

<b>Local Development Plan – Draft LDP Timetable</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016</b>
<b>Planning Committee</b>	

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b>	
<b>Strategic Theme</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Leader and Champion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our Elected Members will provide civic leadership to our citizens, working to promote the Borough as an attractive place to live, work, invest and visit.</li> <li>• We will establish key relationships with Government agencies and potential strategic partner 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> <li>• Our citizens will be given the maximum opportunity to enjoy our natural environments; and</li> <li>• Our natural assets will be carefully managed to generate economic and social returns without compromising their sustainability for future generations.</li> </ul>
Resilient Healthy and Engaged Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council will work to support healthy lifestyle choices for all citizens.</li> </ul>
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Sharon Mulhern
<b>Cost:</b>	N/A

## **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 The purpose of this timetable is to set out the key stages of and an indicative timescale for the production of the new Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Local Development Plan (LDP) 2030.

1.2 The timetable has been prepared within the context of the Council's Corporate Plan. It meets the requirements of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 and the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (NI) 2015 which require the Council to

prepare and keep under review a timetable for the preparation and adoption of its Local Development Plan (LDP).

## **2.0 Purpose of the Local Development Plan**

2.1 The purpose of the Local Development Plan (LDP) is to inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested parties of the policy framework and land use proposals that will guide development decisions within the Borough up to 2030.

2.2 The new LDP will be prepared within the context of the Council's Corporate Plan and will co-ordinate with the new Community Planning process to enable us to plan for the future of our Borough. This will ensure that lands are appropriately zoned and infrastructure enhanced to enable the Borough to be positively developed for future generations.

2.3 The LDP must also take account of the regional policy context set by the Northern Ireland Executive and Central Government Departments. This includes, amongst others, the Programme for Government, Sustainable Development Strategy, Regional Development Strategy and Strategic Planning Policy Statement.

2.4 The new LDP will be produced in two separate stages, each culminating in the publication of a Development Plan Document (DPD). These two documents will shape development within our Borough in the period to 2030. The first new DPD will be the Plan Strategy; the first, more strategic document. This will be followed by a Local Policies Plan; a more detailed and site specific document.

2.5 Before the development plan documents are prepared we will identify key planning issues and define a range of options available to address these issues. This stage of the process will culminate in the publication of a Preferred Options Paper.

2.6 The Plan Strategy will define the more strategic objectives for the future development of the Borough. This document will include a range of strategic policies to facilitate and manage development and a spatial strategy that indicates, in broad strategic terms, the locations where different types of development will be promoted.

2.7 Once the Plan Strategy is adopted, we will prepare a Local Policies Plan. This document will include the more site-specific proposals, policy designations and land-use zonings that will be required to deliver Council's vision, objectives, spatial strategy and strategic policies defined in our Plan Strategy.

2.8 The LDP will, on adoption, replace the current development plan for the Borough (Northern Area Plan 2016) as well as any operational planning policies that have been produced by the Department for Infrastructure (DFI).

2.9 We will undertake an ongoing Sustainability Appraisal (SA) throughout the life of the LDP. This will run parallel to the preparation of the Preferred Options Paper, the Plan Strategy and the Local Policies Plan. The SA process aims to ensure that the policies and proposals contained within the LDP are socially, economically and

environmentally sustainable. Relevant reports will be published at each of the key stages of the plan making process. This will include consultation on the scope of the appraisal at the Preferred Options Paper stage.

### 3.0 The Timetable

3.1 The Timetable provides indicative dates for a number of key stages in the production of the LDP. These are set out briefly below and the indicative Timetable is set out in Figure 1.

- **Statement of Community Involvement** – This document went through an 8 week Public Consultation (Nov 2015 – Jan 2016). It sets out how the Council intends to engage with the local community during the preparation of our new LDP.
- **Preferred Options Paper (POP)** - This is another public consultation document which will set out the key planning issues for the Borough and the options available to address them. It will also highlight Council's preferred option.
- **Draft Plan Strategy** - The draft Plan Strategy, another public consultation document, will give an indication of the Council's strategic intentions regarding the future development of the Borough.
- **Independent Examination (IE)** - An Independent Examination will be held to determine the "soundness" of the draft Plan Strategy, taking into account any representations or counter representations received during the public consultation exercise.
- **Adoption of Plan Strategy**- Following IE, and subsequent direction from the DFI the Plan Strategy will be formally adopted by Council.
- **Local Policies Plan** - The Local Policies Plan is the second document comprising the LDP. The draft Local Policies Plan is a public consultation document. It will contain the Council's more detailed land use proposals regarding the future development of the Borough.
- **Independent Examination (IE)** – As with the Plan Strategy, an Independent Examination will be held to determine the "soundness" of the draft Local Policies Plan, taking into account any representations or counter representations during the public consultation exercise.
- **Adoption of Local Policies Plan** - Following the IE and subsequent direction from the DFI, the Local Policies Plan will be formally adopted by Council.

3.2 Council is also required to carry out a number of assessments in the preparation of the LDP. As indicated above a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) will be undertaken. This will help Council to assess the sustainability of the LDP proposals and how the plan will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, especially with

regard to social, environmental and economic factors. As an integral part of the SA the Council will be required to undertake a screening exercise to determine if the LDP requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – which will in turn examine the environmental effects of the plan proposals.

3.3 A Habitats Regulation screening exercise will also be required to determine if a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required for the Plan. This will consider the potential impact of the LDP policies and proposals on designated European nature conservation sites.

3.4 Finally, an Equality Impact screening exercise will be required to assess if the Plan is likely to have an impact on different sections of the community. If so an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) will be undertaken in relation to the LDP.

3.5 There may be other necessary assessments required throughout the LDP process. These will be undertaken as and when require and in line with prevailing legislation and guidance.

#### **4.0 Delivery of the Local Development Plan**

4.1 There are a number of factors that could potentially impact upon the timescale for delivery of the LDP. This timetable sets out a number of steps and safeguards to manage the plan making process and to highlight any potential impacts to Elected Members. These steps are set out below.

- A work programme will be presented to Committee for each key stage of the plan process.
- Papers will be presented to Members on a regular basis regarding LDP matters, including key planning topics and findings as they emerge.
- A Steering Group comprising members of the Planning Committee and the Head of Planning. This is the high level co-ordinating body that will ensure oversight and strategic input on behalf of the whole community, as well as from planning professionals.
- A Project Management Team comprising Senior Council Officers, Principal Planning Officer and representatives from the key Statutory/government departments. The purpose of the team will be to ensure key consultees co-operate in the plan making process. The Project Management team will be consulted on and act as the screening and scoping group for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Plan.
- An Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) will be produced to inform Members and the DFI on our progress in meeting the published timetable.
- Progress Reports on the LDP will be submitted on a quarterly basis to the Planning Committee and annually to DFI.

## 5.0 Review

5.1 In the event that the Plan Timetable requires amendment, Council has the power under the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 to publish a revised timetable. Any such amendments must be publicised and made available on the Council's website.

## 6.0 Recommendation

6.1 **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Members:

- Note the contents of the report and draft timetable and agree that Head of Planning forwards Timetable to Department for Infrastructure and Planning Appeals Commission for agreement.

**Figure 1: Draft LDP Timetable**

<b>Causeway Coast &amp; Glens Borough Council Local Development Plan (LDP) - Draft Timetable</b>		
<b>Key LDP Stages</b>	<b>Accompanying Assessments*</b>	<b>Indicative dates**</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI) &amp; LDP TIMETABLE</b>		
8 week Public Consultation	Publish Draft SCI	Nov 15 – Jan 16
<b>Publish Final SCI &amp; LDP Timetable</b>	SCI & LDP Timetable	Winter 2016
<b>PREFERRED OPTIONS PAPER (POP)</b>		
Stakeholder Engagement; Member engagement	Invite comments from Consultation Body (NIEA) on Draft SA (Inc SEA) Scoping Report	Autumn/Winter 2016 - Spring 2017
Publish POP - 12 week Public Consultation	Publish POP, SA Interim Report (comprising Scoping Report & Assessment of Alternatives); Screening for HRA, EQIA & any other assessments	Autumn/Winter 2017
<b>PLAN STRATEGY (PS)</b>		
<b>Publish Draft Plan Strategy - 8 week Public Consultation</b>	Publish SA Report (Inc SEA); Draft HRA, EQIA & any other assessments	Autumn 2018
<b>INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION (PAC Dependent)</b>		
IE of Draft Strategy	SA (inc SEA), HRA, EQIA & any other necessary assessments	Spring 2019
Make required changes to PS following IE & DOE binding report	May require further consultation with statutory bodies	Winter 2019
<b>Adopt Plan Strategy</b>	Publish SA Adoption Report (Inc SEA); HRA, EQIA & other assessments	Autumn 2020
<b>LOCAL POLICIES PLAN (LPP)</b>		
Statutory Stakeholder Engagement; Member engagement	Invite comments from Consultation Body (NIEA) on Draft SA (Inc SEA) Scoping Report; Publish SA Interim Report (comprising Scoping Report & Assessment of Alternatives)	Winter 2020/ Spring/Summer 2021
<b>Publish Draft Local Policies Plan - 8 week Public Consultation</b>	Publish SA Report (Inc SEA); Publish Draft HRA, EQIA & other assessments	Autumn/Winter 2021
<b>INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION (PAC Dependent)</b>		
IE of Draft Local Policies Plan & docs	SA (inc SEA), HRA, EQIA (if req'd)	Spring 2022
Make required changes to LPP following IE & DOE binding report	May require further consultation with statutory bodies	Autumn 2022
<b>Adopt Local Policies Plan</b>	Publish SA Adoption Report (Inc SEA); Publish HRA & EQIA (where relevant)	Winter 2022

<b>MONITOR/REVIEW OF LDP</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Monitor</li> <li>• 5 and 10 Year Reviews</li> </ul>	Monitor SA & Other Assessments	On-going

**\* Definitions:**

**SA** = Sustainability Appraisal

**SEA** = Strategic Environmental Assessment

**HRA** = Habitats Regulation Assessment

**EQIA** = Equality Impact Assessment

**\*\*Indicative dates:** will be reviewed quarterly and reported annually. Please note that these dates may be affected by other internal/external factors.