

Local Development Plan (LDP): Establishment of a Steering Group	28th June 2017
PLANNING COMMITTEE	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Outcomes
Leader and Champion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Elected Members will provide leadership to our citizens, working to promote the Borough as an attractive place to live, work, invest and visit. • We will establish key relationships with Government agencies and potential strategic partners in Northern Ireland and external to it which helps us to deliver our vision for this Council area.
Protecting and enhancing our environments and assets	<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. • Our citizens will have the maximum opportunity to enjoy our natural environments. • Our natural assets will be carefully managed to generate economic and social returns without compromising their sustainability for future generations.
Lead Officer	Principal Planning Officer/Local Development Plan Manager
Cost:	N/A

For Decision

1.0 Background

- 1.1 On 1st April 2015 planning powers relating to the production of Local Development Plans (LDPs) transferred from the former Department of the Environment (DOE) to local councils.
- 1.2 Work has commenced on Council's new LDP and Members have been involved in a series of LDP workshops in relation to this new responsibility.

2.0 Detail

- 2.1 Members will be aware of the work undertaken to date by Council's Development Plan team, which includes the following:

- The gathering of borough-wide baseline evidence and the presentation of this to Members through a series of topic-related papers. This piece of work is now complete. The information contained within the papers will be updated as required throughout the LDP programme;
- Publication of Council's 'Statement of Community Involvement in Planning' (SCI) and 'LDP Timetable' on 29th November 2016; and
- A series of topic-related (all) Member workshops.

2.2 The LDP (all) Member workshops will continue throughout the 2017 calendar year, as and when required.

2.3 Work has also commenced on the preparation of the following reports, required to accompany the LDP:

- Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incl. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);
- Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) ;
- Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA); and
- Rural Proofing

2.4 The Housing and Employment land monitoring is also ongoing.

2.5 The LDP Project Management Team will also be set up (paper on Committee agenda this month also).

3.0 Moving forward

3.1 To ensure strategic overview and input on behalf of the whole community, as well as from the planning professionals, a high-level co-ordinating body needs to be established. This group will be known as the 'LDP Steering Group'.

3.2 In line with Council's SCI, the group will include:

- Head of Planning; and
- Planning Committee

3.3 An invite will also be issued to Heads of Service within Council.

3.4 It is envisaged that this group would meet quarterly (or otherwise as may be required) to ensure that the deadlines set out in Council's LDP timetable are met.

3.5 The group will play a key role in agreeing the content and publication of the following documents:

- Preferred Options Paper (POP);
- Plan Strategy; and
- Local Policies Plan

- 3.6 The first document to be published is the 'POP'. The LDP Timetable outlines an indicative date for publication as Autumn/Winter 2017. This is the first public consultation stage of the Plan. It provides the basis for consulting the public and stakeholders on key issues identified in the Borough and Councils' options for addressing them; aiming to stimulate debate and comment and allow interested parties to become involved from the early stage of Plan preparation.
- 3.7 The robust evidence base and expert input from key stakeholders will be used to appraise the sustainability of the proposed options, resulting in Council's 'preferred options'.
- 3.8 As outlined in Council's LDP Timetable and SCI, the POP will be subject to a 12 week public consultation period. The responses received during this period will be analysed and taken in to account in the preparation of the next Plan document, the Plan Strategy.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Members agree to the establishment of an LDP Steering Group.