



Title of Report:	LDP Working Group
Committee Report Submitted To:	Planning Committee
Date of Meeting:	24 January 2024
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee YES/NO	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Cohesive Leadership Improvement and Innovation
Outcome	Agreed policies and procedures and decision-making is consistent with them Council maintains its performance as the most efficient of NI's local authorities
Lead Officer	Head of Planning

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	External Legal Advice
Included in Current Year Estimates	Yes
Capital/Revenue	£15k revenue
Code	5301
Staffing Costs	No additional costs

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	Yes
Legal Opinion Obtained	NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This Report is to seek Members' agreement to set-up a working group to progress the Local Development Plan draft Plan Strategy.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The draft Plan Strategy was presented to full Council on 01 November 2022 for ratification following 18 workshops and presentation at two Planning Steering Groups. Council resolved to defer for one month in order to allow the opportunity for Party Group meetings with the Head of Planning.
- 2.2 Two rounds of party group meetings have been held since that time and a 40 Member workshop was held on 07 December 2023.
- 2.3 At the workshop held on 07 December, it was recommended that a working group be set up to explore the housing allocation and policies for houses in the countryside.

3.0 Proposal

- 3.1 The role of the working group is to act as an advisory group, supporting the gathering of evidence and development of planning policy within the draft Plan Strategy in relation to the housing allocation and housing in the countryside. It is proposed that the working group will be supported by external legal advice as required with a maximum budget of £15k.

Option 1

- 3.2 A working group is established to explore the housing allocation and policies for houses in the countryside for inclusion within the draft Plan Strategy. The working group will consist of 1 Member from each Party Group to be nominated by the Group Party Lead. This would result in a total of 7 Members. The working group will be supported by external legal advice as required with a maximum budget of £15k.

Option 2

- 3.3 Do not set up a working group and return the draft Plan Strategy to Full Council for ratification.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 **It is recommended** that the Committee considers the above options and approves Option 1 agreeing to the establishment of a working group to explore the housing allocation and policies for houses in the countryside for inclusion within the draft Plan Strategy; agreeing that the working group will consist of 1 Member from each Party Group to be nominated by the Group Party Lead, supported by external legal advice as required with a maximum budget of £15k.

Local Development Plan draft Plan Strategy Working Group

Draft Terms of Reference

1. Background

The draft Plan Strategy was presented to Full Council on 01 November 2022 for ratification following 18 workshops and presentation at two Planning Steering Groups. Council resolved to defer for one month in order to allow the opportunity for Party Group meetings with the Head of Planning. Two rounds of party group meetings have been held since that time and a 40 Member workshop was held on 07 December 2023.

At the Full Member workshop held on 07 December 2023, it was recommended that a working group be set up to explore the housing allocation and policies for houses in the countryside for inclusion within the draft Plan Strategy supported by external legal advice. This was ratified by the Planning Committee at their meeting held on 24 January 2024.

2. Role of the Working Group

The role of the working group is to act as an advisory group, supporting the gathering of evidence and development of policy in relation to the housing allocation and housing in the countryside for inclusion within the draft Plan Strategy:

- To identify, gather and agree the evidential basis to support the development of policy in relation to the housing allocation and housing in the countryside capable of being defended under scrutiny by the Department of Infrastructure and at Independent Examination
- To agree the housing allocation for inclusion with the draft Plan Strategy
- To agree the policy for housing in the countryside for inclusion within the draft Plan Strategy

3. Membership

- i) Membership is comprised of the following:
 - a. 7 Elected Members from each of the Party Groups nominated by the Group Lead.
 - b. Development Plan Manager and Senior Officers within the Development Plan Team and Head of Planning as required
 - c. Expert Legal Advisor as required
- ii) The quorum of the Working Group shall be 3 Elected Members
- iii) The Chair of the Working Group will be appointed from the Elected Members present at the first meeting.

4. Meetings

The first meeting of the Working Group will be held on Wednesday 21 February 2024 commencing at 10am and thereafter as agreed by the Working Group.

5. Communicating and Reporting

The Working Group will be facilitated by Council staff who will feed back recommendations through the Planning Committee.

6. Standing Agenda

The standing agenda will be as follows:

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. ToR and appointment of Chair (first meeting only)
4. Evidential Basis – Housing Allocations – review of existing evidence
5. Housing in the Countryside Best Practice
6. AORB
7. DoNM