: Material assets	0	0
SA7: Physical resources	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0?	0?
SA9: Air	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0

SA Objective	TRAN 2	TRAN 3
SA12: Biodiversity	0	0
SA13: Landscape	0	0
SA14: Historic environment	0	0

5.249 Uncertain negligible effects are identified for SA8: Active and sustainable transport with regard to Policies TRAN 2 and TRAN 3. TRAN 2 regulates road access arrangements associated with new development. Proposals will be assessed against the Department for Infrastructure's guidance. While the policy will help ensure the safety and acceptability of vehicular access proposals, the policy is not considered to result in positive effects in relation to encouraging a shift to travel by public transport, walking and cycling. Similarly, Policy TRAN 3 restricts the number of accesses and controls the level of use of existing accesses onto protected routes (as identified in the Draft Plan Strategy). While supporting the function of these routes, this policy is not considered to result in positive effects with regard to sustainable and active travel.

5.250 A minor positive effect is identified for Policy TRAN 2 with regard to SA1: Health and well-being as the policy will ensure that new access arrangements will not prejudice road safety.

5.251 Policy TRAN 2 outlines that consideration will be given to the nature and scale of development, the contribution of the proposals to the creation of a quality environment, and the standard of the existing road network and expected increases in traffic. While this ensures that amenity and environmental factors are considered when assessing development proposals with new public road access arrangements, the provisions of the policy are not considered to be of a scale to result in positive effects in relation to the remaining SA objectives.

Transport Schemes and Routes

5.252 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- TRAN 4 Safeguarding New Transport Schemes
- TRAN 5 Protection of Disused Transport Routes

5.253 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5. and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.53: SA findings for transport schemes and routes policies

SA Objective	TRAN 4	TRAN 5
SA1: Health and well-being	0	+?
SA2: Society	0	0
SA3: Housing	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	0	+?
SA6: Material assets	+?	+?
SA7: Physical resources	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	+?
SA9: Air	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	0
SA13: Landscape	0	0
SA14: Historic environment	0	0

5.254 Policy TRAN 4 outlines that the Council will safeguard land required for implementation of a transport scheme, including new schemes or planned improvements to the transport network. A minor positive effect is identified in relation to SA6: Material assets as the policy supports the careful planning of infrastructure assets to accommodate future development. The policy does not identify specific land to be allocated for new transport schemes and therefore the effects associated with specific developments are not reflected in this appraisal.

5.255 Policy TRAN 5 provides protection for disused transport routes (such as roads, railway lines, canals and towpaths which are not currently operational) by restricting development that would prejudice the future re-use for transport purposes or alternative future purposes such as recreation, nature conservation or tourism-related uses. A minor positive effect is identified in relation to SA6: Material assets as the policy is supportive of re-use of existing infrastructure assets. Uncertain minor positive effects are identified for SA1: Health and wellbeing, SA5: Economic growth and SA8: Active and sustainable travel as the policy identifies potential to deliver purposes that would support recreation, leisure and tourism. As the policy does not outline specific development proposals, uncertainty is attached to each of the identified effects.

Parking Provision

5.256 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- TRAN 7 Parking and Servicing Arrangements
- TRAN 9 Provision of Car Parks

5.257 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5. and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.54: SA findings for parking provision policies

SA Objective	TRAN 7	TRAN 9
SA1: Health and well-being	0	0
SA2: Society	0	0
SA3: Housing	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	0	0
SA6: Material assets	0	0
SA7: Physical resources	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	--/+	--/+
SA9: Air	+/-?	+/-?
SA10: Climate change	+/-	+/-
SA11: Water	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	0
SA13: Landscape	0	0
SA14: Historic environment	0	0

5.258 Overall mixed effects (significant negative and minor positive) are expected in relation to SA8: Active and sustainable travel for Policies TRAN 7 and TRAN 9. The primary focus of these policies is to manage and direct parking provision in the Borough.

5.259 TRAN 7 requires development proposals to provide adequate and appropriate provision for car, cycle and other parking. The precise amount of car parking will be determined according to the specific characteristics of the development and its

location. In certain cases, policy wording outlines that reduced parking provision will be permissible. For example, in areas well served by public transport. The strength of the policy wording is not considered to actively promote an overall reduction in car parking and promotion of alternative transport methods as the default scenario and therefore is considered to contribute to an ongoing reliance in private vehicle use in the Borough. However, the identified negative effect is mixed with minor positive effects as the policy supports reduced parking provision in some cases and requires adequate cycle parking.

5.260 Similarly, Policy TRAN 9 supports development or extension of car parks in very specific cases, accompanied by robust justification or identified need. This is likely to help manage the development of car parks, including temporary car parks, although remains supportive of their development in certain circumstances. Support for Park and Ride and Park and Share Facilities is likely to help reduce the number of private car journeys being made in the Borough's urban areas and support use of public transport.

5.261 Associated uncertain mixed effects (minor positive and minor negative) are also identified for SA9: Air and SA10: Climate change for both polices. These policies may help reduce congestion and associated emissions in some areas of the Borough. For example, Policy TRAN 7 requires cycle and EV charging facilities and allows for reduced car parking requirements in certain areas. Policy TRAN 9 ensures that urban areas can benefit from Park and Ride facilities. However, an overall increase in parking provision in the Borough is likely to continue to encourage private vehicle use and an associated increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

Historic Environment

Heritage Strategy

5.262 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- SGS 12: Heritage Strategy

5.263 The SA findings for the policy are presented in Table 5.55 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.55: SA findings for Policy SGS 12: Heritage Strategy

SA Objective	SGS 12
SA1: Health and well-being	+
SA2: Society	+
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	+
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	+
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	+
SA13: Landscape	+
SA14: Historic environment	++

5.264 A significant positive effect is identified for SA14: Historic environment, as the policy directly supports the protection, conservation and enhancement of built and cultural heritage assets, including their integrity and setting. Similarly, minor positive effects are expected for SA12: Biodiversity and SA13: Landscape, as the policy promotes the restoration and enhancement of natural heritage, contributing to improved biodiversity, ecosystem resilience and landscape character.

5.265 A minor positive effect is identified for SA1: Health and well-being and SA2: Society. The protection and enhancement of heritage assets and natural environments can contribute to improved quality of life, sense of place, community identity and opportunities for recreation. The creation of an attractive and high-quality environment may also support mental well-being and social cohesion.

5.266 A minor positive effect is also expected for SA5: Economic growth, as the policy supports the adaptive reuse of historic assets and recognises their role in delivering economic benefits. Sustainable management and supporting the adaptive reuse of historic assets will also have a minor positive effect on SA7: Physical resources as the policy supports the use of existing buildings, potentially reducing the need for new buildings and associated construction materials.

Archaeology

5.267 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- HE 1 The Preservation of Archaeological Remains of Regional Importance and their Settings
- HE 2 The Protection of Archaeological Remains of Local Importance and their Settings
- HE 3 Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation
- HE 4 Archaeological Mitigation

5.268 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5. and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.56: SA findings for the Archaeology policies

SA Objective	HE 1	HE 2	HE 3	HE 4
SA1: Health and well-being	0	0	0	0
SA2: Society	0	0	0	0
SA3: Housing	0	0	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	0	0	0	0
SA6: Material assets	0	0	0	0
SA7: Physical resources	0	0	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0	0	0
SA9: Air	0	0	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	0	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	0	0	0
SA13: Landscape	+	+	0	0
SA14: Historic environment	++	++	++	++

5.269 Significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA14: Historic environment for Policies HE 1, HE 2, HE 3 and HE 4 as the policies provide protection for archaeological remains of local and regional importance. Policy HE 1

will ensure that development which adversely affects archaeological remains of regional importance or their setting will not be permitted. Policy HE 2 specifically provides protection for archaeological remains of local importance and their setting. Policy HE 3 requires the submission of necessary assessments where a development proposal may impact on archaeological remains. Policy HE 4 will ensure that appropriate mitigation measures are identified where development could impact a site that contains known archaeological remains.

5.270 A minor positive effect is also likely in relation to SA13: Landscape as Policy HE 1 and Policy HE 2 will safeguard the setting of archaeological remains of regional and local importance, thereby preserving the surrounding environment, which will help to maintain the overall townscape and local identity of the Borough.

Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes

5.271 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- HE 5 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes of Special Historic Interest

5.272 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5. and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.57: SA findings for historic parks, gardens and demesnes policies

SA objective	HE 5
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0

SA objective	HE 5
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	+
SA14: Historic environment	++

5.273 Significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA14: Historic environment for Policy HE 5 as the policy seeks to prevent loss of or harm to the components or setting of Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes of Special Historic Interest.

5.274 A minor positive effect is also expected for SA15: Landscape as the policy ensures development will take account of the impact of proposals on the setting of the site including its original design concept, trees and woodland, the site's contribution to landscape character and historic views of or from the site, thereby helping to protect the surrounding environment of designated assets and local landscape character.

Listed Buildings

5.275 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- HE 6 Listed Buildings - Change of Use and/or Extension or Alteration of a Listed Building
- HE 7 Demolition of a Listed Building
- HE 8 Development Affecting the Setting of a Listed Building

5.276 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5. and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.58: SA findings for listed buildings policies

SA Objective	HE 6	HE 7	HE 8
SA1: Health and well-being	0	0	0
SA2: Society	0	0	0
SA3: Housing	0	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0	0

SA Objective	HE 6	HE 7	HE 8
SA5: Economic growth	0	0	0
SA6: Material assets	0	0	0
SA7: Physical resources	0	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0	0
SA9: Air	0	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	0	0
SA13: Landscape	0	0	+
SA14: Historic environment	++	++	++

5.277 Significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA14: Historic environment for Policies HE 6, HE 7, and HE 8 as the policies provide protection for listed buildings. Policy HE 6 allows change of use, alteration or extension to listed buildings where the character and architectural/historic interest of the building is preserved or enhanced. Policy HE 7 outlines a presumption in favour of retaining listed buildings. Policy HE 8 provides protection for the setting of listed buildings, ensuring nearby development respects the character of a listed building.

5.278 A minor positive effect is also likely in relation to SA13: Landscape as Policy HE 8 will safeguard the setting of listed buildings, thereby preserving the surrounding environment, which will help to maintain the overall townscape and local identity of the Borough.

Conservation Areas

5.279 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- HE 9 New Development in a Conservation Area
- HE 10 Demolition in a Conservation Area

5.280 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5. and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.59: SA findings for conservation area policies

SA Objective	HE 9	HE 10
SA1: Health and well-being	+	0
SA2: Society	0	0
SA3: Housing	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	0	0
SA6: Material assets	0	0
SA7: Physical resources	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0
SA9: Air	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	0
SA13: Landscape	++	0
SA14: Historic environment	++	++

5.281 Significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA14: Historic environment for Policies HE 9 and HE 10 as the policies provide protection for Conservation Areas. Policy HE 9 seeks to ensure new development will enhance or preserve the character of the conservation area, are sympathetic to its built form and respects the characteristics of adjoining buildings. Development must also conform with any relevant conservation area design guides. Policy HE 10 outlines that demolition will only be permitted for unlisted buildings where the building makes no material contribution to the character or appearance of the area.

5.282 A significant positive effect is expected for SA13: Landscape as Policy HE 9 seeks to protect important views, trees and landscape features contributing to the character or appearance of the conservation area. A minor positive effect is also identified for SA1: Health and wellbeing as Policy HE 9 outlines that development must not result in environmental problems such as noise, nuisance or disturbance which would be detrimental to the conservation area character.

Townscape and Village Character

5.283 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- HE 11 Demolition in Areas of Townscape or Village Character
- HE 12 New Development in Areas of Townscape or Village Character

5.284 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5. and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.60: SA findings for town and village character policies

SA Objective	HE 11	HE 12
SA1: Health and well-being	0	0
SA2: Society	0	0
SA3: Housing	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	0	0
SA6: Material assets	0	0
SA7: Physical resources	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0
SA9: Air	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0	0
SA13: Landscape	0	+
SA14: Historic environment	++	++

5.285 Significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA14: Historic environment for Policies HE 11 and HE 12 as the policies provide protection for identified Areas of Townscape or Village Character, which exhibit a distinct character normally based on their historic built form or layout. Policy HE 11 outlines the presumption in favour retaining buildings which make a positive contribution to these areas. Policy HE 12 aims to ensure that development respects or enhances the overall character and built form of the area.

5.286 A minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA13: Landscape as Policy HE 12 also requires that any trees or other landscape features which contribute to the distinctive character of the area are protected and integrated in a suitable manner into the design and layout of new development.

Enabling Development

5.287 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- HE 13 Enabling Development

5.288 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5.61 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.61: SA findings for enabling development

SA objective	HE 13
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	+/-?

5.289 An uncertain mixed effect (minor negative and minor positive) is identified for SA14: Historic environment in relation to Policy HE 13. The policy requires that a Statement of Justification to be provided to accompany applications relating to the re-use, restoration or refurbishment of 'significant places' (for the purposes of this policy, this includes any part of the historic environment that has heritage value including scheduled monuments, archaeological remains, historic buildings and other heritage assets).

5.290 Departing from other policy presumptions and enabling development in significant places may have adverse impacts on the historic environment. However,

the Statement of Justification must outline that the development will not materially harm the natural and historic heritage values of the significant place or its setting, it avoids detrimental fragmentation of the management of the significant place, and it will secure the long-term future and it is necessary to resolve problems arising from the inherent needs of the heritage assets. Therefore, potential adverse effects are mixed with potential positive effects associated with the potential role development will bring in securing the long-term management of the heritage asset.

Non-designated Heritage Assets

5.291 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- HE 14 Conversion and Re-Use of Non-Designated Heritage Assets

5.292 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5. and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.62: SA findings for non-designated assets

SA objective	HE 14
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	+

5.293 A minor positive effect is identified in relation to SA14: Historic environment for Policy HE 14. The policy provides protection for non-designated heritage assets, such as unlisted vernacular building or a historic building of local importance. The policy requires that proposals for conversion or re-use of these assets ensure that they will not have an adverse effect on the character or appearance of the locality, retain existing door and window openings and minimise new ones, ensure extensions are modest and do not harm the character or appearance of the building, and use sympathetic, high-quality design, detailing and materials.

Natural Heritage

Designated Sites

5.294 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- NH 1 Protection of European and Ramsar Sites (International)
- NH 2 Species Protected by Law
- NH 3 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (National)
- NH 4 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (Local)
- NH 5 Habitats, Species, Biodiversity or Features of Natural Heritage Importance
- NH 9 Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs)

5.295 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5.63 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.63: SA findings for the designated sites policies

SA objective	NH 1	NH 2	NH 3	NH 4	NH 5	NH 9
SA1: Health and well-being	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA2: Society	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA3: Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	0	0	0	0	0	0

SA objective	NH 1	NH 2	NH 3	NH 4	NH 5	NH 9
SA6: Material assets	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA7: Physical resources	0	0	0	0	+	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA9: Air	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA11: Water	0	0	0	0	+	0
SA12: Biodiversity	++	++	++	++	++	++
SA13: Landscape	0	0	0	0	+	0
SA14: Historic environment	0	0	0	0	0	0

5.296 Policies NH 1, NH 2, NH 3, NH 4, NH 5 and NH 9 are all expected to have a significant positive effect on SA12: Biodiversity as the policies protection for species and habitats at an international, national and local level. This will include the protection of European Sites (Special Protection Area, proposed Special Protection Area, Special Areas of Conservation, candidate Special Areas of Conservation and Sites of Community Importance); Ramsar sites; Area of Special Scientific Interest; Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance; Nature Reserve; National Nature Reserve; Local Nature Reserve; Wildlife Refuge; priority habitats; priority species; ancient and long-established woodland; and, other natural heritage features worthy of protection, including trees and woodland. European protected species, statutory protected species and rare or threatened native species under the Habitat Directive will also be protected. Where unacceptable impact is unavoidable, appropriate mitigation and/or compensatory measures will be required.

5.297 Policy NH 5 also provides protection for active peatland and features of earth science conservation importance avoiding damage to these habitats. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA7: Physical resources. Minor positive effect is also expected for SA11: Water as Policy NH 5 provides protection for wetlands, including river corridors, ensuring no unacceptable impact or damage on these habitats. Policy NH 5 also ensures no unacceptable impact on or damage to features of landscape which are of major importance for wild flora and fauna. Therefore, minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA13: Landscape.

Strategic Landscape Policy Areas

5.298 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

SGS 11: Strategic Landscape Policy Areas

5.299 The SA findings for this policy are presented in Table 5.64 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.64: SA findings for Policy SGS 11: Strategic Landscape Policy Areas

SA Objective	SGS 11
SA1: Health and well-being	+
SA2: Society	+
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	+
SA13: Landscape	++
SA14: Historic environment	+

5.300 Policy SGS 11 aims to protect and enhance landscape character, environmental quality, and visual amenity across designated areas, and therefore is expected to result in significant positive effects in relation to SA13: Landscape. SGS 11 focuses on strategic-level landscape protection, ensuring that important features and overall character are respected, maintained and, where possible, enhanced. Therefore, the policy support the maintenance of landscape character, the protection of sensitive settings, and the reinforcement of local distinctiveness.

5.301 Policy SGS 11 is expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA12: Biodiversity, as the protection of landscape character and environmental quality is likely to help safeguard natural features, habitats and green infrastructure that contribute to ecological value. Although isn't explicitly biodiversity-focused, the emphasis on conserving environmental quality and intrinsic landscape value indirectly supports biodiversity.

5.302 A minor positive effect is also identified for SA14: Historic environment. SGS 11 recognises landscape as an expression of the Borough's historic heritage. This will help conserve the setting and character of historic landscapes and features where these contribute to overall landscape character.

5.303 For SA1: Health and well-being and SA2: Society, SGS 11 is expected to have minor positive effects, as the protection of visual amenity, environmental quality and sense of place contributes to attractive surroundings, local identity and community cohesion.

Landscape Policy Areas

5.304 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- NH 6 Local Landscape Policy Areas

5.305 The SA findings for the policy are presented in Table 5.65 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.65: SA findings for Policy NH 6

SA Objective	NH 6
SA1: Health and well-being	+
SA2: Society	+
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	+
SA13: Landscape	++
SA14: Historic environment	+

5.306 Policy NH 6 aims to protect and enhance landscape character, environmental quality, and visual amenity across designated areas, and are therefore expected to result in significant positive effects in relation to SA13: Landscape. Policy NH 6 requires development within and adjoining Local Landscape Policy Areas to avoid unacceptable adverse impacts on landscape quality, amenity value and local distinctiveness. The policy supports the maintenance of landscape character, the protection of sensitive settings, and the reinforcement of local distinctiveness.

5.307 Policy NH 6 is expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA12: Biodiversity, as the protection of landscape character and environmental quality is likely to help safeguard natural features, habitats and green infrastructure that contribute to ecological value. Although the policy isn't explicitly biodiversity-focused, their emphasis on conserving environmental quality and intrinsic landscape value indirectly supports biodiversity.

5.308 A minor positive effect is also identified for SA14: Historic environment. NH 6 explicitly refers to protecting the intrinsic historic value and character of Local Landscape Policy Areas. This will help conserve the setting and character of historic landscapes and features where these contribute to overall landscape character.

Landscape Wedges

5.309 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- NH 7 Landscape Wedges

5.310 The SA findings for the policy are presented in Table 5.66 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.36: SA findings for Policy NH 7

SA Objective	Policy NH 7
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	0

SA Objective	Policy NH 7
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	0
SA13: Landscape	++
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.311 Policy NH 7 requires proposed developments to respect and enhance the openness and natural undeveloped qualities of landscape wedges. The Policy therefore will help to maintain the character and identity of the local landscape through preserving the openness of the landscape and its natural ~~features~~ undeveloped qualities. The Policy also aims to safeguard and protect prominent land forms and both long and short-range views, which will minimise visual intrusion and help protect against inappropriate and obtrusive developments. The Policy is therefore expected to have a significant positive effect in relation to SA objective 13: Landscape.

Area(s) of Outstanding Natural Beauty

5.312 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- NH 8 Area(s) of Outstanding Natural Beauty

5.313 The SA findings for the policy are presented in Table 5.67 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.37: SA findings for Policy NH 8

SA Objective	NH 8
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0

SA Objective	NH 8
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	+
SA13: Landscape	++
SA14: Historic environment	+

5.314 Significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 13: Landscape as the Policy states new developments will only be granted if the siting, size and scale are sympathetic to the special character of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty within the Borough. This will ensure new development is sensitively integrated and allow the area's landscape to main its character distinctiveness and continue to protect existing areas designated for landscape such as the Mourne AONB.

5.315 The Policy also supports the conservation of wildlife and the quality of the AONB's heritage. Therefore, the Policy is likely to have a minor positive effect against SA objective 12: Biodiversity and SA objective 14: Historic environment as it seeks to support local biodiversity and conserve features of importance to heritage of the landscape.

Flood Risk and Drainage

Flood Plains and Reservoirs

5.316 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- FRD 1 Development in Fluvial (River) Flood Plains
- FRD 5 Development in Proximity to Controlled Reservoirs

5.317 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5.68 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.38: SA findings for flood plains and reservoirs policies

SA Objective	FRD 1	FRD 5
SA1: Health and well-being	+	+
SA2: Society	+	+
SA3: Housing	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	+/-	0
SA6: Material assets	+	+
SA7: Physical resources	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0
SA9: Air	0	0
SA10: Climate change	+	0
SA11: Water	++	++
SA12: Biodiversity	0	0
SA13: Landscape	0	0
SA14: Historic environment	0	0

5.318 Policies FRD 1 and FRD 5 both contribute positively to the management of flood risk and the sustainable use of water resources by restricting inappropriate development in areas vulnerable to flooding and requiring appropriate assessment and mitigation. In particular, Policy FRD 1 will not permit development within the 1 in 100 year plus climate change allowance fluvial flood plain. A Flood Risk Assessment will be required where development meets the exceptions test. Policy FRD 5 provides specific protection for any development proposed within the potential flood inundation area of a controlled reservoir. As a result, both policies are expected to have significant positive effects in relation to SA11: Water, as they support the effective management of flood risk, reduce the likelihood of flooding, and help maintain the functional integrity of water systems.

5.319 Both policies area expected to have minor positive effect on SA10: Climate change. Policy FRD 1 directly supports climate change adaptation by preventing development in fluvial flood plains that are likely to experience increased flood risk due to more extreme weather as a result of climate change.

5.320 Both policies are also expected to result in minor positive effects for SA1: Health and well-being and SA2: Society, as they reduce risks to life, property and communities associated with flooding, contributing to safer and more resilient communities. In addition, both policies have minor positive effects on SA objective 6: Material assets, as they help protect infrastructure, buildings and services from flood damage through a precautionary approach to development.

5.321 Policy FRD 1 is expected to have a mixed effect (minor positive and minor negative) on SA5: Economic growth. While it supports long-term economic resilience by avoiding costly flood damage and ensuring appropriate siting of development, it may also constrain certain forms of economic development by restricting development in floodplain locations, except where overriding regional or sub-regional economic importance can be demonstrated.

Flood Defence and Surface Water Drainage

5.322 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- FRD 2 Protection of Flood Defence and Drainage Infrastructure
- FRD 3 Development and Surface Water (Pluvial) Flood Risk outside Flood Plains

5.323 The SA findings for these policies are presented in Table 5.69 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.69: SA findings for Flood defence and surface water drainage policies

SA Objective	FRD 2	FRD 3
SA1: Health and well-being	0	+
SA2: Society	0	0
SA3: Housing	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	0	0
SA6: Material assets	+	+
SA7: Physical resources	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0
SA9: Air	0	0

SA Objective	FRD 2	FRD 3
SA10: Climate change	+	+
SA11: Water	++	++
SA12: Biodiversity	0	+
SA13: Landscape	0	0
SA14: Historic environment	0	+

5.324 Both policies are expected to have a significant positive effect in relation to SA11: Water, as they directly support sustainable water management. Policy FRD 2 protects the function and integrity of existing flood defence and drainage infrastructure, while Policy FRD 3 requires assessment and mitigation of surface water (pluvial) flood risk through a drainage impact assessment. Together, these measures reduce the likelihood and severity of flooding and support adaptation to increased rainfall intensity.

5.325 A minor positive effect is identified for SA10: Climate change for both policies, as safeguarding infrastructure and ensuring development takes account of surface water flood risk will support climate adaptation, particularly in response to more frequent and intense rainfall events.

5.326 Both policies are also expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA6: Material assets, as they contribute to the protection and longevity of critical infrastructure and built assets by reducing exposure to flood risk and ensuring appropriate drainage design.

5.327 Policy FRD 3 is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA1: Health and well-being, as reducing surface water flood risk helps to protect communities from impacts associated with flooding such as risk to life and livelihood.

5.328 Additionally, Policy FRD 3 will have minor positive effects in relation to SA12: Biodiversity and SA14: Historic environment, as it requires that surface water run-off does not adversely affect surrounding areas, including features of ecological, archaeological, or historic importance. This helps safeguard such sensitive features from flood-related damage.

Artificial Modification of Watercourses

5.329 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

FRD 4 Artificial Modification of Watercourses

5.330 The SA findings for the policy are presented in Table 5.70 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.70: SA findings for Policy FRD 4

SA Objective	FRD 4
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	0
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	+
SA11: Water	++
SA12: Biodiversity	+
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.331 A significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA11: Water as by limiting culverting and canalisation to exceptional cases only, Policy FRD 4 is likely to help protect the natural function and condition of watercourses and reduce unnecessary modification of the water environment.

5.332 A minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA10: Climate change. Retaining more natural watercourses, by restricting artificial modification, can support climate adaptation by helping maintain natural drainage and flow regimes and reducing the risk of increased surface water and fluvial flooding that can arise from inappropriate culverting.

5.333 A minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA12: Biodiversity. Watercourses often provide biodiversity and habitat value, and the policy, which restricts their artificial modification, is likely to help protect these functions by discouraging unnecessary culverting and canalisation.

Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

5.334 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- RLED 1 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development

5.335 The SA findings for the policy are presented in Table 5.71 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.71: SA findings for Policy RLED 1

SA Objective	RLED 1
SA1: Health and well-being	+
SA2: Society	+
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	++
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	+
SA9: Air	+
SA10: Climate change	++
SA11: Water	+
SA12: Biodiversity	+
SA13: Landscape	+
SA14: Historic environment	+

5.336 Significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA10: Climate change as the policy supports the development of renewable and low carbon energy infrastructure. The development of this type of infrastructure could support the transition towards renewable energy and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Reducing the reliance on fossil fuels could have a positive impact on decreasing greenhouse gas emissions associated with the extraction of fossil fuels. A reduction in greenhouse gas emissions will result in improvements in air quality and lower levels of air pollution. In addition, the policy also requires impacts on natural resources such

as air quality to be avoided. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA9: Air.

5.337 Significant positive effect is also expected in relation to SA6: Material assets as the policy is expected to enhance existing renewable and low carbon energy development and increase energy production across the Borough. This policy will support the creation of infrastructure that are essential for economy and society.

5.338 A minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA1: Health and well-being and SA2: Society as the policy will ensure that no unacceptable impact on residential amenity, human health, public safety as a result of development. The policy will also ensure that development will not unacceptable adverse impact ~~adversely~~ impact on tourism, recreation and public access. The capacity of the transport network and any adverse effects on the transport network which could include disruption and damage to roads should be avoided. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA8: Sustainable transport and active travel.

5.339 The policy requires that impacts on natural resources such as water quality and quantity should be avoided. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA11: Water. A minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA13: Landscape as the policy requires renewable and low carbon energy development to not have an adverse impact on landscape character and visual amenity. Similarly, renewable and low carbon energy development is required to not have an effect on archaeological or built heritage interest. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA14: Historic environment.

Waste Management

Waste

5.340 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- WMT 1 Environmental Impact of a Waste Management Facility
- WMT 2 Waste Collection and Treatment Facilities
- WMT 3 Waste Disposal

5.341 The SA findings for the policies are presented in Table 5.72 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.39: SA findings for the Waste policies

SA Objective	WMT 1	WMT 2	WMT 3
SA1: Health and well-being	+	+	0
SA2: Society	0	0	0
SA3: Housing	0	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	0	0	0
SA6: Material assets	++	++	++
SA7: Physical resources	+	+	+
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	+/-	+	+
SA9: Air	+/-	0	0
SA10: Climate change	0	0	0
SA11: Water	+	0	0
SA12: Biodiversity	+	+	+
SA13: Landscape	+	+	0
SA14: Historic environment	+	0	0

5.342 Policies WMT 1 and WMT 2 both seek to ensure that waste management facilities are permitted only where there is no unacceptable risk to human health. Both policies include stringent criteria to control potential impacts of waste management facilities such as impacts on character, environmental quality and amenities of the local area. Additionally, Policy WMT 2 promotes the appropriate siting of waste collection and treatment facilities within an industrial area of a character appropriate to the development, which will help to minimise exposure of communities to potential hazards associated to waste management facilities. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA1: Health and well-being.

5.343 Policies WMT 1, WMT 2 and WMT 3 are expected to have a significant positive effect in relation to SA6: Material assets, as they promote the sustainable and efficient management of waste infrastructure. Policy WMT 1 supports development proposals for new waste management facilities where there is a clearly identified need and where potential environmental impacts can be effectively prevented or mitigated. Policies WMT 2 and WMT 3 encourage waste to be managed in accordance with the waste hierarchy, prioritising reuse, recovery and recycling over disposal. Policy WMT 3 states that proposals for the development of landfill or land raising facilities for the disposal of waste will be permitted where there is an identified need for the facility established through the Waste Management Strategy (WMS) and the Waste Management Plan (WMP), and there is no feasible option for

the management of waste at a higher level in the Waste Hierarchy. Additionally, Policy WMT 2 requires proposals for the incineration of waste and other thermal processes to incorporate measures to maximise energy recovery both in the form of heat and electricity, which will further support sustainable resource management and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

5.344 Policy WMT 1 supports waste management facilities subject to strict criteria. These include ensuring that the type of waste handled and the proposed methods of treatment or disposal do not pose significant risks to air, water, or soil quality. Furthermore, the policy requires that, wherever practicable, development avoids the permanent loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land. Therefore, the policy is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA7: Physical resources. Policy WMT 2 is also expected to have a minor positive effect against SA7 as it sets out locational criteria for the development of waste collection and treatment facilities, prioritising the use of previously developed, derelict, or contaminated land, as well as existing or redundant buildings. Promoting the re-use of existing materials in the plan area is likely to help bring existing buildings back into use and may prevent the need for development of greenfield land and higher value agricultural soils. Policy WMT 3 supports landfill or land raising facilities for the disposal of waste where they will not prejudice future exploitation or result in the sterilisation of identified mineral resources of economic or conservation value. Additionally, they must be suitably located within an active or worked out hard rock quarry or bring land that is despoiled, derelict, or contaminated back into productive use. This will help to ensure that land is used efficiently and that opportunities for future resource extraction are not comprised. As such, a minor positive effect is also expected for Policy WMT 3 against SA7: Physical resources.

5.345 Policy WMT 1 requires new waste management facilities to be located in reasonable proximity to where the waste arises, where practicable. This is likely to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA8: Active and sustainable travel. However, the policy also requires that the public road network can satisfactorily accommodate, or be upgraded to accommodate, the traffic generated by such developments. In addition, adequate provision must be made within sites for the parking, servicing, and circulation of vehicles. This emphasis on road-based access and capacity may reinforce reliance on vehicular transport, particularly heavy goods vehicles, and therefore the minor positive effect Policy WMT 1 receives in relation to SA8: Active and sustainable travel is mixed with a minor negative effect. Similarly, in relation to air quality, while reduced travel distances may help to limit emissions, the potential increase in traffic movements is likely to result in a mixed effect overall against SA9: Air.

5.346 Minor positive effects are expected for Policies WMT 2 and WMT 3 in relation to SA8: Active and sustainable travel as both policies require that regional-scale waste management and landfill or land-raising facilities are located in close proximity to key transport corridors, ensuring ease of access. In addition, where practicable, they encourage the use of alternative transport modes, such as rail and water, to support the movement of waste.

5.347 Policy WMT 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA11: Water. The policy requires that the types of waste to be deposited or treated, and the proposed methods of disposal or treatment, do not pose a significant environmental risk to water resources. In addition, it stipulates that proposed sites should not be at risk from flooding and that development must not cause or exacerbate flooding elsewhere.

5.348 Policies WMT 1, WMT 2, and WMT 3 are all expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA12: Biodiversity as they as they incorporate requirements to avoid adverse environmental impacts associated with the development of waste management facilities. Policy WMT 1 requires all proposals for waste disposal (landfilling and land raising) or land improvement operations to include suitable, detailed and practical restoration and aftercare proposals for the site that will help to enhance biodiversity. Policy WMT 2 stipulates that in the case of civic amenity facilities, sites must avoid unacceptable adverse impact on the character, environmental quality and amenities of the local area. The policy also requires the operation of waste collection and treatment facilities to not result in an unacceptable adverse environmental impact that cannot be prevented or appropriately controlled by mitigating measures. Policy WMT 3 requires the inclusion of detailed measures for the appropriate restoration and aftercare of sites, in relation to waste disposal, that help to enhance biodiversity.

5.349 Policy WMT 1 requires the visual impact of proposed waste management facilities, including the final landform of landfilling or land-raising operations, to be acceptable within the landscape and to avoid any unacceptable adverse impact on areas designated for their landscape quality. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected for Policy WMT 1 in relation to SA13: Landscape. Policy WMT 2 is also expected to have a minor positive effect against SA13 as it provides locational criteria for waste collection and treatment facility sites, directing development to appropriate, lower-sensitivity locations such as industrial areas, existing waste sites, quarries, and previously developed or derelict land. This will help to ensure that new development is integrated into areas where visual impacts are less significant or can be effectively managed.

5.350 Policy WMT 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA14: Historic environment as it requires waste management facilities to be located and designed so as to avoid any unacceptable adverse impacts on the historic environment

Land Improvement

5.351 This section presents the SA findings for the Policy WMT 4 Land Improvement in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- WMT 4 Land Improvement

5.352 The SA findings for Policy WMT 4 are presented in Table 5.73 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.73: SA findings for Policy WMT 4

SA Objective	WMT 4
SA1: Health and well-being	0
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	+
SA7: Physical resources	+
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	+
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.353 Policy WMT 4 supports proposals for the disposal of inert waste by its deposition on land subject to strict criteria, including the demonstration of a local need for the development and that only the minimum quantity of fill necessary to achieve the proposed improvement is used. The policy is likely to have a minor

positive effect in relation to SA6: Material assets as this will help to promote the beneficial reuse of inert waste and efficient use of materials by diverting waste from landfill. A minor positive effect is therefore also expected for the policy against SA7: Physical resources.

5.354 Policy WMT 4 stipulates that proposals for the disposal of inert waste by its deposition on land will be permitted where detailed measures are included for the appropriate restoration and aftercare of sites, which should contribute to biodiversity enhancement. Additionally, the policy requires that such proposals do not result in unacceptable adverse environmental impacts that cannot be prevented or appropriately mitigated. As such, a minor positive effect is expected for the policy against SA12: Biodiversity.

Development in the Vicinity of Waste Management Facilities

5.355 This section presents the SA findings for Policy WMT 5 Development in the vicinity of Waste Management Facilities in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- WMT 5 Development in the vicinity of Waste Management Facilities

5.356 The SA findings for Policy WMT 5 are presented in Table 5.74 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.74: SA findings for Policy WMT 5

SA Objective	WMT 5
SA1: Health and well-being	+
SA2: Society	0
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	0
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	+
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0

SA Objective	WMT 5
SA12: Biodiversity	+
SA13: Landscape	0
SA14: Historic environment	0

5.357 Policy WMT 5 requires proposals involving the development of land in the vicinity of an existing or approved waste management or waste water treatment works (WwTWs) to ensure that they will not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts in terms of people, transportation systems, or the environment. This is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA1: Health and well-being by ensuring that development is appropriately located to avoid adverse amenity-related effects. The policy is also expected to have a minor positive effect against SA12: Biodiversity as it requires development in the vicinity of waste management facilities to avoid adverse impacts on the environment.

5.358 Policy WMT 5 states that development of land in the vicinity of waste management facilities must not prejudice or unduly restrict activities permitted to be carried out within the facility or approved facility. A minor positive effect is expected against SA6: Material assets as this requirement will help to safeguard infrastructure that manages waste.

Environmental Protection

Pollution and Contamination

5.359 This section presents the SA findings for the following policies in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- EP 1 Environmental Pollution
- EP 2 Land Contamination

5.360 The SA findings for the policies are presented in Table 5.75 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.75: SA findings for pollution and contamination policies

SA Objective	EP 1	EP 2
SA1: Health and well-being	+	+

SA Objective	EP 1	EP 2
SA2: Society	0	0
SA3: Housing	0	0
SA4: Education	0	0
SA5: Economic growth	0	0
SA6: Material assets	0	0
SA7: Physical resources	0	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0	0
SA9: Air	+	0
SA10: Climate change	+	0
SA11: Water	+	+
SA12: Biodiversity	+	+
SA13: Landscape	0	0
SA14: Historic environment	0	0

5.361 Policy EP 1 will ensure that development does not have an unacceptable impact on the environment as a result of air, noise, light and water pollution. Therefore, this policy will provide protection for the water and the natural environment by minimising the adverse effects as a result of pollution. In addition, Policy EP 2 will also provide protection for the natural environment by ensuring that there are no significant adverse effects as a result of contaminated land. Therefore, minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA11: Water and SA12: Biodiversity. There is also the potential for positive effects on air and climate change by minimising air pollution which also includes greenhouse gas emissions. This will result in minor positive effects in relation to SA9: Air and SA10: Climate change for Policy EP 1.

5.362 Minimising pollution, in particular air pollution, could have positive effects on health and well-being through improved air quality. In addition, assessing the risk associated with contaminated land through Policy EP 2 could have a positive effect on human health. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA1: Health and well-being.

5.363 Policy EP 2 could also have minor positive effect on SA7: Physical resources by ensuring land is available for future use and supports the remediation of contaminated land.

Other Specialised Areas

5.364 This section presents the SA findings for the following policy in this section of the Draft Plan Strategy:

- Policy DC1 Developer Contributions

5.365 The SA findings for Policy DC1 are presented in Table 5.76 and are summarised below the table.

Table 5.76: SA findings for Policy DC1

SA Objective	DC1
SA1: Health and well-being	+
SA2: Society	+
SA3: Housing	0
SA4: Education	+
SA5: Economic growth	0
SA6: Material assets	+
SA7: Physical resources	0
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	0
SA9: Air	0
SA10: Climate change	0
SA11: Water	0
SA12: Biodiversity	+?
SA13: Landscape	+?
SA14: Historic environment	+?

5.366 Policy DC1 seeks to ensure that the infrastructure, services and facilities required to support new development are provided, through the use of developer contributions. Developer contributions will also be used in mitigating or offsetting the impacts of development. This will help to ensure that existing facilities do not become overloaded and that new residents will have access to the services that they need. As a result, minor positive effects are identified in relation to SA1: Health and well-being, SA2: Society, SA4: Education and SA6: Material assets.

5.367 Minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA12: Biodiversity, SA13: Landscape and SA14: Historic environment as the policy requires contributions to be

secured to mitigate or offset the impacts of development which could include mitigation in relation to biodiversity, landscape impacts and heritage impacts. However, as the effects are uncertain the required mitigation will be specific to each development.

Mitigation and enhancement

5.368 A number of recommendations for changes to the Plan Strategy policies were made prior to the appraisal of the policies. These were responded to by the Council at that time and are contained within Appendix D of this SA Report. A small number of further recommendations have been made in a draft version of this SA Report for the Draft Plan Strategy. The most recent recommendations made are listed in the Table 5.77 below along with information about how the Council has responded to these recommendations.

Table 5.77: Recommendations made and Councils response

Policy	Recommendation made	Council's response
Policy GP 1 Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change	Overall, the Draft Plan Strategy could go further in encouraging sustainable development and being more climate change positive. This could include a requirement on improving energy efficiency of new homes. This could be done by requiring solar panels or the use of renewable energy within homes.	The Council will consider all relevant policies in the round. Criteria (a) of GP1 states that *'the development integrates suitable renewable and low carbon energy technologies, including micro-generation and the principles of Passive Solar Design (PSD)'*.Further detail is provided in the Policy J&A and in footnote 4 which specifically references examples of microgeneration technology including air / water / ground source heat pumps, **solar PV** (photovoltaic), biomass, micro CHP (combined heat and power), micro-wind and micro-hydro. The matter of sustainable development is woven through the document and is also considered in Policies such as RLED 1, DES 1 and DES 2. It is therefore not considered necessary to amend the policy wording. Furthermore, SP1 facilitates sustainable development that helps mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change,
Policy HOU 16 Dwellings for Non-Agricultural Business Enterprises	The policy could encourage development of a dwelling within or near a village or small settlement that has services and/or facilities to minimise the need to travel by private car.	The housing strategy directs growth to settlements specifically the main settlements (hubs). Sustainable development will be facilitated in the countryside balancing the need to protect the environment and rural character while sustaining rural communities. The Council will consider all relevant policies in the round. Policy HOU 16 relates to businesses in the countryside and states that *'The presence of such a business is not, of itself, sufficient justification to grant permission for someone to live on the site. Applicants must provide sufficient information to show that there is a site specific need which makes it essential for one of the firm's employees to live at the site of their work, as against a general desire for a dwelling in association with the business.* Considering the Policy requires evidence to justify the need and location of a new dwelling, It is therefore not considered necessary to amend the policy wording.

Policy	Recommendation made	Council's response
Policy HOU 17 Personal and Domestic Circumstances	The policy could encourage development of a dwelling within or near a village or small settlement that has services and/or facilities to minimise the need to travel by private car.	The housing strategy directs growth to settlements specifically the main settlements (hubs). Sustainable development will be facilitated in the countryside balancing the need to protect the environment and rural character while sustaining rural communities. The Council will consider all relevant policies in the round. Policy HOU 17 relates to Personal and Domestic Circumstances for a dwelling in the countryside and requires: ■ a) 'Compelling and site-specific reasons; ■ b) There are no alternative solutions to meet the particular circumstances of the case. Applicants will be expected to provide sufficient information relating to special personal or domestic circumstances including: ■ A statement detailing circumstances supported if appropriate by medical evidence ■ Details of the level of care required ■ Details of why care can only be provided at the specific location and how genuine hardship would be caused if planning permission were refused ■ Details of what alternatives to a new dwelling have been considered. Considering the Policy requires evidence to justify the need and location of a new dwelling, It is therefore not considered necessary to amend the policy wording.
Policy SGS 7 Tourism Strategy	As the overarching policy for tourism the policy could ensure that settlements or rural areas are not negatively impacted by visitor numbers.	The Council will consider all relevant policies in the round. The SPPS states that there should be a general presumption in favour of tourism development within settlements, subject to meeting normal planning requirements. However, in the countryside tourism development should be carefully managed in the interests of rural amenity, wider sustainability objectives and the long-term health of the tourism industry.

Policy	Recommendation made	Council's response
		The matter of amenity, capacity and negative impacts are considered throughout the document in Policies such as TOU1, TOU2, GP1-4, TRAN1, TRAN 6, TRAN 8, DES 1 and DES 2 to support sustainable development and safeguard tourism assets and residential amenity. It is therefore not considered necessary to amend the policy wording.
TRAN 7 Parking and Servicing Arrangements / TRAN 9 Provision of Car Parks	The policy wording should be strengthened to actively promote an overall reduction in car parking and promotion of alternative transport methods such as active travel and public transport.	The Council will consider all relevant policies in the round. The SPPS states that as part of preparing an LDP, councils should bring forward local policies to ensure adequate provision for car parking (car parking strategy). DfI advise on the appropriate level of car parking within NI settlements and produce parking standards for new development. Further details are contained in the Local Transport Plan that informs the dPS. TRAN 7 states that reduced car parking provision may be permissible in the following circumstances: ■ Where, through a Transport Assessment and/or Travel Plan, it forms part of a package of measures to promote alternative transport modes; or ■ Where the development is in a highly accessible location well served by public transport; or ■ Where the development would benefit from spare capacity nearby. Furthermore, policies TRAN 8 and DES 1 promote active travel and a modal shift from reliance on private vehicles. These Policies are considered to be in line with SPPS direction and permit a reduction in car parking provision in the specified circumstances. It is therefore not considered necessary to amend the policies wording.

Cumulative, Secondary and Synergistic effects

5.369 This section summarises the likely cumulative effects of the Draft Plan Strategy policies on each of the SA objectives in the SA framework, as shown in Table 5.78 overleaf. Below these tables, the total combined effects of all the Draft Plan Strategy policies working together are discussed and Table 5.79 provides a single overall cumulative effect for the Draft Plan Strategy in relation to the achievement of each of the SA objectives.

Table 5.78: Cumulative effects of the Draft Plan Strategy policies

Policy	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14
SP 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	++	0	0	0	0
SP 2	?	?	0	0	0	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
SGS 1	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+
SGS 2	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SGS 3	0	0	++	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	?	?	?	?
SGS 4	0	0	++	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	?	?	?	?
SGS 5	+	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SGS 6	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SGS 7	0	+/-	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
SGS 8	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0
SGS 9	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	0
SGS 10	0	0	++	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SGS 11	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	+
SGS 12	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	++
GP 1	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	++	+	+	0	0
GP 2	+	0	0	0	0	++	0	+	0	0	++	0	+	0
GP 3	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GP 4	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DES 1	+	++	0	0	+	0	0	++/-	+/-	0	0	+	++	+
DES 2	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0?	++	0
DES 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0

Policy	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14
DES 4	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
DES 5	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
HOU 1	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOU 2	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOU 3	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOU 4	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+
HOU 5	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
HOU 6	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOU 7	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
HOU 8	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOU 9	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOU 10	+	+	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
HOU 11	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0
HOU 12	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOU 13	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
HOU 14	0	0	+/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOU 15	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	-	-	-	0	0	+	0
HOU 16	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	-	-	-	0	0	+	0
HOU 17	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
HOU 18	+	+	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
HOU 19	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OSR 1	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0

Policy	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14
OSR 2	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+
OSR 3	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
OSR 4	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+
OSR 5	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0
OSR 6	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+
OSR 7	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0
OSR 8	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	++	+	0
CCF 1	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
ECN 1	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ECN 2	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
ECN 3	0	+	+	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
ECN 4	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
ECN 5	0	+	0	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
ECN 6	0	0	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
ECN 7	+	0	0	0	++	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
ECN 8	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ECN 9	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
ECN 10	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RTC 1	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RTC 2	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RTC 3	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RTC 4	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Policy	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14
RTC 5	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RTC 6	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOU 1	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOU 2	0	0	0	0	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOU 3	0	0	0	0	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	+?	0	0
TOU 4	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOU 5	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOU 6	+	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOU 7	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MN 1	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+
MN 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	+	+	+
MN 3	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MN 4	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MN 5	0	0	0	0	+/-	0	+	0	0	-	0	+	0	0
MN 6	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+/-	+	+	+	0
MN 7	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0
MN 8	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TUI 1	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+
TUI 2	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+
TRAN 1	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAN 2	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0?	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAN 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0?	0	0	0	0	0	0

Policy	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14
TRAN 4	0	0	0	0	0	+?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAN 5	+?	0	0	0	+?	+?	0	+?	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAN 6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAN 7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--/+	+/-?	0	0	0	0	0
TRAN 8	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	0
TRAN 9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--/+	+/-?	0	0	0	0	0
HE 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++
HE 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++
HE 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++
HE 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++
HE 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++
HE 6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++
HE 7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++
HE 8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++
HE 9	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++
HE 10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++
HE 11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++
HE 12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++
HE 13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/-?
HE 14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
NH 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0
NH 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0

Policy	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14
NH 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0
NH 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0
NH 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	++	+	0
NH 6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	+
NH 7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0
NH 8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	+
NH 9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0
FRD 1	+	+	0	0	+/-	+	0	0	0	+	++	0	0	0
FRD 2	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	++	0	0	0
FRD 3	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	++	+	0	+
FRD 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	0	0
FRD 5	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0
RLED 1	+	+	0	0	0	++	0	+	+	++	+	+	+	+
WMT 1	+	0	0	0	0	++	+	+/-	+/-	0	+	+	+	+
WMT 2	+	0	0	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	0
WMT 3	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0
WMT 4	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
WMT 5	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
EP 1	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	0
EP 2	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0
DC 1	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+?	+?	+?

SA Objective 1: Improve health and well-being

5.370 A large number of the policies in the Draft Plan Strategy will have positive effects on health. In particular, policies GP 3 Public Safety and Human Health and GP 4 Amenity directly address this issue which seeks to ensure that all new development makes a positive contribution to health and wellbeing.

5.371 Policies within the Urban Housing section support the delivery of high quality housing (Policies HOU 3 Design Concept Statements, Concept Master Plans and Comprehensive Planning, HOU 4 Quality in residential development and HOU 11 Householder development) and support the delivery of a range of types of housing to meet the needs of everyone (HOU 5 Residential mix, HOU 6 Affordable Housing in Settlements , HOU 9 Specialist Residential Accommodation, HOU 10 Travellers Accommodation , HOU 12 New Dwellings in an Existing Cluster, HOU 17 Personal and Domestic Circumstances and HOU 18 Affordable Housing in the Countryside). Therefore, they are expected to have positive effects on this SA objective. There is synergy between the policies that support new housing development, active travel policies, open space policies and policies that protect the environment as new development proposals are expected to deliver all these aspects having a positive effect on health and wellbeing.

5.372 The Transportation section of the Draft Plan Strategy seeks to increase use of active travel modes which will benefit health by raising levels of day-to-day physical activity. This will be made more possible by the overall strategy of focussing most development in the main settlements. The provision of open space, sport and recreation will also support the aim of increasing physical activity (policies OSR 1 Protection and Provision of Open Space; OSR 2 Public Open Space in new Residential Development; OSR 3 Outdoor Recreation in the Countryside; OSR 4 Intensive Sports Facilities; OSR 5 Noise Generating Sports and Outdoor Recreational Facilities; OSR 6 Development of Facilities ancillary to Water Sports; OSR 7 The Floodlighting of Sports and Outdoor Recreational Facilities; and, OSR 8 Green and Blue Infrastructure). Policies in the Waste Management section of the Draft Plan Strategy will protect human health, while policies seeking to manage flood risk will help to avoid the potential impacts of flood events on peoples' physical and mental health.

5.373 Overall, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 1: Health and well-being.

SA Objective 2: Strengthen society

5.374 The Draft Plan Strategy includes a range of policies seeking to improving community relations and creating a safe and inclusive society. In particular, Policy DES 1 Design Quality will ensure high quality design of new developments that are safe, inclusive, accessible and have spaces for social interaction. Policies in the Housing section of the Plan Strategy seek to ensure that housing is available to meet the needs of specific groups including people with specialist needs who require accessible homes and Travellers.

5.375 The overall approach taken throughout the spatial growth strategy within the Plan Strategy, of directing employment opportunities, services and facilities, to the most accessible parts of the Borough (e.g. main settlements) will positively affect the achievement of this SA objective by ensuring that jobs, services and facilities are accessible to all, including those without a car. This is recognised through the settlement hierarchy presented in Policy SGS 2 Settlement hierarchy.

5.376 In addition, a number of policies within the Open space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation section, specifically policies OSR 2 Public Open Space in new Residential Development and OSR 8 Green and Blue Infrastructure, are expected to have a positive effect on this objective. The provision and enhancement of high-quality open space will provide spaces for people to interact promoting social integration while providing spaces for community activity and recreation.

5.377 Overall, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 2: Society.

SA Objective 3: Provide good quality, sustainable housing

5.378 While the Draft Plan Strategy does not allocate sites for housing, with provision being made through the Local Policies Plan as part of the Local Development Plan, the Plan does allocate a total of 16,409 dwellings through Policy SGS 3 Strategic housing allocation. Policy SGS 3 Strategic housing allocation is supported by Policy SGS 4: Management of Housing Supply which sets out how housing delivery will be phased across the plan period. The plan does include a range of policies that will combine to ensure that the housing provided is of high quality and meets the needs of specific groups. In particular, the policies in the Urban housing section of the Draft Plan Strategy will have a wide range of positive effects, as they will ensure that an appropriate mix of housing, including affordable housing, is provided. Policy ECN 3 Redevelopment of an Established Economic Development Use in the Countryside allows for, in exceptional cases, affordable housing on former industrial sites which could further support the delivery of affordable housing. That part of the Draft Plan

Strategy includes policies directly seeking to meet the needs of specific groups; for example policies HOU 9 Specialist Residential Accommodation, HOU 10 Travellers Accommodation and HOU 19 Residential Caravans and Mobile Homes support the needs of older people, people with disabilities and Travellers. There are also policies that support some residential development within the countryside which will help to ensure the demand for housing in rural areas is met. The policies include: policies SGS 10: Sustainable Development in the Countryside, HOU 12 New Dwellings in an Existing Cluster, HOU 13 Replacement Dwellings, HOU14 Infill and Ribbon Development, HOU 15 Dwellings on a Farm, HOU 16 Dwellings for Non-Agricultural Business Enterprises and HOU 17 Personal and Domestic Circumstances. Policy HOU 18 Affordable Housing in the Countryside specifically relates to affordable housing in the countryside which will ensure affordable housing need in the countryside will be met.

5.379 While most of the policies in the other sections of the Draft Plan Strategy will have negligible effects on this SA objective, Policy DES 1 Design Quality will help to ensure that the housing to be developed is high quality. There is a positive synergy between Policy SP 1 Furthering sustainable development and Climate Change resilience and the policies within the Urban Housing section as this could help ensure that housing development is sustainable.

5.380 Overall, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 3: Housing.

SA Objective 4: Enable access to high quality education

5.381 The majority of the policies in the Draft Plan Strategy will have negligible effects on this objective; however, there may be positive effects from Policy DC 1 Developer contributions as the policy sets the requirement for developer contributions. Contributions will be sought in relation to the provision, maintenance and improvement of infrastructure, services and facilities which could include educational facilities.

5.382 Overall, a mixed (negligible and minor positive) effect is expected in relation to SA objective 4: Education.

SA Objective 5: Enable sustainable economic growth

5.383 Similarly to SA objective 3, the Draft Plan Strategy does not allocate specific sites for employment development as this is addressed through the Local Policies Plan. However, the plan does allocate a total of 340 ha of employment land through

Policy SGS 5 Strategic Economic Development Lands Allocation with the majority of this land allocated within the Craigavon Urban Area. The plan also includes policies that will combine to make sure that an appropriate amount and type of employment land is provided to support the Borough's economic growth, in particular through the policies in the Economic Development section of the Draft Plan Strategy. Policies ECN 9 Retention of Zoned Lands and Economic Development Uses and ECN 10 Development incompatible with Economic Development Uses both support the protection and effective functioning of land used for economic development with the Borough. Policies ECN 1 Economic Development in the Countryside; ECN 2 Expansion of an Established Economic Development Use in the Countryside; ECN 3 Redevelopment of an Established Economic Development Use in the Countryside; and, ECN 4 Major Economic Development in the Countryside specifically support economic development within the countryside and the continued use and redevelopment of established economic sites in the countryside. This will ensure the rural economy will grow alongside the district and local centres. In addition, policies within the Tourism section (Policies TOU 1 Tourism Development in Settlements; TOU 2 Tourist Amenities in the Countryside; TOU 3 Hotels, Guest Houses and Tourist Hostels in the Countryside; TOU 4 Major Tourism Development in the Countryside- Exceptional Circumstances; TOU 5 Self Catering Accommodation in the Countryside; TOU 6 New and Extended Holiday Parks in the Countryside; and, TOU 7 Safeguarding Tourism Assets) seek to support the local and regional tourism economy through the delivery of tourist attractions and accommodation. The health of the Borough's district centres, local centres, villages and small settlements will be promoted by the measures in the policies in the Retailing and Town Centres section of the Draft Plan Strategy. There is also positive synergy between policies in the Tourism section and Transportation section as the delivery of active travel networks will also support opportunities for tourism related activities such as walking and cycling.

5.384 Other policies in the Draft Local Plan will indirectly support the economy, including those relating to design. Policies DES 1 Design quality and DES 4 Shopfront design will ensure new developments and high streets remain vibrant and attractive which will likely help make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work and invest.

5.385 As with SA objective 3, some of the policies in the Draft Plan Strategy could potentially be seen to be restrictive to commercial development; however these are not expected to have a particular effect in terms of restricting economic growth and preserving the environmental quality of the Borough will in itself have positive effects on the economy by helping to ensure that Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon is an attractive place to live and invest.

5.386 Overall, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 5: Economic growth.

SA Objective 6: Manage material assets sustainably

5.387 The majority of the policies within the Draft Plan Strategy are expected to have a negligible effect on this SA objective. However, there are some policies that support the creation of infrastructure and energy generation that will support development with the Borough. Policy GP 2 Infrastructure requirements for development is the overriding policy which supports the provision, upgrading and coordinated use of essential infrastructure to facilitate development across the Borough. In addition, the policies within the Telecommunications, Utilities and Infrastructure section (Policies TUI 1 Telecommunications Development and TUI 2 Infrastructure, Utilities and Overhead Line) supports the delivery of essential infrastructure and utilities including communications infrastructure. In relation to energy generation, Policy RLED 1 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development within the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy section supports the enhancement of existing renewable and low carbon energy while increasing energy production across the Borough.

5.388 Some of the policies within the Housing section (Policies HOU 4 Quality in Residential Development, HOU 7 Conversion or Change of Use of Existing Buildings to Flats or Apartments, HOU 10 Travellers Accommodation, HOU 13 Replacement Dwellings, HOU 18 Affordable Housing in the Countryside and HOU 19 Residential Caravans and Mobile Homes) are expected to have positive effects as they support the redevelopment and re-use of existing buildings minimising the need for the construction of new buildings. In addition, policies within the Economic Development section (Policies ECN 2 Expansion of an Established Economic Development Use in the Countryside, ECN 3 Redevelopment of an Established Economic Development Use in the Countryside, ECN 6 Farm Diversification, ECN 7 Agricultural and Forestry Development, and ECN 9 Retention of Zoned Lands and Economic Development Uses) support the redevelopment of established economic sites, development of previously used economic development land and the use of existing buildings. While the Plan Strategy makes provision for housing and employment development, the extent to which sustainable waste management and use of resources, for example, will be achieved will depend on other factors including individual behaviours and construction materials used.

5.389 Policies within the Waste Management section are expected to have a positive effect on this SA objective as they collectively support the management of waste. In addition, Policies WMT 1 Environmental Impact of a Waste Management Facility;

WMT 2 Waste Collection and Treatment Facilities; and WMT 3 Waste Disposal will ensure efficient and sustainable waste infrastructure is developed.

5.390 Protection for existing infrastructure is provided through some of the policies within the Flood Risk and Drainage section of the Draft Plan Strategy. Policies FRD 1 Development in Fluvial (River) Flood Plains; FRD 2 Protection of Flood Defence and Drainage Infrastructure; and FRD 3 Development and Surface Water (Pluvial) Flood Risk outside Flood Plains will ensure the protection of essential infrastructure and built assets from flood risk.

5.391 Overall, a minor positive effect is expected for SA Objective 6: Material assets.

SA Objective 7: Protect physical resources and use sustainably

5.392 The majority of the policies within the Draft Plan Strategy are expected to have a negligible effect on this SA objective. However, protection for physical resources is provided through the policies in the Minerals development section. The Plan Strategy is supportive of minerals extraction but does set out requirements to ensure that the exploitation of new minerals is kept to a minimum and sustainable extraction practises are used. These are set out with Policy MIN 1 Minerals Development. The exploitation of high value minerals (Policy MIN 4 High Value Minerals) and peat extraction (Policy MIN 6 Peat Extraction) is generally not supported.

5.393 Policies within the Waste Management section will ensure the safe handling, collection and disposal of waste in the Borough. Where possible, waste will be diverted away from landfill (Policy WMT 4 Land Improvement).

5.394 Overall, an uncertain minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 7: Physical resources.

SA Objective 8: Encourage active and sustainable travel

5.395 Policy SGS 8 Transport Strategy sets out the overall transport strategy for the Draft Plan Strategy. the strategy aims to promote sustainable development by integrating transport and land use planning. This will support a modal shift from private car use to more sustainable forms of transport. Improving sustainable transport links and achieving modal shift is promoted specifically through policies within the Transportation section of the Draft Plan Strategy. In particular, Policy TRAN 8 Active Travel including Walking and Cycling supports the creation of active travel routes which could encourage the use of walking and cycling.

5.396 In addition, policies within the Design and Placemaking section (Policies DES 1 Design Quality and DES 2 Rural Design and Character in the Countryside) support active and sustainable travel by ensuring it is accessible to all and safe to use.

5.397 Some minor negative effects have been identified in relation to policies within the Transportation section. Policies TRAN 7 Parking and Servicing Arrangements and TRAN 9 Provision of Car Parks relate to the provision of adequate car parking and specifically support the development of car parks, which could be seen as facilitating ongoing car use and discouraging modal shift. However, it is recognised that some level of car use will always be necessary. Overall, the Draft Plan Strategy promotes sustainable transport use and achieving modal shift and these individual policies referencing car use are not considered to detract from that overall position. Similarly, some of the policies in the Urban Housing section (HOU 15 Dwellings on a Farm, HOU 16 Dwellings for Non-Agricultural Business Enterprises and HOU 17 Personal and Domestic Circumstances) could have minor negative effects as they would result in some development in the countryside, where car dependency may be high.

5.398 Overall, a mixed (minor positive and minor negative) effect is expected in relation to SA objective 8: Active and sustainable travel.

SA Objective 9: Improve air quality

5.399 The impacts of development on air quality in the plan area will be greatly affected by the potential to support a transition to more sustainable modes of transport in the plan area. Support for travel by public transport and encouraging a higher proportion of trips to be made by walking and cycling is likely to contribute to reductions in air pollution in the plan area. As such, the effects relating to the distribution of growth, including access to services and facilities, public transport and jobs identified in relation to SA objective 8 are also applicable to SA objective 9. The Borough has one Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) which extends the entirety of the Borough. The AQMA is largely as a result of higher levels of NO_2 associated with road traffic.

5.400 The Local Plan includes a number of policies that will indirectly help to improve air quality in the plan area. A number of high-level policies relating to climate change (SP1: Furthering Sustainable Development and Climate Change Resilience and GP 1 Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change) support the adaptation and mitigation to climate change reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Policy RLED 1 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development supports the development of renewable and low carbon energy infrastructure which could encourage the transition away from fossil fuels and associated greenhouse gas emissions. A number of policies within

the Transportation section (TRAN 7 Parking and Servicing Arrangements, TRAN 8 Active Travel including Walking and Cycling and TRAN 9 Provision of Car Parks) support a shift away from private vehicle use and towards more sustainable modes of transport. These measures could make contributions to air quality in the plan area by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting the modal shift away from private vehicles and towards sustainable and active travel choices. In addition, the protection and enhancement of green and blue infrastructure through Policy OSR 8 Green and blue infrastructure could have a positive impact on reducing air pollutants through the planting of new vegetation.

5.401 However, a number of policies within the Urban housing section (HOU 15 Dwellings on a Farm, HOU 16 Dwellings for Non-Agricultural Business Enterprises and HOU 17 Personal and Domestic Circumstances) support development in the countryside which could encourage the use of private vehicles to travel and result in associated increases in emissions.

5.402 Overall, a mixed (minor positive and minor negative) effect is expected in relation to SA objective 9: Air.

SA Objective 10: Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change

5.403 There are two overarching policies that relate to climate change within the Draft Plan Strategy, Policy SP 1 Furthering Sustainable Development and Climate Change Resilience and Policy GP 1 Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change. Both these policies are expected to, in-combination, support a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and help the Borough adapt and be resilient to the impacts of climate change. In addition, the policies within the Flood Risk and Drainage section support adaptation to the impacts of climate change through the creation of drainage systems to manage flooding and surface water caused by extreme weather events. Renewable energy generation is supported through Policy RLED 1 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development which encourages the development of renewable and low carbon energy infrastructure. This will have a positive impact on reducing reliance on fossil fuels and encouraging the use of renewable sources of energy. The management of waste through the Waste Management section will ensure that waste is handled and disposed correctly.

5.404 There will likely be some contribution to climate change as a result of development proposed through the Draft Plan Strategy. Some level of growth is expected within the countryside where there is limited methods of sustainable transport. This could encourage the use of private car contributing to vehicle

emissions. However, the effects are uncertain until the location of development is known.

5.405 Overall, a mixed (minor positive and minor negative) effect is expected in relation to SA objective 10: Climate Change.

SA Objective 11: Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably

5.406 While many of the policies in the Draft Plan Strategy will not directly affect this SA objective, the policies in the Flood Risk and Drainage section of the Plan Strategy will have positive effects. Those policies directly address the issue of water resource management and seek to ensure the management of flood risk and drainage within new developments. Policy FRD 4 Artificial Modification of Watercourses provides protection to watercourses ensuring the natural function and condition is retained. In addition, Policy GP 2 Infrastructure Requirements for Development sets out the infrastructure requirements for the Borough which ensures wastewater and drainage provision and minimising pollution risk. These policies will help mitigate the effects that housing growth will have on demand for water and increases in wastewater levels. Furthermore, the policies within the Environmental Protection section ensure no significant adverse effects as a result of contaminated land which will provide protection for water within the Borough.

5.407 Overall, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 11: Water.

SA Objective 12: Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity

5.408 It is possible for the overall extent of development proposed in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, particularly through policy SGS 1 Spatial Growth Strategy, Policy SGS 3 Strategic Housing Allocation and Policy SGS 5 Strategic Economic Development Lands Allocation, to have negative effects on biodiversity in the Borough; however this will depend largely on the location of development which is not specific through the Draft Plan Strategy.

5.409 The Draft Plan Strategy does, however, include numerous policies seeking to protect and enhance the natural environment, including biodiversity which provides a positive synergistic effect. In particular, the policies in the Natural Heritage section of the Draft Plan Strategy will have a range of positive effects, in particular the policies that directly aim to protect and enhance biodiversity including policies NH 1

Protection of European and Ramsar Sites (International); NH 2 Species Protected by Law; NH 3 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (National); NH 4 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (Local); NH 5 Habitats, Species, Biodiversity or Features of Natural Heritage Importance; and, NH 9 Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance. In addition, Policies NH 6 Local Landscape Policy Areas and NH 8 Area(s) of Outstanding Natural Beauty which provide protection for Landscape Policy Areas and Areas of Outstanding Natural beauty will also have positive effects on this SA objective. These policies provide protection for international, national and local protected sites. In addition, Policy DES 3 Trees and hedgerows supports the planting of trees and hedgerows which will create habitat. Policies FRD 3 Development and Surface Water (Pluvial) Flood Risk outside Flood Plains and FRD 4 Artificial Modification of Watercourses under the Flood Risk and Drainage section are expected to have positive effects on this SA objective by providing protection to watercourses and ensuring surface water run-off does not impact ecological features.

5.410 Policies in the Open space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation section will have positive effects in relation to biodiversity through the protection and provision of open space within the Borough. A number of the policies (OSR 1 Protection and Provision of Open Space; OSR 3 Outdoor Recreation in the Countryside; OSR 4 Intensive Sports Facilities; OSR 5 Noise Generating Sports and Outdoor Recreational Facilities; OSR 6 Development of Facilities ancillary to Water Sports; and, OSR 7 The Floodlighting of Sports and Outdoor Recreational Facilities) will also ensure that any development of recreational facilities will not have a negative impact on the natural environment including biodiversity.

5.411 Other policies in the Draft Plan Strategy will have indirect positive effects in relation to biodiversity, for example those that promote the sustainable management of waste require no adverse environmental impacts.

5.412 Overall, an uncertain minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 12: Biodiversity.

SA Objective 13: Maintain and enhance landscape character

5.413 The overall scale of development that will result from the Plan Strategy, as set out through policy SGS 3 Strategic Housing Allocation and SGS 5 Strategic Economic Development Lands Allocation (16,409 dwellings and 340 ha of employment land) in particular, could result in negative effects on the landscapes and townscapes of the Borough. The majority of growth is directed towards the main settlements which should minimise any impacts on the open countryside. However, this is uncertain until the specific location of development and its design and layout is known, which is not determined through the draft Plan Strategy.

5.414 The Local Plan does include a number of policies directly seeking to protect and enhance landscape character, such as policies SGS 11 Strategic Landscape Policy Area, and NH 6 Local Landscape Policy Areas, NH 7 Landscape Wedges (Urban & Rural) and NH 8 Area(s) of Outstanding Natural Beauty within the Natural Heritage section. These policies provide special protection for Landscape Policy Areas, landscape wedges and Area(s) of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Some of the policies within the Historic Environment section (Policies HE 1 The Preservation of Archaeological Remains of Regional Importance and their Settings; HE 2 The Protection of Archaeological Remains of Local Importance and their Settings; HE 5 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes of Special Historic Interest; HE 8 Development Affecting the Setting of a Listed Building; HE 9 New Development in a Conservation Area; and, HE 12 New Development in Areas of Townscape or Village Character) are expected to have positive impacts on landscape character and townscape through the protection of historical assets. The provision of enhanced green infrastructure and open space through the policies in the Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation section of the Plan Strategy will have positive effects on the landscape. In addition, policies within the Design and Placemaking section, in particular DES 1 Design quality aim to enhance visual amenity and ensure design contributes to local character and distinctiveness.

5.415 A number of policies across the Urban Housing; Economic Development; Minerals Development; and Telecommunications, Utilities and Infrastructure sections require landscape enhancement or development proposals to minimise adverse impacts on the landscape. These policy requirements will help to mitigate any adverse impacts on landscape as a result of new development.

5.416 Overall, an uncertain minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 13: Landscape.

SA Objective 14: Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources

5.417 In addition to having impacts on the Borough's natural environment, the growth to be provided in the Borough over the plan period (16,409 dwellings and 340 ha of employment land as set out through policies SGS 3 Strategic Housing Allocation and SGS 5 Strategic Economic Development Lands Allocation) is also likely to have implications for the historic environment. This is likely to include impacts on the settings of heritage assets that can often compromise undeveloped land and features of the natural environment. The approach of directing much of the required development towards the Borough's main settlements (Hubs) in line with the settlement hierarchy (policy SGS 2 Settlement hierarchy) could result in a range of

impacts on designated heritage assets in the plan area given that the main settlements of Armagh City and Banbridge contains a high number of these assets. Of the settlements in the plan area, Armagh City contains a high concentration of Listed Buildings and a number of historic parks, gardens and demesnes. Therefore, development directed towards this settlement could have particularly adverse effects on the Borough's historic environment. However, any effects are unknown until the location and design of developments is clear, which is not determined through the Plan Strategy.

5.418 A number of policies in the draft Plan Strategy are set out to address potential impacts on the historic environment. This includes policy DES 1 Design quality which requires development to identify historic environment features and ensure they are integrated and protected within the design and layout where possible. Policy SGS 12 Heritage Strategy sets the overall spatial strategy for the plan in relation to heritage. The Plan Strategy also includes specific policies under the Historic Environment section (HE 1 The Preservation of Archaeological Remains of Regional Importance and their Settings; HE 2 The Protection of Archaeological Remains of Local Importance and their Settings; HE 3 Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation; HE 4 Archaeological Mitigation; HE 5 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes of Special Historic Interest; HE 6 Listed Buildings- Change of Use and/or Extension or Alteration of a Listed Building; HE 7 Demolition of a Listed Building; HE 8 Development Affecting the Setting of a Listed Building; HE 9 New Development in a Conservation Area; HE 10 Demolition in a Conservation Area; HE 11 Demolition in Areas of Townscape or Village Character; and, HE 12 New Development in Areas of Townscape or Village Character) that aims to ensure the protection designated heritage assets; historic parks, gardens and demesnes; archaeology; conservation areas and non-designated heritage assets. This includes the requirement that proposals that adversely affect a designated heritage asset will not be accepted.

5.419 Overall, an uncertain minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 14: Historic environment.

Table 5.79: Cumulative effects of the Draft Plan Strategy

SA objective	Cumulative effect
SA1: Health and well-being	++
SA2: Society	+
SA3: Housing	++
SA4: Education	0/+
SA5: Economic growth	++

SA objective	Cumulative effect
SA6: Material assets	+
SA7: Physical resources	+?
SA8: Active and sustainable travel	+/-
SA9: Air	+/-
SA10: Climate change	+/-
SA11: Water	+
SA12: Biodiversity	+?
SA13: Landscape	+?
SA14: Historic environment	+?

Duration of effects

5.420 The Draft Plan Strategy sets out how growth will be planned, facilitated and managed over the Plan period up to 2035. Effects may be experienced in the short-term (defined for this SA as over the next five years), medium-term (defined as over the next 10 years), or long-term effects (defined as over the whole Plan period and beyond). Given the nature of the policies in the Draft Plan Strategy, it is difficult to be precise about when, where and in what form all the effects will arise, and how one effect might relate to another. However, it is possible to draw some broad conclusions about the nature and interrelationship of the effects that the SA has identified.

5.421 Most of the effects will be long-term, in that the Draft Plan Strategy aims to facilitate and manage growth and associated infrastructure that will last over time. There will be some temporary and short- or medium-term effects during site preparation, construction or operation (see below).

5.422 The effects which have been identified in the appraisal of the Draft Plan Strategy, both positive and negative, are likely to increase over time, as the policies in the plan are implemented, and more developments are delivered in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough.

Short-term effects

5.423 The effects of the Draft Plan Strategy in the short-term are mostly related to the initial impacts of commencing development early in the Plan period. These will include the removal of vegetation, soil, and provision of infrastructure required. Such works could have negative impacts on biodiversity, health and well-being, amenity of

local communities (possible disruption to rights of way, traffic flows, noise generation, vibration, dust etc.), soil quality, and the landscape. However, these impacts are temporary in nature, and some may be minimised through good design, adherence to the policies in the Draft Plan Strategy or reversed through restoration measures in the long-term.

Medium-term effects

5.424 Medium-term positive effects relate to the employment and economic benefits of development, new communities and district centres. Negative effects in the medium-term include the implications of having greater densities of residents and workers in parts of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough on health and well-being, the amenity of local communities (e.g. noise, increased traffic etc.), and on environmental quality. However, these impacts should be avoided or mitigated through the adherence to the policies in the Draft Plan Strategy when planning proposals are assessed and determined by the Council.

Long-term effects

5.425 Long-term, permanent benefits that would result from the Draft Plan Strategy include the provision of sufficient homes, new service, facilities and infrastructure and employment opportunities to meet Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough's needs. New developments will also enable flood alleviation schemes, habitat creation and biodiversity enhancement, recreation enhancement as well and the conservation of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough's landscapes and historic environment. The positive effects of new habitat creation, particularly in relation to woodland, may be in the longer term. Long-term, permanent negative impacts of the Draft Plan Strategy are potentially: loss of habitats and soil; and climate change implications of the energy required to power new homes and businesses and vehicle movements to and from sites.

Chapter 6
Monitoring

6.1 Regulation 17 of EAPP (NI) Regulations sets out the requirements for monitoring the implementation of the plan. It states that "The responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action". In addition, Annex I (i) of the SEA Directive states that the Environmental Report (i.e., this integrated SA Report) should provide "… a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring".

6.2 Given the current stage of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon LDP, the formal framework for monitoring will not be addressed until the Plan Strategy is fully adopted. However, the SA allows a preliminary framework to be prepared at this stage. The monitoring framework will evolve in response to consultation comments or any amendments to the plan.

6.3 Table 6.1 overleaf presents the preliminary programme of monitoring. This monitoring framework will be updated as part of the post adoption statement and a final framework will be presented. This will help the Council to measure the plan's performance, in particular where significant effects were identified, and to monitor any uncertainties noted within the appraisal. The monitoring framework will also support the Council in preparing their annual monitoring report.

6.4 The data used for monitoring in many cases will be provided by outside bodies. Information collected by other organisations (for example the NIEA) can also be used as a source of indicators. It is therefore recommended that the Council continues the dialogue with statutory environmental consultees and other stakeholders that has already commenced and works with them to agree the relevant sustainability effects to be monitored and to obtain information that is appropriate, up to date and reliable.

Table 6.1: Proposed monitoring framework

SA objectives	Suggested indicators
SA Objective 1: Improve health and well-being	■ Total amount of space for green and blue infrastructure. ■ The number of planning permissions granted on zoned Open Space. ■ New public open space gained through planning approvals ■ Proportion of people who are overweight or obese ■ Number of people who report themselves as having 'good' or 'very good' health.
SA Objective 2: Strengthen society	■ Number of traveller accommodation approved and built ■ Number of specialist residential accommodation approved and built ■ Number of planning applications refused as they fail to facilitate community safety ■ Number of new community facilities approved in settlements and the countryside.
SA Objective 3: Provide good quality, sustainable housing	■ Less than 5 year supply of housing within Main Settlements (Hubs) and Small Towns ■ Number of planning approvals for conversion and replacement of existing buildings in the countryside. ■ Total number of Affordable Housing approved/built within Settlements and the Countryside on sites exceeding 0.5 hectares or 10 dwellings) ■ Number of traveller accommodation approved and built ■ Number of specialist residential accommodation approved and built ■ Number of Houses in Multiple Occupation approved

SA objectives	Suggested indicators
SA Objective 4: Enable access to high quality education	■ Proportion of population who have no qualifications ■ Number of planning applications approved for development of new educational facilities
SA Objective 5: Enable sustainable economic growth	■ Sustainable growth across Tiers 1 & 2 of the settlement hierarchy – Quantity of zoned employment land ■ No zoned economic development lands lost to any other uses (other than appropriate sui generis employment uses) ■ Number of tourist schemes approved ■ Number of tourist accommodation approved ■ Number of economic development schemes approved in the countryside. ■ Promotion of the town centre first - Number of retail approvals for main town centre uses
SA Objective 6: Manage material assets sustainably	■ The number of applications approved for renewable energy or low carbon energy development approved ■ Amount of municipal waste reduced and recycled ■ Number of planning applications approved which facilitate physical and digital connectivity to new residential and business developments
SA Objective 7: Protect physical resources and use sustainably	■ Number of planning applications approved involving re-use of existing buildings and/ or development on brownfield land
SA Objective 8: Encourage active and sustainable travel	■ The number of new or extended park and ride/park and share facilities to reduce the need to travel by private vehicle. ■ Number of Active Travel schemes approved.

SA objectives	Suggested indicators
	■ Restriction of development on protected transport schemes and disused transport routes
SA Objective 9: Improve air quality	■ Air Quality data
SA Objective 10: Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change	■ Number of planning approvals granted in flood plains contrary to policy ■ The number of planning applications granted which include SuDS measures ■ Electricity Consumption from Renewable Sources
SA Objective 11: Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably	■ Number and location of properties approved with non-mains wastewater treatment. ■ Number of applications refused due to capacity issues with WwTW ■ % surface waterbodies in the Borough achieving 'good' ecological status (or 'good' ecological potential) or better
SA Objective 12: Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity	■ Total Number of Tree Preservation Orders ■ Number of permissions in designated sites: Landscape Wedges, Local Landscape Policy Areas, Strategic Landscape Policy Areas and AONB ■ Total amount of space for green and blue infrastructure ■ Condition of natural heritage assets within the district (DAERA condition assessments).
SA Objective 13: Maintain and enhance landscape character	■ Number of permissions in designated sites: Landscape Wedges, Local Landscape Policy Areas, Strategic Landscape Policy Areas and AONB
SA Objective 14: Protect, conserve and enhance	■ Number of Listed Buildings Demolished

SA objectives	Suggested indicators
the historic environment and cultural resources	■ New development within Areas of Significant Archaeological interest (ASAIs). ■ Demolition of buildings within Conservation Areas (CAs) and Areas of Townscape (ATC) / Areas of Village Character (AVCs)

Chapter 7
Conclusions

7.1 The SA of the Plan Strategy has been undertaken to accord with current best practice and the guidance on SA/SEA. SA objectives developed at the Scoping stage of the SA process have been used to undertake a detailed appraisal of the current consultation document and the reasonable alternative options considered.

7.2 The Plan Strategy has been found to have broadly positive effects across the SA objectives. The plan makes provision for ~~the~~ delivery of ~~the~~ housing and employment development and so will have significant positive cumulative effects in relation to housing and the local economy. As the Plan Strategy does not allocate any specific sites for development, the potential negative effects of development on the environmental objectives in particular are largely not identified through this SA. Instead, the policies contain a wide range of measures that will apply to the housing and other development coming forward through Policies Plan, seeking to ensure that it is built to a high quality, appropriately located, and avoids increasing flood risk. Particularly positive effects have been identified in relation to health, as the Plan Strategy provides for open space, sports and recreation facilities to meet local needs, while also seeking to deliver green infrastructure and increase levels of active travel. These measures should have particularly positive effects given the lower levels of physical activity in the Borough. The Local Plan also makes strong provision for the protection of the historic and natural environment through a suite of specific policies.

7.3 A number of recommendations have been made throughout the SA process for amendments or additions that could be made to policies in the Plan Strategy in order to maximise their positive effects and reduce or avoid negative effects. These have been considered by the Council when developing the Plan Strategy, as detailed in Chapter 5 and Appendix D.

Next steps

7.4 This SA Report will be available for consultation alongside the Draft Plan Strategy. The consultation responses on the Plan Strategy and this SA Report will be reviewed and considered prior to adoption of the Plan Strategy.

LUC

May 2026

Appendix A
Consultation Comments

Consultation responses received in relation to the SA Scoping Report (2017)

DAERA and NIEA response

General comments

- We are broadly content with the envisaged layout of the SEA report template.
- A number of baseline data sources and relevant strategies/reports are detailed in the Local Development Plans, DAERA Environmental Evidence and Information Guidance (www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/development-plan-evidence-guide-documents).
- 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.
- 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.
- The Development Plan Practice Note for Sustainability Appraisal incorporating SEA was produced by the former Department of the Environment in 2015. This document in 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 if its content may be useful when developing the SEA documents associated with the LDP such as Preferred Options papers.

IA team's response/action taken

- Noted, data referred to in www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/daera-environmental-evidence-guide-may-2017.pdf 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.

Natural resources

- We are broadly content with the envisaged layout of the SEA report template.
- 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 & Well-being, Physical Resources, Water, Air, Landscape and Climatic Factors.
- 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.
- Information sources include: NIEA Natural Heritage Digital datasets which includes protected sites and priority habitats
- Northern Ireland State of the Environment Report 2013
- Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2017
- National Ecosystems Assessment, Chapter 18 on Northern Ireland
- 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: http://www.nmni.com/cedar

IA team's response/action taken

- The interactions between this topic and other objectives has been noted and section 5.11 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

Water, natural resources and historic environment

Marine and coastal

- 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 City, Banbridge, Craigavon Council area is land locked, there is the potential to affect the marine area of Northern Ireland, for example, through hydrological systems.
- 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).
- 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.
- Some specific points to consider are noted below:
  - Pg. 10, 3.2 Principles, connected: include the marine area as a neighbouring area.
  - Pg. 13, 3.11 Cumulative Effects: consideration of cumulative effects should include those on the marine area
  - 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.

- 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.
- Pg. 18, 5.3 Strategic Context: The UK Marine Policy Statement and when, published, the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland, should be included here.
- 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.

IA team's response/action taken

- Details of the strategic context referred to have been included and Appendix 4 and/or Water or Natural Heritage topics where available.
- Reference to the NI Marine Plan will be updated once it is published.

Air quality

- 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:
- 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:
  - Any Air Quality Action Plans that the Council currently has in place.
  - Any Air Quality Detailed Assessments that the Council has carried out.
  - The presence and location of Air Quality Management Areas.
  - The presence and location of Smoke Control Areas.
  - The consideration of road traffic (current and projected) and the influence that this has/could have on air pollutant levels.
- Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance LAQM PG NI(09): www.airqualityni.co.uk/news-and-reports/useful-guidance
- Information is available at the website: www.airqualityni.co.uk which has many of the documents mentioned above, as well as the annual 'Air Pollution in Northern Ireland' report.

IA team's response/action taken

- A variety of these sources were used in the Air quality topic. AQMAs have been referred to.
- 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. 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. Transport strategies are in preparation by DfI and will also inform this section.

Noise

- We note that 'Noise' is one of the 'Health and Well-being' topics. Considerations should include:
- Noise maps for Northern Ireland that the Department has produced which can be found at https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/noise
- Relevant guidance and standards for noise as well as the Noise Policy statement: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doe/noise-policy-statement-ni.PDF
- The presence and location of any Quiet Areas.

IA team's response/action taken

- Noise mapping data has been sourced and presented in the Health and Well-being section. There are no Quiet Areas in the Borough.

Historic environment division (HED)

Historic environment

- 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.

- The attached link https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/historic-environment-digital-datasets 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, Battle sites, Defence Heritage, ASAIs 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.
- GIS spatial datasets on the marine historic environment, can be requested from Rory McNeary, rory.mcneary@daera-ni.gov.uk
- 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 https://dfcgis.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=ec66f1afc1254c68bf301283d89fe426 also allows you to view ASAIs in and draft candidate ASAIs in your borough.
- 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 “An Archaeological Survey of County Armagh”.

- 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 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.
- We further point out the very large number of strategic heritage assets in your area. Highlights include the historic towns of Armagh City, 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.
- 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.
- 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.

IA team's response/action taken

- 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 spatial considerations at a later stage.
- 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.

- Information on marine and submerged archaeology has been sourced from DAERA, but no records relevant to this Council area are present.

Water quality

- 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 –
  - (a) the River Basin Management Plan for that district; and
  - (b) any supplementary plan published under regulation 16 in exercising their duties.
- 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.
- Updated information on the water quality classifications of surface waters and groundwater in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area should be obtained from https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/water
- 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. 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:
  - diffuse and point source pollution – pollution arising from a number of other sources including forestry, sediment, urban catchments, quarries & mines, waste & contaminated land and chemicals;
  - 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;

  - 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;
  - 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
  - other pressures – factors that affect fish populations and habitat not captured above.
- 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 & Industry; Forestry; Sediment; Urban Catchment; Quarries & Mines including Oil & Gas exploration; Waste & Contaminated land; Chemicals; Abstraction & Flow Regulation; Morphology; Invasive Alien Species; and Fisheries.
- 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.
- The three organisations that will need to be consulted include the stakeholders that have any relation at all to the water resources that will be included in the consultation, this includes marine fisheries and water catchment and air quality.

Waste water treatment provision

- 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
  - their predicated capacity during the lifetime of the Local Development Plan. This information should be aligned with Northern Ireland Waters infrastructure investment strategy set out in their price Control processes and the Long Term Water Strategy.
  - Sustainable Water – A Long Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland
  - PC15 (NIW's draft expenditure plan 2015-2021).

- This information should be used proportionately in the different stages of the LDP SA/SEA process.
- 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.
- Please contact the SEA Team at seateam@daera-ni.gov.uk should you have any queries or require clarification.

IA team's response/action taken

- Noted, information on water quality specific to the Council was obtained from NIEA and incorporated in the Water section.
- Flooding has been addressed under the water and climatic factors topics and was fully considered in appraisal.
- 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.

Consultation responses received in relation to the SA Scoping Report (2026)

DAERA and NIEA comments

Historic environment comments by DfC Historic Environment SEA Team

- HED have considered the content of the scoping report and overall consider it to provides a thorough scoping and review of historic environment evidence in respect of the cultural heritage of the Borough. We note and welcome the example table included in Appendix 4 in respect of plans and programmes which will be used going forward. Should council wish to seek any comment on future draft potential inclusions of programmes in respect of the Historic Environment we would be happy to consider and advise on these.

IA team's response/action taken

- Noted.

Natural environment division comments by DAERA and NIEA

- We note that transboundary considerations have been incorporated into the Scoping report. Cross border designated sites with pathways to/from the Republic of Ireland, priority habitats, river basins, and other landscape types also require special attention as ecological functionality and 'views' of landscape cross political boundaries.
- UK's new national network of SAC's and SPAs which replaced the 'Natura 2000' network. Please note following the decision of the United Kingdom to leave the European Union, the collective term of "Natura 2000" sites the network of European protected sites are now known as "National Site Network" sites within the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland.

IA team's response/action taken

- Amended to include National Site Network.

General comments

- "From Evidence to Opportunity" is Northern Ireland's second State of the Environment report. The first report "Our environment, our heritage, our future" was published in 2008 and presented baseline indicators across six themes to provide an evidence-based assessment of the state of the environment. The introduction of annual Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics reports in 2009 means that we now have an extensive set of indicators on the Northern Ireland environment. Northern Ireland State of the Environment Reports: https://www.daerani.gov.uk/publications/state-environment-report-2013
- DAERA National Statistics report is intended to be the first reference point for a range of environmental indicators and will provide, where available, annual updates on the indicators contained within it. It is of both public and academic interest and provides a valuable resource across government in providing links to government strategies.
- Appropriate Assessments should refer to the status of habitats and species in the relevant reports available on the JNCC website as follows: UK Article 17 report for the Habitats Directive https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/article-17-habitats-

directive-report-2019/ and the UK Article 12 report for the Birds Directive https://jncc.gov.uk/ourwork/european-reporting/#birds-directive-reporting

- It may be worth also including in your considerations the following:
  - The Environment (NI) Order 2002
  - The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017
  - Biodiversity Strategy for NI to 2020
  - Draft Environment Strategy
  - The Draft NI peatland policy:
  - The Draft Green Growth Strategy Consultation on the draft Green Growth Strategy for Northern Ireland
  - Northern Ireland Energy Strategy 2050
- Page 25 refers to a baseline statistical report for the borough, and it would be useful to have access to this document. The report also references Super Output Areas (SOAs) to support small-area statistical reporting. As there are 890 SOAs in Northern Ireland, it would be helpful to clarify how many lie within the Council area and whether they can be used to support baseline development.

IA team's response/action taken

- A draft HRA will be published alongside the final SA report at the draft Plan Strategy stage. The HRA will consider potential impacts of the LDP on all potentially affected SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites that make up the new network of sites under UK jurisdiction as well as any sites located in the RoI.
- Noted. Legal requirements and responsibilities are already defined in law and are outside the scope of a Sustainability Appraisal.
- Report updated to address this comment.

Natural resources, climate change, water resources, transport and accessibility

- A number of useful information sources that highlight the current state of the environment in Northern Ireland at a regional level and which could be referenced are:
  - Northern Ireland State of the Environment Reports

  - Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Reports:
- Other relevant web-links are;
  - Designated Scientific Sites: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/protected-areas
  - Regional Landscape Character Map viewer: https://www.daerani.gov.uk/services/regional-landscape-character-areas-map-viewer
- DAERA have a map browser for NI protected sites and known priority habitat:
  - www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/natural-environment-map-viewer
- Our natural environment datasets are available at the link below:
  - www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/download-digital-datasets

IA team's response/action taken

- Noted – these documents have been used in preparation of the Scoping report.

Natural resources

- We welcome the recognition of the importance of peatland preservation for carbon storage and biodiversity. We would reiterate the importance of protecting and preserving these ecosystems – see the NI Peatland Strategy. It should be noted that disturbance of these ecosystems, even for the use of renewable electricity generation, can have a negative impact on the environment. In some cases, it has been shown that the release of GHG from disturbed organic peatland soils has released more than would be saved from the renewable energy generation project. The council should be mindful of this potential effect in further drafts of the LDP process.
- We also welcome the statements within the biodiversity objective highlighting the potential to enhance the Council's green/blue infrastructure network through improved connectivity of green and open spaces, development of greenways, and investment in the canal network. The emphasis on sustainable land use and multifunctional ecosystems services is also positive, as these actions can enhance natural resources, support wildlife habitat, and promote public engagement with nature.

IA team's response/action taken

- Noted.

Water resources (drinking water)

- With regards to Section Water, it should be emphasised that the water environment, made of groundwater, surface water and watercourses can also be used as drinking water (both through public supply utilised by Northern Ireland Water) and private supplies (boreholes, wells and springs) or as a component in industrial processes. There appears to be no consideration to The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 and The Private Water Supplies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017, both of which are regulated by the DWI.
- We would appreciate if the plan would take due regard to Public and Private Water Supplies:
  - Public Water Supplies: Consultation with the primary water undertaker Northern Ireland Water Ltd (NI Water) is routinely encouraged as all catchments are considered as Drinking Water Protection Areas (DWPAs) under Article 7 of the Water Framework Directive. The nationwide basins are utilised by NI Water to provide the public supply of water. Consideration should be given to the location of any infrastructure and protection of DWPAs. If public drinking sources could be impacted, mitigation actions must be provided to ensure quality and sufficiency of supply.
  - Private Water Supplies: A development must not impact on either the quality or sufficiency of a private water supply, and mitigation measures must be put in place, where required, in the protection of such drinking water supplies. Therefore dependent on the scale, type, location and the potential impacts the proposal may have on such supplies the developer should, if appropriate, undertake a scoping exercise to determine the location of any private water supplies.
- Please note that DWI also publish independent water quality reports for Northern Ireland and are available on the DAERA website: Drinking Water Quality in Northern Ireland | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. It is recommended these are viewed alongside the NIW reports for the same calendar year.

IA team's response/action taken

- Chapter 5.11 has been updated to consider these comments.
- Noted.

Water resource (water catchment unit)

- The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) should consider all issues in relation to the aquatic environment during all aspects / phases in relation to the implementation of the Draft Plan Strategy for Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council. Impacts that should be considered include, (but may not limited to), those relating to water quality, water quantity, hydromorphology. Assessment should consider all potential impacts both direct and indirect.
- It is important the SA consider the potential for any transboundary impact to the aquatic environment in the Republic of Ireland. In cases where this is identified, cross border river basins should be given special attention as ecological functionality cross jurisdictional boundaries. NI/RoI migratory/mobile species such as salmon can be impacted by water quality / water quantity.

Plans and programmes

- River Basin Management Plans are the key tools for implementing the Water Framework Directive and to achieving its objectives. If the potential for impacts to the aquatic environment in Northern Ireland are identified, then the NI River Basin Management Plans must be considered during the SA process.
- DAERA has published the River Basin Management Plan for the 3rd cycle period which runs from 2021-2027. The plan provides an update on the health of Northern Ireland's water environment (the status of water bodies) and sets out our targets (objectives) and actions (programme of measures) on how we want to improve our water environment in the next six years. The plan covers the North Western, Neagh Bann and North Eastern river basin districts (RBD) and includes detailed status updates on each RBD. The River Basin Management Plan for the 3rd cycle contains information relating to Plans & Projects (which are key for 3rd cycle RBMP), Links to the plan, policies and strategies and the Programme of Measures for the 3rd.
- Where the potential for transboundary impacts to the aquatic environment have been identified then due consideration must also be given to the relevant Irish River Basin Management Plans.

Baseline information

- Several useful information sources are available that highlight the current state of the environment in Northern Ireland at a regional level which could be

referenced including the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report the latest of which currently is dated May 2025.

- Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Reports: https://www.daerani.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-environmental-statistics-report
- DAERA issued a consultation document on Significant Water Management Issues to inform the development of the third cycle River Basin Management Plan (2021-2027).
- This gives further consideration of the pressures and their sources on water quality in Northern Ireland
- Further details on this issue can be found at Planning for the third cycle River Basin
- Management Plan 2021-2027 - Consultation on Significant Water Management Issues December 2019 | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daerani.gov.uk)
- Also with regard to Northern Ireland Baseline Information and Data Sources DAERA have two map viewers in relation to the aquatic environment that may be of use, Water Information Request Web Viewer and NIEA Catchment Data Map Viewer both of which can be found at https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/daera-map-viewers

IA team's response/action taken

- Noted.
- Section 5.11 sets out the detailed consideration of the water environment.
- The Scoping Report recognises transboundary matters, particularly in relation to designated sites, river basins, and ecological connectivity across the NI/ROI border.
- River Basin Management Plan has been added to PPP list

Air quality and biodiversity

- NIEA - Natural Environment Division's Air Quality and Biodiversity Unit (AQBU) have the following comments:

- AQBU welcomes the objectives to protect and enhance biodiversity and to improve air quality. Consideration should be given to the impact of the Plan on sensitive habitats and species.
- The Air Pollution Information System (APIS) provides information on the impacts of air pollutants such as agricultural ammonia, nitrogen oxides and resulting nitrogen deposition on sensitive habitats and species. The map feature within APIS enables detailed information to be provided on the Critical Levels/Loads for each qualifying feature and background levels of these pollutants: www.apis.ac.uk/app

IA team's response/action taken

- Noted.

Water resource comments (marine fisheries division)

- Strategic Context, Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies, including Appendix 4
- The Scoping Report refers to the UK Marine Policy Statement (UK MPS), the UK
- Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA) and the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 in Section 1.25.5. The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland is included in the section heading and should be referenced within the section itself.
- The report acknowledges the Borough's indirect connectivity to the marine environment via its watercourses and river systems. This is welcomed considering there is no distinction made within marine legislation, namely the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, between public authorities that have a coastal area of responsibility or tidal watercourse/s and those that do not. It is important that marine legislation and marine policy documents are considered under any review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies.
- It is noted section 1.40.1 does not reference the UK Marine Strategy or its associated regulations. It is important that those elements of the UK Marine Strategy which are not addressed through the Water Framework Regulations (WFD) are fully considered and incorporated. The UK Marine Strategy sets out the framework for the achievement of good environmental status in our marine and coastal waters. In coastal waters which extend out to 1 nautical mile, both WFD and the Marine Strategy Regulations 2010 apply. However, in these areas the Marine Strategy Regulations only applies for aspects of good environmental

status that are not already addressed by WFD. This includes issues such as certain aspects of biodiversity, which will need considered as part of the Sustainability Appraisal Report. Issues identified should be drawn out and reflected within the Key Sustainability Issues, where appropriate. It is further recommended the current reference to 'pollution problems at beaches' is broadened to 'pollution problems at beaches and in marine and coastal waters often arise from within upstream river catchments' (pg 108).

Baseline information

- Consideration should be given to including baseline information (section 1.40.2) from the UK Marine Strategy, particularly in relation to coastal waters.
- The report should recognise the potential for indirect effects from Wastewater Treatment Works capacity issues, settlements that are reliant on private septic tanks and settlements that have no network / catchment capacity, as effluent discharges into a drainage field or soakaway system, thereby mixing with ground water and river systems.

IA team's response/action taken

- Updated and reference in para 4.3.5
- Requested additions have been made on the UK Marine Strategy.
- Amendments made to the baseline information in Section 5.11

Appendix B

Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

Table B.1: International Plans, Policies and Programmes – Sustainable Development

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	The Agenda 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 ■ 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.

Table B.2: International Plans, Policies, and Programmes – Other/Cross-cutting

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982)	The Law of the Sea Convention defines the rights and responsibilities of nations with respect to their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment,	The Convention sets the framework for protecting underwater cultural heritage at sea. Signatories “have a duty to protect

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	and the management of marine natural resources. 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.	objects of an archaeological and historical nature found at sea and shall cooperate for this purpose". The LDP should have regard for this principle.
Aarhus Convention - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 1998	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.
Border Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022	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	This applies to all the border counties in Ireland. There is potential for both synergies and conflicts between the LDP and this document. In order for cross-boundary issues to be effectively addressed, the Council should liaise with

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	population, through ensuring high quality residential, recreational and working environments, and improving water quality.	neighbouring authorities throughout the LDP process to address cross cutting issues and identify how these can be best taken forward as part of the Plan.
Framework for Co-operation Spatial Strategies of Northern Ireland & the Republic of Ireland (2010)	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 work together on a cross border basis, are essential in enhancing the potential and quality of strategic places on the island, that straddle such cross-border locations.
Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework (2018)	The National Planning Framework is a planning framework to guide development and investment over the coming years. It does not provide every detail for every part of the country; rather it empowers each region to lead in the planning and development of their communities, containing a set of national objectives and key principles from which more detailed and refined plans will follow. The plan changes how investment is made in public infrastructure in Ireland, moving away from the approach of the past, which saw public investment spread too thinly and investment decisions that	The Council shares a boundary with Ireland, therefore the LDP has the potential to impact on this framework. There are significant cross-border interactions focused on key settlement networks, specifically Letterkenny-Derry in the context of the North-West Growth Partnership and Drogheda-Dundalk-Newry in the context of the Dublin-Belfast

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	didn't align with a well-thought-out and defined strategy. Alongside the development of physical infrastructure, Project Ireland 2040 supports business and communities across all of Ireland in realising their potential.	economic corridor. The growth potential associated with these interrelated networks is also important for regional development. Cross border dependencies between Donegal and Derry/Strabane include employment, education, healthcare and retail activity.
Border Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 (2010)	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. In order for cross-boundary issues to be effectively addressed, the Council should liaise with neighbouring authorities throughout the LDP process to address cross cutting issues and identify how these can be best taken forward as part of the Plan.

Table B.3: International Plans, Policies and Programmes - Material Assets

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Ireland's Third National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (2014)	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. The plan sets a clear vision for each of the six areas covered by the Action Plan: Public Sector,	The Single Electricity Market for the island of Ireland means that delivery of renewable energy in Ireland will benefit Northern Ireland and vice versa.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	Residential, Business, Transport, Energy Supply, and Cross Sectoral.	
Strategy for Renewable Energy: 2012-2020 (2012)	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 bioenergy sector, fostering R&D in renewables, growing sustainable transport and building out robust and efficient networks.	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.
A Resource Opportunity: Waste Management Policy in Ireland (2012)	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 relationships for waste management, for example recycling facilities.

Table B.4: National Plans, Policies and Programmes - Sustainable Development

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
UK Marine Policy Statement (2011)	The MPS facilitates and supports the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives. These are to: ■ 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;	Any development arising from the LDP will need to be in conformity with the MPS and NI Marine Plan (once the latter is adopted) in order to protect the marine environment, inclusive of the historic environment and heritage assets. Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 state that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	■ 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. Currently it is also the policy document to be used for decision making for any proposal which affects, or might affect, the NI marine area. It will be used in conjunction with the Marine Plan for NI, once the Marine Plan is published and adopted in its final form.	marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise". A public authority must have regard to the appropriate marine policy documents in taking any decision which relates to the exercise of any function capable of affecting the whole or any part of the UK marine area, but which is not an authorisation or enforcement decision.
Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 provides the legal mechanism to help ensure clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas by putting in place a new system for improved management and protection of the marine and coastal environment.	Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 states that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise". All construction or deposition works below the Mean High Water Spring Tide (MHWST) mark are subject to licensing under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Developments in the inter-tidal area may require both planning permission and a marine licence.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Securing the Future - delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)	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 LDP will support this.
Draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland – Public Consultation (2018)	The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of the NI marine area. The Plan contains policies that reflect, clarify and signpost current legislation, policy measures and practices from the UK MPS and across NI and UK Government Departments and Agencies. Its policies will be used by public authorities in taking decisions which affect or might affect the marine area. The draft Marine Plan was published for consultation in May 2018.	The Marine Plan uses an ecosystem-based approach that will assist public authorities in managing the competing demands on the marine area in a more sustainable manner. Achieving sustainable development is at the core of the Marine Plan. Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 states that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise". Public authorities must explain any decision not made in line with the UK

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
		Marine Policy Statement or an adopted Marine Plan.
Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most Programme for Government 2024-2027	On 27 February 2025 the Executive agreed a Programme for Government 2024-2027 'Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most'. It outlines our priorities for making a real difference to the lives of people in Northern Ireland.	The LDP can help to support the priorities of the PfG.
Regional Development Strategy 2035	This document provides an overarching strategic planning framework influencing spatial development for the Region up to 2035, facilitating and guiding the public and private sectors. Taken into account are key drivers such as population growth and movement, demographic change, increasing number of households, transportation needs etc. It addresses economic, social and environmental issues aimed at achieving sustainable development and social cohesion. The eight aims of the RDS are to: Support strong, sustainable growth for the benefit of all parts of NI; Strengthen Belfast as the regional economic driver and Derry/Londonderry as the principal city of the North West; Support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise7th Feb 2025 their potential; Promote development which improves the health and well-being of communities; Improve connectivity to enhance the movement of people, goods, energy and information between places; Protect and enhance the environment for its own sake; Take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaption to climate change; and Strengthen links between north and south, east and west, with Europe and the rest of the world. The RDS contains a Spatial Framework and Strategic guidelines.	The LDP will support the RDS as part of the wider Government policy framework and should therefore be closely aligned with its objectives.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Focus on the Future - Sustainable Development Implementation Plan (2011)	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.
Everyone's Involved – Sustainable Development Strategy (May 2010)	The 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 use 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 should support the strategy. The Sustainability Appraisal will help shape proposals and policies in the LDP to be sustainable.
Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006	Requires departments and 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.

Table B.5: National Plans, Policies and Programmes - Other/Cross-cutting

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Today we act. Tomorrow we thrive. Green Growth: Draft	Launched for consultation in October 2021, this is an over-arching multi-decade Strategy which will set out the long-term vision and a	Sets out a framework for delivery with which all other NI government policies and

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Green Growth Strategy for Northern Ireland (2021)	solid framework for tackling the climate crisis by balancing climate action with the need for a clean, resilient environment and economy.	strategies must align. New policies and programmes should align with the need to address climate change, develop green jobs and improve our environment.
Sustainability for the future DAERA' Plan to 2050	This high-level strategy sets out DAERA's mission for the next 3 decades and beyond, to promote sustainable economic growth whilst restoring and enhancing our environment for the next generation. Supported by robust science as our evidence base, we will continue to ensure the competitive development of the agri-food, fishing and forestry sectors of the Northern Ireland economy, having regard for the need of the consumers, the welfare of animals and the conservation and enhancement of the environment. Enhancing our environment matters, as a healthy environment is interlinked with our health and wellbeing.	The LDP can help to support the delivery of the Strategy's Strategic Priorities through policies which facilitate sustainable agriculture and forestry development, protect and enhance the natural environment and support sustainable rural communities.
Environment Improvement Plan for Northern Ireland (2021)	The Draft Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland was adopted as the Environment Improvement Plan in 2024. It sets out six strategic objectives: ■ Excellent air, water and land quality. ■ A healthy and accessible environment and landscapes everyone can connect with and enjoy. ■ Thriving, resilient and connected nature and wildlife. ■ Sustainable production and consumption on land and at sea. ■ Zero waste and a highly developed circular economy.	Adopted as the Environment Improvement Plan

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	■ Net zero greenhouse gas emissions and improved climate resilience and adaptability.	
Draft Environment Strategy (2021)	This Strategy sets out six Strategic Environmental Outcomes which encompass all of the main environmental challenges we will face in the coming decades. Outcomes are as follows: 1. Excellent air, water, land and neighbourhood quality. 2. Healthy and accessible environment and landscapes everyone can connect with and enjoy. 3. Thriving, resilient and connected nature and wildlife. 4. Sustainable production and consumption on land and at sea. 5. Zero waste and highly developed circular economy. 6. Fair Contribution to UK net zero greenhouse gas emissions and improved climate resilience and adaptability.	Adopted as the Environment Improvement Plan
Department for Infrastructure -Exercise Enjoy Explore – A Strategic Plan for Greenways (2016)	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 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. This document 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.	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.
Department for Infrastructure Strategic	Sets out the Department’s regional strategic policies for securing the orderly and consistent development of land in Northern Ireland.	The provisions of the SPPS must be taken into account in the preparation of Local

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Planning Policy Statement Edition 2 (SPPS 2): Planning for Sustainable Development (2015)	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 only significant change brought about with the adoption of the 2nd edition is a refocus on the requirements for renewable and low carbon energy development.	Development Plans, and are also material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.
NI Water Recreation and Access Policy (2013)	NI Water is one of the largest land owners in Northern Ireland, having responsibility for approximately 8,600 hectares throughout the province. A significant proportion of this land has recreational appeal and is regularly accessed by members of the public. The Recreation and Access Policy sets out the way public access arrangements are communicated and controlled, and provides the public with clear guidance that governs recreational activities and access on NI Water-owned lands and waters. Appendix A lists facilities with public access, existing agreements and permitted activities.	This policy may identify sites with potential for recreation, contributing to health and well-being and/or economic growth.
Northern Ireland Water Public Recreation and Access Guidance (2025)	This provides guidance to those wishing to use NI Water estates for recreational use. NI Water is Northern Ireland's second largest land owner, responsible for over 11,000 hectares. The guidance is developed to set out what NI Water expect from members of the public, organisations and groups who wish to use the lands and water bodies for recreational activities; listing the permitted	This guidance may identify sites with potential for recreation, with potential for health and wellbeing benefits, blue/green infrastructure and sport and recreation.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	activities, rules, licencing requirements application instructions for licences.	
Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013	The Marine Act sets out a new framework for Northern Ireland's seas based on: a system of marine planning that will balance conservation, energy and resource needs; improved management for marine nature conservation and the streamlining of marine licensing for some electricity projects. The Marine Act applies to the Northern Ireland inshore region comprising of the territorial sea out to twelve nautical miles. This area includes all the tidal rivers and sea loughs (including Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough).	Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 states that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise".
Rural White Paper Action Plan (2012)	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

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
		development, well-being and economic development which are aligned with the vision for rural areas.
Our Passion, Our Place - Northern Ireland Environment Agency Strategic Priorities 2012 to 2022 (2012)	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.
Delivering Social Change Framework (2012)	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.	Delivering Social Change prompts collaboration and co-ordination among Government Departments to improve the manner in which they interact in the lives of children and young people. It also includes programmes for dementia services. The programme has resulted in some new and proposed community facilities that should be considered in plan preparation. It includes the establishment of Family Support Hubs, Social Enterprise Hubs and Nurture Units. The Shared Education programme provides the opportunity for pupils from different community backgrounds to learn together and may

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
		require the development of new facilities. It may identify needs for new facilities to improve the lives of children and young people with disabilities. (Note - the Social Investment Fund is under a separate entry in this table).
Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011	Part 2 of the Act details the requirements of Local Development Plans and Section 5 of the Act 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 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 Sustainability Appraisal process.
Building a Better Future: The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011-2021 (ISNI) (2011)	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 infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.
Framework for Co-operation Spatial Strategies of Northern Ireland & the Republic of Ireland (2010)	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,	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

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	Competitive Places (i.e. linked cross-border cities), Environmental Quality and Spatial Analysis.	areas. Integrated planning processes at the local level, where agencies and authorities in both jurisdictions work together on a cross border basis, are essential in enhancing the potential and quality of strategic places on the island, that straddle such cross-border locations.
The Environmental Liability (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (as amended) (2009)	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.
Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, Equality of opportunity (1998)	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	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

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	and women generally, people with a disability and people without, people with dependants and people without.	proposals contained in their Local Development Plans.
A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (1993)	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, transitional arrangements shall apply.

Table B.6: National Plans, Policies and Programmes - Health & Wellbeing

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Health and Wellbeing 2026 - Delivering Together (2017)	This plan sets out a 10 year approach to transforming Health and Social Care. It builds on the strong foundations laid by 'Transforming Your Care' and other programmes of change and is the Executive's response to the 'Bengoa Report', a 2016 report prepared by an Expert Panel tasked with considering the best configuration of Health and Social Care Services in Northern Ireland.	The Plan includes proposals on reconfiguration and change, including the objective to bring forward proposals for the location and service specification for Elective Care Centres, and Assessment and Treatment Centres. The LDP can help to directly support the delivery of health and social care development where there is an identified need and can also indirectly support other objectives of the plan, such

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
		as facilitating the delivery of communications infrastructure for eHealth and Care. The consideration of policy on adaptability and accessibility in homes may help to facilitate the Plan's aims to deliver 'acute care at home' in the future.
A Fitter Future For All - Outcomes framework 2015 – 2019 (2015)	A 'Fitter Future for All' set a challenging target of reducing levels of obesity over its ten year life span – this is more demanding than previous targets which sought to halt the rise in levels of obesity. Following a review of the first years of the plan, an updated framework was published for 2015-2019.	Although expired, this framework can help to inform the LDP of target areas for reducing obesity levels in children and adults. The LDP can support objectives of creating a safe environment to encourage and promote increased physical activity.
Our Great Outdoors – The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland (2014)	It is necessary for the Government, businesses and voluntary organisations to work together to achieve greater accessibility to the outdoors in a sustainable and responsible manner in order to realise its full potential. The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan will be the key driver to make this happen. Activity and eco-tourism are growing in Northern Ireland and the Outdoor Recreation Action Plan recognises this and highlights the need for further development to continue to grow this important sector. New developments that get people outdoors and active, but those that also create opportunities for improved visitor services, short breaks, meals, and hospitality are important for growing this element of the economy.	LDP can support the delivery of aims, in particular: "There are increasing opportunities and improved access and infrastructure for sustained and increased participation for everyone in a broad range of outdoor recreation activities".

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
The Planning (Hazardous Substances) (No.2) Regulations (NI) 2015	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.
Noise Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (2014)	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 heath and quality of life; and (3.) Where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life.	These 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.
Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 - 2024. (2014)	This strategy aims to generate approximately £25 Million per annum to the local economy by 2024, as a direct result of mountain biking.	Informs on a potential source of outdoor recreational activity and tourism opportunity and so is relevant to the sustainability theme of economy and employment as well as health and well-being.
Making Life Better: A Whole Strategic Framework for Public Health 2013-2023 Department of Health,	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	Many aspects are directly relevant to the LDP, for example promoting age-friendly environments and designating Quiet Areas.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Social Services and Public Safety (June 2014) (2013)	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.	
Connected Health Economy (2013)	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.
A Fitter Future For All: Framework for Preventing and Addressing Overweight and Obesity in Northern Ireland (2012)	Fitter Future for All is a framework to help reduce the harm related to overweight and obesity. This framework aims to: empower the population of Northern Ireland to make health choices, reduce the risk of overweight and obesity related diseases and improve health and wellbeing, by creating an environment that supports and promotes a physically active lifestyle and a healthy diet. New outcomes to aid implementation of the framework over the 2015-19 period have been developed.	The LDP can help to support and deliver the objectives of this framework by encouraging and enabling safe environments which promote increased physical activity.
Transforming Your Care Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety (2011)	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	Can inform where facilities may be required to improve access to and quality of health services.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	change across the range of health and social care services. There is a Strategic Implementation Plan and Population Plan for each Health Care Trust.	
Northern Ireland's Road Safety Strategy to 2020 (2011)	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 most relevant to LDP include: ■ Continuing to reduce the numbers of road deaths and serious injuries; ■ Focusing specifically on improving safety on rural roads; ■ Improving our knowledge and understanding of, and broadening involvement in, solving road safety problems.	The LDP may have scope to contribute to addressing the identified challenges in its transport, infrastructure and rural development policies.
Active Living - Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland (2022)	Active Living, the new Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland, through its Vision and associated key Themes and Goals, seeks to create a vibrant, welcoming, enjoyable, inclusive and successful sector for everyone, contributing significantly to a healthier and more resilient society. It recognises the important role that sport and physical activity plays across our island whether it is taking place on playing fields, in a stadium, a gym, on water, or in the mountains.	The LDP can help to support and deliver the objectives of this framework by encouraging and enabling safe environments which promote increased physical activity.
The Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006	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	Existing 'quiet areas' must be preserved. Further areas could be identified and designated. Zoning of residential areas should have regard for existing noise

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	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).	generators such as roads, rail, airports and industry.
Planning Policy Statement 8 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (DOE 2004)	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.	Six policies are incorporated in SPPS. Incorporation of the policies will be considered in preparing LDP policies.

Table B.7: National Plans, Policies and Programmes - Strengthening Society

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Strategy 2020-2030 (2021)	The Strategy is a Plan for making life better for all children and young people in Northern Ireland and giving them the best start in life. This means providing good support and services for all children and young people, with extra help for children and young people who need more help or care in their lives. Outcomes include: — Children and young people are physically and mentally healthy, — Children and young people enjoy play and leisure, — Children and young people experience economic and environmental well-being; and — Children and young people live in safety and stability.	The LDP can complement many of the aims of this strategy. For example, policies may help with the Strategy's objective to provide all children, including those with a disability and those living in marginalised, vulnerable or disadvantaged situations, with safe, accessible, inclusive spaces for play.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016	The Act places a duty on public authorities, including 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.
Together: Building a United Community 2016/17 Update Report (2016)	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.
Active Ageing Strategy 2016-2022 (2020)	The Active Ageing Strategy 2016-2022 is to transform attitudes to, and services for, older people. It aims to increase the understanding of the issues affecting older people and promote an emphasis on rights, value and contribution. As this is a Strategy of the Executive, a range of departments contribute to its delivery and to the improvement of services for older people. All Strategy outcomes contribute to draft Programme for Government Indicator 49 – “the confidence of people over 60 years old as measured by self-efficacy”. This is the revised and updated version of the Strategy originally published in 2016.	The outcomes of the Strategy are informed by the five themes of the United Nations Principles for Older Persons. The themes are: Independence; Participation; Care; Self-fulfilment; and Dignity.
The Executive’s Draft Anti-Poverty Strategy (2025-2035) (2025)	The Executive’s Draft Anti-Poverty Strategy (2025-2035) focuses on three core pillars: minimising the risk of people and their families falling into poverty, minimising the impacts of poverty, and providing support and navigating ways to exit poverty. It provides	Promotion of employment opportunities, provision for housing, increasing accessibility and creating safer

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	detail of the factors that create the conditions for poverty to manifest, having due regard to all section 75 categories. Through focusing on these three pillars it aims to provide an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty in our society and improve the lives of all. Relevant to spatial planning, it acknowledges that where people live will also have an impact on how poverty affects them, whether it is in increased transport costs, difficulty in accessing services or being able to find affordable, comfortable and secure accommodation. This Strategy is overarching and replaces the Child Poverty Strategy.	environments will contribute to the objectives of this strategy.
Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing (2015)	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.	The LDP can support the objective 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.
Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework (2013)	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	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. LDP objectives may align with this framework, in

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	and areas of opportunity. (4) To develop more cohesive and engaged communities. It also contains a set of four Supporting Actions: (1) We will maximise the potential of regeneration and community development by supporting an evidence- based policy environment. (2) We will maximise the resources available to regeneration and community development by supporting an innovative financial environment. (3) We will support the development of skilled and knowledgeable practitioners in regeneration and community development. (4) We will promote an effective and efficient voluntary and community sector	particular strengthening the hubs, improving connectivity and facilitating community development. The LDP can indirectly support aims of the policy by, for example, 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 sustainability topic of sustainable economic growth.
Together: Building a United Community (2013)	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.
Tackling Rural Poverty & Social Isolation – A New Framework (2016)	This new TRPSI Framework is the third in a series of anti-poverty initiatives brought forward by DAERA and builds on the success of two previous initiatives, the Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Framework (APSI) 2008-2011 and the Tackling Rural Poverty and	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

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	Social Isolation Framework 2011-15. The new Framework and 2016/17 Action Plan has been developed following consultation with stakeholders and has been informed by the report on the evaluation of the previous TRPSI Framework and the position paper produced by the ARD Committee following its review of the previous Framework.	affordable housing as well as facilities. The Sustainability Appraisal incorporates Rural Proofing.
Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities: A Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012-2017 (2012)	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.	Although expired, the LDP should take account of this Strategy and its related Action Plan(s). The LDP may have scope to contribute to encouraging and facilitating community safety through place shaping. It can also support the strategy's aim to create spaces that are for the community as a whole and which the community feel safe using or passing through, through encouraging good design. It can help support objectives to accommodate cultural differences between Catholic and Protestant communities whilst promoting ‘’shared spaces’’ to bring people together with equality and opportunity.
Social Investment Fund (2011)	The Social Investment Fund (SIF) was set up to deliver social change. It aims to make life better for people living in targeted areas by reducing poverty, unemployment and physical deterioration. The fund will run until March 2020 and all funding has been committed to projects prioritised by local Steering Groups.	Will however inform existing and proposed facilities that should be considered in plan preparation.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	Some funding will provide capital support to enhance or create community and employment facilities.	
Planning Policy Statement 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside (2010)	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.	A series of 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 topic of sustainable housing.
NIHE Good Relations Plan (2007)	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.	The LDP can help to promote and encourage mixed housing and shared spaces, to help bring people from different communities together.
NIHE - Race Relations Policy (2006)	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; and Migrant worker issues.	The LDP can help to promote and encourage social inclusion.
Lifetime Opportunities – Government's Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for Northern Ireland (2006)	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	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. The proposals and policies in the LDP

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	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.	should consider these needs and support delivery against them.

Table B.8: National Plans, Policies and Programmes - Housing

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Housing Executive Community Involvement Strategy (2018)	This strategy includes the aims to help deliver the Housing Executive's corporate objective of Building Stronger Communities. It has two specific aims: ■ Promote Community Involvement across all our communities. ■ Enabling our communities to challenge, influence and shape our housing service.	The LDP can support this strategy by providing an opportunity to cooperate in place shaping.
Energising Communities – 2022/23 - 2024/25 Corporate Strategy (2022)	The "Ending Homelessness Together" strategy is the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's (NIHE) approach to tackling homelessness from 2022 to 2027. This strategy emphasizes the importance of collaboration among various organizations to effectively address the complex issue of homelessness, which extends beyond merely providing shelter to include support for vulnerable populations.	In enabling housing need to be addressed, the LDP will contribute to delivery of the objectives of this strategy.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Delivering Sustainable Healthy Homes in Northern Ireland, NIHE, TPCA, Belfast Healthy Cities (March 2016)	Guidance and good practice on how planning, health, housing and energy professionals can use new planning powers and responsibilities for community planning to support integrated local approaches to sustainable homes and communities, for energy and health and wellbeing.	This guidance should be taken into account in the preparation of the LDP.
Social Housing Development Programme, Unmet Social Housing Need Prospectus (2016)	The Commissioning Prospectus provides housing associations, developers and other interested stakeholders detailed information on where there is unmet social/affordable housing need or a shortage of acquired development sites in the published SHDP and where NIHE would welcome suitable proposals. It presents data which will enable housing associations to make informed decisions about where to search for land and property to deliver new social and affordable housing within assessed housing need and strategic targets. The prospectus is updated and published annually to reflect the most recent assessment of local market issues and unmet housing needs.	The Commissioning Prospectus acts as key evidence for the LDP, containing the most up-to-date assessment of local affordable housing in the Borough (5 year rolling), with a breakdown by settlement. It will inform the formulation of a suitable affordable housing policy in the Plan Strategy, including an appropriate threshold, as well as social housing zonings in the Local Policies Plan.
Commissioning Prospectus (8th Version) – Social & Intermediate Housing Requirements for the period 2024/2025 – 2026/27 (2024)	As above, as part of annual update.	As above, based on annual rolling update.
Design and Access Statements - A guide for Northern Ireland (2015)	Planning applications meeting certain criteria must be accompanied by a design and access statement. These include: An application which is a major development, or where any part of the development is in a designated area; and development	Provides for early consideration of the need for and provision of open space, access and landscaping, and addressing external factors such as noise and traffic

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	consisting of – (a) 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 100m² or more.	safety. Also relevant to the topics of health and well-being and transport and accessibility.
NIHE Social housing Development Programme (SHDP) - 2015/16 – 2017/18 (2015)	This strategy sets out how the government intends to fulfil the objectives 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. The Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) is a three-year rolling programme of planned social housing construction and provision, that is managed by the NIHE's Development Programme Group (DPG). The SHDP is split into three individual programme years and is a mechanism used by DfC to inform social housing funding investment decisions. The DPG provides grant funding to housing associations, so that they can build or buy social housing. The SHDP provides details of new social housing schemes that are completed, where construction is on-going or where it is programmed to start for the next three years. Updated details will be uploaded on a monthly basis.	The LDP will take account of ongoing annual reporting in relation to planned social housing delivery.
Housing Executive Environmental Policy (2015)	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.
Northern Ireland Empty Homes Strategy and Action Plan 2013 – 2018, ,	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.	Although this strategy has expired and an updated version has not yet been published, the LDP can help to support the

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
including Review of the Strategy and Action Plan 2013-2018 (2013) (2021 May (Review))	The review carried out in 2021 evaluated the success of the strategy against the 8 actions and key tasks that were identified to meet the objectives of the strategy.	objectives of this strategy and its associated action plan , along with the findings of the 2021 review.
Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 -2017 (2012)	This Housing Strategy identifies four roles for government and five themes to help meet housing needs while supporting the most vulnerable. The themes are: (1) Ensuring access to decent, affordable, sustainable homes across all tenures; (2) Meeting housing needs and supporting the most vulnerable; (3) Housing and Welfare Reform; (4) Driving regeneration & sustaining communities through housing; and (5) Getting the structures right. This strategy sets out how the government intends to fulfil the objectives over the next five years. The strategy also envisages housing playing a role in driving regeneration within communities, particularly those suffering from blight and population decline. 'Facing the Future' was supported by an Action Plan, prepared in 2012 and updated in 2015.	Although now expired, the Housing Strategy along with its Action Plan may inform on unmet housing requirements. These themes align with a number of aspects of the LDP and sustainability appraisal, namely sustainable development, economic development, quality residential environments, etc. The strategy may complement a number of aspects of the proposed LDP, such as the provision of new homes which meets the needs of various groups, such as 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. A balance will need to be found through considered planning decisions. The LDP can help to support many of the actions identified in the action plan, such as: introducing developer contributions, developing work on energy efficiency, increasing the availability of smaller social housing units

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
		and other initiatives for encouraging town and city centre regeneration such as living over shops
Position Paper on Affordable Housing Policy in Local Development Plans (2020)	This position paper seeks to support local councils in formulating and implementing affordable housing policies within their LDPs. NIHE would like to see Councils bringing forward an affordable housing policy, which provides affordable housing units to meet need and to promote balanced and sustainable communities through mixed tenure development. The position paper includes preferred policy wording and advice on the overall approach to the issue within the LDP, including evidence gathering.	This position paper will help inform the Council's approach to delivering affordable housing in the LDP, including its operational policy.
Delivery of Affordable Housing Advice Note (2025)	This advice note acts as an update to the 2020 Position Paper, to help support local councils in formulating and implementing affordable housing policies within their LDPs. The Advice Note offers a suggested approach that can be adapted by individual Councils to reflect their specific policy context. It is intended to foster shared understanding and alignment across planning and housing functions. It provides a strategic framework to guide the development of Supplementary Planning Guidance or inform Plan Strategies, while recognising that final decisions rest with individual Councils. NIHE highlights that it is a position statement, and developers should always refer to the relevant Council policy and guidance for site-specific requirements.	This position paper is a key document that will help inform the Council's approach to delivering affordable housing in the LDP, including its operational policy.
Older People's Housing Strategy 2021/22- 2026/27 (2021)	The Older People's Housing Strategy is designed to address the evolving needs of an ageing population. The Strategy focusses on four key themes, 1. Planning for the future, 2. Promoting and	The LDP can help support this strategy by facilitating the delivery of housing solutions more suited to an ageing population within

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	Maintaining Dignity; 3. Providing Housing Advice for Older People; and 4. Promoting Participation:	the Borough, as demonstrated by the LDP evidence base.
Housing Supply Strategy 2024-2039 (2024)	The strategy provides a 15-year framework for the development and delivery of policies and actions needed to deliver our housing supply needs. It takes a whole system approach which recognises that there is not one single overarching challenge affecting housing supply here, but a series of interlinked challenges which will require a coordinated and collaborative approach to address. The strategy is guided by the vision that everybody has access to a good quality, affordable and sustainable home that is appropriate for their needs and is located within a thriving and inclusive community. That vision is supported by 5 key objectives which in turn set out a number of long-term policy commitments and enabling actions. The strategy aims to increase housing supply with a delivery of 100,000+ homes, including affordable housing, and to promote mixed tenure development.	The LDP can support this DfC strategy through its Housing Strategy and operational housing policies, to help meet the housing needs of the Borough over the plan period.
PPS 7: Quality Residential Environments (2001)	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.
Planning Policy Statement 7 (Addendum): Safeguarding	This document is a second addendum to PPS 7 ‘Quality Residential Environments’ and must be read in conjunction with the	This requires that all residential development is of good quality and

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
the Character of Established Residential Areas (2010)	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.	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.
Planning Policy Statement 7 (Addendum): Residential Extensions and Alterations (2008)	This document is a further Addendum to PPS 7 'Quality Residential Environments' and must be read in conjunction with the policies contained within that PPS. The Addendum provides an additional planning policy for the extension and/or alteration of a dwellinghouse or flat, including those in multiple occupancy. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development and the Quality Initiative. However, it should be noted that unlike the other policies of PPS 7, the policy contained in this Addendum will apply to all dwellinghouses or flats throughout the Region, including single dwellings in the countryside.	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.
Planning Policy Statement 12 Housing in Settlements (2005)	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	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

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	'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."	process of sustainability appraisal will help ensure this.
Planning Policy Statement 12, Housing in Settlements: Policy HS 3 (Amended) Travellers Accommodation (2013)	Amended Policy HS 3 that supersedes the policy contained in the original PPS 12. The policy contains minor amendments to address exceptional provision within the countryside, namely serviced sites and single-family transit sites.	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.
Creating Places: Achieving Quality in Residential Developments incorporating guidance on layout and access (2000)	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.	This extant regional Supplementary Planning Guidance may be relevant to drafting updated policy in the new LDP. The creation of attractive residential environments with a genuine sense of place is a prerequisite to achieving sustainability.

Table B.9: National Plans, Policies and Programmes - Education and Skills

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Education Authority Annual Action Plan 2019-2021 (2019)	The Education Authority Action Plans will provide details of the proposed actions to be taken to address key strategic issues in local areas and at local schools, all of which will be subject to detailed consultation. This Annual Action Plan covers the period April 2019 to March 2021 and identifies those schools for which developments are proposed. The Annual Action Plan includes schools where sustainability is now an issue but, also, includes some schools that are sustainable, as it is these schools who may form part of the solution to sustainability issues in other schools or areas.	The Action Plans can help inform the LDP on the areas where sustainability of schools is an issue and areas where there are insufficient places available to accommodate the local population.
Department of Education Annual Business Plan 2019/2020 (2019)	This Plan contains a number of goals including: ■ 'Improving the Well-Being of Children and Young People' – includes rights, play and participation ■ 'Raising Standards for All – includes early years and childcare ■ 'Closing the Performance Gap, Increasing Access and Equality' – includes Special Education Needs; youth work and sustainable schools and ■ 'Improving the learning environment'. The plan aims to make 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 is a short term plan that is relevant to the facilities required for childcare, early years, primary and secondary school, special educational needs and youth. There is no current Corporate Plan for the Department. Regional education policies, programmes, strategies and action plans may be influenced and supported by spatial planning. This Plan may also have an influence on the sustainability theme of 'Community'.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	The Plan supports a number of indicators for education in the draft PfG.	
Education Authority Interim Strategic Plan 2017-2027 (2018)	The interim Strategic Plan 2017-2027 outlines what the EA will do over the next decade to achieve key goals, deliver consistently high-quality services to the community across Northern Ireland and produce positive outcomes for all children and young people. It will be supported by a three-year Corporate Plan and annual business plans which will enable EA to incorporate new priorities and respond to new challenges as they arise. The Strategic Plan has five main objectives (1) Meeting the learning needs of our children and young people (2) Providing excellent education support services (3) Developing all our people to carry out their jobs successfully (4) Managing our resources effectively and efficiently (5) Nurturing leadership across the EA to give clear direction in a dynamic and complex environment.	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies. The LDP should enable development /expansion of education facilities where required.
Providing Pathways - Strategic Area Plan for Schools 2017-2020 (2017)	The plan identifies the challenges for the education system throughout each Local Government District (LGD) area. The challenges include reducing or increasing the number of available places in schools, matching provision to population trends, addressing school provision which is not sustainable and improving the quality of provision. In some areas of Northern Ireland there are too many school places for the size of the population, while in other areas, there are not enough places. Area planning aims to establish a network of viable schools that are of the right type, the right size, located in the right place, and have a focus on raising standards. Therefore, the aim of area planning is to ensure that all	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum in sustainable, fit-for-purpose schools.	
Planning for Sustainable Provision: Draft Strategic Area Plan 2022-27 Primary and Post-Primary Schools (2022)	The Plan's mission is to: ■ address school provision which is not educationally and/or financially sustainable; ■ explore realistic, innovative, shared and collaborative solutions with a view to ensuring there is a viable and sustainable level of quality educational provision; ■ aim to find solutions which deliver sustainable education provision in rural areas; ■ address issues and challenges specific to local areas, by ensuring there are sufficient places which may result in increasing places in some areas while reducing places in others. ■ Provide a network of viable and sustainable schools that are of the right type, the right size, located in the right place at the right time with a focus on raising standards.	The LDP can assist in the delivery of some of the Plan's objectives, where new facilities are required.
Every school a good school - a policy for school improvement (2009)	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	Creates the conditions for increased use of schools for community benefit which should be considered in planning for communities.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	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.	
Schools for the Future: A Policy for Sustainable Schools (2009)	The policy has as its vision an estate of educationally sustainable schools planned on an area basis, with focus on sharing and collaboration. It provides a framework for early consideration of emerging problems and possible remedial action to address questions of viability. The primary objective of the policy is to ensure that all children get a first class education in fit for purpose facilities, regardless of background or where they live. The policy sets out six criteria to be considered in assessing a school's educational viability, as follows: quality educational experience; stable enrolment trends; sound financial position; strong leadership and management; accessibility; strong links with the community.	The LDP should enable development/expansion of school facilities where required to meet the needs of the policy.
Development Control Advice Note 13: Crèches, Day Nurseries and Pre-School Play Groups (1993)	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 this type of development, it should be considered in LDP preparation. However, there may be changes in the sector that also need to be taken into account.

Table B.10: National Plans, Programmes and Policies - Economy & Employment

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Economy 2030: an Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland (Draft) (2017)	This strategy 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
Going for Growth - A Strategic Action Plan in Support of the Northern Ireland Agri-food Industry (2014)	In May 2012, DARD and DETI appointed the industry led Agri-Food Strategy Board to make recommendations in respect of the growth targets, strategic priorities and actions to be included in that Plan. The report, 'Going for Growth', includes more than 100 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. The Plan seeks to deliver "a best in class environmentally sustainable model for production".	The Plan calls for relevant authorities to streamline planning and IPPC application procedures, to speed up decision-making and to ensure the speed of successful processing of Agri-Food applications is equal to, or better than those in Great Britain. It proposes that greater weight should be applied to Agri-Food applications, reflecting the industry's strategic importance. It also calls for the rapid delivery of solutions for converting poultry waste to energy, removing a key uncertainty in expansion. However, the

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
		facilitation of agricultural expansion will need to be balanced against environmental considerations and cannot override other legislative requirements.
Planning Policy Statement 16 Tourism (2013)	Policies in relation to tourism and safeguarding tourism assets.	Retention of some or all of these policies will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Northern Ireland Economic Strategy: Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity. Building a better Future (2012)	Sets out how the Executive plans to grow a prosperous local economy over the short, medium and longer term to 2030. The economic vision for 2030 is: 'An economy characterised by a sustainable and growing private sector, where a greater number of firms compete in global markets and there is growing employment and prosperity for all'. There is an emphasis on redressing a dependency on the public sector through the following: stimulate innovation, R&D and creativity so that we widen and deepen our export base; improve the skills and employability of the entire workforce so that people can progress up the skills ladder, thereby delivering higher productivity and increased social inclusion; compete effectively within the global economy and be internationally regarded as a good place to live and do business; encourage business growth and increase the potential of our local companies, including within the social and rural economies; and develop a modern and sustainable economic infrastructure that supports economic growth.	The LDP can support this strategy by enabling economic growth and shaping an environment with sustainable infrastructure that attracts investment and supports innovation.
Economic Strategy Priorities for sustainable growth and	The overarching goal of this Strategy is to improve the economic competitiveness of the Northern Ireland economy. In order to	The LDP can support this strategy by enabling economic growth and shaping an

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
prosperity - Building a better Future (2012)	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.	environment with sustainable infrastructure that attracts investment and supports innovation. This Strategy is also relevant to the sustainability theme of education and skills.
DETI (2010) Draft Northern Ireland Tourism Strategy	The original 2010 draft is not available. The vision was to: create the new NI experience; get it on everyone's destination wish list; and double the income earned from tourism by 2020. The draft strategy, had the aim of providing the strategic direction for the development of NI's tourism experience to the year 2020 and a targeted Action Plan to deliver it. At the core of the strategy was the intention to grow income from visitor numbers with tourist revenue increased from £536 million in 2010 to £1 billion by 2020. An updated draft strategy, is currently being developed by the Department for the Economy and was due for consultation by the end of 2016, however the absence of Ministers has delayed public consultation on, and therefore finalisation of, the draft Strategy within the original timescale.	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.
A Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 (2010)	Aims 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.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland: 10 Year Plan (2024)	The Tourism Strategy: 10 Year Plan establishes a vision and mission for the growth of the tourism sector in Northern Ireland over the next decade. It will be a key enabler of the Department's 10x Economic Vision to help position the region internationally as an attractive place to visit, making our visitors feel welcome whilst at the same time helping to make the lives better of all our citizens. It will seek to deliver on the objectives of 10x by generating economic growth that is sustainable, inclusive and innovative. It is designed to be a roadmap, premised on five themes, which seeks to strive for a new and ambitious growth trajectory that is Innovative, Inclusive, Sustainable, Attractive and Collaborative over the next decade.	The LDP can indirectly support development that enables tourism.
Planning Policy Statement 4 – Planning and Economic Development (DOE 2010)	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.

Table B.11: National Plans, Policies and Programmes - Material Assets

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
National Renewable Energy Action Plan for the United Kingdom (2010)	Aims to provide a framework which enables the land based and rural sectors to realise the potential opportunities in the development of renewable energy. Focus is on assisting meeting targets for renewable energy production at a regional, national and EU level in a balanced and sustainable way. Other key objectives of the development include energy security, emissions reductions and wider economic advantages.	Policies relating to renewable energy are proposed, helping to meet the objectives of this plan. Design and sustainable development policies should also encourage renewable energy as part of these developments. Planning decisions will have to balance need for renewables

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
		with environmental concerns and it may be that the need for renewable developments is outweighed by environmental protection.
The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009)	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.	The LDP should take into account evidence that informs future energy needs and renewable provision.
Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015 - 2030	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.	This paper will influence the overall energy production requirement in Ireland. The establishment of an all-island single electricity market may necessitate cross-border distribution network infrastructure. This paper may also have an influence on the sustainability topic of climate change.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Envisioning the Future: Considering Energy in Northern Ireland to 2050 (2015)	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.	This vision may provide information on anticipated future energy needs and provision and may help to inform policy.
Renewable Energy in the Land Based Sector A way forward. Interim Renewable Energy Action Plan 2013/14 (2013)	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.
Draft Onshore Renewable Electricity Action Plan (2013)	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.
The Revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy "Delivering Resource Efficiency" (2013)	The revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy sets the policy framework for the management of waste in Northern Ireland and contains actions and targets to meet EU Directive requirements and the Department's Programme for Government commitments. It builds on and retains the core principles of the 2006 Strategy and places a renewed emphasis on the Waste Hierarchy. The new Strategy moves the emphasis of waste management in Northern Ireland from resource management, with landfill diversion as the key driver, to resource efficiency i.e. using	The SPPS supports this strategy, namely with development making sustainable use of available resources and having a sustainable approach to waste designed in. Waste management is one of the Subject Policies. The economic considerations of the SPPS will support 'green jobs' and ensure that the economy will benefit from planning decisions. Improved waste

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	resources in the most effective way while minimising the impact of their use on the environment.	management will be good for the environment. 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 employment and ensure that the economy will benefit from planning decisions. Improved waste management will be good for the environment.
DETI (2012) Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-2015 and beyond (2012)	The Action Plan aims to assist with the implementation of the Strategic Energy Framework (2010-2020). DETI sets 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; and • Develop a continuous monitoring framework (with DOE and others) where the key potential	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.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	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 furbishing schools with renewable technologies.	
DETI (2010) Energy: A Strategic Framework for Northern Ireland (2010)	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. It also provides a direction for NI energy policy over the next ten years concentrating on key areas of electricity, natural gas and renewable energy sources. Under review in 2016.	Renewable and sustainable development policies will indirectly accord with this framework, by providing for renewable development. There may be a conflict between this framework and environmental policies (natural heritage, cultural heritage, flood risk etc.) when it comes to developing gas facilities and electrical networks.
Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Supplementary Planning Guidance Wind Energy Development in Northern Ireland's Landscapes (2010)	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.	This PPS informs the relative capacity for wind energy in respect of landscape. It is therefore also relevant to the sustainability topic of landscape.
Planning Policy Statement 10	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	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Telecommunications (2002)	telecommunications systems whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum. The PPS also addresses health issues associated with telecommunications development.	
Planning Policy Statement 11 Planning and Waste Management (DOE 2002)	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.
The Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997	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 t 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 legislation is relevant to LDP through the potential requirements for redevelopment of sites which may have had previous industrial land use and for the identification and development (or redevelopment) of sites for the processing, handling and disposal of waste. 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.
Energy Strategy - Path to Net Zero Energy - Action Plan (2022)	Outlines a roadmap to 2030 aiming to deliver a 56% reduction in our energy-related emissions, on the pathway to deliver the 2050 vision of net zero carbon and affordable energy.	The Actions set out are generally about improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings, but also about improving the energy efficiency of new buildings and to

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
		replace fossil fuels with renewable energy. It also aims to create a flexible, resilient and integrated energy system. The Action Plan may lead to a renewable energy support scheme and will also initiate a review in permitted development legislation for low carbon heat installations; the LDP must ensure that its policies can be applied to existing, new and emerging low carbon technologies, such as hydrogen and biomethane which are potential energy sources identified in the Action Plan. It should align with regional and national policy, such as for proposals requiring consent from more than one authority (e.g. onshore connections for offshore developments).

Table B.12: Regional Plans, Policies and Programmes - Health & Wellbeing

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Southern Health and Social Care Trust Population Plan (2013)	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	Although expired, this plan may inform unmet infrastructure requirements.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	discharge from hospital with investment in community infrastructure.	

Table B.13: Regional Plans, Policies and Programmes - Economy & Employment

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Mid South West Economic Engine Regional Economic Strategy 2020	Mid South West – a collaboration between Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon; Fermanagh and Omagh and Mid Ulster – acts as the backbone of Northern Ireland's economy, exporting its products and services to the far corners of the world. The Regional Economic Strategy (RES) for the Mid-South West (MSW) region sets out our vision and ambition for the region; it identifies the opportunities and challenges faced; and sets out the priority pillars around which future investment and actions to realise our ambitions will be framed. Furthermore, it provides an early, high level indication of potential specific projects/interventions that may sit under each of these pillars - which will be subject to ongoing development.	LDP will take account of this strategy.

Table B.14: Regional Plans, Policies and Programmes - Material Assets

Plan or programme	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Implications for LDP
Joint Waste Management Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council;	The purpose of the Plan is to set out the arrangements for the management of controlled wastes arising within the joint councils over the period 2016 to 2020. This includes the services and infrastructure needed for the collection, treatment and disposal of	There is a need to reflect the arrangements for the management of waste.

Plan or programme	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Implications for LDP
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council; & Mid Ulster District Council (Version 02 – July 2016)	the wastes. To develop a waste management system that meets the joint councils needs and contributes to economic and sustainable development.	

Table B.15: Local Plans, Policies and Programmes - Other/Cross-cutting

Plan or programme	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Implications for LDP
Connected - A Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2017-2030 (2017)	The Community Planning Partnership for the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough will take a collaborative approach to achieving the outcomes outlined in 'Connected'. All community planning partners share an equal responsibility for the implementation and delivery of the plan.	The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 and the Planning Act (NI) 2011 create a statutory link between the Community Plan and the next Local Development Plan. The LDP will provide 'the spatial expression of the community plan' and to ensure this we will continue to develop these two processes as closely as possible to bring real opportunities for everyone in the borough to become fully involved in shaping the area.
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Our People, Our Place, Our Future, Corporate Plan 2023-2027	The Corporate Plan 2023-2027 outlines our identity and how we will make a positive impact within the Borough in the years ahead. It demonstrates our commitment to upholding the highest standards for the betterment of 'Our People, Our Place and Our Future'. Three values have been agreed to shape the culture, behaviour, decision making and overall identity of the Council. These values are; People-centred; Leaders; and Responsible. As a Council we will focus on and	The LDP should take into consideration the Corporate Plan to develop ABC's potential.

Plan or programme	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Implications for LDP
	deliver services across five key priorities; Environment and Place; Community Wellbeing; Economic Growth; Service Delivery; and Staff, Leadership and Resources.	
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council Agriculture Strategy – March 2022	In the development of the strategy, we explored the borough's agriculture industry from grass roots local farm enterprises to the businesses they support. With this knowledge, it was clear we had to design a strategy that supported the farmers, agri-food and agribusinesses of tomorrow. With a focus on driving the future of farming, the strategy identifies key themes and challenges for the sector, sets out clear aspirations for council's ongoing role, and its collaboration with stakeholders to support the industry. The strategy is reflective of key messages from new policies such as Department for Agriculture and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Green Growth Strategy Framework and Future Agriculture Policy Proposals and Department for Economy 'A 10x Economy' Framework.	The plan will be taken account of and may assist in informing the LDP.
Connected - A Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2017-2030 (2017)	The Community Planning Partnership for the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough will take a collaborative approach to achieving the outcomes outlined in 'Connected'. All community planning partners share an equal responsibility for the implementation and delivery of the plan.	The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 and the Planning Act (NI) 2011 create a statutory link between the Community Plan and the next Local Development Plan. The LDP will provide 'the spatial expression of the community plan' and to ensure this we will continue to develop these two processes as closely as possible to bring real opportunities for everyone in the borough to become fully involved in shaping the area.

Plan or programme	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Implications for LDP
Connected - A Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2017-2030 (Updated 2025)	The Community Plan was updated in 2025. The community plan sets out the long-term outcomes for the borough and the population indicators used to measure progress over time. Community planning partnerships also have a duty to work together on delivery and this action plan is currently being revisited in light of the review.	The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 and the Planning Act (NI) 2011 create a statutory link between the Community Plan and the next Local Development Plan. The LDP will provide 'the spatial expression of the community plan' and to ensure this we will continue to develop these two processes as closely as possible to bring real opportunities for everyone in the borough to become fully involved in shaping the area.
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Community Planning Partnership – Our Community Engagement Strategy (2019)	Communities having a greater say in how their services are delivered and how their area is planned is at the heart of community planning. This Community Engagement Strategy sets our community planning partnership's aspirations, along with the steps we will take together to make sure that people can be more involved in the decisions that affect their lives.	The LDP should take into consideration the Community Engagement Strategy Plan.

Table B.16: Local Plans, Policies and Programmes - Housing

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Commissioning Prospectus (8th Version) – Social & Intermediate Housing Requirements for	The Commissioning Prospectus provides housing associations, developers and other interested stakeholders detailed information on where there is unmet social/affordable housing need or a shortage of acquired development sites in the published SHDP and where NIHE would welcome suitable proposals. It presents data	The Commissioning Prospectus acts as key evidence for the LDP, containing the most up-to-date assessment of local affordable housing in the Borough (5 year rolling), with a breakdown by settlement. It

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
the period 2024/2025 – 2026/27 (2024)	which will enable housing associations to make informed decisions about where to search for land and property to deliver new social and affordable housing within assessed housing need and strategic targets. The Commissioning Prospectus (8th Version) is part of the annual update of the Social Housing Development Programme, Unmet Social Housing Need Prospectus, to reflect the most recent assessment of local market issues and unmet housing needs.	will inform the formulation of a suitable affordable housing policy in the Plan Strategy, including an appropriate threshold, as well as social housing zonings in the Local Policies Plan.
Housing Investment Plan 2019-2023 (2019)	The 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 four high-level outcomes related to housing and associated services, which performance can be measured against. The themes are: ■ Helping people find housing support and solutions; ■ Delivering better homes; ■ Fostering vibrant sustainable communities; and ■ Delivering quality public 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. New housing 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.
Housing Investment Plan 2023-2026 – Armagh City,	The HIPs are three year plans which reports on progress made over the past twelve months and sets out our ambitions for the	The HIP is an important evidence base for the LDP and will help facilitate discussion

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Banbridge & Craigavon (2023)	coming years. The HIPs inform Councils on the various programmes and initiatives that the Housing Executive and Housing Associations are developing to meet local housing needs. The Housing Investment Plans will also assist Councils in the Community Planning process – they are an important evidence base for the Community Plan and will help facilitate discussion on housing issues within each district, and demonstrate how the Housing Executive are working as a partner to deliver Community Plans. The plan identifies housing related objectives and actions and provided details of the issues and initiatives which we considered would affect the local housing environment during the following year.	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. New housing 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.
Northern Ireland Housing Market Areas (2010)	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 can help to inform housing need. Reports for each HMA were prepared in 2011-2013 and are available on the home page.
Strategic Housing Market Analysis: South Eastern Area – Craigavon Urban	The Strategic Housing Market Analysis (SHMA), commissioned by the NIHE, sets out projections of future housing need and demand for the Craigavon Urban Area and Newry Housing Market Areas	The SHM Analysis acts as important local evidence base, including for the

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Area and Newry HMAs, Final Report (2022)	(HMAs). It will assist policymakers in their understanding of the dynamics of the HMAs and to inform Local Development Plans. It builds on the previous use of the Net Stock Model by incorporating an affordability model that will, for the first time, make tenure estimates by local authority area. While different scenarios for the future evolution of housing need are identified, the report does not suggest targets or policy. The scenarios could change in a different economic/housing market context, over the life of the Plan. The scenarios are based on demographic trends and allow Councils to consider policy responses if they wish to change the identified trends. It is also acknowledged that the LDP can set housing targets due to other factors, set out in the SPPS. The CUA HMA is coterminous with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council. The Newry HMA forms part of the Newry, Mourne and Down Local Government District (LGD), including all of the former Newry and Mourne LGD and 10 per cent of the former Down LGD. Based on the 2020 mid-year population estimates, the Newry HMA contains 63 per cent of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD.	formulation of appropriate housing policies to serve the needs of the Borough.
Design Guide for Travellers' Sites in Northern Ireland (2020)	The guide provides technical guidance on the key issues that must be considered and identifies the main design and management elements necessary to create high quality and sustainable Traveller sites which meet residents' traditional and cultural needs. In 2020 DfC completed a review of the existing Design guide, thereby fulfilling a DfC recommendation from the NI Human Rights Commissions report "Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Travellers' Accommodation in Northern Ireland" published in March 2018. The	It will also help inform the review and update of the Council's Travellers Accommodation operational policy, currently contained in PPS 12, Policy HS 3 (Amended 2013.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	Design Guide 2020 has been updated to include current health and safety requirements, fire safety guidance, legal and technical advice in relation to fitness standards, service provisions, adaptations and advice on site licencing. It is intended to support the provision of appropriate, cost-effective facilities for Travellers living in NI.	
Irish Travellers Accommodation Strategy 2021-2026 (2021)	The Strategy sets out how NIHE plans to provide Irish Travellers with access to affordable, good quality, culturally appropriate housing accommodation which fosters a sustainable, vibrant Irish Traveller community and promotes inclusion, a sense of belonging and security. The Strategy seeks to address the full range of accommodation needs based on the NIHE's latest assessment. It proposes a number of key actions and includes an implementation plan laying out a work programme over five years to achieve these. The Strategy is a priority for the NIHE. It acts as an update to the last Needs Assessment in 2015.	The Strategy acts as key evidence for the LDP both at Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan stages. It will also help inform the review and update of the Council's Travellers Accommodation operational policy, currently contained in PPS 12, Policy HS 3 (Amended 2013.
Commissioning Prospectus (8th Version) – Social & Intermediate Housing Requirements for the period 2024/2025 – 2026/27 (2024)	The Commissioning Prospectus provides housing associations, developers and other interested stakeholders detailed information about the requirements for the provision of new social and affordable housing throughout Northern Ireland. It presents data which will enable housing associations to make informed decisions about where to search for land and property to deliver new social and affordable housing within assessed housing need and strategic targets. It forms an integral part of the Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) approved by the DfC Minister, identifying areas	The Commissioning Prospectus acts as key evidence for the LDP, containing the most up-to-date assessment of local affordable housing in the Borough (5 year rolling), with a breakdown by settlement. It will inform the formulation of a suitable affordable housing policy in the Plan Strategy, including an appropriate threshold.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	where there is a shortage of acquired development sites and where NIHE would welcome suitable scheme proposals. The prospectus is updated and published annually to reflect the most recent assessment of local market issues and unmet housing needs.	

Table B.17: Local Plans, Policies and Programmes - Strengthening Society

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and S`A	Implications for LDP
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Age-Friendly Strategy & Action Plan 2022-2025 (2022)	The following strategy and action plan has been developed by the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Age-friendly Alliance, following extensive consultation with people aged 50 and over living in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, and aims to benefit everyone living, working and visiting the area as they grow older. The eight age-friendly themes are: ■ Social participation ■ Respect and social inclusion ■ Civic participation and employment ■ Communication and information ■ Community support and health services ■ Outdoor spaces and buildings ■ Transportation	The LDP can complement many of the aims of this strategy.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and S`A	Implications for LDP
	■ Housing.	

Table B.18: Local Plans, Policies and Programmes – Economy & Employment

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
The Armagh Place Plan (2022)	The Armagh Place Plan has been developed to help us understand and align key messages from policies such as Council's Connected – A Community Plan, and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland 2015 which identifies 'supporting good design and positive place making' as one its five core planning principles and what these may mean for local places. The Armagh Place Plan is designed around four outcomes; a connected city, a green city, an engaging city and a healthy city. Collectively the plan developed seven typologies and thirty actions which will be delivered collaboratively across the partners to embrace the vision of the outcomes.	LDP will take account of this plan
The Banbridge Place Plan (2024)	The Plan is designed around 5 outcomes; Bridging Banbridge, Green Banbridge, Healthy Banbridge, Creative Banbridge, and Growing Banbridge. The plan identifies 56 actions to bring about positive change in Banbridge. These actions include physical and non-physical interventions and they have been thematically clustered; ■ Arts, Heritage and Leisure; ■ Green Innovation;	LDP will take account of this plan

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	■ Spaces, Places and Natural Environment; ■ Living Here; ■ High Street and Investing.	
The Dromore Place Plan (2025)	The Dromore Place Plan outlines a strategic vision for the place and sets out five outcomes which are aimed at enhancing the quality of life for the residents, preserving the unique character of the area whilst stimulating economic growth. The plan details four big ideas, and six thematic clusters comprising of thirty seven suggested actions, serving as a road map for the community planning partners, stakeholders, businesses and local community groups, designed to help with the shaping, transformation and development of Dromore into the future.	LDP will take account of this plan
Central Craigavon Masterplan Report (2010)	The Craigavon masterplan is conceptual masterplan for central Craigavon in the context of the wider Craigavon Integrated Development Framework (CIDF).	LDP will take account of this plan
Craigavon Integrated Development Framework (2010)	The CIDF will guide how the urban area's three town centres – Central Craigavon, Lurgan and Portadown – develop and thrive over the next 20 years.	LDP will take account of this plan

Table B.19: National Plans, Policies and Programmes – Physical Resources

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
UK Geodiversity Action Plan (2011)	The UKGAP sets out a framework for geodiversity action across the UK. It encompasses six themes: (1) Furthering our	Geodiversity can play a role in planning for and mitigating the effects of climate

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	understanding of geodiversity, (2) Influencing planning policy, legislation and development design, (3) Gathering and maintaining information on our geodiversity, (4) Conserving and managing our geodiversity, (5) Inspiring people to value and care for our geodiversity, (6) Sustaining resources for our geodiversity.	change, coastal erosion and flooding. It can also help support Ecosystem Services such as soil formation, flood management, pollution control, mineral resources and the enjoyment of our environment. The LDP should recognise that geodiversity is cross-cutting across several themes including transport, housing, mineral extraction and waste. It should also recognise the sustainable socio-economic benefits that geodiversity brings for people and the cultural services it provides across a range of sectors and social agenda (for example, contributing to sense of place and a healthy lifestyle). Geodiversity information can help to support the delivery of wider environmental and landscape initiatives (including landscape characterisation and delivery of the European Landscape Convention).
Delivering our Future, Valuing our Soils: A Sustainable Agricultural Land Management Strategy for Northern Ireland (2016)	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,

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
		e.g. blue/green infrastructure and enhancement of biodiversity.

Table B.20: National Plans, Policies and Programmes – Transport & Accessibility

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways (2016)	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 wellbeing, 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. This strategic plan is also highly relevant to the sustainability themes of health and wellbeing, natural resources and landscape.
Strategic Park & Ride Delivery Programme 2016-2020 (Draft)	The Department for Infrastructure is 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.
Translink Strategy 'Get on Board' 2016-2021	The Department for Infrastructure is 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.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Northern Ireland Changing Gear: A Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015)	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.
Railway Investment Prioritisation Strategy May 2014	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.
Network Utilisation Strategy, Translink NI Railways, (Published October 2015)	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.	Indicates potential future investment in railway infrastructure.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future - A New Approach to Regional Transportation. (2011)	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. 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.
Transport Strategy 2035 (Consultation Draft June 2025)	The Department has prepared a draft Transport Strategy to 2035. The Transport Strategy sets out a new vision and strategic priorities for our transport system through to 2035. It articulates the role of transport as a social, economic and environmental enabler and establishes a set of transport priorities for the Department to deliver against. The Strategy aims to deliver a cleaner, smarter, and more inclusive transport network by 2035, with an emphasis	The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS), councils’ Local Development Plans (LDPs), and guidance within Living Places will continue to guide decision making to improve connectivity and promote more sustainable patterns of transport and travel. The LDP will enable

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	on sustainability, innovation, and accessibility. This strategy is developed around four Strategic Priorities for Transport, each of which contribute to Sustainable Development Goals. These Strategic Priorities for Transport reflect the contribution that the transport system can make to the improvement of people's everyday lives, and to our society in general. The priorities reflect the collective responsibility of everyone - government, business, and individuals, to embed sustainability into the decisions we make. Under each strategic priority there are a range of transport measures. They do not operate in isolation rather they will work together to holistically achieve the Transport Vision for 2035. Our Strategic priorities are that Transport: ■ Is Resilient and Sustainable ■ Supports Connected and Inclusive Communities ■ Is Safe and Healthy ■ Supports Green Growth	the Transport Strategy to meet its priorities by close working with DfI transport planners to ensure that the policies, land use allocations, and key site requirements of LDPs are closely linked with the transport policies, proposals and investment identified in the transport plans.
Sub-Regional Transport Plan 2015 (SRTP)	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	Although expired, the STRP may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	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.	
Planning Policy Statement 3 – Access, Movement and Parking (2005) & PPS3 clarification (DOE 2006)	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.
Planning Policy Statement 13 Transportation and Land Use (2005)	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.
Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan 2015	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.
Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) for Northern Ireland 2002-2012	The Regional Transport Strategy for Northern Ireland 2002-2012 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.
Planning for the Future of Transport – Time for Change (2021)	Concerns refocusing and reprioritising the aims of the Department for Infrastructure to meet the needs of new and emerging challenges facing our communities. Reprioritisation of our aims and	Plan aims to reduce the need to travel and then to change behaviour away from polluting and carbon intensive modes to cleaner and more healthy ways of getting

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	actions is necessary to meet the needs of new and emerging challenges. Climate change is a key and obvious driver for change.	around – the best is walking, wheeling and cycling. LDPs can align with and assist in delivering these objectives.

Table B.21: Local Plans, Policies and Programmes – Transport & Accessibility

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Sub Regional Transport Study - Local Transport Studies for Mid Ulster, Fermanagh and Omagh, Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon, Causeway Coast and Glens, Newry Mourne and Down.	Sets out an objective evidence-based assessment in relation to current and future transport issues, in the context of Council growth ambitions and future illustrative transport measures required to facilitate growth ambitions during the LDP period to 2030 in each Council area. Presents the range of illustrative measures for active travel, public transport and roads for the period up to 2030, in addition to the linkages with the Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan (RSTNTP), which will look at how best to develop the key transport corridors and other main routes.	The LTS has been developed to inform the LDP. Illustrative measures are described in terms of strategic locations. Detail and specific schemes will be added at LDP LPP stage, when land use zonings are identified.

Table B.22: National Plans, Policies and Programmes – Air Quality

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Defra, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and DOE (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England,	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	Local Development 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

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	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 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.	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 regime, the LDP 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.
Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland A Public Discussion Document (2020)	This Discussion Document forms part of a two-stage approach to developing the first Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland has not had its own dedicated Clean Air Strategy before now. There is, however, increasing recognition that existing air quality policy and frameworks are not delivering the expected improvements in air quality. Responses to the consultation will be will be used to shape future policies for Ministerial consideration.	The document sets out the challenges faced in NI via emissions from transport, household emissions, agriculture and industry. It aims to deliver on the PfG's Outcome 2: ‘We live and work sustainably, protecting the environment’. New policies and programmes should align with the need to protect air quality, and improve it in areas where it is not at an acceptable level.

Table B.23: International Plans, Policies and Programmes – Climate Change

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Paris Agreement Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2015)	The Paris agreement entered into force in November 2016. It set out to improve upon and replace the Kyoto Protocol, an earlier international treaty designed to curb the release of greenhouse gases. It provides an international framework to hold the increase in global temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to keep the more stringent target of below 1.5 degrees in sight. The agreement provides a broad framework for countries to work together, share information and build experience to increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience. It aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change. To reach these ambitious goals, appropriate financial flows, a new technology framework and an enhanced capacity building framework will be put in place, thus supporting action by developing countries and the most vulnerable countries, in line with their own national objectives. The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. This includes requirements that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1994)	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	The application of sustainable development principles, along with measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, will support the UNFCCC.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Preventing “dangerous” human interference with the climate system is the ultimate aim of the UNFCCC.	

Table B.24: National Plans, Policies and Programmes – Climate Change

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Industrial Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency Roadmaps to 2050 (2015)	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.
Climate Change Act 2008	The Climate Change Act 2008 covers all of the UK, with targets set at the UK level. The Act established a legislative framework to enable the reduction of UK GHG emissions by 34% from 1990 levels by 2020 and 80% by 2050. 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. Climate Change Risk Assessment is a statutory requirement of the Act. While there are no specific targets for NI in the UK Climate Change Act 2008; it is implicit that NI contributes to the UK effort of reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels. In 2019, the UK Government committed to a target amendment of Net Zero emissions by 2050 (amending the 80% target to a 100% reduction). To achieve Net Zero, the UK needs to achieve an average emissions reduction of around 15.5 $MtCO_2e$ per year over	The achievement of these targets can be supported by the application of sustainable development principles. Supporting and encouraging development which incorporates measures for energy efficiency and which enables reduced consumption of fossil fuels and other resources, alongside other measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, will also assist in achieving targets. The LDP can also have a role in encouraging societal choices that lead to a lower demand for carbon-intensive activities.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	the 30 years from 2020 onwards, similar to the 16 $MtCO_2e$ achieved in 2019.	
Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022	Imposes a duty on all Northern Ireland departments to ensure that the net Northern Ireland emissions account for the year 2050 is at least 100% lower than the baseline. The Department must set targets for the years 2030 and 2040 that are in line with the target for the year 2050.	Northern Ireland departments are required to develop and publish sectoral plans setting out how sectors will contribute to achieving the targets in the Act. The Sectoral Plans included in the Act are: Sectoral plans for energy, Renewable electricity consumption, Sectoral plans for infrastructure, Sectoral plans for industrial processes, Sectoral plans for waste management, Sectoral plans for agriculture, Sectoral plans for fisheries, Sectoral plans for transport, Active travel. The LDP should aim to support (and not conflict with) objectives identified within the sectoral plans, once they are developed and published.
UK Climate Risk: Evidence for the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) Summary for Northern Ireland (2021)	The CCRA is a statutory requirement of the UK Climate Change Act 2008 and is published every 5 years. The objective of the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) summary for NI 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, based on the latest understanding of the impacts. The Independent Assessment used to help inform the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) assesses 61 risks and opportunities from climate change to Northern Ireland, including o	The Strategic Planning Policy Statement states that planning systems should help adapt to climate change through avoiding development in sites vulnerable to climate impacts. The LDP should take account of the up to date summaries of relevant risks identified as "more action required" in this CCRA and consideration is given to the long term sustainability of development.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	business, infrastructure, housing, the natural environment, our health and from the impacts of climate change internationally. Risks categorised as “More action needed” and “Further investigation” are more urgent than “Watching brief” and “Sustain current action”. Of these 61 risks and opportunities, more action is needed now to address 31 of them, further investigation is needed for 19, sustaining current adaptation action is only deemed appropriate for five of the risks or opportunities and six have been classified as watching brief. Of the 61, six issues are deemed to be both a risk and opportunity, four of which are associated with the natural environment and each of these require more action or further investigation. There are also eight opportunities that could arise from climate change in Northern Ireland, with four of these also related to the natural environment.	For new infrastructure, there are opportunities for mainstreaming climate change adaptation into planning and design, to avoid retrofitting later. The CCRA states that effective spatial planning remains the only measure that can avoid flood risk caused by development. This is also relevant to coastal flooding and erosion
Forests for our Future’ programme (2020)	The ‘Forests for our Future’ programme pledges to plant 18 million trees (9,000 hectares of new woodland) over 10 years - 10 trees per person in Northern Ireland. The aims are to: ■ Improve the resilience of our forests and woodlands ■ Increase their contribution to a sustainable, healthy environment ■ Increase their contribution to NI’s sustainable economic growth ■ Enable more people to improve their health, wellbeing and life chances	Existing publicly owned land, including local government land, has the greatest potential for woodland creation in the short term. The LDP can support the objectives of this programme. Also relevant to the sustainability themes of natural resources and economy and employment.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	■ Contribute to the UK Net Zero by 2050 target.	
Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP). 2014-2019	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 [MT1.1]relocated.
Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (2019–2024)	NICCAP2 contains the response to the risks and opportunities relevant to Northern Ireland, as identified in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 and as required by the UK Climate Change Act 2008. NICCAP2 is a continuation of the process of adapting to a changing climate in NI that was commenced by the first NICCAP 2014-19. It incorporates lessons learnt and findings of an end-of-programme evaluation of NICCAP1. The Key Priority Areas are Natural Capital (including Terrestrial Coastal/Marine/Freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity), Infrastructure Services, People and Built Environment, Disruption to Business and Supply Chains, and Flood Security / Global Food Production. A series of seven outcome objectives and visions have been established covering these areas.	NICCAP 2 includes a commitment by local government stakeholders to delivering its outcome objectives by developing local council strategies and activities which will increase the resilience in the built and natural environment, and local communities. Chapter 14 of NICCAP 2 provides a summary of the contributions planned by civil society and local government. This includes the action that in bringing forward their Local Development Plans, Councils will take account of climate change adaptation considerations as indicated in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement. The programme also includes a

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
		series of steps which a local council could follow to increase their resilience to the impacts of climate area, including the consideration of vulnerability to past weather events and projected climate change. The LDP can take account of these recommendations.
Third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP3) Public Consultation (2025)	The Climate Change Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) places a statutory duty on Northern Ireland Executive Departments to lay programmes before the Northern Ireland Assembly, which set out their objectives, policies, proposals and timelines for introducing those policies and proposals in response to the most recent UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA). To fulfil this legal requirement the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has led on the development of a series of single coordinated adaptation programmes, which are known as the Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP), since the 2008 Act came into effect. This consultation document seeks the views of stakeholders on the draft third iteration of these programmes (NICCAP3) which has been developed, with input from all Departments and a range of key stakeholders, in response to the latest Third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3).	The document retains its consistency with NICCAP 2, following the same 13 thematic areas grouped into 5 key areas. The consultation questions will provide an idea of the direction the third NICCAP will take and provide an insight that the LDP can use to pre-empt the direction of the final document from a land-use perspective.
National Adaptation Framework: Planning for a	Ireland’s first statutory National Adaptation Framework set out a pathway to achieving a more resilient economy and society which is capable of dealing with the enormous challenges climate change is likely to present. The Climate Action Plan sets out actions across	There may be cross-border influences with the Framework's Sectoral Adaptation Plans, in particular for those associated with Agriculture, Forestry and Seafood,

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Climate Resilient Ireland 2018	every sector of society which will ensure Ireland meets its 2030 climate commitments and is on the correct trajectory for net zero emissions by 2050.	Biodiversity, Transport infrastructure, Electricity and Gas Networks, Communications Networks, Flood Risk Management and Water Quality and Water Services Infrastructure. These need to be taken into account to ensure that development in Northern Ireland does not conflict. Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in NI LDPs may help support this Framework.
National Adaptation Framework: Planning for a Climate Resilient Ireland 2024	Ireland's second statutory National Adaptation Framework (NAF) was published by Minister Eamon Ryan TD on 5 June 2024. This latest NAF replaces the first iteration of the framework published in 2018, which was reviewed in 2022 in line with the five year requirement of the 2015 Climate and Low Carbon Development Act (the Climate Act).	The second NAF follows consistent themes to the first, providing a more updated review. As such, the potential cross border implications must be considered and any conflict that may exist between RoI's framework and the UK's CCRA but be recognised and accounted for within the LDP regarding issues that fall under direct and indirect influence of land-use planning.
UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report, Summary for Northern Ireland	The CCRA is a statutory requirement of the UK Climate Change Act 2008 and is published every 5 years. The objective of the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) summary for NI 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, based on the latest understanding of the impacts. The main finding is that extreme weather is still predominant among potential	The SPPS states that no development should take place in areas known to be at risk from coastal erosion. The SPPS promotes and encourages developers to use SuDS and also indicates that Councils should continue to promote the use of SuDS through their Local Development

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	risks related to climate change but that other risks, such as water scarcity are becoming increasingly important. Highlights need for more strategic planning for increased water scarcity in vulnerable locations, including re-evaluation of land use options and if necessary investment in storage infrastructure to maximise use of surplus winter rainfall. Notes that land use planning is mainly based upon protecting prime agricultural land from development, on the assumption that prime land will remain in current locations into the future which may not be the case. Advises that more action is needed to manage current risks to people from cold temperatures through addressing fuel poverty. Highlights that there have been requests for new sea defence structures around the coast. There will need to be a system in place to decide which areas must be protected and where realignment is more appropriate however no shoreline management plans or other policies that assess and plan for changes to coastal communities have been developed for Northern Ireland.	Plans. The 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 to reduce fuel poverty can help address some social impacts of cold temperatures. Some infrastructure such as clean and waste water treatment may be vulnerable to flooding and therefore may need to be modified or relocated.
UK Climate Risk: Evidence for NI the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) Summary for Northern Ireland (2021)	The CCRA is a statutory requirement of the UK Climate Change Act 2008 and is published every 5 years. The objective of the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) summary for NI 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, based on the latest understanding of the impacts. The Independent Assessment used to help inform the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) assesses 61 risks and opportunities from climate change to Northern Ireland, including to business, infrastructure, housing, the natural environment, our	The Strategic Planning Policy Statement states that planning systems should help adapt to climate change through avoiding development in sites vulnerable to climate impacts. The LDP should take account of the up to date summaries of relevant risks identified as "more action required" in this CCRA and consideration is given to the long term sustainability of development. For new infrastructure, there are

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	health and from the impacts of climate change internationally. Risks categorised as “More action needed” and “Further investigation” are more urgent than “Watching brief” and “Sustain current action”. Of these 61 risks and opportunities, more action is needed now to address 31 of them, further investigation is needed for 19, sustaining current adaptation action is only deemed appropriate for five of the risks or opportunities and six have been classified as watching brief. Of the 61, six issues are deemed to be both a risk and opportunity, four of which are associated with the natural environment and each of these require more action or further investigation. There are also eight opportunities that could arise from climate change in Northern Ireland, with four of these also related to the natural environment.	opportunities for mainstreaming climate change adaptation into planning and design, to avoid retrofitting later. The CCRA states that effective spatial planning remains the only measure that can avoid flood risk caused by development. This is also relevant to coastal flooding and erosion.
Local Authority Adaptation Strategy Development Guidelines Ireland (2016)	The purpose of this guideline is to support local authorities in the development of a local climate change adaptation strategy. In its structure and content, the guideline draws heavily on the 2013 Guidelines on Developing Adaptation Strategies provided to European Union Member States by the European Commission (SWD(2013) 134 final), with the aim of fostering coherence between strategies developed at local and national scale.	This will result in due course to the development of Adaptation Strategies in local authorities in Ireland which will also need to be taken into account to ensure that development in Northern Ireland does not conflict. May inform any approach that the Council may wish to take form climate change adaptation.
Northern Ireland Climate Action Plan -Draft Climate Action Plan 2023-2027	This first draft Climate Action Plan sets out 52 policies and proposals designed to reduce emissions across nine sectors: energy production and supply; transport; business and industrial processes; residential buildings; public buildings; waste management; agriculture; land use, land-use change and forestry; and fisheries. Some sectors are expected to contribute more than	The direction set by the Northern Ireland Climate Change Action Plan will inform policy direction including building design, natural and built heritage, transport and economic and residential development as well as zonings. This will feed directly into

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	others; some policies and proposals have a greater impact than others; some contribute to emissions savings across more than one sector. Together, these policies and proposals set a roadmap of action needed to reduce emissions and keep us on track for future targets.	the approach to be taken by the LDP in terms of adaptation to the effects of climate change.
Discussion Paper – Proposals for Taking Forward NI Climate Change Legislation - DOE on 1 December 2015	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.
The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015	Ireland's national policy in response to climate change is determined, in part, by legislation. In particular, Ireland's first-ever dedicated climate change law, the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, provides for the making of: five-yearly National Mitigation Plans to specify the policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and a National Adaptation Framework to specify the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change.	While the legislation is for Ireland measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI policy and strategies will also support the objectives of this legislation.
Climate Action and Low-Carbon Development -	The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to	Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
National Policy Position Ireland (2014)	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.	adaptation in response to NI plans will also support this.
Efficient Farming Cuts Greenhouse Gases Implementation Plan 2016-2020	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. The plan signposts the support available to facilitate this.	Aspects of this implementation plan relevant to planning include the promotion of renewable energy, and certain aspects of farming practice including development for nutrient management (including anaerobic digestion) and energy efficiency.
Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action Plan (revised 2016/17 Mitigation Plan)	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. Although an increase in economic development could inhibit a reduction in greenhouse gases, the application of sustainability principles in development will lead to more efficient infrastructure. There is potential scope for the protection of (or increase of) carbon sinks in soil and trees.
Reducing Emissions in Northern Ireland (2019)	In this report, the Committee sets out how Northern Ireland can reduce its greenhouse gas emissions between now and 2030 in order to meet UK-wide climate change targets. Overall, Northern Ireland's fair contribution to the UK's fifth carbon budget requires emissions reductions of at least 35% against 1990 levels by 2030.	Delivering emissions can be achieved in a cost-effective way if effective policy is implemented. This will require action across the power, buildings and industry, transport, agriculture and land use, and waste sectors. Suggested policy measures

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
		to reduce GHG emissions include promotion of and support for low-cost intermittent renewables and low-carbon heating, tree planting, energy efficiency improvements in homes and transport behavioural change.

Table B.25: International Plans, Policies and Programmes – Water Resources

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Draft 3rd cycle River Basin Management Plan: For the North Western, Neagh Bann and North Eastern River Basin Districts (2021 – 2027)	When adopted, the RBMP will replace the 3 separate plans from the 2nd cycle. The draft plan provides an update on the health of Northern Ireland's water environment (the status of water bodies), but also sets out our targets (objectives) and actions (programme of measures) on how we want to improve our water environment in the next six years.	Northern Ireland's water resources are managed and protected using a catchment based approach which includes rivers, lakes and groundwater as well as coastal and transitional water bodies. Land use influences water bodies and their status. The LDP will need to take account of the RBMP and not act contrary to achieving its objectives, where relevant.
Northern Ireland Water PC 21 Business Plan (2021)	NIW's Business Plan sets out the step change in investment required to address the most critical needs and enable Northern Ireland to thrive from its water and sewerage infrastructure. It identifies 'Economic Constrained Areas' and areas with 'Serious Development Restriction' where development constraints currently exist and identifies the settlements where it is expected that these	The LDP may need to accommodate the development of new or improved water and wastewater infrastructure. Capacity for new development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	issues will be addressed through infrastructure improvements during the PC21 period.	
Our Draft Strategy 2021-2046	Provides a longer term view across the next quarter of a century (2021-2046) and updates NI Water's existing long term strategy (2015-2040). Strategic risks posing threats to resilience in maintaining services include climate change, rising customer expectations, changes to legislation and customer demographics.	The LDP can support the Strategy in helping to reduce pollutants entering our waterways and the millions spent on removing them through water treatment; to work with nature rather than against it to support sustainable economic growth; to be ready for more extreme weather conditions and to better design our homes to use less high quality drinking water.
Second Cycle Northern Ireland Flood Risk Management Plan 2021-2027	The Plan focuses on the 12 Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk (APSFR), and highlights the flood hazards and risks in these areas, with specific measures tailored to manage flood risk in particular locations. The Plan also sets out a series of Regional Measures, which apply across all of Northern Ireland, supporting the sustainable management of flood risk for both APSFR and the wider River Basin Districts.	One of the aims of the FRMP is to inform the development planning process to ensure, as far as possible and 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 aims to prevent future development that may be at risk of flooding or which may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. It also aims to ensure that any development which is located “by exception” in flood risk areas is appropriately built with flood resistance/resilience measures. In accordance with the Long Term Water

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
		Strategy, the FRMP promotes the use of SuDS, as the preferred means of surface water management, for all new developments, where feasible. This will be reflected in the LDP.
Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015-2040)	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 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: (1) Provide high quality sustainable supplies of drinking water to households, industry and agriculture; (2) Manage flood risk and drainage in a sustainable manner; (3) Achieve the environmental requirements of the Water Framework Directive in a sustainable manner; (4) 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 future approaches to flood risk management and environmental protection. These elements will all inform the spatial capacity for development. The LDP will need to consider potential future requirements for 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.
Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016	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	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.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	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.	
Reservoirs Act (Northern Ireland) 2015[SP1.1]	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.
Planning Policy Statement 15 (Revised) – Planning and Flood Risk	Planning policies to minimise and manage flood risk to people, property and the environment.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
NI Water: Water Resources Management Plan 2012	The Water Resources Management Plan explains how NIW intends to meet the drinking water needs of the population of Northern Ireland over the period 2010 to 2035. The WRMP takes into account expected demands from forecast changes in population, housing and water usage and incorporates any predicted changes to our climate. The WRMP will be complemented by the company's Drought Plan (not published) that will set out the short-term operational steps that the company will take if a drought develops which increases the risk to security of supplies and whether capital investment is needed to mitigate such events. It provides a strategic plan for managing water resources by setting the framework at the Water Resource Zone level within	The LDP may need to accommodate the development of new or improved water and wastewater infrastructure. Capacity for new development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	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 currently under way.	
Northern Ireland Message on Water (2011)	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.
Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for NI (2011)	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.
Flood Risk Management Plans (2018)	The 29 Flood Risk Management Plans set out the proposed measures, both structural and non-structural, to manage the flood	Provides information on the vulnerability of identified settlements to flooding. There are

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	risk in each of the 300 AFAs (Areas for Further Assessment). Responsibility for implementing the full suite of measures, both structural and non-structural, contained in the 29 Flood Risk Management Plans rests with a range of State Bodies. Delivery of new relief measures proposed in the Plans will build on the significant investment in flood relief capital works that has already taken place since 1995 and will take place concurrently with delivery of flood relief schemes currently in design and construction. On-structural measures can potentially benefit all properties at risk.	a number of river catchments where transboundary impacts may need to be considered.
Guidelines for Planning Authorities 20: The Planning System and Flood Risk Management (2009)	These guidelines require the planning system at national, regional and local levels to: (1) Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, particularly floodplains, unless there are proven wider sustainability grounds that justify appropriate development and where the flood risk can be reduced or managed to an acceptable level without increasing flood risk elsewhere; (2) Adopt a sequential approach to flood risk management when assessing the location for new development based on avoidance, reduction and mitigation of flood risk; and (3) Incorporate flood risk assessment into the process of making decisions on planning applications and planning appeals.	There are a small number of river catchments where transboundary impacts may need to be considered.
North Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2015 - 2021	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	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

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	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 4,000 km², including 1,000km² of marine waters. It takes in large parts of Counties Antrim and Down and a smaller portion of Londonderry. The principal 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.	River Basin Management Plan objectives. Good water quality and aquatic habitats contribute to health and well-being and the economy.
Neagh Bann River Basin Management Plan 2015 - 2021	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 Neagh Bann river basin district (NB RBD) covers an area of around 5,740 km². It includes all of County Armagh, large parts of Counties Antrim, Londonderry, Down and Tyrone and a small area of 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	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 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.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	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.	
The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010	The Regulations require the production of a "Marine Strategy" for all UK waters and that the approach is coordinated across all four UK Administrations. It also requires cooperation with other countries sharing our seas. The objective of the UK Marine Strategy reflects the UK's vision of having "clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas". The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010 require action to be taken to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) in our seas.	The Strategy applies an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities. In doing so, it seeks to keep the collective pressure of human activities within levels compatible with the achievement of GES. Achieving GES will maintain the capacity of marine ecosystems to respond to human-induced changes and enable the sustainable use of marine goods and services by present and future generations
River Basin Management Plan for Northern Ireland 2021 – 2027	Northern Ireland's water resources are managed and protected using a catchment-based approach which includes rivers, lakes and groundwater as well as coastal and transitional water bodies. The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 require the production and implementation of a RBMP in six yearly cycles. The RBMP takes an integrated approach, identifying those water bodies which can be classified as being at 'good or better' status. It also sets the objectives and a programme of measures for the next six-year cycle to help improve those water bodies which are classified as below 'good' status.	The LDP can support the delivery of land contamination remediation.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Eel management plan: North Eastern River Basin District (2010)	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 theme of sustainable use of natural resources.
The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended)	This Order prohibits the intentional killing, taking or injuring of certain wild birds and wild animals or the intentional destruction, uprooting or picking of certain wild plants.	The LDP must reflect the legal requirement that if a development site is known or is likely to support a protected plant and animal species, the developer is obliged under legislation not to harm those species.

Table B.26: National Plans, Policies and Programmes – Natural Resources

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter 2021-2024	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. Updates the first Charter published 2017. 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 in terms of physical resources. It may also influence the themes of landscape, natural resources and water resources. The LDP can support the Charter's vision that "geodiversity is recognised as a vital part of our sustainable development, with benefits for the economy, for society and for the environment, and it should be managed appropriately and safeguarded for the benefit of current and future generations of

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
		Northern Ireland citizens" and its action that geodiversity should be integrated into policy.
All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025	A five-year road map that aims to help bees, other pollinating insects and our wider biodiversity. Aims to bring all stakeholders including farmers, local authorities, schools, gardeners and businesses together to try to create an Ireland where pollinators can survive and thrive.	Councils can play a leading role in implementing the Plan by making their land more pollinator friendly. This Plan contains guidance on what actions Councils can take, of which the most important is “to identify and protect existing areas that are already good for pollinators”.
Draft Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy 2021-2040 (Consultation)	The vision of this Strategy is to ensure that all semi-natural peatlands are protected, managed and where possible, prioritised for restoration, so that they can maintain their natural functions, biodiversity and ecosystem services. It has 6 objectives: 1) Conserve peatlands & prevent degradation 2) Restoration of degraded areas to functioning peatland ecosystems (designated & non-designated sites) 3) Supporting Sustainable Peatland Management 4) Knowledge Sharing & Research 5) Communication, Education & Access 6) Governance, Implementation & Funding	The LDP can help to support the Strategy's objective to conserve peatland and prevent degradation.
National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021	The Plan sets out actions through which a range of government, civil and private sectors will undertake to achieve Ireland’s ‘Vision for Biodiversity’, and follows on from the work of the first and second National Biodiversity Action Plans. It has been developed in line with the EU and International Biodiversity strategies and policies.	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

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
		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.
Valuing Nature - A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020	A strategy for Northern Ireland to meet its international obligations and local targets to protect biodiversity and ensure that the environment can continue to support our people and economy. Contains 57 actions to impact positively on the loss of biodiversity up to 2020.	Actions include: Restoring ancient woodland and encouraging peatland and wetland habitat restoration with emphasis on an ecosystems approach. LDP proposals and policies should support delivery of actions, where appropriate.
An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Northern Ireland (2013)	The aim of the Strategy is to minimise the risk posed, and reduce the negative impacts caused, by invasive alien species in Northern Ireland, increasing awareness and understanding of the risks and issues involved in tackling invasive alien species is a central overarching issue. This Strategy is accompanied by the Northern Ireland Invasive Alien Species Implementation Plan (Revised 2018). It includes the objective to maximise organisational effectiveness and collaboration on invasive alien species issues among Government Departments and Agencies, Local Government, non-governmental organisations, industry and individuals.	Invasive species may be a constraint for some sites. Consideration will need to be given to measures to minimise the risks caused by invasive species.
Planning Policy Statement 2 – Natural Heritage (2013)	Policies for the conservation of natural heritage.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth - An Integrated	The vision for this plan is 'Our ocean wealth will be a key element of our economic recovery and sustainable growth, generating	Should an LDP have specific proposals for its coastline, including facilitating

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Marine Plan for Ireland (2012)	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.	developments that overlap into or make use of the marine area, these could be either supportive or in conflict with this plan.
Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (as amended)	The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the WANE Act) places a statutory duty on public bodies to conserve biodiversity. Following publication of a revised Biodiversity Strategy in July 2015, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has decided to publish this guidance document to assist public bodies in fulfilling their biodiversity duty.	None.
The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002	Covers several environmental issues, including pollution prevention control, assessment and management of air quality, and designation of areas of special scientific interest (ASSIs).	The LDP must reflect the ASSI designations, and the need to protect and conserve them. It should also have regard for the need to regulate activities which are capable of causing any environmental pollution.
Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1995	Makes provision with respect to nature conservation, enjoyment and conservation of the countryside, and amenity lands. Places particular emphasis on the establishment of a network of Areas of Special Scientific Interest and Nature Reserves. Nature Reserves including (National, Marine and Local Nature Reserves) are declared under this legislation, and some AONBs.	The LDP must reflect the existing designations, and the need to protect and conserve them.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Forest Service - Down Plan 2015	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.
Lough Neagh Fishery Management Plan (2015)	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.	The LDP should take account of this plan which aims to protect and promote a natural resource, but also has linkages with the topic of sustainable economy and employment.
Forest Service - Armagh Planning Review 2014	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 alongside the commercial aspects of managed forestry. There are potential crossovers between the natural resources, landscape, economy and employment and health and well-being sustainability objectives.

Table B.27: International Plans, Policies and Programmes – Natural Resources

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
The Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2024	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.
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio 1992)	Led to Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD's) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its five strategic goals and 20 'Aichi Targets', published in October 2010; and the EU Biodiversity Strategy (EUBS), released in May 2011. Implemented in the UK via the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (revised 2018). 20 'Aichi Targets', the strategic goals of which are: ■ Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society ■ Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use	The LDP can help to support the delivery of the strategic goals.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	■ Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity ■ Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services ■ Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building	
North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Commission Precautionary Approach Agreement (1982)	NASCO and its Contracting Parties agree to adopt and apply a Precautionary Approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of salmon in order to protect the resource and preserve the environments in which it lives. Accordingly, NASCO and its Contracting Parties should be more cautious when information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate. The absence of adequate scientific information should not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures.	The LDP will take account of this. Increased fisheries resource will result in increased angling opportunities in the Council area with the economic and social benefits this will bring.
North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Commission Convention For The Conservation Of Salmon In The North Atlantic Ocean (1982)	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.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention) (1979)	The Bern Convention was the first international treaty to protect both species and habitats and to bring countries together to decide how to act on nature conservation. It covers most of the natural heritage of the European continent and extends to some States of Africa. It aims to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, as well as to promote European co-operation in this field. The treaty also takes account of the impact that other policies may have on natural heritage and recognises the intrinsic value of wild flora and fauna, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations.	The LDP can help to support the delivery of the Convention's mission which includes ensuring that wild flora, fauna and habitats are maintained at, or restored to, a favourable conservation status.
The Ramsar Convention. The convention of Wetland of International Importance (1971 and amendments) (1971)	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.

Table B.28: International Plans, Policies and Programmes – Landscape

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)	The European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues. It covers all landscapes, including natural, managed, urban and peri-urban areas, and special, everyday and also degraded landscape. Articles 5 and 6 commit signatory states to a number of	The LDP should support the aims of the convention, seeking to protect, manage and enhance the landscape.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	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.	

Table B.29: National Plans, Policies and Programmes – Landscape

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (2016)	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.	The RLCA 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. It helps to indicate the linkages between the landscape and other assets, such as the historic environment and natural resources. Landscape character assessments and review of these is regarded as being important to inform the understanding of "place" and positive place making.
A National Landscape Strategy for Ireland (2015)	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	The Council shares a boundary with Ireland, therefore the LDP has the potential to impact on this strategy. The Strategy and any relevant national and local

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	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.	Landscape Character Assessments will be taken into account as they become available.
Northern Ireland Seascape Character Assessment (2014)	Twenty-four different regional seascape character areas have been identified round the coast of Northern Ireland. The Seascape Character Assessment describes these areas, their key characteristics and the different influences that mould each as a unique part of the coastline.	This can inform planning of development in the coastal zone. The description and mapping of regional seascape character can provide evidence to assist in responding to the increasing demands being placed upon the related marine and terrestrial environments. This can also help to inform the planning, design and management of a range of projects taking place on and around the coastline.
Northern Ireland's Landscape Charter (2014)	Invites organisations and individuals to sign the charter and commit to delivering its vision by approaches including the following: adopt and promote best practice to ensure all development works with and enhances sense of place; ensure sense of place is central to all decision making about landscape and empower people locally to be involved.	This requires consideration of all landscapes to enhance them, respect sense of place and promote sympathetic design.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Building on Tradition: A sustainable Design Guide for the NI Countryside (2012)	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.
Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment (2000)	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. These aspects can help inform Councils on the state of the landscape, capacity for development and areas meriting protection. There are linkages with the sustainability topics of natural resources and historic environment and cultural heritage.

Table B.30: International Plans, Policies and Programmes – Historic Environment & Cultural Heritage

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Xi'an Declaration On The Conservation Of The Setting Of Heritage Structures, Sites And Areas (2005)	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.	The 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

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
		■ 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.
UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)	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 LDP will recognise the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for underwater archaeology.
Rules annexed to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)	The Annex to the 2001 Convention contains detailed practical guidelines entitled "Rules concerning activities directed at underwater cultural heritage. They are highly useful and widely recognised and applied by underwater archaeologists. The Rules contain regulations as to: how a project is to be designed; the	The Local Plan will recognise the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for underwater archaeology.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	competence and the qualifications required for persons undertaking interventions; planning the funding of excavation projects; documentation of archaeological excavations under water; and methodologies on conservation and site management.	
The Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)	The most significant feature of the 1972 World Heritage Convention is that it links together in a single document the concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties. The Convention recognises the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two. The programme catalogues, names, and conserves sites of outstanding cultural or natural importance to the common culture and heritage of humanity. To be selected, a World Heritage Site must be an already classified landmark, unique in some respect as a geographically and historically identifiable place having special cultural or physical significance (such as an ancient ruin or historical structure, building, city, complex, desert, forest, island, lake, monument, mountain, or wilderness area). It may signify a remarkable accomplishment of humanity, and serve as evidence of our intellectual history on the planet.	This convention is the mechanism for the identification and establishment of World Heritage Sites. There is currently one WHS in NI. The LDP may recognise sites which are of sufficient national or global importance to merit their inclusion on the Tentative List for World Heritage Sites. The LDP may help support the actions required for sites to receive nomination to the Tentative List by preserving or enhancing their cultural heritage or natural heritage value.
Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention, 2005)	The Faro Convention emphasises the important aspects of heritage as they relate to human rights and democracy. It promotes a wider understanding of heritage and its relationship to communities and society. The Convention encourages us to recognise that objects and places are not, in themselves, what is important about cultural heritage. They are important because of	Member States agree to emphasise the value and potential of cultural heritage wisely used as a resource for sustainable development and quality of life in a constantly evolving society. Examples of specific implications with regard to LDP include Article 5b "enhance the value of the cultural heritage through its identification,

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	the meanings and uses that people attach to them and the values they represent.	study, interpretation, protection, conservation and presentation"; Article 5e "Promote cultural heritage protection as a central factor in the mutually supporting objectives of sustainable development, cultural diversity and contemporary creativity"; Article 8d "Promote the objective of quality in contemporary additions to the environment without endangering its cultural values"; and Article 9a "Promote respect for the integrity of the cultural heritage by ensuring that decisions about change include an understanding of the cultural values involved".
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992)	The new text (revision of the 1969 London 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 the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage is one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It advocates protection of the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be investigated archaeologically both on land and underwater and the creation of	Consideration should be given to conservation of archaeological resources including potential archaeological reserves. Article 5 seeks the integrated conservation of archaeological heritage through its consideration in the preparation of Local Development Plans and the creation of planning policies designed to ensure well-balanced strategies for the protection, conservation and enhancement of sites of archaeological interest. It also highlights the need of devising plans to avoid adverse impact.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	archaeological reserves and conservation of excavated sites for optimum conservation of archaeological heritage.	
The European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention, 1985)	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 architectural resources. Article 5 includes an undertaking to prohibit the removal, in whole or in part, of any protected monument, except where the material safeguarding of such monuments makes removal imperative. Article 10 states that the protection of architectural heritage as an essential town and country planning objective. Planning authorities should ensure that this requirement is taken into account at all stages, both in the drawing up of development plans and in the procedures for authorising work.

Table B.31: National Plans, Policies and Programmes – Historic Environment & Cultural Heritage

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Protection of Military Remains Act 1986	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	This may apply to military shipwrecks and aircraft discovered in the nearshore area and the larger freshwater lakes of NI.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	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	
Archaeology 2030: A Strategic Approach for Northern Ireland	This project has set out to achieve a ten year vision: Our archaeology is accessed and valued by as many people as possible, led by a sector which is healthy, resilient and connected.	Includes among its recommendations: Guidance relating to development management / planning applications and that current processes and conditions should be reviewed to ensure that delays, costs and uncertainties are minimised and that archaeologists, council planners and developers can work together to make sustainable places where people want to live and work.
Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Historic Environment	Offers advice on historic environment considerations during the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment process, including examples of the baseline evidence which should be considered through the different stages of screening, scoping, assessment, and reporting. It also provides guidance on the implementation of historic environment legislation, the relevant policy in the Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS) and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS).	The LDP and the SA of the LDP will take cognisance of this guidance.
Guidance on Guidance on Setting and the Historic Environment (2018)	The guidance includes a definition of setting, identifies those key aspects of setting which can contribute to the significance of a heritage asset, and outlines a three-stage process for assessing	The LDP and the SA of the LDP will take cognisance of this guidance.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	the impacts of change upon setting. It is hoped that the content of this document will assist planning authorities and applicants, heritage consultants and other stakeholders achieve a consistent approach when considering setting and the historic environment in Northern Ireland.	
Historic Buildings of Local Importance: A guide to their Identification and Protection (2017)	This good practice guide aims to assist Councils achieve a consistent approach when identifying and protecting Historic Buildings of Local Importance.	The LDP may be able to contribute to the protection of unlisted historic buildings of local importance, where appropriate, through policy provisions.
Regeneration: The Value of our Built Heritage. Position Paper 2017	This paper sets out the potential value of effective architectural regeneration throughout our villages, towns and cities. It highlights Northern Ireland's unique architectural heritage as well as the social and economic value of older building stock, and the added qualities it can bring to our communities.	Paper recommends that heritage buildings are incorporated and made a priority in new Council community planning. The protection and promotion of Heritage should be integrated into community plans and new planning policy. Policy needs to be integrated and support building users.
Planning Policy Statement 23 – Enabling Development (2014)	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.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Living Places - An Urban Stewardship and Design Guide for NI (2014)	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.
Study of the economic value of Northern Ireland's historic environment (2012)	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.
Protocol for the Care of the Government Historic Estate	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	This document is recommended as good practice for Councils to adopt.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Northern Ireland Guidance February 2012	using appropriately experienced practitioners and working to keep buildings in active use.	
Planning Policy Statement 6 – Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage (and Addendum ATC) 1999	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. It should be noted that some of the policy text of PPS 6 has been superseded by policy in the SPPS, for example SPPS para. 6.11
Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995	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 found in Annex B of Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS 6): Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage (1999).	There is a requirement for Scheduled Monument Consent for works within Scheduled Monument designated areas. This would be a consideration in zoning ground including or immediate to Scheduled Areas.

Table B.32: Local Plans, Policies and Programmes – Historic Environment & Cultural Heritage

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Lurgan Conservation Area Design Guide Booklet (2004)	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.	Extant Supplementary Planning Guidance may be relevant to drafting updated policy in the new LDP.
Loughgall Conservation Area Design Guide Booklet (1993)	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.	Extant Supplementary Planning Guidance may be relevant to drafting updated policy in the new LDP.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Richhill Conservation Area Design Guide Booklet(1993)	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.	Extant Supplementary Planning Guidance may be relevant to drafting updated policy in the new LDP.
Armagh Conservation Area Design Guide Booklet (1992)	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.	Extant Supplementary Planning Guidance may be relevant to drafting updated policy in the new LDP.
Dromore Conservation Area Design Guide Booklet (1192)	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.	Extant Supplementary Planning Guidance may be relevant to drafting updated policy in the new LDP.
Your Voice, Our Future: Draft Heritage Strategy December 2025	The draft heritage strategy for the Borough sets out 10 objectives set under three overarching themes that guide the strategic direction to be taken in response to built, natural and cultural heritage within the Borough over the next 10 years.	The draft Strategy's approach focuses heavily on community involvement and governance regarding heritage related objectives. Natural and built heritage policies will directly contribute to the Council's Heritage Strategy, while topic areas such as tourism and economy will indirectly impact on its outcomes.

Table B.33: National Plans, Policies and Programmes – Other Areas

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
[Draft] Supplementary Planning Guidance to PPS	The SPG provides additional advice and guidance specific to Anaerobic Digestion (AD) to complement the background	LDP policies in respect of development in the countryside, waste and landscape may

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
18 'Renewable Energy' Anaerobic Digestion (2010)	information already set out in the Best Practice Guidance to PPS 18. AD proposals raise a number of planning issues including visual and landscape impacts arising from industrial scale plant/buildings; potential odour impacts, air emissions, noise impacts, and traffic impacts.	influence the future development of these facilities

Table B.34: Local/Council Plans, Policies and Programmes – Area Plan

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Local Development Plan 2032. Part 1: Plan Strategy. September 2023	The adoption of the Plan Strategy represents a key milestone for the Council, and provides the framework for the future investment in the Council area. It sets the strategic direction for the sustainable economic growth of the Council area and provides a framework for better connectivity between places and opportunities for healthier lifestyles, which are key aims to shaping good quality places in which to work, live and play. The Vision, Objectives and Spatial Strategy address the economic, social and environmental challenges facing our Council area whilst reflecting the rich variety of our settlements and their diverse roles and functions, set against a vibrant rural hinterland. The Plan Strategy will be part of the Development Plan for the purpose of dealing with planning applications, appeals and enforcement. The Plan is supported through a range of Strategic Policies. These provide the basis for the suite of Operational Policies for housing, economic development, our city and town centres, tourism, infrastructure and the natural and historic environment. Account has been taken of	The Council may have regard to other plans and topic-based strategies e.g. transport, recreation and economic development, as considered relevant and which may also have cross-boundary implications for its neighbouring Councils. Council should therefore also ensure that its strategy is not in conflict with the Development Plan Documents (DPDs) of neighbouring Councils by assessing any likely cross boundary implications of policies and proposals contained in its DPD to help ensure its compatibility with that of the neighbouring Council and facilitate an integrated and coordinated approach to the implementation of higher-level regional planning aims and objectives.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
	policies which are cross-cutting in nature, including flooding, climate change adaptation and mitigation, health and active travel. The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) states that where a Council adopts its Plan Strategy, existing policy retained under the transitional arrangements shall cease to have effect. This will represent a change for stakeholders and the Council is committed to building capacity in relation to the new policy framework.	
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Local Development Plan 2032. Part 2: Operational Policies. September 2023	Part Two of the Local Development Plan sets out Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's Operational Policies that will be taken into account in the determination of all planning applications, appeals and enforcement.	The Council may have regard to other plans and topic-based strategies e.g. transport, recreation and economic development, as considered relevant and which may also have cross-boundary implications for its neighbouring Councils. Council should therefore also ensure that its strategy is not in conflict with the Development Plan Documents (DPDs) of neighbouring Councils by assessing any likely cross boundary implications of policies and proposals contained in its DPD to help ensure its compatibility with that of the neighbouring Council and facilitate an integrated and coordinated approach to the implementation of higher-level regional planning aims and objectives.
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Local	The formal adoption of the Local Development Plan 2030 – Plan Strategy represents a key milestone in the Local Development Plan process for the Borough and one that provides an important plan-	The Council may have regard to other plans and topic-based strategies e.g. transport, recreation and economic

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Development Plan 2030 Plan Strategy	led framework, to allow development to take place in an appropriate and sustainable manner to meet the needs of citizens today, whilst laying the foundations for the future. It provides a powerful place-shaping tool to benefit the people who live in Antrim and Newtownabbey, those who work in local businesses and invest in the Borough, and the visitors who support the growing tourism sector.	development, as considered relevant and which may also have cross-boundary implications for its neighbouring Councils. Council should therefore also ensure that its strategy is not in conflict with the Development Plan Documents (DPDs) of neighbouring Councils by assessing any likely cross boundary implications of policies and proposals contained in its DPD to help ensure its compatibility with that of the neighbouring Council and facilitate an integrated and coordinated approach to the implementation of higher-level regional planning aims and objectives.

Table B.35: National Plans, Policies and Programmes – Other Areas

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Mid Ulster District Council Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy	The Plan Strategy is the first stage of a two stage LDP for the district. It sets out the strategic objectives of Mid Ulster District Council and informs all stakeholders of the policy framework against which all proposals will be assessed. The draft Plan Strategy will be subjected to public consultation and independent examination before adoption.	The Council may have regard to other plans and topic-based strategies e.g. transport, recreation and economic development, as considered relevant and which may also have cross-boundary implications for its neighbouring Councils. Council should therefore also ensure that its strategy is not in conflict with the

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
		Development Plan Documents (DPDs) of neighbouring Councils by assessing any likely cross boundary implications of policies and proposals contained in its DPD to help ensure its compatibility with that of the neighbouring Council and facilitate an integrated and coordinated approach to the implementation of higher-level regional planning aims and objectives.
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Draft Plan Strategy 2035	The draft Plan Strategy is the first of two development plan documents which will encompass our Local Development Plan, the second being the Local Policies Plan. When adopted, the Plan Strategy will constitute a key milestone for the council area. The draft Plan Strategy sets the strategic direction for future investment through sustainable economic growth in the district whilst facilitating the achievement of social and environmental objectives, such as healthier lifestyles, improved connectivity between places, and shaping sustainable and quality places to live, work, invest and visit.	The Council may have regard to other plans and topic-based strategies e.g. transport, recreation and economic development, as considered relevant and which may also have cross-boundary implications for its neighbouring Councils. Council should therefore also ensure that its strategy is not in conflict with the Development Plan Documents (DPDs) of neighbouring Councils by assessing any likely cross boundary implications of policies and proposals contained in its DPD to help ensure its compatibility with that of the neighbouring Council and facilitate an integrated and coordinated approach to the implementation of higher-level regional planning aims and objectives.

Plan or programme	Objectives or targets relevant to the plan and SA	Implications for LDP
Monaghan Council Development Plan 2025-2031	Sets out planning policy for County Monaghan.	May assist LDP in identifying cross-border opportunities and constraints.

Appendix C
Baseline Information

Health and well-being

C.1 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 Technical Supplements.

C.2 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, Natural Resources and Historic Environment topics.

Overview

C.3 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.

C.4 Of the 32 health outcome indicators analysed at a regional level by the Information Analysis Directorate **[See reference** 10**]** for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon residents, none were worse than the NI average, 20 were similar to the Northern Ireland (NI) average, and 12 were better than the NI average.

Population profile

C.5 The future population profile is relevant as it informs health care needs. From the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) 2018-based population projections **[See reference** 11**]** it is estimated that the population of the Borough is expected to grow from 218,656 in 2021 **[See reference** 12**]** to 241,823 in 2035 which is a projected population increase of 23,167 (10.6 %). This is projected to be the largest growth in population of all 11 NI Council areas. 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 and beyond the LDP period, there will be significant increases (+21,365, 62.5%) in the population of the Borough aged over 65. This growth of the older age groups will increase the requirement for late and end-of-life care.

C.6 Live birth rate data for the LGD boundaries have shown a decrease in the birth rate for Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council from around 2,920 in 2014 to 2,353 in 2024. Teenage birth rates in are lower than average in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon at 1.92 per 1000 for under 17s (NI 2.02) and 11.51 per 1000 **[See reference** 13**]** 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 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. This is a high inequality gap which has fluctuated significantly (up to 20%) in the past 10 years.

Life expectancy

C.7 The life expectancy at birth in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough is higher than Northern Ireland for both males and females. In 2021-23 male life expectancy at birth in the borough was 79.2 years compared to 78.8 years for Northern Ireland. Female life expectancy at birth is even higher at 83 years for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, above the Northern Ireland figure of 82.5 years. Male life expectancy at birth in the Borough and Northern Ireland has increased by 0.7 years and 0.8 years respectively from 2011-13 to 2021-23. Female life expectancy at birth in the Borough has increased by 0.3 years and 0.2 years respectively from 2011-13 to 2021-23 **[See reference** 14**]**.

C.8 The life expectancy at age 65 in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough is also higher than Northern Ireland for both males and females. Male life expectancy at age 65 in the Borough is 18.9 years for 2021-23 compared to 18.5 years in Northern Ireland. Female life expectancy at age 65 is higher at 21.1 years in the Borough and 20.7 years in Northern Ireland.

C.9 The standardised death rate for those aged under 75 (all causes) was 336 per 100,000 population in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2019-23 and 361 in Northern Ireland during the same period. The death rate per 100,000 population had decreased in the Borough since 2009-13 from 376 to 331 in 2015-19 and 2016-20 but has remained above these low levels since. The rate in Northern Ireland has also decreased from 388 in 2009-13 to 361 and despite a small increase between 2016-20 and 2017-21, it has fallen again and remained at 361 for the last two periods.

C.10 Avoidable deaths are those that are defined as preventable, amenable (treatable) or both. The standardised avoidable death rate per 100,000 population in 2019-23 was 238 in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough which is a fall of 2 since 2018-22 after three consecutive years of increasing. In Northern Ireland overall the avoidable death rate has also fallen for the first time in 3 years.

Causes of death

C.11 As depicted in table C.1, below, deaths due to malignant neoplasms and circulatory diseases, were the two most prominent causes for death within the Borough in 2019, both of which were marginally above the Northern Ireland average **[See reference** 15**]**.

Table C.1: Deaths by Cause (2019)

Cause of death	Northern Ireland	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Deaths (2019)	15,758	1,530
Deaths due to Malignant Neoplasms (%)	28.41	30.14
Deaths due to Circulatory Diseases (%)	23.39	24.22
Deaths due to Respiratory Diseases (%)	12.50	10.25
Deaths due to External Causes (%)	5.89	5.85
Deaths from suicide and undetermined intent (%)	1.33	1.33

C.12 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.

C.13 In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 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 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough was 12.3 years, a difference of 49%. This inequality gap is shown in the report to have fluctuated over the past ten years.

C.14 The CP Baseline Report notes that in 2014 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough had the second highest number of alcohol-related deaths (20) after Belfast.

Admission rates

C.15 The standardised number of admissions per 100,000 people in 2023/24 was 18,624 in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough compared to 20,695 in Northern Ireland **[See reference** 16**]**. Admissions have been higher in the Borough than in Northern Ireland for just three of the eleven years presented below. In Northern Ireland overall, the number of admissions was in steady decline between 2013/14 and 2019/20 while in the borough in 2016/17 there was a sharp increase in the number of admissions after which they fell again. The number of admissions fell sharply in 2020/21 in the Borough and Northern Ireland which is likely an effect of restrictions placed on hospitals due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Admissions have been increasing since in both the Borough and Northern Ireland overall.

Emergency admissions

C.16 An emergency admission is one where ‘a patient for whom admission is unpredictable and at short notice because of clinical need. All non-elective acute admissions excluding maternity, other and not known’. The standardised rate of emergency admissions per 100,000 population in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough was lower than Northern Ireland in 2023/24 with rates of 6,922 and 7,568 respectively, making the gap bigger than the previous year.

Physical health **[See reference** 17**]**

C.17 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.

C.18 In the 2021 Census 80% of the usually resident population described themselves as having ‘good’ or ‘very good’ general health, with 50% of those aged 65 years describing themselves as ‘good’ or ‘very good.’

C.19 Approximately 28,000 (12.8%) of the usually resident population reported they were of ‘fair’ general health while over 15,000 (6.9%) reported they had ‘bad or very bad’ general health. This proportion has increased from the 5.3% who indicated they had bad or very bad general health on Census Day 2011.

C.20 The standard of general health falls with age. Just 0.6% of people aged 0-14 had 'Bad or very bad' general health compared to 16.9% of people aged 65 and over. Conversely, 97.2% of people aged 0-14 had 'Good or very good' general health compared to just 50.4% of people aged 65 and over.

C.21 Over one fifth (22%) of the usually resident population, reported that their day-to-day activities are limited by a health problem or disability, with 10% describing their day-to-day activities as 'limited a lot' and 12% describing their day-to-day activities as 'limited a little'.

C.22 Census 2021 also provides information on the number of residents in a household with a limiting long-term health problem or disability. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough there are approximately 84,600 households of which approximately 11% have two or more residents with a limiting long-term health problem or disability while 32% have one resident with a limiting long-term health problem or disability.

C.23 On Census Day 2021, an estimated 69,000 (31.6%) residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough reported that they had a long-term health condition. Of those, 16.8% has one long-term health condition while 3.7% had 4 or more long-term health conditions.

C.24 The most common conditions reported by residents were 'Long-term pain or discomfort' (10.76%) and 'A mobility or dexterity difficulty' (10.03%), followed by 'shortness of breath or difficulty breathing' (9.37%). These were similar to the levels for NI overall (11.58%, 10.91% and 10.29% respectively).

C.25 The most common disease in the southern trust in 2023/24 was hypertension, followed by asthma, diabetes and kidney disease **[See reference** 18**]**.

Providing care

C.26 At the 2021 census, 24,700 (12%) people aged 5 years and over, 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. This included 1% of those aged 5 to 14 years and 20% of those aged 40 to 60 years providing unpaid care within the Borough.

C.27 At February 2024 **[See reference** 19**]**, there were 2,940 people under 16 years of age claiming Disability Living Allowance in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. There were also 8,240 people claiming Carers Allowance and 6,380 people claiming Attendance Allowance. 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

C.28 The Continuous Household Survey (CHS) **[See reference** 20**]** is designed to provide a regular source of information on a variety of issues relevant to Northern Ireland including participation in sports. The findings of the survey show that participation in sport by adults in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough was similar to that for Northern Ireland overall most years. After reaching a high of 61% participation in 2019/20, in 2021/22, participation in sport by adults in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough fell to just 40% which was 5 percentage points below the Northern Ireland average.

C.29 By 2023/24, participation had increased to 57% in the Borough which is six percentage points above the Northern Ireland average of 51%. In 2023/24 in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 50% of respondents participated in sport (excludes walking) in the previous 4 weeks compared to 44% in Northern Ireland overall.

C.30 In the Borough and Northern Ireland overall the proportion of respondents who normally participate in sport on at least one day per week has fallen slightly since 2019/203. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, 54% of respondents stated that they normally participate in sport on at least one day per week compared to 48% in Northern Ireland overall.

C.31 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.

Children and physical activity

C.32 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 **[See reference** 21**]**, **[See reference** 22**]**.

C.33 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 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 **[See reference** 23**]** 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.

C.34 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. The survey also found that 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.

Infant and child health

C.35 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.

C.36 The State of Child Health Report 2017 **[See reference** 24**]** 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.

C.37 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 mains 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

C.38 Health Survey Northern Ireland data **[See reference** 25**]** 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.

C.39 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, confectionary, 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

C.40 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.

Mental health

C.41 The Health Survey NI 2024/25 reported that across NI one in six respondents (18%) scored highly on the GHQ12 **[See reference** 26**]** (General Health Questionnaire) suggesting they may have a possible mental health problem. The proportion of females indicating a possible mental health remained at 20%% between

2023/24 and 2024/25. The findings for males dropped from 18% in 2023/2024 to 15% in 2024/25 indicating a potential recent improvement in male mental health. Respondents in the most deprived areas (24%) were twice as likely to record a high GHQ12 score as those in the least deprived areas (14%).

C.42 Mental health baseline data for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 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).

C.43 The CP Baseline Report notes that in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 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.

C.44 As discussed under 'admission rates' above, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 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

C.45 In accordance with the Environmental Noise Directive (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 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 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 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.

C.46 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 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough.

C.47 Within Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 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 with regards to aircraft or train noise.

Health care facilities and ambulance response times

C.48 The Borough is part of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCTS), who together with the Department of Health have responsibility for health and social care services within the Borough.

C.49 There are currently four hospitals within the Borough. Armagh Community Hospital only provides services for outpatients.

- Craigavon Area Hospital
- Lurgan Hospital
- St Lukes Hospital, Armagh
- Armagh Community Hospital

C.50 Acute services are carried out at Craigavon Area Hospital and mental health care is primarily carried out at St Luke's Hospital, Armagh.

C.51 A full description of the services provided by each hospital is included in the 'Health, Education and Community Uses' technical supplement. This document 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 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2013 was 7 minutes 28 seconds, ranking 7th 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, Moneyslane and Derrymore) are likely to have significantly higher travel times than the Borough average.

C.52 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.

C.53 As outlined GP surgeries in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 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 within this report. 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

C.54 Health inequalities are the differences in health that occur within a population which is a direct result of their social circumstance. There are many social causes to health inequalities that may include where someone is born, lives or works.

C.55 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 (SOAs) **[See reference** 27**]** which are in the 20% most deprived areas (ranked 1-178) in terms of health and disability. It can be seen that the highest ranked (most deprived) SOAs are clustered within the settlements of Armagh City, Banbridge, Lurgan and Portadown.

C.56 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.

C.57 The report found that from the previous year's average, inequality gaps in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 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 SAR self-Harm, SDR alcohol related causes, SAR drug related causes, SAR alcohol related causes and smoking during pregnancy.

Health Survey Northern Ireland

C.58 '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%).

C.59 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

C.60 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.

C.61 The total number of road traffic collisions with police-recorded injuries in the Borough in 2023-24 was 1660. Of these road traffic collisions 199 resulted in driver or passenger(s) being killed or seriously injured **[See reference** 28**]**.

Radon

C.62 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. Figure C.7 shows the radon levels across the borough.

C.63 An indicative atlas of radon levels in homes throughout Northern Ireland has been published by Public Health England with the Geological Survey. High radon levels are noted to the north and west of Armagh and also in the south eastern part of the Borough near Rathfrilland. 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.

C.64 The atlas shows that in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 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.

Community

C.65 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 Technical Supplements. Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) data in general and its Area Profile for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 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.

C.66 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 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.

Population

C.67 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.

C.68 At the time of the 2021 Census **[See reference** 29**]**, the population of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough was 218,656 accounting for 11.48% of the NI total. This represents a 9.5% increase since the 2011 Census. The population density, at the 2021 census, was approximately 164 usual residents per square kilometre, above the NI average of 141 per square km.

C.69 For the period 2001-2016 the rate of population growth in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough been almost double that for NI as a whole, with an estimated increase of 19.5% compared with 10.3% for NI.

C.70 Predicted population growth in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough from 2021 to 2035 **[See reference** 30**]** is set to be significantly higher at 10.6% than the NI rate of growth which is predicted to be 2.2%. This projected increase of 23,167 is projected to be the largest growth in population of all 11 NI Council areas.

C.71 As discussed in the CP Baseline Report for Communities, in the 2014 projections Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 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.

C.72 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) **[See reference** 31**]** 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 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough under the NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 (NIMDM 2017).

C.73 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 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough under the NIMDM2017. Hockley and Fort would rank among the least deprived SOAs in the LGD.

Religious belief

C.74 On Census Day 2021, 43.8% of residents in the Borough belonged to or were brought up in the Catholic religion and 46.7% belong to or were brought up in a Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) religion. A further 1.2% belonged to or had been brought up in other religions while 8.2% neither belonged to, nor had been brought up in a religion .

Political opinion

C.75 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council has 41 elected members. A breakdown of results of the Local Government Election in May 2023 for the borough are as follows:

- Democratic Unionist Party – 13
- Ulster Unionist Party – 6
- Sinn Fein – 15
- Social Democratic and Labour Party – 1
- Alliance – 4
- Independent – 1
- TUV – 1

C.76 A total of 87,684 votes were polled in the Borough from an eligible electorate of 155,625 giving an overall turnout of 56.34%. This breakdown is taken as an approximate representation of the political opinion of people within the Borough.

Country of birth and ethnic group

C.77 On Census Day 2021 in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 3.3% of the resident population were from an ethnic minority population; and the remaining 96.7% were white. The 2021 Census recorded 534 Irish Travellers in the Borough. The main ethnic minorities were Mixed (1,652 individuals), Black African (1,132 individuals) and Chinese (683 individuals).

C.78 On Census Day 2021, 96,663 people (44.2%) living in the borough identified as ‘British’. This is down from 100,825 people (50.5%) in 2011. In Northern Ireland overall, the percentage has also fallen however there remains a greater proportion in the borough who identify as ‘British’.

C.79 The number of people living in the borough who identified as 'Irish' has increased from 50,284 people (25.2%) in 2011 to 65,115 people (29.8%). This is still below the Northern Ireland average where 33.3% of the population identify as 'Irish'.

C.80 The number of people identifying as 'Northern Irish' was 66,457 people or 30.4% of those living in the Borough. This is up from 57,613 people (28.8%) in 2011. In Northern Ireland overall, approximately 31.5% of the population identify as 'Northern Irish'.

C.81 In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, approximately 8.6% of the population recorded their national identity as 'Other' which is above the rate for Northern Ireland at 6%.

C.82 Results from the 2021 Census show that 85.5% of residents in the Borough were born in Northern Ireland. 8.6% of residents, or 18,836 individuals, were born outside the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland.

C.83 The number of people living in the borough who were born outside the United Kingdom and Ireland has increased from 10,816 people (5.5%) in 2011 to 18,836 people (8.6%) in 2021. Of those 18,836 people living in the borough who were born outside of the United Kingdom and Ireland, 20% were born in Poland and 16% in Lithuania with a further 9% born in Bulgaria.

C.84 In Northern Ireland overall there has also been an increase from 81,500 people (4.5%) in 2011 to 124,300 people (6.5%) in 2021. Again, the majority of those living in Northern Ireland who were born outside of the UK and Ireland were born in Poland (18%) and Lithuania (8%). People born in India and Bulgaria also account for over 5% each. At 8.6%, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon has the third highest percentage of the population born outside the UK and Ireland, after Belfast and Mid Ulster.

C.85 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%).

C.86 The statistics on main language show that Irish was the main language of residents aged 3 and over for only 0.2% of the borough (0.3% in Northern Ireland overall). However, in terms of language ability, Census 2021 shows that 12.2% (25,644 people) in the borough aged 3 and over had some ability in the Irish language. This is up from 10.3% in 2011.

C.87 Results from Census 2021 show that 6.8% of residents in the borough aged 3+ years (14,376 individuals) spoke a language other than English as their main

language. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough in 2021, the most prevalent main languages other than English were Polish (1.7%) and Lithuanian (1.2%). On Census Day 2021, 9.7% (20,320 people) in the borough aged 3 and over had some ability in the Ulster-Scots language. This is up from 6% in 2011.

Age

C.88 The population of the borough was estimated to be 218,656 on Census Day 2021, the profile of which is shown below.

Table C.2: Age Profile of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census Day 2021 [See reference **32**]

Age Group	Number of People	% of Population
0-15 years	48, 243	22.06%
16-24 years	21, 774	9.96%
25-49 years	72, 023	32.94%
50- 64 years	41, 626	19.04%
65 years and over	34, 990	16.0%
TOTAL	**218, 656**	**100.0%**

C.89 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%

C.90 The 2021 census found that of the 18.04% of households within the Borough had adaptations to accommodate a disability or impairment **[See reference** 33**]**, with the most common adaptations being for internal wheelchair use (9.59%), followed by other adaptations for physical or mobility issues such as external wheelchair access (8.55%).

Disability

C.91 According to the 2021 Census, more than one in five people in the borough (22% or 48,726 individuals) had a limiting long-term health problem or disability.

C.92 Census 2021 results are disaggregated by broad age bands, and the results show the prevalence of a limiting long-term health problem or disability is related to age **[See reference** 34**]**.

Table C.3: Limiting long-term health problem or disability by age band, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough [See reference **35**]

Age	Number of People	Number of People with a limiting long term health problem or disability	% of People with a limiting long term health problem or disability
0-14 years	45,420	2,759	6.1%
15-39 years	67,700	7,367	10.9%
40-64 years	70,547	18,715	26.5%
65+ years	34,990	19,885	56.8%
TOTAL	**218,657**	**48,726**	**22.3%**

C.93 As presented in Table C.3, almost 57% of the population aged 65+ in the borough had a limiting long-term health problem or disability compared to 6% of those aged between 0-14.

C.94 Benefit statistics from the Department for Communities showed that as of May 2024 there were:

- 3,030 or 6.2% of under 16 eligible population and 4,490 or 13.3% of pension age eligible population claiming Disability Living Allowance.
- 6,480 or 19.1% of 66+ population claiming Attendance Allowance.
- 21,340 Personal Independent Payment claims in payment (experimental statistics).

Marital status

C.95 The 2021 Census provides information on the marital and civil partnership status of those aged 16 and over. Almost half of residents aged 16+ in the borough were married (49.0%).

Table C.4: Marital and civil partnership status of residents aged 16+ in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough [See reference **36**]

Marital and Civil Partnership Status	Number of People	Percentage of People
Single (never married or never registered civil partnership)	60, 075	35.3%
Married	83,523	49.0%
In a civil partnership	307	0.2%
Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership)	5,833	3.4%
Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	10,253	6.0%
Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership	10,420	6.1%

C.96 Single people (35.3%) 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

C.97 The question on sexual orientation was new for the 2021 Census and was asked of all people aged 16 and over. However, while completing the census is a legal obligation, there was no statutory penalty for those people who failed to provide an answer to the question on sexual orientation.

Table C.5: Sexual Orientation of residents aged 16 and over in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2021 [See reference **37**]

Sexual Orientation	Number of People	% of People
Straight or heterosexual	154,259	90.5%
Lesbian, gay, bisexual or other (LGB+)	2,497	1.5%
Gay or Lesbian	1,378	0.8%
Bisexual	901	0.5%
Other sexual orientation	218	0.1%
No sexual orientation stated	13,657	8.0%
Prefer not to say	8,290	4.9%
Not stated	5,367	3.1%

C.98 The results from the question on sexual orientation are presented in Table 9. Just 1.5% of the population aged 16 and over in the borough identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or other (LGB+) while 90.5% identified as straight or heterosexual and 8% did not provide an answer to the question.

Gender

C.99 The 2021 Census recorded 110,388 females in the borough (50.5%) and 108,268 males (49.5%). These proportions have remained relatively static since 2011.

C.100 When disaggregated by age, the population increase was greatest in the older age groups. The number of people aged 65+ increased by 7,363 or 26.7%. For those aged 75+, there was a 34% increase. The proportion of the population aged 15-29 fell by 6.4% between 2011 and 2021.

C.101 For those aged up to 39 years, the number of males outnumber the number of females, albeit only marginally. However, in the 40+ age group, there are more females than males **[See reference** 38**]**.

People with dependants and people without

C.102 On Census Day 2021, in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough approximately 52% of households had no children with a further 16% having no dependent children (all children in household are non-dependent). In Northern Ireland overall, 55% of households had no children and almost 16% had no

dependent children. Approximately 32% of households in the borough had 1 or more dependent children with 63% of those having 2 or more dependent children.

Table C.6: Number of dependent children in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough- Census 2021

Number of dependent children	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	Northern Ireland
All households	84,642	768,809
No children	51.97%	55.14%
No dependent children	15.91%	15.65%
1 dependent child (Age 0-4)	3.85%	3.54%
1 dependent child (Age 5-11)	2.80%	2.75%
1 dependent child (Age 12-18)	5.28%	5.10%
2 dependent child (Age 0-4)	4.75%	4.24%
2 dependent child (Age 5-11)	5.26%	4.75%
2 dependent child (Age 12-18)	2.73%	2.41%
3 dependent child (Age 0-4)	3.65%	3.14%
3 dependent child (Age 5-11)	3.30%	2.82%
3 dependent child (Age 12-18)	0.51%	0.46%

Deprivation

C.103 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 C.7). 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 C.7: Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 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
Corcrain_2	Urban	108
The Cut	Urban	120
Keady	Rural	125
Corcrain_1	Urban	129
Tavanagh	Urban	164

C.104 For the ‘Income’ and ‘Access to Services’ domains, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 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’. Figure C.3 shows the Index of Multiple Deprivation across the Borough.

C.105 In 2012/13-2014/15, 21.1% of the population were in relative poverty (before housing costs) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, compared with 20.4% in Northern Ireland. 23.4% of children were in relative poverty, compared with 22.8% in Northern Ireland. 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.

Rural

C.106 Results from the 2021 Census show that approximately 77% of the borough's households were located in one of the settlements which planning classify as urban whilst approximately 23% of the Boroughs households live in households in the countryside (i.e. rural areas outside of settlements). Note that this figure varies from the NISRA default urban/rural settlement classification. NISRA classify settlements with a population greater than or equal to 5,000 as urban while those with a population less than 5,000 are classified as rural. The NISRA urban to rural split for our Borough is approximately 51% to 49%.

C.107 Craigavon Urban Area (which includes Central Craigavon, Lurgan and Portadown), Banbridge, Armagh and Dromore are the four urban areas within the borough, all other settlements are classified as rural according to the NISRA default classification. These four urban areas all contain settlements with population over 5,000.

Crime

C.108 The Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Policing District covers the Borough. There are two local policing teams and four neighbourhood policing teams covering the Borough **[See reference** 39**]**.

C.109 Police recorded crime **[See reference** 40**]** (excluding fraud) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough was 9,009 in 2024/25 which was a decrease of 10.8% on 2023/24. In Northern Ireland, recorded crime (excluding fraud) fell between 2023/24 (104,201) and 2024/25 (95,968) by 7.9%. When compared with 2014/15, recorded crime (excluding fraud) is now almost 9% lower in the Borough and 7% lower in Northern Ireland in 2024/25.

Shared space and community facilities

C.110 The Technical Supplement for Education, Health and Community Facilities details community facilities in the Borough **[See reference** 41**]**.

C.111 Libraries NI is the body with overall responsibility for the provision of library services in Northern Ireland. There are currently 10 library branches in operation in

the Borough. A further 40 locations within the Borough are visited by a mobile library service operated by Libraries NI.

C.112 The Council provides a range of community facilities / venues either via direct ownership or via financial support including leisure centres, recreation centres and community centres offering sports facilities. There are also a significant number of play parks, Neighbourhood Equipped Playgrounds, MUGAs (Multi-Use Games Areas) and Outdoor Gyms throughout the Borough.

Housing

Overview

C.113 The following summarises the position in relation to housing:

- Household stock and Tenure **[See reference** 42**]** – On Census Day 2021 there were a total of 84,642 occupied households in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Of these, 58,110 (68.7%) were owner occupied while 26,532 (31.3%) were rented accommodation with 1,936 of these households living rent free. Census 2021 figures also show the tenure of people living in households. In March 2021 72% of the Boroughs population were living in in owner occupied households. Approximately 28% or just over 60,000 people lived in rented accommodations.
- 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 – Over one fifth (22%) of the usually resident population, reported that their day-to-day activities are limited by a health problem or

disability, with 10% describing their day-to-day activities as 'limited a lot' and 12% describing their day-to-day activities as 'limited a little' **[See reference** 43**]**.

- Social Housing Needs **[See reference** 44**]** – The five-year assessment for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough for 2024-29 shows a need for an additional 1,622 units over this period. North Lurgan and Portadown 2 exhibit the highest levels of social housing need in the Borough with 296 and 261 units required respectively.
- Social Housing Needs- As of March 2025, there were 4,148 applicants on the waiting list in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Of these applicants, 2,760 (or 66.5%) were in housing stress (where they have 30 or more points under the Common Selection Scheme.) The number of applicants on the waiting list and the number in housing stress has increased over the past year and the number of applicants in housing stress is currently the highest it has been of the years presented. More than 410 applicants were allocated social housing in the Borough in the year ending March 2025, almost 15% less than the previous year, the majority of these were allocated to single persons (43%). The remaining were small family households (25.5%) and 13% were older person households, indicating a need for smaller housing units.

Affordable housing

C.114 For Quarter 4 of 2024, the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Council area had a standardised price (from the housing price index) of £167,907 which made the area the third most affordable in Northern Ireland (behind Mid & East Antrim and Derry City & Strabane), £15,352 less than the NI average (£183,259). This figure increased by 6.7% on the previous 12 months, 2.3% less than the NI average change over the same period. Affordability remains an issue for first time buyers who cannot access mortgage finance.

C.115 At 2021 there were 84,642 households in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, which is an increase of 9,136 households on the 2011 Census figure of 75,506. Owner occupied housing represents the largest overall sector of occupied housing stock at 69%.

C.116 Private rented housing comprises 21% of total occupied housing stock within the Borough. This has become the accommodation of choice for many households, especially younger households on lower incomes who would have previously made up first time buyers. The Borough has the highest number of private rented accommodation outside Belfast **[See reference** 45**]**, with 645 lettings in the first half of 2024.

C.117 Social Rented housing sector accounts for 10% of the housing stock share in the Borough, with 7,305 properties within the Borough at March 2023 **[See reference** 46**]**.

Rural housing

C.118 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

C.119 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.

C.120 NIHE House Condition Survey 2011 **[See reference** 47**]** 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

C.121 NIHE House Condition Survey 2011 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%.

C.122 ‘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.

Education and skills

C.123 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. Figure C.4 shows the location of primary and secondary schools across the Borough.

Pre-school, primary, post primary, further education and special education

C.124 The Department for Education is the government body that has responsibility for education within Northern Ireland. The Education Authority is responsible for ensuring that efficient and effective primary and secondary education services are available to meet the needs of children and young people and support for the provision of efficient and effective youth services.

C.125 The Northern Ireland School Census takes place in October each year and provides a snapshot of the situation in schools at that time. Information from the School Census shows that the total number of enrolments in educational establishments in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough increased year on year between 2014/15 and 2022/23 with a total increase of 9.4% (3,656 pupils). In the two years since then, there has been a decline in the total enrolments (198 pupils, 0.5%).

C.126 The numbers enrolled in pre-school education centres have fluctuated slightly over the years presented with a high in 2015/16 of 1,000 enrolments, dropping to a low of 759 in 2024/25. This represents a fall of 52 (6.4%) since 2023/24. Nursery school enrolments have remained relatively steady since 2014/15 while Primary school enrolments have been decreasing each year since 2018/19 when they were at their highest. Post-primary school enrolments have increased each year since 2015/16 and overall, since 2015/16 when they were at their lowest, enrolments have increased by 2,863 or 18.6%. Special schools have seen the greatest percentage increase in enrolments between 2014/15 and 2024/25, rising by 54.3% to 486 in 2024/25.

C.127 In October 2024 there were 33 voluntary and private pre-school education centres in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in which there were 759 pupils enrolled.

C.128 A total of 22,003 pupils were enrolled in 90 primary schools across the borough when the Northern Ireland School Census was conducted in October 2024. In October 2024 there were a total of 23 post-primary schools in the Borough in which there were 18,296 pupils enrolled.

C.129 There were 486 pupils enrolled in 3 special schools in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in October 2024.

Post primary attainment

C.130 The school leavers survey provides information on the achievements of school leavers at both A-level and GCSE. The data refers to the home residence of pupils. In 2023/24 just under 47% of school leavers in the borough achieved 2+ A-levels (or equivalent). This represents a further decrease on the previous school year and is the fourth consecutive year of decline. In Northern Ireland overall, just less than 54% of leavers achieved 2+ A-levels (or equivalent) in the academic year 2023/24.

C.131 With regards GCSE attainment, in 2023/24, just over 86% of school leavers in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A* - C (or equivalent). This remains lower than the Northern Ireland figure of 87.4% with both the Borough and Northern Ireland overall again having experienced a fall in the percentage of leavers achieving at least 5 GCSE's grades A* - C (or equivalent).

Table C.8: School Leaver Attainment in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2013/14 - 2023/24

Year	Achieved 2+ A-levels (or equivalent) – ABC %	Achieved 2+ A-levels (or equivalent) – NI %	Achieved at least 5 GCSE Grades A*- C (or equivalent) – ABC %	Achieved at least 5 GCSE Grades A*- C (or equivalent) – NI %
2013/14	48.7	55.7	76.3	78.6
2014/15	52.2	57.7	81.1	81.1
2015/16	49.1	57.3	78.2	81.7
2016/17	52.3	58.5	81.4	83.8
2017/18	49.0	56.7	79.9	85.2

Year	Achieved 2+ A-levels (or equivalent) – ABC %	Achieved 2+ A-levels (or equivalent) – NI %	Achieved at least 5 GCSE Grades A*- C (or equivalent) – ABC %	Achieved at least 5 GCSE Grades A*- C (or equivalent) – NI %
2018/19	46.9	55.6	82.5	86.4
2019/20	52.8	59.8	88.9	91.3
2020/21	50.7	60.5	90.5	92.1
2021/22	48.9	57.8	90.3	91.9
2022/23	47.3	56.2	87.0	89.8
2023/24	46.7	53.8	86.3	87.4

Higher education enrolments

C.132 In 2023/24, 36.1% of school leavers in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough entered Higher Education Institutions which is just 0.6 percentage points less than the previous year. The percentage continuing on to Institutes of Further Education has also fallen from 39.4% in 2022/23 to 38.4% in 2023/24. The proportions entering employment and training have increased for the fourth consecutive year. Entering employment or training straight after school appear to be becoming increasingly popular options with more than 1 in 5 students in the Borough and nearly 1 in 4 in Northern Ireland overall choosing one of these options. With regards the proportions entering unemployment/unknown, having been at its highest in 2022/23, this has fallen to 3.7% in the Borough in 2023/24 which puts it below the rate for Northern Ireland overall (4.1%).

Table C.9: Destination of School Leavers in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2013/14- 2023/24 [See reference **48**]

Year	Higher Education %	Further Education %	Employment %	Training %	Unemployed/ Unknown %
2013/14	40.0	43.9	3.9	8.9	3.3
2014/15	37.6	45.6	5.9	7.5	3.3
2015/16	36.9	43.1	5.7	9.4	4.8
2016/17	39.2	41.0	6.5	9.2	4.1
2017/18	39.8	40.9	5.6	10.3	3.4
2018/19	35.9	41.5	6.3	12.4	3.9

Year	Higher Education %	Further Education %	Employment %	Training %	Unemployed/ Unknown %
2019/20	39.7	42.1	4.9	9.8	3.5
2020/21	41.7	37.3	7.2	10.8	3.0
2021/22	39.4	37.4	7.4	11.5	4.3
2022/23	35.5	39.4	7.7	12.2	5.1
2023/24	36.1	38.4	7.8	14.1	3.7

Skills level of working age population

C.133 The 2021 Census asked about qualification levels of residents ranging from no qualifications to level 4 and above. The type of qualification at each level is shown in Table C.10 overleaf.

Table C.10: Qualification Groups

Qualification	Description
No qualification	No academic or professional qualifications
Level 1	1-4 GCSEs, O Levels, CSEs, NVQ Level 1 or equivalent qualifications
Level 2	5+ GCSEs (Grades A*-C, 9-4), O Levels (Passes), CSEs (Grade 1), 1 A Level, 2-3 AS Levels, NVQ Level 2, BTEC General, City and Guilds Craft or equivalent qualifications
Apprenticeship	Apprenticeship
Level 3	2+ A Levels, 4+ AS Levels, NVQ Level 3, BTEC National, OND or ONC, City and Guilds Advanced Craft or equivalent qualifications
Level 4	Degree, foundation degree, HND, HNC, NVQ Level 4-5, professional qualifications (e.g. teaching) or equivalent qualifications
Other Qualifications	Any other qualifications, equivalent unknown

C.134 In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough the percentage of residents aged 16 and over with no qualifications (25.2%) was slightly higher than Northern Ireland overall (23.8%). Level 1 qualifications and apprenticeships showed similar proportions in both the borough and Northern Ireland. Those with

qualifications at level 4 and above was lower in the borough (30.4%) than Northern Ireland (32.1%).

Table C.11: Highest level of Qualifications Attained of all usual residents aged 16 and over

Qualifications	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough %	Northern Ireland %
None	25.2	23.8
Level 1	5.8	5.9
Level 2	14.1	13.6
Apprenticeship	6.5	6.4
Level 3	15.5	16.0
Level 4 and above	30.4	32.1
Other	2.4	2.2

Economy and employment

C.135 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

C.136 Craigavon urban area is made up of the three centres of Lurgan, Portadown and Central Craigavon with a growing population of around 72,000 in 2021. 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. It is well connected to both Belfast and Dublin.

C.137 Central Craigavon is a distinct town centre with a built form that dates back around 50 years and was developed as part of Northern Ireland's first new town in 1965, a modernist "linear city" to incorporate Lurgan and Portadown. It has a well-established retail function, a strong manufacturing and industry base and benefits from a lakeside setting with leisure and tourism functions.

C.138 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.

C.139 In 2021, Banbridge had a population of approximately 17,000 and 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.

C.140 Armagh City with a population of around 16,000 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, old gaol, planetarium and Navan Fort. Armagh's potential in tourism terms relies largely upon strategic improvements to the transport corridor around the city.

C.141 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

C.142 It is estimated that 121,000 people (aged 16+) in the borough were in employment in 2024. The majority of those in employment were working full-time (77% of those aged 16+). In 2024, the economic inactivity rate (16-64) in the Borough of 19.2% is the lowest figure since 2009 5.1 percentage points below the Northern Ireland average. Between 2009 and 2024, the economic inactivity rate (16-64) in the Borough has been consistently below the Northern Ireland average. Economically inactive people are those 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.

C.143 The employment rate for the Borough in 2024 was 67.6% for those aged 16+ and 79.3% for those aged 16 to 64. For those aged 16 to 64, the employment rate has been higher in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough than the Northern Ireland average since 2009. The Borough employment rate declined

between 2018 and 2021 but increased greatly in 2022 and again in 2023 . At 79.3% in 2024, the working age employment rate in the Borough is now 5 percentage points above the Northern Ireland average.

Employment sectors

C.144 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.

C.145 When compared to NI as a whole, 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. The 2015 employee trends continue in the BRES 2022 survey which also reveals that our Borough has a higher % of employees in transport & storage sector 5.71%, 50% higher than the NI average of 3.81%. These differences are likely due to the Borough being home to 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, EoS, 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. The dPS Economic Development Strategy has estimated that up to 17,000 new jobs will need to be created over the period 2016-2035.

C.146 In 2024, the BRES estimated 114,000 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 & 2020-2022, but appear to be steadily increasing. 47% of employee jobs in September 2023 were held by males and 53% by females, however a significantly greater proportion (39%) of male employees were working full time (>30 hrs per week) with only 27% of female employees working full time.

C.147 The employment rate for the Borough in 2024 was 67.6% for those aged 16+ which is higher than Northern Ireland overall. For those aged 16 to 64, the employment rate has been higher in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough since 2009. The employment rate for both age groups in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough had been in decline between 2018 and 2021 but increased

greatly in 2022 and again in 2023 and 2024 to what is now the highest of the years presented. At 79.3% in 2024, the working age employment rate in the Borough is now 5 percentage points above the Northern Ireland average while the employment rate for those aged 16+ in the Borough is 6.2 percentage points above the Northern Ireland average.

C.148 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 , representing 11-12% of those in employment (NI 14%). The Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) recorded 9,9,400 businesses in the Borough in 2025, 11.6% of all businesses in NI and the fourth highest number in NI LGDs. Of these, 26.5% were in the Agriculture sector (NI 23.5%). It is notable that the Borough has the highest number of transport & storage and motor trade businesses in the 11 NI LGDs. The IDBR excludes smaller businesses and the self-employed who fall below the VAT registered/PAYE thresholds. Almost 90% of the businesses on the IDBR are micro-businesses, with 0-9 employees and a further 8.5% are small businesses with 10-49 employees.

Earnings from employment

C.149 The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 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 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

C.150 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. 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.

C.151 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

C.152 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.

C.153 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.

Competitiveness

C.154 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 , 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

C.155 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' Preparatory Study Paper **[See reference** 49**]** summarise the results of surveys carried out on the main town centres in 2015. This report is consistent with the findings of the 2023 LDP Retail and Commercial Leisure Study. 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' 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 Boulevard Outlet, Banbridge) 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'.

C.156 Borough Town Centre, vacancy rates in April 2025 were favourable compared to the rates for the town centres in the rest of NI and the NI average of 23%. Borough Town Centre vacancy rates were: Armagh 17.6%, Banbridge 14.9%, Craigavon 7.8%, Dromore 23.0%, Lurgan 18.8% and Portadown 20.6% (NI 23%). Of the 41 town centres detailed, Craigavon Town Centre is second lowest vacancy rates and Banbridge is seventh. Dromore has the sixth highest vacancy rate (23%) and Portadown (20.6) is also in the bottom third in terms of vacancy rate. The vacancy rates in the Boulevard Outlet, located outside Banbridge, have fallen significantly since a high of 37% in 2015. With the changing and dynamic scale and nature of retailing, a comprehensive updated Retail Capacity Study will be required for the LDP.

C.157 The Borough shares a border with County Monaghan in Ireland. The 'Town Centres and Opportunity Sites' Discussion Paper mention that Keady in particular benefits from strong cross border trade and cultural associations with the nearby

towns of Castleblaney and Monaghan. The uncertainty following ‘Brexit’ may add to the challenges experienced in towns along the border area.

Tourism

C.158 Investment in tourism brings new facilities to our City, 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.

C.159 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.

C.160 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 (compared to 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. 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.

C.161 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%).

C.162 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.

C.163 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%).

C.164 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.

Material assets

C.165 A detailed baseline of information is presented in the 'Public Utilities' Local Development Plan preparatory study **[See reference** 50**]**. This topic also overlaps with the Economy and Employment, Physical Resources, Climate Change and Landscape topics of this report.

Telecommunications/electrical infrastructure

C.166 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.

C.167 Although the Borough is generally well connected with 82% of premises having access to superfast fixed line broadband **[See reference** 51**]**, 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).

C.168 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, is lower relative to the rest of the UK. Both 3G and 4G are available in the Council but 3G is the most common.

C.169 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.

C.170 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 **[See reference** 52**]**.

C.171 SONI presents a live link 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.

Energy supply and distribution

C.172 In total Northern Ireland has three fossil fuelled power stations. 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 indicates a growth in renewables and the decrease in the use of oil for domestic heating both evident.

C.173 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.

C.174 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

C.175 Renewable energy can be defined as energy derived from natural sources which can be replenished faster than they are consumed. The Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-2015 and beyond, is endorsed by the NI Executive and had a target of 40% of electricity consumption to be from renewables by 2020, which was achieved. The Climate Change (NI) Act 2022 commits NI to generating 80% of its electricity supply from renewable sources by 2030.

C.176 The significant majority of all renewable electricity generated in NI is derived from onshore wind (82.1% in 2021, slightly down from 84.5% in 2019) **[See reference** 53**]**. Applications for turbines (single turbines and windfarms) have historically formed the majority of planning applications for renewables, with solar, hydroelectric and biomass schemes less common. The location of renewable energy infrastructure that is over 150kw across the Borough can be found on Figure C.2.

C.177 With the growth of renewables in Northern Ireland, the ability of the grid to accommodate new connections is becoming more of an issue.

C.178 Between 2004 and 2024, three windfarms and 235 single turbines had been approved in the Borough. 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.

Waste management

C.179 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.

C.180 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 recycling targets set by the Department for municipal waste. This will become increasingly important, as there are no active landfill sites in the Borough. The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 introduces a requirement for the Department to ensure that at least 70% of waste is recycled by 2030.

C.181 The Northern Ireland Revised Waste Management Strategy supports sustainable development, the waste management hierarchy and resource efficiency.

At its core is to reduce waste; and then reuse, recycle or recover, before any consideration of landfilling. The proportion of municipal waste collected and prepared for reuse, recycling and composting in the Borough has increased from 48.02% in 2015 to 54.3% in 2020 , and is around 4% above the NI average.

C.182 The Council recognises that recyclable waste has a value and that the non-recyclable waste can be used as an energy source.

C.183 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council works jointly with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council under a shared Joint Councils Waste Management Plan, most recently updated in the Joint Councils Addendum to the Waste Management Plan 2024. This plan coordinates long term waste management across the three council areas, reflecting updated recycling and landfill diversion targets as well as changes in waste legislation since 2015, ensuring all councils take a unified, strategic approach to waste reduction, resource efficiency and compliance with national policy.

Derelict/contaminated land

C.184 The Historic 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. There are 1,738 records on the Land Use Database in our area.

Physical resources

C.185 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

C.186 There are 14 active quarry sites in the Borough that mainly extract limestone and sandstone, with two additional landing sites along the southern shores of Lough Neagh where sand and gravel is taken in following extraction within Lough Neagh.

The active hard rock quarries are all located across the southern half of the Borough, mainly to the west. Some commercial peat extraction also takes place in raised bogs near to Lough Neagh. There are old lead mines in parts of the Borough (mainly to the south-west). A large Area of Constraint on Minerals Development (comprising two designations) (ACMDs) extends southwards from (and including) Lough Neagh) to the M1 Motorway. These ACMDs overlap important International (Ramsar), European (SAC) and National (ASSI) natural heritage designations.

C.187 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. 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.

C.188 The local minerals industry makes a significant contribution to the local and regional economy and it is an important employer, with many more jobs indirectly supported through the supply of minerals products, in particular construction and engineering. 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 **[See reference** 54**]**. 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.

C.189 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 conserve and enhance local biodiversity.

C.190 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.

C.191 In total, there are 23 ROMP sites in the Borough. A significant amount of these are located in 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.

C.192 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

C.193 Current Earth Science Conservation Review (ESCR) records identify at least five recognised Earth Science sites within the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (ABC) council area. These include Rock Road Quarry, Shannaghan Hill, Annacramph Lane, Drumarg Cave System, and the Drumarg Permian exposure, each designated for their important geological features and conservation value.

C.194 There are 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 **[See reference** 55**]**.

Geothermal energy

C.195 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.

C.196 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. 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) **[See reference** 56**]** discusses shallow geothermal energy. Ground source heat pumps have been installed in the Borough.

Land

C.197 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.

C.198 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 of the LDP ‘Pressure Analysis’. Single turbines and associated infrastructure can place pressure on land. Community based renewable energy projects can help to reduce these impacts.

C.199 Rural housing approvals from 2010 onward are shown within the LDP ‘Pressure Analysis’. These appear to be widely distributed across the Borough’s rural area with an approval rate of 82% between 2004 and 2024. There is some additional pressure from rural housing within the southern hinterland of Lough Neagh.

C.200 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

C.201 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. The distribution of priority habitat woodland across the Borough is displayed on Figure C9.

Land cover

C.202 The Northern Ireland Countryside Survey (2007) **[See reference 57]** 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

C.203 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.

Transport and accessibility

C.204 Figure C.5 shows the transport network across the Borough.

Car ownership

C.205 In 2021, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council had the second highest level of cars relative to other Councils at 128,927. Census 2021 data showed that 37.77% of households had access to one vehicle, 32.75% had access to two vehicles, 9.26% had access to three vehicles and 3.19% 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, 84.5% 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.

Roads

C.206 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.

C.207 At the time of the Census 2021, the number of employed people of working age in Armagh City Banbridge, Craigavon Borough Council (excluding full-time students) was 97,705. Of these 68.14% were driving to work by motorised vehicle (car/van). Other motorised transport included: car passenger (5.41%)/pool (0.67%); taxi (0.87%); motorbike (0.19%)). Just over 2% used public transport with 1.34% opting for the bus and 0.94% using the train. There were 4.82% of people in the Borough walking to work, which is more than those using public transport. Cycling was least popular with 0.68% of people using this mode. 0.78% indicated that they used other methods of transport.

Public transport

C.208 There are both bus and rail services available to people in the Borough. The main passenger bus stations are in Armagh City, 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.

C.209 Car parking provision is important to help enable car sharing and access to public transport for general travel and to key tourist destinations. Parking is managed across statutory agencies and the private sector. Planning for parking needs to take account of public transport services and routes, as well as walking and cycling networks. 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.

Electric charge points

C.210 In 2025 there were a total of 31 public charging points, including one ‘rapid charging’ unit **[See reference** 58**]**. In line with the transition to renewable energy and

low-carbon transport, numerous private, commercial, and domestic electric vehicle charging points are available throughout the Borough. In the future, with the switch from combustion engines to hybrids and 100% electric vehicles, there is likely to be a need for additional electric charging points.

Greenways

C.211 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. Both primary and secondary routes are evident in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.

C.212 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 Ballyroney.

C.213 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.

C.214 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.

Active travel

C.215 Opportunities for active and sustainable travel, with priority given to walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport movements over other vehicles will be encouraged.

C.216 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 **[See reference** 59**]**. 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.

C.217 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.

Air quality

C.218 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

C.219 Information on current air quality can be accessed at www.airqualityni.co.uk, where recent progress reports and screening assessments can also be found. There is one continuous monitoring site located in Armagh City at Lonsdale Road. Monitoring takes place for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and particulate matter (PM10), both generated from fossil fuel combustion. NO_2 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. PM10 can also cause respiratory and carcinogenic issues. There have been no exceedances of NO_2 at this location **[See reference** 60**]** but other parts of the Borough continue to exceed NO_2 health-based limits and these are further detailed below.

C.220 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

C.221 There is currently one active Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in the Borough. This is shown on Figure C.6. These are for NO_2 generated from road traffic because levels exceed health-based limits**[See reference** 61**]**. 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. NO2 levels are an indicator of traffic pollution. Maps for all of the AQMAs can be accessed at www.airqualityni.co.uk.

C.222 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_2 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

C.223 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.

C.224 The average annual mean concentration of NO_2 across Northern Ireland's urban background sites remained relatively stable between 2011 and 2016, varying between 20 and 23µg/m3. Since 2017 the average annual mean concentration of NO_2 has fallen below this level and was 14.4µg/m3 across Northern Ireland's urban background sites in 2021. Roadside nitrogen dioxide levels have decreased from 35.1µg/m³ in 2011 to 24.0µg/m³ in 2021.

C.225 PM10 which is also emitted from transport sources, has generally shown a decreasing trend in urban sites since 2003. PM10 in urban areas can come from road traffic and other fossil fuel combustion sources.

C.226 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 **[See reference** 62**]**.

C.227 Car ownership in the Borough relative to other Councils is high at 104,627 **[See reference** 63**]**, 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 **[See reference** 64**]**. 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.

C.228 There are already a number of 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.

C.229 There are proposals for a continuous pedestrian network in Banbridge that would link key locations and the town centre together **[See reference** 65**]**. 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

C.230 In the UK, air pollution is the largest environmental risk to public health. Long-term exposure to air pollution can cause chronic conditions such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases as well as lung cancer, leading to reduced life expectancy. Short-term increases in levels of air pollution can also cause a range of health impacts, including effects on lung function, exacerbation of asthma, increases in respiratory and cardiovascular hospital admissions and mortality. The annual mortality of human-made air pollution in the UK is roughly equivalent to between 28,000 and 36,000 deaths every year **[See reference** 66**]**. Public Health England **[See reference** 67**]** estimates that, in NI, around 553 deaths annually may be attributed to pollution from particulates, and 330 to NO2. PM10 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 **[See reference** 68**]**. Excessive ammonia emissions can also lead to increases in particulate matter which is associated with human health impacts. It is currently estimated that in the UK, life

expectancy is shortened by eight months because of poor air quality **[See reference** 69**]**.

Agricultural sources

C.231 Ammonia (NH3) is an air pollutant which arises mainly from agricultural practices. Other sources include transport, commercial and domestic combustion and industrial processes. Northern Ireland is responsible for 12% of UK ammonia emissions, despite only having 3% of UK population and 6% of the land area **[See reference** 70**]**. Ammonia is known to have a damaging impact on biodiversity, including sensitive habitats, and ecosystem resilience, as well as human health. It is produced by many common farming activities, such as the housing of livestock, the storage and spreading of manure and slurries and the application of fertiliser. Reducing ammonia emissions across Northern Ireland is a key DAERA priority**[See reference** 71**]**. Of the ammonia emissions from agriculture in 2020, 89% came from livestock, 7% came from the application of fertilisers and 4% came from the application of other organic materials to land (sewage sludge and digestate). Since 2001, ammonia emissions from livestock in NI have increased by 8%, but have decreased for the UK as a whole by 3% over the same period. Ammonia emissions from fertiliser use have significantly reduced by 33% over the period 2001-2020, but overall ammonia emissions have increased by 7% during this period **[See reference** 72**]**. Trends for declines in ammonia 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

C.232 Electricity supplied from renewables in Northern Ireland has generally increased every year since 2001 and 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 **[See reference** 73**]**. 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.

Climate change

C.233 Relevant information can be found across multiple sources including NISRA, the NI Environmental Statistics Report and the NI Greenhouse Gas Inventory. This topic overlaps with the Health and Well-Being, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport and Accessibility, Air Quality, Water, Natural Resources, Landscape and the Historic Environment sections of this report.

International context

C.234 In 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change (IPCC) published a Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C **[See reference** 74**]**. This Special Report indicates that there is a high degree of confidence that human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels, with a likely range of 0.8°C to 1.2°C.

C.235 The IPCC Special Report adds that estimated anthropogenic global warming is currently increasing at 0.2°C (likely between 0.1°C and 0.3°C) per decade due to past and ongoing emissions. Global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate.

C.236 A key message from the Special Report is that climate-related risks for natural and human systems are higher for global warming of 1.5°C than at present, but lower than at 2°C. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C is projected to lower the impacts on terrestrial, freshwater and coastal ecosystems and to retain more of their services to humans. While climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5°C, they will increase further with 2°C and adaptation may become more challenging.

C.237 Sustainable development supports, and often enables, the fundamental societal and systems transitions and transformations that help limit global warming to 1.5°C. Such changes facilitate the pursuit of climate-resilient development pathways that achieve ambitious mitigation and adaptation in conjunction with poverty eradication and efforts to reduce inequalities.

UK context

C.238 The 2008 Climate Change Act requires the UK to produce a report every five years on the risks and opportunities from climate change. The first UK National Adaptation Programme (UK NAP) was published in July 2013 for each devolved

administration. The first Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) was produced in 2012. The CCRA enters its third report cycle (CCRA 3) in 2022.

C.239 The UK level Climate Change Risk Assessment Reports have already highlighted the importance of focusing more action and further research on flooding and coastal change; the health risks from higher temperatures, water shortages, natural capital, food trade; and new pests, diseases and invasive non-native species.

C.240 The most recent land and marine climate projections for the UK (UKCP18 **[See reference** 75**]**) were published in November 2018. The UKCP18 reports that the average temperature over the most recent decade (2009-2018) has been on average 0.3 °C warmer than the 1981-2010 average and 0.9 °C warmer than the 1961-1990 average. All the top ten warmest years for the UK, in the series from 1884, have occurred since 2002. UKCP18 also reports that most recent decade (2009-2018) has been on average 1% wetter than 1981-2010 and 5% wetter than 1961-1990 for the UK overall. Mean sea level around the UK has risen by about 17 cm since the start of the 20th century (when corrected for land movement).

C.241 The CCC recommends a pathway for reduction of UK territorial [GHG] emissions to meet the Sixth Carbon Budget with four key steps: take up of low-carbon solutions, expansion of low-carbon energy supplies, reducing demand for carbon-intensive activities and land and greenhouse gas removals.

NI context

C.242 The CCRA 3 Evidence Summary for Northern Ireland **[See reference** 76**]** identifies 61 risks and opportunities from climate change to Northern Ireland, including to business, infrastructure, housing, the natural environment, our health and from the impacts of climate change internationally. “More action is needed now” to address 31 of these. Changing climatic conditions and extreme events, high and low temperatures, coastal, river, surface water and groundwater flooding, erosion, pests, pathogens and invasive species are all identified as risks where more action is needed.

C.243 In NI’s first Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP), published 2014, the focus was on flooding, water, natural capital, agriculture and forestry. Flooding, which has already affected people living within the Council area, was identified as “potentially one of the most significant and urgent risks” in NI **[See reference** 77**]**. NICCAP identified local Councils as being “particularly well placed to raise awareness and provide leadership through their responsibilities” on climate change issues.

C.244 In NI's second Climate Change Adaptation Program 2019-2024 **[See reference 78]** (NICCAP2), central government details how to address the current risks and opportunities to NI. Planning is referred to in the Plan's Executive Summary, as "essential to managing the resilience of our society and natural environment to an uncertain future, as well as for the known current and projected impacts of a changing climate."

C.245 NICCAP2 sets out our preparation for climate change impacts that are already occurring and puts in place plans for future impacts. The aim of NICCAP2 is "to build a resilient Northern Ireland in which timely and well-informed decisions are taken to address the socio-economic and environmental impacts of climate change". NICCAP2 identifies five Key Priority Areas. These priority areas have seven associated outcome objectives, which will be discussed in their relevant sub-topics.

- Natural Capital, including Terrestrial Coastal/Marine/Freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity.
- Infrastructure Services
- People & Built Environment
- Disruption to Businesses & Supply Chains
- Food Security/Global Food Production.

C.246 The NI Environmental Statistics Report **[See reference 79]** reports that the ten-year moving average annual minimum temperature has been increasing since the end of the 19th century. By the end of the 20th century, the ten-year moving average temperature had risen to its highest levels since records began.

C.247 The NI Environmental Statistics Report does not report any long term trends in summer and winter rainfall, however NICCAP2 has stated that in recent years NI has experienced incidents of extreme and notable weather events. NICCAP2 adds that it is not possible to say conclusively if these events, such as severe and sustained rainfall, are the direct result of human induced climate change. The increased incidence and intensity of such events however, is consistent with what we would expect to see with a changing climate.

C.248 The UKCP18 projects greater chance of hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters with more extreme weather and rising sea levels. It also projects higher intensity rainfall events, storm events and increased flood risk. The high-emission scenario for NI shows that, by the year 2070, winters could be up to 3.9° warmer and summers could be up to 4.9° hotter. By 2070, winters could be 25 per cent wetter and summers 38 per cent drier. In the high emissions scenario, mean sea

levels at Belfast could be up to 94cm higher relative to the 1981-2000 average by the year 2100 **[See reference** 80**]**.

Greenhouse gas emissions

C.249 In 2019, NI accounted for 5% of the UK's total GHG emissions, a proportion which has steadily risen from 3.5% in 2008 when NI began publishing an annual bulletin on the Greenhouse Gas Inventory **[See reference** 81**]** and is higher than its population share of 3 per cent. In 2019 these emissions were estimated to be equivalent to 21.4 million tonnes of CO_2 **[See reference** 82**]**.

C.250 In 2020 CO_2 emissions accounted for 68% of all GHG emissions in NI (UK average 79%) **[See reference** 83**]**. It is the most common gas emitted from most sectors with the exception of agriculture and waste management. Methane (CH_4) was a more significant GHG from both of these sectors because of livestock and landfill. Nitrous oxide (N_2O) is the other significant GHG emission from the agriculture sector. This is a difficult GHG to both measure and reduce. NI accounts for a much larger share of the UK's emissions of these gases due to the economic importance of agriculture in NI **[See reference** 84**]**. Overall, in 2020 there was a decrease in total GHG emissions of 4% compared to the previous year, and the longer-term trend shows a decrease of 24% compared to the base year, 1990**[See reference** 85**]**. The Co2 emissions across the Borough can be seen on Figure C.1.

C.251 Most sectors have shown a long-term decreasing trend in emissions since the base year, with the largest decreases seen in the energy supply, residential and waste sectors.

C.252 The agriculture sector was, in 2020 the only sector to show higher emissions in the base year, though in 2019 the transport sector was also above the base year. The land use change sector reflects losses in semi-natural land cover to developed land **[See reference** 86**]**.

Agriculture

C.253 Since 2002, the agriculture sector has been calculated as the greatest contributor of GHG emissions in NI, representing 27% of these emissions in 2020. Although the sector emits a relatively low amount of CO2, it emits other GHGs to a significant level. The agriculture sector is the main source of CH4 (methane) and N2O (nitrous oxide) in NI, accounting for approximately 80% of total emissions of these GHGs in 2020 **[See reference** 87**]**. Livestock and nitrogen fertiliser are the two principal sources of these GHG emissions. Farming is an important part of NI's

economy, so there is a responsibility to develop effective measures that will help reduce GHG emissions like N_2O and CH_4, even if they are difficult to estimate.

C.254 NISRA reports that there are approximately 3,253 farms in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2018, farming an area of approximately 107,713ha **[See reference** 88**]** (approx. 11% of all land farmed in NI). DAERA's 'Efficient Farming Cuts Greenhouse Gases - Implementation Plan 2016-2020' (Efficient Farming) identifies a number of measures that can reduce GHG emissions in the agricultural sector. These include 'better nutrient management', 'better livestock management', 'improving land and carbon management' and 'increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy'. DAERA's Future Agricultural Policy Proposals for NI were launched for consultation in December 2021. Eight main product workstreams are proposed including 'Farming for Carbon Measures' to assist and incentivise farmers to adopt carbon reduction actions into their management and 'Investment Measures' to support innovation and new technologies which may be relevant to LDP.

C.255 A key objective of the NICCAP2 is that "we have a food system that is resilient to impacts of climate change". While some elements of 'Efficient Farming' such as increased fuel efficiency in machinery and improved nutrient management practices are largely outside the influence of planning, the LDP may be able to support the delivery of some of the proposed measures in the 'Efficient Farming' programme and NICCAP2. These include facilitating on-farm renewables, storage facilities for crops, slurry/manure and dirty water that meet modern standards, and housing for dairy, pigs and poultry that is highly efficient in respect of its lighting, heating, cooling and ventilation.

C.256 The UK CCRA 2017 also identifies current and future risk to agriculture from drought and flooding and identifies that strategic planning for increased water scarcity in vulnerable locations is needed, including re-evaluation of land use options and, if necessary, investment in storage infrastructure may be necessary to maximise use of surplus winter rainfall.

Transport

C.257 In 2020, the transport sector accounted for 16.2% of all GHG emissions in NI and represented a decrease of 1.9% on baseline levels. However, this period encompasses the most significant travel and business restrictions implemented during the Covid 19 pandemic. In the previous years 2018 and 2019, emissions from transport were respectively 28.5% and 21.5% above the 1990 baseline.

C.258 This reflects the reliance people have in NI for motorised vehicles and also reflects its largely rural nature. Transport is a significant contributor of CO2 and, along with reducing NO2 emissions that can affect health, is why current UK government policy 'The Road to Zero' seeks to end the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2040 **[See reference** 89**]**. This policy's eventual aim is that almost every car and van is 'zero emission' by 2050. The transition to zero emission vehicles does not just require the vehicles to be available and affordable. An infrastructure network needs to be in place that is easy for current and prospective drivers to locate and use, and is affordable, efficient and reliable. The Road to Zero acknowledges that accommodating this transition will require many changes to the electricity system. It therefore includes the objective of "ensuring local planning policies incorporate facilities for charging electric vehicles (EVs)".

C.259 Although the new emissions standards for HGVs have achieved significant air quality improvements, CO_2 emissions from HGVs have remained relatively constant in recent years. Zero emission options are yet to be developed and made available commercially for all types of HGVs. Transportation of goods and freight can also be achieved more efficiently through a reduction in traffic congestion or the consideration of alternative modes such as rail.

C.260 New development needs to be encouraged to consider the infrastructure needed for these future changes in the transport system. Likewise, the LDP could be used to help reduce GHG emissions from transport, by encouraging and enabling the provision of accessible walking and cycling routes, as well as supporting the provision of adequate public transport options. An outcome objective of NICCAP2 is that "we have transport and network services that are resilient to the impacts of flooding & extreme weather". Spatial planning of land uses that facilitate the provision of the most effective local and regional level travel routes should help to encourage reduced car dependency and increased active travel. Consideration can also be given to vulnerability to climate change when zoning areas. More information is in the Transport and Accessibility and Air Quality sections of this report.

Energy supply

C.261 The energy sector (energy generation and heat production) has been one of the main contributors to reductions in GHG emissions in NI, having reduced from 5.3 $MtCO_2e$ in 1990 to 2.8 $MtCO_2e$ in 2020 **[See reference** 90**]**, the largest reduction in GHG emissions from the base year of all the sectors. The reduction is due to the switch from coal and oil to natural gas, improvements in energy efficiency and the uptake of renewables **[See reference** 91**]**.

C.262 For energy generation, gas is less carbon intensive and more energy efficient than coal and oil, therefore it is a preferred option in terms of GHG emissions and efficiency. As policy directs the energy market toward reduced GHG emissions and a low carbon future, changes in sources and production will have to occur. These include diversity of renewables, battery storage and carbon capture projects, and a grid that can enable multiple renewable connections including for prosumers i.e. small-scale producers. Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) has identified that many of its distribution circuits and substations are at saturation point with very limited potential for generation export, without investment **[See reference** 92**]**. More information is in the 'Material Assets' section of this report.

Renewable energy

C.263 Renewable energy is not reliant upon fossil fuel combustion and can help reduce GHG emissions from the energy sector, as it uses natural energy with a low or zero carbon footprint. Annual power generation from renewables has increased from 153GWh in 2004 to 4,189GWh in 2019, with generation doubling over 5 year period 2014-19 **[See reference** 93**]**. The NI Executive has voted for new climate change legislation and made a commitment to meet 80% of its electricity needs from renewables by 2030. Since 2018 between 42% and 49% of NI's electricity was generated from indigenous renewables. The highest monthly proportion on record, 76.5% was generated in February 20221. The renewable electricity industry group Renewable NI believes that the 80% target can be delivered using current and proven technology in NI "but the planning system must become better resourced to avoid acting as a disincentive to renewable investors" **[See reference** 94**]**.

C.264 Another important aspect of successfully delivering renewables is a fit-for-purpose grid. Northern Ireland Electricity has identified areas within the district where there is limited potential for generation export **[See reference** 95**]** without investment. The Council area has a mix of renewables – wind, solar and biomass and 'seeks to support the further development of renewables' but without significant negative effects on the environment – particularly in sensitive locations.

C.265 Renewable energy development proposals in the marine environment are managed under a separate consenting regime within the framework of the UK Marine Policy Statement and the NI Marine Plan, once the latter is adopted. The SPPS encourages consenting authorities for both terrestrial and marine environments to work together.

Residential, business and industrial

C.266 The residential sector is among the top contributors to GHG emissions within NI, despite decreases in CO_2 emissions since the base year in 1990 **[See reference** 96**]**. NI remains dependent on fossil fuels for home heating. Fuel switching to natural gas from more carbon-intensive fuels such as coal and oil has reduced emissions, but more households creates greater demand for energy **[See reference** 97**]**. 'Business' and 'Industrial Processes' respectively accounted for 13% and 1% of NI GHG emissions in 2020 **[See reference** 98**]**. Both sectors have also seen substantial decreases in GHG emissions since the base year. This reduction is in part related to a reduction in the use of coal in industrial combustion **[See reference** 99**]**. Emissions from houses and businesses can be linked to not just their source of fuel heating, but also their energy efficiency and their location to key services.

C.267 The GSNI has not indicated in its pre-POP consultation **[See reference** 100**]** if there is opportunity in the Council area for exploitation of deep geothermal energy, but most of NI has widespread potential for the use of shallow geothermal energy for heating and cooling. This sustainable low carbon energy resource is suitable for homes and businesses.

C.268 NICCAP2 includes the outcome objectives that "we have people, homes, buildings and communities that are resilient to the impacts of flooding and extremes of weather" and that "we have businesses that can adapt to impacts of climate change and extreme weather". The LDP could be used to help facilitate and encourage low carbon lifestyles and to help reduce GHG emissions from the residential, business and industrial sectors, as well as better equipping businesses and communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Measures to do this could include energy efficient / green building design, access to renewables, native planting schemes, integration of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and connection to walking and cycling routes.

Waste management

C.269 In 2020 the waste management sector was responsible for 3.5% of GHG emissions in NI. This sector has seen a considerable decrease in GHG emissions since 1990 **[See reference** 101**]**. Methane is a powerful GHG and is the dominant GHG emitted from the waste management sector due to landfilling practices **[See reference** 102**]**. The introduction of methane capture in landfills, the closure of landfills and an increase in reusing, recycling and recovery practices have contributed to the decreasing trend in emissions from the sector. In 2020/21 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough had a municipal landfill rate of 6.9% (NI

22.8%) and waste recovery rate of 34% (NI 24.6%) **[See reference** 103**]**. Programs that reduce, reuse and recycle municipal waste are effective and high-impact means of reducing GHG emissions **[See reference** 104**]**. The Climate Change Act (NI) 2022 includes a sectoral target that the Department (DAERA) must ensure that at least 70% of waste is recycled by 2030.The LDP can support this through enabling the provision of sites for the management and processing of waste in sustainable locations.

Flooding

C.270 Climate change is expected to increase the frequency, severity and extent of flooding and extreme weather events, with increases in annual damage to residential properties and other buildings such as culturally valued buildings **[See reference** 105**]**. Flooding, which is discussed in more detail in section 5.11, 'Water', has been identified as "potentially one of the most significant and urgent risks"' to NI **[See reference** 106**]**. Portadown/Craigavon and Lurgan are 'Areas of Potentially Significant Flood Risk' and Banbridge is a 'Transitional Area of Potentially Significant Flood Risk'. Armagh City and Keady have also been identified as areas with a moderate degree of flood risk **[See reference** 107**]**.

C.271 It is becoming increasingly accepted that having fully functional wetland and coastal ecosystems will help to absorb excess water from flooding events and storm surges **[See reference** 108**]**. Development in areas with an identified flood risk not only places the development at risk, but may increase flood risk on adjacent sites and downstream, as well as increasing pressure on natural floodplains. This places risk on both the natural and built environment.

C.272 NICCAP2 includes the outcome objective that "we have people, homes, buildings and communities that are resilient to the impacts of flooding and extremes of weather". In addition to avoiding development in areas of flood risk, the introduction of SuDS within the built environment can also protect areas further downstream from flooding, as runoff is managed at source and slowed down through attenuation and storage. 'Soft' SuDS can deliver added benefits for this objective, where they can help improve water quality, biodiversity and create landscape features. 'Soft' SuDS components can also contribute to a reduction and/or sequestration of carbon **[See reference** 109**]**. SuDS are more adaptable to changing environments and weather conditions when compared to regular underground drains **[See reference** 110**]**.

C.273 As Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough does not have a coastline, coastal flooding and coastal erosion do not present a direct risk, though there are downstream hydrological linkages through the river catchments which drain to the

estuaries of Belfast Lough, Carlingford Lough, the Lower Bann / North Coast (via Lough Neagh) and Dundalk Bay.

Biodiversity

C.274 The NI Evidence Report **[See reference** 111**]** has highlighted that climate change presents both potential risk and opportunities to landscapes / landscape character and our soils and land types.

C.275 NICCAP2 states that "adaptation is vital in ensuring resilient soils and that land types are preserved, while in turn contributing to building the resilience of our ecosystems and communities that depend upon them".

C.276 Climate change is expected to impact on local biodiversity, as changing climatic factors will cause habitats to alter and species to move. In certain locations, these changes may enable non-native invasive species to thrive and/or may cause native species to relocate in an attempt to stay within their preferred climate. NICCAP2 identifies that there are risks to species and habitats due to inability to respond to climatic conditions. Local biodiversity will need green and blue infrastructure, including buffer zones around designated sites, to aid their movement in response to climate change.

C.277 Feedback from public engagement meetings linked to the Community Plan has already highlighted a belief in the importance of preserving peatlands because of their carbon storage and flood protection benefits. Peatlands also have specialised plants and associated fauna and avifauna.

C.278 NICCAP2 has also identified the Forest Expansion Scheme among its actions to achieve outcome objective NC3 "we have soils and land types that are resilient to the impacts of climate change." This scheme encourages the creation of new forest blocks of at least 5 hectares and, in addition to providing increased carbon capture, NICCAP2 identifies secondary benefits such as improved biodiversity and enhanced ability of individual species to endure climate change.

Water

C.279 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 **[See reference** 112**]**. The DfI has also created an online maps portal **[See**

reference 113**]**. This topic also overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Physical Resources, Transport and Accessibility, Air Quality, Climate Change, Natural Resources and Landscape topics. The waterbodies across the Borough can be seen on Figure C.8.

River Basin Management Plans

C.280 The RBMP requires action to meet 'good' (or better) ecological and chemical status and prevent deterioration of our water bodies. '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 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).

C.281 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.

C.282 Within the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area the principal river systems are the Bann, Blackwater, Tall, Cusher and Callan rivers, which drain into Lough Neagh. Upper sections of the River Lagan and its tributaries, within the North Eastern River Basin District, are also in the Borough.

C.283 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.

C.284 A summary of the ecological status for the surface waterbodies within the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council is presented below.

River water bodies

- Total Number of River Water Bodies – 44

- High Ecological Status – 0
- Good Ecological Status – 3
- Moderate Ecological Status – 28
- Poor Ecological Status – 8
- Bad Ecological Status – 4

Lake water bodies

- Total Number of Lake Water Bodies – 2
- High Ecological. Status – 0
- Good Ecological Status – 0
- Moderate Ecological Status – 0
- Poor Ecological Status – 0
- Bad Ecological Status – 2

Heavily modified water bodies

- Total Number of Heavily Modified Water Bodies – 7
- Good Ecological Status – 0
- Moderate Ecological Status – 4
- Poor Ecological Status – 1
- Bad Ecological Status – 2

C.285 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Council area had significantly worse river water quality in 2015 than the overall Northern Ireland average. Only three of the waterbodies (6%) in the Borough achieved good or better status compared with 31.2% **[See reference** 114**]** 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).

Groundwater

C.286 There are 12 groundwater bodies intersecting the Borough. 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.

C.287 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. It is a core policy of the draft Marine Plan that public authorities must consider the ability of a proposal to co-exist with other marine activities. The Council recognise the potential for indirect effects from Wastewater Treatment Works capacity issues, settlements that are reliant on private septic tanks and settlements that have no network / catchment capacity, as effluent discharges into a drainage field or soakaway system, thereby mixing with ground water and river systems.

C.288 Many properties, especially in rural areas, possess a Private Water Supply (PWS) such as a well or borehole. There are approximately 24 PWS registered with the Drinking Water Inspectorate **[See reference** 115**]** in the Borough, but there are likely to be many more unregistered supplies. Consideration needs given to households using PWS as their primary drinking water source and measures to improve and maintain groundwater bodies. The Private Water Supplies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 establish the statutory framework for ensuring that all private water supplies used for drinking, domestic purposes, or food production meet defined standards of cleanliness and do not pose risks to human health. The Regulations apply to any water supply not provided by Northern Ireland Water, including shared domestic supplies, commercial premises, and larger private sources.

Drinking water protected areas

C.289 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

C.290 The Lough Island Reavy catchment is also on the register of protected areas, however only 3.8 km² 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

C.291 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

C.292 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

C.293 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

C.294 The Borough has no recreational waters designated under the Bathing Water Quality Directive.

Flood risk

C.295 The implementation of the Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations 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 **[See reference** 116**]**.

C.296 Three towns in the Borough have been identified as SFRA. They are Lurgan, Portadown and Banbridge, all of which are in the NB RBD.

C.297 Four settlements 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.

C.298 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.

C.299 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 Flood Maps NI showing the areas within the 1 per cent AEP1 floodplain, taking account of the impacts of climate change.

C.300 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.

Water supply

C.301 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.

C.302 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 99.9% in 2024. Within the Borough, the compliance rate at the customer tap was 99.9% **[See reference** 117**]**.

C.303 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. Improvements to the distribution system in Portadown have been completed whilst improvements in the Lurgan area are currently ongoing.

C.304 The most recent Drinking Water Annual Quality Report lists 30 Capital Works Programmes affecting the Borough in 2024. The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 set the statutory framework for ensuring that all drinking water supplied to the public is safe, clean and compliant with defined quality standards.

Reservoirs

C.305 There are 14 ‘controlled reservoirs’ (i.e. an impoundment >=10,000 cubic metres) in the Borough and these are detailed in Table C.12 below.

Table C.3: 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

Name of reservoir	Location
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

Wastewater treatment

C.306 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 planning status of WwTWs serving the Borough based on an estimate of future capacity based on growth factor (5-20%). Additionally NIW also detail the WwTW Network Current Planning Status.

C.307 The most recent NIW report (August 2025) states that there are 93 settlements in the Borough served by 'large' WwTWs. Of these, 70 settlements have capacity available (5-20%) and new connections permitted. Eleven settlements have no current capacity and restrictions are in place on new connections. No data is available for 13 settlements which have no linkage a public sewerage network and are currently reliant on private septic tanks. Additionally, 8 settlements have no network / catchment capacity.

Table C.4: Capacity of Wastewater Treatment Works / Network

Settlements	No current WwTW capacity	Current WwTW capacity (5-20%)	No current Network / Catchment capacity
Hubs	00	03	00
Local Towns	02	04	1
Villages	9	21	5
Small Settlements	12	42	2

Settlements	No current WwTW capacity	Current WwTW capacity (5-20%)	No current Network / Catchment capacity
Small Settlements with no linkage to public sewerage network	0	13	0
Total	23	83	8

C.308 The larger settlements detailed as having no current WwTW capacity are Markethill, Rathfriland, Waringstown, Donaghcloney and Poyntzpass. The larger settlements detailed as having no current network/catchment capacity are Dromore, Waringstown and Donaghcloney.

C.309 The NIW August 2025 report states that the upgrade of Robinsonstown Wastewater Treatment Works is programmed for the 2025/26 financial year. NI Water is working with DfI on the funding required to facilitate the delivery of our capital investment programme for the remainder of the PC21 Price Control period (2025 – 2028).

C.310 The Council will continue to work closely with NI Water in its LDP production as the capacity of waste water treatment works may have an influence on the distribution of proposed development.

Natural resources

C.311 Relevant information is presented in the LDP technical supplements. 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

C.312 The Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council encompasses an area of around 1,338km² 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, national 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.

The designated nature conservation sites across the Borough can be found on Figure C.13.

C.313 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 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.

C.314 Woodland across the Borough include, larger tracts in the uplands to 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.

Biodiversity

C.315 A Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for the Borough was published in 2014 to help reduce the loss of biodiversity across the Borough, and is currently under review. 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 and blue infrastructure

C.316 Green and blue infrastructure is promoted in the SPPS and all natural green and blue spaces and features can be classified as green/blue infrastructure.

C.317 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

C.318 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.

Ecosystem services

C.319 In recent years, the natural environment has become increasingly recognised for the range of beneficial services that it provides. These include providing food and materials, regulating the physical environment through water and carbon storage, supporting processes such as the water cycle and meeting other needs for people such as recreation and spiritual. These benefits can be referred to as 'ecosystem services' (ES) and are referred to in the SPPS as environmental processes that produce essential resources such as food, water and clean air.

C.320 In some Councils, there are landscape-scale ES projects that focus on more sustainable approaches to managing land that provide positive benefits for

stakeholders like reduced costs and using fewer resources. An example of ecosystems services in the Borough is NI Water and Ulster Wildlife's development of a wildflower meadow on a 7-ha site adjacent to the Ballynacor WwTW in Derrymacash, near Craigavon **[See reference** 118**]**. The site previously accommodated sludge lagoons used in waste water treatment and is the first project of its kind in NI.

Landscape

C.321 A detailed baseline of information is presented in the LDP Technical Supplements 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 heritage sections of this report.

Landscape character

C.322 The Borough is covered by 23 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) (see Figure C.12) 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.

C.323 A review of the LCAs within the Borough has been undertaken in order to inform the preparation of the Draft Plan Strategy. A full list of LCAs is in the LDP Technical Supplement. Landscape Character Assessment and further information on the NILCA 2000 assessment can be found at www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/landscape-character-northern-ireland.

Regional landscape character

C.324 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.

C.325 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 technical supplement and on the DAERA website **[See reference** 119**]** and Regional Landscape Character Map **[See reference** 120**]**.

Areas of Scenic Quality

C.326 The Borough has a small portion of AONB. NILCA 2000 identified 15 ASQs across NI, two of which are with the Borough, Lough Neagh Fringe and Blackwater Valley. We have taken these designations into consideration when reviewing the Landscape Character Areas.

Local Landscape Policy Areas

C.327 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 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

C.328 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. There are 83 TPOS within the Borough.

Area of Significant Archaeological Interest

C.329 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

C.330 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

Historic environment and cultural heritage

C.331 A detailed baseline of information is presented in a number of LDP Technical Supplements. The Historic Environment Division (HED) of the Department for Communities (DfC) has also published its digital datasets of the historic environment online **[See reference** 121**]** and has created a Historic Environment Map Viewer **[See reference** 122**]**. This topic overlaps with the Economy and Employment and Landscape topics. The cultural heritage assets across the Borough can be found on Figure C.11.

Overview

C.332 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 City, 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.

C.333 Evidence of occupation or activity at Armagh City dates back some 6,500 years and it has a unique sense of place with a significance and influence felt across the island. 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 1,500 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 18th 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

C.334 Listed Buildings are those designated through listing as being of 'special architectural or historic interest' under Section 80 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011. There are a total of approximately 1266 Listed Buildings 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. A further 194 (approx.) buildings are listed, but are 'record only' or have not yet been allocated a grade.

Buildings at risk

C.335 The Ulster Architecture and Heritage Society in conjunction with the Department for Communities (DfC), has compiled an online list of Heritage at Risk in Northern Ireland (BHARNI) **[See reference** 123**]**. 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 193 'heritage at risk', of which 149 are listed, 41 unlisted and 3 scheduled monuments.

Sites and Monuments Record

C.336 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area has a rich record of archaeological sites and historic monuments. The NI Sites and Monuments

Record (SMR), is maintained by the Historic Environment Division (HED) of the DfC and is regularly updated. As at October 2022, it lists 1,515 Sites and Monuments **[See reference** 124**]** located across the Council area.

C.337 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 187 **[See reference** 125**]** such Scheduled sites in 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. Works affecting scheduled monuments require Scheduled Monument Consent, a legislative permission, separate to and distinct from planning permissions. Potentially, more sites may be discovered through archaeological work, during development operations or through agricultural activity. The Borough has 15 Monuments in State Care; these are sites the ownership or guardianship of the Department.

Areas of Special Archaeological Interest

C.338 There is currently one Area of Special Archaeological Interest (ASAI) in the Borough, at the Navan complex. 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.

C.339 ASAIs are designated by Councils through the LDP process. Two new candidate ASAI have been identified by the Council at Lisnagade east of Scarva and Knock Iveagh north of Rathfriland. Statements of Significance and detailed maps have been prepared by HED for both sites. Both sites will be brough forward at Draft Plan Strategy Stage.

Area of Archaeological Potential

C.340 There are 19 settlements in the Borough with identified Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAP) **[See reference** 126**]**. These are:

- Annaclone

- Glasker
- Poyntzpass
- Ardtannagh
- Katesbridge
- Rathfriland
- Banbridge
- Lawrencetown / Lenaderg Scarva
- Corbet Milltown
- Loughbrickland
- Scotch Street
- Dromore
- Moneyslane
- The Birches
- Gamblestown
- Monteith
- Tullylish
- Gilford

C.341 The Gazetteer of Nucleated Historic Settlements is the result of a programme 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.

C.342 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 new LDP will consider the identification of AAPs through consultation with the DfC.

Industrial heritage

C.343 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, the latter two of which are Scheduled Monuments. As previously discussed parts of these former railway and canal routes are under consideration for the development of new greenways.

Defence heritage

C.344 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. Several WWII Pillboxes within the Borough have been recognised as Scheduled Monuments, recognising the role that they played as part of the World War 2 “stopline” located in the borough. 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

C.345 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes reflect planned and managed landscape enhancement carried out since the 17th Century. The historic parks, gardens and designed landscapes of Northern Ireland are a striking and important feature of our historic environment and are enjoyed as unique places for study, recreation, reflection and conservation. They represent a living record of social, cultural and economic change and values, as embodied in their landscaping, design, features and collections of trees, shrubs and flowers. The Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes Record and the Register of Parks, Gardens and Demesnes of Special Historic Interest are both maintained by the Historic Environment Division (HED) of the Department for Communities as part of the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland (HERoNI). Sites are graded as category A*, A, or B to reflect their heritage significance. Within the Borough there are a total of 32no sites which lie entirely within the Council Area and a further 3no sites which lie only partly within the Borough.

Grade A* Listed Buildings

- Caledon*
- Tynan Abbey

Grade A Listed Buildings

- Ardress
- Benburb Manor House*
- Brownlow House (Lurgan Park)
- Coney Island
- Drumbanagher*
- Elmfield
- Gilford Castle
- Gosford Castle
- Hockley Lodge
- Manor House (Loughgall)
- Moyallon House
- Summer Island
- The Argory
- The Mall
- The Palace
- Waringstown House

Grade B Listed Buildings

- Brookfield House
- Castle Dillon
- Darton Hall
- Deans Hill
- Eden Villa

- Fairview House – Tannaghmaore Gardens
- Fellows Hall
- Gill Hall
- Lawrencetown House
- Loughbrickland House
- Raughlan (Rocklands)
- Scarva House
- Straw Hill
- Tandragee Castle
- The Observatory
- Umgola
- Wood Bank

Conservation Areas

C.346 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 Section 104 of the Planning (NI) Act NI 2011. The Borough has a total of five Conservation Areas. They are Armagh City, Loughgall, Dromore, Lurgan and Richhill.

C.347 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

C.348 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.

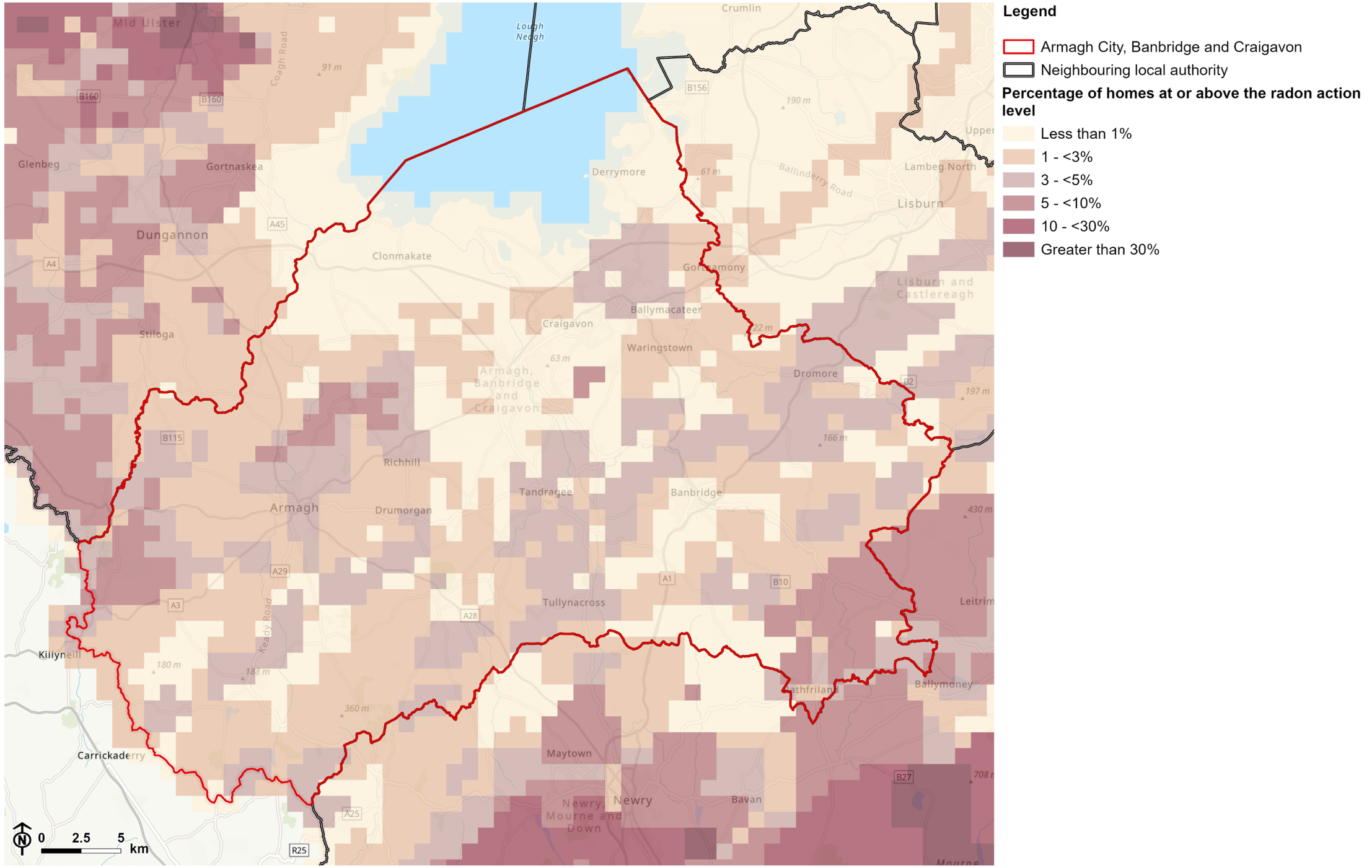
- Armagh City District Council
  - None

- Banbridge District Council
  - Annaclone
  - Banbridge Town: (3 areas)
  - Dromore: (2 areas)
  - Gilford: (2 areas)
  - Loughbrickland
  - Rathfriland
  - Scarva
  - Tullyish
- Craigavon Borough Council
  - Lurgan - College Walk, Lough Road
  - Portadown – Bachelor's Walk, Bridge street
  - Donaghcloney
  - Charlestown.

Local Landscape Policy Areas

C.349 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 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough post-RPA.

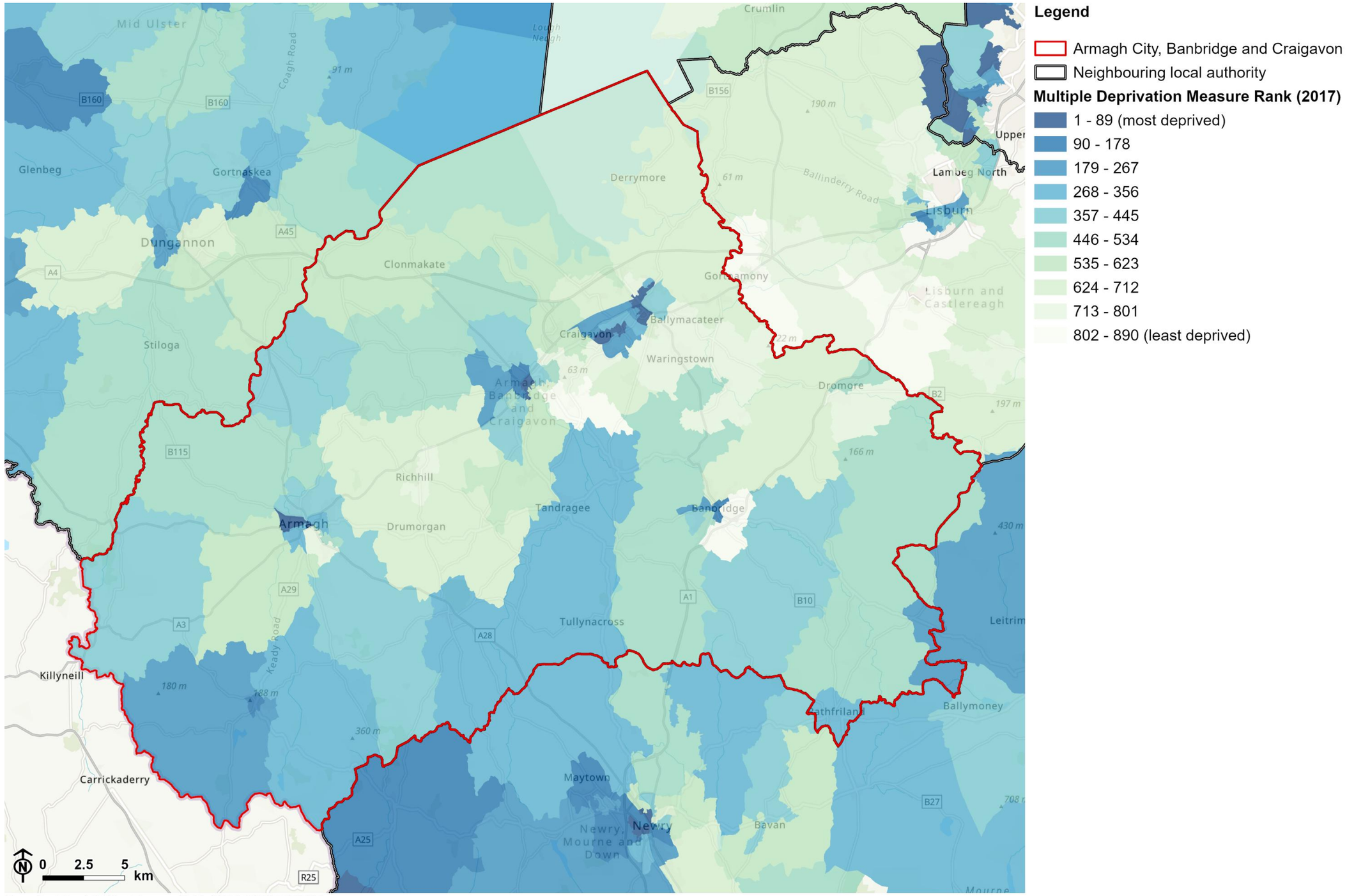
Figure C.1: Radon levels



Created by LUC - Figure : Radon levels 01/05/2026

ONS and BGS licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2026. Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

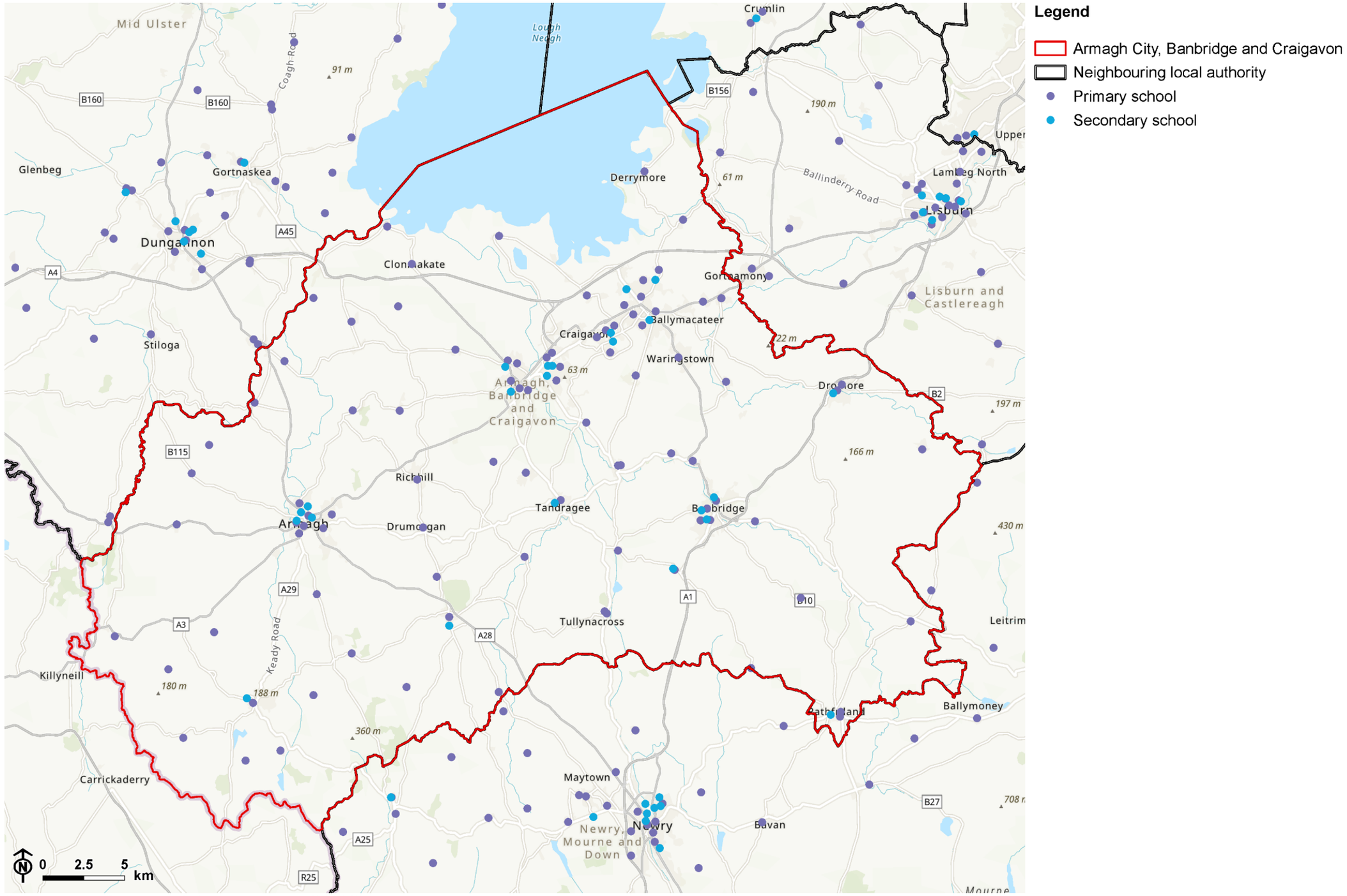
Figure C.2: IMD



Created by LUC - Figure C.2: IMD 01/05/2026

ONS and NISRA licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2026. Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

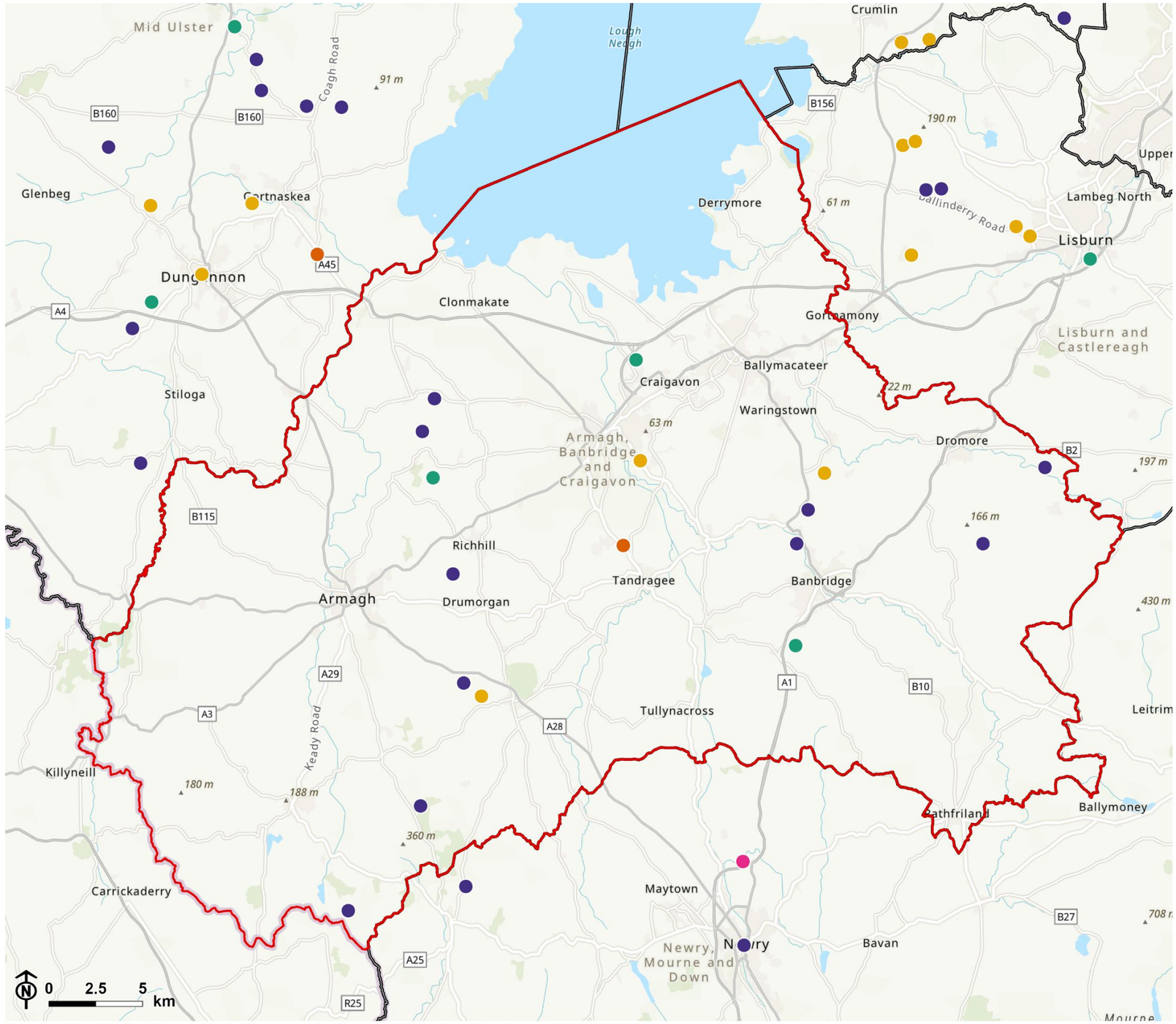
Figure C.3: Education



Created by LUC - Figure C.3 Education 18/05/2026

DE licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0. Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Figure C.4: Renewable Energy Planning Database



Legend

- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon
- Neighbouring local authority

Renewable Energy Planning Database (2026)

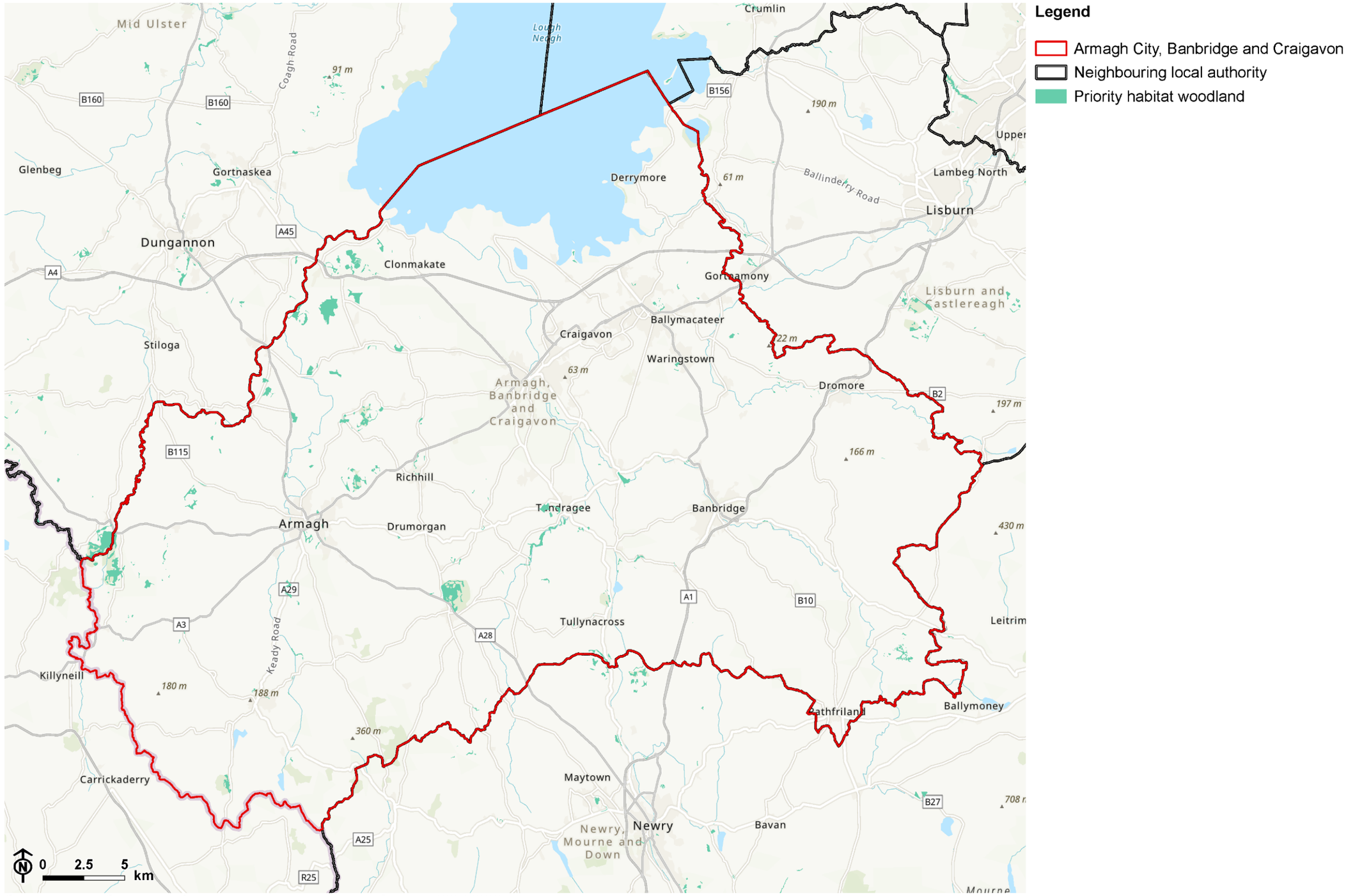
Operational, awaiting or under construction technology type

- Advanced Conversion Technologies
- Anaerobic Digestion
- Battery
- Solar Photovoltaics
- Wind Onshore

Created by LUC - Figure C.[illegible] Renewable Energy Planning Database 01/05/2026

© REPD 2026. Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

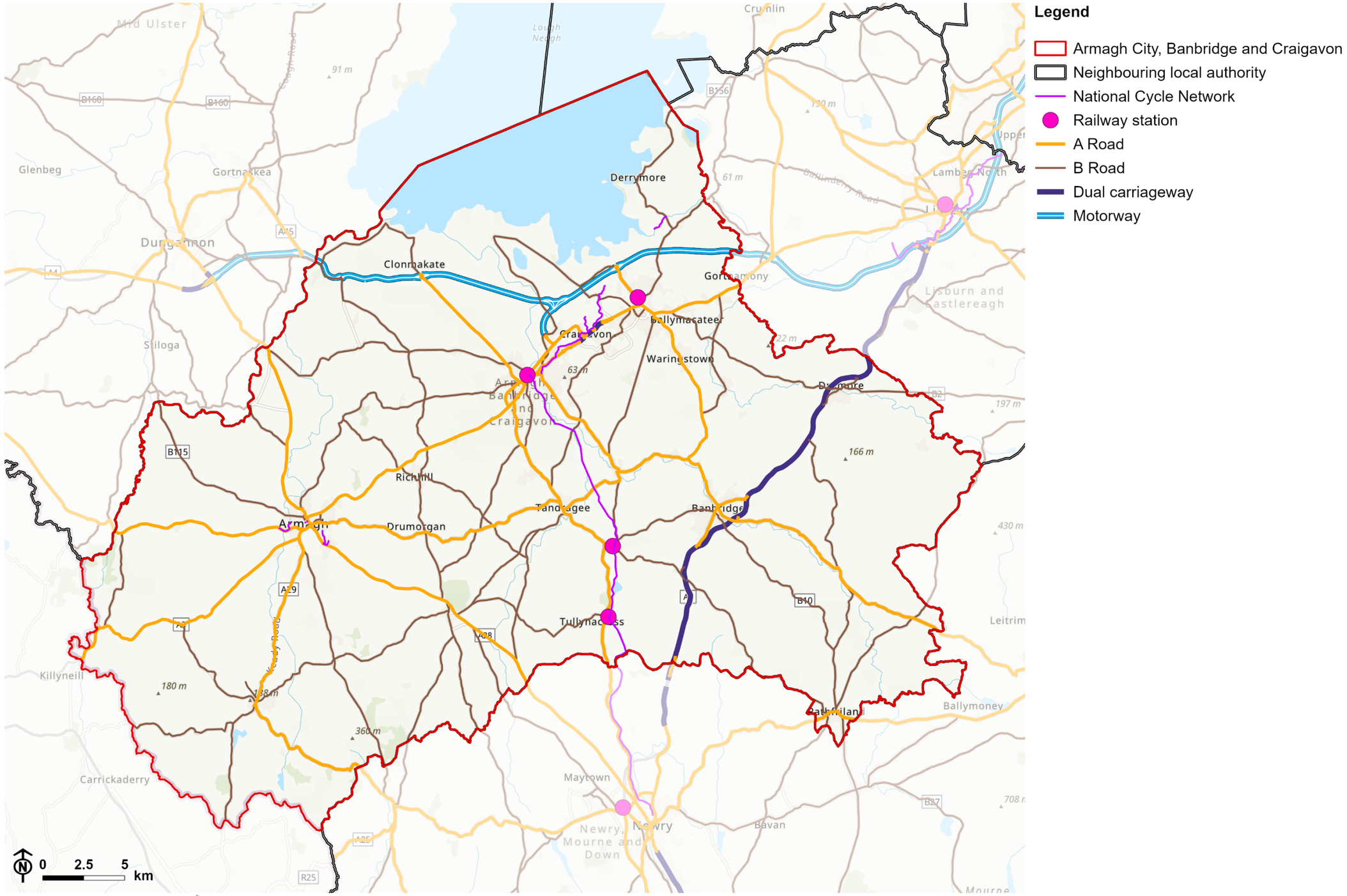
Figure C.5: Forestry and Woodland Cover



Created by LUC - Figure C.5 Forestry and Woodland Cover 18/05/2026

ONS and DAERA licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2026. Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

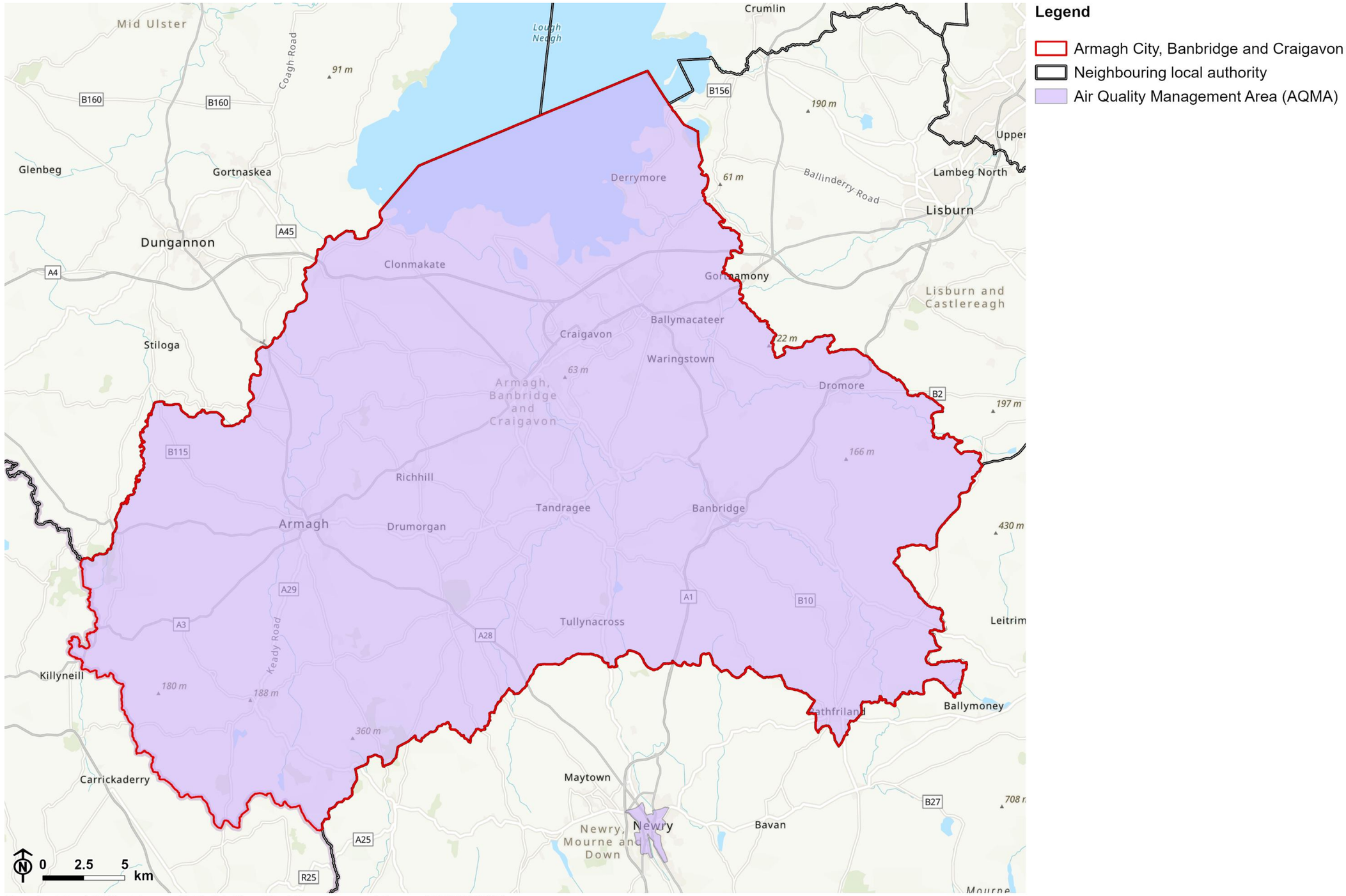
Figure C.6: Transport Network



Created by LUC - Figure C.6: Transport Network 13/05/2026

ONS, LPS, Walk Wheel Cycle Trust and Translink licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2026. Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

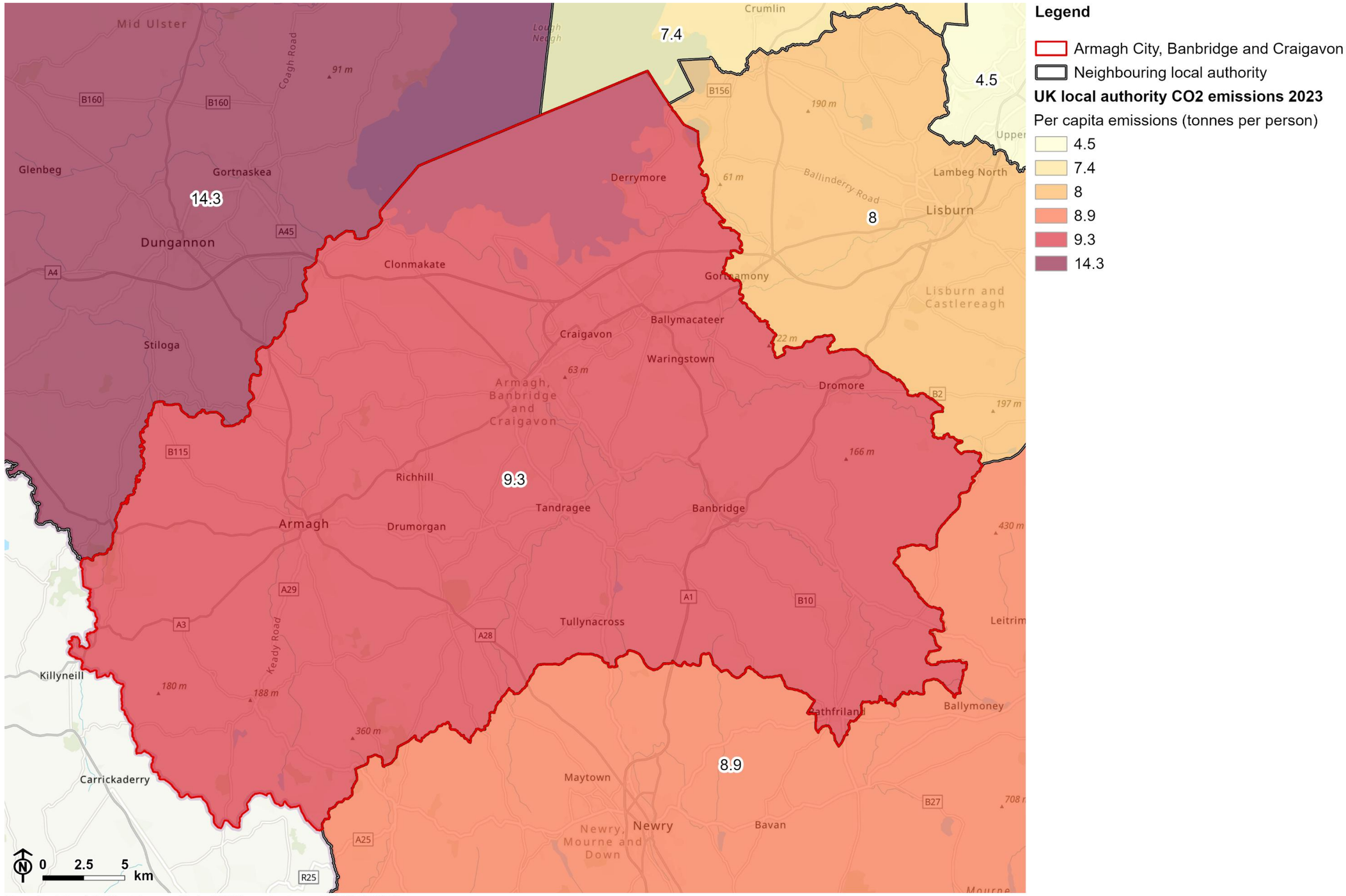
Figure C.7: Air Quality Management Areas



Created by LUC - Figure C.7 Air Quality Management Areas 01/05/2026

ONS and DEFRA licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2026. Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

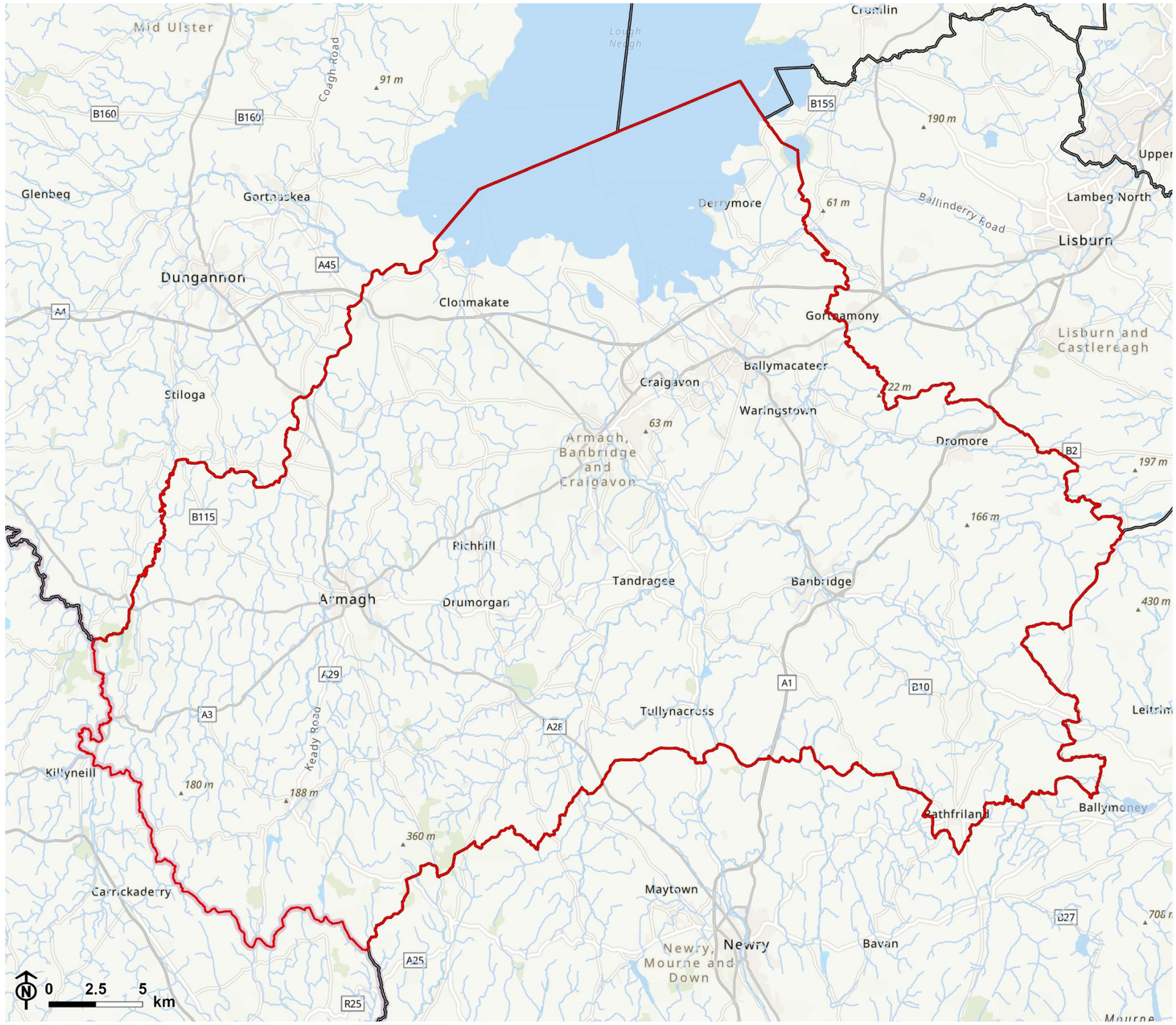
Figure C.8: CO2 Emissions



Created by LUC - Figure C.8: CO2 emissions 01/05/2026

ONS and DESNZ licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2026. Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

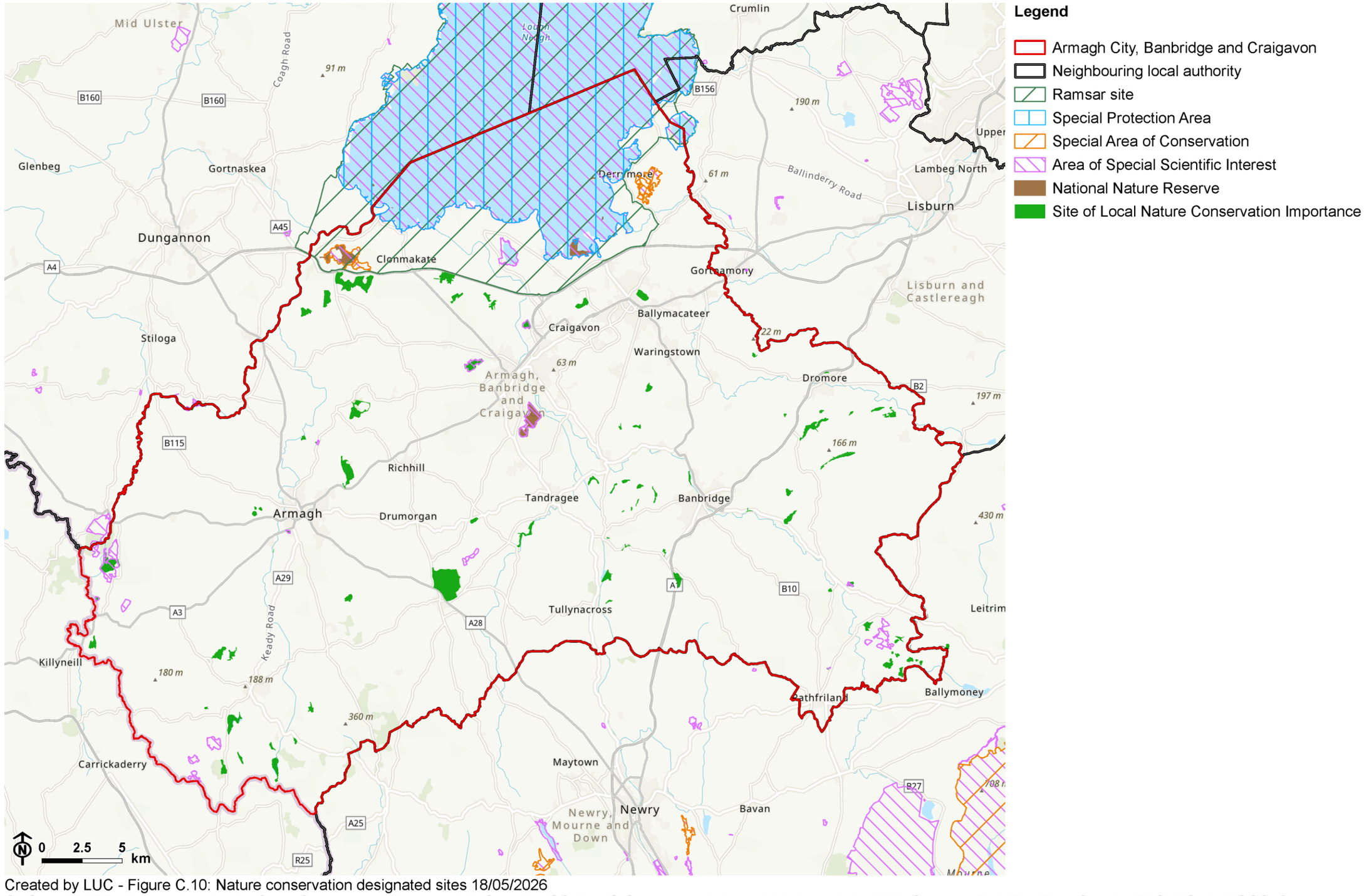
Figure C.9: Waterbodies



Created by LUC - Figure C.3: Watercourses 01/05/2026

ONS, DAERA and WFD licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2026. Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

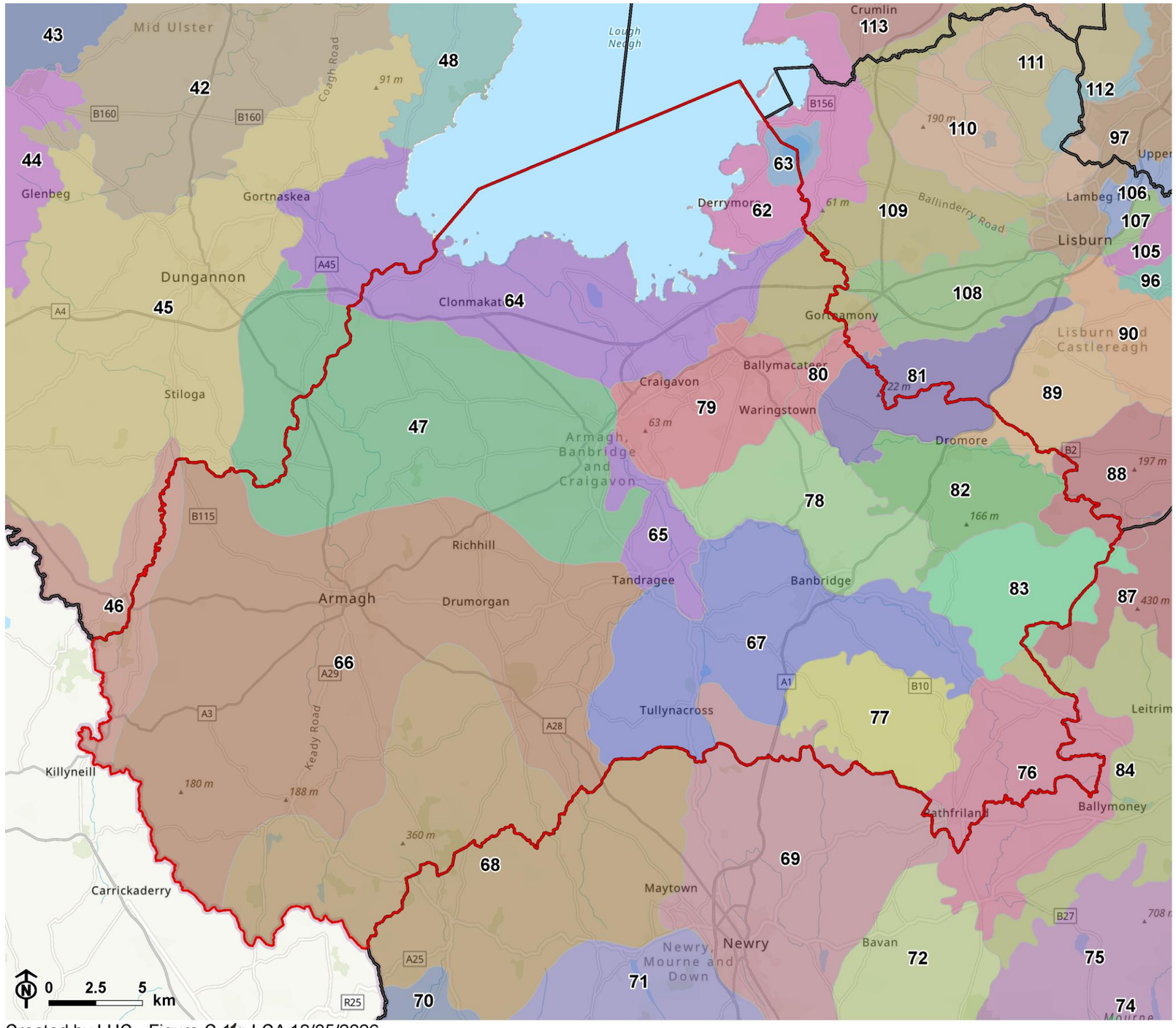
Figure C.10: Nature conservation designated sites



Created by LUC - Figure C.10: Nature conservation designated sites 18/05/2026

ONS and DAERA licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2026. Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

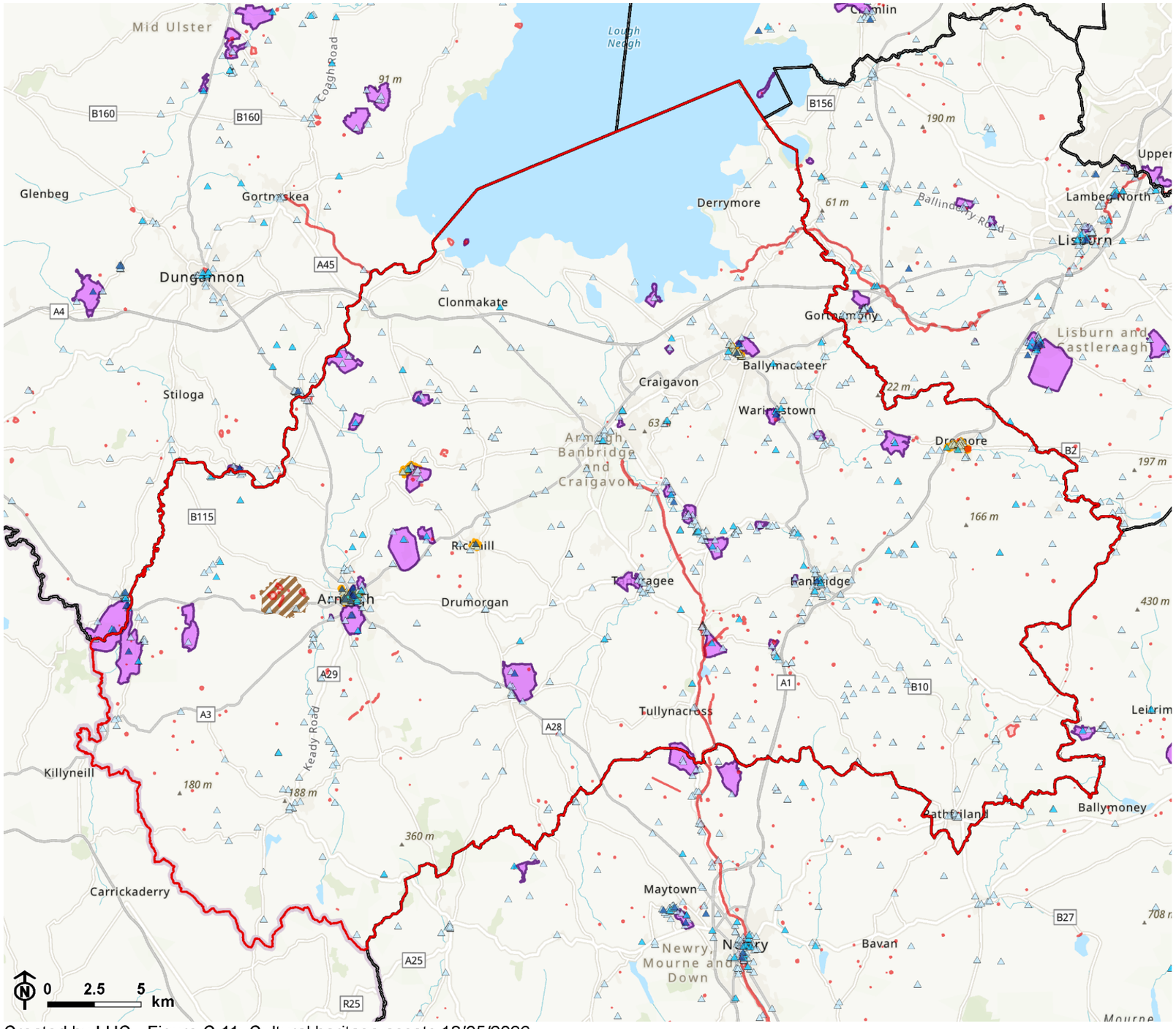
Figure C.11: Landscape Character Areas



Created by LUC - Figure C.11: LCA 18/05/2026

ONS and DAERA licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2026. Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Figure C.12: Cultural heritage assets



Created by LUC - Figure C.12: Cultural heritage assets 18/05/2026
ONS and DFC licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2026. Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Appendix D
Policy Recommendations

D.1 A number of recommendations were shared with the Council on their Plan Strategy policies, which they reviewed and provided a response to. Where they have agreed with the suggestions raised, amendments have been made to the policies in the Draft Plan Strategy. Details of both the recommendations and the Council's response are set out below in Table D.1

Table D.1: Policy Recommendations

Policy	Recommendations made at draft Plan Strategy stage	Council's response
Policy SGS 8: Transportation Strategy	It might be worth referencing whether the transport strategy supports the delivery of active travel routes.	Propose amending wording within policy box of SGS 8 to: 'The Council will promote sustainable development by integrating transport and land use planning, which supports a modal shift from private vehicular use to active travel and public transport, directing new development to locations with good connectivity and accessibility, and will facilitate the delivery of active travel networks.' Second line, second sentence of J&A amended to read: 'The Local Transport Plan will identify specific transport schemes including active travel networks and disused transport routes that require protection, which will accompany the Local Policies Plan.'
Policy SP1: Furthering Sustainable Development & Climate Change Resilience	*"Where a proposed development would result in demonstrable harm to interests of acknowledged importance planning permission will be refused."* The policy could include reference to the three pillars of sustainable development. It is not clear what the 'interests of acknowledged importance' means.	This is an established planning phrase within Northern Ireland which reflects para 3.8 of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS): Under the SPPS, the guiding principle for planning authorities in determining planning applications is that sustainable development should be permitted, having regard to the development plan and all other material considerations, unless the proposed development will cause demonstrable harm to **interests of acknowledged importance.** *These interests* normally include the natural environment, built heritage, public safety, flood risk, infrastructure capacity and impacts on amenity. The interests are acknowledged as they are protected through legislation, regional policy or the LDP. In practice this means that development that accords with an up-to-date development plan should be approved, unless other material considerations indicate otherwise. The three pillars of sustainable development are set out in the J&A.

Policy	Recommendations made at draft Plan Strategy stage	Council's response
Policy SP 2: Positive Design and Placemaking	The Council could consider including the principles of good design and positive place-making within the policy text. These are contained within the justification and amplification text but they feel more appropriate in the policy.	Strategic Policy SP 2 is intended to operate at a high level and sets a clear overarching expectation that, where appropriate, all new development should contribute to the creation of successful and sustainable places through the application of good design and positive placemaking principles. The detailed principles that underpin this approach are set out within the associated J&A, which provides clarity and guidance on how the policy is to be interpreted and applied. In this context, the Council does not consider it necessary to restate each individual principle within the main policy wording itself. Doing so would risk unnecessary repetition and detract from the strategic nature of the policy.
Policy GP 1 Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change	The policy could require development to optimise the use of natural resources and encourage sustainable design and construction.	Policy GP 1 Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change, Criterion d) requires the applicant to take account of the efficient use of resources, including the re-use and/or adaptation of existing buildings and ground works. The policy aligns with regional direction in SPPS and existing regional guidance (e.g. Building on Tradition Design Guide), by focussing on conserving finite resources. The use of sustainable construction methods fall largely within the remit of Building Control, not Planning. It is therefore not considered necessary to amend the policy wording.
Policy GP 1 Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change	The policy requires tree planting but it could also encourage the incorporation of multifunctional green and blue infrastructure within new development.	The point is acknowledged however the overall approach to green and blue infrastructure does not conflict with regional direction in SPPS. A number of policies within the Plan Strategy support the protection, incorporation and enhancement of green and blue infrastructure, including through open space provision (which may contribute to the wider G&BI network). These include: 1. Policy OSR 8 Green and Blue Infrastructure;

Policy	Recommendations made at draft Plan Strategy stage	Council's response
		2. Policy OSR 1 Protection and Provision of Open Space; 3. Policy OSR 2 Public Open Space in New Residential Development; 4. Policy DES 1 Design Quality, Criterion e), which requires, where appropriate, the integration of suitable open space that contributes to the design quality and functionality of the development. It is therefore not considered necessary to amend the wording of GP 1.
Policy GP 2 Infrastructure requirements for development	Digital infrastructure could be identified as an infrastructure requirement for a development.	The matter of digital infrastructure is adequately addressed under Policy DES 1 Design Quality, Criterion j) and it is therefore not considered necessary to amend the policy wording.
Policy GP 4 Amenity	Parking and servicing arrangements could also cause an unacceptable impact on amenity.	Parking and servicing arrangements could fall under the category of 'other disturbance or effect' in Policy GP 4 Amenity, if deemed appropriate by Development Management Officers. It is not deemed necessary to include it as a specific criterion in the policy, and therefore it is not considered necessary to amend the policy wording.
Policy DES 1 Design Quality	The policy could ensure that new development makes effective and efficient use of land and natural resources.	The J&A text (of DES 1, Criterion b) will encourage the efficient use of land under layout and density considerations. This would be consistent with the wider Housing Strategy. The matter of the efficient of resources is adequately addressed under Policy GP 1 Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change, Criterion d). It is therefore not considered necessary to amend the wording of Policy DES 1.
Policy DES 1 Design Quality	The policy could also encourage the use of sustainable drainage systems	The matter of promoting sustainable drainage and facilitating necessary drainage infrastructure within a development are deemed to be adequately covered by Policy GP 1 Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change (Criterion f) and Policy GP 2 Infrastructure Requirements for Development (Criterion b),

Policy	Recommendations made at draft Plan Strategy stage	Council's response
	and/or design of the site responds to existing hydrology within the site.	and it is therefore not considered necessary to amend the wording of Policy DES 1.
Policy DES 5 The Control of Outdoor Advertisement Proposals	The policy could require the display of an advertisement to not prejudice the safety of pedestrians as well as road safety.	Policy DES 5 is written to align with the two considerations covered by related planning legislation (The Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 2015) i.e. amenity and public safety. The matter of public safety, including road safety, is deemed to include the safety of road users, including pedestrians. The J&A text supports this by stating: *In assessing the impact of an advertisement on public safety the Council will have regard to its effect upon the safe use and operation of any form of traffic or transport on land (including the safety of pedestrians), on or over water or in the air.* It is therefore not considered necessary to amend the policy wording or J&A.
Policy HOU 8 Houses in Multiple Occupation	The policy could ensure that HMOs will not have an unacceptable impact on the residential area/amenity including avoiding increases in noise and disturbance car parking and waste.	The Council will consider all relevant policies in the round. The matter of amenity is adequately addressed under Policy GP 4 and it is therefore not considered necessary to amend the policy wording.
Policy HOU 10 Travellers Accommodation	The policy could ensure that areas that are at risk of flooding are not developed as traveller accommodation can be more susceptible to flooding.	Considerations relating to flood risk are adequately covered under Flood Risk and Drainage (FRD) Policies, primarily FRD 1 Development in Fluvial (River) Flood Plains, where there is a presumption against development unless it meets one of the exceptions. It is therefore considered not necessary to amend the policy wording.
Policy HOU 10 Travellers Accommodation	There should be appropriate provision for the disposal of waste.	The matter of waste management within a development is adequately addressed under Policy GP 1, Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change, Criterion e), which deals with the separation, storage and collection of

Policy	Recommendations made at draft Plan Strategy stage	Council's response
		recycling and other waste generated by a development or use, and it is therefore not considered necessary to amend the policy wording.
Policy FRD 3 Development and Surface Water (Pluvial) Flood Risk Outside Flood Plains	It might be worth considering whether text should be included within the policy on the use of sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDs) and nature-based solutions to manage surface water run-off.	The Council will consider all relevant policies in the round. The matter of SuDs hard and soft measures is adequately addressed under Policy GP 1 and it is therefore not considered necessary to amend the policy wording.
Policy TUI 1 Telecommunications Development	The policy could ensure no unacceptable damage to heritage assets.	The Council will consider all relevant policies in the round. The matter of heritage is adequately addressed under the HE policies and it is therefore not considered necessary to amend the policy wording.
Policy TRAN 8 Active Travel including Walking and Cycling	Where the policy refers to the Department's published standards it could be helpful to mention the name of these standards.	The Council consider that the supporting J&A provides sufficient clarity in relation to the Department's published standards, as it directs the user to Development Control Advice Note 15 'Vehicular Access Standards'
Policy TRAN 9 Provision of Car Parks	Could reference the provision of EV charging.	The Council will consider all relevant policies in the round. The matter of EV charging is addressed under Policy TRAN 7 Parking and Servicing Arrangements. In addition, Council will amend Policy TRAN 1 Accessible Environments, in relation to provision of EV Charging points.
Policy MIN 1 Minerals Development	*Where the proposal falls within or in close proximity to a site or area of landscape, amenity, scientific, or heritage (natural, built or archaeological) value , including those*	The wording of MIN 1 links back to SPPS Para. 6.155, Third Bullet Point, and Para. 6.158 and new Natural Heritage Policies (including NH 5 – *Habitats, Species, Biodiversity or Features of Natural Heritage Importance, which specifically refers to 'biodiversity'.*) The Plan Strategy uses the term 'natural heritage' to be consistent with the SPPS. Natural Heritage assets are deemed

Policy	Recommendations made at draft Plan Strategy stage	Council's response
	proposed for designation, it will not normally be granted permission where this would adversely affect the integrity of or threaten to undermine the rationale for the designation. The above wording in the policy could be amended to specifically refer to biodiversity assets when stating the sites or areas that could be adversely affected by development.	to include biodiversity assets. It is therefore not deemed necessary to amend the wording of Policy MIN 1.
Policy OSR 7 The Floodlighting of Sports and Outdoor Recreational Facilities	The policy ensures no unacceptable adverse impact on the visual amenity or character of the locality. However, the policy could also ensure no unacceptable adverse impact on biodiversity assets.	The Council will consider all relevant policies in the round. The matter of biodiversity is adequately addressed under Policy DES 1, NH 2 and NH 5 and it is therefore not considered necessary to amend the policy wording.
Policy OSR 8 Green and Blue Infrastructure	The policy supports the enhancement of green and blue infrastructure but it could also support the creation of new green and blue infrastructure as part of new development.	The Council will consider all relevant policies in the round. SGS 9 Open Space Strategy will facilitate the provision and protection of strategic and community greenways as part of the Borough's green and blue infrastructure network. The matter of green and blue infrastructure is addressed across a range of polices including Policies DES 1 Design Quality, DES 2 Rural Design and Character in the Countryside and TRAN 8 Active Travel including Walking and Cycling.

Policy	Recommendations made at draft Plan Strategy stage	Council's response
		DES 1 criteria e) seeks provision of new open space and criteria h) seeks a movement pattern that supports sustainable active travel. The J&A clarifies that this can include green infrastructure while green and blue infrastructure are also addressed in in TRAN 8. In addition, to the above the Council will amend Policy OSR 8 to include the following: Development proposals for Green and Blue Infrastructure will be facilitated where it is in accordance with the General Policy and all other relevant policy provisions.
Policy OSR 8 Green and Blue Infrastructure	Green and blue infrastructure should be multi-functional where it enhances biodiversity but also offers places for sport and recreation.	J&A of OSR 8 states: Our green and blue infrastructure network not only enhances the visual amenity of the Borough, making it a desirable and enjoyable place to live and visit, it also supports valuable ecological networks and facilitates opportunities for recreation, exercise and active travel . It is considered that J&A outlines its multifunctional role. The policy box also defines what green and blue infrastructure is and the exceptions. The J&A sets out its functions.
Policy NH 2 Species protected by Law	The policy should require appropriate mitigation and/or compensatory measures if development proposals are allowed in exceptional circumstances. The HRA may suggest policy wording.	The policy wording is a direct reflection of the current wording in regional policy (PPS 2) and consultation has taken place with DAERA regarding the proposed policy wording, who have not objected. Content to consider further under HRA.
Policy NH 6 Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs)	The policy could ensure no adverse impact on setting of a settlement where	The Council will consider all relevant policies in the round.

Policy	Recommendations made at draft Plan Strategy stage	Council's response
	it falls within a Local Landscape Policy Area.	There is no specific reference to setting of a settlement or setting of features / areas in PPS2 or SPPS in relation to a Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs). Those features and areas within and adjoining settlements considered to be of greatest amenity value, landscape quality or local significance and therefore worthy of protection from undesirable or damaging development will be designated at LPP stage. LDPs will, where appropriate, designate areas (LLPA) and contain local policies and guidance to maintain the intrinsic environmental value and character of such areas. The matter of the setting of settlements is adequately addressed under Policy DES2 Rural Design & Character in the Countryside, our Built Environment and Natural Heritage Policies (inc. NH7 – Landscape Wedges). It is therefore not considered necessary to amend the policy wording.
Policy NH 8 Area(s) of Outstanding Natural Beauty	My understanding there is only one AONB within the Council area. therefore the policy could specifically reference The Mourne AONB.	AONB are not designated by the Council and there may or may not be another designated within our Borough during the lifetime of the plan, so it is therefore considered appropriate to reference the Mournes within the J&A.
Policy DC1 Developer Contributions	In Northern Ireland, the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act 2011 includes a statutory biodiversity duty for all government departments and public sector bodies. This legislation supports the implementation of BNG in spatial planning. The Council could consider	BNG is picked up elsewhere throughout the dPS. Council propose to bring forward an SPG which can further explain this.

Policy	Recommendations made at draft Plan Strategy stage	Council's response
	adding the requirement for BNG to the developers contributions policy.	
Policy DC1 Developer Contributions	Clarify what impacts of development will be mitigated or offset.	For example, the Under provision or loss of open space maybe offset with a playpark nearby. SPG will provide further detail.

Appendix E
SA Findings of the Preferred Options

Appraisal of the Preferred Options Paper

E.1 The appraisal of the 38 key issues is presented below along with a SA score table. The key issues highlighted in bold within Table E.1 were the preferred option that was taken forward for each key issue.

Spatial Growth Strategy

Settlement Hierarchy

Key Issue SGS 1: Defining a Settlement Hierarchy

- Preferred Option SGS 1A: Bring forward a new settlement hierarchy through re-classification of existing settlements where appropriate and to include new settlements / new settlement nodes.
- Alternative Option SGS 1B: Retain the existing settlement hierarchy with no additional new settlements / no new settlement nodes.

E.2 Option SGS 1A was identified as the most sustainable option. It performs positively against almost all sustainability objectives, especially social and economic objectives, by supporting growth in existing and new settlements and making more efficient use of land and assets. By contrast, SGS 1B was less sustainable because it would restrict growth and likely increase land take. No significant negative effects were identified for SGS 1A.

Housing Allocation

Key Issue SGS 2: Allocating Housing

- Preferred Option SGS 2A: Focus housing growth on the Hubs whilst sustaining rural communities to reflect regional direction.
- Alternative Option SGS 2B: Maintain the housing allocation in line with the proportion of households at each level of settlement hierarchy (2011 Census).

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

E.3 Option SGS 2A was identified as the most sustainable option. Although SGS 2A and SGS 2B scored the same against the sustainability objectives, SGS 2A was considered to offer slightly greater benefits overall. SGS 2C was less sustainable, with neutral to minor negative social effects and slight negative economic and environmental effects. No significant negative effects were identified for SGS 2A, and minor positive social, economic, and some environmental benefits were expected through more efficient use of land and assets.

Economic Development Lands Allocation

Key Issue SGS 3: Allocating economic development lands

- Preferred Option SGS 3A: Apportion economic development lands in relation to former council populations and in addition reflect Craigavon's sub-regional function.
- Alternative Option SGS 3B: Apportion economic development lands equally across former council areas focused on 3 x Hubs.
- Alternative Option SGS 3C: Apportion economic development lands in relation to population of 3x Hubs (city/town/urban areas).

E.4 Option SGS 3A was identified as the most sustainable option. It performed positively against social and economic objectives and strongly positively for environmental objectives linked to active and sustainable travel and climate change. By contrast, SGS 3B and SGS 3C were less sustainable, with more negative or limited effects. Although all options would involve some greenfield and biodiversity loss, no significant negative effects were identified for SGS 3A, aside from possible slight negative effects for air quality and land take.

Social Theme

Urban Housing

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

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

E.5 Option SOC 1A was the only option assessed. It was assessed as significantly positive for providing good quality, sustainable housing and positive for supporting balanced communities and social cohesion. It also had positive effects for active and sustainable travel, climate change, and landscape character, with negligible effects for the remaining environmental objectives. No significant negative effects were identified.

Rural Housing

Key Issue SOC2: Supporting sustainable rural housing.

- Preferred Option SOC 2A: An approach to rural housing in line with existing policies and further regional direction, tailored to meet local circumstances.
- Alternative Option SOC 2B: An approach to rural housing in line with existing policies and further regional direction.
- Alternative Option SOC 2C: A more restrictive approach to rural housing than in existing policies and further regional direction, in the interests of the environment.

E.6 SOC 2A was identified as the most sustainable option. It was assessed as having a significantly positive effect on good quality, sustainable housing, with additional positive effects for health and wellbeing and strengthening society. Although it had negative effects on several environmental objectives, it performed better overall than SOC 2B and SOC 2C, making it the preferred and most balanced approach.

Design and Place-Making

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

- SOC3A Support good design and positive place-making in both development and advertisement proposals through criteria-based policy, with provision for additional design criteria and supporting guidance for certain identified areas

of acknowledged importance/value or types of development where appropriate.

E.7 SOC3A was the only option assessed. It was assessed as having significantly positive effects on landscape character and on the historic environment and cultural resources, with further positive effects across many social, economic and environmental objectives. No significant negative effects were identified, and overall it was considered to make a strong contribution to sustainable development.

Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

Key Issue SOC4: Protecting Open Space.

- Preferred Option SOC 4A: Protect existing open space (in addition to identifying and zoning land for new provision) in line with existing policy and regional direction, tailored to meet local circumstances.
- Alternative Option SOC 4B: Continue the current approach by protecting existing open space provision in line with existing policy (in addition to identifying and zoning land for new open space provision).

E.8 SOC4A was identified as the most sustainable option. Both options were assessed positively and neither had negative effects, but SOC4A performed better overall because its more tailored approach offered greater potential to deliver benefits across most sustainability objectives. It was expected to have significant positive effects on health and wellbeing and on strengthening society, with no significant negative effects identified.

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

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

in residential schemes of 100 units or more, or 5 hectares or more, in addition to other open space).

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

E.9 SOC5A was identified as the most sustainable option. It performed best overall because it was assessed as having significant positive effects on health and wellbeing and on strengthening society, with additional positive effects for housing, education and economic growth. No significant negative effects were identified, and it was considered to offer greater benefits than SOC5B and SOC5C through its more locally tailored approach to play provision.

Community and Cultural Facilities

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

- Preferred Option SOC 6A: Identify and protect sites where a firm proposal is in place; and bring forward a criteria based policy for development proposals to be assessed against, to facilitate new community and cultural facilities (including extensions to existing facilities).
- Alternative Option SOC 6B: Remove provision in the LDP to zone lands for community and cultural facilities; but bring forward a criteria based policy for such development proposals to be assessed against.
- Alternative Option SOC 6C: Retain a long term reserve of potential sites for community and cultural facilities through the LDP, in addition to bringing forward a criteria based policy for such development proposals to be assessed against.

E.10 Option SOC 6A was identified as the most sustainable option. It performed best overall, with positive effects for health and well-being, social cohesion, education, sustainable travel, and economic growth in the medium to long term. While some negative and uncertain effects were identified, these were not significant. Options SOC 6B and SOC 6C delivered fewer benefits overall, with SOC 6C also showing some longer-term negative effects.

Developer Contributions

Key Issue SOC 7: Facilitating development through Developer Contributions

- Preferred Option SOC 7A: Provide strategic policy on developer contributions and identify sites where developer contributions would be appropriate in the Local Policies Plan.
- Alternative Option SOC 7B: Identify sites within the Local Policies Plan where developer contributions would be appropriate.
- Alternative Option SOC 7C: Assess the requirement for developer contributions on an application-by-application basis

E.11 Option SOC 7A was identified as the most sustainable option. It offers the greatest overall benefit because its strategic policy approach gives the Council more control over delivering coordinated benefits. All options performed positively, with no negative effects identified, but SOC 7A was strongest for health and well-being and strengthening society. The appraisal found significant positive effects for health and well-being and no significant negative effects.

Economy Theme

Economic Development (Urban)

Key Issue ECN 1: Zoning for economic development

- Preferred Option ECN 1A: Evaluate existing economic development zonings and identify new sustainably located sites to meet projected needs.
- Alternative Option ECN 1B: Retain existing economic development zonings along with additional sustainably located sites to meet projected needs.
- Alternative Option ECN 1C: Retain existing economic development zonings as currently identified in the extant Plans.

E.12 Option ECN 1A was identified as the most sustainable option. It performed best overall by providing the strongest social and economic benefits, including significant positive effects for sustainable economic growth and material assets. Option ECN 1B offered some positive effects but to a lesser extent, while Option ECN 1C performed

least well, with some negative social, economic and environmental effects. No significant negative effects were identified for ECN 1A.

Key Issue ECN 2: Locating Class B1 Business Uses

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

E.13 Option ECN 2A was identified as the most sustainable option. It performed best overall by supporting positive social and economic effects and offering slightly greater benefits than ECN 2B across many environmental objectives. Although uncertainty remained around effects on air quality, no significant negative effects were identified.

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

- Preferred Option ECN 3A: Identify sites within economic development zonings specifically for StartUp and Grow-On business space and also use redundant buildings or lands on existing economic sites for Start-Up and Grow-On business space.
- Alternative Option ECN 3B: Restrict UCO Class B1 Business Uses to town centres only.
- Alternative Option ECN 3C: Consider Start-Up and Grow-On business space on a case by case basis.

E.14 ECN 3A is the most sustainable option for supporting start-up and grow-on businesses. The SA found it offers the best overall balance of social, economic and environmental benefits. It supports business growth by identifying suitable sites within economic zonings and reusing redundant land or buildings. It also performs better than the alternatives environmentally, particularly in relation to sustainable travel. No significant effects were identified.

Economic Development (Rural)

Key Issue ECN 4: Supporting sustainable rural economic development

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

E.15 ECN 4A is the most sustainable option for supporting sustainable rural economic development. The SA found it offers greater overall benefits than retaining existing policy alone, particularly by generating significant positive effects for sustainable economic growth. It also helps sustain and enhance the orchard resource, supports landscape character and provides some benefit to the historic environment through support for traditional and artisan production.

Town Centres and Retailing

Key Issue ECN 5: Defining a hierarchy of centres

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

E.16 ECN 5A is the most sustainable option for defining a hierarchy of centres. The SA found it performs better overall than retaining the existing hierarchy, with positive effects for strengthening society, sustainable economic growth, material assets, sustainable travel, water resources, landscape character and the historic environment. Although some effects remain uncertain, particularly for biodiversity and physical resources, ECN 5A provides the stronger overall sustainability outcome.

Key Issue ECN 6: Protecting and strengthening town centres

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

E.17 ECN 6A is the most sustainable option for protecting and strengthening town centres. The SA found it performs better than retaining the existing boundaries and cores, particularly because it has a significantly positive effect on sustainable economic growth by directing retail and investment to town centres. It also has positive effects across a range of social, environmental and heritage objectives.

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

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

E.18 ECN 7A was the only option assessed. The SA finds it would bring strong social and economic benefits, support town centre vitality, and help conserve historic buildings through active use. Although there may be some biodiversity effects and uncertainty around longer-term material asset impacts, overall it is judged to be the most sustainable option.

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

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

E.19 The most sustainable option is ECN 8A, which applies a sequential approach to office development in town centres. The SA finds this option offers the strongest overall sustainability performance, with significant benefits for sustainable economic growth and efficient use of material assets, while also supporting sustainable travel and town centre vitality. Although there is some uncertainty around air quality effects, ECN 8A is judged to be the most sustainable option.

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

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

E.20 The most sustainable option is ECN 9A, reviewing existing Development Opportunity Sites and identifying new ones where appropriate. The SA finds it would best support regeneration, strengthen communities, boost sustainable economic growth and make better long-term use of brownfield land. Although there is some uncertainty around air quality and climate change effects, overall ECN 9A is judged to be the most sustainable option.

Tourism

Key Issue ECN 10: Supporting sustainable tourism development

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

E.21 The most sustainable option is ECN 10A, supporting sustainable tourism development in settlements and the countryside, tailored to local needs and protection of tourism assets. The SA finds both options positive overall, but ECN 10A offers greater benefits, particularly for rural areas. It also supports landscape character and the historic environment, so overall it is judged to be the most sustainable option.

Minerals Development

Key Issue ECN 11: Supporting sustainable minerals development

- Preferred Option ECN 11A: Support a balanced approach between the need for mineral resources and the need to protect the environment and other interests of acknowledged importance, in line with existing policies and further regional direction, by designating Mineral Safeguarding Zones (MSZs) and Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMDs) where appropriate.
- Alternative Option ECN 11B: Continue an approach whereby minerals development proposals are considered on their merits against criteria based policy in line with existing policies and further regional direction - with review of the Borough's existing 2 Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development

(ACMDs). This approach will identify new Mineral Safeguarding Zones (MSZs) where appropriate.

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

E.22 The most sustainable option is ECN 11A, which allows the greatest expansion of the quarrying industry while adding protections such as new ACMDs in high scenic value areas. The SA finds it performs best overall, with positive economic and physical resource effects and added protection for landscape and the historic environment. Although some short-term biodiversity effects are identified, overall ECN 11A is judged to be the most sustainable option.

Infrastructure, Telecommunications and Utilities

Key Issue ECN 12: Facilitating sustainable infrastructure, telecommunications and utilities development to meet the needs of the Borough

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

E.23 ECN 12A was the only option assessed. It is preferred because it provides a criteria-based policy, aligned with existing policy and regional direction, to support infrastructure, telecommunications and utilities development while offering the best overall sustainability balance across the Borough.

Transportation

Key Issue ECN 13: Protecting the Borough's Protected Routes

- Preferred Option ECN 13A: Bringing forward an approach that is in line with existing Protected Routes policy, tailored to the needs of the Borough.
- Alternative Option ECN 13B: Bringing forward a more strict Protected Routes policy.
- Alternative Option ECN 13C: Bring forward a more relaxed Protected Routes policy.

E.24 The SA identifies Option ECN 13A as the most sustainable option. It is preferred because it supports road infrastructure in a way that delivers the strongest overall sustainability performance, including a significantly positive effect on enabling sustainable economic growth, while avoiding the more negative effects identified for Options ECN 13B and especially ECN 13C.

Key Issue ECN 14: Protecting proposed strategic road improvement schemes

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

E.25 ECN 14A was the only option assessed. Safeguarding key strategic road improvement schemes would enhance accessibility across the Borough and, despite some slight negative environmental effects, was judged overall to contribute to sustainable development. No significant effects were identified.

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

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

E.26 The SA identifies Option ECN 15A as the most sustainable option. It is preferred because safeguarding disused transport routes with future potential would deliver strong sustainability benefits, especially for active and sustainable travel and, in the longer term, biodiversity, while avoiding the missed opportunities and negative effects associated with Option ECN 15B.

Key Issue ECN 16: Protecting key Park and Ride Sites

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

E.27 The SA identifies Option ECN 16A as the most sustainable option. It is preferred because it would make public transport more accessible and attractive across a wider range of locations, giving a significantly positive effect on active and sustainable travel and broader social, economic and air quality benefits than Option ECN 16B.

Key Issue ECN 17: Promoting active travel and sustainable transport

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

E.28 ECN 17A was the only option assessed. It was assessed as having no negative effects, with positive effects across most social and economic objectives. It would have a strong positive effect on active and sustainable travel, alongside minor benefits for air quality and climate change, and was expected to deliver significant positive effects for health and wellbeing.

Key Issue ECN 18: Promoting and enhancing access to greenways

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

E.29 Option ECN 18A was the only option assessed. It was assessed as having no negative effects, with slight positive effects across most social, economic and environmental objectives. It would have a strong positive effect on active and sustainable travel, with strong positive effects also identified for health and wellbeing and biodiversity.

Environment Theme

Built Heritage and Archaeology

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

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

E.30 Option ENV 1A was identified as the most sustainable option. It was considered likely to have significant positive effects on landscape character and the historic environment, with further benefits for sustainable economic growth and protection of physical and natural resources. It was largely neutral across other objectives, though it was assessed as having a negative effect on managing material assets sustainably.

Natural Heritage

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

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

E.31 Option ENV 2A was the only option assessed. It was assessed as having positive effects across many objectives, including education, sustainable economic growth, material assets, physical resources and the historic environment. It was also expected to deliver significant positive effects for health and wellbeing, strengthening society, climate change, water resources, biodiversity and landscape character.

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

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

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

E.32 Option ENV 3A was identified as the most sustainable option. Both options performed similarly, but ENV 3A was considered stronger because it allows existing local nature conservation designations to be reviewed and new ones identified. It was assessed as having positive effects across several objectives and a significant positive effect on protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity.

Landscape

Key Issue ENV 4: Identifying and protecting Sensitive Landscapes

- Preferred Option ENV 4A: Consider areas of sensitive landscape for designation as Areas of High Scenic Value (AoHSV) or Special Countryside Areas (SCA).
- Alternative Option ENV 4B: Rely on regional planning policy carried forward to provide protection for the landscape setting, nature conservation interests, built heritage features and tourism assets in areas of sensitive landscape.

E.33 The most sustainable option is ENV 4A: identifying sensitive landscapes for designation as Areas of High Scenic Value or Special Countryside Areas. It was preferred because it gives stronger positive effects for biodiversity, landscape character and the historic environment than ENV 4B, which performs less well environmentally. The SA also identifies likely significant positive effects for biodiversity and landscape character, with no significant negative effects noted.

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

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

E.34 The most sustainable option is ENV 5A: reviewing and, where appropriate, retaining existing Local Landscape Policy Areas, identifying new LLPAs, and

introducing a consistent policy. It was preferred because it delivers stronger and longer-term positive effects than ENV 5B, especially for biodiversity, landscape character and the historic environment. The SA identifies significantly positive effects for those three objectives under ENV 5A.

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

- Preferred Option ENV 6A: Review existing open space wedges and policy zones as potential urban landscape wedges; and identify both new urban and rural landscape wedges with associated policy.
- Alternative Option ENV 6B: Retain the existing designations (open space wedges and policy zones) and associated policies in the extant Area Plans that protect landscape.

E.35 The most sustainable option is ENV 6A. It was preferred because it performs better overall than the alternative and is expected to deliver significant positive effects for maintaining and enhancing landscape character and for protecting, conserving and enhancing built and cultural heritage. The appraisal notes that many other objectives are neutral, with local-level policy measures suggested to support delivery.

Flood Risk and Drainage

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

- Preferred Option ENV 7A: Adopt a precautionary approach in line with existing policy and regional direction by having a presumption against development in flood plains other than in exceptional circumstances. The precautionary principle will be applied to areas which are currently subject to flood risk or in the future.
- Alternative Option ENV 7B: No development in areas of flood risk (flood plains).

E.36 The most sustainable option is ENV 7A: a precautionary approach that presumes against development in flood plains except in exceptional circumstances. It was preferred because it gives slight positive effects across most objectives by reducing flood risk, steering development to appropriate locations and supporting climate change adaptation. ENV 7B was more restrictive but created more social and economic negatives. No significant negative effects were identified for ENV 7A.

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

- Preferred Option ENV 8A: Bring forward policy to encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in new development where appropriate.
- Alternative Option ENV 8B: Continue the current approach to Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) with each application assessed on a case by case basis.

E.37 The most sustainable option is ENV 8A: bringing forward policy to encourage Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in new development where appropriate. It was preferred because it provides a more consistent, proactive approach than ENV 8B, with significant positive effects for health and well-being, sustainable housing, climate change adaptation, water management and biodiversity. ENV 8B was judged significantly negative overall.

Renewable Energy

Key Issue ENV 9: Facilitating appropriate renewable energy development .

- Preferred Option ENV 9A: An approach to renewable energy development in line with existing policy but in addition identify areas of sensitive landscape which may be unsuitable for particular forms of renewable energy development.
- Alternative Option ENV 9B: Continue the current approach to renewable energy development in line with existing policy, with each application assessed on a case by case basis.

E.38 The most sustainable option is ENV 9A: supporting renewable energy development while identifying sensitive landscapes that may be unsuitable for particular forms of development. It was preferred because it supports renewable energy and economic growth while better protecting landscape character and the historic environment than the case-by-case approach in ENV 9B. The SA identifies significant positive effects for economic growth, material assets, climate change, landscape and heritage.

Waste Management

Key Issue ENV 10: Facilitating sustainable waste management.

- Preferred Option ENV 10A: An approach to waste management in line with existing criteria based policy but tailored to meet local circumstances; and in addition identify suitable locations for waste management facilities were appropriate
- Alternative Option ENV10B: Continue the current approach to waste management in line with existing policy

E.39 The most sustainable option is ENV 10A: a locally tailored approach to waste management, plus identifying suitable locations for facilities where appropriate. It was preferred because it supports a circular economy, manages waste more sustainably and reduces transport-related emissions. The SA identifies significant positive effects for sustainable economic growth, material assets and climate change, while ENV 10B performs less well overall.

Table E.1: SA findings of the Preferred Options

Policy	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14
SGS 1A	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
SGS 1B	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	0	-	0	-	0
SGS 2A	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
SGS 2B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
SGS 2C	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
SGS 3A	0	+	0	+	+	+	-	++	-	+	0	-	0	0
SGS 3B	?	-	0	?	-	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	0	0
SGS 3C	0	0	0	?	-	-	-	?	-	+	0	-	0	0
SOC 1A	+	++	++	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	+	0
SOC 2A	0	+	++	0	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	0
SOC 2B	+	+	+	0	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	0
SOC 2C	0	-	+	0	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	0
SOC3A	+	+	+	0	++	++	++	++	+	+	0	+	++	++
SOC 4A	++	++	+	0	++	++	++	++	?	+	+	+	+	0
SOC 4B	+	+	+	0	++	++	++	++	?	+	+	+	+	0
SOC 5A	++	++	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0
SOC 5B	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0
SOC 5C	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0
SOC 6A	+	+	0	+	+	0	-	+	?	0	0	?	?	0
SOC 6B	0	0	0	?	0	0	-	+	?	0	0	?	?	0
SOC 6C	+	+	-	?	-	-	-	+	?	0	0	?	?	0

Policy	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14
SOC 7A	++	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
SOC 7B	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
SOC 7C	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
ECN 1A	+	+	0	+	++	++	+	+	?	+	+	+	0	0
ECN 1B	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	?	0	0
ECN 1C	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	0	?	?	-	-	0	0
ECN 2A	+	+	0	+	++	+	+	+	?	+	0	0	0	+
ECN 2B	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	0	0	0	+
ECN 3A	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	?	0	0	0	0	0
ECN 3B	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	0
ECN 3C	+	+	0	+	+	0	?	?	?	0	0	-	-	0
ECN 4A	0	+	0	0	++	0	?	?	?	0	-	?	+	+
ECN 4B	0	+	0	0	+	0	-	?	?	0	-	?	+	0
ECN 5A	0	+	0	0	+	+	?	+	?	0	+	?	+	+
ECN 5B	0	0	0	0	+	+	?	?	?	0	?	?	?	?
ECN 6A	0	+	0	0	++	+	+	+	?	0	+	+	+	+
ECN 6B	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	?	0	+	+	+	+
ECN 7A	+	++	0	0	++	?	+	0	?	0	0	-	0	++
ECN 8A	0	0	0	0	++	++	+	+	?	0	+	+	+	+
ECN 8B	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	+	?	0	+	+	+	+
ECN 9A	+	++	+	0	++	+	++	0	?	?	+	+	+	+
ECN 9B	0	+	+	0	-	-	-	0	?	?	?	?	?	?

Policy	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14
ECN 10A	+	+	0	+	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	?	+	+
ECN 10B	+	+	0	+	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	?	+	+
ECN 11A	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	?	?	?	+	0	+
ECN 11B	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	?	?	?	+	0	+
ECN 11C	0	0	0	0	-	0	--	0	0	?	?	+	0	+
ECN 12A	++	++	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	0
ECN 13A	+	0	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
ECN 13B	+	0	0	0	--	?	+	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
ECN 13C	-	0	0	0	--	-	-	-	0	0	0	--	-	0
ECN 14A	+	0	0	0	?	0	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+
ECN 15A	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	++	+	+	0	++	+	+
ECN 15B	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
ECN 16A	+	+	0	+	+	0	?	++	+	+	0	-	-	0
ECN 16B	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	-	-	0
ECN 17A	++	+	+	+	+	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	0
ECN 18A	++	+	0	+	+	0	0	++	+	+	+	++	0	0
ENV 1A	0	0	0	0	+	-	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	++
ENV 1B	0	0	0	0	0	-	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+
ENV 2A	++	++	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	++	++	++	++	+
ENV 3A	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	++	+	+
ENV 3B	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+
ENV 4A	0	0	0	0	+	-	?	0	0	+	+	++	++	+

Policy	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14
ENV 4B	0	0	0	0	+	-	?	0	0	+	+	--	--	-
ENV 5A	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	++	++	++	++
ENV 5B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-
ENV 6A	+	+	0	0	0	-	+	+	0	0	+	++	++	+
ENV 6B	-	-	0	0	0	?	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	-
ENV 7A	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+
ENV 7B	?	-	-	0	-	-	+	-	0	+	-	+	+	?
ENV 8A	++	+	++	0	+	+	+	0	0	++	++	++	+	+
ENV 8B	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	0	--	--	-	0	-
ENV 9A	0	0	0	0	++	++	+	0	+	++	+	+	++	++
ENV 9B	0	0	0	0	+	?	?	0	+	++	+	+	?	?
ENV 10A	+	+	0	0	++	++	+	0	0	++	+	0	0	0
ENV 10B	-	-	0	0	?	-	-	0	?	+	+	0	0	0

References

1 EAPP 2004

2 Development Plan Practice Note 04

3 Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

4 Regional Development Strategy 2035

5 Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006

6 Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

7 Department for Infrastructure (2012) Regional Development Strategy 2035 [online] Available at: www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/regional-development-strategy-2035

8 Department for Infrastructure (2025) The Strategic Planning Policy Statement, Edition 2 [online] Available at: www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/strategic-planning-policy-statement-edition-2

9 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (2018) Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report

10 Public Health Information & Research Branch, Information Analysis Directorate (2024) Health Inequalities Annual Report

11 2018 -2043 NISRA population projections LGD 2014. [online] Available at: www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2018-based-population-projections-areas-within-northern-ireland

12 2021 Usual resident population: A:16438 B:17248 CUA:72721. ABC:218656. [online] Available at:www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/ct0116-usual-resident-population-local-government-district-and-urban-status

13 Public Health Information & Research Branch, Information Analysis Directorate (2024) Health Inequalities Annual Report

14 Department of Health, Northern Ireland (2025) Health Inequalities Annual Report

15 NISRA (2019) Cause of Death [online] Available at: www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/births-deaths-and-marriages/cause-death

16 Department of Health, Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Inequalities Monitoring System

17 Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (2021) main statistics health, disability and unpaid care tables

18 Department of health (2023/24) raw disease prevalence data for northern Ireland (doh statistics and research) 2004/05 to 2023/24 raw disease prevalence data for northern Ireland

19 Department for Communities (2024) benefits statistics summary publication (national statistics)

20 NISRA, Continuous Household Survey. [online] Available at: www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/central-survey-unit/continuous-household-survey

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

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

23 The Guardian, 25th March 2016 'Three-quarters of UK children spend less time outdoors than prison inmates – survey'

24 Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (2017) State of Child Health

25 Health Survey Northern Ireland: First Results 2016/17: Health Survey NI Trend Tables

26 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.

27 Super Output Areas are statistical geography boundaries created by NISRA to allow the reporting of small area statistics.

28 PSNI, Key statistics [online] Available at: www.psni.police.uk/sites/default/files/2025-03/2024%20Key%20Statistics%20report.pdf

29 2021 usual resident population: A:16438 B:17248 CUA:72721. ABC:218656. [online] Available at: www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/ct0116-usual-resident-population-local-government-district-and-urban-status

30 2018 -2043 NISRA population projections LGD 2014. [online] Available at: www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2018-based-population-projections-areas-within-northern-ireland

31 Super Output Areas are statistical geography boundaries created by NISRA to allow the reporting of small area statistics.

32 Census 2021

33 Census 2021 main statistics housing and accommodation tables | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

34 Census 2021 Main statistics for Northern Ireland - Statistical bulletin - Health [online] Available at: www.nisra.gov.uk

35 Census 2021

36 Marital and Civil Partnership Status, Census 2021, NISRA

37 Source: Census 2021

38 Census 2021, Summary Report

39 Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon | Police Service of Northern Ireland

40 PSNI, Police recorded crime statistics [online] Available at: www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/

41 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Technical Supplement for Education, Health and Community Facilities [online] Available at: www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/local-development-plan-residents/

42 Census 2021 main statistics housing and accommodation tables | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. [online] Available at: www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-housing-and-accommodation-tables

43 Census 2021

44 Levels of social housing need are assessed and monitored by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)

45 Ulster University: Performance of the Private Rental Market in Northern Ireland: Issue 23 H1 2024

46 NIHE Commissioning Prospectus: Social & Intermediate Housing Requirements for the period 2024/25 - 2026/27

47 Housing Executive (2011) Northern Ireland House Condition Survey [online] Available at: www.nihe.gov.uk/getattachment/3ba4a670-3d93-4311-9bd6-4cee2b4a458f/Northern-Ireland-House-Condition-Survey-main-report-2011.pdf

48 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (2023) School Leavers Statistics [online] Available at: www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/School-Leavers-Statistics-2023-24-Update.docx

49 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Preparatory Paper 4: Town centres [online] Available at: www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/local-development-plan-residents/#1522251407925-537e06ef-4756

50 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Preparatory Paper 9 [online] Available at: www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/local-development-plan-residents/

51 OFCOM Connected Nations 2017 – data downloads

52 Northern Ireland Electricity (2015) Briefing on Grid Capacity in Northern Ireland in the context of enabling Economic Growth

53 NISRA & DfE (2021) Electricity Consumption and Renewable Generation in Northern Ireland

54 Department for the Economy (2017) Information note on Minerals, Geothermal Energy, Groundwater and Geohazards

55 Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council planning team

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

57 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

58 NISRA: Method of travel to work MS-I01

59 Local Development Plan background information to Environmental Assets paper

60 Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council: 2015 Updating and Screening Assessment

61 Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council: 2015 Updating and Screening Assessment

62 Climate NI website

63 NINIS

64 Armagh City, Craigavon & Banbridge Borough Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Transportation Paper

65 Armagh City, Craigavon & Banbridge Borough Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Transportation Paper

66 UK Gov Office for Health Improvement & Disparities Guidance Air pollution: applying All Our Health [online] Available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/air-pollution-applying-all-our-health/air-pollution-applying-all-our-health

67 Public Health England (2014) Estimating Local Mortality Burdens Associated with Particulate Air Pollution, pp. 21

68 Air quality NI [online] Available at: www.airqualityni.co.uk

69 DAERA (2016) draft Programme for Government Air Quality Stakeholder Consultation

70 DAERA Ammonia emissions in Northern Ireland [online] Available at: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/ammonia-emissions-northern-ireland

71 DAERA Ammonia emissions in Northern Ireland [online] Available at: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/ammonia-emissions-northern-ireland

72 DAERA & NISRA (2022) Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2022

73 Climate NI 2017

74 IPCC

75 Met Office (2018) UK Climate Projections [online] Available at: www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/approach/collaboration/ukcp/index

76 Climate Northern Ireland (2021) Evidence for the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) Summary for Northern Ireland

77 DoE (2014) Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2014-2019

78 DAERA (2019) Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024

79 DAERA, NISRA & NIEA (2022) Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report

80 UKCP18 Factsheet: Sea level rise and storm surge [online] Available at: www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/approach/collaboration/ukcp/marine-projections

81 DAERA Northern Ireland greenhouse gas inventory [online] Available at: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-greenhouse-gas-inventory]

82 DAERA, NISRA & NIEA (2022) Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report May 2022

83 DAERA & NIEA (2022) Northern Ireland greenhouse gas statistics 1990-2020 statistical bulletin infographic

84 Defra 2012: A Climate Change Risk Assessment for Northern Ireland

85 DAERA & NIEA (2022) Northern Ireland greenhouse gas statistics 1990-2020 statistical bulletin infographic

86 DAERA & NISRA (2022) Northern Ireland greenhouse gas inventory 1990-2020 statistical bulletin - data and chart

87 DAERA & NISRA (2022) Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2020 Statistical Bulletin - Figure 2.

88 NINIS Farm Census (administrative geographies) 1999-2018

89 UK Department for Transport (2018) The Road to Zero Next steps towards cleaner road transport and delivering our Industrial Strategy

90 DAERA & NISRA (2022) Northern Ireland greenhouse gas inventory 1990-2020 Statistical Bulletin data & charts - Table1

91 DAERA (2019) Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Annual Report 2019

92 NIE & SONI (2018) Consultation on Connecting Further Generation in Northern Ireland

93 DAERA & NISEA (2022) Northern Ireland Carbon Intensity Indicators 2021 data tables (Table 1.1)

94 Renewable NI website, May 2022

95 Northern Ireland Electricity Network Capacity map [online] Available at: hwww.nienetworks.co.uk/connections/capacity-map

96 DAERA, NISRA & NIEA (2022) Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report May 2022 (Chapter 2)

97 DAERA & NISEA (2022) Northern Ireland Carbon Intensity Indicators report ‘Key Points’

98 DAERA & NISRA (2021) Northern Ireland greenhouse gas inventory 1990-2019 Statistical Bulletin - Table 1.

99 DAERA (2019) Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Annual Report 2019 Issue 11 ‘Greenhouse Gas Emissions’

100 DfE Minerals Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Pre POP consultation

101 DAERA & NISRA (2022) Northern Ireland greenhouse gas inventory 1990-2020 data and charts - Table 1.

102 DAERA (2019) Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Annual Report 2019 Issue 11 'Greenhouse Gas Emissions'

103 DAERA (2021) Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics 2020/21 annual data

104 USEPA (2006) Solid Waste Management and Greenhouse Gases: A Life-Cycle Assessment of Emissions and Sinks, 3rd Edition.

105 DAERA (2019) Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024

106 DoE (2014) Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2014-2019

107 DfI (2018) Northern Ireland Flood Risk Assessment (NIFRA)

108 SEPA (2016) Natural Flood Management Handbook

109 SusDrain 'Carbon reduction and sequestration' [online] Available at: www.susdrain.org/delivering-suds/using-suds/benefits-of-suds/Carbon-reduction-and-sequestration

110 Ashley, RM, Walker, AL, D'Arcy, B et al. (5 more authors) (2015) UK sustainable drainage systems: past, present and future. Proceedings of ICE - Civil Engineering, 168 (3). pp. 125-130

111 Committee on Climate Change (2021) 'Evidence for the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) Summary for Northern Ireland.

112 Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs WMU Digital Dataset Downloads

113 Department for Infrastructure Mapping Portal

114 DAERA (2015) Northern Ireland Reported Water Body Status & Objective Figures

115 Opendata NI [online] Drinking Water Inspectorate Register of Private Water Supplies in Northern Ireland

116 DfI Rivers Agency: Flood Maps NI [online] Available at: www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/rivers-and-flooding/flood-maps-ni

117 NI Water, Drinking Water Quality Annual Report [online] Available at: www.niwater.com/media/geso5q4o/2024-ni-water-drinking-water-quality-annual-report.pdf

118 Ulster Wildlife "Former sewage lagoons to be transformed into wildlife haven".

119 Landscape Character of Northern Ireland [online] Available at: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/landscape-character-northern-ireland

120 DAERA, Regional landscape character areas map viewer [online] Available at: www.daerani.gov.uk/services/regional-landscape-character-areas-map-viewer

121 Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets

122 Historic Environment Map Viewer [online] Available at: www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/historic-environment-map-viewer

123 Department for Communities Buildings at Risk Register for Northern Ireland

124 DfC Historic Environment Digital Datasets 'Sites and Monuments Record' (dataset dated: Dec 2025)

125 DfC Historic Environment Digital Datasets 'Scheduled Zones' (dataset dated: March 2025)

126 Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets (digital dataset

Report produced by LUC

Bristol
12th Floor, Beacon Tower, Colston Street, Bristol BS1 4XE
0117 389 0700

Cardiff
Room 1.12, 1st Floor, Brunel House, 2 Fitzalan Rd, Cardiff CF24 0EB
0292 254 0920

Edinburgh
Atholl Exchange, 6 Canning Street, Edinburgh EH3 8EG
0131 326 0900

Glasgow
5th Floor, The Garment Factory, 10 Montrose Street, Glasgow G1 1RE
0141 403 0900

London
250 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8RD
020 7199 5801

Manchester
4th Floor, 57 Hilton Street, Manchester M1 2EJ
0161 802 2800

Sheffield
32 Eyre Street, Sheffield, S1 4QZ
0114 392 2366

Email address for general enquiries: hello@landuse.co.uk

landuse.co.uk

Landscape Design / Strategic Planning & Assessment / Transport Planning
Development Planning / Urban Design & Masterplanning / Arboriculture
Environmental Impact Assessment / Landscape Planning & Assessment
Landscape Management / Ecology / Historic Environment / GIS & Visualisation