



Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle
Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSratha Báin
Derry Cittyie & Strábane
Destrict Council

Date: 21st June 2023

Dear Sir / Madam,

Notification of Independent Examination of Derry City & Strabane District Council Local Development Plan (LDP) draft Plan Strategy

As you may recall, the Local Development Plan Team formally Submitted the Derry City & Strabane District Local Development Plan (LDP 2032) – draft Plan Strategy and supporting documents to the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) on 26th May 2022 as part of the Independent Examination (IE) process. All LDP Submission documents can be viewed on the Council website www.derrystrabane.com/LDPsubmissiondocuments. They are also available for inspection during normal office opening hours, by appointment only, at the Council's two main offices in Derry and Strabane.

Following the Submission of the LDP draft Plan Strategy in May, the Department considered it, to check it is procedurally 'sound', that there are no obvious gaps in the evidence base and it is not fundamentally flawed in relation to its regional context. The Council received a formal letter from Dfi Planning in September 2022, stating that the Submission had successfully passed its initial checks, so it would be writing to the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) to 'cause an Independent Examination'.

The PAC appointed a Programme Officer (Barry Fegan) and Senior Commissioner Diane O'Neill to undertake the Independent Examination (IE) as the next step towards adoption of the LDP Plan Strategy. At the end of April 2023, the PAC wrote to the Council, advising that the Commissioner will begin the **LDP Independent Examination's public hearing sessions at 10.30am on 5th September 2023** for an initial two-week period (of approx. 6 - 8 weeks in total), with sessions being conducted remotely. These sessions will be available for the public to stream live on YouTube. A link to the stream will be made available on the Planning Appeals Commission's website shortly before the beginning of the sessions.

In accordance with Regulation 22 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (NI) 2015, Derry City and Strabane District Council is writing to formally notify you, as a

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 Derry City & Strabane District Council

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consultation body or because you submitted a Representation, about the commencement date arrangements for the Independent Examination, as detailed above. It is understood that the PAC may also have been in contact with you separately on this matter.

The PAC 'Guidance Notes for Participants' have been published and are available on the PAC website (DCS Examination Library). A specific procedural document will be published prior to the opening of the remote hearing sessions explaining how they will operate. Further details on the LDP IE will be found at <https://www.pacni.gov.uk/derry-city-strabane>

A list of detailed topics, participants for each issue and questions for the first two weeks (5th September 2023 to 14th September 2023) of the public hearings will be published on the PAC Examination website on 30th June 2023. The public hearing sessions will resume on 26th September 2023 and its programme, list of eligible participants for each issue and associated questions will be published on or before 5th September 2023.

I look forward to your continued interest and input to the LDP process. You can stay updated on LDP progress by visiting www.derrystrabane.com/ldp or via the Planning Appeals Commission website www.pacni.gov.uk/derry-city-strabane.

Yours sincerely,



Proinsias McCaughey
Principal Planning Officer, Local Development Plan Team

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