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Date: 28th February 2023

Your Ref: ES25

Tel: 028 7034 7244

Dear Mr McDermott,

Re: Public Notice – Fermanagh and Omagh Local Development Plan – Draft Plan Strategy 2030.

Thank you for your correspondence dated 3rd February 2023 relating to the recent public consultation on the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (FODC) draft Plan Strategy (dPS).

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council notes that the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) has concluded that, subject to recommended amendments and modifications, the FODC dPS has met the tests of soundness and that the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), having considered the PAC report, has issued a Direction to FODC to adopt its Plan Strategy with modifications.

The Council wishes to congratulate FODC on reaching this significant milestone, both for FODC itself and for Plan-making generally in Northern Ireland.

This consultation response relates to the following updated documents:

- draft Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA);
- Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report (Further Addendum);
- Equality Impact Screening Report (EqIA) (Further Addendum); and
- Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) (Further Addendum).

Draft Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Addendum

The Council notes, on the basis of the analysis set out in the draft HRA, that FODC considers the dPS (with the modifications set out in the DfI Direction) will not adversely affect the integrity of any international sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

Sustainability Appraisal Report (SA) (Further Addendum)

The Council notes this addendum highlights the effects that the modifications to the dPS have had in regard to the original SA published in October 2018 and in the case

of FLD06 the updated assessment carried out in October 2020. It is noted that a number of the modifications did not require any further screening as these modifications relate to minor edits or minor policy clarification and therefore will have no material effects on the sustainability objectives.

It is also noted that amended assessments for policies MIN01, HE02, HE04, HE09, L03, FLD04 and FLD06 have been carried out. Following consideration of the updated appraisals, no implications on the overall SA of the dPS were identified, although there were some improvements to the performance of some of the policies against some Sustainability Objectives. The Council acknowledges that, cumulatively considering all the modifications, there are no implications on the overall SA of the dPS.

Equality Impact Screening Report (EqIA) (Further Addendum)

The Council acknowledges that this report comprises of a further addendum to the dPS Equality Screening Report October 2018 (FODC102) and the Equality Impact Screening Report Addendum October 2020 (FODC111) and that it assesses the modifications as presented in the Dfl Direction.

The Council also notes FODC's conclusion, which remains unchanged from the original EqIA.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) (Further Addendum)

The Council acknowledges that this report comprises a further addendum to the dPS RNIA (Oct 2018) and a previous addendum (dated 2020) and that it assesses the modifications as presented in the Dfl Direction.

The Council also notes FODC's conclusion, which remains unchanged from the original RNIA.

Yours faithfully,

PP


Mrs Denise Dickson
Head of Planning