To Note

1.0 Background

1.1 Derry City & Strabane District Council wrote to Council as a ‘consultation body’ on 30th November 2016 in accordance with Regulation 9 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 prior to the publication of its Local Development Plan ‘Preferred Options Paper’ (POP) (see letter at Appendix 1).

1.2 The purpose of pre-engagement with consultation bodies is to enable the Council to take into account any relevant input this Council, or any other consultee, may have on specific planning issues to allow them to consider these in the development of their alternative strategies and options for their LDP.

1.3 The consultation letter was presented at the December 2016 Planning Committee for decision, where it was agreed that, given the deadline for responses (11th January 2016), the Head of Planning would respond on behalf of Council.

1.4 A letter issued to Derry City & Strabane District Council on 23rd December 2016 (see Appendix 2).

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 IT IS RECOMMENDED that Members note the content of the response issued on behalf of Council.
Dear Sir / Madam

Derry City and Strabane District Council Local Development Plan 2030 (LDP) Statutory Consultation prior to Preferred Options Paper

I am writing in accordance with Regulation 9 (1) of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 to engage with you, as a ‘consultation body’, prior to the publication of our Preferred Options Paper (POP). Derry City and Strabane District Council is currently progressing the preparation of the Local Development Plan (LDP) for our District and the next formal step in the process will be the publication of the POP in spring of next year. Further details on the stages of the LDP-preparation process can be found within the Timetable document at www.derrystrabane.com/sci

The purpose of engaging with consultation bodies is to enable us to take into account any relevant input you may have on specific planning issues and allow us to consider these as we develop alternative strategies and options. In addition, we are also keen to establish what current baseline data you hold which could be beneficial to the LDP process (and its format to allow for potential future use in published LDP documents). This will generally be publicly available information and is required in a level of detail commensurate with this early stage of the Plan.

Please advise us of the key areas of common interest in regard to our LDP preparation and your role as a Consultee. For example,

- Are there specific projects, proposals or strategies that you have been involved in and that need to be incorporated or identified in the LDP?
- Are there specific areas of planning policy that you wish to see amended or to discuss?
- Are there any other additional areas of LDP-relevance to your organisation that you wish to raise?

In addition to your written submission, if you think it would be useful to meet and to discuss the potential benefits and opportunities arising out of the preparation of our LDP, then Planning officials will endeavour to facilitate this.
If you do wish to meet, please contact Jonny McNee to arrange a convenient date. However, I would still be grateful for your comments on those pertinent LDP matters, as soon as possible, not later than 6 weeks from this letter, by 11th January 2017.

The Council also proposes to bring together a series of Stakeholder Groups and also a 'LDP Consultee Team, of certain key consultees, for a defined number of meetings at key stages of the LDP preparation process. If relevant, this Team would include a senior operational member of your organisation for the purposes of ensuring consultee co-ordination and partnership, as well as inputting to the LDP’s Sustainability Assessment. We will be in touch in due course, as appropriate.

The Derry City & Strabane District LDP 2030 is being progressed by the LDP team within the Council’s Planning Department located primarily in the Council offices in Derry. Address details are on the previous page, but key contacts are set out below in Appendix A, for your information.

Please send me within 14 days of receipt of this letter an e-mail acknowledging receipt and giving the name/details of the key contact(s) in your organisation(s) who will be responding in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Proinsias McCaughey

LDP Principal Planning Officer

Appendix A

Key LDP contacts

Derry City & Strabane District Council – Planning Department Tel: 028 7125 3253

Proinsias McCaughey
LDP Principal Planning Officer - Proinsias.mccaughey@derrystrabane.com
Tel: 028 7125 3253 extn 8402

Jonny McNee
LDP Senior Planning Officer – jonathan.mcnee@derrystrabane.com
Tel: 028 7125 3253 extn 8404

Paula McAteer
LDP Planning Officer – paula.mcateer@derrystrabane.com
Tel: 028 7125 3253 extn 8411
Ms Maura Fox  
Maura.fox@derrystrabane.com

Date: 23rd December 2016
Tel: 028 7034 7137

Dear Ms Fox,

Re: Pre-POP Council Consultation.

Thank you for your correspondence, received on 30th November 2016, in relation to the above matter, which was presented at the 21st December 2016 Planning Committee for decision. It was agreed that I would issue a formal response on behalf of Council.

Council very much welcomes the opportunity for engagement throughout the Local Development Plan (LDP) process.

In relation to your request to establish current baseline data, I would advise that Mrs Karen Dickson, Senior Planning Officer, at 028 7034 7175, will be available to assist with this matter.

In relation to key areas of common interest in regard to our LDP preparation I wish to highlight the following areas:

- City of Derry Airport
- Lough Foyle RAMSAR
- Ulster University Campus
- Sperrins AONB

I also consider it very important that the strong draw between both Council areas for services and employment is acknowledged.

On this basis, I think it would be very useful to meet with your team to discuss the potential benefits and opportunities arising out of our LDP process.

I look forward to working with you as we move forward.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss further.

Yours faithfully,

Denise Dickson
Head of Planning