

Local Development Plan: 6-month indicative LDP Work Programme (Jan-Jun 2021)	24th February 2021
Planning Committee	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Outcome
Leader & Champion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will establish key relationships with Government agencies and potential strategic partners in NI and external to it which helps us to deliver our vision for this Council area.
Protect the environment in which we live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All environments in the area will benefit from pro-active decision making which protects the natural features, characteristics, and integrity of the Borough.
Lead Officer:	Principal Planning Officer/Local Development Plan Manager
Cost:	N/A

For Decision

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The 6-month indicative Work Programme (attached at Appendix 1) outlines the work areas to be carried out by the Development Plan team within this programme.

2.0 DETAIL

- 2.1 As per the Council's existing LDP Timetable, published on 25th November 2019, the indicative date for publication of the Draft Plan Strategy is Autumn/Winter 2020.
- 2.2 From Monday 23rd March 2020 the Development Plan team has been (mostly) working from home, updating the LDP evidence base to inform the preparation of the Draft Plan Strategy.
- 2.3 Consultation with the LDP Project Management Team (key consultees and stakeholders) on the draft planning policies has continued electronically due to ongoing government guidance. This is also likely to remain in place for the duration of this work programme.
- 2.4 The LDP Steering Group (the Planning Committee) receives a verbal monthly update on the LDP work programme. Ad hoc Steering Group meetings will be held throughout the programme, as required.

- 2.5 Member Workshops (face to face) commenced in January 2020, however these were also impacted, for much of 2020, due to government advice. However, virtual workshops re-commenced in September 2020.

LDP Timetable

- 2.6 As highlighted in the previous 6-month work programme update (agreed at the August 2020 Planning Committee Meeting), Members will be aware of the knock-on impact of this on both the original workshop programme and to the overall LDP preparation. This will be further explored in the Revised LDP Timetable paper, which is also for discussion this month.
- 2.7 This matter will be kept under review and Members updated accordingly.

LDP Independent Examinations by the PAC

- 2.8 Members will be aware that the LDP documents (Plans Strategy and Local Polices Plan) are subject to Independent Examination before they can be adopted by the Council.

Working Groups/Collaborative Working

- 2.9 Virtual meetings of the NI Development Plan Working Group continued during the previous work programme and will do so throughout this one. The next meeting is scheduled for 15th March 2021.
- 2.10 Collaborative work will also be undertaken on the following, as and when required:
- NI Coastal/Marine Group;
 - Cross-Border Development Plan Group;
 - Cross-Boundary Group (adjoining councils); and
 - Sperrin AONB Group.

Sustainability Appraisal

- 2.11 A Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) of the LDP is an iterative process, continuing throughout the entire Plan-making programme. Members are aware that Shared Environmental Services (SES), working out of Mid & East Antrim Borough Council, are employed to undertake the SA/SEA of the LDP on behalf of the Council (through a Service Level Agreement {SLA}).
- 2.12 On 4th June 2020 SES issued a revised SLA to the Council. However, as the substantial increase in costs is not considered reasonable, legal advice was sought and further detailed information has been requested from SES. We await a substantive response from SES. Members will be updated on this matter following receipt of this information.

Settlement Appraisal

- 2.13 During the precious work programme, the Development Plan team, working in partnership with the consultant, has appraised the Settlements within the Borough. In line with the Evaluation Framework set out in the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035, further work on this will continue throughout this work programme, to inform the LDP preparation.

Landscape Study

- 2.14 Given the level of landscape and environmental designation covering the Borough (over 40% coverage), this study is a key piece of evidence required to inform our LDP policy approach. The Study will provide a robust 'sound' evidence base that will inform the draft LDP policies and proposals.

Reviews

- 2.15 Members will be aware of the recent update to the CC&GBC Retail & Leisure Capacity Study (2017) by Nexus, completed during the last work programme (Jul-Dec 2020). This is now informing both the LDP preparation and planning decisions within the Borough.

Annual Monitors

- 2.16 Preparatory work on the Council's annual monitors will commence in within this work programme (subject to completion of other work areas).

Building Preservation Notices (BPNs)

- 2.17 Ad hoc requests for BPNs will be processed throughout the work programme, as and when required.

Trees

- 2.18 Ad hoc requests for Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and Works to Trees will be processed throughout the work programme, as and when required.

Other work

- 2.19 In addition to the items above, the Development Plan team will continue to assist our development management colleagues with planning applications, LDP and Conservation Area consultation responses and rota duties. Council consultations from other councils, as well as other ad-hoc papers etc will be processed as and when required.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Members note the content of this report and agree to the 6-month (indicative) work programme attached at Appendix 1.

APPENDIX 1: Local Development Plan 6 Month (Indicative) Work Programme (Jan-Jun2021)*

Week Commencing	PLG CTTEE		PLG CTTEE		PLG CTTEE		PLG CTTEE		PLG CTTEE		PLG CTTEE		PLG CTTEE		PLG CTTEE		PLG CTTEE		PLG CTTEE		PLG CTTEE					
	04/01/21	11/01/21	18/01/21	25/01/21	01/02/21	08/02/21	15/02/21	22/02/21	01/03/21	08/03/21	15/03/21	22/03/21	29/03/21	05/04/21	12/04/21	19/04/21	26/04/21	3/5/21	10/05/21	17/05/21	24/5/21	31/05/21	07/06/21	14/06/21	21/06/21	28/6/21
Draft Plan Strategy Preparation	Work to continue throughout programme - Revised LDP Timetable to Feb 2021 Plg Cttee for agreement (subject to DfI clearance)																									
Sustainability Appraisal	Work to continue throughout programme																									
LDP Steering Group Meetings	Monthly verbal update to Planning Committee (the Steering Group). Meetings as required throughout programme																									
Evidence Paper Updates	Evidence gathering to continue throughout programme																									
CC&GBC Landscape Character Study	Informing draft planning policies																									
LDP Project Management Team Meetings	As required throughout programme																									
Member Workshops - LDP Policy Drafting												Wed 31st Mar							Wed 12th May	Wed 19th May				Wed 16th Jun		Wed 30th Jun
Cross Border Working Group	As required throughout programme																									
Cross Boundary Working Group	As required throughout programme																									
Sperrin AONB Working Group	As required throughout programme																									
NI Minerals Working Group	As required throughout programme																									
NI Development Plan Working Group	Next Mtg 15th March 2021, then as required throughout programme																									
Community Plan Strategic Partnership Board	Next meeting 14th April 2021, then as required throughout programme																									
HGI Review	Work to continue throughout programme																									
Housing Land Monitor	Scheduled to commence towards end of programme (dependent on completion of other work areas)																									
Retail Monitor	The retail element (only) of the CC&GBC Retail & Leisure Capacity Study was updated late 2020. This will inform the LDP preparation and DM decision making. Retail Monitor scheduled to commence towards end of programme.																									
Employment Land Monitor	Scheduled to commence towards end of programme (dependent on completion of other work areas)																									
Settlement Appraisals	Background work to continue throughout programme																									
Settlement Evaluation	Background work to continue throughout programme																									
Development Mgmt: assistance (Plg apps/correspondence/complaints, etc), map preparation & LDP/Tree/CAO consultation responses	To continue throughout Programme																									
Duty Planner (calls and reception rota duties)	To continue throughout Programme																									
Place & Prosperity Projects - Planning Input	To continue throughout Programme																									
Council consultations (from adjoining councils/government departments)	To continue throughout Programme																									
Council representative (planning advisor) eg Town Team, AONB, WHS, GIS, Tech Support groups, etc	To continue throughout Programme																									
Building Preservation Notices, TPOs & Works to Trees	To continue throughout Programme																									
Attendance at other council LDP Independent Examinations (IEs)	Belfast LDP Draft Pan Strategy IE runs (Mon-Wed) each week until Monday 8th March																									
Mandatory Staff Training and Continuing Personal Development(CPD)	To continue throughout Programme																									

* Dates may be subject to change.
Ad hoc meetings may be required throughout the programme.