

<b>Local Development Plan: 6-month indicative LDP Work Programme (July-December 2020)</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> August 2020</b>
<b>Planning Committee</b>	

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b>	
<b>Strategic Theme</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Leader & Champion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
Protect the environment in which we live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All environments in the area will benefit from pro-active decision making which protects the natural features, characteristics and integrity of the Borough.</li> </ul>
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Principal Planning Officer/Local Development Plan Manager
<b>Cost:</b>	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. It also highlights the impact of government/PHA measures (as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak) on the team's ability to carry out the work set out in the previous 6-month work programme (Jan-June 2020) and as a result, the likely impact on the overall published LDP Timetable.

### 2.0 DETAIL

2.1 As per the Council's revised LDP Timetable, published on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020, the indicative date for publication of the Draft Plan Strategy is Autumn/Winter 2020.

2.2 From Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 the Development Plan team has been working from home, updating the evidence base to inform the preparation of the Draft Plan Strategy, including policy drafting.

2.3 Government guidance in response to COVID-19 resulted in site visits being put on hold, impacting a number of studies/monitors. However, this work is now able to resume (subject to the completion of other work areas).

2.4 Throughout the previous 6 month work programme (Jan-June 2020) both formal and informal Project Management Team (PMT) meetings/discussions had been ongoing with key statutory consultees and stakeholders, adjoining councils and the Department for Infrastructure (DfI).

- 2.5 Whilst the vast majority of the remaining scheduled (face to face) meetings were postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak, electronic consultations and discussions were undertaken, where possible, and these will continue throughout this work programme.
- 2.6 Member workshops (face to face) commenced during the previous work programme (29th January 2020) and were scheduled to continue throughout the remainder of this calendar year. As with the PMT meetings (above) the vast majority of LDP Member Workshops were also impacted by COVID-19.
- 2.7 Whilst this work area is scheduled to resume (via virtual workshops) on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (see Appendix 1) Members should be aware that it has resulted in a 6-month (minimum) delay to the original workshop schedule. In addition, as definitive dates for the remaining workshops (in 2021) are not yet available, there may be further impact on the overall LDP Timetable.
- 2.8 This matter will be kept under review and Members updated accordingly.

#### Working Groups/Collaborative Working

- 2.9 Virtual meetings of the NI Development Plan Working Group took place during the previous programme and will continue throughout this one. The next meeting is scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020.
- 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 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020 SES issued a revised SLA to the Council. However, as the substantial increase in costs is not considered reasonable, further detailed information has been requested from SES and the Head of Planning has sought legal advice. 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.

### Landscape Character Assessment

- 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. On completion this key document will provide the robust 'sound' evidence base that will inform the draft LDP policies and proposals.
- 2.15 Whilst this project was scheduled for completion within the previous work programme, the consultant was unable to travel to Northern Ireland to undertake the site visit aspect of the project (due to COVID-19 impact on travel and accommodation). However, the Development Plan team are currently working with the consultant to close the project as soon as possible and within this work programme.

### Reviews

- 2.16 Members will be aware of the CC&GBC Retail & Leisure Capacity Study carried out by Nexus back in 2017. An update of the retail aspect of this report is currently under way and due for completion by the end of August 2020.

### Annual Monitors

- 2.17 In addition to the survey work being carried out for the above retail study, preparatory work on the Council's annual Housing and Employment land monitors will commence in within this work programme (subject to completion of other work areas).

### Building Preservation Notices (BPNs)

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

### Trees

- 2.19 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

- 2.20 In addition to the items above, the Development Plan team will continue to provide input into development management decisions, rota duties, and council consultations from other councils, etc 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 (Jul- Dec 2020)\*

Week Commencing	Pig Cttee		Pig Cttee		Pig Cttee		Pig Cttee		Pig Cttee																			
	06/07/20	13/07/20	20/07/20	27/07/20	03/08/20	10/08/20	17/08/20	24/08/20	31/08/20	07/09/20	14/09/20	21/09/20	28/09/20	05/10/20	12/10/20	19/10/20	26/10/20	2/11/20	09/11/20	16/11/20	23/11/20	30/11/20	07/12/20	14/12/20	21/12/20	28/12/20		
Draft Plan Strategy Preparation	Work to continue throughout programme - LDP Timetable kept under review																											
Sustainability Appraisal	Work to continue throughout programme																											
LDP Steering Group Meetings	Monthly verbal update to Committee. Meetings as required throughout programme																											
Evidence Paper Updates	Work to continue throughout programme																											
CC&GBC Landscape Character Study	Completion delayed due to impact of Covid-19. To be completed within work programme																											
LDP Project Management Team Meetings	As required throughout programme																											
Member Workshops - LDP Policy Drafting											16th		29th		14th	21st			11th	18th				3rd				
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 24th August, then as required throughout programme																											
Community Plan Strategic Partnership Board	Next meeting 2nd September																											
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	CC&GBC Retail & Leisure Capacity Study currently under review. To be completed during this work programme. Retail Monitor scheduled to commence towards end of programme (dependent on completion of other work areas).																											
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 Management: assistance, map preparation & LDP consultation responses	As and when required throughout Programme																											
On-call and reception rota duties	As and when required throughout Programme																											
Rural Development Grants - Planning Input	As and when required throughout Programme																											
Council consultations (from adjoining councils/government departments)	As and when required throughout Programme																											
Council representative (planning advisor) eg Town Team, AONB, WHS groups, etc	As and when required throughout Programme																											
Building Preservation Notices, TPOs & Works to Trees	As and when required throughout Programme																											

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