



Local Development Plan 2030 Preferred Options Paper

Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report

This page has been left intentionally blank.

This Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report has been prepared by the Shared Environmental Service (SES) in conjunction with the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

[How to comment](#)

The Preferred Options Paper (POP) public consultation period will last for **12 weeks**, during which time you are invited to submit your comments on the POP and associated documents including the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report via our online questionnaires on the Council's website at: www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Alternatively, if you wish to make a response in writing:

By e-mail: development.plan@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

By post: Development Plan Team
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Cloonavin
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine
BT52 1EY

By Tel: 028 7034 7100

By Text Phone: 028 7034 7056

Should you require a copy of this document in an alternative format, please contact the Development Plan Team. If you require a copy of this document in an alternative format, it can be made available on request, in large print, audio format, DAISY or Braille. It may also be made available in an alternative language to meet the needs of those for whom English is not their first language.

Closing date for receipt of comments:

The closing date for receipt of comments is 5.00 pm on Friday 21st September 2018.

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Local Development Plan

The Causeway Coast and Glens Borough covers an area of approximately 1,969 square kilometres, which is 14% of the total area of Northern Ireland. Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council adjoins three neighbouring Council areas: Derry City and Strabane District Council, Mid Ulster District Council and Mid and East Antrim Borough Council.

In 2015, the population estimate for the Borough was approximately 143,100, which represented 8% of the total population of Northern Ireland. The Borough currently has 70 designated settlements. The two main hubs are Coleraine and Limavady and the two local hubs are Ballycastle and Ballymoney. In 2015, the four hubs accommodated 52,300 people, which was just under 37% of the Borough's population. In 2015, 68% of all people living in the Borough were in defined settlements whilst 32% lived in the countryside.

The Council has a key role in meeting the needs of citizens who live and work in the Borough through the provision of services directly, or with other partners. To support this key role, the Council has a vision for the Local Development Plan (LDP), which aims for, *"A vibrant and innovative economy, sustainably delivering health and well-being and high quality built and natural environments, for all citizens and visitors to the Borough."* The vision accounts for both the Council's Corporate Plan and its Community Plan and will help to deliver the outcomes of these plans and the LDP using strategic objectives.

The primary aim of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS), the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) is to further sustainable development. The LDP is required to account for regional policy. Therefore, it is vital that the LDP facilitates development in a manner that enables our social and economic priorities, whilst ensuring that our built and natural environment is appropriately managed for in the present and for future generations.

What is Sustainability Appraisal?

Sustainability Appraisal is a statutory process incorporating the requirements of the European Union Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001). A Sustainability Appraisal is being carried out alongside preparation of the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's LDP. Local Planning Authorities use Sustainability Appraisal to assess plans against a set of sustainability objectives. This process helps to evaluate possible strategic, policy and site specific options, as well as the most sustainable in terms of economic, social and environmental performance.

What is the purpose of this document?

The purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report is to:

Identify other policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives of relevance to our LDP.

Collect relevant baseline information about the environmental, social and economic conditions in our Council area, and consider how these might change in the future.

Identify sustainability issues and challenges which could affect or be addressed by our LDP.

Develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework, consisting of sustainability objectives and appraisal prompts which will form the basis for assessment of our LDP.

Invite comment on the scope and method of the Sustainability Appraisal.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

A total of fourteen social, economic and environmental topics were identified. For each topic sustainability objectives were identified by considering the wider strategic and policy context, and reviewing baseline information and any evidence of trends and issues.

The objectives for sustainable development within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council are to:

1...improve health and well-being.

Public policy seeks to increase healthy life expectancy, reduce preventable deaths, improve mental health and reduce health inequalities. Evidence shows that there is a need to address obesity, increase physical activity and reduce inequalities in health. It is also necessary to provide for the needs of an aging population and minimize the detrimental impacts of noise. This can be achieved by creating an environment that is clean and attractive; encourages healthy lifestyles; protects tranquil and quiet areas and enables access to health care facilities for all.

2...strengthen society.

Regional policy is directed towards improving community relations and creating a safe society which is more united. Success will be represented by places which are inclusive, respect culture and identity, promote social integration and create a sense of pride. They will also be designed to feel safe and to reduce opportunity for crime or anti-social behaviour.

3...provide good quality, sustainable housing.

The population is growing and therefore there is ongoing need for new housing in locations that meet regional policy, are accessible and balance the needs of society and the environment. The make-up of households is changing therefore design needs to meet long term requirements with good quality build to be sustainable. This objective should reduce homelessness and ensure decent, affordable homes with a mix of types.

4...enable access to high quality education.

Good education improves opportunities for employment and also contributes to avoidance of poverty and healthier lifestyles. The provision of suitable accommodation for educational establishments in appropriate, accessible locations should play a part in making schools more sustainable and reducing inequalities in education.

5...enable sustainable economic growth.

Regional policy seeks to develop a strong, competitive and regionally balanced economy. It is necessary to provide suitable locations for employment, with flexibility where necessary, to reflect current and future distribution of jobs across sectors, encourage new business startups, facilitate innovation, regenerate areas, attract investment and make employment as accessible as possible for all. This will reduce unemployment and poverty by helping more people to earn a living and increase their income.

6...manage material assets sustainably.

Material assets such as infrastructure and sources of energy production are essential for society and the economy but need careful planning to ensure that they are designed for efficiency and to minimize adverse impacts. The concept of circular economy treats waste as resource which should be managed sustainably to reduce production and increase recovery, recycling and composting rates; new or adapted facilities may be required.

7...protect physical resources and use sustainably.

Minerals, geothermal energy, land and soil are resources which require protection from degradation and safeguarding for future use. Sustainable agriculture, tourism and sustainable use of minerals and geothermal energy can help to support the economy.

8...encourage active and sustainable travel.

There is a common goal to reduce traffic emissions and congestion which means reducing car use and increasing other forms of transport. Better access to public transport and opportunities for active travel make travel more affordable with added health benefits and also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Measures that help reduce car use and improve accessibility to encourage a shift to travel by public transport, walking and cycling will contribute to this goal.

9...improve air quality

Air pollution has serious impacts on human health as well as degrading the natural environment. This objective can be achieved through reducing sources of air pollution. Where air pollution cannot be totally excluded careful siting of development should avoid impacts on sensitive receptors.

10...reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.

International commitments require greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced to lessen their effects on climate. Measures that help reduce energy consumption and enable renewable energy helps mitigate greenhouse gas emissions however adaption is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change.

11...protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.

This objective encompasses reducing levels of water pollution, sustainable use of water resources, improving the physical state of the water environment and reducing the risk of flooding now and in the future. It meets the requirements of Northern Ireland legislation, strategies and plans in support of the Water Framework Directive and other Directives that relate to water and it takes account of the future impacts of climate change.

12...protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.

International obligations which are adopted in Northern Ireland legislation and policies require the protection of biodiversity including flora, fauna and habitats. This is for their intrinsic value and for the wider services that they provide to people, the economy and the environment for example as carbon stores which lessen the effects of climate change. This objective includes protecting and enhancing biodiversity as well as protection of green and blue infrastructure to enhance the services that natural resources provide.

13...maintain and enhance landscape character.

International and national policies seek to conserve the natural character and landscape of the coast and countryside and protect them from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development. This objective seeks to maintain the character and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes and to protect and enhance open spaces and the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors.

14...protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.

The historic environment and cultural heritage are resources that inform our history and bring character and sense of place. They also attract visitors and contribute to the economy and bring vibrancy to the places where we live, work and relax. This can be achieved by protecting and enhancing Conservation Areas, townscapes and other sites of historic and cultural value including their setting.

This page has been left intentionally blank.

CONTENTS

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY	I
CONTENTS	V
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	VII
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Purpose of this Scoping Report	1
1.2 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Local Development Plan	1
1.3 Sustainable Development.....	1
1.4 Strategic Environmental Assessment	1
1.5 Integrated Sustainability Appraisal	2
1.6 Stages in Sustainability Appraisal	2
1.7 Other Assessments	3
1.8 Scoping Report Structure	4
2 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL: THE APPROACH.....	5
2.1 Introduction	5
2.2 Principles	5
2.3 Involving Others	5
2.4 The Evidence base	6
2.5 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework.....	6
2.6 Significant Effects	6
2.7 Assessment Method.....	6
2.8 Appraisal of reasonable alternatives for the Preferred Options Paper	7
2.9 Plan Strategy	8
2.10 Local Policies Plan.....	8
2.11 Cumulative Effects.....	8
3 CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.....	9
3.1 Context - Requirement to Prepare a Local Development Plan	9
3.2 What is the Local Development Plan?	9
3.3 Spatial Scope and Profile of the Plan Area	10
4 OVERVIEW OF THE BASELINE EVIDENCE	13
4.1 Presentation of Baseline Evidence	13
4.2 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies.....	14
4.3 Strategic Context.....	14
4.4 Baseline Information	16
4.5 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan	17
4.6 Key Sustainability Issues	17
4.7 Proposed Sustainability Objectives.....	18

5	THE EVIDENCE BASE	19
5.1	Health and Well-being.....	19
5.2	Community.....	33
5.3	Housing.....	44
5.4	Education and Skills.....	48
5.5	Economy and Employment	54
5.6	Material Assets	61
5.7	Physical Resources	65
5.8	Transport and Accessibility.....	70
5.9	Air Quality.....	76
5.10	Climate Change	80
5.11	Water	87
5.12	Natural Resources	101
5.13	Landscape.....	107
5.14	Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage.....	112
6	THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK.....	119
6.1	The Sustainability Objectives.....	119
6.2	Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives	121
6.3	Next Steps	121
6.4	Difficulties Encountered in Compiling the Scoping Report.....	121
	APPENDIX 1: COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	122
	APPENDIX 2: SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AND RELATIONSHIP TO SEA TOPICS.....	124
	APPENDIX 3: COMPATIBILITY OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES.....	125
	APPENDIX 4: REVIEW OF POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES.....	126
	APPENDIX 5: SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL GUIDE FOR CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL PREFERRED OPTIONS PAPER.....	184
	APPENDIX 6: CONSULTATION BODY COMMENTS ON THE SCOPING REPORT TEMPLATE	204
	APPENDIX 7: HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT BASELINE REPORT	212

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAP	Area of Archaeological Potential
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
ASAI	Area(s) of Significant Archaeological Interest
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest
AWB	Artificial Waterbody
BRES	Business Register and Employment Survey
CCC	Committee on Climate Change
CCG	Causeway Coast and Glens
CCGBC	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
CCGHT	Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust
cSAC	Candidate Special Area of Conservation
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DCCAE	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
DE	The Department of Education
DEA	District Electoral Area
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
DETI	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
DfC	Department for Communities
DfE	Department for the Economy
DfI	Department for Infrastructure
DOE	Department of the Environment
DoH	Department of Health
DoJ	Department of Justice
dPfG	Draft Programme for Government
EA	Education Authority
EAPP	Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes
EC	European Commission
EO	Executive Office
ESCR	Earth Science Conservation Site
Four Nations	Devolved Administrations and English Government (NI Lead Department indicated in brackets)
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan
GEP	Good Ecological Potential
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GHQ12	12 Item General Health Questionnaire
GSNI	Geological Survey of Northern Ireland
HMWB	Heavily Modified Waterbody
HSCB	Health and Social Care Board
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LCA	Landscape character Area
LDP	Local Development Plan
LGD	Local Government District
LLPA	Local Landscape Policy Area
MCG	Marine Coordination Group

MI	Marine Institute
MPS	Marine Policy Statement
NASCO	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
NCN	National Cycle Network
NHSCT	Northern Health and Social Care Trust
NI	Northern Ireland
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
NINIS	Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service
NIW	Northern Ireland Water
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NWRWMG	North West Region Waste Management Group
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PFRA	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for NI
POP	Preferred Options Paper
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
pSPA	Proposed SPA
QOF	Quality and Outcomes Framework
RBD	River Basin District
RDS	Regional Development Strategy
ROI	Republic of Ireland
ROMPs	Review of Old Mineral Permissions
SA	Sustainability appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCaMP	Sustainable Catchment Management Planning
SCI	Sites of Community Importance
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SFRA	Significant Flood Risk Area
SLNCI	Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
SOA	Super Output Area
SONI	System Operator for Northern Ireland
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPPS	Strategic Planning Policy Statement
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
UK	United Kingdom
UK Gov.	UK Government
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WHS	World Heritage Site
WHSCT	Western Health and Social Care Trust
WMU	Water Management Unit
WTW	Water Treatment Works
WwTW	Wastewater Treatment Works

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this Scoping Report

This scoping report is the first formal output of the Sustainability Appraisal process for the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Local Development Plan (LDP). It presents information about the topics being assessed under the Sustainability Appraisal, which incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment. It outlines the assessment methodology and approach for future Sustainability Appraisal (SA) reports. The Scoping Report will be updated throughout plan preparation and will be included with all Sustainability Appraisal Reports published as part of the consultation process for the LDP.

1.2 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Local Development Plan

The Revised LDP Timetable for plan preparation was published in December 2017. Chapter 4 describes the approach to plan preparation in more detail and provides an overview of our Council area.

1.3 Sustainable Development

The Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy - 'Everyone's Involved'¹, published in May 2010, stated that sustainability policy *'is driven by intergenerational equity; to secure a quality of life for present and future generations that is positive and rewarding.'*

Achieving sustainable development is a requirement set out in Provision 25 of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006. This requires all Departments and Councils in Northern Ireland, in exercising their functions, to act in the way they consider best calculated to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. In doing this they must have regard to any strategy or guidance relating to sustainable development published by Northern Ireland departments.

Within planning legislation Section 5 of The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, as amended, requires those who exercise any function in relation to Local Development Plans to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development.

Sustainability Appraisal is the approach used to promote sustainable development within LDPs by evaluating the social, environmental and economic effects of all aspects of the LDP throughout its preparation.

The Sustainable Development Strategy identifies 32 strategic objectives in the following Priority Areas.

- Building a dynamic, innovative economy that delivers the prosperity required to tackle disadvantage and lift communities out of poverty.
- Strengthening society so that it is more tolerant, inclusive and stable and permits positive progress in quality of life for everyone.
- Driving sustainable, long-term investment in key infrastructure to support economic and social development.
- Striking an appropriate balance between the responsible use and protection of natural resources in support of a better quality of life and a better quality environment.
- Ensuring reliable, affordable and sustainable energy provision and reducing our carbon footprint.
- Ensuring the existence of a policy environment which supports the overall advancement of sustainable development in and beyond Government.

1.4 Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a systematic process for assessing potential effects of proposed plans or programmes to ensure that significant environmental impacts are considered from

¹ NI Executive (2010) Everyone's Involved - Sustainable Development Strategy

the earliest opportunity and addressed in decision making. It was introduced by the European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. In Northern Ireland the Directive's requirements are taken forward through The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (EAPP) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004. The EAPP (NI) Regulations set out more detailed requirements for the process and content of the environmental assessment of plans and programmes. Appendix 1 records how these regulations are being complied with.

1.5 Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

Section 25 of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 requires that all NI Departments and Councils, in exercising their functions, act in the way they consider best calculated to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

Section 5 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the 2011 Act) requires those who exercise any function in relation to LDPs to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development. In addition, Sections 8(6) and 9(7) of the 2011 Act requires an appraisal of sustainability to be carried out for the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, respectively.

The approach in this report is informed by Development Plan Practice Note 04: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment². SA therefore refers to an integrated approach which fully incorporates SEA and fulfils the requirements for both SA and SEA.

1.6 Stages in Sustainability Appraisal

The key stages of Sustainability Appraisal are summarised below with their location. Those areas shaded in grey will be reported on at a later stage.

Table 1.6.1: Stages of Sustainability Appraisal

Stage	Description	Location
Stage A (1) Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	Identify other relevant policies, plans, programmes and Sustainability Objectives.	Appendix 4
	Collect baseline information	Chapters 5 & 6
	Consult the Consultation Body on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.	Consulted NIEA 8/6/17; response received 6/7/17; recommendations incorporated where possible (refer to Appendix 6) and will be further addressed in the updated Scoping Report for Plan Strategy.
	Identify environmental issues and challenges	Chapter 6
	Develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework	Chapter 7
	Produce draft Scoping Report and share with stakeholders	Section 3.3

² Department of the Environment (2015) Development Plan Practice Note 04: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment

Stage	Description	Location
Stage A (2) Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report	Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report, assessment of reasonable alternatives against agreed Sustainability Appraisal framework and undertaking public consultation along with the Preferred Options Paper (POP).	Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report published with POP
Stage B	Assessment of alternatives and any likely significant effects on the draft plan against Sustainability Appraisal framework, taking into account the evidence base and where necessary, proposing mitigation measures for alleviating any adverse effects.	Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report published with POP
Stage C	Sustainability Appraisal Report to document the appraisal process and findings.	Not at this stage (Plan Strategy and LPP)
Stage D	Consultation with the public, environmental authorities and any EU member state affected on the Sustainability Appraisal Report and draft plan.	Not at this stage
Stage E	Sustainability Appraisal Statement to show how the Sustainability Appraisal and opinions/consultations have been taken into account, the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted and the proposed measures to monitor the plan.	Not at this stage
Stage F	Monitoring: Establishing arrangements to monitor the significant effects of the implementation of the plan, to identify unforeseen adverse effects and undertake appropriate remedial action.	Not at this stage

1.7 Other Assessments

1.7.1 Habitats Regulations Assessment

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is a provision of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended). The regulations require assessment of possible adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas) as a result of plans and policies in the LDP; this is also carried out for Ramsar sites. Baseline information for HRA is included in Appendix 7 of this Scoping Report. A draft HRA will be published for consultation with the Draft Plan Strategy and Draft Local Policies Plan. A final HRA will be published when each of these are adopted.

1.7.2 Rural Proofing

The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, which came in to force on 1 June 2017 and applies to NI Government Departments and Councils, states that 'A public authority must have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans.' Public authorities must report annually on how they have implemented this requirement.

The approach to considering rural needs is called rural proofing and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) provides advice on carrying it out in Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing³ and A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 for Public Authorities⁴. Rural proofing is the process by which all major policies and strategies are assessed to determine whether they have a differential impact on rural areas. Where appropriate, adjustments are made to take account of particular rural circumstances.

This Scoping Report considers rural populations and how the LDP could affect them in the evidence base for the community topic. Data on rural populations, where available, is also included under other topics, for example health, education and infrastructure. Key sustainability issues for the Borough include some specific to rural communities and the appraisal prompts include questions about how a proposal will meet the needs of rural populations or potentially have a disproportionate impact.

As plan preparation progresses and more detail emerges about proposals, how they will be implemented and where they will be located, rural issues will be considered in more depth. A rural proofing checklist, reflecting the Rural Needs Impact Assessment Template⁵, will be included in the SA for Plan Strategy

1.8 Scoping Report Structure

Chapter 3 details the proposed approach to SA while Chapter 4 provides an overview of plan preparation. Chapter 5 gives an overview of the baseline information and each topic is reported on in Chapter 6 with the context, relevant baseline information, trends, key issues and the implications for the LDP. Chapter 7 presents the Sustainability Framework and outlines the next steps in the SA.

³ DAERA (2015): Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing

⁴ DAERA (2017): A guide to the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 - May 2017

⁵ DAERA (2017): Rural Needs Impact Assessment Template

2 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL: THE APPROACH

2.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the overall approach taken to Sustainability Appraisal throughout the LDP preparation process. Chapters 4 to 6 are the application of this approach for the Scoping Report for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council LDP.

2.2 Principles

The Sustainability Appraisal process is carried out under the following principles.

Role

Sustainability Appraisal is a tool to aid plan making which identifies potential effects of options, how they may be mitigated and informs the most appropriate option. It does not however give a 'right' answer and is not the decision-making mechanism.

Integrated

Sustainability Appraisal is an essential part of the plan making process which is integral to and carried out through the whole of plan preparation and subsequent monitoring. It helps to test the effects of options and inform the selection of proposals. It will provide evidence of the decision making process and any changes brought about to ensure sustainability of the LDP.

Shared Information

Where appropriate, data collected for other purposes such as LDP Preparatory Papers or Community Planning is utilised for evidence or for future monitoring.

Relevant

The Sustainability Appraisal focuses on context and data that is relevant to the plan. It will not detail issues that cannot be addressed within the remit of the LDP.

Connected

The LDP may be influenced by or have an impact on neighbouring areas. This Sustainability Appraisal considers strategies and plans beyond the Council area where there is potential for significant positive or negative effects. Neighbouring Councils will be invited to comment on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report and Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Proportionate

The Sustainability Appraisal avoids duplication therefore, for example, international strategies are not included where they have been given effect in a national or regional strategy. Where more detailed information is available in another document the essentials are included here and a link provided to that document.

Up-to-date

The Sustainability Appraisal, including the Scoping Report will be updated during plan preparation to ensure that it reflects current policies, plans and programmes and recent data.

Future proof

Potential future changes within and beyond the life of the plan are considered to anticipate needs and to try to maintain opportunities for long term sustainable development.

2.3 Involving Others

Informal and formal consultation with stakeholders and the public is an essential part of Sustainability Appraisal to ensure that the topics and issues have been fully considered. The first formal consultation required is with the Consultation Body on this Scoping Report. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) acts as the lead for the Consultation Body and was consulted on the

outline of this Scoping Report in June 2017. Its response has been incorporated where appropriate in this report and will further inform future updates to the Scoping Report and Appraisal Reports.

Where possible, experts with general and local knowledge of all topics have been consulted to inform the technical papers and Chapter 6. Statutory consultees will be invited to comment on the Sustainability Appraisal Reports. A register of consultation responses is included in Appendix 6 and will be updated in future versions of this report to record additional responses.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council adjoins Derry City and Strabane District Council, Mid Ulster District Council and Mid and East Antrim Borough Council. These Councils will be invited to comment on the Preferred Options Paper and Sustainability Appraisal Reports.

The public will be formally consulted on the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report, together with this Scoping Report, during consultation on the Preferred Options Paper. There will also be public consultation on the Draft Sustainability Appraisal Reports which will accompany the Draft Plan Strategy and Draft Local Policies Plan. Representations at public consultation that are relevant to the Sustainability Appraisal will be reviewed. Where necessary the Sustainability Appraisal Reports will be revised in response to representations and to any changes to the Preferred Options, Plan Strategy or Local Policies Plan.

2.4 The Evidence base

The evidence base is arranged according to a number of topics and for each topic a consistent approach to reporting is followed. The approach is described in more detail in Chapter 5 and the evidence base is presented in Chapter 6.

The evidence base was prepared using all available information sources. Every effort has been made to ensure that the document refers to the most recent information available however it is an evolving document and will be reviewed and updated at each stage of the appraisal.

2.5 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework is to provide a means of ensuring that the social, environmental and economic needs of the area are considered in plan preparation. It enables the effects of plan proposals to be described, analysed and compared. It also helps identify measures to minimise negative effects and enhance positive effects.

The Sustainability Appraisal Framework consists of Sustainability Objectives with prompts which are used to assess plan proposals against the baseline. All stages of plan-making will be assessed using the Framework which may be updated as further information becomes available. The Sustainability Reports to accompany the Plan Strategy will include proposed indicators for monitoring any significant effects of delivery of the LDP in relation to the Sustainability Objectives.

2.6 Significant Effects

The Sustainability Appraisal will assess the significant effects of options both positive and negative. There is no single definition of a significant effect therefore assessment is a matter of judgement taking account of the extent of the effect spatially and in time.

2.7 Assessment Method

The key stages are Sustainability Appraisal of:

- options and reasonable alternatives for the Preferred Options Paper,
- the Plan Strategy, and
- the Local Policies Plan.

The proposed method for the appraisal of each part of the LDP follows.

2.8 Appraisal of reasonable alternatives for the Preferred Options Paper

In the Preferred Options Paper, strategic proposals are presented with options for delivery. The options are reasonable alternatives where these can be identified. The Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report accompanying the POP evaluates these options using the appraisal matrix shown in Table 3.1. The matrix includes:

- The plan topic and delivery options to be assessed
- A score indicating the nature of the effect for each option in the short, medium and long term with an explanation of why the score was given.
- A summary comparing the options and recommending the preferred approach together with any mitigation recommended to address negative effects and measures, where appropriate, to enhance positive effects.

Table 2.8.1: Outline Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

ISSUE												
OPTIONS	Option 1:				Option 2:				Option 3:			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1. Sustainability Objective												
2. Sustainability Objective												
3. Sustainability Objective, etc.												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary and comparison of alternative options against the sustainability objectives. • Identification of the most sustainable option. • Identification of the preferred option. • Summary of what, if any, significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option. • Summary of mitigation measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and/or offset as fully as possible any significant adverse effects of the preferred option. • Summary of possible measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects. 												

Table 2.8.2: Scores and definitions for Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

Rating		Description
++	Significant Positive	Policy/ proposal would greatly help to achieve the objective
+	Minor Positive	Policy/ proposal would slightly help to achieve the objective
0	Neutral / no effect	Policy/ proposal would have no overall effect
-	Minor Negative	Policy/ proposal would slightly conflict with the objective
--	Significant Negative	Policy/ proposal would greatly conflict with the objective
?	Uncertain	The effect cannot be predicted because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the approach has an uncertain relationship to the objective; or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the approach is implemented; or insufficient information may be available to enable an appraisal to be made.
ST	Short Term	Up to five years
MT	Medium Term	Five to 15 years
LT	Long term	Over 15 years

Key:	++ Significant positive	+	0 No overall effect	- Minor negative	-- Significant negative	? Uncertain
------	----------------------------	---	------------------------	---------------------	----------------------------	----------------

2.9 Plan Strategy

The proposals in the draft Plan Strategy will be reviewed and the Scoping Report and Sustainability Appraisal updated to reflect any changes from the previous stage. This will be published as a Sustainability Report in support of the consultation on the draft Plan Strategy.

2.10 Local Policies Plan

In advance of preparation of the Local Policies Plan (LPP) criteria will be developed to help guide the appraisal of sites. The proposals in the Local Policies Plan will be appraised using the Sustainability Appraisal Framework and a Sustainability Appraisal Report will be published as part of the consultation on these papers.

2.11 Cumulative Effects

Consideration will be given to any cumulative effects of proposals at each stage of plan preparation. These will include potential cumulative effects within the plan and in combination with other relevant plans and strategies.

3 CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

3.1 Context - Requirement to Prepare a Local Development Plan

Part 2 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the 2011 Act) provides for the preparation of a local development plan by a Council for its district, which will (when adopted) replace current development plans. The LDP will comprise two development plan documents:

- The Plan Strategy (PS); and
- The Local Policies Plan (LPP).

The LDP should fulfil the following functions:

- provide a 15-year plan framework to support the economic and social needs of a Council's district in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing for the delivery of sustainable development;
- facilitate sustainable growth by co-ordinating public and private investment to encourage development where it can be of most benefit to the well-being of the community;
- allocate sufficient land to meet society's needs;
- provide an opportunity for all stakeholders, including the public, to have a say about where and how development within their local area should take place;
- provide a plan-led framework for rational and consistent decision-making by the public, private and community sectors and those affected by development proposals; and
- deliver the spatial aspects of a Council's current community plan.

3.2 What is the Local Development Plan?

This section is covered in more detail in Chapter 4 of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and in depth in the Preferred Options Paper (POP).

The purpose of the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council LDP is to inform the public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested parties of the policy framework and land use proposals that will implement the strategic objectives of the Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS) and guide development decisions within our Council area up to 2030.

The new LDP will be prepared within the context of our Council's Corporate Plan and will take account of the Council's Community Plan to enable us to plan positively for the future of our Council area. It will ensure that lands are appropriately zoned and that our infrastructure is enhanced to develop our Council area for future generations.

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 Sustainable Development Strategy, the RDS, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). The new LDP will replace the Northern Area Plan 2016. Following publication of the Preferred Options Paper, the Plan will be produced in two parts consisting of a Plan Strategy followed by a Local Policies Plan. The Plan Strategy will set the aims, objectives, growth strategy and strategic policies applicable to the Plan Area. The Local Policies Plan will provide site specific policies and proposals, including settlement limits, land use zonings and environmental designations.

The LDP is informed by an iterative Sustainability Appraisal which will run parallel to the preparation of the Preferred Options Paper, Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan. An integral part of the Sustainability Appraisal is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which will examine the environmental effects of the LDP proposals. The Sustainability Appraisal process aims to ensure that the policies and proposals in the LDP are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.

The preparation of the Scoping Report is the first stage in the undertaking of the SA / SEA. Although a formal Scoping Report is not mandatory, it is considered a useful way to set out the evidence base and framework of sustainability objectives against which the social, economic and environmental effects of implementing the draft plan can be appraised

3.3 Spatial Scope and Profile of the Plan Area

The Causeway Coast and Glens Borough covers an area of approximately 2000 square kilometres, which represents about 14% of the total area of Northern Ireland. Its population at 2015 was estimated at 143,100, which is just under 8% of the Northern Ireland total. The Borough has 71 defined settlements. It contains the Main Hubs of Coleraine and Limavady, and the Local Hubs of Ballycastle and Ballymoney, as defined in the Regional Development Strategy 2035. There are eight Towns and twenty five Villages throughout the Borough, along with 34 Small Settlements. At 2015, around 54% of the Borough's population lived in its Hubs (37%) and Towns (17%), with 11% in Villages, and 34% in the Small Settlements and Countryside.

The Borough has an extensive coastline of approximately 240 kilometres and is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the north, east and west, and contains Northern Ireland's only inhabited island, Rathlin Island. Large parts of the coastline are designated nature sites due to their productive and biologically diverse ecosystems – such as mudflats, sand dunes, reefs and cliffs. The Borough is also unique in Northern Ireland as it contains its only World Heritage Site – the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast. The Borough has three Ramsar Sites, four Special Protection Areas (SPAs), fourteen Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), four National Nature Reserves (NNRs), eight Nature Reserves, and 63 Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) and Areas of Scientific Interest (ASIs). The Borough also contains all or part of four Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Borough abuts the Council areas of Derry City and Strabane District to the west, Mid-Ulster to the south, and Mid and East Antrim to the southeast. The Borough enjoys good transportation links with Belfast and Derry-Londonderry, connected by the A26 and M2 via Coleraine and Ballymoney; and the A6, M22 to Belfast via Dungiven; and A37 and A2 to Derry- Londonderry from Coleraine and Limavady. The main Belfast to Londonderry railway line passes through the Borough with stations at Ballymoney, Coleraine, Castlerock and Bellarena, with a branch line from Coleraine to Portrush. There is a regular ferry service between Ballycastle and Rathlin Island, and also a seasonal ferry link from Magilligan to Greencastle in Donegal. The Borough also shares a common water boundary (Lough Foyle) with Donegal.

The Borough contains the coastal tourist resorts of Ballycastle, Portrush, Portstewart and the smaller resorts of Castlerock, Portballintrae and Cushendall. It also has a number of major tourist attractions, including the Giant's Causeway and Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, and attractions associated with the 'Game of Thrones' television series. There were over 1.6 million visitors to the Borough's visitor attractions in 2013. Tourism provides over 12% of local employment and is worth £110 million per annum by overnight expenditure to the Council area.

The Borough also contains the Ulster University's Coleraine campus, where subject areas include biomedical sciences, environmental science and geography, pharmacy, psychology and teacher training. The campus also has Northern Ireland's third largest professional theatre.



4 OVERVIEW OF THE BASELINE EVIDENCE

4.1 Presentation of Baseline Evidence

The baseline evidence is presented in Chapter 6 for fourteen topics, which span the social, economic and environmental themes. Objectives 1 to 4 are social topics, 5 and 6 relate to economy and the remaining topics are primarily environmental although they also contribute to the social and economic themes. Many topics overlap. Table 5.1 presents an outline scope for each topic to clarify where information is presented.

Table 4.1: Scope of Sustainability Topics

Topic	Primary Theme	Includes
1. Health and Wellbeing	Social	Health profile, physical activity, access to health care, access to open space and recreation, quiet areas, noise
2. Community	Social	Community identity, shared space, social inclusion, crime prevention, community safety good relations
3. Housing	Social	Housing, urban capacity, settlements
4. Education and Skills	Social	Primary through to third level and apprenticeships
5. Economy and Employment	Economy	Employment, economic growth, investment, tourism, industry and commerce, town centres and retailing
6. Material Assets	Economy	Infrastructure relating to energy / heat generation and distribution, telecommunications, waste management and pipelines; derelict and contaminated land; manufactured goods; renewable energy
7. Physical Resources	Environment	Earth science, minerals, land and soil (including land use), geothermal
8. Transport and Accessibility	Environment	Public, private transport, traffic, efficient movement
9. Air	Environment	Air quality and short term changes (aspects relating to climate are covered in Climate Change)
10. Climate Change	Environment	Northern Ireland in global context of climate change; greenhouse gas emissions; implications of climate change, mitigation and adaptation
11. Water	Environment	Water quality and resources, levels (flood risk)
12. Natural Resources	Environment	Biodiversity, fauna, flora, designated sites, green and blue infrastructure, ecosystem services, intertidal and coastal zones and marine resources
13. Landscape	Environment	Landscape and countryside/rural area
14. Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage	Environment	Historic environment, archaeology including built heritage, industrial, townscape and cultural heritage assets

Each topic is presented using the same structure and the headings are explained below:

- Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies
- Baseline Information
- Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan
- Key Sustainability Issues

4.2 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The Sustainability Appraisal must include a review of other policies, plans, programmes and strategies that have an influence on the content of the LDP. The aims of this review are:

- to identify all external social, economic and environmental objectives which have a bearing on the Sustainability Appraisal of the LDP;
- to reflect sustainability objectives contained in regional policies and strategies;
- to identify any other sustainability issues that might influence the preparation of the plan;
- to highlight whether other policies, plans or programmes might give rise to cumulative effects when combined with the LDP.

Consideration of this context also helps ensure that the LDP will deliver obligations for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council which are within the scope of the LDP. Appendix 4 presents the strategies, policies, programmes and plans that have been considered with their key objectives and implications for the LDP. This will be updated throughout plan preparation.

4.3 Strategic Context

The following regional strategies are overarching and form a backdrop to the LDP. Each is introduced here and key relevant aspects are described in more detail under each topic in Chapter 5.

4.3.1 Regional Development Strategy

The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) provides a strategic and long term perspective on the future development of Northern Ireland up to 2035 to deliver the spatial aspects of the Programme for Government. It contains regional guidance to provide policy direction in relation to the economy, society and environment. It complements the Sustainable Development Strategy and sets the context for policy and development decisions in order to achieve sustainable development throughout the region.

The RDS recognises the important role of Belfast in generating regional prosperity and that Derry-Londonderry is the focus for economic growth in the North West. However, to ensure all areas benefit from economic growth, it also reflects the Programme for Government approach of balanced sub-regional growth and recognises the importance of key settlements as centres for growth and prosperity. The RDS has a statutory basis, is material to decisions on individual planning applications and appeals, and Councils must take account of the RDS when drawing up their LDPs.

4.3.2 Strategic Planning Policy Statement

The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) provides an overarching statement of the general regional planning principles underlying the reformed plan led system. It provides a planning policy framework which must be taken into account in the preparation of LDPs and the provisions are also material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.

The SPPS outlines a number of core principles underpinning the reformed planning system in Northern Ireland. These are:

- improving health and well-being;
- creating and enhancing shared space;
- supporting sustainable economic growth;
- supporting good design and positive place-making;

- preserving and improving the built and natural environment.

The latter part of the SPPS contains 72 regional strategic objectives across 16 subject areas in addition to the introduction of new policy for retailing.

4.3.3 Sustainable Development Strategy

The Sustainable Development Strategy identifies 32 strategic objectives in the following Priority Areas.

Building a dynamic, innovative economy that delivers the prosperity required to tackle disadvantage and lift communities out of poverty.

Strengthening society so that it is more tolerant, inclusive and stable and permits positive progress in quality of life for everyone.

Driving sustainable, long-term investment in key infrastructure to support economic and social development.

Striking an appropriate balance between the responsible use and protection of natural resources in support of a better quality of life and a better quality environment.

Ensuring reliable, affordable and sustainable energy provision and reducing our carbon footprint.

Ensuring the existence of a policy environment which supports the overall advancement of sustainable development in and beyond Government.

The strategic objectives that are key are highlighted under the relevant topic.

4.3.4 Draft Programme for Government

The Programme for Government (PfG) is the highest level strategic document of the Executive setting out the priorities that it will pursue in the current Assembly mandate, and the most significant actions it will take to address them. The draft PfG 2016-21 was consulted on in 2016.

The draft PfG 2016-21 contains 14 Strategic Outcomes supported by 42 Indicators. The outcomes touch on every aspect of government, including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and confident and peaceful communities. The outcomes are intended to meet statutory obligations and to make real improvements to the quality of life of citizens.

While efforts continue to restore the institutions of Government, Departments continue to act, operating within the adjusted indicative departmental financial allocations announced to Parliament by the Secretary of State, in line with the direction set by previous Ministers and the Executive in their draft PfG.

4.3.5 UK Marine Policy Statement and Marine Plan for Northern Ireland

The UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS), the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 provide the policy and legislative framework for the management of the marine area in Northern Ireland. The UK vision for the marine environment, set out in the MPS, is the attainment of 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas'.

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 is a UK-wide Act which includes a number of provisions for the management of the UK's marine area. For Northern Ireland, key provisions within this Act include a licensing system for management of development within the marine area from the mean high water spring tide out to 12 nautical miles (the inshore region).

The Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 includes duties to protect and enhance the marine area. This includes provisions to prepare and adopt a Marine Plan for the Northern Ireland inshore region; and provision to improve marine conservation and protection. A Marine Plan for Northern Ireland is currently out for consultation (2018). This has been developed within the context of the MPS and will

help to inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of the marine area through a strategic framework with spatial elements.

Section 58 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA) and Section 8 of the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, require a public authority to have regard to the appropriate marine policy documents. For all Public Authorities, this means that currently, for example, in the preparation of Local Development Plans and all associated documents, Public Authorities, are legislatively required to have regard to the UK MPS.

4.3.6 Community Planning

The new duty of Community Planning came into operation on 1st April 2015 and requires Councils to act as the lead for community planning in their areas, in partnership with the community and service providers. This will result in a long term vision for the social, environmental and economic well-being of our area and its citizens. The Community Plan also aims to promote community cohesion and improve the quality of life for all of our citizens. It will integrate service and function delivery and set out the future direction for development within our Council area. The LDP will support delivery of the spatial aspects of the Community Plan.

We published A Better Future Together – A Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens 2017-30 in January 2017. A Better Future Together is a strategic framework document setting out the future aspirations for the people who live, work and visit the Causeway Coast and Glens area. It provides a framework which concentrates on an ‘Outcomes Based Approach’ to achieve better outcomes for all who live, work and visit the Causeway Coast and Glens area.

4.3.7 Council Strategy

The Council Strategy 2015-2019 establishes the purpose of the Council and the priorities. The purpose or mission of the Council is to “improve the quality of life and well-being for all of our citizens and visitors”⁶.

The values of the Council that underpin this mission are:

- fairness
- excellence
- sustainability and efficiency
- empowerment, and
- innovation.

To achieve the Council’s Strategy, 5 strategic themes have been developed and to help achieve these outcomes, the Council will work to:

- provide effective and sustainable local services
- develop our economy and create jobs
- enhance our people’s health and wellbeing
- empower local people to take ownership of projects in their community
- promote our tourist offer locally as well as internationally, and
- protect the environment in which we live.

4.4 Baseline Information

A desk-based review has been undertaken to identify baseline conditions in Causeway Coast and Glens. Each sustainability topic is presented in Chapter 6 with a review of relevant current information available. Where it has not been possible to provide Council specific information,

⁶ Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Strategy 2015-2019

information for Northern Ireland has been used and where there are critical data gaps these are identified.

Information sources include data collected for LDP preparatory papers and the Community Plan. LDP Evidence is presented as Topic Papers at

<https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/live/planning/development-plan>. Supporting information for the Community Plan is presented for three themes, A Sustainable Environment, Health and Social Well-being and Strong Economy at www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/council/community-planning/communication

The baseline topics for Sustainability Appraisal have a wider scope than the LDP evidence gathering requirements. Data sources in Local Development Plans: Environmental Evidence and Information DAERA 2017 have been referred to including the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report DAERA 2017.

In addition to the LDP and Community Plan evidence, we have used evidence presented on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) website. NISRA is the principal source of official statistics and social research on Northern Ireland. Much data at Council or sub-Council level was sourced from the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) website. NINIS is part of NISRA and aims to make small area information held within Central Government and Non-Departmental Public Bodies available to as wide an audience as possible. The NINIS website contains datasets on a range of socio-economic themes at small-area statistical geographies.

4.5 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

This section highlights the trends in the baseline information and how the baseline might evolve without the LDP. This also helps identify key issues for each topic and identifies potential sustainability problems or opportunities that could be addressed through the LDP.

Without the LDP in place, the Regional Development Strategy (RDS), the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS), Northern Area Plan (NAP) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions.

The Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council was formed on 01 April 2015 from the four legacy Councils of Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle. The NAP 2016 was adopted by the Council and supersedes all of the previous statutory plans. These included the Limavady Area Plan 1984-1999, the Limavady Area Plan 1984-1999 Alteration No.1, the Limavady Local Plan 1989-1999, the Limavady District Hamlet Subject Plan 1989-1999, the Ballymoney Town Centre Local Plan 1991-2002, the North East Area Plan 2002, and the North East Area Plan 2002 Alteration No. 1 Portrush. The Council can continue to use the NAP 2016 until the new LDP is available for adoption.

Although the NAP was recently adopted, it was not prepared in the context of the new Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. It therefore does not reflect the existing economic, social or environmental conditions and pressures faced. A new LDP brings an opportunity to develop a plan led system but also to reflect the strategic priorities of the new Council and the most recent strategies and local priorities.

4.6 Key Sustainability Issues

Drawing on the policies, plans, programmes and strategies review, the baseline information and the likely evolution of the baseline without the LDP, Key Sustainability Issues are set out for each topic. These reflect the local area and are mainly ones that are relevant to and may be influenced by the LDP. These Key Sustainability Issues will also identify the potential for cumulative effects which should be considered in preparation of the LDP.

4.7 Proposed Sustainability Objectives

The key sustainability issues inform the sustainability objectives. These are presented in Chapter 7 with a short rationale and description of what each objective seeks to achieve. There are several overlaps between the sustainability objectives which support each other.

5 THE EVIDENCE BASE

5.1 Health and Well-being

5.1.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

This topic considers the health profile for our Council, needs for and access to health care, physical activity and the effects of noise. It overlaps with most other topics for example where they shape the environment in which we live, interactions with others and opportunities for employment and education. It also overlaps with the natural heritage topic which considers open space.

The common thread of relevant policies is that actions should improve the outcomes for everyone's mental and physical health and well-being. Measures seek to prolong healthy life and reduce preventable deaths. Contributors to this are improving health in pregnancy and improving mental health which can have long term effects on healthy life. They also acknowledge that the health conditions of those who are most deprived are significantly worse and therefore there are programmes such as Delivering Social Change, an Executive programme, that seek to reduce inequalities. Northern Ireland health related strategies are supportive of international strategies and the Sustainable Development Strategy.

Part of supporting good health is encouraging physical activity and there are several strategies and initiatives for this purpose including Sport Matters, A Fitter Future for All, the Outdoor Recreation Action Plan, and Exercise, Explore, Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways. These include creating an environment and specific facilities to encourage increased physical activity including active transport.

Transforming your Care: Strategic Implementation Plan and the Northern Health and Social Care Trust Population Plan inform infrastructure requirements for health care. Making Life Better is a ten-year strategic framework for public health launched in 2014. It provides direction for policies and actions to improve the health and well-being of the people of Northern Ireland and reduce inequalities in health. The outcome 'Making the Most of the Physical Environment' is highly relevant to the LDP. Actions include those:

- to improve and maintain good environmental quality in terms of air and water quality and noise;
- to enhance the capacity of our physical infrastructure to protect, support and provide access to healthy and active living and well-being through, for example, creating environments that promote social interaction and mental well-being, are safe for all ages and incentivise physical activity.

The SPPS reflects this, in particular through six regional strategic objectives that require provision of and accessibility for all to open space with high standards of design.

Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 apply to environmental noise in built-up areas, public parks or other quiet areas in agglomerations (large urban areas) and other noise sensitive buildings and areas. The Regulations apply to noise from road, railway and airport sources, as well as industrial noise and action plans for roads, railways and industry were published in 2010. Existing sources of noise are not subject to planning control but may be considered in the context of proposed development which could be affected by the noise.

One of the Strategic Themes of our Council Strategy 2015 – 2019 is to achieve Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities which includes these priorities:

- Council will work to support healthy lifestyle choices for all citizens;
- Citizens will have access to Council recreational facilities and protected natural environments which help them to develop their physical, emotional and cognitive health.

- Health and wellbeing is also supported through the theme Protecting and Enhancing Our Environments and Assets. A Play Strategy is in preparation for the Council area and it will be taken into account in updates of this scoping report.

One of the three themes of our Community Plan, 'A Better Future Together', is a Healthy Safe Community for which there are five outcomes:

- Outcome 1: All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens benefit from improved physical health and mental wellbeing.
- Outcome 2: Our children and young people will have the very best start in life.
- Outcome 3: All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens can live independently as far as possible and access support services when they need it.
- Outcome 4: The Causeway Coast and Glens area feels safe.
- Outcome 5: The Causeway Coast and Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships.

What each of these means is explained in more detail in the Community Plan and examples of actions are presented such as 'Develop 'age, ability and dementia friendly' communities and initiatives which enable all people to benefit from living in an area.'

The LDP can support these Council plans, and in doing so support national and regional strategies, through planning and designing development to ensure high standards of homes which support people through all stages of life, enabling access to healthcare facilities and helping enhance living and working environments in areas of greatest deprivation. It can promote accessible spaces for all ages and active travel to incentivise physical activity and encourage social interaction as well as protecting and enhancing the environment to minimise adverse effects on health and to support healthy living.

5.1.2 Baseline Information

Relevant information is presented in our Community Planning Data Analysis and in the LDP Preparatory Studies Discussion Papers on Population and Growth; Education, Health and Community Facilities. Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service data and evidence from the Thematic Working Group, 'A Healthy Safe Community' have also been used.

Population profile

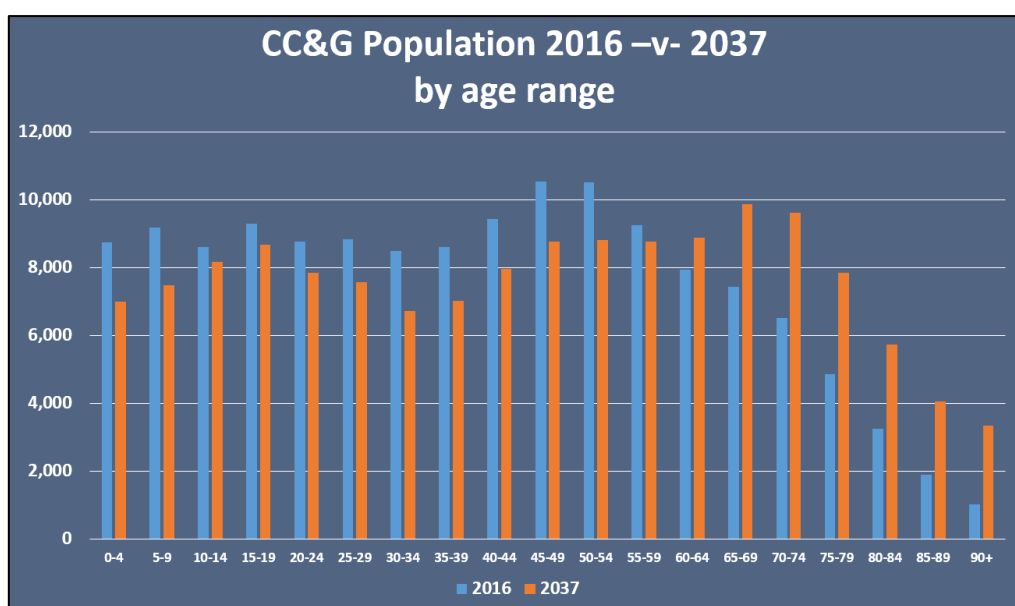
The future population profile is relevant as it informs health care. Figure 5.1.1 illustrates the projected population growth for the Borough which shows a much greater increase in older age groups. This will increase the requirement for late and end of life care.

At June 2016 19.9% (NI 20.8%) of the population were estimated to be aged under 16 years and 17.5% (NI 16%) were aged 65 and over; 62.7% were working age (16 to 64 years) compared to 63.2% for NI.

The number of live births has shown a general decline from 1,802 in 2008 to 1,706 in 2014 which is expected to continue. Using 2014 based population projections, the population is projected to increase by 2.9% by 2030 to 146,898 after which it is projected to decline to 145,801 in 2039 which is 2.5% greater than the 2014 population. This contrasts with the projected growth from 2014 for Northern Ireland of 7.6% by 2030 continuing to 9.8% in 2039.

Those aged 65-84 are projected to increase in Causeway Coast and Glens by 44% by 2030 and 65% by 2039 with higher rates of increase in the 85+ age bracket predicted of 106% and 184% respectively. The population of Causeway Coast and Glens aged 65+ is estimated to rise by 18,664 by 2039 by which time this age group will represent 29% of the population (compared to 16.7% in 2014).

Figure 5.1.1: Population Projections by Age Band



Source: Northern Ireland Population Projections (NISRA)

Life expectancy

Life expectancy shows a gradually increasing trend for both males and females. Data from the Census 2011 showed males in the Council area lived to 77.8 on average and females to 82.2. By 2013 males lived to 78.9 on average (NI 78.1) and females to 82.8 (NI 82.4). At that time the lowest male life expectancy was 76.6 in Limavady compared to 78.7 in Moyle whereas for females it varied from 81.2 in Moyle to 83.2 in Limavady. Evidence from elsewhere shows that these differences are more pronounced when comparing the most deprived areas with a Council as a whole, with significantly lower life expectancy in the most deprived areas.

The Health Inequalities Sub-regional Report 2017⁷ provides a comparison of health outcomes between the most deprived 20% of SOAs and the average for the council. This reported that, in 2012-14, male life expectancy was 4.2 years shorter in the most deprived areas and for females it was 1.7 years shorter in the most deprived areas.

Healthy life expectancy for males in Northern Ireland for 2010-2012 was 58.6 years, and for females was 61.6 years. Disability-free life expectancy for males in Northern Ireland for 2010-2012 was 60.2 years, and for females was 60.8 years. Healthy and disability-free life expectancy is not currently available at Local Government District (LGD) however, when compared to overall life expectancy, these are indicators of the need for health care and adaptation for disability for older people.

Table 5.1.1 Life Expectancy 2006/08 to 2011/13 in Causeway Coast and Glens

	2006-2008	2007-2009	2008-2010	2009-2011	2010-2012	2011-2013
Males (years)	77.6	77.7	77.6	77.8	78.2	78.9
Females (years)	82.1	82.3	82.1	82.6	82.7	82.8

Source: NINIS

Causes of death

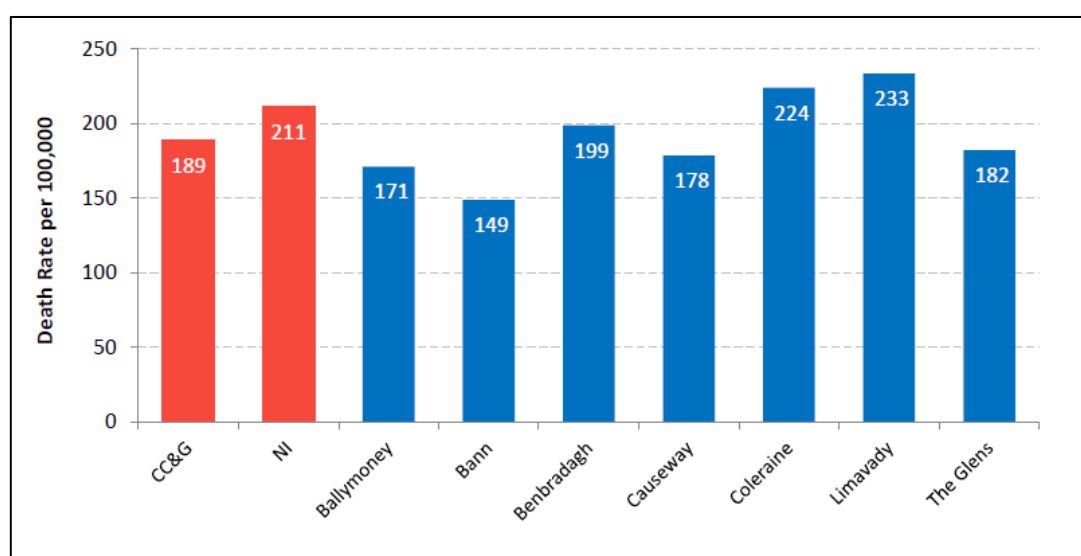
The three main causes of deaths in our Borough in 2014 accounted for 70% of all deaths. These were circulatory disease (27.0%), cancers (28.7%), and respiratory disease (14.5%).

⁷ <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/hscims-sri-hsct-2017.pdf>

Figure 5.1.2 shows the number of preventable deaths per 100,000 population in our area compared to an NI average and figures for each DEA within the Council area. The death rates are standardised by age and sex with respect to the European Standard Population. Preventable deaths are those that could be largely prevented from occurring. The data shows that there is a lower rate of preventable deaths in our area compared with NI as a whole however there are significantly higher rates in the most deprived areas.

The standardised preventable death rate for CCGBC was 9% lower than the average for Northern Ireland in 2014. The NI average was however exceeded in Coleraine and Limavady DEAs. Bann DEA had the lowest preventable death rate at 149 deaths per 100,000 population, 36% lower than the equivalent figure for Limavady DEA (233).

Figure 5.1.2: Standardised Preventable Death Rate 2014



Source: NINIS

The NISRA Area Profile updated at August 2017 shows trends in standardised rates and causes of death between 2007 and 2013 for our area. This shows steady declines in all causes of death including preventable and avoidable deaths. The standardised rates for cancer and circulatory diseases similarly declined however was fairly stable for respiratory diseases.

Admission Rates

Between 2009/10 and 2014/15 the overall standardised hospital admission rate in the Borough for all admissions rose by 4% to 50,947 per 100,000 population which is slightly over the NI rate for 2014/15 of 50,302.

Physical Health

A person is described as having a limiting long term health problem if they have a health problem or disability that limits their daily activities and which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months. Results from the 2011 Census show that in Causeway Coast and Glens 20.2% of people had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities (20.7% NI). The figure for limiting long term illness in the Council area is less than that in Northern Ireland at 2011 but it has increased to a greater degree in the Council area since 2001 when compared to Northern Ireland. Evidence shows a concentration of population with limiting long term illness in Magilligan, the West of Limavady town, Central in Coleraine and Route in Ballymoney.

Results from the 2011 Census show that in Causeway Coast and Glens 80.0% of people stated their general health was either good or very good (79.5% NI). There has been a significant improvement in

those in Good General Health, with those in the Council area enjoying slightly better Good General Health than in Northern Ireland overall. Super Output Area (SOA) data demonstrates the spread of good health over the Council area. The area of Killoquin Upper to the south of Rasharkin is notable for its Good and Very Good Health. There is some correlation between the distribution of the Under 16 population and Good, and Very Good health in Limavady and Coleraine.

The 2011 Census showed residents in the CC&G area were living with a range of long-term health condition:

- 5.16% (NI Ave 5.14%) had deafness or partial hearing loss
- 1.57% (NI Ave 1.7%) had blindness or partial sight loss
- 1.56% (NI Ave 1.65%) had a communication difficulty
- 10.85% (NI Ave 11.44%) had a mobility or dexterity difficulty
- 2.01% (NI Ave 2.22%) had a learning, intellectual, social or behavioural difficulty
- 5.12% (NI Ave 5.83%) had an emotional, psychological or mental health condition
- 8.11% (NI Ave 10.1%) had long-term pain or discomfort
- 8.71% (NI Ave 8.11%) had shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- 1.71% (NI Ave 1.97%) had frequent periods of confusion or memory loss
- 6.6% (NI Ave 6.55%) had a chronic illness
- 5.1% (NI Ave 5.22%) had other conditions

Most conditions were reported as being less frequent in CCGBC with the most notable exception being shortness of breath or difficulty breathing which was higher and there was a slightly higher level of chronic illness.

Some of the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) registers are for diseases that tend to affect an older population. In 2017 there were 1,047 people on the Dementia Register (all ages) and 541 people on the Osteoporosis Register (aged 50+ years) living in Causeway Coast and Glens. For dementia there has been an increase from 6.1 to 7.1 per 1000 between 2014 and 2017.

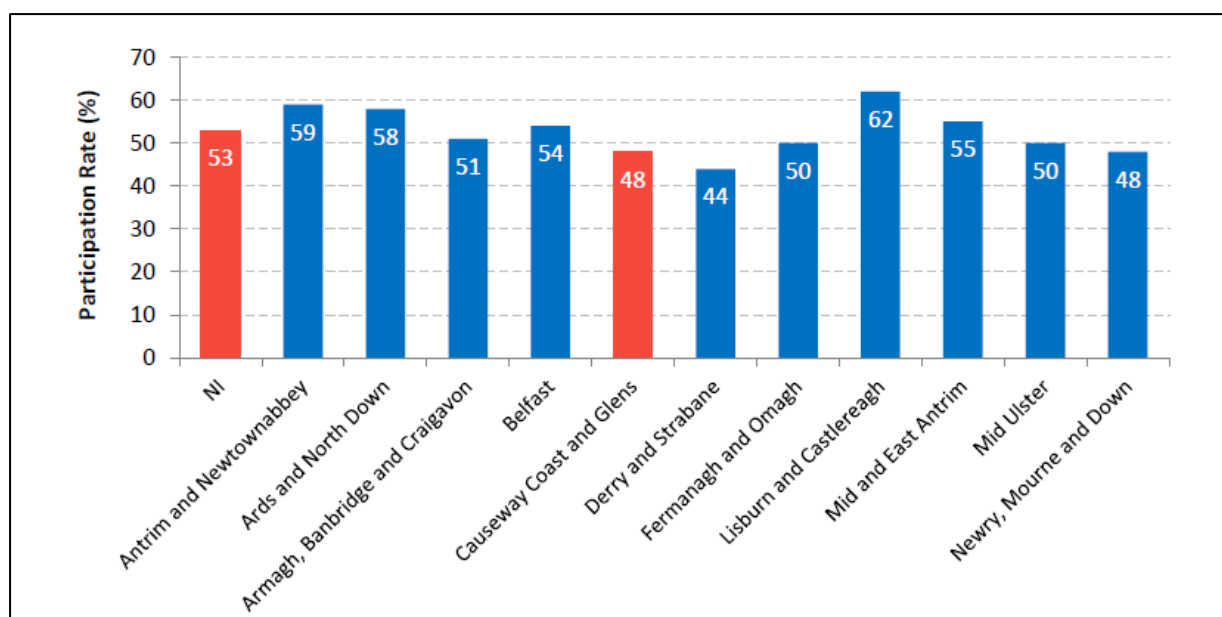
In 2011/12-2013/14, the standardised rate for alcohol-related admissions in our area was 404.9 per 100,000 population (Northern Ireland - 718.6 per 100,000 population).

Figures from the 2017 QOF reported that the percentage of GP registered patients with established hypertension was 14.7% in our area. This compares with 13.4% in Northern Ireland.

Physical Activity

Physical activity at the Northern Ireland level has increased from a very low level in 2011 of 34% to 53% in 2013. Figure 5.1.1 shows the proportion of the population that has participated in sport within the last year at Council level and compares the results to an average figure for Northern Ireland. The proportion of the population participating in sport and physical activity for CCGBC (48%) was lower than the average for Northern Ireland (53%) in 2013/14 by 9% and this was the second lowest participation rate of all eleven Councils.

Figure 5.1.3 Participation in Sport and Physical Activity, 2013/14



Source: DfC Continuous Household Survey (2013/14)

More detailed information for 2013/14 shows that, for NI, 28% of people take very little exercise, women are less physically active, less than a fifth of adults do the recommended level of muscle strengthening exercise and only 14% of older people do the recommended amount of balance and coordination exercise. The level of activity correlates with levels of deprivation with 37% of the most deprived respondents getting less than 30 minutes exercise a week compared to 22% for the least deprived quintile. There was little difference in activity levels between urban and rural dwellers.

Table 5.1.2: Percentage of Population meeting Recommended Physical Activity levels 2013/14

		Less than 30 minutes of exercise per week	30-59 minutes per week	60-149 minutes per week	A least 150 minutes per week (recommended)
Overall		28	5	14	53
Gender	Male	23	5	12	60
	Female	32	5	15	48
Urban/Rural	Urban	28	5	14	53
	Rural	29	6	14	51
Deprivation	Most Deprived	37	5	15	43
	Q2	33	5	12	50
	Q3	26	5	15	53
	Q4	22	5	15	57
	Least Deprived	22	5	13	60

Source: Health Survey Northern Ireland 2013/14

Table 5.1.3 shows the proportion of the population that spent leisure time outdoors, across the district Council areas over a period from 2014 to 2016. CCGBC is 2% above the NI average with 67% of the population spending leisure time outdoors at least once a week. Of the eleven local authorities,

the Council ranked fifth highest in terms of the percentage of the population who spend leisure time outdoors.

Table 5.1.3: Outdoor Leisure Time 2015/16

	Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Once a week or more (%)	Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Less frequent than once a week (%)	Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Never (%)	Base
Northern Ireland	65	23	11	6,628
Causeway Coast and Glens	67	22	11	474

Source: Continuous Household Survey via Central Survey Unit, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

There are many sports grounds, parks and open spaces, a wide variety of environmental designations from local to international importance, footpaths and cycle routes, and other recreational assets in the Council area including many of its tourism assets. These are referred to in the Transport and Accessibility and Natural Resources sections of this report.

Children and physical activity

The following information is from A Question of Sport, Research Update 107, by Dirk Schubotz, Katrina Lloyd and Martina McKnight 2016 and Are children getting the opportunities to realise their right to play?, Research Update 98, by Laura McQuade, Susan Kehoe and Lesley Emerson 2015.

These found that almost one third of P7 children, but less than one in ten 16-year olds meet the target of 60 minutes of physical activity per day therefore there are large proportions of children who are not engaging regularly in physical activity. Children reported feeling safer when playing in school (89%), compared with feeling safe when playing in their communities or homes (73%). This reflects the findings of several UK studies which found, among other things, that a fifth of children did not play outside at all on an average day and less than one in ten children regularly played in wild spaces compared to half of children a generation ago.

Mental Health

In 2013/14, of those adults surveyed in the Northern Ireland Health Survey, the mean Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing score was 51.0 in Northern Ireland. The scale scores range from 14 (lowest mental well-being) to 70 (highest mental well-being). A comparative figure for Councils is not available.

The standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety disorders of 201 per 100,000 population for CCG was slightly lower than the average for Northern Ireland (205) in 2014. Evidence elsewhere shows that figures for these measures are much higher in the most deprived areas. For the period 2010-2014, the crude suicide rate in Causeway Coast and Glens LGD was 14.9 (NI 15.9) suicides per 100,000 population.

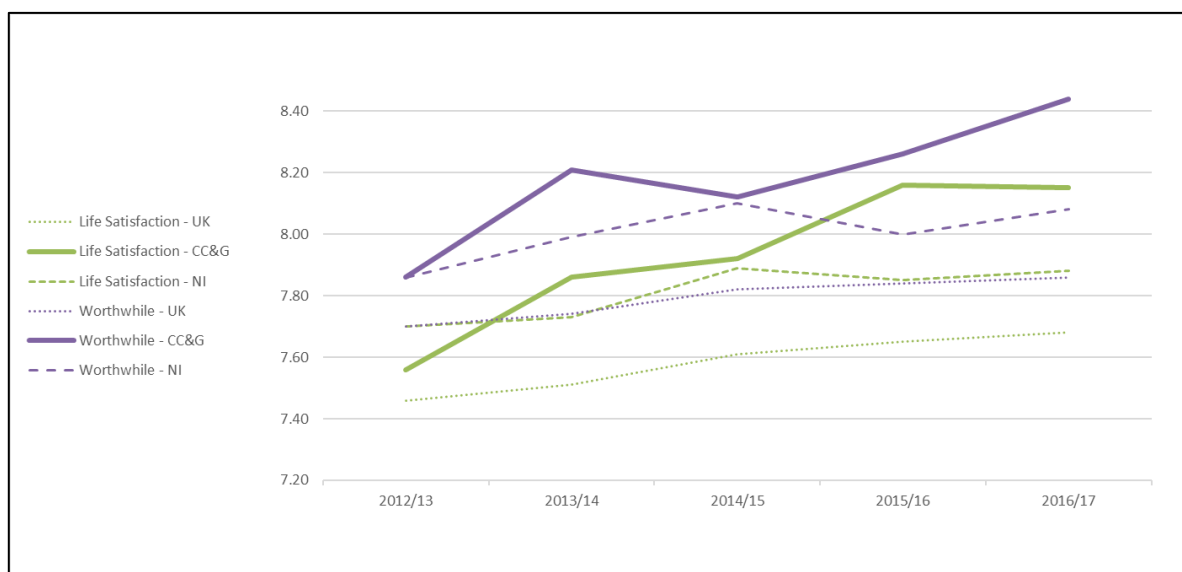
Well-being

The Office of National Statistics reports annually on estimates of life satisfaction, whether you feel the things you do in life are worthwhile, happiness and anxiety at the UK, country, regional and local authority level. Figure 5.1.4 is based on surveys asking the following questions.

- Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays? Where 0 is 'not at all satisfied' and 10 is 'completely satisfied'.
- Overall, to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile? Where 0 is 'not at all worthwhile' and 10 is 'completely worthwhile'.

The figure shows the figures for the Council in relation to the results for NI and UK. This shows that well-being, as indicated by these measures, is better in our Council than in NI and the UK on average. The measures have also shown an improving trend between 2012/13 and 2016/17.

Figure 5.1.4 Well-being – Satisfaction and Worthwhile



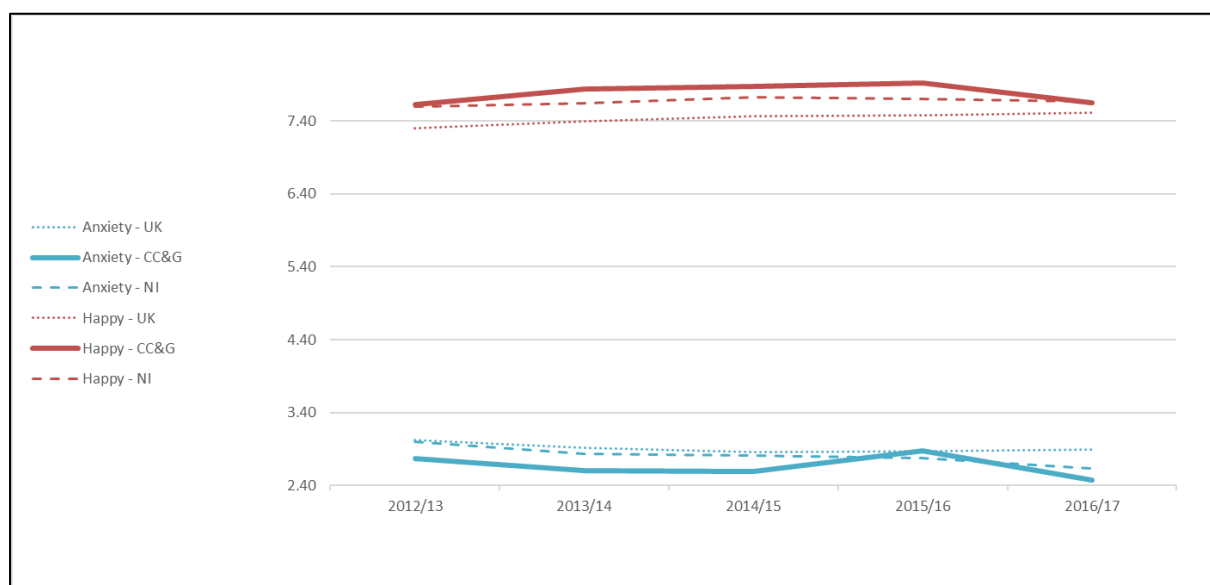
Source: ONS

Respondents were also asked about their recent feelings as follows:

- Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday? Where 0 is 'not at all happy' and 10 is 'completely happy'.
- Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday? Where 0 is 'not at all anxious' and 10 is 'completely anxious'.

Again the results (Figure 5.1.5) are better for each measure for our area compared with NI and the UK but trends are less apparent.

Figure 5.1.5 Well-being – Anxiousness and Happiness



Source: ONS

Providing care

Those Providing Unpaid Care account for over 10% of the population at 2011 with a slightly lower percentage within the Council area compared to Northern Ireland. This information is helpful in assessing the distribution of services and facilities and the future needs of the less able bodied, particularly those on lower incomes.

On Census Day 2011, in Causeway Coast and Glens Local Government District (2014) 10.73% of people stated that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others. This relates only to long-term physical or mental ill-health/disability or problems due to old age. Maps in the Population and Growth LDP Discussion Paper show that higher proportions providing care are found in the Bann Valley and North East. The number of carers allowance claimants increased in our area rose from 4,900 in 2014 to 5,380 in 2016 representing 7.7% of all carers in NI in 2016.

Health Care Facilities and Ambulance Response Times

The Northern Ireland Deprivation Measure 2010 Proximity to Services Domain measures the extent to which people have poor geographical access to key services, including statutory and general services. The average time in minutes to travel to a service from a given Output Area was calculated and results are available on NINIS. The summary Table 5.1. shows the maximum and minimum time to travel to a service from an Output Area.

Table 5.1.4 Travel time for Output Areas within Causeway Coast and Glens

Travel Time to:	Max travel time (minutes)	Min travel time (minutes)
GP premises	12.13	0.19
Accident and Emergency hospital	50.2	0.57
Dentist	18.25	0.17
Pharmacist	12.13	0.16
Optician	14.07	0.24

Source: NINIS

Within Causeway Coast and Glens the most deprived Output Area (OA) based on the proximity to services domain measure is within Bonamargy and Rathlin and Glenshesk SOA (ranked 29 out of 5,022 in NI).

The Northern Health and Social Care Trust covers the area of the former Ballymoney, Coleraine and Moyle Councils, and the Western Trust covers the former Limavady Council area. The Causeway Hospital provides acute hospital services, with community hospital services presently provided at Dalriada Hospital in Ballycastle and Robinson Hospital in Ballymoney under the Northern Trust. Parts of the Borough, for example around Dungiven, are closer to acute hospital services at Alnagelvin Hospital. There is also a Private Hospital in Ballykelly. The range of services available at Dalriada Hospital is the subject of review.

There are eight health centres providing a number of services, such as health visiting and antenatal clinics:

- Ballycastle
- Ballymoney
- Coleraine
- Dungiven
- Garvagh
- Kilrea
- Limavady
- Roe Valley

There are nineteen GP practices under the Northern Health Trust, with four in the former Ballymoney Borough area, ten in the Coleraine Borough area, and the remaining five in the former Moyle District.

There are four GP health/medical centres in the Western Trust area in the former Limavady Borough. A total of 110,245 patients are registered within these practices.

At October 2014, there were sixteen nursing homes throughout the Borough providing 916 beds, and twenty residential homes providing 351 beds.

There are twenty-six dental surgeries registered with the trusts across the Council in the following locations:

- Coleraine
- Limavady
- Ballycastle
- Ballymoney
- Cushendall
- Dungiven
- Kilrea
- Portrush
- Portstewart

The distribution of health care facilities is mapped in the LDP Discussion Paper 10: Education, Health and Community Facilities.

The ambulance median response time (9 min 01 sec) was over two minutes slower than the NI average (6 min 48 sec) in 2013 and the second slowest for all Councils. There are additional provisions for emergency response which are not accounted for in these figures. These are Rapid Response Vehicles and paramedics and Community First Responders who may be the first person to arrive on the scene in rural areas and are trained to provide life-saving treatment while waiting on an ambulance or rapid response vehicle.

Inequalities

The Health Inequalities Regional Report 2016 compares trends in indicators of health across deprivation levels and between urban and rural populations. The data is at the Northern Ireland level and shows that for many indicators there is a large gap with significantly worse conditions for the most deprived. The largest inequality gaps were for teenage birth rate, admission rates for alcohol related causes, death due to drug misuse, alcohol related causes and smoking during pregnancy. The most notable widening of gaps was for teenage birth rate, smoking during pregnancy, death due to drug misuse and admissions for respiratory illness.

When comparing the rural population against the Northern Ireland population the rural population generally has better results than those for the Northern Ireland population. The measures where the rural population fare worse are elective inpatient admissions where the rate has declined but for a lesser extent than for the Northern Ireland average. Rural populations have a slightly higher prevalence of being overweight or obese. The median ambulance response time has increase for rural populations over 2011-15 from under 12 minutes to over 15 minutes compared with under 6 to over 9 minutes for the Northern Ireland as a whole.

Those SOAs which are in the 20% most deprived areas in terms of health and disability are listed in Table 5.1.5.

Table 5.1.5 Rank of Health Deprivation and Disability Domain 2017⁸ (20% most deprived)

Super Output Area	Rank of Health Deprivation and Disability Domain Score (where 1 is most deprived)
Coolessan	48
Greystone_Limavady	51
Ballysally_1	94
Enagh_2_Limavady	120
Churchland	171

Source: NINIS

⁸ http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/InteractiveMaps/Deprivation/Deprivation%202017/SOA_Deprivation_Map/atlas.html

Obesity

The Northern Ireland Health Survey 2015/16 reported that, overall, 60% of adults were either overweight (34%) or obese (26%). The percentage of adults classed as obese or overweight has increased from the level of 56% reported in 1997, although has remained at a similar level since 2005/06. Globally, around 39% of adults aged 18 and over were overweight or obese in 2014, the equivalent for Europe was 58.6%. The most recent NINIS data shows that our area had higher rates of overweight and obese children in 2012 at P1, 23.41% (NI 21.37%) and at P8, 31.37% (NI 28.59%).

Safety

At the Northern Ireland level there was an increase in the level of accidental dwelling fires from 750 in 2011/12 to 898 in 2013/14.

The Borough is under two commands of the NI Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) – the Northern and Western. The Northern Area has District Headquarters at Coleraine, and retained stations at Portrush, Portstewart, Ballycastle, Rathlin, Ballymoney, Kilrea, and Cushendall, while the Western Area has retained stations at Limavady and Dungiven.

The total number of road traffic collisions recorded in CCGBC in 2016 was 689 which represented 7% of the NI total for that year. 88% of the road traffic collisions in the Council area resulted in slight injury for one or more of those involved in the collision; 11% serious injury and in 1% of the road traffic collisions resulted in one or more fatalities.

Noise

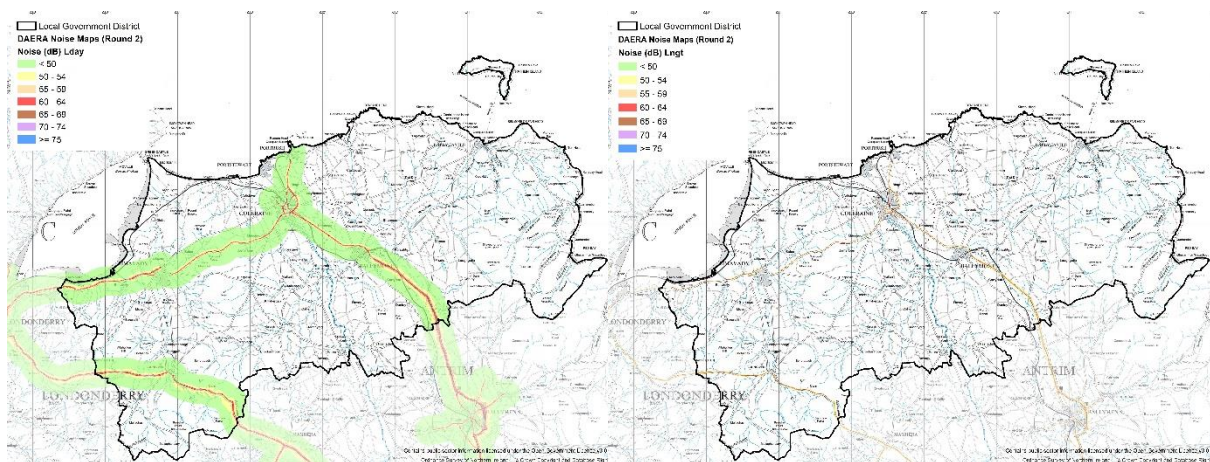
The total number of noise complaints in Northern Ireland has remained fairly constant over the previous ten years, varying between 11,099 and 12,193. However a 10% reduction has been experienced in 2015/16 from the previous year and is the lowest number of complaints recorded since 2005. For CCG there were 509 complaints in 2015/16 the majority from domestic sources. The top two sources, accounting for 77% of complaints, were noise from Animals (322) and Music Televisions Parties (69).

The Environmental Noise Directive requires Member States to 'preserve environmental noise quality where it is good' through the identification and protection of designated Quiet Areas within agglomerations, however no settlements reach the threshold of 100,000.

DAERA has developed its own approach to the identification and designation of Quiet Areas set out in policy guidance on the identification, designation and management of quiet areas (September 2016). Noise maps have been produced based on 2011 data for the following sources and are available at www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/noise

- major roads - roads with more than 3 million vehicle passages annually
- major railways - railways with more than 30,000 train passages annually
- major airports - airports with more than 50,000 movements annually
- agglomerations - urban areas with more than 100,000 inhabitants, taking into account the above sources and additionally, other roads, railways, aircraft movements and industrial premises

Figure 5.1.6: Round 2 Noise mapping for roads carrying more than 3 million vehicles annually



'L_{day}' is the L_{Aeq} over the period 0700 – 1900, local 'L_{ngt}' is the L_{Aeq} over the period 2300 – 0700, local time (for strategic noise mapping this is an annual average) time (for strategic noise mapping this is an annual average).

Source: Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs - Air and Environmental Quality Unit via OpenData NI

DAERA can designate quiet areas, however none have been designated in our Council.

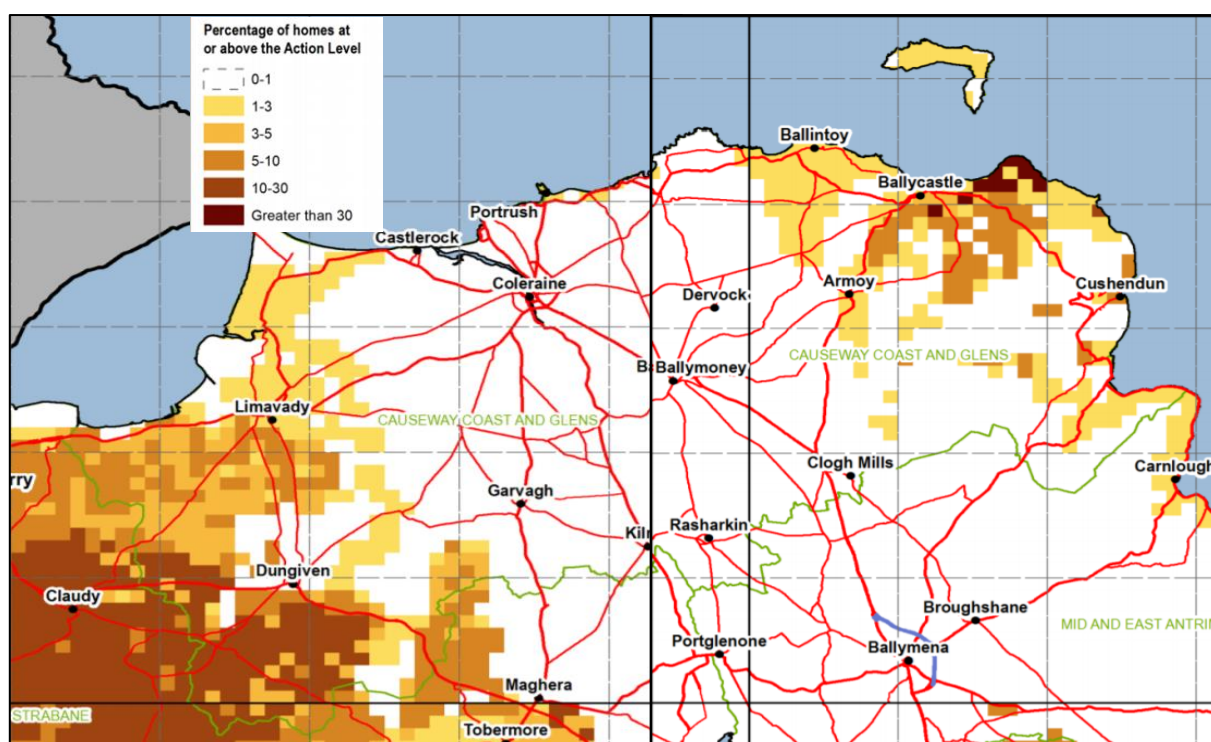
Radon

Radon is a natural radioactive gas that occurs at low levels outside but can become concentrated in enclosed places, such as houses, workplaces and other buildings. Long-term exposure to radon increases the risk of lung cancer, particularly in smokers. Radon exposure is the second greatest cause of lung cancer, after smoking, and is estimated to cause 30 deaths per year in Northern Ireland.

Radon levels in homes throughout Northern Ireland are mapped and the latest results can be found at Northern Ireland interactive radon map⁹ Figure 5.1.7 shows the 2015 data. The darker the colour on the radon map, the greater the chance of a high radon level in a building. The government has recommended that householders take action to reduce their radon levels where they exceed the 'action level' of 200 becquerels per cubic metre. In new homes, a radon barrier fitted during construction can be effective at preventing radon infiltration into the building. New buildings, extensions, conversions and refurbishments must be fitted with basic radon preventive measures in parts of Northern Ireland with a one per cent or greater probability of exceeding the 'action level'. In our area the greatest incidence of radon exceeding 'action levels' is around Ballycastle and Fairhead. Elevated levels are also evident around Magilligan and Roe Valley.

⁹ <http://www.ukradon.org/information/ukmaps>

Figure 5.1.6 Radon Levels



Source: Public Health England ©DoBH, OS, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA

5.1.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

The most significant baseline trends, relevant to health and wellbeing and the local development plan, which could continue in the absence of a new local development plan are lack of physical activity and discrepancies in health and well-being in the most deprived communities in our Borough. The opportunity to plan strategically to create an environment that encourages active travel and physical activity and improve the environment in the most deprived areas could be missed. Some of the measures of health such as respiratory disease may be exacerbated if there is no change or a deterioration in environmental conditions. The lack of a plan could mean that there is less opportunity to site development that could reduce negative interactions between uses.

5.1.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Health and Well-being

- Trends indicate an ageing population with the number of people over 65 years expected to reach 29% of the total population by 2039. Many older people may have to live on low incomes and may have disabilities and reduced mobility.
- The increase in the proportion of older people in the population will increase the requirement for care and there is a need to meet the future needs for care and support for older people at home or in communal homes and to improve access to health services and other facilities and services.
- Many people are dependent on carers in the home or local community. This may be a particular issue for those living in rural areas.
- The main causes of deaths are cancer, heart disease and respiratory disease which account for 70% of all deaths.
- Deaths due to respiratory causes are lower than for NI although they have remained at a fairly steady rate from 2004. Census data for 2011 showed higher than average reports of shortness of breath or difficulty breathing therefore it is important to minimise environmental impacts on respiratory conditions.

- Wellbeing is generally good compared to NI as a whole and maintaining a high quality environment can continue to support this.
- There is an inequality in health with all measures of health being significantly worse in the most deprived areas.
- Good spatial planning can help to reduce health inequalities by providing a high standard of design and place making, open space, capacity for any additional services required and accessibility.
- Levels of obesity in the Borough, as well as in Northern Ireland and the UK are high by global standards reflecting poor diet and a relatively sedentary lifestyle.
- Levels of physical activity are relatively low and much lower than recommended levels.
- There is a need to promote physical activity for all age groups through provision of and ensuring good accessibility to sports facilities, open space, green infrastructure and walking and cycling routes.
- In particular there is a need for children to have accessible play opportunities in places where they feel safe.
- Noise and environmental quality are not identified as being significant adverse effects at present however they can impact on health and therefore environmental quality should be improved, or sustained where it is good, to minimise adverse health impacts.
- Radon is naturally present in some areas where it needs to be taken into account in building design.
- Major transport infrastructure has the potential to cause noise disturbance, air pollution or safety risks which can be reduced through siting and design of development.
- Ambulance response times have been increasing across Northern Ireland and are high in our area; the location of and access to emergency services can impact on response times.
- There is a need to plan the relative location of industry and housing, open space and public facilities to minimise use conflicts.

5.2 Community

5.2.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Community considers demographics, community identity, shared space, prosperity and social inclusion, crime prevention and community safety, good relations and the rural population.

An understanding of changes in the makeup of the population informs future needs for the plan area for housing, employment, infrastructure, facilities and amenities. Models of the future population take account of other policies, net migration and, for example, health initiatives, which are likely to have an influence on births, deaths. A consistent requirement of policies related to the various demographic groups is the need to incorporate equality of treatment and opportunity.

Delivering Social Change, an NI Executive Programme, seeks to reduce inequalities, often through targeted approaches, and the draft Programme for Government includes an outcome that 'We have a more equal society' which includes measures to reduce poverty, health and educational inequality and also relates to employment.

The Regional Strategic Objective of the SPPS 'sustain a vibrant rural community by supporting rural economic development of an appropriate nature and scale' is representative of regional rural policy. It seeks to enable people to live and work in rural communities with reasonable provision of facilities while retaining the intrinsic character and value of our countryside and small communities. This echoes the Rural White Paper Action Plan which also refers to improved infrastructure, transport and key services; strong community infrastructure which can avail of economic, social and cultural opportunities; and better linkages between rural and urban areas.

There is growing recognition of the need for provision to take account of the varying needs of different age groups. The World Health Organisation promotes 'An Age-friendly world is a place that enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities. It is a place that treats everyone with respect, regardless of their age. It is a place that makes it easy to stay connected to those around you and those you love. It is a place that helps people stay healthy and active even at the oldest ages. It is a place that helps those who can no longer look after themselves to live with dignity and enjoyment.' This is reflected in the objectives of the Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Strategy 2017-2027 and the Active Ageing Strategy 2016-2021.

Together: Building a United Community is another Executive programme and has a vision for 'a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance'. It includes a commitment to create a 10-year Programme to reduce, and remove by 2023, all interface barriers including an Interface Barrier Support Package.

Our Council has developed a Good Relations programme to deliver on these objectives and provide opportunities for civic and community leaders to promote the area as a model of best practice in developing respect, understanding and tolerance of the cultural and the historical and traditional diversity of the residents. Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Good Relations Strategy 2014 – 2017 identifies the key outcomes, methodologies and actions required to ensure effective delivery of a Good Relations action plan throughout the Borough.

The Community Safety Action Plan includes an action for Councils: 'to support a sense of pride and ownership within neighbourhoods, deter anti-social behaviour and to address growing amenity problems associated with dilapidated or unsightly buildings and neglected sites.'

One of the Strategic Themes of our Council Strategy 2015 – 2019 is to achieve Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities which includes the following priority:

Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough.

One of the three themes of our community plan, A Better Future Together, is a Healthy Safe Community for which there are five outcomes:

- Outcome 1: All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens benefit from improved physical health and mental wellbeing.
- Outcome 2: Our children and young people will have the very best start in life.
- Outcome 3: All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens can live independently as far as possible and access support services when they need it.
- Outcome 4: The Causeway Coast and Glens area feels safe
- Outcome 5: The Causeway Coast and Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships.

What each of these means is explained in more detail in the Community Plan and examples of actions are presented such as 'Develop 'age, ability and dementia friendly' communities and initiatives which enable all people to benefit from living in an area.

5.2.2 Baseline information

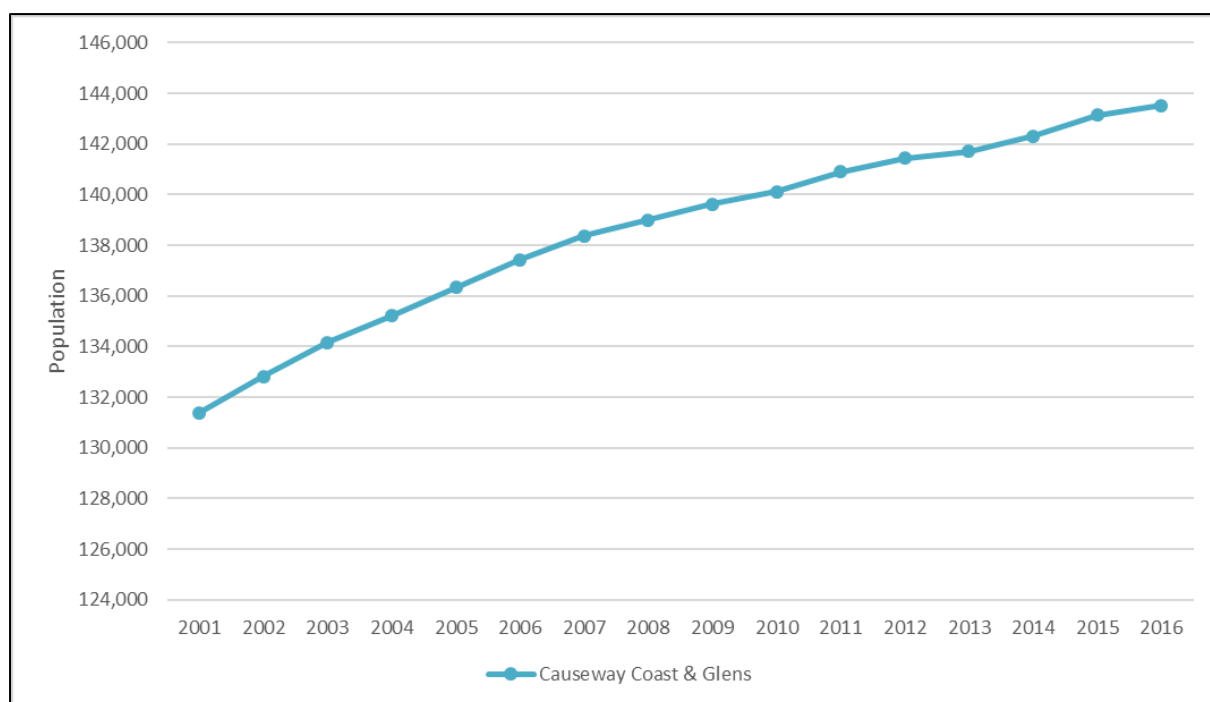
Baseline information has been sourced from our Community Planning Data Analysis, July 2017 and evidence used for the 'A Healthy Safe Community' Thematic Working Group. There is also reference to the LDP Discussion Papers on Population and Growth; and Education, Health and Community Facilities, Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service data and the 2011 Equality Awareness Survey of over 1000 people which measured attitudes towards specific equality groups and perceptions and experiences of unfair treatment.

Population

Population trends are largely influenced by factors such as birth and death rate which in turn reflect other factors such as health. Migration is subject to external influences such as national policy and the regional economy however it can also be directly influenced by the physical, economic and social environment. Planning can have an influence on this by creating the conditions for investment and place shaping and making the area a more attractive place to live.

What the data tell us about population is summarised here however the future impact on housing is considered in more detail in 6.3. At the time of the 2011 Census the population of Causeway Coast and Glens was 140,877 and Causeway Coast and Glens accounted for 7.78% of the total NI population. This represents a 7.08% increase since the 2001 Census. The population density, at the census, was 71.2 usual residents per square kilometre, well below the NI average of 133.8. The most recent population estimates for 2016 are that the population density has increased to 72.5 per square kilometre compared to 137.3 for NI. The rate of population growth has been lower than that for Northern Ireland as a whole with an estimated increase of 9.2% compared with 10.3% for NI.

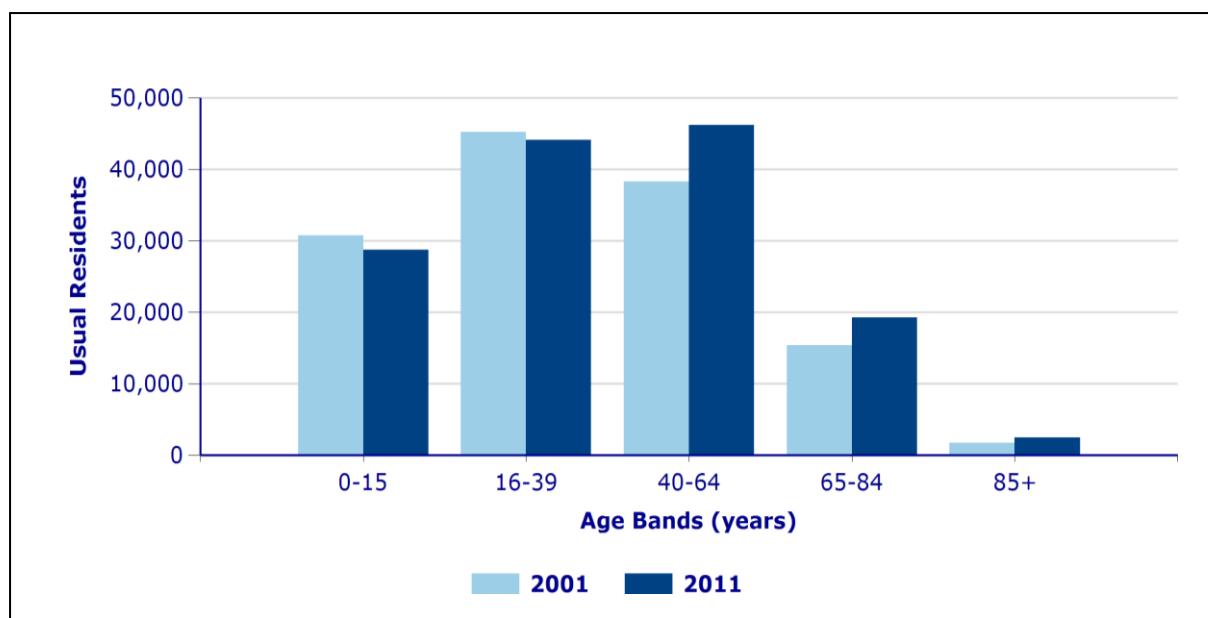
Figure 5.2.1: Population Growth 2001 – 2016



Source: NISRA Population Totals (administrative geographies)

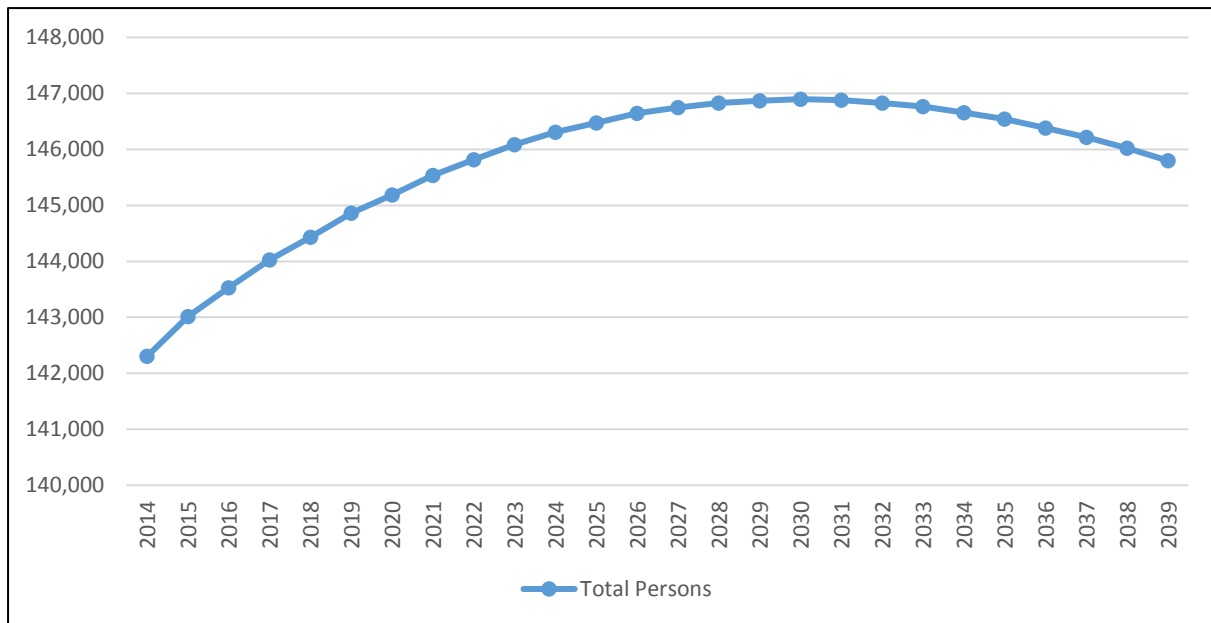
Figure 5.1.2 shows how the age structure has changed with declines in the proportion under 40 and increases in those 40 and above.

Figure 5.2.2 Age structure of the usually resident population, 2001 and 2011



Source: NINIS

Figure 5.2.3: Projected Total Population



Source: NINIS Area Profile Report for Causeway Coast and Glens LGD August 2017

The rate of population growth in Causeway Coast and Glens from 2014 to 2039 is set to be significantly lower at 2.5% than the NI rate of growth which is predicted to be 9.8%. Factors contributing to this lower rate are lower rates of birth and in-migration.

Based on 2011 census data there is a high concentration of Under 16s in some southern parts of the Council area, in the rural area, and a pocket in Greysteel 2. Limavady Town has a concentration in the south east of the town in Enagh 2 and Aghanloo. In Coleraine under 16s are concentrated in the north east in Ballysally 1 and 2 and in the south east in Knocklynn 1. These areas, in part, relate to more recent housing developments.

Over 65s are concentrated in parts of the rural coastal areas along the North Coast and Rathlin Island. There are also concentrations in the main towns. Limavady Town shows more over 65s in the north of the town in Roeside and Rathbrady. In Coleraine the concentration is in the town centre in Central and to the immediate south in Mount Sandel. Ballymoney's over 65 population is located in the north west of the town in Glebe and Route whilst Ballycastle's lies to the east in Bonamargy and Rathlin and Glenshesk. The working age (16-64) population increased in proportion to 64.2% at 2011 and is now slightly below the NI level (64.5%).

Religious belief

In 2011, 54.79% of the Causeway Coast and Glens population belonged to or were brought up Protestant/Other Christian, 40.21% Catholic and 4.35% no religion. The proportion of Catholics was lower than the Northern Ireland level and Protestant and other Christians higher. Those of other religions (0.65%) were fewer than for Northern Ireland (0.92%) as were the number reporting no religion 4.35% (5.59% NI).

Religious composition varies markedly across the Borough. For example in Limavady and Moyle districts almost 60% belonged to or were brought up Roman Catholic in contrast to 32% in Ballymoney and 28% in Coleraine. Looking at SOAs the Protestant population is concentrated in the central part of the Council area, with the Roman Catholic population concentrated largely to the west and east of the area. Limavady District is generally reasonably balanced between the two religions. Coleraine and Ballymoney are predominantly Protestant while Ballycastle is predominantly Roman

Catholic. These variations means that planning policies at a spatial level could potentially be perceived to discriminate between religions.

Political opinion

In the 2014 Local Government Election 56.3% of Causeway Coast and Glens voted for unionist parties, 38.1% for nationalist parties and 11.3% for other parties and independents. There is variation across the Council area with votes for unionist parties in the majority in Ballymoney and Coleraine in contrast to Limavady and Moyle where the majority of votes were for nationalist parties. Other parties and independent candidates attracted a significant proportion of the votes in Coleraine and Moyle.

Table 5.2.1: Political Opinion 2014

First Preference Votes	Unionist Parties (%)	Nationalist Parties (%)	Other Parties/Independent (%)
N Ireland	45.9	38.1	17.0
CC&G	56.3	32.4	11.3
Ballymoney	66.6	30.4	3.0
Coleraine	57.9	19.5	22.8
Limavady	41.3	52.5	6.2
Moyle	31.4	37.5	31.0

Source: ARK Northern Ireland

Country of Birth and Ethnic Group

On Census Day 2011, in Causeway Coast and Glens Local Government District (2014), considering the resident population:

- 1.00% were from an ethnic minority population and the remaining 99.00% were white (including Irish Traveller). The 2011 Census recorded 40 Irish Travellers in the area.
- 54.31% indicated that they had a British national identity, 21.45% had an Irish national identity and 31.29% had a Northern Irish national identity.

Table 5.2.2: Ethnic Group CCG in comparison to Northern Ireland

	Northern Ireland	Causeway Coast and Glens
Ethnic group: White (%)	98.21	98.97
Ethnic group: Chinese (%)	0.35	0.24
Ethnic group: Irish Traveller (%)	0.07	0.03
Ethnic group: Asian (%)	0.71	0.35
Ethnic group: Black (%)	0.20	0.07
Ethnic group: Mixed (%)	0.33	0.25
Ethnic group: Other (%)	0.13	0.09

Source: NISRA Census 2011

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Causeway Coast and Glens Local Government District (2014), considering the population aged 3 years old and over:

- 8.80% had some knowledge of Irish;
- 17.69% had some knowledge of Ulster-Scots; and
- 1.90% did not have English as their first language.

The 2011 Equality Awareness Survey found that, although attitudes towards the different groups were generally positive, negative attitudes existed towards Travellers (30%) and Eastern European migrant workers (21%).

In 2011, 91.02% (NI 88.84) of the usual population were from NI, 4.99% from Rest of UK, 1.42% from ROI, 1.45% from Rest of EU and 1.06% from outside EU. The proportion from NI and the UK is higher

than the NI average and from elsewhere is lower than the NI average. While Coleraine district was close to the NI average for those from Europe (other than Ireland) and the rest of the world the other parts of the Council had significantly lower representation of these groups.

Age

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Causeway Coast and Glens Local Government District (2014):

- 20.41% were aged under 16 years and 15.40% were aged 65 and over;
- 38 years was the average (median) age of the population.

The projected changing age structure of the population is illustrated in Figure 5.1.1. Different age groups have particular needs, for example safe access to age appropriate play and recreational facilities for children and young people and greater need for accessibility to health facilities for older people. However many of the needs overlap for example for access to public transportation, open space, leisure and cultural facilities. A 2016 AgeNI Survey for NI found that the main concerns for older people are

- Access to Health and Social Care 69.3%
- Transport 50.6%
- Keeping Warm in winter/Energy prices 49.3%
- Fear of Crime 48.2%

The 2011 census found that, of 20,784 people aged 65+ in our area 16.7% (NI 18.5%) lived in households with adaptations with the most common adaptations being for physical and mobility issues including wheelchair use. Overall there was a slightly lower rate of adaptation than the NI average. Of those aged 65+ years 30.5% said that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot, 23.5% a little and 46.1% were not limited.

Marital status

In 2011, of those over 16 in our area 34.8% were single, 49.7% were married, 5.5% divorced and 6.6% widowed. The proportion married is still above the NI average (47.6%) and the proportion single is still below the NI average (36.1%) however there was a decrease in people married of 3% from 2001. The proportion of single people is predicted to show a steady increase although this may include cohabiting couples choosing not to marry.

Over 40% of the population, including those who were divorced or widowed, were single. Single people may have different housing requirements, may have less purchasing power and different social needs to those who are married. Young, single people may be a key consideration in the economy of town centres, as they can provide a significant part of the market for the evening economy, for example in pubs, clubs and restaurants. However, single people may also experience social exclusion, particularly the elderly, disabled and single parents.

Sexual orientation

Data on sexual orientation is not available at local government level and there are no direct measures therefore, while it can be assumed that the population includes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, there is no indicator of the proportion of the population represented by these groups. The 2011 Equality Awareness Survey did illustrate negative attitudes towards transgender persons (22%) and although negative attitudes towards lesbian, gay or bisexual persons decreased from 21% in 2008 to 15% in 2011 the change was to neutral rather than positive views.

Gender

On Census Day 27th March 2011, 49.46% of the usually resident population were male and 50.54% were female. There are slightly more females in Coleraine compared to the Council area and slightly more males in Limavady and Moyle.

Persons with a disability and persons without

In 2012/13, 7% of children in Northern Ireland were disabled compared to 17% of adults of working age and 46% of adults over state pension age¹⁰. The number of Disability Living Allowance claimants increased in our area from 13,060 in 2014 to 14,110 in 2016 mirroring the NI trend and representing 6.7% of all claimants in NI in 2016. The combination of increasing life expectancy with declining disability free life expectancy, Table 5.2.3, is likely to lead to a significant increase in the numbers of people with a disability. Disability is further discussed in the Health and Well-being topic.

Table 5.2.3: Disability Free Life Expectancy Northern Ireland

	Male	Female
2008-2010	61.3	62.7
2009-2011	61.1	62.3
2010-2012	60.2	60.8

Source: NISRA Disability Free Life Expectancy

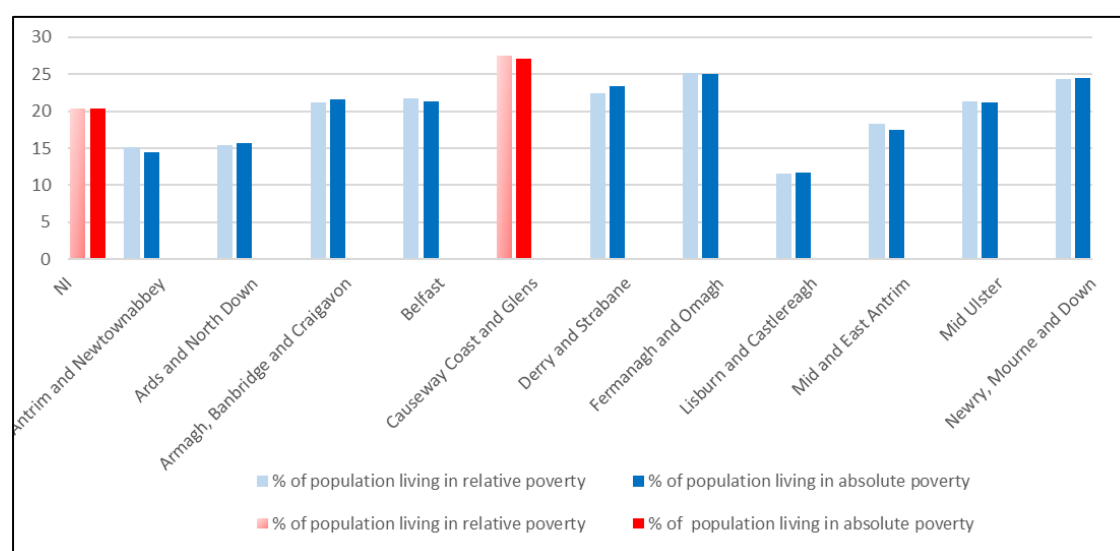
Persons with dependants and persons without

In 2011 33.37% of households had dependent children and there is a decline in the number of households with children which is predicted to continue. The Council overall broadly correlates with Northern Ireland in terms of the percentage of households with dependent children, although the figures for Ballymoney and Limavady Districts are higher, whilst those for Moyle and Coleraine are lower.

Deprivation

The proportion for CCGBC for both relative (27.5%) and absolute poverty (27.1%) was significantly higher than the average for Northern Ireland (20.4% for both measures of poverty) in 2014/15. These were the highest poverty rates of all eleven local authorities.

Figure 5.2.4 Absolute and Relative Poverty, 2014/15



Source: Poverty - Grouped Years (administrative geographies) - NINIS (2012/13 - 2014/15)

Another measure is found in the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2010. Summary Measures have been produced for the new LGDs. Local Government Districts (2014) are

¹⁰ DSD Family Resources Survey, September 2014

ordered from most deprived to least deprived on each indicator of deprivation and then assigned a rank. The most deprived Local Government District (2014) is ranked 1, and as there are 11 new districts, the least deprived Local Government District (2014) has a rank of 11. The number of people income deprived in 2008 was 34,900 which was 25% of the population, the same rate as for Northern Ireland and ranking it 4th of all Councils. The number of people employment deprived in CCG in 2008 was 10,800 which was 13% of the population, again this is the same rate as for Northern Ireland however it ranked 3rd of all Councils. At April 2016, the gross full-time median weekly wage for those working in Causeway Coast and Glens was £378.40 compared with £495.20 for NI. This helps explain why the level of income deprivation is higher than that for employment deprivation.

Of the 72 Super Output Areas making up our Council, 18% (13) are classed as being in the 20% most deprived areas in NI. Table 5.2.4 shows the 10% most deprived SOAs for multiple deprivation. It is notable that, relative to other SOAs in NI, these all have a poorer ranking in 2017 compared to 2010.

Table 5.2.4 SOAs in the 10% most deprived in NI for Multiple Deprivation 2017

SOA NAME	Multiple Deprivation Rank where 1 is most deprived (2010 MD Rank)
Greystone Limavady	11 (40)
Ballysally 1	31 (64)
Coolessan	34 (65)

Source: NINIS

Twenty two SOAs (30%) however were in the 20% most deprived in terms of proximity to services, Table 5.2.5 shows the 10% most deprived for this measure.

Table 5.2.5 SOAs in the 10% most deprived in NI for proximity to services

SOA NAME	Rank of Access to Services Domain Score where 1 is most deprived
Glack	12
Ballyhoe and Corkey	13
Magilligan	25
Carnmoon & Dunseverick	38
Ringsend	51
Armoy & Moss-side and Moyarget	55
The Vow	58
The Highlands	63
Dunloy	68
Knockaholet	70
Aghnanloo 2	77

The Income Deprivation Affecting Older People (IDAOP) counts those aged 60+ living in income deprived households. Within our area the most deprived Super Output Area based on the IDAOP measure is Cross Glebe, where 68% of older people were income deprived (ranked 72 out of 890 in NI).

Claimants

The average number of people aged 16-64 in our area claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) in 2016 was 2,976, representing a claimant count annual average rate of 3.3%. This compares with a claimant count rate for Northern Ireland of 3.1% in 2016. In 2016, the proportion of total claimants who were long-term unemployed (12 months or more) was 42.5% (NI: 36.1%). In 2016, youth claimant count rate (aged 18-24) in our area was 26.2% of total claimants (NI: 25.0%).

Rural

In 2009 there was a fairly even distribution of dwelling between rural and urban areas at 50.3% in the rural area and 49.7% in urban areas. Only Fermanagh and Omagh and Mid Ulster had a greater proportion of rural dwellers than urban dwellers and across NI more people (68.7%) are urban dwellers.

Crime

The Causeway Coast and Glens Policing District covers the Borough. There are two local policing teams based in Coleraine and Limavady. There are four stations in the Borough at the Hubs – Coleraine and Limavady open from 8am to 8pm and Ballycastle and Ballymoney open for reduced hours.

The total number of crimes recorded our area in 2015/16 was 6,301. This placed the Council as the middle ranked (6 out of 11) Council for recorded crime. There has been a steady decline in the number of Recorded Crime Offences from 8,954 in 2008/09 with a 45% decline in anti-social behaviour incidents. Sectarian motivated crimes declined while racist and homophobic motivated crime varied but had reduced to 34 and 6 respectively in 2015/16. The SOAs with the poorest results for crime and disorder are listed in Table 5.2.6.

Table 5.2.6 SOAs in the 10% most deprived in NI for crime and disorder

SOA NAME	Multiple Deprivation Rank where 1 is most deprived (2010 MD Rank)
Greystone Limavady	12 (8)
Royal Portrush	18 (5)
Coolessan	20 (6)
Central Coleraine	36 (55)
Portstewart	40 (42)
Enagh 2 Limavady	47 (27)
Atlantic	72 (40)

Source: NINIS

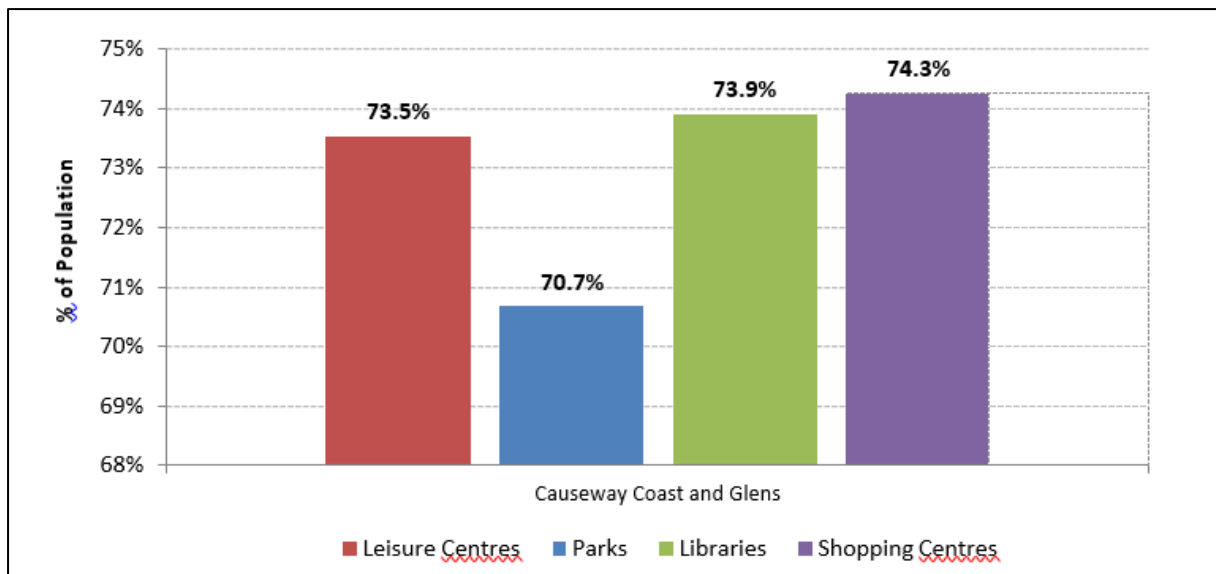
The proportion of the population in the Council who reported fear of crime as having a minimal impact (80%) was higher than the average for Northern Ireland (73%). In comparison to most other Councils there is a lower fear of crime reported. For those over 60 across Northern Ireland data between 2010 and 2016 shows a steady decline in those feeling very worried about crime or unsafe walking alone after dark in their area.

Shared Space and Community Facilities

Figure 5.2.3 shows the total proportion of residents living in CCGBC that believe that amenities including leisure centres, parks, libraries and shopping centres are shared spaces and are open to all. About one in four of those surveyed considered that leisure centres, libraries and shopping centres are not shared and open to all, rising to one in three for parks.

75% of the population stated that they believed that shopping centres were shared and open to all, which is lower than the Northern Ireland average figure of 77%. The results for parks showed that 70.7% of the population feel that parks are shared and open to all which is slightly higher than the average figure for Northern Ireland (69.5%).

Figure 5.2.5 Shared and Open Amenities 2015 (non-zero axis)



*Source: Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2015

The LDP Discussion Paper on Education, Health and Community Facilities details community facilities in the Council. There are ten libraries which, although opening hours for many have been reduced, provide important hubs for accessing information and communication and act as shared spaces.

- Coleraine
- Limavady
- Ballymoney
- Ballycastle
- Dungiven
- Portstewart
- Portrush
- Kilrea
- Garvagh
- Cushendall

There are also mobile library services that serve 26 areas, and provide an important social and wellbeing function to those that they serve.

Ninety-two Community Centres were recorded within the Borough. However, there are also a range of other halls such as parish halls, church halls, scout halls, and guide halls.

5.2.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

The Northern Area Plan was not prepared in the context of the new Council area. It does not reflect our more up to date understanding of economic growth and social development in our area.

Therefore, in the absence of a new plan, there is a risk that policies and provision for development will not reflect the needs of our Council area or support delivery of our Community Plan. A new plan brings an opportunity to develop a plan led system and to reflect the most recent strategies.

5.2.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Community

- The population is predicted to rise to 145,581 by the year 2027 but decline over the following 10 years to 144,128.
- One fifth of the population is under 16 years although this proportion will decline over the plan period.
- The proportion married is above the NI average and the proportion single is below the NI average.
- There is a trend of an increase in the number of single people and single households with 40% of the population being single.
- Single people have different housing needs which need to be planned for.
- A greater proportion of older people will increase the need for suitable housing that is accessible for those who may not drive and enables support to be provided.

- Levels of deprivation vary widely through the Council area with multiple issues in many areas.
- The highest concentrations of deprivation with respect to proximity to services were largely in Coleraine and Moyle legacy districts.
- There is a commitment and need to promote social inclusion through appropriate and accessible shared space and applying place making to make areas inclusive for all backgrounds and income levels.
- Some parts of our area have populations which predominantly reflect one religion or political opinion.
- There will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability.
- The community is not ethnically diverse, however the needs of minority groups should be taken into account.
- There will continue to be a need for childcare facilities, nursery, primary and secondary schools, particularly in the short term, as well as access to community and leisure facilities.
- About one in four of those surveyed considered that leisure centres, libraries and shopping centres are not shared and open to all and more people thought this was the case for parks therefore consideration needs to be given to making new developments more inclusive.

5.3 Housing

5.3.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Good quality sustainable housing is a fundamental need of society and can make a significant positive contribution to community cohesion and the character of our built environment. It is the role of the LDP to proactively facilitate land for the delivery of homes to meet the variety of future housing needs, together with the opportunities for people living there to make healthy lifestyle choices and benefit from community services and facilities.

Our regional policy recognises the importance of housing in relation to sustainable development. It acknowledges the potential links between good quality, sustainable housing that enables access to jobs, facilities, services and infrastructure, and the benefits this can bring to wider society. Policy encourages housing near to public transport links and in residential areas with adequate facilities already in place. Consideration of local character and the environment, as well as attractive design, are also viewed as key elements for sustainable development.

Good quality housing is essential to safety and well-being. Availability of appropriate housing and access to community and social services influence the independence and quality of life of older people. Good quality housing developments promote well-being and health improvement through development design, which encourages walking and cycling, and use of open space for recreation. Fuel poverty can be tackled through housing design that aims for a low-carbon future, which also helps local air quality and our contributions to climate change mitigation.

Regional policy recognizes that housing growth needs to be managed to achieve sustainable patterns of residential development. This can be achieved by promoting housing within existing hubs and clusters and by using vacant and underutilized land including brownfield sites. Regional policy encourages 60% of new housing to be in the hubs and clusters and to use brownfield sites. The needs of rural dwellers, those on low incomes, the vulnerable, the elderly, the disabled and the homeless should also be considered in housing policy.

Our Council Strategy 2015-2019, sets out our priorities through five strategic themes that include supporting 'resilient, healthy and engaged communities'. To achieve this the Council will enable access for residents to recreational facilities and the natural environment, and encourage cohesive communities. Integral to these outcomes will be the provision of sustainable housing that can accommodate the needs of current and future Council populations and help to ensure healthy lifestyle choices.

Our Community Plan focuses on three main issues; a sustainable accessible environment, a thriving economy, and a healthy, safe community. Integral to these issues will be good quality housing that is sustainably located and at a reasonable price.

5.3.2 Baseline Information

Relevant information is presented in the Council's LDP Preparatory Studies Discussion Papers on Housing, Population and Growth, and the Countryside Pressure Analysis. This topic also overlaps with the Health and Well-being and Community sections of this report.

Housing Growth Indicators

Previous housing growth indicators (HGIs) for the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council showed a range of predictions between the legacy Council areas (Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle) of between 1800 and 6900 dwellings. This is for a Council that covers 14% of the total land area of Northern Ireland. More recent HGIs show a decrease in the total household projections; HGIs in 2008 predicted 16,100 dwellings and in 2016 HGIs predicted 9,270 dwellings up to 2030, a decrease of

58%¹¹. The average household size has also been decreasing which is similar to the NI trend. The rate of building has reduced and in 2016 was below the HGI figure¹².

NISRA reported that since 2008 housing stock has increased but the Council area has had one of the lowest increases at 5.1%. In 2016 there were 62,940 dwellings and of these the majority were detached (28,483), semi-detached (15,608), terrace (13,491) and apartments (5,358)¹³.

Housing Supply and Distribution

The Northern Area Plan (NAP) focused housing in the main hubs and clusters of hubs in the Council. This is an approach that is in keeping with current regional and strategic planning policy. However the previous plan was also found to have an overprovision of housing allocations at each level of the settlement hierarchy¹⁴. The housing provision in the Council has exceeded household growth but remained below the NIHE's household growth indicator¹⁵.

There are six settlements in the Council with more than 5000 residents (Ballymoney, Coleraine, Portrush, Portstewart, Limavady and Ballycastle). These populated settlements account for 10% of all the settlements in the Council leaving two thirds of the population living outside of main hubs in 56 smaller settlements and the open countryside.

Social / Affordable Housing

Figures from NISRA's Housing Statistics 2015-2016 show that social housing projects were the driver of new dwelling starts with an increase of 58% between 2014-15 and 2015-16. In total, there was an increase for new starts of 12% between 2015 and 2016. The figures for social housing completions showed a decrease of 27% between 2015 and 2016. The majority of the Social Housing Delivery Programme has consisted of new builds. Figures also showed that the waiting list for social housing in Northern Ireland in 2015-2016 stood at 37,586, with Causeway Coast and Glens having 1958, or 5.2% of the total. The evidence base for social housing is determined in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's (NIHE) Housing Needs Assessment/Housing Market Analysis (HNA/HMA). NINIS for 2015/16 shows for Causeway Coast and Glens that 684 social housing allocations were made. This placed the Council fifth relative to others. The Council may also have one of the more attainable average new house price at £140,700, well below the Northern Ireland average of £157, 400. It however has the fourth highest housing benefit claimant level (12,530).

Annual Build Rates

The economic downturn has had a big impact on building with the lowest urban building rates evident from 2012-2016. Urban build rates have been declining since 1999 whereas countryside build rates up to 2010 showed an increased amount of building between 2004 and 2010. From 1999 to 2010, the rural build accounted for 23% of the total house build for the Council. The number of urban and rural dwellings in 2009 showed that it was nearly 50/50; urban dwellings accounted for 49.7% of the total and rural dwellings accounted for 50.3%¹⁶. NINIS data shows that the Council had the third highest level of rural build relative to other areas. These rural figures are no longer collected since the introduction of PPS21. Due to the economic downturn in Northern Ireland, the level of urban build rates has been slow and so there appears to be an oversupply of potential housing allocation within settlements.

Household Type & Forward Planning

Household projections for Northern Ireland show that, leading up to 2037, households are to increase to 812,700. This equates to 4,200 households per annum. The average household size is to reduce

¹¹ Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies: Discussion Paper 12: Housing October 2016

¹² Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies: Discussion Paper 12: Housing October 2016

¹³ NISRA (2016): Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2015-2016

¹⁴ Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies: Discussion Paper 12: Housing October 2016

¹⁵ RSM 2017: Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Community Planning Data Analysis July 2017

¹⁶ Local Development Plan Discussion Paper: Population and Growth

from 2.54 persons down to 2.43 persons. The households predicted to increase the most are two people households by 26.6% and one person households by 21.5%. In the long term, the number of households with children is predicted to decrease¹⁷.

According to the 2011 Census, the Council's population increased by more than the Northern Ireland average. Residents were also recorded as living slightly longer. The resident population is approximately 8% of the NI population. Nearly half the population live in the legacy Coleraine Council area but over half live in the more rural areas of Ballymoney, Limavady and Moyle.

The population profile shows a longer life expectancy and a trend toward an increasing older population with a decline in the young population. NISRA data shows from the Census 2011 (100 people) that 15% of those are 65 and over. NISRA population projections also show that this age group is to increase by up to 28.5% by 2024. Currently over a quarter of housing provision in the legacy Council areas is able to accommodate dependants.

There are fewer single person households than the NI average but a higher than average number of households with four, five and five plus persons. There has also been a drop in the number of married people in the Council and an increase in divorce rates¹⁸. In the future, population growth is expected to reduce below the NI average and household size is expected to decrease, as too are the number of households without children. Households with one, two or more adults and no children are expected to increase. The legacy Coleraine Council area has the highest percentage of one and two person households whilst the rest of the Council area has a higher percentage of households for 3 to 5+ persons.

Fuel Poverty

A fuel poor household is one needing to spend in excess of 10 % of its household income on all fuel use to achieve a satisfactory standard of warmth. It assesses the ability to meet all domestic energy costs including space and water heating, cooking, lights and appliances.

The NIHE House Condition Survey (HCS) 2011 provided a comprehensive picture of the dwelling stock and its condition in 2011 for Northern Ireland and each of the 26 former District Councils. This survey estimated that 42.0% of households in Northern Ireland were in fuel poverty. For households where the Household Reference Person (HRP) was aged 60-74 years, 52.0% of households were in fuel poverty rising to 66.3% where the Household Reference Person was aged 75+ years. The survey classified between three of the four legacy councils in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council as having a fuel poverty level of 52-56 % (Coleraine, Moyle and Ballymoney) and one with a fuel poverty level of 47-51% (Limavady). The former district council with the highest level of fuel poverty in Northern Ireland is Moyle¹⁹.

There are several schemes available to help households with their fuel requirements. The Affordable Warmth Scheme is for fuel poor households in the private sector and the boiler replacement scheme is for households with old boilers (15 years plus) and that earn below £40 000 per annum.

Unfitness and vacancy

The House Condition Survey (HCS) is carried out by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive across all housing tenures and house types. In 2011, across Northern Ireland, 35,240 dwellings were established as unfit (4.6%) and 79.5% of these were vacant. The survey showed an increase in unfitness and an increase in vacancy rates, particularly in rural areas.

¹⁷ NISRA (2016): Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2015-2016

¹⁸ Local Development Plan Discussion Paper: Population and Growth

¹⁹ <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/statistics-from-the-northern-ireland-house-condition-survey>

In the 2016 NIHE House Condition Survey (HCS), it was reported that, in 2016, 2.1% of housing stock in Northern Ireland was deemed unfit (16 380). It was found that vacancy led to unfitness and was an issue particularly in rural areas. In 2011, of all the unfit dwellings, the majority were uninhabited.

5.3.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

The Northern Area Plan was not prepared in the context of the new Council area. It does not reflect our more up to date understanding of social development in our area. Therefore, in the absence of a new plan, there is a risk that policies and provision for development will not reflect the needs of our Council area or support delivery of our Community Plan. A new plan brings an opportunity to develop a plan led system and to reflect the most recent strategies. In the absence of a new plan, there may be less opportunity to consider current zonings for housing in the context of current conditions and to design housing that accommodates existing and predicted demography.

5.3.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Housing

- Predicted household size is to decrease and the type of housing available will need to accommodate this.
- Housing growth indicators have significantly reduced between 2008 and 2016.
- Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has had one of the lowest increases in housing stock relative to other Councils.
- Overprovision of housing allocations was evident in the Northern Area Plan.
- Social housing projects have been the driver of new starts since 2015/16 whilst private dwellings/developments have been the driver of completions and social housing completions have significantly decreased during 2015/16.
- The waiting list for social housing in the Council is 5% of the overall total for Northern Ireland however this identifies need for almost 2000 units.
- Over half the population live in rural settlements and open countryside.
- Regional policy directs housing toward hubs but there are a significant number of other settlements within the Council.
- Regional policy targets 60% of housing to be provided on brownfield sites in settlements with a population of 5000 or more.
- There is an ageing population due to residents living slightly longer than the Northern Ireland average which brings with it the need for access to services, facilities and infrastructure for older people.
- Due to our environmental designations, the Council may have an increased need to consider potential impacts on landscape character, amenity value and environmental assets when dealing with rural housing applications, and to help deal with any potential impacts, local policies may be needed to help guide decisions.
- At the Council level, countryside build rates made up a significant amount of the total house build from 1999 to 2010.
- While figures for new rural builds were available, they showed that, at the Council level, new urban and rural builds were nearly 50/50.
- Housing provision has been consistently higher than household growth since before 2012 but has remained below the housing growth indicator.
- Overall households are projected to increase but the average household size is to decrease with two and one person households projected to increase the most.
- In the long term, households without children are predicted to also increase.
- The former district council with the highest level of fuel poverty in Northern Ireland is Moyle.
- Vacancy of dwellings may lead to unfitness of a dwelling and is an issue across housing tenures and types but particularly in isolated rural areas.

5.4 Education and Skills

5.4.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Education and skills takes account of learning from primary to third level education and vocational training. Good educational and skills outcomes support people to succeed economically, have better life chances and opportunities for better health.

Low educational attainment and low skills levels significantly constrain life chances and increase the risk of poverty and poor health. Significant inequality in educational attainment exists within Northern Ireland. Access to high quality education and skills training can be increased through cooperation between statutory agencies and other institutions. Overarching policies recognise that the education and skills levels of the population must improve in order meet the needs of communities and businesses. This will allow businesses to make use of opportunities for regional and global trade, and help create conditions for increased high quality employment.

Education is one of the most significant investments in developing the individual, society and the economy and the overall vision of the Department of Education is to see “every young person achieving to his or her full potential at each stage of his or her development”.

In recent years there have been a number of influential publications which set out to all those involved in the education sector a challenge to consider new approaches. This includes sharing facilities which would promote a more cohesive and tolerant society and assist a better use of the resources available to education.

In 2009 the Department of Education introduced the Sustainable Schools Policy followed by an area planning process in 2011 which is designed to address the long-term primary school needs from 2012-2025. The overall output of these is the assessment of schools against a set of criteria for sustainable enrolment levels, delivery of quality education and financial sustainability.

The Providing Pathways - Strategic Area Plan for Schools 2017-2020 identifies the challenges for the education system throughout each Local Government District area. Area planning aims to establish a network of viable schools that are of the right type, the right size, located in the right place, and have a focus on raising standards. Therefore, the aim of area planning is to ensure that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum in sustainable, fit-for-purpose schools.

The Department of Education (DE) has overall responsibility for education policy and the Education Authority (EA) oversees the delivery of education, youth and library services. EA, in partnership with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, Controlled Schools' Support Council, Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, Governing Bodies Association, Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education, Catholic Schools' Trustee Service and the Further Education sector publishes an annual action plan to identify area planning solutions within each LGD

Within a land use planning context, LDPs should allocate sufficient land to meet the anticipated educational needs of the community, and should recognise town centres as important hubs for a range of uses which include education. Within a rural context, policy requires that people who live in the countryside also have opportunities to access high quality education.

Our Council Strategy recognises Causeway Coast and Glens as a place to learn and develop skills. 'A thriving economy' is one of the outcomes themes in our Community Plan, and this includes the aim that all of the people of the Causeway Coast and Glens will be knowledgeable and skilled.

5.4.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the paper Local Development Plan – Preparatory Studies: Discussion Paper 10: Education, Health and Community Facilities. Relevant information is also available from the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service.

Pre-school Education

The picture for pre-school education is mixed, with most of the most of the towns having such provision, other than Bushmills and Cushendall. There is no pre-school provision in the coastal settlements along the east coast of the Glens. Nursery provision is much more limited overall and is limited to the towns of Coleraine, Ballymoney and Limavady.

Primary School Education

There are 20 primary schools in the former Ballymoney Borough, 28 in the former Coleraine Borough, 19 in the former Limavady Borough and 14 in the former Moyle District.

Post Primary Education

Secondary and grammar schools are found in eight of the Borough's towns, with Coleraine, Limavady, Ballymoney and Ballycastle having more than one school. Both secondary and grammar schools are found in the Hubs other than in Ballycastle. Schools are also located in Dungiven, Portstewart, Bushmills and Kilrea.

Special Education

There are two Special Schools in the Borough; Rossmar School in Limavady and Sandelford School in Coleraine. Both schools can teach pupils with severe learning difficulties from pre-school to Key Stage 5.²⁰

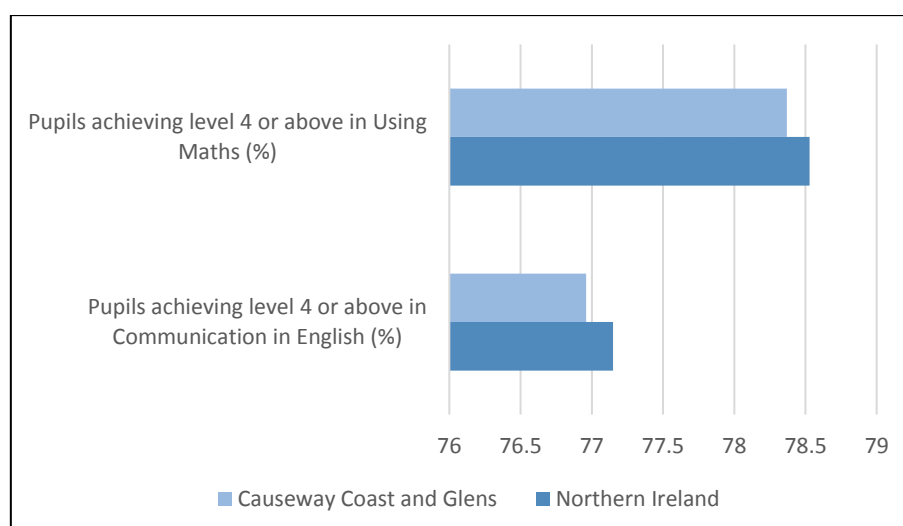
Higher Education and Further Education

The Borough benefits from the presence of the University of Ulster campus at Coleraine, Northern Regional College in Coleraine and Ballymoney, and the North West Regional College campus at Limavady. The presence of these higher level education facilities is considered to be a locational advantage.

Educational Attainment

Figure 5.4.1 shows the primary school Key Stage 2 attainment results for 2012. It shows that Causeway Coast and Glens was less than half a percentage point behind the Northern Ireland figure for both Communication in English, and in using Maths

Figure 5.4.1: Percentage of primary school children reaching level 4 in Key Stage 2 Assessment at Primary School in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Northern Ireland in 2012.

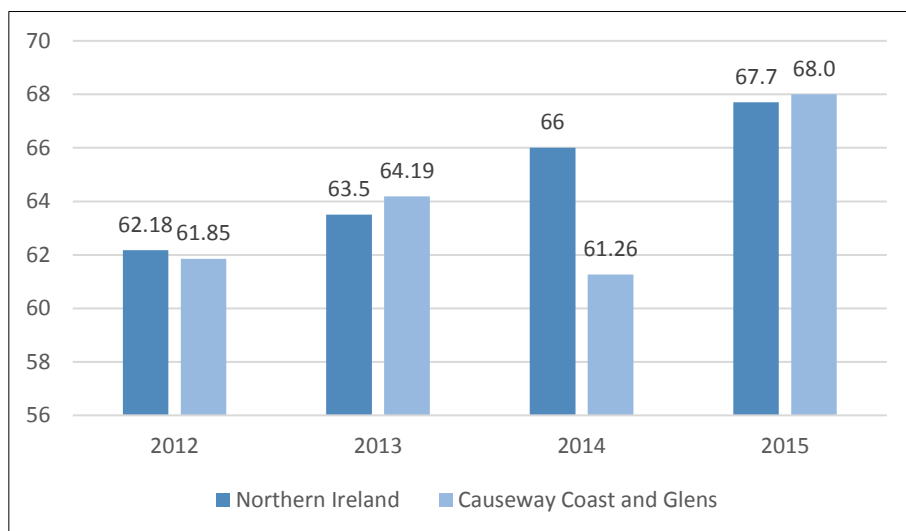


Source: Department of Education Northern Ireland

²⁰ The Education Authority: Providing Pathways - Draft Strategic Area Plan for School Provision 2017-2020

When we consider post-primary attainment, Figure 5.4.2 shows the percentage of students attaining five or more GCSE's at grade A*-C including Maths and English between 2012 and 2015. Other than 2014 this level was broadly in line with the same percentage for Northern Ireland as a whole.

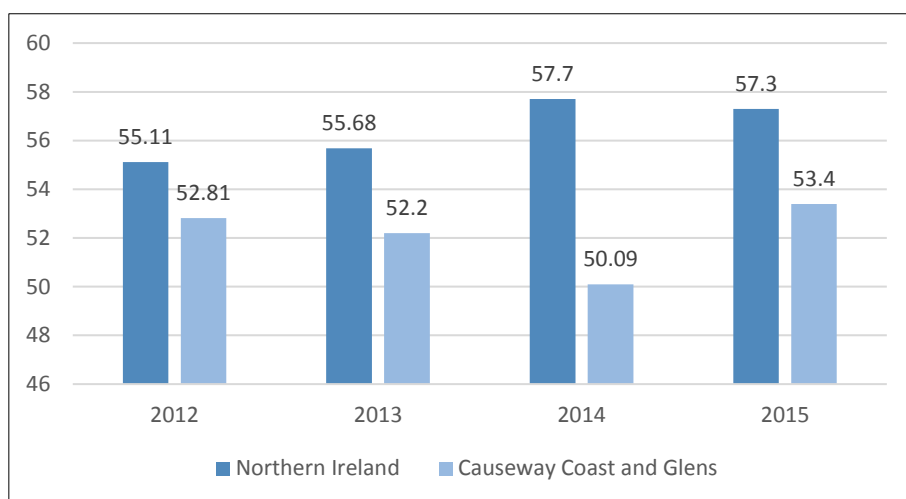
Figure 5.4.2: Percentage of school-leavers who achieved at least 5 GCSE's including Maths and English between 2012 and 2015, in Causeway Coast and Glens and Northern Ireland.



Source: Department of Education Northern Ireland

Attainment at A level is shown in Figure 5.4.3. For the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. A-level attainment between 2012 and 2014 is below the Northern Ireland average and declined slightly over this period, while the Northern Ireland average has risen. Between 2014 and 2015 the level has risen in this council area although it is still below the Northern Ireland average.

Figure 5.4.3: Percentage of school-leavers who achieved at least 2 A Levels between 2012 and 2015 in Causeway Coast and Glens and Northern Ireland.



Source: Department of Education Northern Ireland

Attainment variation

Our Council area has overall demonstrated a good level of achievement in post-primary qualifications. However if we consider the data for GCSE attainment, by individual DEAs in 2015/2016, whereas the average for the Council area was 68.0 %, we see variation and Causeway, Coleraine and Limavady fall below the NI average for that year.

Table 5.4.1: Percentage of school-leavers who achieved 5 GCSE's A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths % in 2015/2016 for DEAs in Causeway Coast and Glens

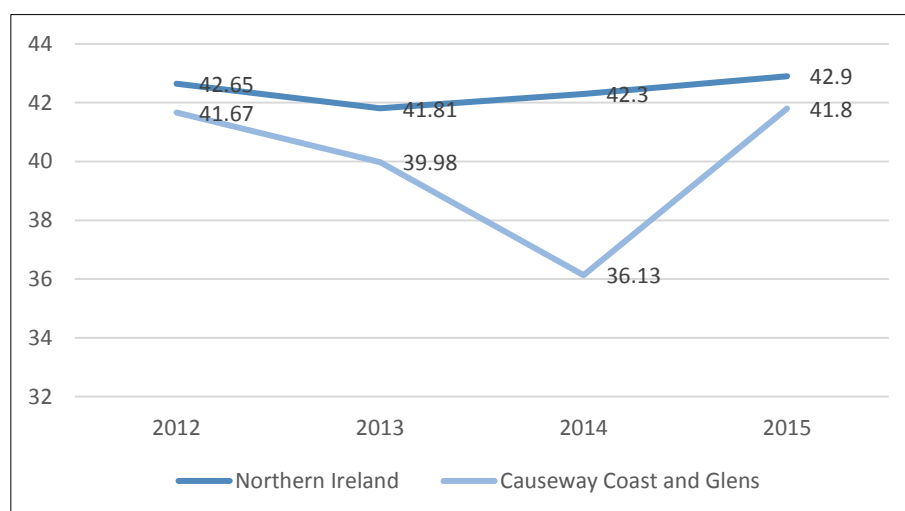
District Electoral Area	Achieved 5 GCSE's A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths % in 2015/2016.
Ballymoney	67.7
Bann	75.2
Benbradagh	73.9
Causeway	65.2
Coleraine	59.6
Limavady	61.0
The Glens	74.1
Northern Ireland	67.7

Source: NINIS

Higher Education Enrolments

Table 5.4.4 shows a decrease in the percentage of school leavers entering Higher Education between 2012 and 2014. Between 2014 and 2015 this level has increased, although is still below the average for Northern Ireland. If this measure is considered by DEA, 57.3% of school leavers from the Glens entered Higher Education in 2015, well above the Northern Ireland and Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council average.

Figure 5.4.4: Percentage of school-leavers who entered higher education after post-primary school in Causeway Coast and Glens and Northern Ireland between 2012 and 2015.

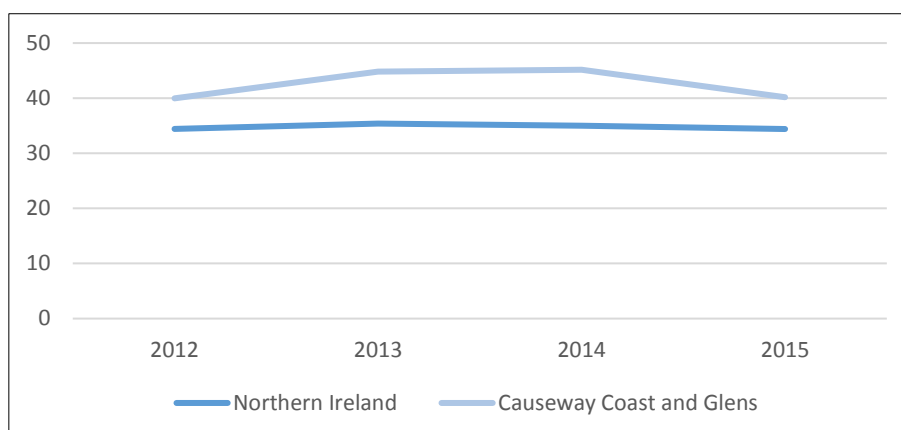


Source: Department of Education Northern Ireland

Further Education Enrolments

Table 5.4.5 shows that Further Education enrolments rose between 2012 and 2014 but fell in 2015. The level of further education enrolments is consistently above the Northern Ireland average, and higher in some parts of the council area. In 2015 when the Northern Ireland average was 34.4%, 52.5% of school leavers from Limavady entered Further Education.

Figure 5.4.5: Percentage of school-leavers who entered further education after post-primary school in Causeway Coast and Glens and Northern Ireland between 2012 and 2015.

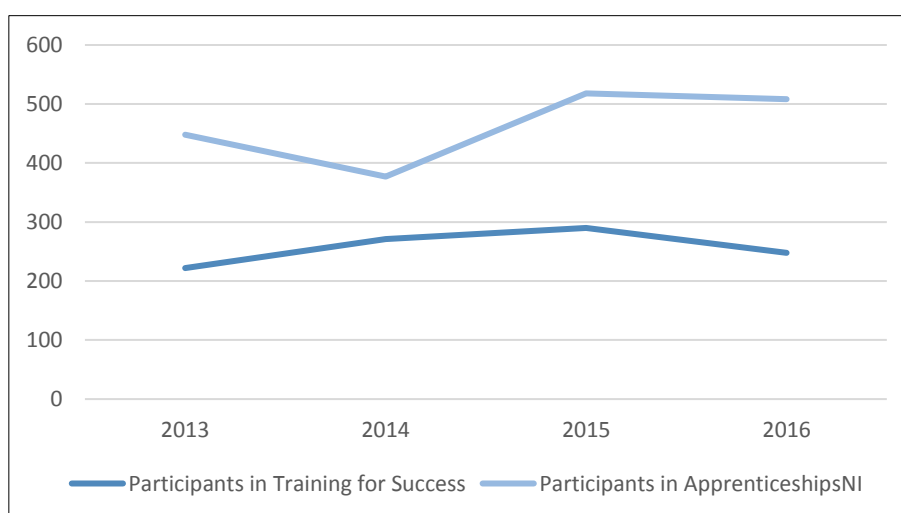


Source: Department of Education Northern Ireland

Skills Enrolments

Training for Success is a skills programme which focuses on the extra learning which participants may need to gain the skills and the confidence to find employment. It is designed for young people aged 16 - 17, with extended age eligibility for young people with a disability up to age 22 and up to age 24 for those from an in-care background. The apprenticeships NI figure is compiled within the Labour Market Statistics. In Northern Ireland the programme offers training, across a wide range of apprenticeships, to people aged 16 and over. Apprentices are placed in a Northern Ireland-based company and also receive 'off-the-job' training, usually on a day-release basis with a training provider, to work towards achieving vocational qualifications and Essential Skills qualifications. Figure 5.4.6 below shows that there is a good and relatively consistent level of take up of Training for Success and Apprenticeships within the Borough.

Figure 5.4.6: Participants in Training for Success and Apprenticeships NI in Causeway Coast and Glens and Northern Ireland between 2012 and 2015.



Source: NINIS Participants on Training for Success and Apprenticeships NI and Labour Market Statistics

5.4.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

The Northern Area Plan was not prepared in the context of the new Council area. It does not reflect our more up to date understanding of economic growth and social development in our area. Therefore, in the absence of a new plan, there is a risk that policies and provision for development

will not reflect the needs of our Council area or support delivery of our Community Plan. Without a LDP there may be less opportunity to look at settlement pattern and school sustainability or to facilitate skills training.

5.4.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Education and Skills

- In some areas of our Borough a decline in pupil numbers will have implications for the sustainability of existing schools.
- Sharing facilities has been recognised as a way to promote a more cohesive and tolerant society and make better use of the resources available to education.
- Although our Borough has a high level of educational achievement at all levels, this is not consistent between DEAs.

5.5 Economy and Employment

5.5.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Creating the conditions to achieve and maintain stable economic growth are key aims of all relevant strategies locally, regionally and within a European context. Economic growth is driven by a healthy business sector, which itself relies on a base of high quality education, and delivery of relevant skills to the workforce.

The common thread of relevant economic policies is to achieve sustainable growth of the economy. In particular, policy recognises the priority in Northern Ireland (NI) to raise competitiveness through increased export, and to identify opportunities in new, emerging and developed markets. The need to support the development of a more innovation-based economy is also identified and this links to a high potential for research and development. The Draft Northern Ireland Tourism Strategy 2020 was identified in the PfG as one of the ‘building blocks’ to underpin the first strategic priority of growing a sustainable economy and investing in the future.

Within current planning policy, it is recognised that planning authorities should take a positive approach to sustainable economic development and enable job creation, giving priority to large scale proposals with job creation potential, through zoning land and promoting developments in settlement hubs. Policy also refers to the importance of creating the right conditions for investment through supporting urban and rural renaissance, ensuring that settlements remain vital. In terms of regional policy there is a recognition that accessible land should be made available to promote job creation and to promote sustainable economic growth at key locations. The Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism and Destination Management Strategy 2015 – 2020 and Economic Strategy and Action Plan 2015 to 2018 set out the Council’s objectives for developing and managing tourism and economic development in the Borough.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council’s Council Strategy identifies ‘Accelerating Our Economy and Contributing to Prosperity’ and ‘Innovation and Transformation’ as key themes for the area. It recognises that the Borough has a strong strategic position, containing some of Northern Ireland’s most prominent visitor attractions and sporting events and therefore tourism is a major contributor to the local economy.

The Council’s Community Plan has ‘a Thriving Economy’ as one of its key themes, with the overarching objective that all people of Causeway Coast and Glens will contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy built on a culture of growth, entrepreneurship, innovation and learning. The Causeway Coast and Glens area also has tourism, heritage and world class events as key contributors to economic growth.

5.5.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in a number of LDP Preparatory Study Discussion Papers including ‘Tourism’ and ‘Employment and Town Centres’. Data has also been sourced from Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and the Department for Economy. This topic also overlaps with the Health and Wellbeing, Natural Resources, Physical Resources and Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage topics.

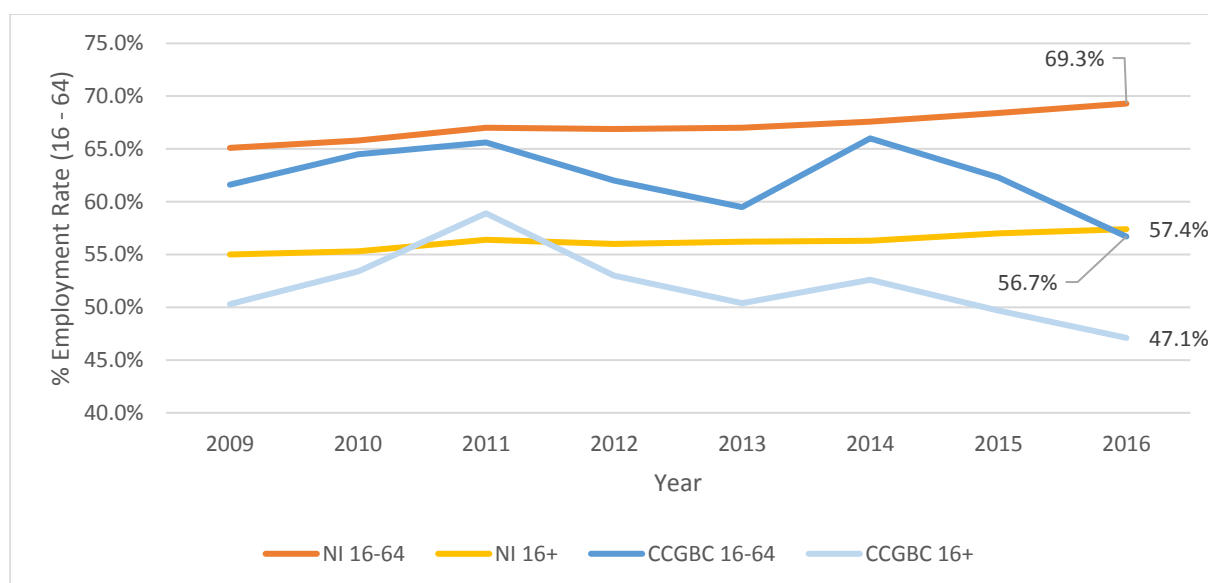
Economic Activity and Employment

Employment rates are published by NISRA for all persons aged 16 and over and for persons of working age (16-64). In 2016, 65.9% of the working age (16-64) population of Causeway Coast and Glens were classified as economically active, compared to 74% for NI as a whole. This figure represents a 5% decrease on the 2011 figure for Causeway Coast and Glens.

Since 2009 the age 16+ and 16-64 employment rates (Figure 5.5.1) for Causeway Coast and Glens have both been generally below the NI average and both have shown a general downward trend since

2011. The age 16+ rate of inactivity in 2016 was 45.3% (48,000 people) within Causeway Coast and Glens (NI 38.8%).

Figure 5.5.1: Causeway Coast and Glens BC and NI 16+ and 16-64 Employment Rate



Source: NISRA, Labour Force Survey Tables for Local Government Districts 2016

Employment Sectors

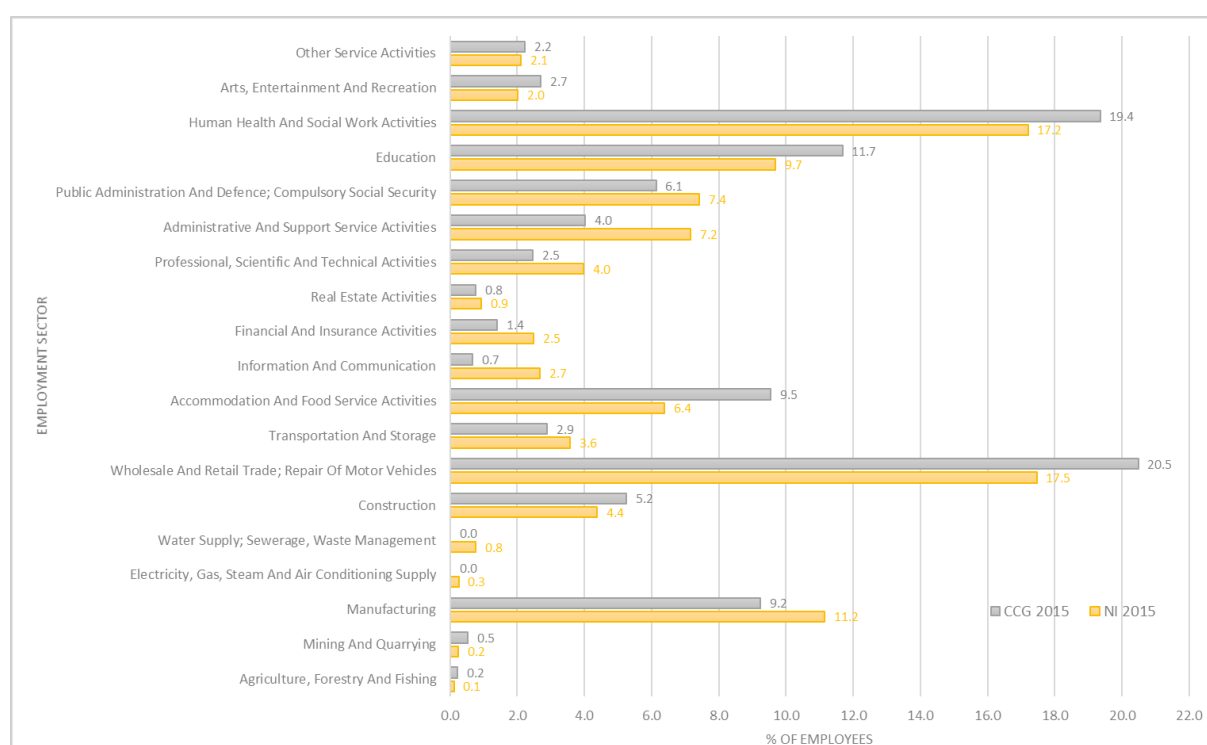
The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) is a statutory two yearly survey of employers in NI by the Department for Economy. It covers employee jobs but excludes agriculture, the self-employed, HM Armed Forces, private domestic servants, homeworkers and non-employed trainees such as those on internships. It presents information by Council area, which is primarily based on the location of the jobs rather than the residence of the employee.

The distribution of employees across the various employment sectors in Causeway Coast and Glens in 2015 is shown in Figure 5.5.2. When compared to NI as a whole, these results show that a greater than average proportion of employees working in Causeway Coast and Glens are employed in those sectors related to the Accommodation and Food Service Activities and Wholesale and Retail Trade / Motor Vehicle Repairs sectors. The proportion employed in the Human Health / Social Work and Education sectors is also higher than the NI average. These differences are likely due to the influence of tourism in the Council area and also the presence of three hospitals and a university campus. In comparison with NI as a whole, a smaller proportion of employees are employed in the Administrative/Support Services, Information Communication and Manufacturing sectors.

The Council's Economic Development Strategy has identified the need to sustain and develop the Retail, Manufacturing and Engineering sectors, and to target the growth of the already well-established Agri-Food, Tourism and Culture sectors. Sectors which, if focused on, have the potential to generate a step change in the Council area include Renewables, Life Sciences and Digital.

In 2015, the BRES estimated 39,552 employee jobs in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. Employee numbers have seen some fluctuations in recent years, particularly in 2011-12 (Figure 5.5.1), but appear to be steadily increasing. 45% of employee jobs in 2015 were held by males and 55% by females, however a significantly greater proportion (34%) of male employees were full time (>30 hrs per week) with only 25% of female employees full time. The 2015 unemployment rate of 3,373 claimants (3.7%) was equal to the NI average. Latest figures show a significant improvement, with figures now lower than the NI average (Sept. 2017: 2,436 claimants (2.7%) v NI at 2.5%).

Figure 5.5.2: Council Area Percentage of Employee Jobs by Industry Sector vs NI overall (2015)



Source: NISRA, Census of Employment, Business Registration Employment Survey 2015

The BRES does not record the number of self-employed or those that earn their living from agriculture. In 2015 there were estimated to be 7,000 self-employed persons in the Council area²¹, representing 13% of those in employment (NI 12%). The Inter Departmental Business Register recorded 5,460 businesses in the Council area in 2015, of which 34% were in the Agriculture sector (NI 25%). This register excludes smaller businesses and the self-employed who fall below the VAT registered/PAYE thresholds.

Earnings from Employment

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings²² by Local Government Districts is published by the Department for the Economy (DfE). The 2016 (provisional) survey results gave the value for those persons living in Causeway Coast and Glens a median gross annual salary of £18,477 (up from £18,320 in 2015), the second lowest of all the Council areas. The median gross annual salary for all of NI in 2016 was £20,953. The median gross annual salary in 2016 for those working in Causeway Coast and Glens was £15,647, the lowest of all the Council areas. This discrepancy in earnings between those living and working in the Council area is due to a tendency for workers to commute out of the Council area for higher earning employment.

Business Start-ups and Success

The office for National Statistics publishes an annual bulletin of Business Demography, which presents the number of active enterprises and charts the births of new enterprises, and deaths of enterprises. The number of enterprises active in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area in 2015 was 4,045, a decrease of almost 500 from 4500 in 2010²³. In the Council area, the five-year survival rate for businesses established in 2010 was 38%, which is 2% higher than the NI average. However, businesses in the former Limavady and Moyle Council areas (45% and 44%) performed significantly better than

²¹ Invest NI Causeway Coast & Glens Council Area Profile June 2017 (accessed 31/10/2017)

²² Department for the Economy Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by NI geographies, by place of work and place of residence, 2016 (provisional) and 2015 (revised) (accessed 31/10/2017)

²³ Pre 2015 ONS figures are published under the four former Council areas of Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle.

those in the former Ballymoney and Coleraine Council areas (31% and 33%). 2012 was a particularly difficult year, with the lowest number of new start-ups (245) and the greatest number of enterprise deaths (390). In 2015, 380 new business start-ups were recorded; a significant increase on the five previous years which averaged around 300.

Innovation

It is widely recognised that improving the ability of the economy in NI to be innovative is a key factor in improving economic growth and employment. The most recent innovation figures are published by DfE in the UK Innovation Survey (UKIS) 2015. These show that in 2012-14, more NI businesses were innovation active than in 2010-12. 45% of enterprises in NI were estimated to be innovation active in the three year period 2012-14 (up from 40% in 2010-12). However this remains lower than the equivalent UK figure of 53% (up from 45% in 2010-12) and NI remains the second least innovation active region of the UK.

Within NI, 'Manufacturing' was the most innovative sector in 2012-14. In particular, 'Manufacturing of Electrical and Optical Equipment' (87% innovation active) and 'Manufacturing of Transport Equipment' (84% innovation active). Currently, large enterprises with 250 or more employees are reported as being more likely to engage in some sort of innovation activity, with 48% innovation active, as opposed to 40% of Small-Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Improving the quality of goods or services was the main factor driving innovation in NI and the UK as a whole. Within the Council area, schemes such as the Smart Grid, Project Kelvin and Digital Causeway can help to support innovation for all sizes of business. The first enterprise zone in NI is currently being developed at Coleraine. Its key selling points include its proximity to Project Kelvin, an ultrafast and ultra-low latency fibre optic data cable link with continental Europe and North America.

Competitiveness

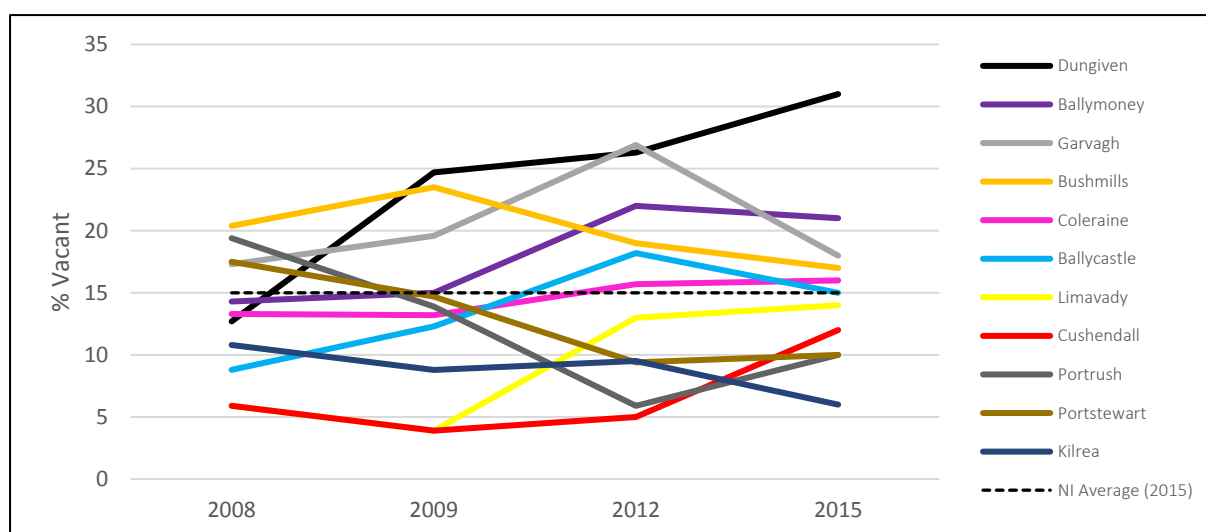
No data is available at Council level on levels of competitiveness. Total external sales by companies in NI to markets outside of NI were estimated to be worth £23 billion in 2015²⁴, representing an increase of 1.3% (£300 million) from 2014. These figures are broken down as £18.3 billion (79.6%) for goods (a slight decrease of 0.5% on 2014) and £4.7 billion (20.4%) for services (an increase of 8.8% over 2014). These figures exceed the previously recorded peak in 2014 (£22.7 billion), and external sales are therefore at their highest level since 2011. External sales account for just over a third (34.4%) of all sales by companies in NI in 2015 (£66.7 billion).

Retailing

The town centres display a strong presence of independent retailers and service providers which helps provide an attractive alternative to national operators and contributes to the local distinctiveness of each centre. However, due to changes in shopping habits and the growth of internet shopping, it is unlikely that the town centres will remain the primary focus for all future retailing activity. Focused relevant planning policy and greater innovation and flexibility may be required from the Planning system. In 2011 the Department of Social Development (DSD) commissioned Retail Capacity Studies to 2020 for the Council's four main settlements, to inform the preparation of the town centre masterplans. The report predicted a small growth potential in both convenience and comparison retailing for the local hubs of Ballycastle and Ballymoney. No additional capacity was predicted for Coleraine and a limited growth in convenience retailing in Limavady, in recognition of the extent of retail development and planning permissions in the towns at that time.

²⁴ NISRA Northern Ireland Broad Economy Sales and Exports Statistics (BESES): Goods and Services Results 2015 – published 11 May 2017

Figure 5.5.3 Town Centre Vacancy Rates 2008-2015



Source: Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Employment and Town Centres LDP Discussion Paper, Appendix 6

Town Centre vacancy rates across the Council area have generally been increasing since 2008 (Figure 5.5.3) with Dungiven and Ballymoney respectively having over 30% and 20% of town centre premises vacant in 2015. With the changing and dynamic scale and nature of retailing, a comprehensive up-to-date Retail Capacity Study will be required for the LDP.

Tourism

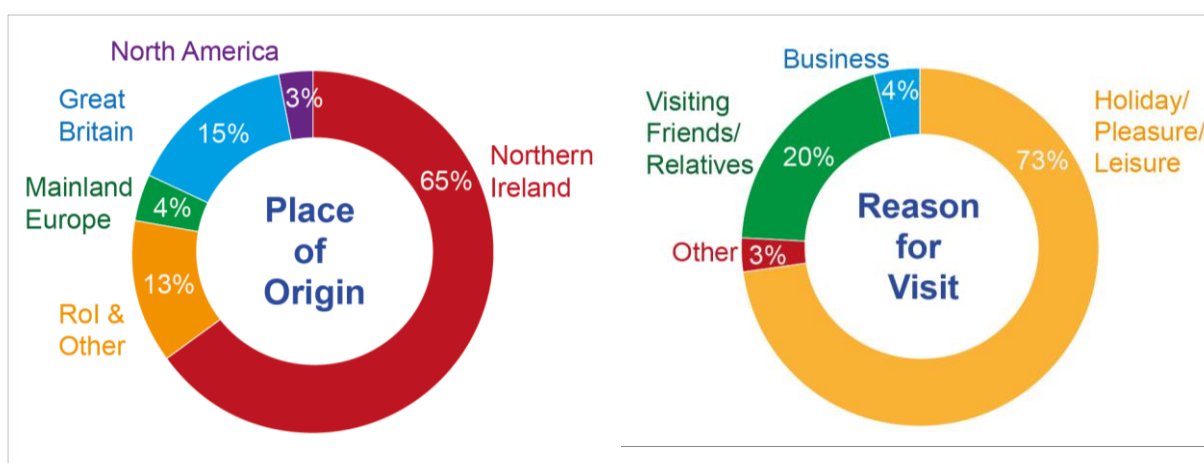
Investment in tourism brings new facilities to our towns, villages and surrounding landscapes and makes a vital contribution to the Council area in terms of the revenues it generates, the employment opportunities it provides, and the potential it creates for economic growth. It also provides the opportunity to get maximum benefit from our wealth of environmental and heritage assets; our coastlines, waterways, landscapes and historic environment. There are also health benefits to be gained by a more active resident population who are motivated to be out and about exploring more of the Council area's tourism assets. Excluding day visits, tourism is currently worth around £140m per annum (Figure 5.5.3) in overnight expenditure to the Council area and accounted for 4,751 related jobs, or over 12% of local employment in 2013, more than any other Council and illustrating the importance of tourism as a key economic activity and a major prosperity driver for the area.

The Giant's Causeway is the most popular visitor attraction in NI, with 944,000 visitors in 2016, up 11% from 2015. Carrick-a-rede Rope Bridge was in 2016 the fourth most popular with 440,000 visitors, up 25% from 2015. Roe Valley Park is the 6th most visited park, with 248,000 visitor in 2016. NISRA's tourism survey²⁵ estimated that in 2016 21% of visitors to the main attractions in NI were from outside the UK and Ireland and the principal categories of attraction that they visited were visitor/heritage centres and historic properties. In 2017 the Lonely Planet also named Belfast and the Giant's Causeway as its No.1 region in the world to visit in 2018, demonstrating the international-scale quality and appeal of the tourism offering in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area.

Figure 5.5.4 shows that almost 80% of overnight stays in Causeway Coast and Glens in 2016 were by visitors from other parts of NI or Ireland and the main reason for the visit was holiday/leisure.

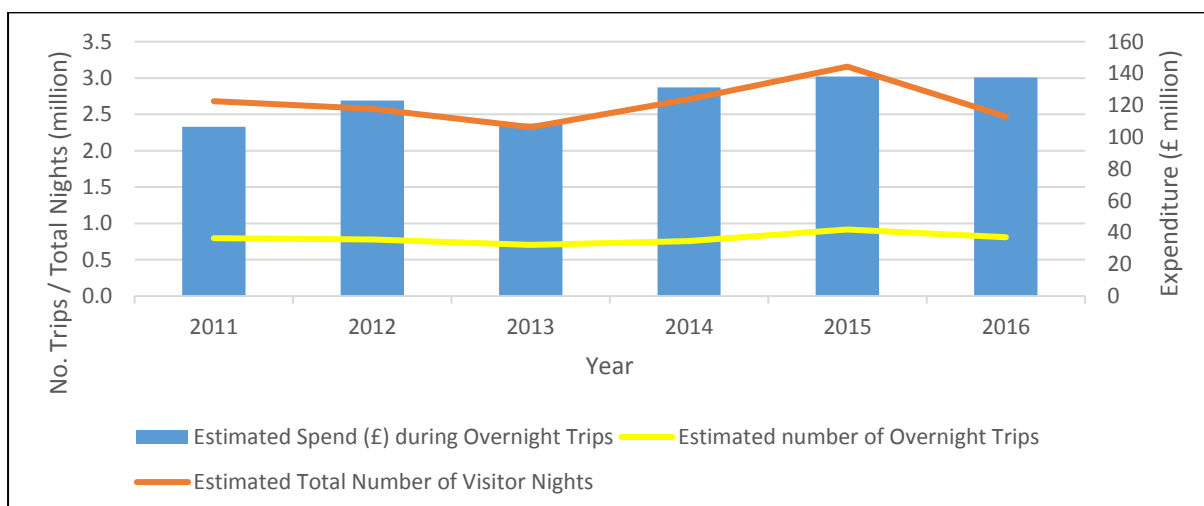
²⁵ NISRA Local Government District Tourism Statistics Publications (Date published: 06 July 2017)

Figure 5.5.4: Overnight Visits - Place of Visitor Origin and Principal Reason for Visit (2016)



Source: NISRA Local government district tourism statistics infographics (Date published 06 July 2017)

Figure 5.5.5: Estimated overnight Trips, Nights and Expenditure, Causeway Coast and Glens, 2011 -16



Source: NISRA, Local government district tourism statistics publications (additional tables) (published 6 July 2017)

Over the past five years the average length of stay for overnight trips has remained fairly constant at around 3.3 nights. As shown in Figure 5.5.5 the estimated number of trips has remained fairly constant over the period 2011-16 however estimated expenditure from overnight visitors has increased from around £107m in 2011 to almost £140m in 2015 and 2016. The estimated tourism expenditure per trip averaged around £150 in 2016 which was lower than the average for NI (£164). Annual average hotel room occupancy rates in the Council area increased to 64% in 2016 from an average of 58% over the preceding five years, while the occupancy rate for other commercial accommodation was 57%. These rates were around the NI average, however in 2016 hotels in Belfast City Council had a room occupancy rate of 79%. A key target for the tourism industry is to motivate visitors to spend longer in the area and to visit throughout the year. The Tourism and Destination Management Strategy 2015-2020 has identified a number of gaps and market failures across the area which, if remedied, could help to enhance the visitor experience. These include deficits in 4&5 star accommodation, wet weather facilities, public transport to and within the area and broadband infrastructure. The strategy also noted a general orientation of the travel trade towards a day visitor market.

The establishment of a burgeoning film and TV production industry in NI has created a significant new tourism market in visiting the location settings used for popular productions, many of which are located in the Council area. The capacity for rural areas to absorb the significant volumes of visitors is currently limited and this new tourism theme is placing pressure on both infrastructure and natural resources.

5.5.3 Likely Evolution of Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without a new LDP in place, the opportunity to make plans for growth in line with recent evidence and the priorities of the new Council may be missed. The absence of a LDP to address local needs could further disadvantage those on lower incomes in terms of access to places of work. High levels of retail building vacancy in village and town centres might continue which would be detrimental to the vitality and viability these centres. The Council would be unable to facilitate sustainable tourism growth to adequately reflect the needs and assets unique to the Causeway Coast and Glens area.

5.5.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Economy and Employment

- Identification of and zoning of appropriate land is a vital part of creating the conditions to sustain economic development that meets employment needs and supports economic growth.
- Town centres can be supported by encouraging occupation of vacant buildings
- While the clear focus is on developing and maintaining the tourism offer in the principal tourist towns, it is important that the employment needs of people living in the extensive rural hinterland are also considered. Other types of employment opportunity need to be considered.
- A lower than average percentage of persons in the Council area are economically active (65.9% aged 16-65, NI 74%).
- Median employee salaries within the Council area are among the lowest in NI.
- The Causeway Coast and Glens Council area is characterised as a small business economy; there is a relatively low manufacturing base in the area. The development of opportunities for knowledge based and innovation based products with niche markets could be encouraged.
- There is a need to ensure that the Council area is attractive to investors and higher skilled people.
- While the business birth rate and survival rate is better than the rest of the NI, it does not appear to be impacting upon the net employment levels with employee numbers falling since 2009. There is potential to encourage new business to develop, innovate and grow.
- Public sector employment is important, Health, Social Work and Education account for almost a third of employment in the Council area.
- Proposed new employment locations should be readily accessible by active travel and/or public transport.
- Within the retail sector, there have been a number of challenges in recent years, including the rise in popularity of internet shopping which has contributed to shop closures.
- In town centres, a resident population will assist in developing an evening economy alongside additional office workers and students.
- There are a wealth of natural, landscape, heritage and cultural tourism assets within the Council area with significant future potential.
- The Council benefits from significant short term visitor numbers from one-off and recurring world class events. Visitors to such events should be encouraged to return to the Council area and to stay for longer.
- Half the visits and value from tourism are experienced during the four summer months.
- Need to plan for spreading the benefit of tourism across the entire Council area and not just the coastline.
- A strategic approach to visitor infrastructure is required.

5.6 Material Assets

5.6.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Material assets is referred to in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive but it is not defined. For the purposes of this report, the material assets sustainability topic covers a range of policy areas, including telecommunications, electrical infrastructure and energy distribution, renewable energy, derelict and contaminated land, and waste management.

Overarching regional and strategic planning policy strives for the sustainable development of land to help ensure the integration of material assets. Growth of infrastructure should be enabled in an efficient and effective manner whilst environmental impacts are minimised. The National Renewable Energy Action Plan for the UK 2010, the Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-15 and beyond, and the NI Waste Management Strategy are all relevant to material assets. DETI's (now Department for Economy) Strategic Energy Framework 2010-2020 has at its core decarbonisation of the energy mix. The multifunctional use of land is encouraged; significant increases in renewables to the energy mix recommended; and reductions in waste and increases in recycling rates targeted.

Investing in telecommunications, particularly in rural areas and considering the infrastructure required for renewable energy projects and strengthening of the grid for future energy demands is encouraged at the regional level. New gas infrastructure is also supported as the move to gas helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet UK climate change commitments. Climate change concerns encourage the use of renewables and a move toward a more sustainable energy mix that reduces emissions and improves air quality. Sustainable waste management is also acknowledged as an opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by focusing on the waste management hierarchy, the proximity principle and the circular economy. Impacts should be considered of all types of installation on the environment and a strategic approach to the sustainable development of land could include multiple uses. For example, derelict land could be used to treat waste, which could in turn produce energy for local distribution.

In our Council Strategy 2015-2019, five strategic themes establish our priorities. These include acting as a 'leader and champion', 'accelerating our economy and contributing to prosperity', supporting 'innovation and transformation', supporting 'resilient, healthy and engaged communities', and 'protecting and enhancing our environments and assets'. Sustainable and efficient management of our material assets will be central to achieving these themes, for the benefit of residents and visitors alike. Both these priorities rely on material assets.

5.6.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the LDP Preparatory Study Discussion Papers on Employment and Town Centres, Public Utilities and Minerals. This topic also overlaps with the Physical Resources and Climate Change topics of this report.

Telecommunications

Although 3G coverage is available, most areas have less than 25%. 4G coverage is also available but to a much lesser extent than 3G and absent in some areas particularly in the north east of the Council²⁶. There are some areas where no reliable signal is available.

Telecommunications was highlighted in the Northern Ireland Executive Economic Strategy: Priorities for Sustainable Growth and Prosperity in 2012 as one of the markets with the greatest potential for growth. Coleraine has directly benefitted from this with Project Kelvin creating a link at Coleraine. This provides a less congested international link for businesses to use between here, North America and Europe. Some communities in the Council have stated that development of high quality Wi-Fi,

²⁶ Local Development Plan Preparatory Study Paper 6 Public Utilities

broadband and phone services is needed to help grow the digital economy. Particularly in rural areas, mobile networks can be absent and there is limited broadband. This is a priority issue for several parts of the Council²⁷.

Energy Supply & Distribution/Electrical Infrastructure

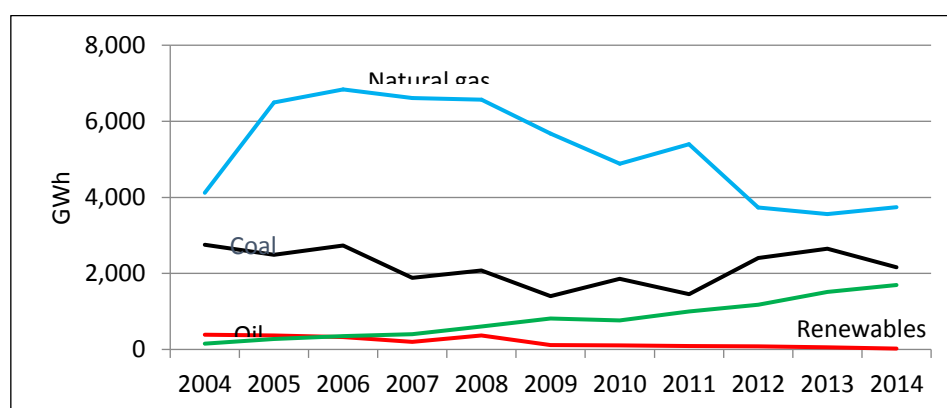
The System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) manages the large-scale electrical transmission infrastructure across the country. It is the independent Transmission System Operator for Northern Ireland and operates 1500km of transmission power lines and 45 000 km of distribution power lines. SONI presents a live link www.soni.ltd.uk to the current energy sources for Northern Ireland including connected sources of renewables. Currently all users are connected to the distribution network for their electricity²⁸. It is important for the grid to remain fit-for-purpose as this helps to ensure security of supply including additional connections from renewable projects. In some parts of the Council, communities have stated the grid as an issue because it needs improvement to help support local business and industry. Likewise in the Council's Economic Development Strategy 2015-2018, ensuring local infrastructure is fit for business needs is a priority.

There are no power stations located within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area but Coolkeeragh, located in Derry City and Strabane District Council, is fairly near to the western boundary of our Council. Coolkeeragh is a gas-powered plant. Ballylumford in the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council area located at Islandmagee, is also gas powered. The switch from oil and coal to gas has helped to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from the energy generation and heat supply sector but it remains one of the main sectors to contribute GHG emissions in Northern Ireland with 19% of all total emissions²⁹.

The changing sources of electricity generation can be viewed in Figure 5.6.1 with the growth of renewables and the increase in the use of natural gas for domestic heating both evident. In the Census 2011, '100 households' data shows that only 3% of homes in the Council use gas as their sole central heating source but oil dominates with 70% of households³⁰.

As changes in policy direct the energy market towards reduced GHG emissions and a low carbon future, changes in the operations of all the fossil-fuelled power stations in Northern Ireland will have to occur. In the draft Programme for Government, GHG emissions will be used to help indicate environmental sustainability in Northern Ireland.

Figure 5.6.1: Electricity generated by fuel type



Source: DAERA, Carbon Intensity Indicators 2016

²⁷ Causeway Coast & Glens (2016): Community Planning Public Engagement Meetings June 2016 Findings Report *PR Rankin Associates* (July 2016)

²⁸ Northern Ireland Electricity: Briefing on Grid Capacity in Northern Ireland in the context of enabling Economic Growth April 2015

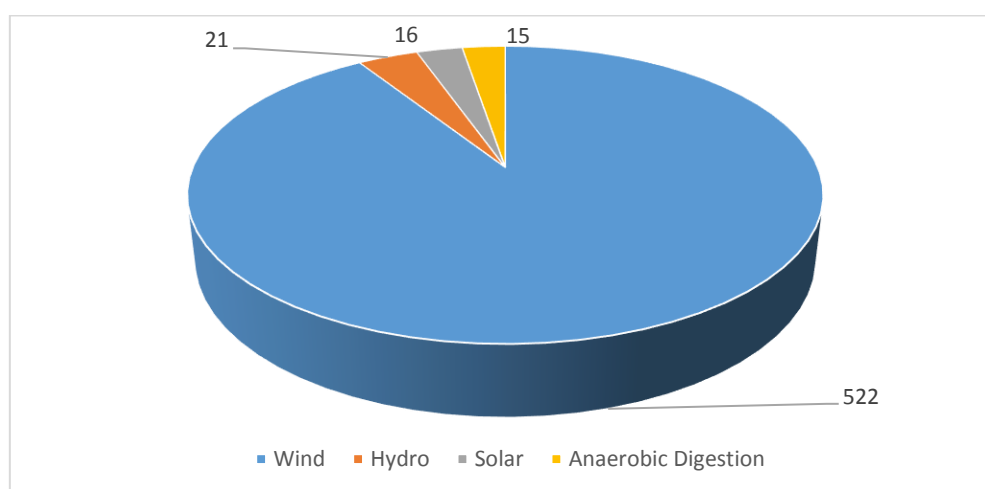
²⁹ DAERA Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2015 Statistical Bulletin

³⁰ NINIS data

Renewable Energy

The Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-2015 and beyond, is endorsed by the NI Executive and has a target of 40% of electricity consumption to be from renewables by 2020. NI is currently on its way to meeting this target with renewables making up to 27% of our electricity needs³¹. This is in support of commitments made under the UK Climate Change Act. In Northern Ireland, wind dominates the renewables market and contributes nearly 25% of the 27% of electricity generated from renewables. This is reflected at the Council level by the number of wind farm/turbine applications. Hydro, solar and anaerobic digestion are also evident but to a much lesser amount³². Supply can be intermittent; a diverse mix of renewables will be required to reduce GHG emissions from fossil fuels and to ensure security of supply. Public engagement work for the Community Plan has recorded support for renewables right across the Council³³.

Figure 5.6.2: Number of Renewable Energy Planning Applications in the Causeway Coast and Glens



Source: Local Development Plan Preparatory Study Discussion Paper 6: Public Utilities

There is a fairly even spread of single turbine and windfarm approvals across the Council with some applications granted near to and within Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Several solar farms have been approved in the Rasharkin and Ballycastle areas, and between Limavady and Greysteel. Hydroelectric schemes and anaerobic digesters are also evident across the Council³⁴.

In the Council's Economic Development Strategy 2015-2018, developing business opportunities in the renewable energy sector is a priority. There are opportunities, as a diversity of renewables is needed to help ensure sustainability of the energy system, but government financial incentives have ceased. Tidal³⁵, wave, biomass and geothermal, could be feasible additions to solar or wind. Communities in some areas of the Council have stated consideration of the environmental impact of renewables and investment in renewable energy projects as potential issues³⁶.

Waste management

The Council is part of the North West Region Waste Management Group (NWRWMG). Between the Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy and the NWRWMG's Waste Management Plan 2013-2020, sustainable development and resource efficiency are supported.

In 2015, the amount of municipal waste collected and prepared for reuse, recycling and composting was 39.1%. This is below the Northern Ireland average of 41.8% and one of the lower rates collected

³¹ Climate NI July 2017

³² Causeway Coast & Glens Discussion Paper 6: Public Utilities

³³ Causeway Coast & Glens Community Planning Public Engagement Meetings, June 2016 – Findings Report

³⁴ Local Development Plan Preparatory Study Paper 6 Public Utilities

³⁵ 4C Offshore Torr Head Tidal Farm Fair Head Tidal Project

³⁶ Causeway Coast & Glens Community Planning Public Engagement Meetings, June 2016 – Findings Report

from all of the Councils. The most recent report does however record that the largest increase for dry recycling between the first quarter of 2016 and 2017 was recorded in Causeway Coast & Glens, increasing by 1.6 percentage points to 24.1%. In the Council, there are 11 civic amenity sites and one compost site as well as an active landfill. Craigahulliar landfill can take household, commercial and industrial wastes.

5.6.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, it may become more difficult to sustainably manage provision and integration of material assets. There may be fewer opportunities to sustainably develop land for renewables and waste management facilities with the appropriate infrastructure either in place or planned for.

5.6.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Material Assets

- Telecommunications could be improved in areas with relatively poor service, to improve access for all.
- A strategic and spatial approach to material assets, including renewable energy projects and associated infrastructure, is recommended to help ensure the most efficient and appropriate technologies and locations are chosen.
- Support for enabling renewables and diversification within the market is required to help meet commitments made under the UK Climate Change Act.
- There is a lack of financial incentives for renewable projects that may influence developments.
- Measures are required to increase municipal waste recycling rates to match/exceed the Northern Ireland average and satisfy the draft Programme for Government waste management target.
- A spatial approach to the provision of waste management facilities based upon the proximity principle is recommended to minimise the environmental impact and cost of waste transport.

5.7 Physical Resources

5.7.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The physical resources sustainability theme covers minerals, earth science sites, geothermal energy, land and soil. Physical resources provide us with the building blocks we need for everyday life and are mostly finite in their supply.

The sustainable management of physical resources is a common theme of regional, strategic and subject planning policy. The need to safeguard sufficient land to provide physical resources into the future is evident. Land is recognised as multifunctional in that it can act as a connective wildlife corridor; provide amenity value, building resources, adaptation for climate change; remove water and soil pollution; support biodiversity and create landscape character. Adequate amounts of land are required to deliver all of these functions. Some physical resources such as soil can become so contaminated from pollution that they no longer adequately function.

The overarching aims of current government policy and programmes are sustainable development and sustainable land management, as these will underpin sustainable economic growth and a sustainable energy supply. Current policy strives to ensure that physical resources are safeguarded for the future and that sufficient local supplies are available. The Department for Economy recognises that the concept of sustainability is different within the industry because reserves are finite but the industry can still play a part in the circular economy and the principles of the waste management hierarchy³⁷. Northern Ireland also has a Geodiversity Charter that aims to inform decision makers of the importance of geodiversity to the economy and the environment³⁸.

The SPSS aims to minimise the impacts from the minerals industry on local communities and the environment. This is expected through sustainable minerals development that carefully considers impacts on the local area and includes the safe restoration of sites with an appropriate reuse. In Northern Ireland, older mineral workings from the 1970s and 1980s had little emphasis placed on managing their environmental impacts or restoration. Recent changes to planning legislation through the Planning Act (NI) 2011, enables Councils to review old mineral permissions sites (ROMPs). However, a further Order is needed before Councils can begin this review.

Our Council aims to be dynamic and progressive and to act as an exemplar of best practice across all services to benefit residents and visitors alike. Our Council also seeks to protect its unique geographical location, as this is fundamental to creating a place where people want to work, live and visit. In the Council Strategy 2015-2019, there are five strategic themes to help prioritise our work and these include providing sustainable services, developing the economy and creating jobs, empowering local people with community projects and protecting the environment. A sustainable approach to the management of physical resources will help to achieve these priorities and the overall vision of the Council.

5.7.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the LDP Preparatory Studies Discussion Papers on Minerals and Countryside Pressure Analysis. This topic also overlaps with the Housing, Material Assets, Climate Change, Natural Resources and Landscape sections of this report.

Minerals

There are 12 operating quarries in the Council that mine for basalt, and sand and gravel. The Minerals discussion paper for the Local Development Plan shows the geology of the Council which is dominated by basalt, sandstone, and sand and gravel deposits. There is also a lignite resource located immediately northeast of Ballymoney that stretches to Stranocum. The lignite resource is of an

³⁷ Department for the Economy Information note on Minerals, Geothermal Energy, Groundwater and Geohazards 2017

³⁸ GSNI 2017: Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter

international quality and viewed as a regionally significant resource. It is safeguarded for potential future exploitation even though it is a fossil fuel.

At July 2016 there were six mineral prospecting licences within the Council and two applications for prospecting of all minerals and precious metals. The land covered under these licences is shown in the LDP discussion paper on Minerals.

The 2016 Annual Minerals Statement³⁹ published by the Department for Economy (DfE) shows that the Council is a significant contributor to the overall supply of basalt and igneous rock, and fairly important to the overall supply of sand and gravel. Its output in terms of other quarry products is fairly low as shown in the table below. In 2016, the Council's output of basalt and igneous rock came to a value of nearly £5.8 million; and for sand and gravel, to nearly £1 million.

Table 5.7.1: Summary of Mineral production in Causeway Coast and Gens Borough Council (2016)

	2016 CCG quantity produced (tonnes)	2016 Total NI quantity produced (tonnes)	2016 CCG % of NI total (tonnes)
Basalt and Igneous Rock (excluding Granite)	1,494,218	4,215,787	35.4
Sand and Gravel	198740.40	2,353,892	8.5
Other	499	1,264,407	0.04

Source: DfE Annual Minerals Statement 2016

Census 2011 data showed that the minerals industry employed 171 people within the Council, which is less than 1% of the total number of people employed. In 2015, the Quarry Products Association published information indicating that 300 people were employed by the industry within the Council area and that £37 million is generated to the area's economy.

There are 58 ROMPs in the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council, which equates to 12% of the total number of ROMPs in Northern Ireland. The majority of these are sand and gravel, or hard rock but a couple of peat sites are also present. The ROMPs are widely distributed across the Council but most of the sand/gravel sites are located south-west of Dungiven, south of Dunloy or north of Kilrea; basalt sites curve from Limavady to Coleraine to Portrush; and some peat sites are in the Garvagh area. Basalt, and sand and gravel sites are also present on Rathlin Island. In the future, it may be feasible to restore some of these sites for recreational/educational use and/or as green/blue infrastructure.

Earth Science

There are 36 earth science conservation sites (ESCRs) across the Council area, Figure 5.7.1. These are recognised for various geological features and are located in disused quarries, rivers and streams, and coastal areas. These are mostly located along the north coast but there are also several small sites located in the south west of the Council and inland south of Ballycastle.

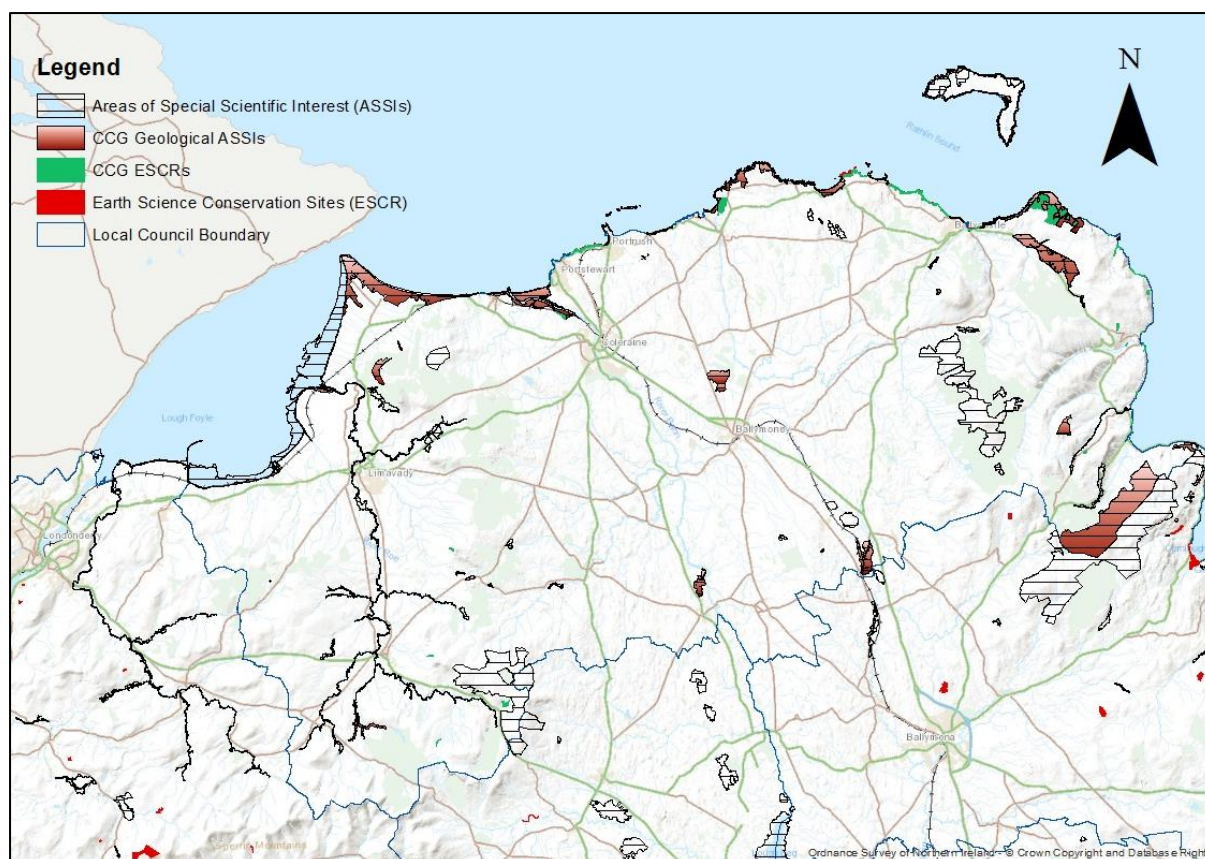
There are also sixty-one Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) in the Council and 33 of these have geological features. These sites are protected for their geological value but they can also provide habitat for local wildlife and help to maintain local biodiversity. For example, Lough Foyle is recognised for its coastal processes but is also an important site for wintering birds like Light-bellied Brent geese and provides salt marsh habitat. There is a direct link between the geology and the geomorphology of an area and its physical character and natural heritage. There is overlap between

³⁹ Department for the Economy Annual Minerals Statements (Date published: 21 February 2018) <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/annual-minerals-statements>

some of the ESCRs and ASSIs. There are 184 Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs) and some of these are likely to have a geological importance.

Northern Ireland also has a Geodiversity Charter that aims to inform decision makers of the importance of geodiversity to the economy and the environment⁴⁰.

Figure 5.7.1: Earth Science Conservation Sites and geological Areas of Special Scientific Interest



Source: Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)

Geothermal Energy

Naturally occurring heat is stored in ground layers ranging from core depths to shallow layers. It can be used as a source of heating for buildings and possible electricity. This naturally occurring ground heat is called 'geothermal energy' and in Northern Ireland, the Lough Neagh basin is a good example.

Shallow geothermal energy could be available right across Northern Ireland as this can be accessed at only a couple of metres depth using ground source heat pumps. Geothermal energy is low carbon, renewable (without fluctuation) and potentially viable with existing technology. It could become a viable part of the future energy mix, if investment and the necessary infrastructure were provided. Consideration of its installation and integration is recommended at an early design stage alongside other infrastructure. Ground/water/air source heat pumps are already evident in the Council. With further development of the technology, geothermal energy could help to meet the 2020 target of 40% of electricity consumption to be from renewables. The UK National Renewable Energy Action Plan refers to ground heat and the Strategic Energy Framework (SEF)⁴¹ discusses shallow geothermal energy.

⁴⁰ GSNI 2017: Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter

⁴¹ DETI (2010): Strategic Energy Framework for Northern Ireland

Land

The Northern Ireland Countryside Survey 2007⁴² found that the main changes in land cover were the loss of semi natural habitats to agricultural grassland and rural buildings. The trend for land conversion to improved grassland and curtilage was observed in the 1998 survey. Building was mostly on neutral or improved grassland indicating pressure on agricultural land but semi natural habitat losses were also recorded. The loss of semi natural habitat in lowland areas, where they are already scarce, is a biodiversity issue. In the Council, development pressure for land is ongoing, with pressure evident from housing and wind turbine development⁴³.

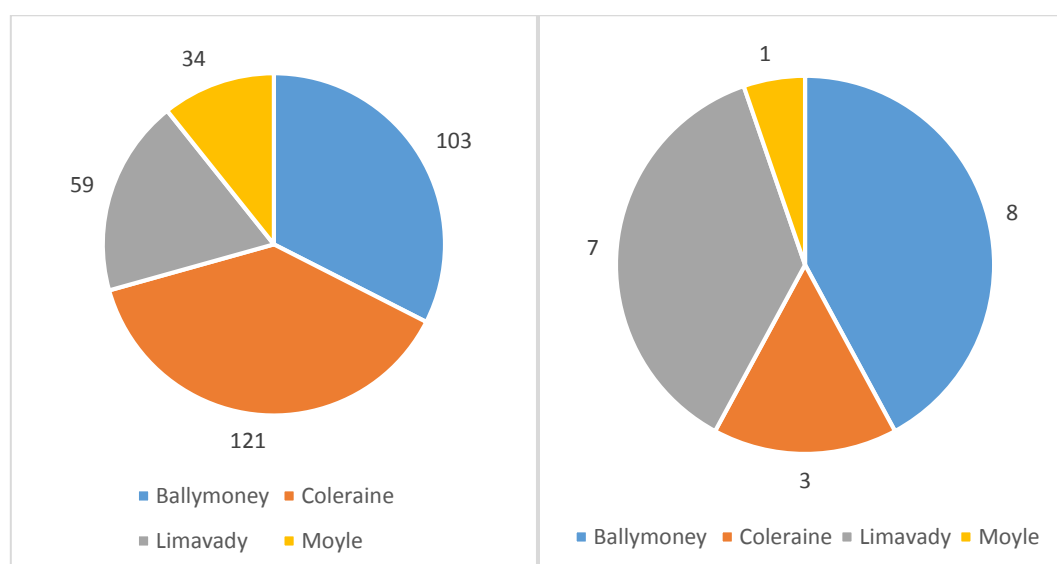
Rural Housing

Three out of four districts have more than 50% of their populations living in the wider countryside. Only the Coleraine District has nearly 70% of its population residing in its towns. Overall housing for the Council is 50/50 for urban and rural builds. The physical presence of housing is apparent along roads but also set back from the road network. New housing stock dated from 2002-2010, tended to be placed near to existing housing but this has not always been the case more recently. Housing is much less apparent in designated nature conservation sites such as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and ASSIs but it is still present. Since the loss of Countryside Policy Areas and Green Belts in 2010 from planning policy, the Council has experienced slightly more housing pressure in some parts previously covered under these designations. This indicates that these designations did help reduce development pressure. Development pressure also continues to exist around the Giants Causeway, Northern Ireland's only World Heritage Site (WHS).

Wind Energy

Renewables such as solar are evident in the Council but development pressure exists from wind energy related developments. Development pressure for single turbines up to 2016, showed a significant amount of approvals located in the Ballymoney and Coleraine areas. Development pressure for wind farms up to 2016, showed a significant amount of approvals in the Ballymoney and Limavady areas (Figure 5.7.2). Wind energy development is fairly widespread and AONBs are not 'immune' either⁴⁴.

Figures 5.7.2: Single turbine and wind farm approvals in Causeway Coast and Glens up to 2016



Source: LDP Discussion Paper Countryside Pressure Analysis

⁴² Cooper, A. *et al* (2009): Northern Ireland Countryside Survey (2007): Broad Habitat Change 1998-2007. Northern Ireland Environment Agency Research and Development Series No. 09/06

⁴³ Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Discussion Paper13: Countryside Pressure Analysis

⁴⁴ Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Discussion Paper13: Countryside Pressure Analysis

Soil

Soil quality is not protected under any specific legislation but it is a fundamental physical resource. It acts as a store for and source of gases like oxygen and carbon dioxide. A proper functioning soil should be less vulnerable to erosion, reduce flooding, filter pollution and store essential nutrients that can support plants and animals. Development can affect soil through pollution and erosion.

5.7.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there could be less opportunity to spatially plan and sustainably manage existing and future physical resources so that reserves are safeguarded, and environmental damage avoided. It may become more difficult to respond to and manage development pressures on our physical resources and to avoid inappropriate development, pollution and erosion.

5.7.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Physical Resources

Mineral reserves should be safeguarded from inappropriate development and their future use and accessibility protected.

Spatial Joint Mineral Plans with other Councils could be a consideration to help Councils and the industry manage minerals as a regional resource.

Older mineral sites (ROMPs) may be causing undue damage or deterioration to the local environment and could provide multiple benefits with appropriate restoration, including adding to local green/blue infrastructure.

Peat extraction occurs in the Council but peatlands are important for a range of ecosystem services.

The lignite reserve is a fossil fuel source and exploration would not be consistent with carbon reductions.

Promoting the circular economy could reduce the demand for some minerals.

The integration of infrastructure for the potential development of deep geothermal energy could be considered.

Shallow geothermal energy could be incorporated in development.

If sub-surface development is a consideration, potential effects need to be assessed at an early stage to help determine feasibility and to avoid any adverse effects.

Local development pressure from housing, wind energy or other types of development may need to be addressed by specific measures.

Soil quality could be protected (by the relevant authorities) using effective conservation measures.

5.8 Transport and Accessibility

5.8.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Overarching regional planning policy for transport, aims to deliver a balanced approach to transport infrastructure. Integral to this is an underlying drive to improve transport connectivity, accessibility, efficiency and social inclusivity. Regional policy also aims to reduce our carbon footprint and mitigate and adapt to climate change whilst improving air quality. Some measures to achieve this are directly linked to transport and include reducing emissions from transport, improving energy efficiency and protecting Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).

Encouraging people to use public transport and to consider active travel options like walking and cycling is key to achieving regional policy outcomes. This is reflected in the policy objectives for transport in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement along with objectives for adequate parking facilities and road safety. The LDP will be fundamental to promoting and enabling sustainable transport but a behavioural shift within society is also required, both at home and in the workplace.

The draft Programme for Government (dPpG) has 14 strategic outcomes. One is based on connecting people and opportunities through infrastructure, which links to providing a sustainable transport system. Improving transport connections, increasing the use of public transport and active travel, increasing environmental sustainability and improving air quality are four indicators to measure progress on this strategic outcome.

In the Council's Strategy 2015-2019, we are committed 'to work for the benefit of our residents' and we pride ourselves on being, 'a great place to live, work and visit'. As a large rural Council with several main tourist attractions, we recognise how important it is for people to be able to easily travel across the Borough and not to be restricted to the private car. Our Council's strategic priorities include providing effective services, developing the economy, enhancing people's health and wellbeing, promoting tourism, and protecting the environment. Sustainably approaching our transport system and how people can best access services and facilities, tourist attractions and the natural environment, will be key to achieving our Council's priorities.

5.8.2 Baseline Information

Relevant baseline information is presented in the LDP Discussion Paper on Transportation. Data has also been sourced from NISRA and the Department for Infrastructure. This topic also overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Air Quality, Climate Change, Natural Resources and Landscape sections of this report.

Transport Emissions

In Northern Ireland, the most common greenhouse gas (GHG) emitted is carbon dioxide (CO₂). Other emissions are evident but CO₂ was reported in the DAERA Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2015 as accounting for 68% of total GHG emissions. The transport sector is the second biggest emitter of GHGs in Northern Ireland and contributes 21% of total GHG emissions. The emissions are a by-product from the burning of fossil fuels and the transport sector has not shown a declining trend.

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is also generated from road traffic and records of urban levels show no declining trend in emission levels. Since 2004, levels have more or less increased and the annual mean limit (40ug/m³) set by the UK Air Quality Strategy has been exceeded⁴⁵. GHG emissions are linked to a warming climate and the transport sector has a responsibility to reduce emissions. This can be achieved through the planning of transport routes that enable shorter journeys and the integration of public transport and active travel options.

⁴⁵ NIEA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report Issue 8 March 2016

Transport Routes

There are major transport routes through the Borough including the A37, A29, A26, A44, A2, A6 and the B67 and B68, but no motorway is present. Relative to other Councils, the Causeway Coast and Glens has the third lowest amount of licensed vehicles at 69,860.

This is an important Council for key tourist attractions with several located along the coastline and access to them is an important consideration. In 2015 the Council had a low amount of dual carriageway at 5 km but has the third highest amount of single carriageway A roads at 292.3 km and the highest amount of B roads at 451.7km. The extent of dual carriageway has increased with improvements to the A26.

It is mid-range for both C roads and unclassified roads at 441.8 km and 1442.8 km respectively. This reflects the rural nature of the Council with more than half the population living in smaller settlements or the open countryside. Relative to other Councils, it has the fifth highest amount of total roads at 2633.7 km.

Car Use

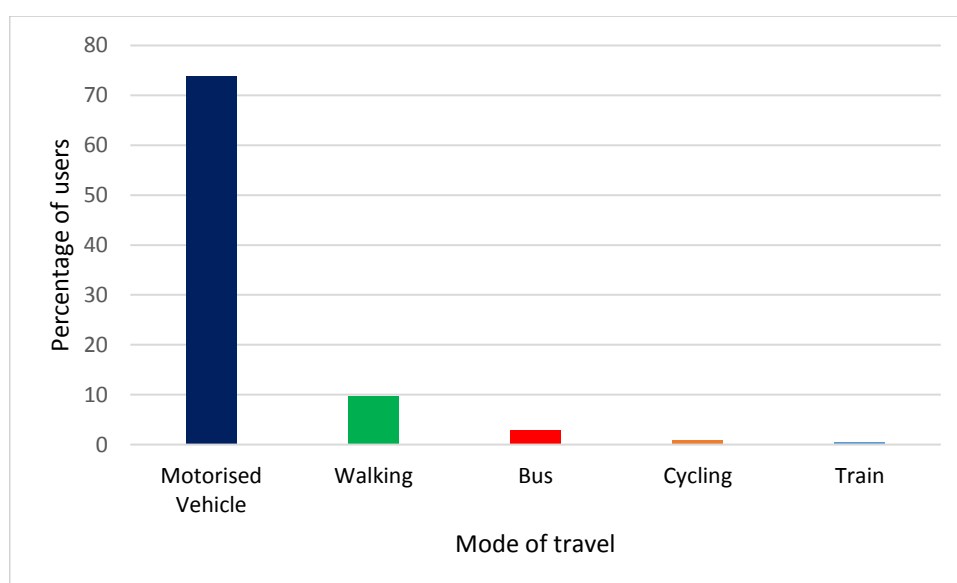
According to the 2011 Census, just over 42% of households in the Borough had access to one vehicle and nearly 29% of households had access to two vehicles. In total, nearly 81% of households had access to one or more vehicles. There remained a significant number of households at just over 19%, without access to any vehicle and therefore reliant on public transport, active travel and lift shares.

Public and Active Transport Options

Bus and rail provision is at its best in the main towns between which links are also good. Bus stations are in Coleraine and Limavady; rail stations are in Coleraine, Ballymoney and Portrush. Park and ride provision is in place at Ballymoney and Coleraine. There are some park and ride facilities in other areas such as Limavady and a seasonal park and ride is available in Bushmills to transfer visitors to the Giant's Causeway.

There are just under 53,500 people in employment within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and of these just under 11% actively travel to work on foot or by bicycle. Less than 3.5% travel to work by public transport. Figure 5.8.1 shows a breakdown of the modes of travel used in the Council; vehicle use includes car shares and pools, taxis and motorbike use.

Figure 5.8.1: Modes of travel to work



Source: NINIS – Travel to Work KS15

As shown in Figure 5.8.1, the majority of workers rely on the private car or van, taxi or motorbike. There are a significant percentage of workers that car share or car pool (16.66%) as well as work from home (11.23%) and this helps to reduce the number of vehicles on the road.

Park and Ride/Share facilities

Car parking provision is important to help enable car sharing arrangements and access to public transport services for general travel and for key tourism destinations. Parking is managed across statutory agencies but also the private sector. Planning for parking needs to take account of public transport and walking and cycling networks. Facilities exist at the two train stations in Ballymoney and Coleraine and another park and ride is at Scriggen Park in Limavady. There are new park and ride/share facilities on the A26. A seasonal park and ride is located in Bushmills for visitors to the Giant's Causeway.

Electric Charge Points

There are already a number of electric car parking spaces with charge points in the Council. These are shown in the LDP Transportation paper and are mostly located in the main towns but also Kilrea, Cloughmills and Glenarm. There will be a need for an increase in the amount of electric charging points in the near future with the switch from combustion engines to hybrids and 100% electric vehicles.

Ferry Services and Ports

Our Council also supports two ferry points at Ballycastle and Magilligan. Ballycastle acts as a lifeline to Rathlin Island for islanders and visitors. Magilligan connects visitors and commuters to County Donegal and although the route is only available in the summer, it can reduce a car journey by 90 minutes. It links the Wild Atlantic Way in Donegal to the Causeway Coastal Route, supporting regional tourism. There are commercial ports at Coleraine, Cushendall and Cushendun, and harbours are located at Portrush, Portstewart and Ballintoy.

Accessibility & Connectivity

Connecting habitats and open spaces together using green/blue infrastructure is supported in strategic planning policy. The SPPS recognises the impact this aspect of planning can have on local biodiversity but also on people's travel choices, and health and well-being. Providing active travel routes for people can also enable access to the natural environment and would be one means of achieving an 'accessible environment' which is a proposed outcome of our Council's Community Plan.

Urban walkways and cycle lanes can enable people to be self-reliant for their travel needs and may include paths, lanes and rights of way. Some examples are referred to in the LDP Transportation paper and include the Tow River Path in Ballycastle, and the Christie Park in Coleraine. These active routes tend to follow the road network and should enable access to key services and facilities but they can also link to the wider countryside. New residential development should be planned with active travel as a consideration so that people can use alternative transport modes to the car.

Figure 5.8.2 shows the regional walks and cycle routes accessible within our Council. These tend to follow waterways, the coast, foothills and ridges, and link to key tourism attractions. More information on all available walks can be accessed from WalkNI and cycle routes from Sustrans.

In total, there are 56 established walking routes within the Council though several of these connect particularly along the Moyle Way, around the Giant's Causeway and on parts of the Ulster Way. The Ulster Way provides the potential for walks located in several settlements across the area to connect with it. The section of the Ulster Way that is located within our Council is a 'quality' route meaning it is mostly off road and waymarked with views of AONBs.

The National Cycle Network (NCN) also crosses the Council and proposed local level cycle routes could be connected to it. Part of the NCN more or less follows the coastline but also travels south toward the towns of Limavady, Coleraine and Ballymoney. Two main routes (93 and 96) provide access to the

wider countryside. Rathlin Island also has part of the NCN, which enables people to cycle between the south and the west of the island.

Figure 5.8.2: Main Cycling Routes and Long / Medium Walks in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council



Source: Sustrans, WalkNI, DAERA

At two sites within the Council, the installation of pedestrianized bridges has successfully linked areas together and enabled cyclists and walkers to access previously disconnected areas. Ballymoney has been dissected by a railway line but a bridge at the railway station has reconnected the town. The Sustrans charity has reported nearly 350,000 journeys were made on it in 2013 and that 60% of people used it as a more direct route than others. It was also reported that 25% of people who used the bridge would have used a car in its absence.

Greenways

In 2016, the DfI published a strategic plan for a network of greenways in *Exercise – Explore – Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways*. It identifies routes that should be explored to develop a Primary Greenway Network from which a Secondary Greenway Network could progressively extend. The aim is for people to reuse much of the disused railway network as a safe and traffic-free route across all eleven Councils that connects people and places.

Figure 5.8.3: Map of Primary and Secondary Greenway Routes



Source: Exercise – Explore – Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways, November 2016, Department for Infrastructure (DfI)

Three disused railway tracks are referred to in the LDP Transportation paper and subject to funding the Ballymoney to Ballycastle track is the most likely to be developed as a cycling and walking greenway. If developed this would connect settlements to the coast and key tourist attractions as well as link to the NCN (see Figure 5.8.3). Some communities have stated the need to develop cycling and walking trails and improve accessibility to the natural environment as issues in their areas.

5.8.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, emissions from the transport sector are likely to continue to increase, as it would become more difficult to integrate efficient public transport routes and facilities to enable people to reduce their reliance on the private car. Current spatial information would not be reflected and therefore there is an increased risk of missing key opportunities to integrate active travel routes. Development of land based on older information is unlikely to be able to consider the most sustainable development of current land in terms of journey times, route linkages and accessibility, as well as provision of alternative modes of sustainable and active travel options.

5.8.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Transport and Accessibility

- It is important to plan a transport system with routes and travel options that will help to reduce GHG emissions by reducing journey times and integrating public and active transport options.
- More than half the Council's population reside in the rural area which can create challenges for accessibility.
- A significant number of households in the Council are without access to any private vehicle and therefore more reliant on public transport and active travel options.
- The largest level of car ownership in the Council is the group with access to one vehicle.
- It is important for the Council to consider local transport links and good access provision to key tourist attractions including the coastline that will support regional tourism.

- A spatial approach to the provision of public transport and active travel options could help to ensure adequate provision in the most deprived areas where the households are less likely to have access to own private vehicles.
- Sustainable and active travel access to key services and facilities by alternative modes of transport should enable less able people, deprived communities and people with no vehicular access are not discriminated against.
- Measures such as park and ride/share facilities, accessible greenways and active travel networks, are needed to help people shift their reliance away from the private car and on to other modes of travel like public transport, walking and cycling.
- There are already a significant number of people car sharing and car pooling as well as working from home, which helps to reduce GHG emissions from transport and maintain air quality.
- The majority of workers travel to work by motorised vehicle.
- There is expected to be an increase in electric vehicles and demand for electric charging points.
- New development should be planned with active travel a consideration to enable people to not use the car and be able to access alternative modes of transport.
- There is potential to link local level active travel routes to local and regional recreational routes, including the Ulster Way, and to develop strategic level networks for both walking and cycling.
- The Council will support appropriate sustainable transport infrastructure projects that connect areas together and enable people to use active travel to access their wider environment.
- Potential greenway projects could be developed to help integrate active travel options into local areas for residents and visitors and reduce cars on the road, promote health and well-being, and maintain or improve local air quality.

5.9 Air Quality

5.9.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Air quality is an important indicator of local, regional and international environmental conditions as it helps to indicate levels and sources of air pollutants and air pollution trends. Air pollution is both an urban and a rural issue that can affect human health but when levels of certain substances such as nitrogen, sulphur or ammonia are exceeded, the effects on ecosystems can also be adverse.

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and Councils manage air quality in Northern Ireland in compliance with domestic legislation (the Environment Order 2002, the Air Quality Regulations (NI) 2003 and the Air Quality Standards Regulations (NI) 2010). These stem from European Air Quality Directives but an Air Quality Strategy for Northern Ireland 2007 provides the strategic framework for air quality in Northern Ireland (NI).

Air quality objectives are set at a regional level and include limits for air pollutants. These are primarily based on ensuring protection of human health and sensitive habitats. Other measures include smoke control areas and Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). Regional policy thus recommends developing policy links between air quality and climate change.

Overarching regional planning guidance highlights agriculture, transport and energy supply as the three sectors contributing most to a warming climate in Northern Ireland. Agricultural land makes up a significant amount of land cover in Northern Ireland; we remain heavily reliant on private car use for journeys; and we are mostly dependent on fossil fuels for our energy supply. All these sources emit air pollutants including greenhouse gas emissions.

In the draft Programme for Government (dPfG), there are several outcomes that can be linked to good air quality. These include outcomes to live and work sustainably; to live healthy and active lives; and to create a place that people want to live, work and visit. Air quality does not have a specific planning policy but under the SPPS, it can be a material consideration. Maintaining good air quality is an important aspect of sustainable development as it is fundamental to the quality of our environment, society and the economy. The dPfG has set improving air quality as an indicator of achieving its outcomes.

Our Council aims to be dynamic and progressive and an exemplar of best practice across all areas of service. In our Council Strategy 2015-2019, five strategic themes set out our priorities which include providing sustainable local services, enhancing people's health and wellbeing, promoting local and international tourism and protecting the environment. Key to achieving these outcomes will be maintaining and improving good air quality.

5.9.2 Baseline Information

Relevant information is presented in the LDP Preparatory Studies Discussion Paper on Transportation. This topic also overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Material Assets, Transport and Accessibility, and the Climate Change sections of this report.

Air Pollution

Information on current air quality can be accessed at www.airqualityni.co.uk where recent progress reports and screening assessments can also be found. NO₂ is primarily from traffic or industrial sources and can be a severe respiratory irritant. Nitrogen oxides (NO_x) can readily mix with other chemicals to form acid rain or other pollutants like ground level ozone that also acts as a respiratory irritant. In 2017, there were exceedances of NO₂ although these were within the "low" band. The most recent Updating and Screening Assessment (USA) for the Council dated 2015, refers to NO₂ as one of the main pollutants but it also highlighted SO₂ and PM as pollutants that could be at risk of being higher than recommended air quality objective levels. There are some smoke control areas in the Council and these have been enforced to help improve local air quality by reducing smoke and

other air pollutants/emissions such as sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and particulate matter (PM) from burning fossil fuels.

Air Quality Management Area

There is currently one active Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in the Council on Dungiven's Main Street between the River Roe Bridge and the Main Street on the A6. The AQMA is for NO₂, which is primarily emitted from road traffic. After the 2015 USA Report was published, only NO₂ remained a pollutant to be monitored and no further detailed assessments were required for any other pollutants. A map for Dungiven's AQMA can be accessed at www.airqualityni.co.uk.

Human Health

There is an important link between air quality and human health. Recent Departmental figures for Northern Ireland indicate that 553 deaths can be attributed to particulate matter (PM¹⁰), and 330 to NO₂. PM¹⁰ pollution is composed of fine particles from natural and man-made sources; pollen, sand dust, road traffic, coal burning, and construction work are all potential sources⁴⁶. PM¹⁰ can cause respiratory issues and carcinogenic risks whilst NO₂ can also cause respiratory issues. It is estimated that in the United Kingdom, life expectancy is shortened by eight months because of poor air quality⁴⁷. Council data (2004-2008 and 2010-2014) shows that the number of respiratory related deaths for persons under the age of 75 is slightly below average for Northern Ireland and is one of the better performing Councils but nearly a third of all deaths are respiratory related.

Transport Sources

There are several protected routes within the Council area, including the A26, A29, A37, A2 and the A44⁴⁸. In addition, we also have the most B roads of all the Councils and are the median Council for lengths of C and unclassified roads at 442km and 1443km respectively⁴⁹. It is evident that the road network is an important aspect for both urban and rural dwellers.

Road traffic contributes to NO₂, PM¹⁰ and ozone levels. The Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2017 states, 'average annual mean concentration of NO₂ across Northern Ireland's urban background areas has remained relatively stable over the past thirteen years.' No clear decreasing trend has been reported for NO₂. In the same report, the annual mean concentration for PM¹⁰ in urban areas was recorded as more than double that in the rural background site but since 2003, urban sites have shown a clear decreasing trend for PM¹⁰. Urban sites show ozone levels are variable with no clear decreasing trend.

In the UK from 2040, road vehicles will be electric or hybrid as diesel and petrol vehicles are due to be phased out to help significantly reduce air quality pollutant emissions⁵⁰. Our Council already has a number of electric charging points along the north coast and in Limavady and Ballymoney but to meet future demand, this number will need to increase significantly.

Car ownership in the Council is not as high relative to most of the other Councils in Northern Ireland⁵¹ but over 70% of households still have access to one or two vehicles and just under 10% of households have access to three, four or more vehicles.

The 2011 Census reported for the Council around 76% of residents using cars or vans to travel to work. Alternative transport options to the car do exist with the provision of both bus and rail services but only 3% of residents opt for rail (1%) or bus (2%) and just over 7% of residents cycle (0.5%) or walk (6.6%) to work. There is also a North Coast Community Transport organisation that provides rural transport for groups and single person journeys. Together these options help reduce transport

⁴⁶ www.airqualityni.co.uk

⁴⁷ DAERA presentation for draft Programme for Government Air Quality Stakeholder Consultation, August 2016

⁴⁸ Causeway Coast & Glens Preparatory Study Discussion Paper11: Transportation

⁴⁹ Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service - Travel and Transport section

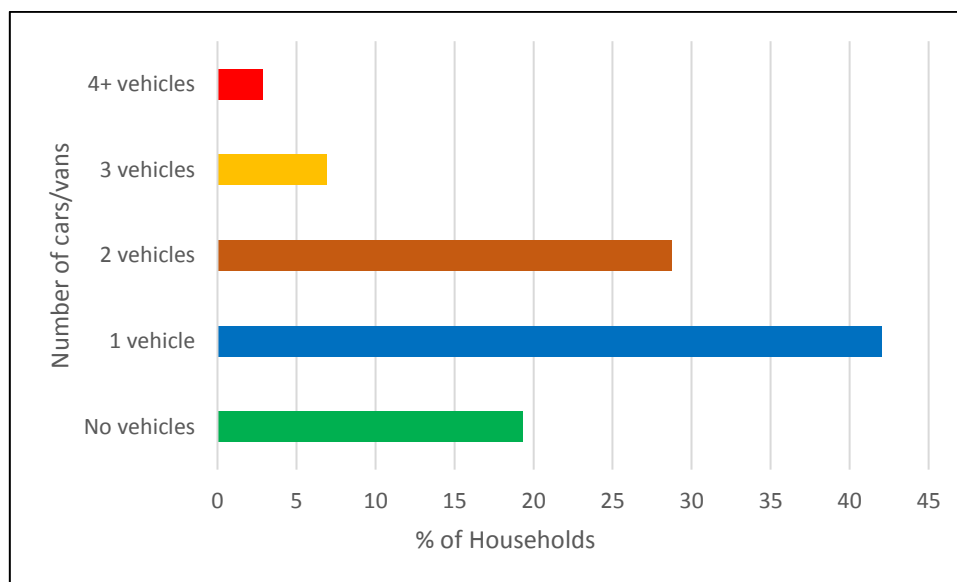
⁵⁰ Climate NI website

⁵¹ NINIS

emissions by providing people with alternatives to car journeys but with over half of the Council's population living in the rural area, reasonable access to adequate public transport services and facilities is an issue. The proportion of residents opting to use sustainable or active travel is low.

Feedback from public engagement meetings linked to the Community Plan has already highlighted an overall request for improved public transport and active travel options.

Figure 5.9.1: Levels of Car Ownership 2011 Census



Source: LDP Preparatory Discussion Paper 11 Transportation October 2016

Agricultural Sources

Ammonia is an air pollutant usually associated with the agriculture sector. Ammonia is not included as an objective in the Air Quality Regulations but it can be linked to the deterioration of habitats. In Northern Ireland, ammonia emissions were reported as 93% from livestock and 7% from the application of fertilisers⁵². Since 2001, ammonia emissions from livestock have increased by nearly 3% as the number of cattle, pigs and poultry has increased. This contrasts with the rest of the UK, which has seen a declining trend in emissions and a decrease in the number of livestock. Ammonia emissions from fertilizer use has reduced since 2001 by 33% but overall ammonia emissions have only reduced by 1.2%.

Energy generation

In Northern Ireland, there has been a rise in the use of natural gas for residential heating and a move away from oil and coal for domestic heating purposes. Electricity supplied from renewables has also increased every year since 2001 as shown in Figure 5.6.1. Diversification in our energy use means that pollutants such as sulphur dioxide and carbon emissions from fossil fuel combustion have been reducing.

5.9.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there may be the risk of decreasing air quality through inappropriately located development. There may be fewer opportunities to spatially influence development that could help to maintain or improve local air quality.

⁵² DAERA (2017): Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2017 Issue 9

5.9.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Air Quality

Key/main transport routes (for e.g. A37, A29, A26, A44, A2, A6, B67, B68), located within the Council link residents and visitors to many of the region's main tourist destinations and will need to be futureproofed to align with any changes in the transport system and the economic sector.

The Council should have regard to a future transport system that uses electric charging points and electric or hybrid vehicles in the transition towards no diesel or petrol vehicles.

Reasonable and improved access to an adequate amount of public transport is required across the Council, including rural areas, to help reduce transport emissions and improve air quality.

Reasonable and improved access to active travel options is required across the Council, including rural areas, to help reduce transport emissions and improve air quality.

A modal shift in behaviour to help encourage people away from relying on the car for journeys to work and opt for alternative transport options would help to reduce emissions and may improve air quality.

When planning the location of new developments alongside existing or proposed land uses, it is important to consider future air quality in both rural and urban areas.

Measures to help reduce ammonia emissions from the agricultural sector could help improve air quality in certain areas.

Support for renewables in appropriate locations could help reduce air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel combustion.

5.10 Climate Change

5.10.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The typical weather conditions of an area are based on natural variabilities that create the climate. These variabilities can cause extreme weather events but also normal or expected conditions. It is only when there is a shift in the usual weather patterns and climate, that the term “climate change” should be applied.

There are several factors that affect our climate. These include how near to the sea and how far from the equator we are located, as well as local topography, wind direction and ocean current. During the last few decades, it has become more and more accepted that human activity is affecting the climate.

Carbon and sulphur dioxide from fossil fuel combustion and deforestation, and nitrous oxide and methane from transport, agriculture and other practices, have all been entering the atmosphere from man’s activities at an accelerated rate since the Industrial Revolution. These additional gases add to the natural background levels, which increases the natural warming of the planet known as the “greenhouse effect”. This is the cause of anthropogenic climate change, which is climate change influenced by man.

In 2014, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) carried out an assessment of climate science. It stated that anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are the highest they have been since the pre-industrial era. Atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxides are the highest they have been in the last 800,000 years. Their effects are extremely likely to be the dominant cause of observed global warming since the 1950s.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) met in Paris 2015. It agreed ambitious GHG reductions from 2020 in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to limit global warming to no more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century. The Paris Agreement also encourages efforts to be pursued to limit temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. It aims for a low carbon future based on sustainable development. The IPCC Fifth Assessment Report claims GHG emissions need to reduce by 40-70% by 2050 to have a likely chance of avoiding the 2°C increase.

The Regional Development Strategy recommends we reduce our carbon footprint, adapt to climate change and deliver a sustainable and secure energy supply. Reducing GHG emissions is the only way to mitigate climate change. In the SPPS climate change is viewed as a central challenge to achieving sustainable development. The SPPS promotes the planning system as a tool to shape new and existing developments to help combat climate change by promoting sustainable patterns of development, renewables, energy efficiency and using the natural environment as green/blue infrastructure.

The first UK National Adaptation Programme (UK NAP) was published in July 2013 for each devolved administration and Northern Ireland’s NAP was launched in 2014. The SPPS details mitigation and adaptation for climate change and was informed by the Northern Ireland NAP. In the SPPS, sustainable patterns of development and transport are recommended. This should help reduce the need to use cars and enable people to access public transport and walk or cycle.

The devolved administrations of the United Kingdom (UK) are expected to contribute to the reductions stated in the UK Climate Change Act 2008, which means by 2050 an 80% reduction of GHG emissions based on 1990 levels should be evident. The latest projections published by DAERA⁵³ in December 2017 indicate that greenhouse gas emissions will be 31.2% lower in 2030 than in 1990 which is close to the target. The 2nd Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP) (2018-2023) will provide local level evidence with targeted local adaptation information.

⁵³ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/ni-ghg-projection-tool-update-2016.PDF>

The draft Programme for Government includes an indicator to increase environmental sustainability (greenhouse gas emissions)⁵⁴. This will be used to report on progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Actions are currently being taken forward by Departments to contribute to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Our Council's Strategy 2015-2019 sets out five strategic themes to direct us, 'as a dynamic, progressive ... exemplar of best practice across all areas of service.' This includes working 'for the benefit of all residents' by delivering on our strategic priorities which include providing 'effective and sustainable local services', developing the economy and 'protecting the environment'. Climate change and its impacts (flooding, erosion, risks to health and safety) may affect residents. The impacts of climate change could quite easily disrupt the provision of Council services and facilities, as well as negatively impact on people's well-being, the economy and the environment. Feedback from public engagement meetings linked to the Community Plan highlighted that there is an overriding belief that everyone should take responsibility for protecting the environment either through community projects or planning.

5.10.2 Baseline Information

Relevant information is presented in the LDP Preparatory Studies Discussion Papers on the Coast, Public Utilities and Transportation. This topic also overlaps with the Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport and Accessibility, Air Quality, Water and Natural Resources sections of this report.

Global context

The IPCC Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report presents historical trends of increasing emissions of GHGs, contributors to temperature change and trends in average temperatures and sea levels. GHGs include carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, ozone and methane. Climate scientists have estimated that the earth's atmosphere has already warmed from pre-industrial Revolution times by nearly 1°C. Global sea levels have increased by 15-20 centimetres with thermal expansion and ice loss from glaciers and land⁵⁵.

UK Context

The second Climate Change Risk Assessment Evidence Report was due to be presented to Parliament in 2017. The Adaptation Sub Committee has prepared the independent evidence report which sets out the latest risks and opportunities to the UK from climate change. An interim report has been published entitled The UK Synthesis Report 2017. The priority areas identified to be managed for climate change risks are flooding and coastal change, high temperatures, risks to natural capital, water shortages, impacts on global food systems and risks from new and emerging pests/diseases.

Northern Ireland Context

There are nine climate-monitoring stations across Northern Ireland (NI) managed by Queens University for temperature and precipitation. Research informed by this monitoring predicts that increases in temperature will be evident across Northern Ireland and it will become increasingly warmer toward the end of the 21st century. Overall precipitation is projected to fall slightly but winter is projected to be wetter and the summer to be drier⁵⁶. The Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2017 also reports an increasing average temperature for Northern Ireland and a trend for increasing levels of rainfall in winter months.

Northern Ireland accounted for 4.2% of UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2015⁵⁷. This is high relative to the contribution made to gross domestic product and the proportion of the UK population.

⁵⁴ Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021

⁵⁵ UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Synthesis Report 2016

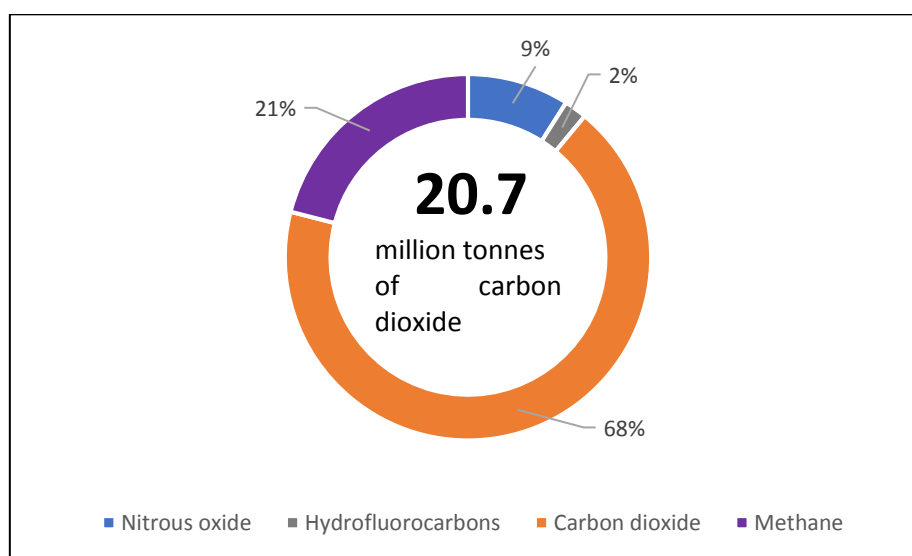
⁵⁶ D.Mullan@qub.ac.uk; [http://pure.qub.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/donal-mullan\(8fb7a607-4799-49a1-a5f4-7f32c0aa8665\).html](http://pure.qub.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/donal-mullan(8fb7a607-4799-49a1-a5f4-7f32c0aa8665).html)

⁵⁷ DAERA Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2015 Statistical Bulletin

Estimated GHG emissions were 20.7 million tonnes of CO₂, which was an increase of 0.6% compared to 2014. The longer term trend showed a decrease of 17.8% compared to the 1990 base year.

Carbon dioxide accounted for 68% of all GHG emissions in Northern Ireland in 2015. It was the most common gas emitted across sectors with the transport, energy supply and residential sectors the largest contributors. The agriculture sector had significant emissions of methane and nitrous oxide that exceeded emissions of carbon dioxide. Northern Ireland accounts for a much larger share of the UK's emissions of these gases due to the importance of agriculture to the Northern Ireland economy. Methane was also the main GHG emitted from the waste management sector via landfills.

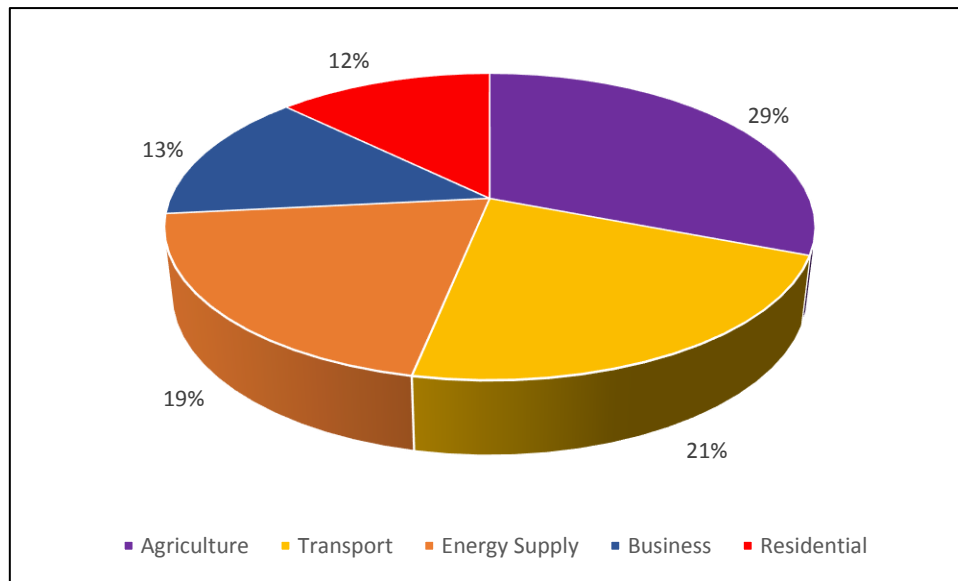
Figure 5.10.1: Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Northern Ireland 2015



Source: DAERA, Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2015 Statistical Bulletin

The top five sectors in terms of GHG emissions in Northern Ireland were Agriculture (29%), transport (21%), energy supply (19%), business (13%) and residential (12%). GHG emissions from these sectors are by-products from farming practices, emissions from vehicles and the general burning of fossil fuels for energy/electricity or heating. Most sectors have shown a long-term decreasing trend in emissions since the base year, with the largest decreases in terms of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, the energy supply, residential and waste sectors. However, between 2014 and 2015, emissions increased from the transport (2.1%) and agricultural (1.3%) sectors due to increased demand for road transport and increased numbers of livestock. Together these sectors account for 50% of total GHG emissions in Northern Ireland. Overall, Northern Ireland has reduced GHG emissions since the base year by 18% but across the UK, the reduction is much higher at 38%.

Figure 5.10.2: Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector



Source: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2015 Statistical Bulletin

Agriculture

In 2015, the agriculture sector continued to be the main contributor of GHG emissions in Northern Ireland, totalling 29% of all emissions. Emissions from the agricultural sector have reduced by 3.3% since the baseline year (1990) but the sector remains the biggest contributor of GHG emissions. Livestock and nitrogen fertiliser are two sources of GHG emissions from within the sector and account for 93% and 7% of all ammonia emissions⁵⁸. The agriculture sector is also the main source of methane and nitrous oxide emissions accounting for 85% and 90% of total emissions. Although the sector emits a relatively low amount of carbon dioxide, it emits nitrous oxide to a significant level and is therefore the biggest contributor by sector of GHG emissions. Nitrous oxide emissions from the agriculture sector are difficult to estimate.

Energy

The energy sector has been one of the main contributors to reductions in GHG emissions from 27.8% in 1990 to 19% in 2015. In 2015, 19% of all GHG emissions in Northern Ireland were from this sector. The energy supply sector has had a decreasing trend in GHG emissions and in Northern Ireland it presents the largest reduction in GHG emissions of all the sectors since 1990. This is due to the switch to natural gas from coal or oil, improved energy efficiency and the uptake in renewable generation⁵⁹. There are two gas power stations in Northern Ireland. The switch to gas has helped to reduce the GHG emissions in energy generation and heat production.

As changes in policy direct the energy market toward reduced GHG emissions and a low carbon future, changes will have to occur. These include battery storage projects, to help capture energy from renewables for later use by customers, and a grid that enables multiple renewable connections including for prosumers i.e. small-scale producers. Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) has classified a significant amount of land at saturation point i.e. very limited potential for generation export, without investment⁶⁰.

Renewable Energy

Renewables are not reliant upon fossil fuel combustion and they can help reduce GHG emissions from the energy sector because they use natural energy. The NI Executive endorsed a target of 40% of

⁵⁸ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report – March 2017

⁵⁹ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016 Issue 8 March 2016

⁶⁰ www.nienetworks.co.uk

electricity consumption to be from renewables by 2020 whilst the UK has a target to reduce GHG emissions from 1990 baseline records by 80% by 2050. Both targets will require further investment in renewables and a transition away from traditional fossil fuels.

Currently nearly, a quarter of all of Northern Ireland's electricity is from onshore wind and the total amount from renewables is 27%⁶¹ (Figure 5.6.2). Planning applications for wind (farms and single turbines) have dominated the market but solar, hydroelectric and anaerobic digester schemes have also been evident. This reflects the general situation in Northern Ireland but a diversity of renewables will be needed to help ensure security of supply. There have been quite a few wind energy applications refused in the Sperrins and Binevenagh AONBs and across the hinterland of the Causeway Coast AONB.

Transport

The transport sector accounts for 21% of all GHG emissions in Northern Ireland, with an increase of 30% from the baseline year 1990. It is a significant contributor of carbon dioxide but nitrogen dioxide is also emitted from the combustion of fossil fuels. This is a pollutant that can cause respiratory issues and partly why in the UK from 2040, all vehicles will be electric or hybrid, as diesel and petrol vehicles will be banned⁶². Baseline information is provided in more detail in 6.8.2.

Residential

The residential sector accounts for 12% of all GHG emissions in Northern Ireland and is a significant contributor of carbon dioxide⁶³. Northern Ireland remains heavily dependent on fossil fuels for home heating but in recent years, there has been a transition away from coal and oil to gas for heating purposes. Gas is less carbon intensive and more energy efficient so preferred to other fossil fuels in terms of both GHG emissions and efficiency. Further measures will be required to help reduce GHG emissions from this sector such as new gas infrastructure, community based renewable schemes and energy efficient new builds.

Waste Management

The waste management sector is responsible for 3% of GHG emissions and has seen one of the largest decreases in GHG emissions from 1990 to 2015 of 68%. Methane is the dominant GHG emitted from the waste management sector due to landfill practices⁶⁴. Landfilling of waste releases methane that can be flared or piped as an energy source but in the past was released to the atmosphere. There has been a decreasing trend in emissions from the sector since the baseline year (1990) due to the closure of landfills and the increase in reusing, recycling and recovery practices. There are several civic amenity sites for recycling across the Council⁶⁵ but also a landfill site with capacity.

Flood Vulnerability

One of the predicted impacts of climate change is increased incidences of flooding in areas already prone and in new areas. Flooding can occur at the coast, near rivers, lakes and reservoirs but also from surface water. This is in part due to increased levels of precipitation and flash storm events as well as higher sea levels. There is also a higher risk of water pollution during flood events with the excess surface water and run off. In our Council, Coleraine town is at risk of significant flooding from rivers and streams. As one of our main settlements, with key services, facilities and residential areas, any flooding incidences could have a serious impact. Other areas of further study include Cushendall, Ballycastle, Ballymoney, Bushmills, Portrush, Limavady and Eglinton.

Figure 5.10.4: Flooding in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

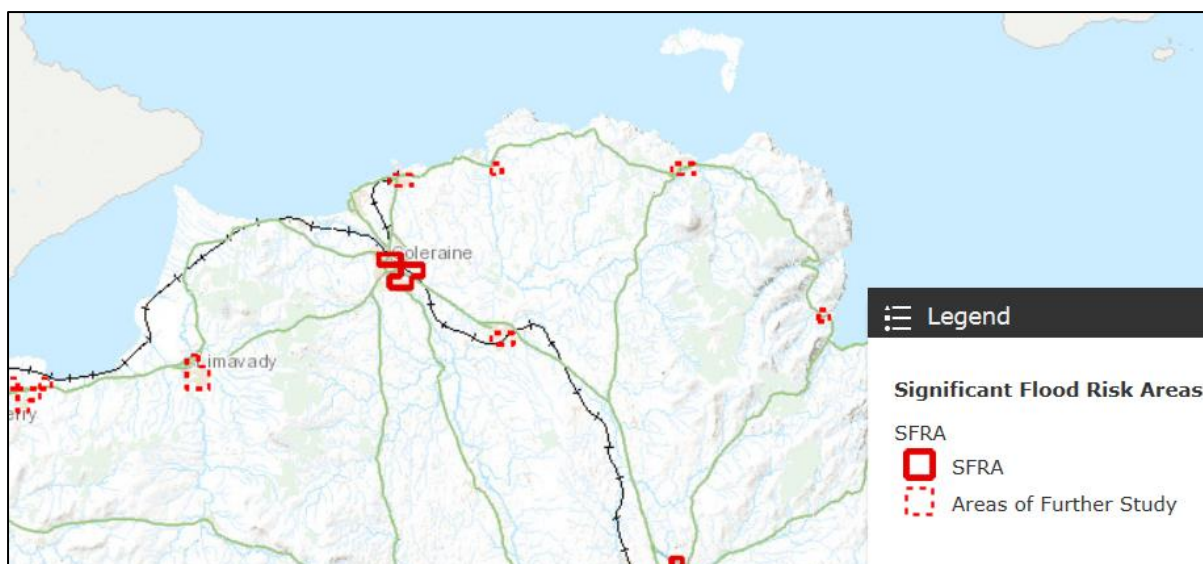
⁶¹ Climate NI

⁶² Climate NI website

⁶³ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report – March 2017

⁶⁴ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report – March 2017

⁶⁵ Causeway Coast & Glens Local Development Plan Discussion Paper 6: Public Utilities



Source: Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Flood Maps NI

Climate NI⁶⁶ has reported that, within recent years, one in ten homes in the UK has been built in flood risk areas. Development in flood risk areas not only places it at risk but can increase flood risk on adjacent sites as well as downstream and increase pressure on natural floodplains. Flooding is described further in the Water topic.

Coastal Flooding/Erosion

There is a significant amount of coastline within the Council totalling 237 km. Coasts are dynamic environments that change due to natural forces and man-made pressures; climate change is expected to exacerbate these impacts. Coastal flooding and erosion, storms and high tides are all already on the increase because of anthropogenic induced climate change. These forces can also add to coastal land instability.

In Northern Ireland, there is a lack of up to date mapped information on coastal erosion and land instability. It is known to be occurring at Magilligan near the ferry terminal, and at Downhill, on the shore south of Lough Foyle and a lot of erosion can be viewed at West Bay, East Strand and White Rocks at Portrush. Aggradation⁶⁷ is also occurring at some points on Benone Strand and Magilligan Point but some coastal areas have seawalls or natural basalt resistance. Inappropriate coastal development and activities can affect the coastal habitat and its physical integrity. This can happen when the natural movement of the shore or dunes is removed or impeded.

A new approach to coastal development is to work with nature rather than against it and respond to coastal realignments with soft or natural approaches⁶⁸. There are eight settlements within the Borough that are located along the coast. These are Castlerock, Portstewart, Portrush, Portballintrae, Ballycastle, Cushendun, Cushendall and Church Bay. Settlements bring their own development pressures but coastal settlements will have the additional issues of increased incidences of coastal flooding, increased storm events and rising sea levels, to also consider. All of these are (predicted) impacts of climate change. The Council also has a significant number of coastal paths and parks for recreation as well as undeveloped areas that can be accessed but these areas may be at risk from erosion and flooding that is likely to worsen with rising sea levels and increased storm events. One solution to help coordinate action in these areas could be to create Coastal Change Management Areas (CCMAs).

⁶⁶ <http://www.climatenorthernireland.org.uk/>

⁶⁷ More sediment is deposited than transported away by the system.

⁶⁸ Causeway Coast & Glens Local Development Plan Discussion Paper 7: The Coast

Biodiversity

Climate change is expected to impact on local biodiversity, as changing climatic factors will cause habitats to alter and species to move. In certain locations, these changes may enable non-native species to thrive and/or may cause native species to relocate in an attempt to stay within their preferred climate. Local biodiversity will need green/blue infrastructure including buffer zones around designated sites to help aid any future movement because of climate change. Feedback from public engagement meetings linked to the Community Plan has already highlighted the belief amongst people about the importance of preserving peatlands because of their carbon storage and flood protection benefits. Peatlands also have specialised plants and associated fauna and avifauna.

5.10.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there could be fewer opportunities to apply land use planning to help reduce GHG emissions by integrating sustainable development patterns. It could become increasingly difficult to locate renewable energy projects in the most sustainable locations in relation to both infrastructure and users. There may be fewer opportunities to integrate measures such as sustainable drainage systems, green/blue infrastructure and public transport options. Likewise, the area could be less attractive to investors who wish to promote their sustainability credentials.

5.10.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Climate Change

- Agriculture is a significant contributor to GHG emissions and opportunities to reduce emissions within the scope of the LDP need to be considered.
- A strategic and spatial approach to the location of appropriate renewables could be developed to support commitments made to the UK Climate Change Act and to increase diversity of renewables to help improve security of supply.
- There is a need for our Borough to futureproof itself for a low carbon future in anticipation of future energy and climate change policies and planning for electric charge up points and active travel.
- There is a need to increase active and sustainable travel options across the Borough to help reduce reliance on the car and reduce GHG emissions.
- Planning could be used to help encourage efficient building design, well-connected developments that reduce GHG emissions from transport and adaptation measures like sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).
- The waste management hierarchy and the proximity principle could continue to be used to guide waste management facilities and practices based on the principles of sustainable development.
- Any potential development in flood risk areas needs to be carefully considered against the likely impact of flooding but also the likely impact of the development on adjacent areas.
- An increased risk of pollution from runoff in urban and rural areas with the increased rainfall and storm events.
- Once suitable evidence is available Coastal Change Management Areas (CCMAs) could be identified (by the relevant authorities) and policy established in those areas to help manage coastal change over time and any proposed development.
- It is important to protect habitats, including floodplains and peatlands, which act as natural adaptation measures for climate change and provide habitat for local biodiversity.
- Provisioning of buffer zones exist around designated sites and priority habitats could help enable movement of species in a changing climate.

5.11 Water

5.11.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

This topic encompasses water as a resource for ecological services, water supply and treatment. It also considers the management of water storage and flow, flood risk and measures to avoid or manage flood risk.

European Directives and regional legislation, plans and strategies seek to protect the quality and supply of water to maintain natural resources and protect human health. The 'Water Framework Directive' (2000/60/EC) requires waterbodies to be protected from deterioration and, where necessary and practicable, to be restored to 'good' status. The 'Groundwater Daughter Directive' (2006/118/EC) includes criteria for the assessment of 'good' chemical status and for identifying and reversing upward trends in pollution of groundwater. The Nitrate Directive (91/676/EEC) and Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive (96/61/EC) also require the implementation of standards for the control and prevention of pollution of water by nitrates from agricultural sources and phosphorus and other pollutants from agricultural, industrial and waste water sources.

The Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) (91/271/EEC) is designed to reduce the pollution of freshwater, estuarine and coastal waters by domestic sewage and industrial wastewater (collectively known as urban waste water). The Directive sets minimum standards for the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water. Minimum standards for the provision of sewerage systems and treatment of sewage are set by the Directive according to the population served by sewage treatment works, and the sensitivity of receiving waters. The 'Floods Directive' (2007/60/EC) requires flood risk to be assessed and mapped and management plans to be developed for the most significant flood risk areas.

At the Northern Ireland level each of these Directives has been transposed into local legislation in order to facilitate their implementation. These include regulations to prevent pollution, to control the use of water through either abstraction or impoundment and to protect water supplies. There are also a number of pieces of drainage legislation to control water levels and flows.

Three River Basin Districts (RBD) have been identified in Northern Ireland under the Water Framework Directive (WFD): the North Eastern, the Neagh – Bann and the North Western RBDs. River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the WFD, taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile, as well as wetlands which are directly associated with ground or surface water. In 2013 separate EU Directives for the protection of waters supporting shellfish and freshwater fish and to control the discharge of certain polluting substances were subsumed into the WFD, to allow the legislation covering water quality to be streamlined.

Under the WFD, each member state must also create and maintain a register of protected areas. The register consists of an inventory of protected area sites representing the protected area categories outlined below:

- Waters used for the abstraction of drinking water (drinking water protected areas);
- Areas designated to protect economically significant aquatic species (these are areas designated under the former Freshwater Fish and Shellfish Directives);
- Recreational waters designated under the Bathing Water Quality Directive (2006/7/EC);
- Nutrient Sensitive Areas (comprising nitrate vulnerable zones designated under the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and areas designated as sensitive under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC); and

- Areas designated for the protection of habitats or species (Natura 2000 sites) under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). These also include Ramsar Sites (Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention).

The Water Framework Directive includes coastal waters, however marine policies are further considered under the natural environment topic in this scoping report.

Every six years, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in partnership with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) produces a River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for each River Basin District within Northern Ireland. The second and current RBMP cycle extends from 2015 – 2021. The WFD requires action to meet good ecological and chemical status and prevent deterioration of our water bodies by 2027. Each RBMP therefore sets out the current state of our water environment and the measures to be put in place to achieve further improvements to the water environment over their six year period. Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council extends across all three River Basin Districts and therefore all three RBMPs are relevant.

It is essential that RBMPs are integrated with a wide range of strategies and initiatives impacting on the water environment in Northern Ireland. This exploits commonality across regional, national and European wide requirements and directives, ensuring efficient and cost effective delivery. A Long Term Water Strategy has been developed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in partnership with Northern Ireland Water (NIW), DAERA and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). The Strategy aims to encourage a sustainable and integrated approach to managing the different water needs within a catchment while promoting regional development without compromising the environment or increasing flood risk.

DAERA is working with the agricultural sector to promote good practice in nutrient management and safer, more effective slurry spreading. The Nitrates Action Programme has been a key element in providing safeguards for the water environment since 2007 and farmers' cooperation has been a key factor in the success of this scheme. The Nitrates Directive has been applied across all of NI using the total territory approach. This is the main tool for reducing diffuse pollution through the Nitrates Action Programme and Nutrient Management Plans. This has delivered significant improvements to date in water quality in the last 10-15 years, reducing failures due to nutrients from around 60% to 40%. An equivalent reduction of a further 20% is required by 2021 to meet WFD requirements.

The 'Bathing Water Quality Directive' (2006/7/EC) complements the WFD by setting quality standards for a number of parameters to safeguard public health and protect the environment. The most important of these are the standards relating to the coliform and streptococcal groups of bacteria, which, in general, can be taken as an indication of the amount of sewage or the other faecal contaminants present. In addition to monitoring the bathing waters, DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division monitors rivers which run into the sea at beaches. Pollution problems at beaches often arise from within river catchments.

The Floods Directive, transposed through The Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) in 2009, has led to the identification of 20 Significant Flood Risk Areas (SFRA) in NI and the preparation of a Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP). The FRMPs have been developed to align with the six year cycle of the WFD and a separate FRMP has been prepared for each River Basin District. Each FRMP highlights hazards and risks in the SFRAs from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. The FRMPs identify the measures that will be undertaken over their six year period to address flooding and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together with communities to reduce the flood risk. Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area is therefore covered by three separate FRMPs.

The fundamental policy message arising from the SPPS is that the most effective means of managing flood risk is to avoid the risk, by locating new buildings and infrastructure outside flood risk areas. The LDP should ensure that land identified as being at risk of flooding is not zoned for development. Such development would be at an unacceptable risk of flooding, may cause flooding elsewhere and may impair the natural function of the floodplain in storing flood water. The Council should adopt a precautionary approach to the identification of land through the LDP process and the determination of development proposals, in those areas susceptible to flooding where there is a lack of precise information on present day flood risk or climate change flood risk.

The Regional Development Strategy 2035 includes protective measures for water such as:

- Adopt grey water recycling
- Minimise development in areas at risk from flooding from rivers, the sea and surface water run-off
- Promote a more sustainable approach to the provision of water and sewerage services and flood risk management.
- Integrate water and land-use planning.
- Manage future water demand.
- Encourage sustainable surface water management.

The Strategy for Promoting the Use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) also encourages the incorporation of measures to ameliorate the impacts of development on water quality and flow.

Our Council Strategy includes the strategic themes of ‘Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets’ and ‘Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities’. The Strategy also recognises that our area attracts thousands of tourists every year and that our natural assets need to be carefully managed to generate economic and social returns without compromising their sustainability for future generations.

Our Community Plan includes ‘A Sustainable Accessible Environment’ as one of its key issues. The outcomes that will support this include ensuring that the natural environment of Causeway Coast and Glens area is fully understood, protected and well looked after; the land and sea of the Causeway Coast and Glens is sustainably managed; the Causeway Coast and Glens area has a clean, healthy, safe environment with improved air, land and water quality; and that we, in the Causeway Coast and Glens area, value, protect and appreciate our environment.

5.11.2 Baseline information

River Basin Management Plans

The WFD requires action to meet ‘good’ (or better) ecological and chemical status and prevent deterioration of our water bodies by 2027. ‘Good’ status is assessed using a broad range of parameters for water quality (such as nutrients and oxygen levels); aquatic biology (including plants, aquatic insects and fish) and physical environment (such as river flows and habitat). Classification of water bodies assists in planning what measures might be required for improvements. The WFD also recognises that some water bodies have been changed to such a degree that they can no longer be restored to their original condition without compromising their current use. These are called heavily modified (HMWBs) or artificial water bodies (AWBs). HMWBs and AWBs are classified according to their ecological potential rather than status, with the objective to achieve ‘good ecological potential’ (GEP) by 2027. The water quality status figures published at the conclusion of the first cycle of RBMP in 2015 showed that 37% of Northern Ireland’s water bodies met ‘good’ status. Classification tools and standards, as well as water body boundaries have changed during the first River Basin Cycle, therefore a direct comparison between 2009 and 2015 data cannot be made.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council falls under all three of the RBMPs published for Northern Ireland, i.e. the North-Eastern, the Neagh Bann and the North Eastern River Basin Districts (RBDs). The boundaries of the RBDs are shown in blue in Figure 5.11.1.

Within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area (shown in red in Figure 5.11.1) the principal river systems are:

- The River Bush, in the North Eastern RBD (smaller catchments in the Glens include the Glenshesk, Glendun, Dall and Glenariff Rivers);
- The Lower Bann, in the Neagh-Bann RBD; and
- The River Roe, in the North Western RBD.

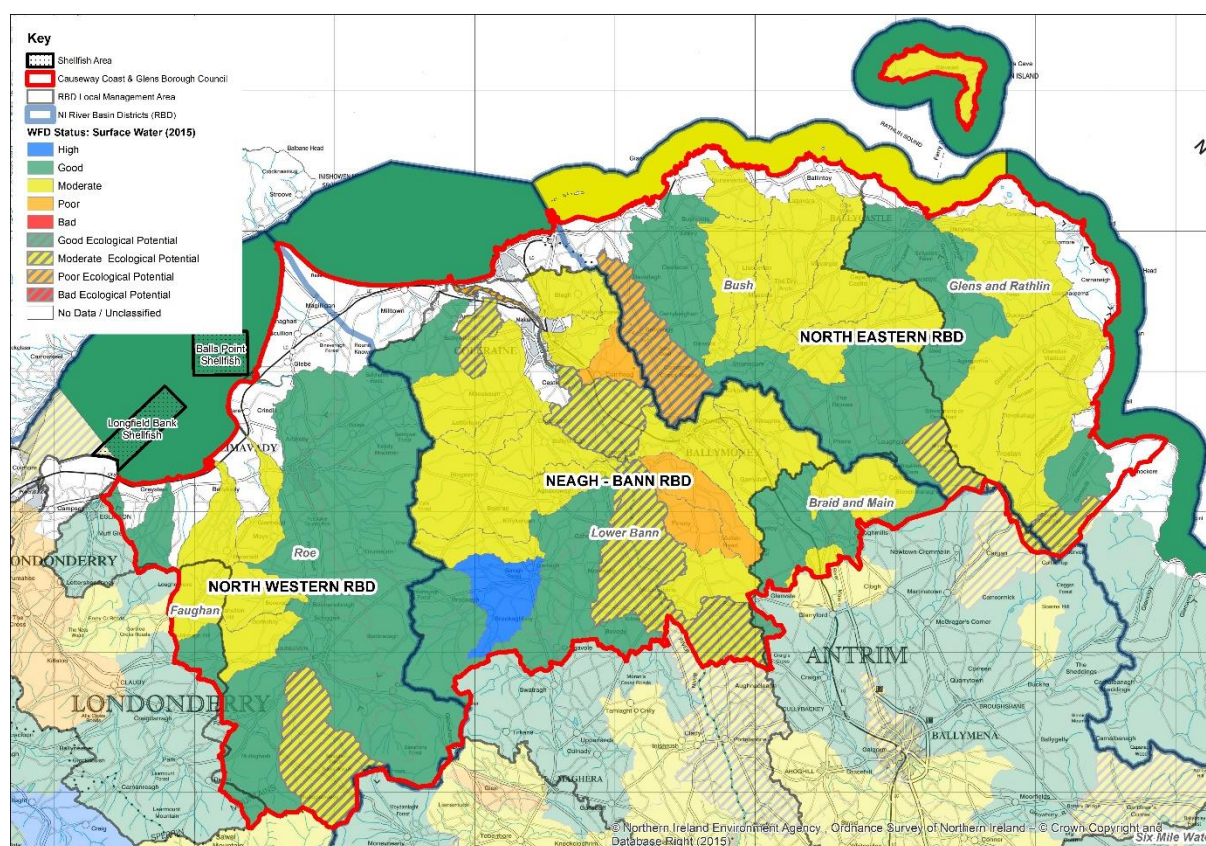
Small portions of the catchments of the River Faughan and the Rivers Braid and Main are also within the Council area. There are 75 river waterbodies (including heavily modified waterbodies) in the Council area.

The Borough has no lake waterbodies, however it adjoins five coastal waterbodies and one transitional water body. These are:

- North Channel, Rathlin Island and North Coast, in the North Eastern RBD
- Portstewart Bay, and the Lower Bann (transitional water body) in the Neagh-Bann RBD; and
- Lough Foyle, in the North Western RBD, which contains two designated Shellfish Areas.

Figure 5.11.1 shows the overall ecological status classification of the surface waterbodies within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area at the conclusion of the first WFD cycle in 2015. These results are summarised in Table 5.11.1 below.

Figure 5.11.1: Water Framework Directive overall classification, 2015



Source: DAERA WMU Digital Dataset Downloads Surface Water Bodies with status (06 June 2017)

Table 5.11.1 presents a summary of the ecological status for the surface waterbodies within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

Table 5.11.1: Summary of 2015 overall classification of surface water bodies

River Water Bodies		Coastal Water Bodies		Heavily Modified Water Bodies*	
67	Total Number of RWB	5	Total Number of CWB	9	Total Number of HMWB
1	High Eco. Status	0	High Eco. Status	0	Good Eco. Potential
32	Good Eco. Status	4	Good Eco. Status	7	Moderate Eco. Potential
31	Moderate Eco. Status	1	Moderate Eco. Status	2	Poor Eco. Potential
3	Poor Eco. Status	0	Poor Eco. Status	0	Bad Eco. Potential
0	Bad Eco. Status	0	Bad Eco. Status	*includes river and transitional waterbodies	

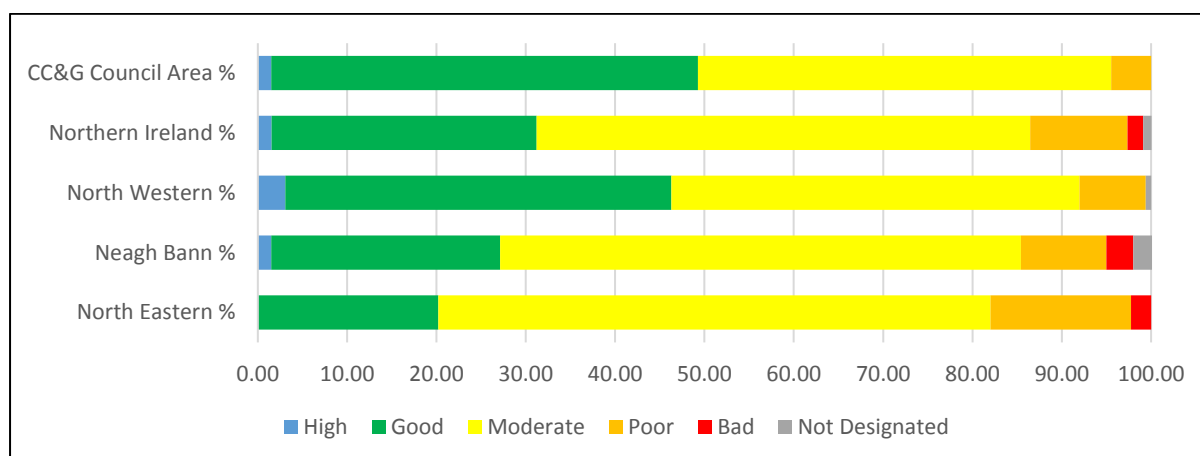
Source: DAERA WMU Digital Dataset Downloads Surface Water Bodies with Status (06 June 2017)

Causeway Coast and Glens Council area had significantly better river water quality in 2015 than the overall Northern Ireland average (Figure 5.11.2). High or good quality was 49%, compared to 31.22% for all river water bodies in Northern Ireland.

46% of river waterbodies in the Council area were classified as ‘moderate’ and 5% as ‘poor’ and these are therefore failing to meet the standard. There are nine heavily modified waterbodies in the Council area, eight of which are rivers and one, the Bann estuary, is a transitional waterbody. None of the heavily modified water bodies have achieved ‘good’ status and both the Bann estuary and the Burn Gushet River have been classified as ‘poor’ status.

Four (80%) out of the five coastal waterbodies have also achieved ‘good’ status, including Lough Foyle which has two shellfish areas. The North Coast coastal waterbody was classified in 2015 as having ‘moderate’ overall status, as both its benthic invertebrate and hydromorphology elements failed to meet ‘good’ status.

Figure 5.11.2: Water Framework Directive overall classification (% River Waterbodies), 2015



Source: DAERA WMU Digital Datasets and Northern Ireland Reported Water Body Status & Objective Figures 2015 (Published 07/11/2017)

As part of the River Basin Planning process, a Programme of Measures has been established to detail the improvements required to meet ‘Good’ status, the actions required and the delivery mechanisms. The programme of measures aims to address the key pressures by concentrating efforts on those pressures that pose the greatest threat to the water environment. The most significant sources of pressure preventing water bodies in this area from achieving ‘good’ status are diffuse pressures from agricultural sources and point source pressures from Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTWs), urban wastewater and development and industrial discharges. Nutrient enrichment has been identified in all three RBDs as a principal reason for failure in lake, transitional and coastal waterbodies as it is

linked to failures in diatoms, macrophytes and soluble reactive phosphorus, which have occurred in many waterbodies either individually or in combination.

Within the Lower Bann Catchment, a partnership approach is being adopted to reduce pesticides and herbicides within the water resource. This is a partnership between numerous bodies including Northern Water, NIEA, and the Ulster Farmer Union and it involves the trialling of different methods for rush control to reduce herbicide inputs into the water environment. Further benefits are being delivered via European Inter-Regional funding in relation to the bathing waters within the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area. These projects will focus on pollution source modelling and improvements in communication methods to inform the public.

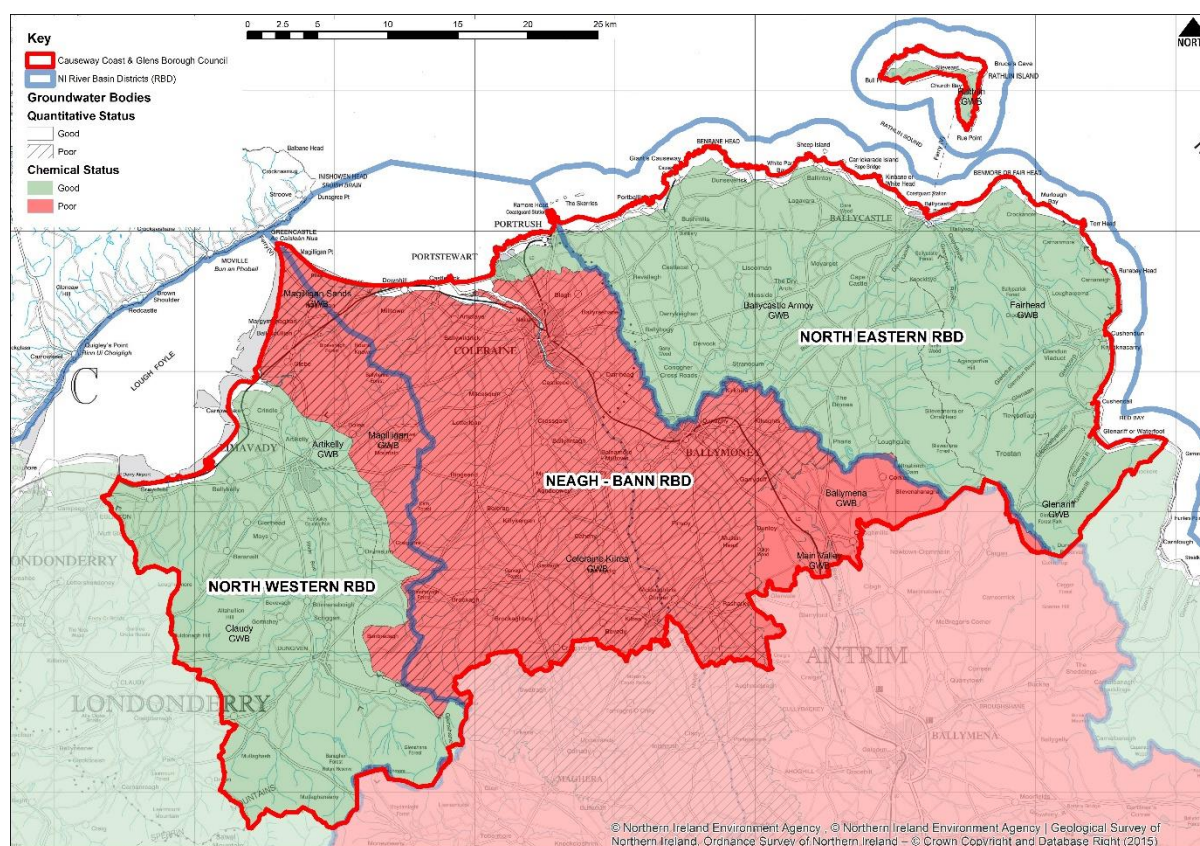
At the Northern Ireland level there has been a gradual trend towards fewer and less severe pollution incidents and improved compliance for private and trade discharge consents since 2001.

Groundwater

There are 13 groundwater bodies intersecting the Council area (Figure 5.11.3). Of these, seven were classified as overall 'good' status in 2015 and six were classified as having 'poor' status.

The main pressure in the Coleraine and Ballymena groundwater bodies is diffuse phosphorus which in turn contributes to phosphorus loading in surface water because of groundwater baseflow contributions. Possible sources include agriculture and septic tanks. The Coleraine and Magilligan groundwater bodies are under pressure from saline intrusion. The Magilligan Sands groundwater body is at 'poor' status because of the status of its groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystem (dune slacks).

Figure 5.11.3: Groundwater Status, 2015



Source: DAERA WMU Digital Dataset Downloads (Accessed 18/10/17)

Drinking Water Protected Areas

There are five drinking water protected areas for surface water catchments used for the abstraction of drinking water and supplying Water Treatment Works (SCA) in the Council area:

- North Eastern RBD – Altnahinch, Dunganell and Rathlin WTW Catchments
- Neagh Bann RBD – Ballinrees WTW Catchment
- North Western RBD - Caugh Hill WTW Catchment

All groundwater bodies in the Council area are also on the register of protected areas.

Economically Significant Aquatic Species – Shellfish

Lough Foyle contains two Shellfish Water Protected Areas, Longfield Bank and Balls Point, which are licensed for mussel and oyster production and which have maintained a microbiological classification of Class B under the EU Hygiene Regulations since 2010. The Longfield Bank and Balls Point (Lough Foyle) Pollution Reduction Programme (2015) reports that, at the conclusion of the first WFD planning cycle in 2015, Lough Foyle was exceeding its ecological objectives for WFD ecological status by achieving 'good' status.

Shellfish Water Protected Areas have a guideline microbiological standard for shellfish flesh which is set in the Water Framework Directive (Priority Substances and Classification) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. This guideline standard requires that 75% of samples contain ≤ 230 E. coli per 100ml of shellfish flesh and intervalvular liquid. Monitoring for the microbiological shellfish classification is carried out by the Food Standards Agency in NI. Longfield Bank and Balls Point achieved the required standard in 2012 and 2013 but have failed in all subsequent years, including the results obtained so far in 2017⁶⁹.

The main pollution sources in Lough Foyle come from direct sewage discharges into the lough and into the Rivers Foyle, Faughan and Roe and from non-point sources related to agricultural land use in the wider Foyle area. The largest discharges by volume come from Culmore WwTW and Limavady WwTW which provide secondary treatment Population Equivalents (PE) of approximately 134, 000 and 16,500 respectively. The Longfield Bank and Balls Point (Lough Foyle) Pollution Reduction Programme (2015) states that no improvements or upgrades have been identified for Culmore WwTW or Limavady WwTW in NI Water's PC15 funding programme which runs to 2021, however monitoring of all combined sewage overflows within 2km of Shellfish Water Protected Areas is to be introduced by NI Water during the PC15 period.

Higher annual rainfall with more intense episodes, which may occur more frequently in the future due to the effects of climate change (see section 6.10), may increase loads of diffuse pollutants from both urban and rural areas. This may increase loading of pollutants to the sea and increase the risk of the failure of microbiological standards in both shellfish and bathing waters.

Economically Significant Aquatic Species – Freshwater Fish

Causeway Coast and Glens has approximately 720 km of rivers on the protected areas register for freshwater fish. These include the Roe, Bush, Bann and Glenshesk Rivers and their principal tributaries. There are no lakes on the protected areas register in the Council area. More than 10 % of river water bodies in the North Western RBD have failures in fish population or habitat affecting waterbody status. Failures in fish ecology can indicate a wide range of pressures such as from physical modifications and abstraction and flow regulation. The EC Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, Sensitive Area Review (2005) has designated the River Roe as sensitive to eutrophication. As a result a standard of 2 mg/l phosphorus (annual average) has been set for the final effluent at Limavady WwTW and a phosphorus removal process has been implemented.

⁶⁹ Food Standards Agency Biotxin and phytoplankton monitoring, Northern Ireland Biotxin and phytoplankton results

Nutrient Sensitive Areas

A total territory approach has been adopted in Northern Ireland for the Nitrates Directives. There are three Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive sensitive areas in the Council area:

- North Eastern RBD – River Bush Catchment
- North Western RBD – River Roe Catchment
- Neagh Bann RBD – Lower Bann Catchment

There has been a trend toward significant reductions in mean nitrate concentrations in groundwater. Long-term trends show that average nitrate concentrations in rivers in Northern Ireland are predominantly decreasing or stable over the 20-year period, 1992-2012, which may be attributed to the measures implemented through the Nitrates Action Programme so that levels are well within EU standards.

Bathing Waters

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has 10 beaches designated under the Bathing Water Quality Directive. These beaches are monitored through the bathing season and a bathing water profile is published annually to allow the public to make an informed choice before bathing. DAERA maintains the interactive 'NI Beach Bathing Water Quality Map' which reports on beach water quality and from which the bathing water profile for each beach can be accessed. Each Profile gives detailed information on the physical characteristics of each bathing water and describes their pollution risk.

Threats to bathing water quality for bathing waters are broadly divided into three categories waste water (sewage) treatment works discharges, waste water systems in urban areas and rural source pollution, including agriculture. Other threats include dogs, horses, litter and fly tipping. The bathing water results from the 2015 and 2016 seasons are summarised below in Table 5.11.2.

Table 5.11.2: Bathing Water Quality Overall Classifications 2015 – 2016

	2016	2015		2016	2015
Benone	Excellent	Excellent	Portrush (Curran Strand)	Sufficient	Good
Downhill	Excellent	Excellent	Whiterocks	Excellent	Excellent
Castlerock	Good	Excellent	Portballintrae (Salmon Rock)	Excellent	Excellent
Portstewart	Excellent	Excellent	Ballycastle	Good	Good
Portrush (Mill Strand)	Excellent	Excellent	Waterfoot	Good	Good

Source: DAERA Bathing Water Profiles, May 2017

Flood Risk

The implementation of the EU "Floods Directive" (2007/060/EC) has resulted in strategic flood risk assessment and mapping being carried out for all of NI and the publication of detailed Flood Hazard and Risk Maps⁷⁰ for the areas determined to be at potential significant flood risk. These maps are continuously updated and are accessible from the DfI website.

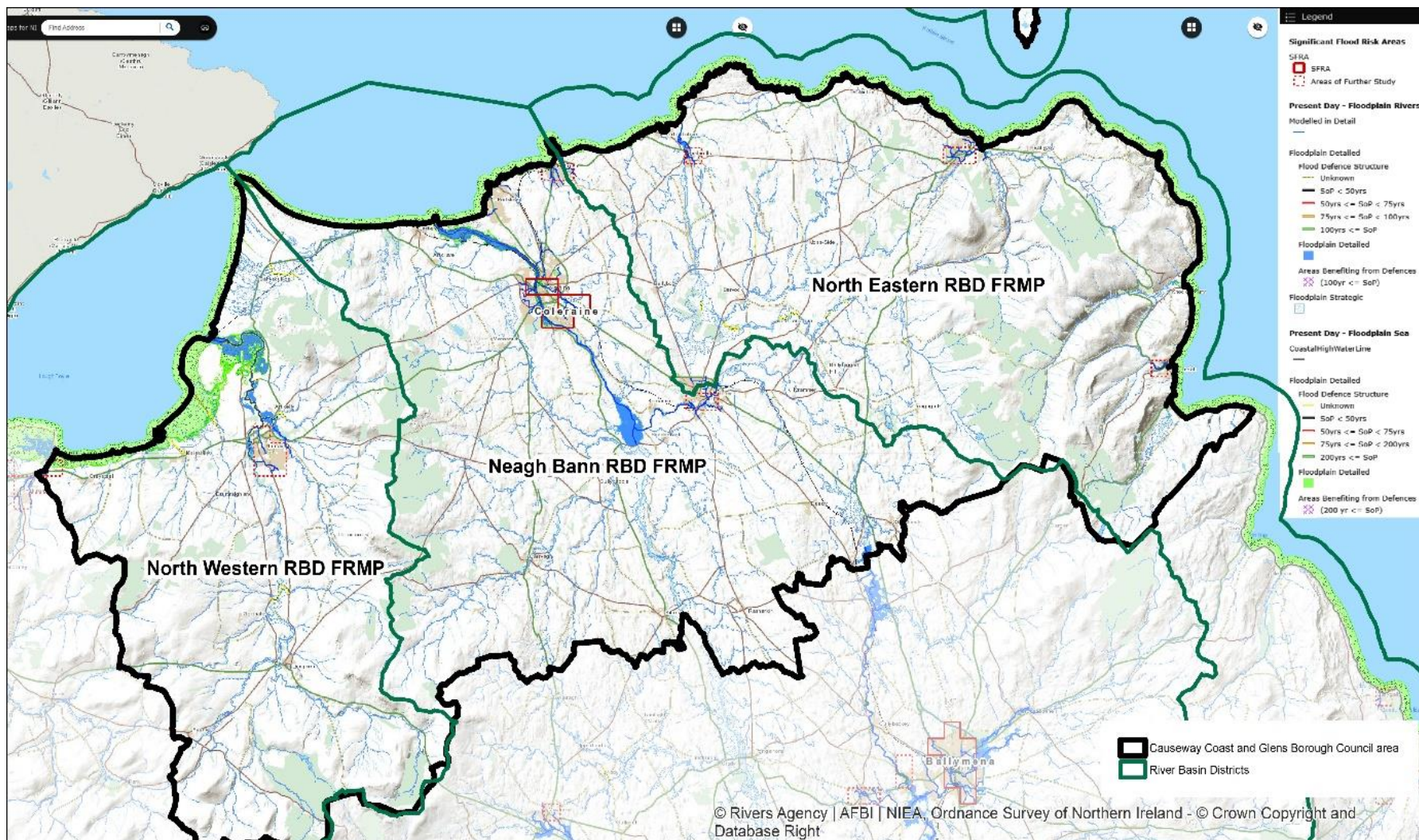
Coleraine, in the Neagh-Bann RBD Flood Risk Management Plan area, is the only settlement in the Council area which has been identified as a SFRA (Figure 5.11.4). Fluvial flood risk in Coleraine is further discussed in the Council's 'Public Utilities' Topic Paper (Discussion Paper 6).

Seven settlements, also shown in Figure 5.11.4, were identified in the PFRA as having a moderate risk of flooding and have been classified as Areas for Further Study. These are:

- Limavady and Eglinton (partially within Derry City and Strabane District Council area) in the North Western RBD;
- Ballymoney in the Neagh Bann RBD; and
- Ballycastle, Bushmills, Cushendall and Portrush in the North Eastern RBD.

⁷⁰ Flood Maps (NI) is accessible through the DfI Mapping Portal <http://dfi-ni.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>

Figure 5.11.4: Significant Flood Risk Areas and Areas for Further Study with River and Coastal Flood Plains



Source: Department for Infrastructure (Rivers) - Flood Maps (NI) (accessed 26/10/2017)

The Floods Directive aims to manage flood risk by:

- Prevention: avoiding construction of houses and industries in flood-prone areas; by adapting future developments to the risk of flooding; and by promoting appropriate land-use, agricultural and forestry practices.
- Protection: taking measures, both structural and non-structural, to reduce the likelihood and impact of floods.
- Preparedness: informing the public about flood risk and what to do in the event of a flood.

The multi-layered strategic Flood Hazard and Risk Maps provide information on flood defences, historical flood events and predicted extreme flood events for river and coastal flooding as well as the potential for surface water flooding. Additional information is available in Flood Maps NI showing the areas within the 1 per cent AEP⁷¹ floodplain, taking account of the impacts of climate change.

A flood management scheme was completed in 2013/14 at Lodgeburn in Coleraine. The Capital works programme published in the FRMPs includes the following works planned in the Council area for the current FRMP cycle:

	Stage	Planned Implementation
Drainage Infrastructure		
Lower Bann - Cutts Sluices	Feasibility Stage	2019/2020 & 2020/2021
Flood Alleviation		
Limavady Black Brae	Pre-feasibility Study	n/a
Limavady River Roe	Design	2015/2016 & 2016-2017
Limavady Weeling St Drain	Pre-feasibility Study	n/a

Lands that are currently defended by Flood defences within the Council area include coastal and river defences at Ballykelly, areas adjacent to the River Roe and its tributaries at Limavady and Artikelly, areas of Ballymoney, areas adjacent to the River Bush including Armoy and Stranocum and measures at Ballycastle, Cushendall and Waterfoot.

Increasingly, reliance on traditional drainage systems is proving inadequate to address the issue of storm drainage. Alone, such systems may not cope with the demands made by new development, in addition to the more intense and increasingly unpredictable rainfall arising from climate change. It is preferable that a range of SuDS solutions be employed as these are more sustainable and often less costly than using traditional piped infrastructure. They also offer multiple benefits such as biodiversity and amenity provision. Examples include localised source control measures such as green roofs, permeable paving and soakaways, or larger passive treatment areas such as ponds and wetlands which can be incorporated into wider green-blue infrastructure (see Section 6.8).

Water Supply

Information on water supply, quantity and quality is not reported at Council level and must be extracted from regional data sets or trends described at a Northern Ireland level. Some of this has been presented in the 'Public Utilities' Topic Paper.

Significant investment in water treatment works, service reservoirs and mains distribution has resulted in improvements in compliance across Northern Ireland with the drinking water standards, from 99.22% in 2004 to 99.86% in 2016⁷².

The provision of water supply in Northern Ireland is the responsibility of NI Water. Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is supplied with water from nine Impounding Reservoirs/Loughs and four

⁷¹ AEP Annual Exceedance Probability – the 1% AEP floodplain outline for rivers has a 1 per cent or greater chance of flooding in any given year (also referred to as a 100 year flood event).

⁷² <https://www.niwater.com/drinking-water/> (accessed 26 Oct. 17)

Water Treatment Works. Rathlin Island is the only part of Northern Ireland where the mains water supply comes from groundwater. NI Water has recently introduced its first Smart Metering pilot scheme on Rathlin Island which allows it to monitor for leaks or other water-related issues remotely and thus be able to respond to problems more quickly, which may help conserve water resources.

As discussed in Section 6.5, tourism is resulting in significant seasonal fluctuation to the population of the Council area. This requires a supply and treatment infrastructure that has the flexibility to adapt to seasonal changes in population equivalent. NI Water has recently completed a £1.3 million project to construct a new reservoir at Monaghclogh in Armoy. The scheme involved the construction of a new reservoir, as well as improving the overall water infrastructure and pipes required to supply water to the popular tourist area of Ballycastle. The scheme arose out of an identified need to strengthen the storage and supply networks in the North Antrim Area. The improvements will bring significant benefits for the local population such as increased security of the water supply and improved water storage capacity which will meet the needs of the growing population.

NI Water and its partners / stakeholders the RSPB and the NIEA have developed a SCAMP (Sustainable Catchment Management Planning) NI strategy to improve the quality and reliability of the water received at NI Water's raw water abstraction points. In addition to improving water quality, SCAMP also focuses on protecting and enhancing the natural environment. One such SCAMP project is underway on the Garron Plateau and is further discussed in section 5.12.2. This catchment management approach, adopted previously by water companies in England, has proven to be more sustainable and more cost effective than dealing with water quality issues at the treatment works.

Table 5.11.3: Existing Water Supply for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Area

Impounding Reservoirs/Loughs	Water Treatment Works
Altnaheglish Reservoir (Dungiven)	
Altikeeragh (Castlerock)	
Ballinrees Reservoir (Coleraine)	Ballinrees Gortycavan WTW
Dunalis (Coleraine)	
Ballywillan (Portrush)	
Craigahulliar (Portrush)	
Ballyversall Reservoir (Coleraine)	
Altnahinch Reservoir (Loughguile)	Altnahinch WTW
Dungonnell (Cargan)	Dungonnell WTW*
	Rathlin Borehole

Source: NI Water*Partially within Mid and East Antrim Borough Council area

There are nine water supply zones wholly or partially within the Council area of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council:

- ZN0101 Ballinrees Coleraine
- ZN0202 Altnahinch Bushmills
- ZN0204 Rathlin Island
- ZN0302 Dungonnell Glarryford
- ZN0501 Moyola Magherafelt
- ZN0601 Ballinrees Limavady
- ZN0603 Carmoney Eglinton
- ZN0604 Caugh Hill Dungiven
- ZN0607 Corrody Derry-Londonderry

Source: NI Water Annual Report on Water Quality for the Borough of Causeway Coast and Glens (2016)

Reservoirs

There are 20 impoundments and reservoirs in the Council area, of which 15 are "controlled reservoirs" (i.e. an impoundment $\geq 10,000$ cubic metres (see Table 5.11.4 and Figure 5.11.5). Dungonnell Reservoir, which is also controlled, sits on the boundary with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and drains into that Council area. Most of these reservoirs are in, or close to, rural

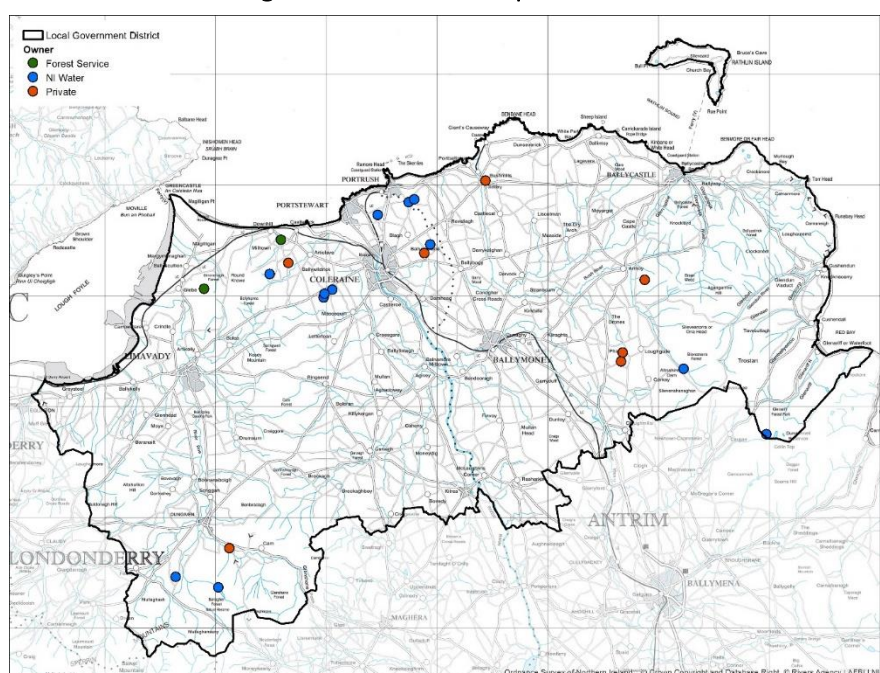
settlements. Flood risk mapping of controlled reservoirs for emergency planning has been carried out by DfI (Rivers).

Table 5.11.4: Reservoirs & Impoundments in Council area

NAME OF RESERVOIR	TYPE	LOCATION	CONTROLLED
Altikeeragh	NI Water	Castlerock	Yes
Altnaheglish Reservoir	NI Water	Dungiven	Yes
Altnahinch Reservoir	NI Water	Loughguile	Yes
Ballinrees Reservoir	NI Water	Coleraine	Yes
Ballinrees Gortycavan WTW	NI Water	Coleraine	Yes
Ballyrashane	Private	Coleraine	
Ballyversall Reservoir	NI Water	Coleraine	Yes
Ballywillan	NI Water	Portrush	
Binevenagh Lake	Forest Service	Limavady	Yes
Bushmills Distillery	Private	Bushmills	
Carrowlaverty	Private	Armoy	
Caugh Hill WTW	NI Water	Dungiven	Yes
Cashel Lake View Fishery	Private	Dungiven	
Craighulliar	NI Water	Portrush	Yes
Downhill Forest Lake	Forest Service	Castlerock	Yes
Dunalis	NI Water	Coleraine	Yes
Dungonnell*	NI Water	Cargan	Yes
Lough-Guile	Private	Ballymoney	Yes
Maddybenny	NI Water	Portrush	Yes
Moorbrook Fishery	Private	Castlerock	Yes
Troopers Hill Lough	Private	Ballymoney	Yes

*Dungonnell Reservoir is on the boundary with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

Figure 5.11.5: Water Impoundments



Source: Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and DAERA Water Management Unit Digital Water Datasets, © Crown Copyright and Database Right

Wastewater Treatment

The provision of wastewater treatment works (WwTWs) in the Plan Area is also the responsibility of NI Water. NI Water has advised in 2018 that 22 of the WwTWs in the Council area are 'at or reaching capacity' and eight 'have insufficient capacity'. Affected settlements include Armoy, Dervock, Dunloy, Kilrea, Loughguile and Stranocum. Further growth is also constrained in Foreglen and Greysteel in terms of the capacity of their waste water treatment works.

In 2013 a £500,000 WwTW was commissioned on Rathlin Island via the Rural Wastewater Investment Programme (RWwIP). The WwTW was specifically designed to have flexible capabilities to cope with the fluctuating winter and summer needs of the Island. A new Wastewater Treatment Works and associated sewer improvement works are currently under construction at Ballycastle. The town is growing in terms of its population, tourism industry and infrastructure. Once complete, this new plant will accommodate increased development and a growth of visitors to the popular tourist town and will also help improve local bathing water quality.

Proximity to existing WwTWs will also be a factor in considering the location of new development land as part of the LDP. When selecting land for development, it is generally desirable to avoid land which is near existing treatment works as these can have adverse amenity impacts. Guidelines are in place between the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and NI Water regarding what can be considered acceptable distances between development and WwTWs. For example, a WwTW with a design equivalent population of 5,000 should not be within 300m of inhabited development.

The Council will continue to work closely with NI Water in its LDP production as the capacity of waste water treatment works may have an influence on the distribution of proposed development in towns and villages. NI Water operates a six year business plan called a Price Control. The current Price Control, known as PC15, spans the period 2015/16 to 2020/21. NI Water's business planning activities for the next Price Control, PC21 (2021/22 to 2026/27) will start during 2018/19.

5.11.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan there will be less certainty about the need for supply or treatment of water therefore infrastructure may not be developed in the most efficient manner. There is a risk that cumulative effects from development will counteract the goals of plans such as the 2015 River Basin Management Plans to achieve good ecological status. While planning policies address issues such as flood risk, the opportunity to take a more strategic approach would be missed. There is a risk that taking decisions in the absence of an up to date plan could result in development that does not make the most sustainable use of infrastructure or which subsequently requires further measures to address knock on effects.

The plan will enable space for surface water management to be identified when zoning land. LDP policy could require, either generally or for specific zonings, that schemes are put in place at design stage so as to minimise surface water runoff.

5.11.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Water

- Shellfish Waters in Lough Foyle are failing to meet Water Framework Directive microbiological targets.
- Marine water quality in the NE RBD and bathing water quality at Portrush Curran Strand are not meeting 'good' standard.
- By comparison to the rest of Northern Ireland, surface water quality is generally high, this is reflected in designations to protect freshwater species and habitats in much of the Council area. (For example Rivers Roe, Bush, Bann and Glenshesk)
- Development may lead to contaminated runoff which may increase pollution of waterbodies.
- Developments without access to mains sewers can incorporate sewage treatment on site but it is important that there is capacity for safe disposal of treated discharges and for maintenance of the treatment system to ensure that it remains effective in the long term.

- Other wastes may also cause pollution at the point where they are disposed of or utilised, e.g. wastes from livestock production, food processing or primary treatment such as sewage or anaerobic digesters.
- Coleraine is identified as a SFRA and there are seven other settlements at moderate risk of flooding.
- Constructed flood alleviation and defence measures are expensive and should be avoided.
- It is predicted that the risk and extent of flooding will be increased by climate change.
- Development should be planned to avoid areas at significant risk from flooding, now or in the future, or where development may increase the flood risk elsewhere.
- Development may lead to changes in the rate of surface water runoff, or the capacity of a receiving watercourse may be altered which in turn has the potential to increase flood risk.
- There are benefits in retaining and restoring natural flood plains and watercourses as a form of flood alleviation - this can support objectives of the Water Framework Directive.
- A safety issue arises because there are not currently legal requirements relating to impounded water therefore there are considered to be risks in potential inundation zones below reservoirs.
- Sustainable drainage (SuDS) measures could be incorporated and maintained in new development and redevelopment or regeneration schemes.
- Plan proposals should be compatible with the Flood Risk Management Plans published by Rivers Agency in December 2015.
- Development in general requires a water supply therefore can increase demands for sources, treatment and distribution infrastructure. This can be offset by measures to make more efficient use of water.
- Seasonal fluctuations in population numbers due to tourism causes additional pressures on water and wastewater infrastructure.
- Water supply and water treatment capacity has not been raised as an issue in this Council.
- The larger WwTWs generally have good capacity at present. There are significant constraints on WwTW provision for several villages and small settlements. This may limit or delay potential for development.

5.12 Natural Resources

5.12.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Natural resources covers biodiversity, fauna, flora, green/blue infrastructure, access and ecosystem services. It includes intertidal and coastal zones as well as the wider marine environment. Natural resources are protected in our regional policy that aims to conserve, protect and enhance our natural environment using a spatial approach. It also aims to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate mitigation and adaptation to climate change whilst improving air quality.

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the Marine Act (NI) 2013 require planning authorities to consider the UK Marine Policy Statement (UK MPS) and the NI Marine Plan when preparing their Local Development Plans (LDPs). The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland is currently out for consultation (2018) and will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of our marine area through a strategic framework with spatial elements. It will consist of a series of policy statements covering cross-cutting marine planning issues that apply to all decision making in the marine area and to relevant sectors. It will not bring forward new policies governed by other departments but will align with and contribute to the policy objectives for key marine activities as set out in the UK MPS and will support and complement existing plans and policies.

One of the aims of the draft Programme for Government is for a society to live and work sustainably, whilst protecting the environment. Indicators include increasing environmental sustainability and improving the country's attractiveness as a destination. Between the draft Programme for Government and Northern Ireland's Sustainable Development Strategy, the benefits of protecting the natural environment for goods and services, and an improved quality of life are clear.

Regional strategies and policy highlight the diversity of Northern Ireland's natural environment. They provide protection of designated sites, species, habitats and other natural features as assets and directly link these to economic, social and environmental benefits. Local Biodiversity Action Plans aim to protect the natural environment and its biodiversity value but they can also ensure provision of a recreational value.

One mechanism to help achieve future protection of our natural resources is the LDP. The Plan can integrate natural heritage features, promote ecological networks and green/blue infrastructure (parks, green spaces, street trees, ponds, rivers, and lakes) to help connect open space and natural habitats. These measures deliver regional policy and should help to protect the natural environment and ecosystem services, as well as support climate change adaptation.

In our Council's Strategy 2015-2019, we commit to becoming a dynamic and progressive Council and 'an exemplar of best practice'. We recognise the important geographical location of our Council and understand how important it is to protect this uniqueness, not just for our residents but also the thousands of visitors that we have every year. 'Protecting and enhancing our environments and assets', is one of five key corporate themes, and ensuring 'a sustainable accessible environment' is one of three strategic themes in our Community Plan. Public engagement for the Community Plan has already highlighted a want for green infrastructure to help provide access to natural resources and green spaces, as well as desires to raise environmental awareness, promote the benefits of the environment and improve protection of it through planning and enforcement. Sustainable management of our natural resources will be fundamental to helping achieve these outcomes. The Council itself also has a statutory duty to 'further the conservation of biodiversity in exercising any functions' under The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011.

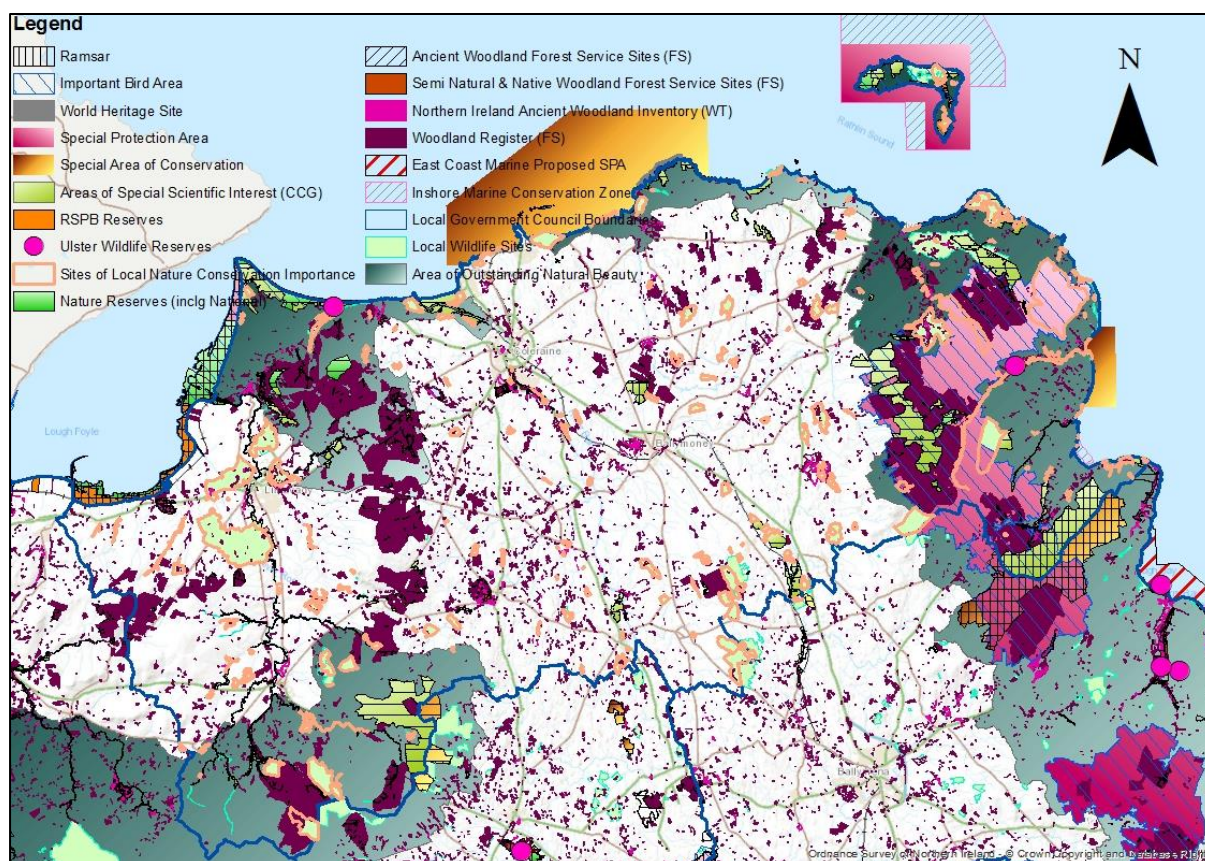
5.12.2 Baseline Information

Relevant information is presented in the LDP Preparatory Studies Discussion Papers on the Environment, Landscape Character, the Coast, and Transportation. This topic also overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport and Accessibility, Air Quality, Climate Change, Water and Landscape topics of this report.

Nature Conservation Sites

The Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council encompasses an extensive area of land with a variety of habitats present from wetlands to woodlands to peatlands. It has an extensive coastline of 237 km with a number of coastal and marine habitats. Protection of the diverse natural environment is achieved using a variety of International, European, regional and local level designations that help to protect the most important areas for nature conservation and amenity interests including a significant number of coastal and marine sites. These sites help to maintain and enhance green/blue infrastructure linkages across the Council.

Figure 5.12.1: Natural Heritage in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council



Source: DAERA, Forest Service NI, Woodland Trust NI, Ulster Wildlife, RSPB

In total, there are four Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), either wholly or partially within the Council. This means half of all the AONBs in Northern Ireland are located within our Council and cover 36.4% of the Council. As shown in Figure 5.12.1 the AONBs encompass nature conservation sites of International and national importance as well as Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs) and Nature Reserves managed by Non-Governmental Organisations. SLNCIs are referred to in the Northern Area Plan (NAP) and can include Wildlife Refuges, Local Nature Reserves and NGO nature reserves, identified for their local biodiversity value. There are 184 in the Council.

The Causeway Coast AONB also contains Northern Ireland's only World Heritage Site (WHS), The Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast. Internationally recognised for its geological importance, the WHS is in the Northern Area Plan and protected using settings and associated policies to help with its conservation. There are four European level Special Protection Areas (SPAs) that protect extensive areas of land in the east of the Council, around Rathlin Island and along the east of Lough Foyle. There are also several Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within the interior as well as along the entire east shore of Lough Foyle and on the north coast from Portrush and east toward the Giant's

Causeway. The coast of Rathlin Island is also an SAC whilst the interior is protected by various designations, as is the coastline and into the surrounding marine environment.

Local wildlife sites and plots of woodland are particularly evident across the Council with larger tracts in the uplands of the west and east. These woodlands consist of Forest Service (FS) sites which include more biodiverse areas of semi-natural, native and ancient woodland. The Woodland Trust (WT) also has ancient woodland records across the Council. SLNCs, which were identified by NIEA for their local biodiversity value, are widespread across the Council, as too are Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) that the Council has identified. The Roe Valley Country Park is also located within the Council area and provides a recreational facility for citizens.

Biodiversity

A Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for the Council directs collective action up until 2018, at which time the LBAP will be updated⁷³. In total, there are 29 habitats and 21 species identified for local action. Priority habitats are located in coastal areas, grass and farmland, the marine environment, peat and heathland, urban areas, woodlands and wetlands. Some of the 21 species identified include scarce crimson and gold moth, barn owl, common seal, common lizard, bumblebee, red squirrel, otter and Atlantic salmon. The Council recognises threats to local biodiversity exist from human activities including climate change and the main threats are habitat loss, pollution and invasive species.

There is a significant amount of local biodiversity connected to the coastline which is protected under several designations ensuring coastal habitat like dune grassland is conserved. These coastal habitats have very specific plants and animals. For example, the small eggar moth is only found in Northern Ireland at the Magilligan site where the rare scarce crimson and gold moth species is also located. The grayling and dark green fritillary butterflies can also be found at Magilligan. A variety of birdlife is also associated with the range of coastal habitats present including black guillemots and Little Terns both of which are birds of conservation concern in Ireland⁷⁴.

The key aims of the LBAP are to conserve and enhance the rich biodiversity of the area; raise awareness of the variety and importance of the area's rich biodiversity; encourage local ownership and guardianship of the area's biodiversity; and incorporate the sustainable use of biodiversity into all new policies and strategies affecting the Council area. The viability of a biosphere reserve within the Binevenagh area has also been researched for a local conservation group with the aim of uniting people with nature⁷⁵.

Green/blue Infrastructure

Green/blue infrastructure is promoted in the SPPS and all natural blue and green spaces and features can be classified as green/blue infrastructure. This includes all of the types of designation in Figure 5.12.1 but also undesignated or unprotected ponds, streams, floodplains, parks, gardens, allotments and street trees.

Planning can use green/blue infrastructure to connect natural features and habitats together across landscapes. By doing so, this can help to maintain and enhance local biodiversity by creating wildlife corridors, which help to strengthen natural infrastructure that acts as floodplain, coastal defence, or a carbon or water store.

At public engagement events held for the Community Plan, some stated a need for more green spaces in urban areas and enhanced green space for people and wildlife. Access to the natural environment was also raised as an issue and access to places like the River Bann⁷⁶. Green/blue infrastructure can provide habitat and wildlife corridors for species but also an amenity value and

⁷³ https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/uploads/general/Causeway_Coast_Glens_Council_BC_LBAP_27.02.13.pdf

⁷⁴ BirdWatch Ireland (BWI) Birds of Conservation Concern Ireland 2014-2019

⁷⁵ Hambrey Consulting: Options and opportunities for establishing a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve within the Binevenagh area

⁷⁶ Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council: Community Planning Public Engagement Meetings June 2016 Findings Report (PR Rankin Associates) July 2016

recreational use for people. Green/blue infrastructure is often multifunctional land and may be able to also integrate walking and cycling routes. More information on active travel can be found in the Transport and Accessibility section of this report.

The Council has several coastal Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) such as at Ramore Head in Portrush and these can protect access to the natural environment as well as helping to conserve open space and local natural features. Coastal LLPAs also act as buffers between settlements and the coastline.

CanoeNI

The waterways in the Council area can be considered blue infrastructure. Canoe NI is part of Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) and promotes Northern Ireland's canoe trails. They help to ensure that canoe trails can exist and access to them is feasible. Within the Council, there are two main trails with access points; one on the Lower River Bann and the other on the North Coast and around Rathlin Island. These trails and access points help to integrate the waterways as multifunctional blue infrastructure.

Figure 5.12.2: Canoe Trail and access points for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council



Source: CanoeNI

Some communities have raised developing cycle and walking trails, improving access to the natural environment and a need to improve environmental awareness⁷⁷ as issues in their areas. Primary and secondary greenway routes⁷⁸ are referred to in the Transport and Accessibility section of this report.

⁷⁷ Causeway Coast & Glens (2016): Community Planning Public Engagement Meetings June 2016 Findings Report *PR Rankin Associates* (July 2016)

⁷⁸ Exercise-Explore-Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways, Department for Infrastructure (DfI), 2016

Ecosystem Services

In recent years, the natural environment has become increasingly recognised for the range of beneficial services that it provides. These include providing food and materials, regulating the physical environment through water and carbon storage, supporting processes such as the water cycle and meeting other needs for people such as recreation and spiritual. These benefits can be referred to as 'ecosystem services' and are referred to in our SPPS as environmental processes that produce essential resources such as food, water and clean air.

There are several examples of projects in our area to protect ecosystem services. The Garron Plateau, which is partially located within our Council, is the largest intact blanket bog in Northern Ireland and the Dungonnell Catchment project is an example of ecosystem services in practice. The bog captures, stores and filters pollutants from rainwater, which is then used by Northern Ireland Water. At the same time the peat habitat acts as both a natural carbon store, which helps to reduce levels of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas linked to a warming climate; and a water store, retaining rainwater and reducing flooding. Overgrazing and drainage have resulted in a degraded habitat with the release of sediment into the rainwater supply. Blanket bog is a globally scarce habitat that supports specialised plants, birds and insects. Partnership working amongst stakeholders has reduced grazing pressure and installed drainage dams to help restore the bog habitat's biodiversity value and full function.

The RSPB's Halting Environmental Loss Project operated along the Lough Foyle basin between 2010 and 2015 and has provided conservation support to farmers in key areas such as Myroe. The conservation advice given to farmers has helped reverse the declines in priority bird species such as breeding lapwing and continues to influence farmers into entering agri-environment schemes.

Figure 5.12.3: Ecosystem Services Project Areas in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council



Source: The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Magilligan SAC/ASSI stretches for 9 miles along the north coast from Lough Foyle and has 7 miles of beach backed by dune systems. Magilligan is a designated site and acts as a natural storm defence,

with the free movement of the dunes. The coastal habitat provides the right conditions for specialised plants, animals and insects over a large area, as well as enabling appropriate access for recreation and leisure.

Northern Ireland Water (NIW) is proposing to treat sewage wastewater at Ballykelly by using a series of wetlands. This type of proposal can enhance local biodiversity, enable access for people to an amenity area and provide a treatment that helps to combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Projects that use 'natural processes in their management', and positively affect or influence biodiversity, are welcomed⁷⁹.

5.12.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without a Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there is the risk that development may occur in inappropriate locations and negatively affect nature conservation sites, wildlife corridors and green/blue infrastructure. It may become increasingly difficult to spatially manage the Borough's natural resources and to influence the extent of local biodiversity. Opportunities to protect green and blue infrastructure and ecosystem services may be missed.

5.12.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Natural Resources

- The only World Heritage Site (WHS) in Northern Ireland is wholly located within our Council and along with its setting, it is a key natural asset that benefits both people and the economy.
- There is a statutory requirement of the Council to further the conservation of biodiversity in its functions.
- Retaining green spaces and natural features is of benefit for local biodiversity but also people's well-being.
- Public engagement has shown a desire for improved public access to the natural environment.
- The LDP could be used as an opportunity to connect natural features and habitats together using green/blue infrastructure and create a natural infrastructure network that helps to reflect several aims of the RDS.
- The coastline is a significant natural feature of the Council that maintains local biodiversity levels but also attracts visitors and tourists.
- A holistic approach to the management of the Borough's coastline could balance competing pressures.
- In addition to the coast, grass and farmland, the marine environment, peat and heathland, urban areas, woodlands and wetlands are among 29 priority habitats for the Council's biodiversity plan.
- Management of development within coastal areas could be approached holistically with the potential risks of flooding, erosion and visual intrusion carefully considered.
- There are a number of ecosystem services projects across the Borough that are helping to protect the natural environment as well as provide an economic service.

⁷⁹ Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Local Development Plan preparatory studies discussion paper on Landscape

5.13 Landscape

5.13.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Landscape protection in Northern Ireland is evident at the regional level with a key aim in the RDS to protect and enhance the environment for its own sake. The environment in Northern Ireland is seen as one of its greatest assets and regional policy encourages protection of natural heritage assets and landscape character.

The SPSS recognises the importance of the countryside as a significant asset. It aims to avoid inappropriate development and provide a high standard of landscape protection that also reflects regional and local differences. Protection of landscape as a consideration is evident within several subject policies including development in the countryside, minerals, open space, sport and outdoor recreation, renewable energy, telecommunications and other utilities.

If areas of a unique landscape or amenity value are present, then the new LDP could include designated policy areas such as Special Countryside Areas (SCAs) to conserve landscape character at a local level. This is in keeping with the aims of the European Landscape Convention, which encourages countries to consider protection of everyday landscapes.

Much of what is valued in a landscape is a blend of natural features and social and cultural history. It is the viewer's perception that provides an intrinsic value. This can help to define a region and provide a sense of place. Landscape is increasingly being realised in economic terms as an asset for tourism but also as a motivator to encourage people to purchase a home or to invest in a new location.

Our Council aims to be dynamic and progressive and aims to work for the benefit of all residents and visitors alike. Part of this work will involve protecting our unique and diverse landscape, that not only supports a thriving tourist industry but also makes the Council a sought after location to work and live in. In our Council Strategy 2015-2019, we have strategic themes that focus on protecting the environment, promoting tourism, enhancing people's health and well-being, and provision of sustainable services. Fundamental to these themes will be careful consideration and protection of the landscape. The links between this unique natural asset and the benefits it can bring to both economic and social well-being are recognised.

5.13.2 Baseline Information

Relevant information is presented in the Council's LDP Preparatory Studies Discussion Paper on Landscape Character. This topic also overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Economy and Employment, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Natural Resources and Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage sections of this report.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Our Borough has four large AONBs either wholly or partially located within it. Together the AONBs provide some of the most valued landscapes that also provide cultural, natural and historical value for people to enjoy. The AONBs cover part of the Sperrins mountain range, the Binevenagh headland and hinterland, and nearly the entire coastline from Lough Foyle in the west, to Glenariff in the Antrim Glens in the east. Rathlin Island is wholly encompassed within the Causeway Coast AONB. As shown in the figure below, the Sperrins, and the Antrim Coast and Glens AONBs are shared with neighbouring Councils. This presents both opportunities and challenges for their future sustainable management. There are management plans for three of these AONBs (Antrim, Binevenagh and Causeway)⁸⁰.

⁸⁰ Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Local Development Plan Discussion Paper on Landscape Character 2015

Figure 5.13.1: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council



Source: DAERA

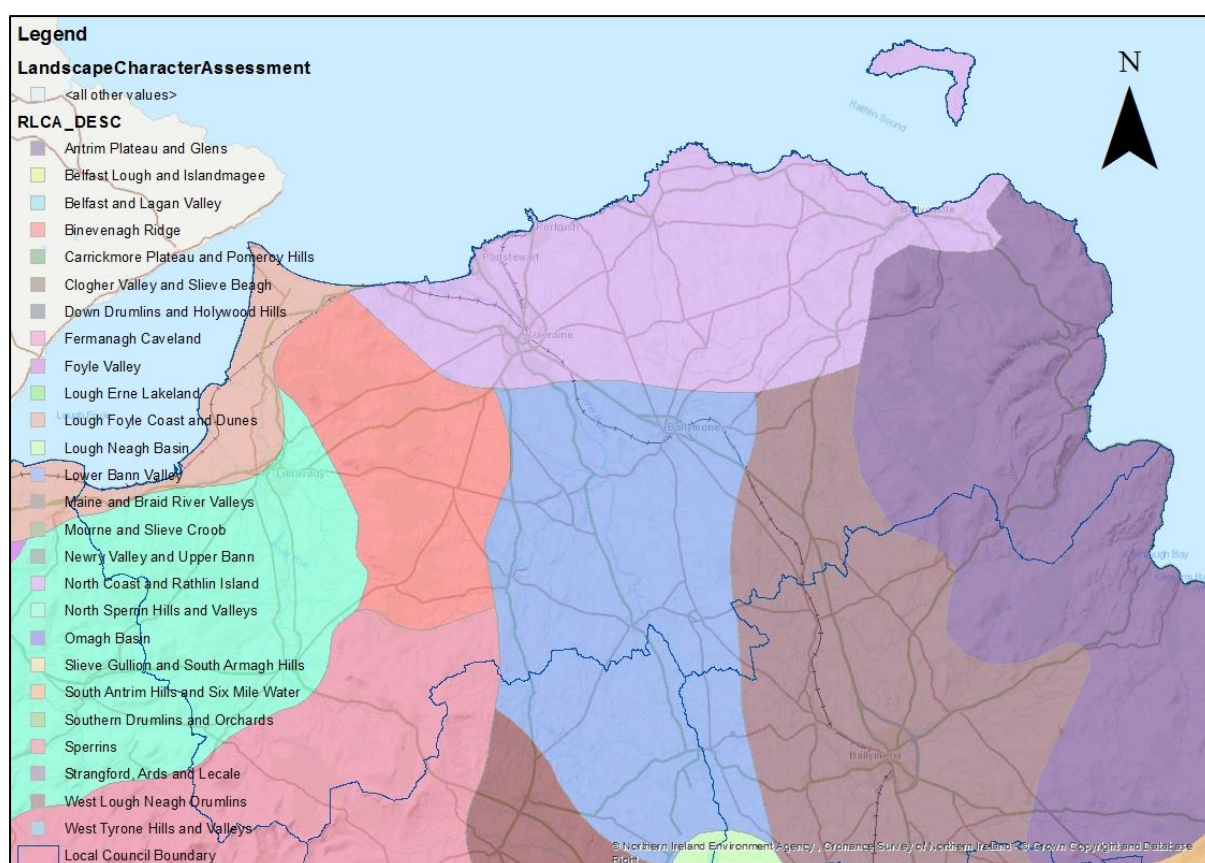
Landscape Character

The Council is covered by 24 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) under the Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment (NILCA). LCAs were developed as a process in the 1980s to help identify variation across landscapes. Since the 1980s and 90s, there has been substantial development in both urban and rural areas which has impacted on local landscape character. The LCAs range from the Lough Foyle Alluvial Plains in the west, to the Moyle Glens and Fair Head in the east, and to the Sperrin Foothills in the south. LCAs in between range from the uplands of Binevenagh to the low-lying Garvagh Farmland, and the Cullybackey and Clogh Mills Drumlins. Several LCAs overlap with other Council areas. A full list of LCAs is provided in the LDP discussion paper on Landscape. Further information can be found at www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/landscape-character-northern-ireland.

Regional Landscape Character

The Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA) divides the country into 26 distinct areas known as RLCAs, which provide a regional and strategic overview of landscape character. The regional character areas are based upon a combination of factors including people, place, nature, culture and perception. Descriptions for each RLCA include subjects like location and setting, and key characteristics but forces and indicators of change and ecosystem services are also included.

Figure 5.13.2: Regional Landscape Character Areas for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council



Source: DAERA

Eight RLCAs are located within the Council and these are listed in the LDP Landscape discussion paper. These include the North Sperrin Hills and Valleys, the Lough Foyle Coast and Dunes, the North Coast and Rathlin Island, the Maine and Braid River Valleys, and the Antrim Plateau and Glens. The majority of these RLCAs are shared with neighbouring Councils and range in character from steep wooded valleys, to mudflats and dune systems, to basalt ridges. More information can be found on the DAERA website.

Seascape Character

The Council has a substantial length of coastline at just over 237 km. In 2014, the Northern Ireland Regional Seascape Character Assessment was published with 24 areas. It provides a strategic overview of seascapes, which are unique geographic areas of land, intertidal and marine areas with a recognisable sense of place and identity. There are 11 SCAs relevant to our Council and these include Lough Foyle, Atlantic, the Northern Glens Coast, and the North Channel. There are varying levels of sensitivity to physical change along its length and so it is important to consider landscape issues at a local level as well as at a strategic level. All of Northern Ireland's SCAs are shown in the LDP discussion paper on Landscape and more information can be found on the DAERA website.

Local Landscape Policy Areas

Numerous Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) in the Council area have been designated to maintain the setting of local settlements. LLPAs protect natural features and spaces, as well as views from settlements to other landscape features. Together these aspects combine to help create a sense of place and the character of a settlement. LLPAs can protect features that are of value to the local setting and that make an area attractive. There is guidance on protection of the main features of each LLPA.

Trees are an obvious natural feature that can be part of an LLPA that also provide biodiversity and amenity value. In total there are 82 Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) in the Council area to help protect trees or woodland of a high amenity value and removal of which would have a significant impact on the local environment.

World Heritage Site

The Giant's Causeway is the only World Heritage Site (WHS) in Northern Ireland. Its setting has been protected from inappropriate development under designations and policies in the Northern Area Plan to help maintain the integrity of the site. There is a Distinctive Setting around the WHS and this helps to guide potential developers in this area toward a certain form of building proposal. The WHS was the most popular visitor attraction in 2016 and is vitally important for visitors from the domestic market as well as abroad. It is important for the future preservation of the site that its integrity is protected.

Area of Significant Archaeological Interest

There is an Area of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI) located at Dunluce Castle on the north coast and although separate from the WHS, it is within the same stretch of coastline. The ASAI has its own setting and as such, any proposed developments should carefully consider the castle's landscape setting. The ASAI adds to the level of protection for landscape in this part of the Council and helps to maintain this asset.

Development Pressure

There is some evidence of localised development pressure within the Council area from wind energy and rural housing, from which the AONBs are not immune. Two thirds of the Council's population live outside the main towns and with a more dominant rural aspect to the Council, pressure for land for rural housing and related infrastructure is widespread. More information is in the Physical Resources section of this report.

5.13.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there could be an increased risk of losing or degrading landscapes due to over development or inappropriate siting of structures. It could become increasingly difficult to spatially manage new development in the context of local landscape character, particularly in the AONBs and other areas of landscape quality experiencing local development pressure. The opportunity to update landscape protection designations into the plan would be missed.

5.13.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Landscape

- There is a wide variety of landscape types across the Council including four Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), 24 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), six Regional Landscape Character Areas (RLCAs) and 11 Seascape Character Areas (SCAs).
- The Borough's landscape quality is regionally important for tourism and attractive to investors for housing, recreation and business ventures.
- Both strategic and local level approaches to landscape protection are required to manage potential impacts on landscape quality.
- Local level measures could be developed to help address local development pressures within the AONBs and other areas particularly sensitive to landscape change.
- The Council has a responsibility to accommodate appropriate renewables to help reduce reliance on fossil fuels and to combat climate change but this must be balanced with decisions on the potential environmental impacts.
- The Council could consider local level landscape studies or Pressure Analysis to compliment RLCAs and SCAs to help both manage local development pressure and guide planning decisions, and protect local landscape quality.
- It is important for the World Heritage Site (WHS) to continue to be considered in the context of its Distinctive Setting and reduce the risk of inappropriate development proposals.

- LLPAs could be reviewed to incorporate their key features and settings.
- Many of the designated nature conservation sites in the Borough are also important in landscape.

5.14 Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

5.14.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe 1992 and the European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe 1987 (known respectively as the 'Valetta Convention' and the 'Granada Convention') place responsibility on member states to consider the conservation of archaeological resources and to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. The Xi'an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas (2005) aims to contribute through legislation, policies, planning processes and management to better protect and conserve the world's heritage structures, sites and areas in their settings. In the regional context PPS 6: Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage, along with its addendum, sets out planning policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and built heritage features. Supplementary planning guidance in the form of booklets incorporating local policies, design guides and baseline audits are published for Conservation Areas.

Overarching policy recognises that townscape, built heritage, archaeology and cultural heritage form an important part of the character and appearance of our cities, towns, villages, small settlements and countryside. They are also part of our culture and can contribute to our quality of life. Historic and Cultural resources have the potential to benefit our community and our economy in terms of tourism and regeneration. They contribute to the sense of place in our towns, villages and smaller settlements and are part of what is unique about places in the Council area.

Regional guidance recognises that quality natural assets, interesting architecture, and built heritage can contribute to a feeling of being somewhere unique, which contribute to the tourism offer. Reuse of both listed and locally important buildings can contribute to urban and rural renaissance, which can help vitality and footfall in settlement centres, supporting the local economy.

The policy objectives in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) include:

Secure the protection, conservation, and, where possible, the enhancement of our built and archaeological heritage.

Promote sustainable development and environmental stewardship with regard to our built and archaeological heritage.

Encourage the link between conservation and economic prosperity.

Our Council Strategy has five strategic themes which include 'Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities' and 'Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets'. The Strategy also recognises that our area attracts thousands of tourists every year. The region has a rich and diverse built heritage, which contributes to our sense of place and history. We view this as being a key tourism and recreational asset, making a valuable contribution to the environment, economy and society.

The first theme of our Community Plan is 'A Healthy, Safe Community'. Part of the plan to achieve this aim is to develop joint-working initiatives through culture, arts and heritage to deliver health, wealth and happiness in line with the area-wide Strategy for Culture, Arts and Heritage 2016-21. The third theme of our Community Plan is 'A Sustainable, Accessible Environment' and includes the plan outcome of 'a sustainably managed natural and built environment' with the supporting objective 'that the historic and natural environment of Causeway Coast and Glens area is fully understood, protected and well looked after'. Our third theme is 'A Thriving Economy' which recognises that the Causeway Coast and Glens area has tourism, heritage and world class events as key contributors to economic growth.

5.14.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in a number of LDP Preparatory Study Discussion Papers including Environment, Landscape Character and Tourism. The Historic Environment Division (HED) of the Department for Communities (DfC) has also published its digital datasets of the historic environment online⁸¹ and has created a Historic Environment Map Viewer⁸². This topic also overlaps with the Landscape and Economy and Employment sections of this report.

Overview

The Council area includes evidence of built heritage through a range of historic periods, with the earliest dating from 9,000 years ago. The Mountsandel Mesolithic Site in Coleraine is the oldest archaeological site and known human settlement in Ireland, with carbon dating indicating a date of 7000B.C. This built heritage continues through to the development of our present day towns and villages with the historic core and buildings within some of our settlements designated as Conservation Areas and many listed buildings. The quality of the built environmental heritage in parts of the Council Area is therefore high and with this comes the need and responsibility to protect and conserve for our own and future generations to enjoy and experience.

Listed Buildings

There are a total of approximately 943 Listed Buildings⁷⁸ in the Council area, 11 of which have been assigned Grade A status, including Mussenden Temple, Drenagh House and the West Lighthouse on Rathlin Island. A further 200 buildings (approx.) are listed, but are 'record only' or have not yet been allocated a grade.

Buildings at Risk

The Ulster Architecture and Heritage Society, in conjunction with the DfC, has compiled an online list of Built Heritage at Risk in Northern Ireland (BHARNI)⁸³. These are buildings and monuments of architectural and historic interest whose future seems threatened and may be suitable for restoration and repair. There are 57 such buildings in the Council area identified on the list, including former schools, a public house, churches, graveyards and several thatched houses. While these are not exclusively 'listed' buildings, the vast majority are. Some of the buildings on this list have been repaired or restored since the list was compiled, however a number of buildings remain at 'critical' risk.

Sites and Monuments Record

The Causeway Coast and Glens has a particularly rich record of archaeological sites and historic monuments, especially along its coastlines, rivers and on Rathlin Island. Scheduled sites are archaeological and historic sites and monuments that are afforded protection under Article 3 of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 and there are 309⁷⁸ such Scheduled sites in our Council area. The Schedule of Historic Monuments maintained by the HED lists a further 2,656⁷⁸ unscheduled Sites and Monuments located across the Council area. Five of these sites are currently proposed for scheduling, one of which, (St. Adamnan's Church) is also under state care. The Schedule includes assets such as prehistoric standing stones and tombs, early Christian era raths and crannogs and more modern features such as a World War II airfield, anti-aircraft battery and pillbox. Potentially, more sites may be discovered through archaeological work, during development operations or through agricultural activity.

The Council area has 25 Monuments in State Care, which, with the exception of the newly added St. Adamnan's Church (near Garvagh) are listed and shown on Map 2 of the Tourism LDP discussion paper.

⁸¹ Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 02 August 2017)

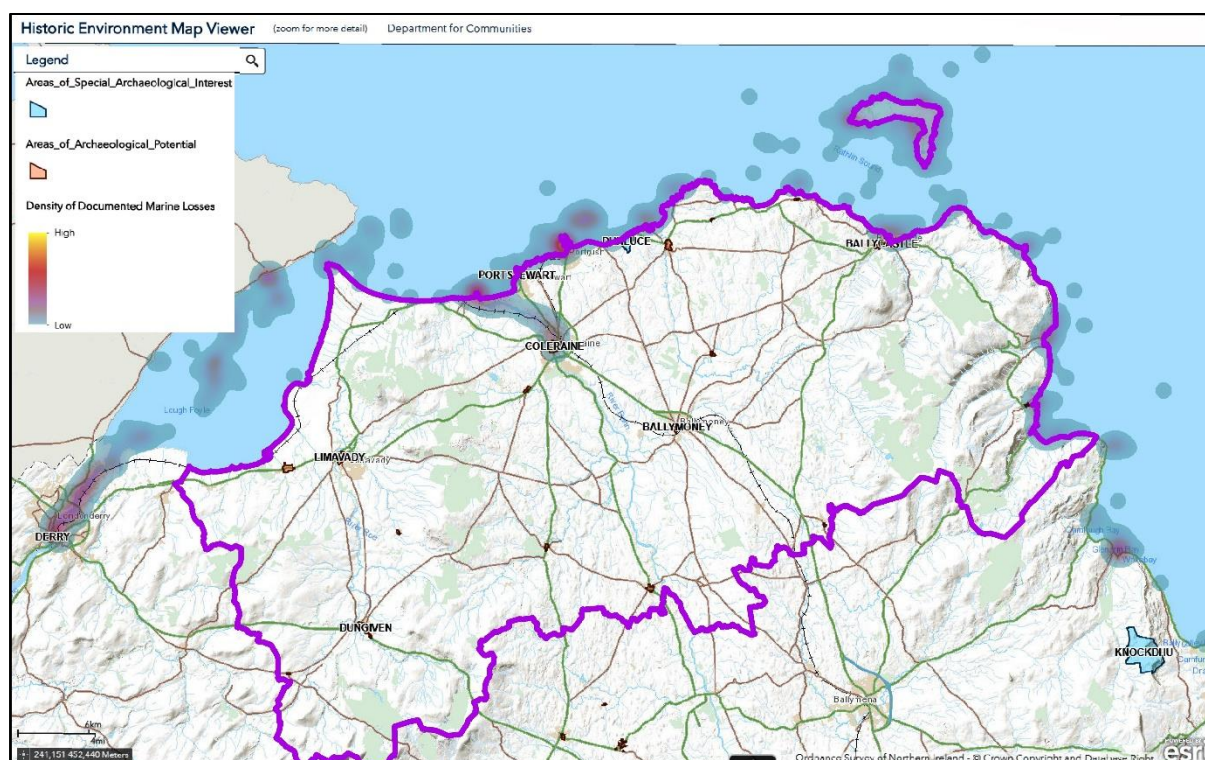
⁸² <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/historic-environment-map-viewer>

⁸³ Department for Communities Buildings at Risk Register for Northern Ireland (accessed 13/10/2017)

Areas of Special Archaeological Interest

There is one Area of Special Archaeological Interest (ASAI) in the Council area, surrounding Dunluce Castle. Dunluce Castle is a landmark historic feature representing a fine example of a defensive location on the North Coast. Recent excavations on the landward area opposite the castle have revealed a settlement dating from the 15th and 16th centuries. The castle is located on top of a crag surrounded on three sides by the sea and the setting of this feature within the landscape forms an important part of its character and heritage value. New Candidate ASAs have been identified by HED and are currently under consideration at Banagher and Dungiven.

Figure 5.14.1 Historic Environment Mapviewer: ASAI, AAP & Density of Documented Marine Losses



Source: Department for Communities Historic Environment Map Viewer

Area of Archaeological Potential

There are 20 settlements in the Council area with identified Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAP). These are:

- Ballymoney
- Cloghmills
- Dervock
- Coleraine
- Garvagh
- Kilrea
- Macosquin
- Portrush
- Portstewart
- Ballykelly
- Drumsurn
- Dungiven
- Feeny
- Limavady
- Ballintoy
- Ballycastle
- Bushmills
- Cushendall
- Lisnagunoge
- Waterfoot

Source: Department for Communities Historic Environment Department Consultation Response

The Gazetteer of Nucleated Historic Settlements is the result of a programme of work within the DfC to identify historic settlement centres and from these, in some cases, identify new AAP or modify existing AAP. The draft Gazetteer includes 20 such potential new AAP within the Council area, including at Arroy, Cushendun, Portballintrae, Rasharkin and Stranocum.

The new LDP will consider the designation of new ASAI and AAP through consultation with the DfC.

Marine Historic Environment

The nature of our coastline has resulted in several areas with high densities of documented marine losses (see Figure 5.14.1), in particular Portrush, the Skerries and the mouth of the Lower Bann. Around 40 historic shipwrecks are known to be located close to our coastline and in the tidal portions of the River Bann, however many more documented shipwrecks remain unlocated. Northern Ireland's most famous shipwreck site is that of the Spanish Armada vessel *La Girona*, which sank at Lacada Point, close to the Giant's Causeway, in 1588. The wreck of *La Girona* was designated in 1993 as a protected Marine Archaeological Site under the Protection of Wrecks Act. The wreck of *HMS Drake*, which was torpedoed by a U-boat and sank off the coast of Rathlin Island in 1917, also became a protected site in 2017 through its designation as Scheduled Historic Monument.

Submerged Landscape Sites include artefacts dating from the Stone Age which have been discovered at Portrush West Strand and White Park Bay, while intertidal areas at Portstewart and Sandelford have yielded archaeological finds dating from the Mesolithic period (7000-8000 years B.C.). Intertidal or offshore development, such as undersea cables, offshore wind farms or tidal/wave energy arrays, has the potential to discover new evidence of the marine historic environment.

Industrial Heritage

Our Council area also contains a wealth of remains from the industrial past, which are reminders of the economic as well as the social development of the area. Sites of industrial heritage can be found in the main towns and also in rural locations. They include former collieries and mines, lime kilns, corn and flax mills, beetling mills and saw mills. There are numerous bridges, tunnels and other engineering features remaining from the former Belfast and Northern Counties Railway and also localised narrow gauge railways or tramways which were built in the 19th century for the tourism or minerals industries. Former narrow gauge railway routes include Glenariff to Red Bay, Ballycastle to Ballymoney, and Portrush to the Giant's Causeway. As discussed in section 6.8, parts of these former railway routes are under consideration for the development of new greenways.

Defence Heritage

In 2015 the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) published *Defending the Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty*. Pointing to the significance of this 'strategically important stretch of Europe's North Atlantic coastline', the publication explains its role in defence in the 20th century and highlights how this was shaped by the physical topography, as well as pointing to its ongoing legacy. A defence heritage audit⁸⁴ has also been commissioned for Binevenagh Coast and Lowlands and both reports have the aim of prioritising the protection of remaining assets and promoting their value, encouraging local people and visitors to experience, learn from and appreciate them. The Council area contains many defence heritage assets, mainly associated with World War II, although the Martello tower at Magilligan Point was constructed in response to the threat of invasion from Napoleonic France (although only completed in 1817, two years after Napoleon's defeat). Defence heritage assets include pillboxes, observation posts and gun positions, many of which are situated along the coastline. Former airfields which have many of their original buildings and structures still present remain near Limavady and Aghadowey. A former radar station, RAF Murlough Bay, is located west of Torr Head.

Historic Parks and Gardens

Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes reflect planned and managed landscape enhancement carried out since the 17th Century. The Council area has a total of 18 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes on the Register which are considered to be of exceptional importance within Northern Ireland. These include 290ha surrounding Lissanoure Castle and 224ha surrounding Drenagh House. A further 13

⁸⁴ Quarto and Ulidia Heritage Services (2017), Binevenagh Coast and Lowlands Defence Heritage Audit (for proposed Landscape Partnership Scheme)

supplementary sites have also been identified as having a high level of interest and are included as an appendix to the main Register.

Table 5.14.1: Registered Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes

Important Northern Ireland sites		Supplementary sites	
L-089	Anderson Park	L-040	Ardnargle
AN-005	Ballydivity		Bovagh House
AN-006	Ballyhibistock House	AN-108	Clare Park
AN-007	Ballylough House		Cromore
AN-069	Beardville	L-041	Dog Leap
L-002	Bellarena	AN-103	Dunluce Castle
AN-011	Benvariden House		Gardenvale
L-005	Downhill		Knocktarna House
L-006	Drenagh		Lizard Manor
AN-026	Dundarave		Moore Fort
L-039	Guy Wilson Daffodil Garden		Moore Lodge
L-045	Knockan / Ash Park	L-018	Pellipar
AN-048	Leslie Hill	L-022	Roe Valley Park
AN-049	Lissanoure		
AN-052	Magherintemple		
AN-056	O Harabrook		
AN-039	The Manor House (Rathlin)		
L-013	Walworth		

Source: Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date published 02 August 2017)

Conservation Areas

Our Council area has a total of five Conservation Areas. They are:

- Cushendall Conservation Area (designated 1975)
- Cushendun Conservation Area (designated 1980)
- Ballycastle Conservation Area (designated 1990)
- Bushmills Conservation Area (designated 1992)
- Ballymoney Conservation Area (designated 1994)

The aesthetic reasons for retaining the best of the built heritage has helped grow public awareness of conservation. Many environmental and economic benefits can also be derived from Conservation Area designations, such as tourism and heritage related leisure activities, making them desirable places to live, work, shop and do business.

Areas of Townscape Character

A total of four Areas of Townscape Character have been identified. These are Coleraine Town Centre, Coleraine Lodge Road, Portrush and Limavady. Portballintrae and Armoy are identified as Areas of Village Character.

Local Landscape Policy Areas

Owing to the unique nature of our Council area in terms of its landscape, seascape, nature conservation importance, archaeological sites and monuments and their surroundings, there is a particularly high number (148) of Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPA) within the Council area. These are listed in Appendix 3 of the LDP 'Environment' Discussion Paper.

5.14.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, opportunities to consider the historical and cultural assets in the Council area in future growth and place-shaping for the Council area may be missed.

There are a very large number of strategic heritage assets in the Council area, dating from the Mesolithic period through to World War II. Without a new LDP in place, opportunities to designate new areas of special archaeological interest and identify new areas of archaeological potential in the LDP might also be missed. Opportunities might also be missed to take advantage of the potential that archaeological, industrial, and defence heritage assets have as part of our tourism and visitor offer, leading to reduced economic benefit for local communities.

The protection, conservation and regeneration of historic places can contribute to well-being in society through providing people with enjoyment, inspiration, learning opportunities, mental and physical health benefits, and a sense of place and identity.

It has been recognised that there is evidence of incremental erosion of historic/architectural character and appearance within some of the designated conservation areas. In the absence of a LDP the 'setting' of historic assets or places, which may extend far beyond the boundary or curtilage of the site, may not be taken into consideration. A new LDP is an opportunity to consider the reasons for these issues and identify the positive role that planning can play.

5.14.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

- The historic environment and cultural heritage play a role in maintaining and enhancing the sense of place in our settlements and rural locations, which can be supported by good building design that recognises historic environment evidence in both urban and rural locations.
- Heritage assets are at risk from neglect, decay, development pressures and vacancy.
- 'Buildings at Risk' could continue to be identified and efforts made by the relevant authority to maintain their regular use and/or support their restoration.
- The innovative reuse of existing historic building stock should be promoted. Low carbon buildings are possible through the use of sympathetic materials and application of climate change resilience methods.
- The Council area has a rich archaeological heritage, and this could be further explored by the relevant authority through identifying new Areas of Archaeological Potential.
- The setting and landscape of the ASAs and any potential new ASAs should be preserved.
- Undesignated marine Heritage Assets such as Shipwrecks and Submerged Landscape Sites, whilst not statutorily protected, must be given appropriate evaluation and consideration.
- The Council area also has a rich industrial heritage through milling, linen and textiles production and its 19th Century transport engineering.
- There are also many defence heritage sites. Defence heritage that has not been designated through other methods (e.g. listed building, scheduled zone) has no planning protection.
- Further opportunities could be explored to link heritage assets with tourism and to encourage use / reuse of resources for community / education activities.
- Regionally important historic buildings, such as Dunluce Castle and Mussenden Temple, are set in a natural environment. The natural and built environment can add value to each other.
- There is ongoing loss of certain non-designated heritage assets such as historic farmsteads and buildings in the countryside, industrial and defence heritage, and historic shopfronts in some towns and settlements. Non-designated assets which are of heritage or architectural importance in the context of overall landscape, townscape or heritage value should be recognised.
- Climate change has the potential to cause long term impacts on the historic environment, for example through coastal erosion and more unpredictable or severe weather.
- The existing Conservation Areas in Ballycastle, Ballymoney, Bushmills and Cushendall may be at risk of flooding both with and without the effects of climate change, as they are located

within Significant Flood Risk Areas or Areas for Further Study identified by DfI Rivers under the Floods Directive.

- There may be opportunities to maintain or reflect historic route ways and townland boundaries.
- Traffic pollution, air quality and noise pollution may affect the historic environment.

6 THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

6.1 The Sustainability Objectives

Sustainability objectives have been identified through consideration of intentional, national, regional and local policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives; baseline information at regional and, where available, at local level and apparent trends.

The Sustainability Objectives are informed by the topic review and key sustainability issues identified in Chapter 6. The objectives follow with a short rationale and description of what each seeks to achieve. There are several overlaps between objectives which generally support each other. The prompts used to assess plan options against the Sustainability Objectives are presented in Appendix 5.

The objectives for sustainable development in Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council are to...

1...improve health and well-being.

Public policy seeks to increase healthy life expectancy, reduce preventable deaths, improve mental health and reduce health inequalities. Evidence shows that there is a need to address obesity, increase physical activity and reduce inequalities in health. It is also necessary to provide for the needs of an aging population and minimize the detrimental impacts of noise. This can be achieved by creating an environment that is clean and attractive; encourages healthy lifestyles; protects tranquil and quiet areas and enables access to health care facilities for all.

2...strengthen society.

Regional policy is directed towards improving community relations and creating a safe society which is more united. Success will be represented by places which are inclusive, respect culture and identity, promote social integration and create a sense of pride. They will also be designed to feel safe and to reduce opportunity for crime or anti-social behaviour.

3...provide good quality, sustainable housing.

The population is growing and therefore there is ongoing need for new housing in locations that meet regional policy, are accessible and balance the needs of society and the environment. The make-up of households is changing therefore design needs to meet long term requirements with good quality build to be sustainable. This objective should reduce homelessness and ensure decent, affordable homes with a mix of types.

4...enable access to high quality education.

Good education improves opportunities for employment and also contributes to avoidance of poverty and healthier lifestyles. The provision of suitable accommodation for educational establishments in appropriate, accessible locations should play a part in making schools more sustainable and reducing inequalities in education.

5...enable sustainable economic growth.

Regional policy seeks to develop a strong, competitive and regionally balanced economy. It is necessary to provide suitable locations for employment, with flexibility where necessary, to reflect current and future distribution of jobs across sectors, encourage new business startups, facilitate innovation, regenerate areas, attract investment and make employment as accessible as possible for all. This will reduce unemployment and poverty by helping more people to earn a living and increase their income.

6...manage material assets sustainably.

Material assets such as infrastructure and sources of energy production are essential for society and the economy but need careful planning to ensure that they are designed for efficiency and to minimize adverse impacts. The concept of circular economy treats waste as resource which should be managed sustainably to reduce production and increase recovery, recycling and composting rates; new or adapted facilities may be required.

7...protect physical resources and use sustainably.

Land, minerals, geothermal energy and soil are resources which require protection from degradation and safeguarding for future use. Sustainable agriculture, tourism and sustainable use of minerals and geothermal energy can help to support the economy.

8...encourage active and sustainable travel.

There is a common goal to reduce traffic emissions and congestion which means reducing car use and increasing other forms of transport. Better access to public transport and opportunities for active travel make travel more affordable with added health benefits and also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Measures that help reduce car use and improve accessibility to encourage a shift to travel by public transport, walking and cycling will contribute to this goal.

9...improve air quality

Air pollution has serious impacts on human health as well as degrading the natural environment. This objective can be achieved through reducing sources of air pollution. Where air pollution cannot be totally excluded careful siting of development should avoid impacts on sensitive receptors.

10...reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.

International commitments require greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced to lessen their effects on climate. Measures that help reduce energy consumption and enable renewable energy helps lessen greenhouse gas emissions however adaption is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change.

11...protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.

This objective encompasses reducing levels of water pollution, sustainable use of water resources, improving the physical state of the water environment and reducing the risk of flooding now and in the future. It meets the requirements of Northern Ireland legislation, strategies and plans in support of the Water Framework Directive and other Directives that relate to water and it takes account of the future impacts of climate change.

12...protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.

International obligations which are adopted in Northern Ireland legislation and policies require the protection of biodiversity including flora, fauna and habitats. This is for their intrinsic value and for the wider services that they provide to people, the economy and the environment for example as carbon stores which lessen the effects of climate change. This objective includes protecting and enhancing biodiversity as well as protection of green and blue infrastructure to enhance the services that natural resources provide.

13...maintain and enhance landscape character.

International and national policies seek to conserve the natural character and landscape of the coast and countryside and protect them from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development. This objective seeks to maintain the character and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes and to protect and enhance open spaces and the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors

14...protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.

Built and cultural heritage are resources that inform our history and bring character and sense of place. They also attract visitors and contribute to the economy and bring vibrancy to the places where we live, work and relax. This can be achieved by protecting and enhancing Conservation Areas, townscapes and other sites of historic and cultural value including their setting.

6.2 Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives

A comparison has been drawn between all of the Sustainability Objectives to identify any conflicts between them and is presented in Appendix 3. No Sustainability Objectives were considered to be incompatible with the rest of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. In some cases, however the effect is uncertain.

6.3 Next Steps

This scoping report provides the Sustainability Appraisal Framework that has been used to appraise the Preferred Options Paper and prepare the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report. The Scoping Report will be reviewed and updated at each subsequent step of plan preparation to reflect new context and baseline information.

6.4 Difficulties Encountered in Compiling the Scoping Report

With the establishment of our Council in 2015 and the new statutory Community Planning duty there has been a great deal of data collection for a variety of purposes including our Community Plan. It has not always been possible to align all of the evidence used for this scoping report with other evidence as timeframes and purpose for which data was collected may differ. Further information will be gathered to inform the LDP. The scoping report evidence will be reviewed and updated where necessary before publication of the draft Sustainability Report at Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan.

Predicting effects and trends always involves an element of uncertainty or a need for assumptions to be made. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by gaps in the baseline and understanding of future trends. In some cases information is either not available at Council level or there is not a series of data to inform trends. Some information is not currently available online, for example the DAERA Marine Map Viewer is in preparation.

APPENDIX 1: COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Schedule 2 of *The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004* lists the following information required for environmental reports, according to Regulation 11(3), (4). The location in this Scoping Report or the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report is identified.

Requirement	Location
1. An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	An introduction to the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Local Development Plan (LDP) is presented in Chapter 4 of this Scoping Report and Appendix 4 outlines the relationship with other plans, programmes and policies.
2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	Baseline information is presented in Chapter 6, under topic sections and each section highlights the likely evolution of the baseline without the LDP.
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	The environmental characteristics of our Council area are outlined in Chapter 6 of this report. More detail will be added to this at the Plan Strategy stage.
4. Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds(9) and the Habitats Directive.	Chapter 6 identifies environmental problems and Appendix 7 outlines sites to which the Directives apply and potential pathways and effects that could arise from development.
5. The environmental protection objectives, established at International, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Each section of Chapter 6 outlines the main policy themes for that topic. Appendix 4 outlines the relationship with other plans, programmes and policies.
6. The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as – (i) biodiversity; (ii) population; (iii) human health; (iv) fauna; (v) flora; (vi) soil; (vii) water; (viii) air; (ix) climatic factors; (x) material assets;	These issues are all covered in the 14 sustainability objectives in the Sustainability Appraisal Framework used to assess the options and reported in Appendix 5 of the Interim Report. Interrelationships referred to in Chapter 4 and Appendix 3 of the Interim Report.

Requirement	Location
(xi) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; (xii) landscape, and (xiii) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub paragraphs (i) to (xii).	
7. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	This is considered in the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report Chapter 3 and Appendix 5.
8. An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	Chapter 2 of the SA Interim Report considers this in general and Chapter 3 and Appendix 5 provide more detail on the options appraised and assumptions and limitations encountered in the appraisal.
9. A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 16.	Not required at this stage
10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.	A non-technical summary is provided at the opening of this report and the Interim Report.

APPENDIX 2: SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AND RELATIONSHIP TO SEA TOPICS

The objectives for sustainable development are to...	SEA Directive Topic
1...improve health and well-being.	Population Human Health
2...provide good quality, sustainable housing.	Population Human Health
3...enable access to high quality education.	Population
4...strengthen society.	Cultural Heritage Population
5...enable sustainable economic growth.	Population Human Health
6...encourage active and sustainable travel.	Human Health Population Climatic Factors
7...manage material assets sustainably.	Material Assets
8...protect physical resources and use sustainably.	Material Assets Soil
9...protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	Biodiversity Flora Fauna
10...protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	Water
11...improve air quality	Air
12...reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	Climatic Factors
13...conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	Cultural Heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage
14...maintain and enhance landscape character.	Landscape

APPENDIX 3: COMPATIBILITY OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

Sustainability Objectives	1 Improve health and well-being.	2 Strengthen society.	3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4 Enable access to high quality education.	5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	6 Manage material assets sustainably.	7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	9 Improve air quality.	10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.
1 Improve health and well-being.														
2 Strengthen society.	✓													
3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	✓	✓												
4 Enable access to high quality education.	✓	✓	✓											
5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	✓	✓	✓	✓										
6 Manage material assets sustainably.	✓	0	0	0	✓									
7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓								
8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0							
9 Improve air quality.	✓	✓	✓	0	?	✓	✓	✓						
10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	✓	✓	✓	0	?	✓	✓	✓	✓					
11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	✓	0	✓	0	?	✓	✓	0	✓	✓				
12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	✓	✓	0	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	✓	✓	0	0	✓	?	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓		
14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	✓	✓	?	0	✓	0	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Compatible ✓ No relationship 0 Uncertain relationship ? Incompatible ✕

APPENDIX 4: REVIEW OF POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES

Introduction

This is a list of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies that have been considered in scoping the sustainability appraisal. It will be updated at each stage of plan preparation. Some additional documents, including local plans, may be referred to in the plan evidence papers or the body of the Scoping Report and these will be incorporated in this table in the updated scoping report which will accompany the draft Plan Strategy.

A number of cross cutting publications are presented first. Following that the publications are listed according to the most relevant topic however some may apply to two or more topics. Year is the publication year and scale indicates the spatial area it applies to. The lead is the department or organisation currently responsible for the publication and not necessarily the one responsible for preparation of the publication.

For each publication a summary of the key objectives, requirements or advice is given with emphasis on what is most relevant to the LDP. A short comment is included on the implications of these for the LDP and/or how they will be addressed in plan preparation.

Acknowledgement is given to work carried out by Mid Ulster District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and the Strategic Planning Division of the Department for Infrastructure which formed part of the source information for this review of plans, policies and programmes.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT				
Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	2015	UN	Seeks to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. It also aims to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities. Expressed through 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets.	Through the influence of the sustainability appraisal the LDP seeks to contribute to these goals where they are within the scope of development planning.
Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Cohesion Policy 2014-2020	2014	EC	Almost 70% of the EU population lives in an urban area, and these areas generate more than two thirds of the EU's GDP. However, they are also the places where persistent problems such as unemployment, segregation and poverty, as well as severe environmental pressures, are concentrated. Measures concerning physical urban renewal should be combined with measures promoting education, economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection.	The principles of integrated sustainable urban development.
General Union Environmental Action Plan (2020)	2013	EC	This will guide European environment policy until 2020 but has a longer term vision: "In 2050, we live well, within the planet's ecological limits. Our prosperity and healthy environment stem from an innovative, circular economy where nothing is wasted and where natural resources are managed sustainably, and biodiversity is protected, valued and restored in ways that enhance our society's resilience. Our low-carbon growth has long been decoupled from resource use, setting the pace for a safe and sustainable global society." It identifies three key objectives: to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital; to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy; to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing.	The LDP should support the 4 key areas of work set out in the EAP.
The Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)	2004	EC	The Environmental Liability Directive (ELD) has the objective of making operators of activities which cause environmental damage financially liable for that damage (the 'polluter pays' principle). It imposes duties on operators of economic activities to take immediate steps to prevent damage if there is an imminent threat, and to control damage which is occurring so as to limit its effects.	The LDP will take account of this Directive and local relevant legislation.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment	2001	EC	Provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.	The LDP will take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive at the national level. Requirements of the Directive will be addressed through the Sustainability Appraisals.
A Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development	2001	EC	A framework for a long-term vision of sustainability in which economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection go hand in hand and are mutually supporting. Particular environmental protection objectives include increasing the use of clean energy and natural resources to combat climate change, reducing noise and air pollution through promotion of sustainable transport, and conserving and managing the overall use of water and air.	This Strategy aligns with many of the objectives of the LDP including those related to transport and natural heritage, as well as renewable energy. In applying the policy requirements of the SPPS the LDP will also contribute to the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.
Securing the Future - delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy	2005	Four Nations (DAERA)	The Strategy takes account of developments since the 1999 Strategy, both domestically and internationally; the changed structure of government in the UK with devolution to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; greater emphasis on delivery at regional level and the new relationship between government and local authorities. The five guiding principles are: living within environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance and using sound science responsibly. Four agreed priorities are sustainable consumption and production, climate change, natural resource protection and sustainable communities.	The SPPS has a strong sustainable development theme, which aligns with the priorities of this Strategy, most notably in terms of climate change, renewable energy, sustainable consumption, waste management etc. In complying with the SPPS and carrying out sustainability appraisal the LDP will support this.
Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 Establishing a Framework for Maritime Spatial Planning	2014	Council of Europe	Competition for maritime space – for renewable energy equipment, aquaculture and other uses – has highlighted the need to manage our waters more coherently. Aims include: Reduce conflicts between sectors and create synergies between different activities. Encourage investment – by creating predictability, transparency and clearer rules. Increase cross-border cooperation – between EU countries to develop energy grids, shipping lanes, pipelines, submarine cables and other activities, but also to develop coherent networks of protected areas. Protect the environment – through early identification of impact and opportunities for multiple use of space.	Identification of potential conflict areas and considering developments that have potential for connectivity with the marine area will contribute to this.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
DOE Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS): Planning for Sustainable Development	2015	DfI	Sets out the Department's regional strategic policies for securing the orderly and consistent development of land in Northern Ireland. Planning authorities should pursue social and economic priorities alongside the careful management of our built and natural environments in order to achieve sustainable development. The SPPS sets out five core planning principles: Improving health and well-being; Creating and enhancing shared space; Supporting sustainable economic growth; Supporting good design and positive place making; and Preserving and improving the built and natural environment.	The provisions of the SPPS must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans, and are also material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.
Regional Development Strategy 2035	2012	DfI	This document provides an overarching strategic planning framework influencing spatial development for the Region up to 2035, facilitating and guiding the public and private sectors. Taken into account are key drivers such as population growth and movement, demographic change, increasing number of households, transportation needs etc. It addresses economic, social and environmental issues aimed at achieving sustainable development and social cohesion. The eight aims of the RDS are to: Support strong, sustainable growth for the benefit of all parts of NI; Strengthen Belfast as the regional economic driver and Derry/Londonderry as the principal city of the North West; Support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential; Promote development which improves the health and well-being of communities; Improve connectivity to enhance the movement of people, goods, energy and information between places; Protect and enhance the environment for its own sake; Take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaption to climate change; and Strengthen links between north and south, east and west, with Europe and the rest of the world. The RDS contains a Spatial Framework and Strategic guidelines.	The LDP will support the RDS as part of the wider Government policy framework and should therefore be closely aligned with its objectives.
Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021	2016	NI Executive	The PfG contains 14 strategic outcomes which touch on every aspect of government, including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and confident and peaceful communities. The outcomes are supported by 48 indicators which will show how the Executive is performing in relation to the outcomes and will provide a basis to monitor progress. In due course, the Programme for Government will provide the strategic context for other key Executive strategy documents, including the Investment Strategy, the Economic Strategy and a Social Strategy.	The LDP is required to support delivery of the Programme for Government. How it achieves this will be assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Focus on the Future - Sustainable Development Implementation Plan	2011	NI Executive	While this implementation plan has expired some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. DHSSPS committed to liaise with DOE Planners on the benefits of Health Impact Assessments and their potential to assist in encouraging the development of Healthy Urban Environments. DOE proposed to make legislation to enable the designation of National Parks by 2012.	The health impact assessment approach is not a statutory requirement but will be considered if there is development on this during plan preparation. Health and well-being is considered through sustainability appraisal.
Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006	2006	NI Executive	Requires departments and district councils to exercise their functions in the manner they consider best calculated to promote the achievement of sustainable development.	Implementing sustainability appraisal throughout plan preparation will help achieve this requirement.
Everyone's Involved – Sustainable Development Strategy (May 2010)	2010	DAERA	Everyone's Involved – Sustainable Development Strategy, aims to put in place economic, social and environmental measures to ensure that we can continue to grow our economy, improve our society and communities and utilise our natural resources in an environmentally sustainable manner. The Strategy also intends to strengthen the framework to address global issues such as climate change and sets out the following six principles: living within environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy, just and equal society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; using sound science responsibly; and promoting opportunity and innovation.	Plan objectives largely support the strategy and the sustainability appraisal will help shape proposals to be sustainable.
Rathlin Island Action Plan	2016	DfI	Strategic Aims: to enhance community involvement; to improve the provision of public services for islanders; to advance policies for a sustainable island community; and to conserve the island's exceptional environmental heritage.	The LDP can help to achieve the aims of the action plan.
Rathlin Island Policy	2010	DfI	Strategic Aims are: to enhance community involvement; to improve the provision of public services for Islanders; to advance policies for a sustainable Island community; and to conserve the Island's exceptional environmental heritage.	Policy developed for Rathlin Island may differ from policies applying elsewhere, owing to the unique circumstances of Rathlin Island and the challenges of island life.
OTHER CROSS CUTTING				
European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)	1999	EC	Economic and social cohesion across the community. Conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage. Balanced competitiveness between different tiers of government.	Through the influence of the sustainability appraisal the LDP should make a contribution towards fulfilling the goals of the ESDP.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Aarhus Convention - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 1998	1998	UNECE	The Aarhus Convention and its Protocol empower people with the rights to access easily information, participate effectively in decision-making in environmental matters and to seek justice if their rights were violated. They protect every person's right to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being. Ratified in UK in 2005. Established a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment. Local authorities should provide for: The right of everyone to receive environmental information; The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision making; The right to challenge in a court of law public decisions that have been made without respecting the two rights above or environmental law in general.	The plan will achieve this through the consultation process, as outlined in the Statement of Community Involvement. Ensure that public are involved and consulted at all relevant stages of SA production. This should be reflected in the Statement of the Community Involvement
Our Passion, Our Place - Northern Ireland Environment Agency Strategic Priorities 2012 to 2022	2012	DAERA	The plan outlines the strategic direction for NIEA. Four priority areas: healthy natural environment, people and places, sustainable economic growth and using resources well with a series of strategic goals. In respect of development planning NIEA will make sure planning decisions and business practices are guided by sound environmental principles and apply a risk based approach to its regulatory activities. Provide timely and authoritative input to strategic planning and development projects. Adopt an ecosystems approach in the advice it provides.	The majority of the sustainability appraisal objectives can be linked to the strategic aims of this document. NIEA advice and evidence will be used to inform plan preparation.
The Environmental Liability (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (as amended)	2009	DAERA	Implements the Environmental Liability Directive in Northern Ireland and introduces financial liability on the 'polluter pays' principle for environmental damage which has significant adverse effects on reaching or maintaining favourable conservation status of species and natural habitats protected under EC legislation; damage that significantly adversely affects the ecological, chemical and/or quantitative status and/or ecological potential of waters falling within the scope of the water framework directive; land contamination that creates a significant risk of human health being adversely affected as a result of direct or indirect introduction in, on or under land of substances, preparations, organisms and micro-organisms. Note subject to amendments.	Development arising from the LDP will be subject to these regulations with the operator being responsible for liability should damage within the terms of these regulations occur.
A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland	1993	DfI	In seeking to protect the environment and encourage sustainable development the PSRNI set out policies to meet the development needs of the rural area. The majority have been superseded by PPSs and SPPS however Strategic Policies 2, 3, 4 and 18 still apply relating to Towns, Villages, Regeneration of Rural Settlements and Design in Towns and Villages.	The remaining provisions of 'A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland' will be cancelled when all eleven councils have adopted a new Plan Strategy for the whole of their council area. However, to ensure that there is continuity in planning policy for taking planning decisions whilst councils bring forward operational policies tailored to local circumstances within new LDPs, transitional arrangements shall apply.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Framework for Co-operation Spatial Strategies of Northern Ireland & the Republic of Ireland	2010	DfI	This document examines the key planning challenges faced by both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland and discusses the potential for co-operation in spatial planning. It sets out a framework for cooperation at different levels within the public sector which should result in mutual benefits. These benefits can be at the local border area level and at the wider level. Four priority areas for cooperation are: Enhancing Competitiveness, Competitive Places (i.e. linked cross-border cities), Environmental Quality and Spatial Analysis.	At the local level it will be important that the guidance in the RDS and [the Irish] NSS is incorporated into regional planning guidelines, development plans, community plans and regeneration schemes and that there is support for cross border projects and initiatives for both urban and rural areas. Integrated planning processes at the local level, where agencies and authorities in both jurisdictions work together on a cross border basis, are essential in enhancing the potential and quality of strategic places on the island, that straddle such cross border locations.
Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011	2011	NI Executive	Part 2 of the act details the requirements of local development plans and Section 5 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires those who exercise any function in relation to local development plans to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development. Sections 8(6) and 9(7) of the 2011 Act requires an appraisal of sustainability to be carried out for the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, respectively.	The LDP will take account of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. This scoping report forms part of the SA process.
Building a better future The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011-2021 (ISNI)	2011	NI Executive	The Investment Strategy sets out the forward programme for investment in public infrastructure. It identifies priority areas for investment in sustainable 21st century infrastructure and is intended to assist government and private sector partners to plan ahead. The 'Procurement Pipeline' identifies 197 infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.	The 'Procurement Pipeline' available on the home page identifies infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.
Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, Equality of opportunity	1998	NI Executive	Section 75 promotes 'equality of opportunity' which means that everyone in society should be able to compete on equal terms. All government departments, agencies and councils must also give the nine key groups consideration when creating a policy. These are people with different religious belief, people of political opinion, people of different racial groups, people of different ages, people of different marital status, people of different sexual orientation, men and women generally, people with a disability and people without, people with dependants and people without	The council is required to ensure that their local development plans are prepared in accordance with Section 75 statutory obligations. Consequently, a council will have to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) to determine if there will be any potential impacts upon Section 75 groups as a result of the policies and proposals contained in their local development plans.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
1. HEALTH AND WELLBEING				
Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise (the Environmental Noise Directive (END))	2002	Council of Europe	The END is the main EU instrument to identify noise pollution levels and to trigger the necessary action both at Member State and at EU level. It focuses on three action areas: (1) the determination of exposure to environmental noise (2) ensuring that information on environmental noise and its effects is made available to the public (3) preventing and reducing environmental noise where necessary and preserving environmental noise quality where it is good.	The Directive applies to noise to which humans are exposed, particularly in built-up areas, in public parks or other quiet areas in an agglomeration, in quiet areas in open country, near schools, hospitals and other noise-sensitive buildings and areas. It does not apply to noise that is caused by the exposed person himself, noise from domestic activities, noise created by neighbours, noise at work places or noise inside means of transport or due to military activities in military areas.
Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Recreation, 2009-2019	2009	DfC	The Strategy's vision of "a culture of lifelong enjoyment and quality, quantity and access to places for sport" is a key input to the two primary development outcomes of increased participation in sport and physical recreation and improved sporting performances. In particular, the Strategy will ensure that every person in Northern Ireland has access to a range of new, improved and shared world-class and locally available sports facilities. The Strategy outlines a broad Government commitment to sport and physical recreation. It sets key strategic priorities for sports and physical recreation over the 10 year period; informing future investment by all stakeholders across the public, private and community/voluntary sectors underpinning three areas: 'Participation', 'Performance' and 'Places'. The successful delivery of the Strategy requires stakeholders to reflect the Strategy in their business and development plans.	This is supported by the inclusion of Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation in the Subject Policies list for the SPPS, which must be taken into account in the LDP.
Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways	2016	DfI	Sets out the plans for a network of greenways, connecting towns and cities to the villages and countryside from east to west and north to south across all eleven councils. Objectives include: improving health and wellbeing, increasing access to greenways, improving safety, improving social inclusion, economic development.	Greenways can produce both environmental and social benefits, because they are easily accessible and can bring nature and people together. The development of traffic free infrastructure, particularly greenways, can also have a positive impact on social inclusion and encouraging new and harder to reach groups to take up cycling and walking. The LDP can help to support these objectives.
A fitter future for all - Outcomes framework 2015 - 2019	2015	DoH	Following a review of the first years of the plan an updated framework has been published for 2015-2019.	Creating a safe environment to encourage and promote increased physical activity.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Making Life Better: A Whole Strategic Framework for Public Health 2013-2023 Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (June 2014)	2013	DoH	The strategic framework for public health designed to provide direction for policies and actions to improve the health and well-being of people in Northern Ireland and to reduce health inequalities. The framework is not just about actions and programmes at government level, but also provides direction for work at both regional and local levels with public agencies, including local government, local communities and others, working in partnership. Through strength of coordination and partnership, the framework will seek to create the conditions for individuals and communities to take control of their own lives, and move towards a vision for Northern Ireland where all people are enabled and supported in achieving their full health and well-being potential.	Many aspects are directly relevant for example promoting age friendly environments and Quiet Areas.
Connected Health Economy	2013	DoH	Developing a connected health economy: the economy and jobs initiative included a number of measures to help support economic growth, including a commitment to establish a Task and Finish Group under the remit of the Connected Health and Prosperity Board, to exploit the economic opportunities from the health and social care (HSC) sector.	This may inform future economic investment in the health and social care sector.
A Fitter Future For All: Framework for Preventing and Addressing Overweight and Obesity in Northern Ireland	2012	DoH	Fitter Future for All is a framework to help reduce the harm related to overweight and obesity. This framework aims to: empower the population of Northern Ireland to make health choices, reduce the risk of overweight and obesity related diseases and improve health and wellbeing, by creating an environment that supports and promotes a physically active lifestyle and a healthy diet. New outcomes to aid implementation of the framework over the 2015-19 period have been developed.	Creating a safe environment to encourage and promote increased physical activity.
Transforming Your Care Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety	2011	DoH	Twelve major principles for change including: providing the right care in the right place at the right time; population-based planning of services; ensuring sustainability of service provision; incentivising innovation at a local level. 99 separate proposals for change across the range of health and social care services. There is a Strategic Implementation Plan and Population Plan for each Health Care Trust.	Can inform where facilities may be required to improve access to and quality of health services.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Northern Ireland's Road Safety Strategy to 2020	2011	DfI	Sets out the vision and presents measures for improving road safety in Northern Ireland up to 2020, including targets for reductions in deaths and serious injuries to be achieved over that period. Key Challenges include: Continuing to reduce the numbers of road deaths and serious injuries; Focusing specifically on improving safety on rural roads; Working particularly to protect young drivers and motorcyclists; Reducing inappropriate and illegal road user behaviours; and Improving our knowledge and understanding of, and broadening involvement in, solving road safety problems.	The LDP may have scope to contribute to addressing the challenges in its transport, infrastructure and rural development policies.
The Planning (Hazardous Substances) (No.2) Regulations (NI) 2015	2015	DfI	The Regulations transpose Directive 2012/18/EU (The 'Seveso III Directive') on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances in respect of land-use planning in Northern Ireland.	The LDP must take account of the aims of the Directive in planning policies and decisions, including maintaining appropriate safety distances between major hazard sites (referred to as establishments") and other development and protecting areas of natural sensitivity.
Noise Policy Statement for Northern Ireland	2014	DAERA	Through the effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise the Noise Policy aims to: (1.) Avoid or mitigate significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life; (2.) Mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and (3.) Where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life.	These LDP can help with applying the shared principles that underpin the Executive's Sustainable Development Strategy: Living within environmental limits - Ensuring a strong, healthy, just and equal society - Achieving a sustainable economy - Using sound science responsibly - Promoting opportunity and innovation - Promoting good governance.
Planning Policy Statement 8 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (DOE 2004)	2004	DfI	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection of open space, in association with residential development and the use of land for sport and outdoor recreation, and advises on the treatment of these issues in development plans.	Six policies are incorporated in the SPPS. Incorporation of the policies will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Transforming your Care: Strategic Implementation Plan	2013	HSCNI	This Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) describes a planned approach for the delivery of the TYC proposals over the next 3 to 5 years (starting from 2011/12 baseline). Section 4.2 sets out the key commitments and the major changes which will drive service transformation. Main themes for each of the Programmes of Care over the next 3 to 5 years across the 5 Local Commissioning Group (LCG) areas are presented in section 4.4. At the heart of this are the 5 local Population Plans, which provide the building blocks for this SIP. These set out in detail the service transformation initiatives for delivery of the TYC proposals for each of these local areas. There will be continuing focus on reducing delayed discharge from hospital with investment in community infrastructure.	Identifies need for health infrastructure, including for community care.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
The Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006	2006	NI Executive	Transposes into NI legislation the requirements of the European Noise Directive (END). The three main actions that the END requires of Member States are to: (1) determine the noise exposure of the population through noise mapping (2) make information on environmental noise and its effects available to the public (3) establish Action Plans based on the mapping results. The END requires that noise mapping and action planning be completed every five years. The END also requires Member States to 'preserve environmental noise quality where it is good' through the identification and protection of designated Quiet Areas within agglomerations (urban areas with a minimum population density).	Existing 'quiet areas' must be preserved. Further areas could be identified and designated. Zoning of residential areas should have regard for existing noise generators such as roads, rail, airports and industry.
Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 - 2024.	2014	Outdoor NI	This strategy aims to generate approximately £25 Million to the local economy per annum as a direct result of mountain biking by 2024.	Informs on a potential source of outdoor recreational activity and tourism opportunity.
Northern Health and Social Care Trust Population Plan	2013	NHSCT	This sets out in detail the service transformation initiatives for delivery of the TYC proposals for this trust area. It includes the capital implications and requirements over the 3 year planning period. There will be continuing focus on reducing delayed discharge from hospital with investment in community infrastructure.	Although expired may inform unmet infrastructure requirements.
Western Health and Social Care Trust Population Plan	2013	WHSCT	This sets out in detail the service transformation initiatives for delivery of the TYC proposals for this trust area. It includes the capital implications and requirements over the 3 year planning period. There will be continuing focus on reducing delayed discharge from hospital with investment in community infrastructure.	Although expired may inform unmet infrastructure requirements.
2. COMMUNITY				
Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016	2016	DAERA	The Act received Royal Assent in May 2016 and once commenced in 2017 will place a duty on public authorities, including district councils, to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans and designing and delivering public services. It also requires public authorities to provide information to DAERA on how they have fulfilled this duty on an annual basis to be published in a monitoring report to be laid before the Assembly.	Rural needs have been fully considered in plan preparation, assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal and appropriate provisions are or will be included in the plan.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing	2015	DAERA	The objective is to ensure robust consideration and integration of rural issues at the outset of the policy making process. It should help to ensure fair and equitable treatment for rural areas through the development of policies which are proportionate to need.	The LDP can support the objective to provide for vital and vibrant rural communities whilst protecting the countryside in which they live, by accommodating sustainable growth within the countryside proportionate to the extent of existing rural communities.
Rural White Paper Action Plan	2012	DAERA	This document sets out the vision for NI's rural areas and the actions which Departments will take in support of achieving that vision and to help ensure the future sustainability of rural areas. The vision includes vibrant and strong rural communities; improved infrastructure, transport and key services; strong community infrastructure which can avail of economic, social and cultural opportunities; and better linkages between rural and urban areas.	Policies are proposed in relation to sustainable development in the countryside, transport and land use. Planning policy will promote sustainable development, well-being and economic development which are aligned with the vision for rural areas. There does seem to be a focus on town centres and city centre vitality, which could take attention away from rural issues. The LDP objectives support this. It sets out to support vibrant rural communities, facilitate development of new, accessible, community facilities, and improve connectivity between/within settlements in terms of telecommunications and transport infrastructure in particular. The Plan will promote sustainable development, well-being and economic development which are aligned with the vision for rural areas.
Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation	2012	DAERA	This framework sets out the goals, objectives, priority action areas and outcomes for the Programme for Government commitment to bring forward a package of measures to help target the root causes of social isolation and help those in poverty in rural areas. In addition it aims to provide the necessary tools to identify the needs of vulnerable people/groups in rural areas, develop programmes/interventions to help alleviate poverty/social isolation and complement/add value to existing government strategies intended to tackle these issues.	Plan preparation includes consideration of the needs of those living in small settlements and the countryside to ensure that they have access to suitable and affordable housing as well as facilities. The Sustainability Appraisal incorporates Rural Proofing.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Department of Education Annual Business Plan 2016/2017	2016	DE	Corporate Goal 1: Improving the Well-Being of Children and Young People – includes rights, play and participation. Corporate Goal 2: Raising Standards for All – includes early years and childcare. Corporate Goal 3: Closing the Performance Gap, Increasing Access and Equality – includes Special Education Needs; youth work and sustainable schools. Corporate Goal 5 is Improving the learning environment – making sure that strategic investment supports the delivery of the area plans; that the premises in which young people grow and learn are safe, fit for purpose and conducive to learning; and that the environment provides opportunities for sharing and for building a more cohesive society. This Corporate Goal supports the draft PfG Indicator 13: Improve the quality of education.	This is a short term plan that is relevant to the facilities required for e.g. childcare, early years, primary and secondary school, special educational needs and youth. There is no current Corporate Plan for the Department. DE has agreed to provide a comprehensive list of all regional policies, programmes, strategies and action plans which may be influenced and supported by spatial planning by councils, these will be added to the register.
Planning Policy Statement 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside	2010	DfI	PPS 21 sets out planning policies for development in the countryside. For the purpose of this document the countryside is defined as land lying outside of settlement limits as identified in development plans. The provisions of this document apply to all areas of Northern Ireland's countryside.	A series of 16 policies which allow for development in the countryside in tightly defined circumstances. Many of these are carried forward through the SPPS. The LDP will have to comply with these and other regional policy in any variation of these policies.
A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland	1993	DfI	In seeking to protect the environment and encourage sustainable development the PSRNI set out policies to meet the development needs of the rural area. The majority have been superseded by PPSs and SPPS however Strategic Policies 2, 3, 4 and 18 still apply relating to Towns, Villages, Regeneration of Rural Settlements and Design in Towns and Villages.	The remaining provisions of 'A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland' will be cancelled when all eleven councils have adopted a new Plan Strategy for the whole of their council area. However, to ensure that there is continuity in planning policy for taking planning decisions whilst councils bring forward operational policies tailored to local circumstances within new LDPs, transitional arrangements shall apply.
Community Safety action plan 2015 to 2017	2015	DoJ	The action plan includes an action for the DOE and councils: to support a sense of pride and ownership within neighbourhoods, to address the disorder (graffiti, litter, vandalism) that acts as a signal for ASB by contributing to the development of legislative framework to deal with the growing amenity problems associated with dilapidated or unsightly buildings and neglected sites.	The LDP may have scope to contribute to addressing this through place shaping.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities: A Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012-2017	2012	DoJ	Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities' sets the direction for reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime in Northern Ireland over the next five years. It builds on the positive progress made in recent years in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, both by continuing to focus on what works, as well as a stronger emphasis on the guiding principle that prevention is better than cure. This Strategy provides the overall direction for community safety in Northern Ireland, and will help guide the work of a range of stakeholders including the Executive, local government, the voluntary and community sector and local communities.	The LDP will take account of this Strategy. It can help support objectives to accommodate cultural differences between Catholic and Protestant communities whilst promoting "shared spaces" to bring people together with equality and opportunity.
Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework	2013	DfC	This Policy Framework sets out the Department's policy objectives for urban regeneration and community development in Northern Ireland for at least the next decade. It will provide a clear strategic direction for the Department and inform its partners in central and local government and in the voluntary and community sector. The Framework sets out four Policy Objectives that will form the basis of any future policy or programme development in urban regeneration and community development: 1. To tackle area-based deprivation. 2. To strengthen the competitiveness of our towns and cities. 3. To improve linkages between areas of need and areas of opportunity. 4. To develop more cohesive and engaged communities. It also contains a set of four Supporting Actions: 1. We will maximise the potential of regeneration and community development by supporting an evidence- based policy environment. 2. We will maximise the resources available to regeneration and community development by supporting an innovative financial environment. 3. We will support the development of skilled and knowledgeable practitioners in regeneration and community development. 4. We will promote an effective and efficient voluntary and community sector	This Policy Framework is wide-reaching in terms of the subjects it covers, for example Policy Objective 3 contains key actions relating to environmental improvement, protection and improvement of (historic) buildings and open spaces and developing an integrated transport network, whilst other Objective actions include development of commercial sites. LDP objectives may align with this framework, in particular strengthening the hubs, improving connectivity and facilitating community development. The LDP can indirectly support aims of the policy by, for example, accommodating development for disadvantaged groups, such as the elderly and disabled, with emphasis on 'sustainable growth', facilitating new community facilities and promoting 'shared spaces'.
Together: Building a United Community 2016/17 Update Report	2016	EO	The Strategy outlines how we in Government, in communities and as individuals will work together to build a united community and facilitate change in the key priorities of: Our children and young people; Our shared community; Our safe community; and Our cultural expression.	By creating and shaping places spaces that are accessible and welcoming to all the plan will support this strategy. In some areas there will be specific requirements to address Interface Barriers.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Building a better future The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011-2021 (ISNI)	2011	NI Executive	The Investment Strategy sets out the forward programme for investment in public infrastructure. It identifies priority areas for investment in sustainable 21st century infrastructure and is intended to assist government and private sector partners to plan ahead. The 'Procurement Pipeline' identifies 197 infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.	The 'Procurement Pipeline' available on the home page identifies infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.
NIHE Good Relations Plan	2007	NIHE	The Housing Executive commits to Respond quickly and effectively to the needs of people in danger as a result of community conflict; Work in partnership with others to address the complex housing needs of a divided society; Respect the rights of people who choose to live where they wish; Facilitate and encourage mixed housing as far as this is practicable, desirable and safe.	The LDP can help to promote and encourage mixed housing and shared spaces, to help bring people from different communities together.
NIHE - Race Relations Policy	2006	NIHE	The five Race Relations Policy themes can be summarised as follows; Mainstreaming black and minority ethnic issues in policy development; Racial harassment and intimidation; Promoting black and minority ethnic social inclusion; Community participation and development; and Migrant worker issues.	The LDP can help to promote and encourage social inclusion.
The Child Poverty Strategy	2016	EO	The four high-level outcomes are, that: Families experience economic well-being; Children in poverty learn and achieve; Children in poverty are healthy; and Children in poverty live in safe, secure and stable environments. Indicators of success against these outcomes include those relating to employment levels in households with children, levels of obesity, hospital admissions for accidents at home or on the road and number of homeless families. Some of the most relevant actions to spatial planning are: Create jobs; Upskill the workforce and support young people and their family members into higher skilled, more secure and better paid employment; Reduce living costs; Ensure childcare is accessible and affordable; Promote health and well-being; Promote child, road, home and community safety.	Promotion of employment opportunities, provision for housing, increasing accessibility and creating safer environments will contribute to the objectives of this strategy.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Together: Building a United Community	2013	EO	The strategy outlines how government, community and individuals will work together to build a united community and achieve change against the following key priorities: our children and young people; our shared community; our safe community; and our cultural expression. Its vision is 'a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance'. Includes a commitment to Create a 10-year Programme to reduce, and remove by 2023, all interface barriers including an Interface Barrier Support Package	By creating and shaping places spaces that are accessible and welcoming to all the plan will support this strategy. In some areas there will be specific requirements to address Interface Barriers.
Delivering Social Change framework	2012	EO	The DSC framework was established to deliver a sustained reduction in poverty and associated issues across all ages and to improve children and young people's health, well-being and life opportunities. A Delivering Social Change Fund was established to support The Social Investment Fund; The Delivering Social Change Signature Programmes; Childcare. The six initial Signature Programmes included support for Family Support Hubs; Nurture Units, Social Enterprise Hubs. Three new Signature Programmes announced in 2014 include support for people with dementia and their families and carers; early intervention services for young families and expansion of shared education, supporting schools to share resources and people. The Social Investment Fund is under a separate entry in this register.	The programme has resulted in some new and proposed community facilities that should be considered in plan preparation. It may identify needs for new facilities. The Social Investment Fund is under a separate entry in this register.
Social Investment Fund	2011	EO	The Social Investment Fund (SIF) was set up to deliver social change. It aims to make life better for people living in targeted areas by reducing poverty, unemployment and physical deterioration. The fund will run until March 2020 and all funding has been committed to projects prioritised by local Steering Groups. Some funding will capital support to enhance or create community and employment facilities.	Will however inform existing and proposed facilities that should be considered in plan preparation.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Lifetime Opportunities – Government’s Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for Northern Ireland	2006	EO	As part of the Northern Ireland Executive's commitment to tackling poverty and social exclusion this document outlined what would be done by the Northern Ireland departments and the Northern Ireland Office in working towards its overall objectives of: working towards the elimination of poverty and social exclusion in Northern Ireland by 2020; and halving child poverty by 2010 on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020. The strategy is structured into four key life stages – Early Years (0 – 4), Children and Young People (5 – 16), Working Age Adults and Older Citizens. Each of the life stages is expressed in terms of an overarching goal followed by a series of long-term targets that will work towards achieving the goal. This strategy overlaps with some more recent strategies but continues to be reported on.	Identifies the conditions for bringing people out of poverty including fuel, employment, older people and those in the rural community and for promotion inclusion for all. LDPs proposals and policies consider these needs and support delivery against them.
3. HOUSING				
Design and Access Statements - A guide for Northern Ireland	2015	Dfi	The following planning applications must be accompanied by a D&AS: An application which is a major development; or where any part of the development is in a designated area, development consisting of – (i) the provision of one or more dwelling houses, or (ii) the provision of a building or buildings where the floor space created by the development is 100m ² or more.	Provides for early consideration of the need and provision for open space, access and landscaping and addressing external factors such as noise and traffic safety.
Planning Policy Statement 7 (Addendum): Residential Extensions and Alterations	2008	Dfi	This document is an Addendum to PPS 7 ‘Quality Residential Environments’ and must be read in conjunction with the policies contained within that PPS. The Addendum provides an additional planning policy for the extension and/or alteration of a dwellinghouse or flat, including those in multiple occupancy. It embodies the Government’s commitment to sustainable development and the Quality Initiative. However, it should be noted that unlike the other policies of PPS 7, the policy contained in this Addendum will apply to all dwellinghouses or flats throughout the Region, including single dwellings in the countryside.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Planning Policy Statement 7 (Addendum): Safeguarding the Character of Established Residential Areas	2010	DfI	This document is a second addendum to PPS 7 'Quality Residential Environments' and must be read in conjunction with the policies contained within this PPS and within the previous addendum – 'Residential Extensions and Alterations' (published in March 2008). The addendum provides additional planning policies on the protection of local character, environmental quality and residential amenity within established residential areas, villages and smaller settlements. It also sets out regional policy on the conversion of existing buildings to flats or apartments. In addition, the addendum contains policy to promote greater use of permeable paving within new residential developments to reduce the risk of flooding from surface water run-off.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Planning Policy Statement 12 Housing in Settlements	2005	DfI	Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS 12) 'Housing in Settlements' has been prepared to assist in the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy to guide the future pattern on housing by managing future housing growth and distribution, support urban renaissance and achieve balanced communities. Currently, development management policy for affordable housing is contained within PPS12. Under transitional arrangements, until a Plan Strategy is adopted, PPS 12 is still a material consideration for deciding planning applications. PPS 12 contains a development management policy, Policy HS 2, which "will be applied where a need for social housing is established through a local housing needs assessment and the development plan for the area has not provided for it."	The LDP will take into consideration the policy provisions of those documents retained under the transitional arrangements. PPS policies that have not been consolidated into the SPPS will cease to be a material consideration in assessing planning applications for LGDs once each Council adopts their new LDP Plan Strategy. It is therefore necessary that any existing PPS policies the Council wish to continue to apply once the Plan Strategy is in place will need to be replaced through the inclusion of relevant, locally tailored policies within the new Plan Strategy.
PPS 7: Quality Residential Environments	2001	DfI	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for achieving quality in new residential development and advises on the treatment of this issue in development plans with a requirement for a Concept Master Plan for large developments.	This requires that all residential development is of good quality and sustainable and does result in unacceptable damage to the local character, environmental quality or residential amenity of these areas. The process of sustainability appraisal will help ensure this.
Creating Places: Achieving Quality in Residential Developments incorporating guidance on layout and access	2000	DfI	Aims to promote: More sustainable patterns of living, working and travelling, more effective integration between land-use planning and transport, the creation of attractive places in which people are happy to live, work and take their leisure.	Supplementary planning guidance - the creation of attractive residential environments with a genuine sense of place is a prerequisite to achieving sustainability.
Northern Ireland Empty Homes Strategy and Action Plan 2013 – 2018	2013	DfC	The Empty Homes Strategy is to ensure that the number of empty properties is kept to a minimum and to identify new opportunities to encourage owners to bring them back into use.	The LDP can help to support these objectives.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 -2017	2012	DfC	<p>This Housing Strategy identifies four roles for government and five themes to help meet housing needs while supporting the most vulnerable. The themes are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring access to decent, affordable, sustainable homes across all tenures; 2. Meeting housing needs and supporting the most vulnerable; 3. Housing and Welfare Reform; 4. Driving regeneration & sustaining communities through housing; and 5. Getting the structures right. <p>This strategy sets out how the government intends to fulfil the objectives over the next five years. The strategy also envisages housing playing a role in driving regeneration within communities, particularly those suffering from blight and population decline.</p>	These themes align with a number of aspects of the LDP and sustainability appraisal, namely sustainable development, economic development, quality residential environments, etc. The strategy may complement a number of aspects of the proposed LDP, such as the provision of new homes which meets the needs of various groups, such as families, the elderly, and disabled. The strategy may put pressure on the environmental aspects of the LDP such as natural heritage, archaeology, flood risk, etc. A balance will need to be found through considered planning decisions.
Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland Action Plan Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland Action Plan	2012	DfC	<p>The action plan for the 'Facing the Future' Housing Strategy follows on from the consultation on the draft strategy in 2012. It identifies a new, fifth role for government and sets out the 33 actions that will work towards achievement of each theme. The plan aims help the department to work towards five high-level outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better housing management, with a more efficient and targeted use of resources; 2. Better regulation, with an increased focus on the interests of tenants and citizens, and reduced red tape; 3. Greater flexibility and responsiveness, as circumstances and market conditions change; 4. Continued fairness for citizens, regardless of tenure and consistent with the need to support those who are most vulnerable; and 5. Implementing new structures that can support the above outcomes. 	The LDP can help to support many of the actions identified in the action plan, such as: introducing developer contributions, developing work on energy efficiency, increasing the availability of smaller social housing units and other initiatives for encouraging town and city centre regeneration such as living over shops.
Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland Action Plan Update September 2015	2015	DfC	This is a midterm update on the progress in delivering the 'Facing the Future' Housing Strategy. The strategy is centred on a vision that everyone should have the opportunity to access good quality housing at a reasonable cost. This update shows that, despite a challenging economic environment, the majority of the actions are on track for delivery by 2017.	The LDP can help to support many of the actions identified in the action plan, such as: introducing developer contributions, developing work on energy efficiency, increasing the availability of smaller social housing units and other initiatives for encouraging town and city centre regeneration such as living over shops.
Delivering Sustainable Healthy Homes in Northern Ireland, NIHE, TPCA, Belfast Healthy Cities (March 2016)	2016	NIHE	Guidance and good practice on how planning, health, housing and energy professionals can use new planning powers and responsibilities for community planning to support integrated local approaches to sustainable homes and communities, for energy and health and wellbeing.	This guidance will be taken into account in the preparation of the LDP.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Social Housing Development Programme, Unmet Social Housing Need Prospectus	2016	NIHE	The prospectus provides information for housing associations and developers in respect of locations where there is unmet social housing need or shortages of development sites contained in the published SHDP. These are locations where the Housing Executive would consider suitable proposals/schemes.	This assessment informs potential requirements for social housing which can in turn inform the LDP.
NIHE Social housing Development Programme (SHDP) - 2015/16 – 2017/18	2015	NIHE	The Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) is a three year rolling programme of planned social housing construction and provision. The SHDP is split into three individual programme years and is a mechanism used by the Department to inform social housing funding investment decisions. The SHDP is the outcome of a formulation and assembly exercise undertaken by Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). Responsibility for the actual development of social housing for rent rests with registered Housing Associations. The 3-Year SHDP is published together with an Unmet Social Housing Need Prospectus. The Prospectus is an integral part of the SHDP formulation process, which recurs on an annual basis. The Prospectus document highlights areas throughout Northern Ireland with the greatest level of un-met housing need and a current shortage of acquired development sites. The Housing Executive would welcome development proposals for these areas.	The LDP will take account of ongoing annual reporting and the prospectus will inform social housing zonings within the plan area.
Housing Executive Environmental Policy	2015	NIHE	Includes commitments to prevent pollution of air, land and water; support initiatives to develop sustainable local communities; and enhance and protect biodiversity across all Housing Executive landholdings.	The LDP can help to support these commitments.
Housing Executive Corporate Plan - Regional Services	2015	NIHE	Objective 1 Identification of housing requirements across Northern Ireland; Objective 2 Investing in homes and neighbourhoods; Objective 3 Improving People's Homes; Objective 4 Transforming people's lives; and Objective 5 Enabling sustainable neighbourhoods.	The LDP can help to support these objectives.
Housing Executive Community Involvement Strategy	2015	NIHE	This strategy includes the vision "to give residents a real say in making their neighbourhoods better places in which to live".	The LDP can support this strategy by providing an opportunity to cooperate in place shaping.
Housing Executive Corporate Plan - Landlord Services	2015	NIHE	Objective 1 Delivering quality services; Objective 2 Delivering better homes; and Objective 3 Fostering vibrant communities.	The LDP can help to support these objectives.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 - 2017	2012	NIHE	In response to the statutory duty (the Housing (NI) Order 1988 as amended) to produce a homelessness strategy, our strategic approach remains focused on addressing the issues that lead to homelessness as well as meeting the temporary and permanent accommodation needs of those who present as homeless.	In enabling housing need to be addressed, the LDP will contribute to delivery of the objectives of this strategy.
Housing Investment Plan 2015-2019	2015	NIHE	NIHE has prepared four year Housing Investment Plans for each Council to provide a long term, holistic, cross tenure look at local housing markets. The Housing Investment Plans set out ten outcomes under five themes, which performance can be measured against. The themes are Identify and meet housing need and demand; Improving People's homes; Transforming people's lives; Enabling sustainable neighbourhoods; Delivering quality services.	The HIP is an important evidence base for the LDP and will help facilitate discussion on housing issues within each district. In addition, a purpose of the HIP is to inform Councils on the various programmes and initiatives the Housing Executive and Housing Associations are developing to meet local housing needs.
Northern Ireland Housing Market Areas	2010	NIHE	This report commissioned by NIHE presents the findings of a study into the structure of housing market areas (HMA) across Northern Ireland. A housing market area is defined as a geographical area where most people both live and work and where most people moving home (without changing job) seek a house. HMA can overlap, and often do not marry well with local authority boundaries. Moreover, they are dynamic and HMA boundaries can change over time. 11 major HMAs were identified as operating across Northern Ireland: Belfast, Craigavon, Newry, Ballymena, Coleraine, Derry, Strabane, Omagh, Mid-Ulster, Dungannon and Enniskillen.	Movement patterns to work can help inform housing need. Reports for each HMA were prepared in 2011-2013 and are available on the home page
4. EDUCATION AND SKILLS				
Department of Education Annual Business Plan 2016/2017	2016	DE	This Plan contains a number of goals including 'Improving the Well-Being of Children and Young People' – includes rights, play and participation, 'Raising Standards for All – includes early years and childcare, 'Closing the Performance Gap, Increasing Access and Equality' – includes Special Education Needs; youth work and sustainable schools, and 'Improving the learning environment'. The plan aims to make sure that strategic investment supports the delivery of the area plans; that the premises in which young people grow and learn are safe, fit for purpose and conducive to learning; and that the environment provides opportunities for sharing and for building a more cohesive society. The Plan supports a number of indicators in the draft PfG for education.	This is a short term plan that is relevant to the facilities required for e.g. childcare, early years, primary and secondary school, special educational needs and youth. There is no current Corporate Plan for the Department. Regional education policies, programmes, strategies and action plans may be influenced and supported by spatial planning.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Every school a good school - a policy for school improvement	2009	DE	Mainly focused on delivery of quality education meeting needs of pupils. Recognises that school premises are a resource that could be better used by local communities and that providing for increased community use of school premises can be an effective way of building links between schools and their local communities. Legislation already provides for schools to make their premises available to outside groups and the Department wants to encourage more community use of school premises. Commits to identifying and disseminating good practice with a particular focus on community use of schools to help schools in building stronger links with their parents and local communities.	Creates the conditions for increased use of schools for community benefit which should be considered in planning for communities.
Schools for the Future: A Policy for Sustainable Schools	2009	DE	The policy has as its vision an estate of educationally sustainable schools planned on an area basis, with focus on sharing and collaboration. It provides a framework for early consideration of emerging problems and possible remedial action to address questions of viability. The primary objective of the policy is to ensure that all children get a first class education in fit for purpose facilities, regardless of background or where they live. The policy sets out six criteria to be considered in assessing a school's educational viability, as follows: quality educational experience; stable enrolment trends; sound financial position; strong leadership and management; accessibility; strong links with the community.	The LDP should enable development/expansion of school facilities where required to meet the needs of the policy.
Development Control Advice Note 13: Crèches, Day Nurseries and Pre-School Play Groups	1993	DfI	The purpose of this Advice Note is to give general guidance to intending developers, their professional advisors and agents. It is designed to provide advice on the Planning criteria to be applied when an application for this form of development is being considered. It is not a specific statement of Departmental policy but rather one of advice and guidance.	If this is the most up to date advice on the topic it should be considered in LDP preparation however noting that there may be changes in the sector that also need to be taken into account.
Providing Pathways - Strategic Area Plan for Schools 2017-2020	2017	Education Authority	The plan identifies the challenges for the education system throughout each Local Government District (LGD) area. The challenges include reducing or increasing the number of available places in schools, matching provision to population trends, addressing school provision which is not sustainable and improving the quality of provision. In some areas of Northern Ireland there are too many school places for the size of the population, while in other areas, there are not enough places. Area planning aims to establish a network of viable schools that are of the right type, the right size, located in the right place, and have a focus on raising standards. Therefore, the aim of area planning is to ensure that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum in sustainable, fit-for-purpose schools.	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Education Authority Annual Action Plan 2017-2018	2017	Education Authority	The Education Authority Action Plans will provide details of the proposed actions to be taken to address key strategic issues in local areas and at local schools, all of which will be subject to detailed consultation. This Annual Action Plan covers the period April 2017 to March 2018 and identifies those schools for which developments are proposed. The Annual Action Plan includes schools where sustainability is now an issue but, also, includes some schools that are sustainable, as it is these schools who may form part of the solution to sustainability issues in other schools or areas.	The Action Plans can help inform the LDP on the areas where sustainability of schools is an issue and areas where there are insufficient places available to accommodate the local population.
5. ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT				
Blue Growth	2012	EC	Blue Growth is the long term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors as a whole. Seas and oceans are drivers for the European economy and have great potential for innovation and growth. It is the maritime contribution to achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The 'blue' economy represents roughly 5.4 million jobs and generates a gross added value of almost €500 billion a year. However, further growth is possible in a number of areas which are highlighted within the strategy. The EC considers that by, for example, supporting innovative SMEs, and encouraging innovative products and solutions, Europe can unlock the untapped potential for growth in its blue economy while safeguarding biodiversity and protecting the environment through traditional sectors such as maritime transport and maritime and coastal tourism as well as growing and emerging sectors, such as ocean renewable energy and blue biotechnology.	This may inform LDP policies relating to economy and energy but has the potential to conflict with sustainable use of natural resources.
Europe 2020 Economic Strategy	2010	EC	Europe 2020 is the European Union's ten-year jobs and growth strategy. It was launched in 2010 to create the conditions for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Five headline targets have been agreed for the EU to achieve by the end of 2020. These cover employment; research and development; climate/energy; education; social inclusion and poverty reduction and targets are set for each for example on energy efficiency.	LDP objectives and supporting policies are likely to support delivery of this strategy.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Going for Growth - a strategic action plan	2014	DAERA	In May 2012, DARD and DETI appointed the industry led Agri-Food Strategy Board (AFSB) to make recommendations in respect of the growth targets, strategic priorities and actions to be included in that Plan. The report, Going for Growth, includes more than 100 recommendations aimed at accelerating the growth of farming, fishing and food and drink processing in Northern Ireland to 2020 and beyond. In response the NI Executive has agreed an action plan, outlining actions to be progressed across relevant Departments and Agencies.	This action plan committed to centralised and more streamlined processing for poultry house planning applications while DOE was the planning authority. The 'Commitment to supporting Sustainable Use of Poultry Litter' loan scheme may address some of the environmental effects of pig and poultry production and also lead to new development.
DETI (2010) Draft Northern Ireland Tourism Strategy	2010	DfE	The original 2010 draft is not available. The vision was to: create the new NI experience; get it on everyone's destination wish list; and double the income earned from tourism by 2020. The draft strategy, had the aim of providing the strategic direction for the development of NI's tourism experience to the year 2020 and a targeted Action Plan to deliver it. At the core of the strategy was the intention to grow income from visitor numbers with tourist revenue increased from £536 million in 2010 to £1 billion by 2020. An updated draft strategy, is currently being developed by The Department for the Economy and was due for consultation by the end of 2016, however the absence of Ministers has delayed public consultation on, and therefore finalisation of, the draft Strategy within the original timescale.	By encouraging sustainable development, the LDP may also indirectly support development that enables tourism e.g. visitor centres, attractions, services, transport etc. As with any development, environmental considerations will need to be considered.
A Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020	2010	DfE	Aims to provide strategic direction and targets for the development of NI's tourism experience to the year 2020 and a targeted Action Plan to deliver it. At the core of the strategy was the intention to grow income from visitor numbers with tourist revenue increased from £536 million in 2010 to £1 billion by 2020.	The Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 identified nine key tourism destinations. The LDP can indirectly support development that enables tourism.
Economy 2030: an Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland [DRAFT]	2017	DfE	This strategy sets out a plan to turn Northern Ireland into one of the world's most innovative and competitive small advanced economies. "Our ambition to build a globally competitive economy will be based around the following five priority pillars for growth: Accelerating Innovation and Research; Enhancing Education, Skills and Employability; Driving Inclusive, Sustainable Growth; Succeeding in Global Markets; Building the Best Economic Infrastructure.	The LDP can help support opportunities that are most likely to lead to strong and sustained economic growth
Planning Policy Statement 16 Tourism	2013	DfI	Policies in relation to tourism and safeguarding tourism assets.	Retention of some or all of these policies will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Planning Policy Statement 4 – Planning and Economic Development (DOE 2010)	2010	DfI	Policies for sustainable economic development and stipulates how these can be brought forward in development plans.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Northern Ireland Economic Strategy: Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity. Building a better Future	2012	NI Executive	Sets out how the Executive plans to grow a prosperous local economy over the short, medium and longer term to 2030. The economic vision for 2030 is: 'An economy characterised by a sustainable and growing private sector, where a greater number of firms compete in global markets and there is growing employment and prosperity for all'. There is an emphasis on redressing a dependency on the public sector through the following: stimulate innovation, R&D and creativity so that we widen and deepen our export base; improve the skills and employability of the entire workforce so that people can progress up the skills ladder, thereby delivering higher productivity and increased social inclusion; compete effectively within the global economy and be internationally regarded as a good place to live and do business; encourage business growth and increase the potential of our local companies, including within the social and rural economies; and develop a modern and sustainable economic infrastructure that supports economic growth.	The LDP can support this strategy by enabling economic growth and shaping an environment with sustainable infrastructure that attracts investment and supports innovation.
Economic Strategy Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity - Building a better Future	2012	NI Executive	The overarching goal of this Strategy is to improve the economic competitiveness of the Northern Ireland economy. In order to achieve this, we are committed to strengthening our competitiveness through a focus on export led economic growth. This means we are prioritising the need to deepen and diversify our export base in order to increase employment and wealth across Northern Ireland. The key drivers of this will be innovation, R&D and the skills of our workforce.	The LDP can support this strategy by enabling economic growth and shaping an environment with sustainable infrastructure that attracts investment and supports innovation.
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Tourism & Destination Management Strategy 2015-2020	2015	CCGBC	Identifies opportunities and constraints to developing tourism product in council area and key priorities. A Destination Management Approach is a key strategy.	The destination management approach has planning for tourism investment and promotion of infrastructure development as one of its key functions.
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan	2015	CCGBC	The priorities identified to help realise the vision are: (1) Assist local businesses to grow and become more competitive and innovative (2) Strategically position Causeway Coast and Glens as a place to do business (3) Expand and develop the tourism sector in the area (4) Develop business opportunities arising from the Renewable Energy sector, Digital Causeway, the Knowledge Industry and Agrifood Sector. (5) Ensure that local infrastructure meets business needs.	LDP can assist with ensuring that infrastructure is improved and that the environment is right for business. It can also promote balanced Town and Village Centre development.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
6. MATERIAL ASSETS				
Renewable energy Directive 2009 EC2009/28/EC2	2009	EC	The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU to limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and promote cleaner transport. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets. All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020.	The LDP will take account of the Directive.
Directive 2008/98/EC on waste	2008	EC	Establishes the five tier hierarchy of waste. This waste hierarchy aims to encourage the management of waste materials in order to reduce the amount of waste materials produced, and to recover maximum value from the wastes that are produced. It encourages the prevention of waste, followed by the reuse and refurbishment of goods, then value recovery through recycling and composting. Waste disposal should only be used when no option further up the hierarchy is possible. Prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness. The recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation. Recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without using processes that could harm the environment.	The LDP will reflect the Waste Hierarchy approach to Waste management. The LDP will provide for appropriate waste management facilities. The LDP will bring forward policies in regards of renewable energy including biomass. The LDP should make appropriate actions reflecting the need to manage wastes according to this directive.
Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste	1999	EC	Prevent or reduce negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills. The objective of the Directive is to prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment, in particular on surface water, groundwater, soil, air, and on human health from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills. The Landfill Directive defines the different categories of waste (municipal waste, hazardous waste, non-hazardous waste and inert waste) and applies to all landfills, defined as waste disposal sites for the deposit of waste onto or into land. Landfills are divided into three classes: landfills for hazardous waste; landfills for non-hazardous waste; landfills for inert waste.	The LDP will take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies contained in the SPPS.
Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste	1994	EC	Harmonise the packaging waste system of Member States. Reduce the environmental impact of packaging waste.	The LDP will take account of the Directive.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
National Renewable Energy Action Plan for the United Kingdom	2010	BEIS	Aims to provide a framework which enables the land based and rural sectors to realise the potential opportunities in the development of renewable energy. Focus is on assisting meeting targets for renewable energy production at a regional, national and EU level in a balanced and sustainable way. Other key objectives of the development include energy security, emissions reductions and wider economic advantages.	Policies relating to renewable energy are proposed, helping to meet the objectives of this plan. Design and sustainable development policies should also encourage renewable energy as part of these developments. Planning decisions will have to balance need for renewables with environmental concerns and it may be that the need for renewable developments is outweighed by environmental protection.
The UK Renewable Energy Strategy	2009	BEIS	This UK Roadmap shows where we are now; analysis of how deployment may evolve by 2020, together with separate estimates of the market's view of the potential; and the actions required to set us on the path to achieve the deployment levels anticipated in our analysis. While renewable deployment across all technologies will be important, the Roadmap focuses in particular on the technologies that have either the greatest potential to help the UK meet the 2020 target in a cost effective and sustainable way, or offer great potential for the decades that follow. These are Onshore wind, Offshore wind, Marine energy, Biomass electricity, Biomass heat, Ground source and air source heat pumps and Renewable transport.	The LDP should take into account evidence that informs future energy needs and renewable provision.
Renewable Energy in the Land Based Sector A way forward. Interim Renewable Energy Action Plan 2013/14	2013	DAERA	Follow up to the Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010. Strategic aim to Promote sustainable farming and forestry practices to deliver greater resource efficiency and reduced environmental impact, by supporting the sector to make a contribution to and benefit from renewable energy opportunities. Focus on enabling the land based and rural sectors to realise the potential opportunities in the development of renewable energy through capacity building, research and promotion of opportunities.	LDP preparation will have to balance need for renewables with environmental concerns and it may be that the need for renewable developments is outweighed by environmental protection.
Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPA) for Ireland	2010	DCCAE	The OREDPA identifies the opportunity for the sustainable development of Ireland's offshore renewable energy resources and sets out key principles, policy actions and enablers for delivery of Ireland's significant potential in this area. Three high level goals have been identified for the OREDPA: Ireland harnesses the market opportunities presented by offshore renewable energy to achieve economic development, growth and jobs; Increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing offshore renewable energy; Offshore renewable energy developments do not adversely impact our rich marine environment and its living and non-living resources.	This plan will not affect or be affected by the LDP directly. However, developments arising under the LDP could have an impact on the capacity available in Ireland. Developments in Ireland could also affect NI resources, particularly marine or coastal environments.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Envisioning the Future: Considering Energy in Northern Ireland to 2050	2015	DfE	A vision of what might happen by 2050: the outcomes are neither a prediction nor a plan and the study does not, therefore, propose a strategy. Instead, the vision is intended to guide thinking on what can be achieved in 2050 and what early decisions and activities may be needed to support development towards 2050.	Evidence that informs future energy needs and provision.
Draft Onshore Renewable Electricity Action Plan	2013	DfE	The aim of the Action Plan is to maximise the amount of renewable electricity generated from onshore renewable sources in order to enhance diversity and security of supply, reduce carbon emissions, contribute to the 40% renewable electricity target by 2020 and beyond and develop business and employment opportunities for Northern Ireland companies.	Provision in the LDP to support delivery of this will need to align with the renewable energy subject policy of the SPPS, though it could conflict with the natural heritage and other environmental policies.
Offshore Renewable Energy Strategic Action Plan 2012-2020	2012	DfE	The overall aim of the ORESAP is; to optimise the amount of renewable electricity sustainably generated from offshore wind and marine renewable resources in Northern Ireland's waters in order to enhance diversity and security of supply, reduce carbon emissions, contribute to the 40% renewable electricity target by 2020 and beyond and develop business and employment opportunities for NI companies. The associated development opportunity is for up to 900 MW of offshore wind and 300 MW from tidal resources in Northern Ireland waters by 2020.	Provision in the LDP to support delivery of this will need to align with the renewable energy subject policy of the SPPS, though it could conflict with the natural heritage and other environmental policies.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
DETI (2012) Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-2015	2012	DfE	The Action Plan aims to assist with the implementation of the Strategic Energy Framework (2010-2020). DETI set out numerous “main actions for the future” regarding renewables and other aspects of sustainable energy. Of particular relevance are the commitments to: Contribute to the growth of the NI sustainable energy sector (through Invest NI) to 8.9% of NI GVA by 2015: Work with DOE, developers, planners and those responsible for environmental consents to ensure that the need for renewable energy to address the environmental impacts of climate change is recognised, that good quality applications are made and that clear, consistent and proportionate procedures are in place for the consenting of renewable installations; Undertake “capacity studies” (including landscape capacity study, ecological study and bird migration study, with DOE and others) in order to determine with more accuracy how much development could be accommodated in different locations across Northern Ireland before significant cumulative effects start to emerge; Develop a continuous monitoring framework (with DOE and others) where the key potential cumulative effects identified from the assessment are reviewed on a regular basis in response to growth of the onshore wind industry. There are also a number of socio-economic commitments, such as supporting construction of electricity network or refurbishing schools with renewable technologies for example.	A number of socio-economic objectives are included in the Action Plan requiring the development of facilities and service infrastructure, as well as proposing funding for additional development such as renewables or farm diversification.
DETI (2010) Energy: A Strategic Framework for Northern Ireland	2010	DfE	Contains goals and targets, but does not include the detail of how targets could be achieved. It does aim to ensure future access to secure, competitively priced and sustainable energy supplies for all of NI. Also it provides a direction for NI energy policy over the next ten years concentrating on key areas of electricity, natural gas and renewable energy sources. Under review in 2016.	Renewable and sustainable development policies will indirectly accord with this framework, by providing for renewable development. There may be a conflict between this framework and environmental policies (natural heritage, cultural heritage, flood risk etc.) when it comes to developing gas facilities and electrical networks.
The revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy "Delivering Resource Efficiency"	2013	DAERA	The revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy sets the policy framework for the management of waste in Northern Ireland, and contains actions and targets to meet EU Directive requirements and the Department's Programme for Government commitments. It builds on and retains the core principles of the 2006 Strategy, and places a renewed emphasis on the Waste Hierarchy. The new Strategy moves the emphasis of waste management in Northern Ireland from resource management, with landfill diversion as the key driver, to resource efficiency i.e. using resources in the most effective way while minimising the impact of their use on the environment.	The SPPS supports this strategy, namely with development making sustainable use of available resources and having a sustainable approach to waste designed in. Waste management is one of the Subject Policies. The economic considerations of the SPPS will support ‘green jobs’ and ensure that the economy will benefit from planning decisions. Improved waste management will be good for the environment. The LDP is therefore likely to support this strategy, namely with development making sustainable use of available resources and having a sustainable approach to waste designed in. The economic considerations of the LDP will support employment and ensure that the economy will benefit from planning decisions. Improved waste management will be good for the environment.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Supplementary Planning Guidance Wind Energy Development in Northern Ireland's Landscapes.	2010	DfI	The SPG provides broad, strategic guidance in relation to the visual and landscape impacts of wind energy development. The guidance is based on the sensitivity of Northern Ireland's landscapes to wind energy development and contains an assessment of each of the 130 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) in Northern Ireland by referencing the characteristics and values associated with each LCA.	Informs the relative capacity for wind energy in respect of landscape.
Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Anaerobic Digestion	2010	DfI	The SPG provides additional advice and guidance specific to Anaerobic Digestion (AD) to complement the background information already set out in the Best Practice Guidance to PPS 18. AD proposals raise a number of planning issues including visual and landscape impacts arising from industrial scale plant/buildings; potential odour impacts, air emissions, noise impacts, and traffic impacts.	LDP policies in respect of development in the countryside, waste and landscape may influence the future development of these facilities.
Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009)	2009	DfI	Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 18 sets out the planning policy for development that generates energy from renewable resources. The PPS aims to facilitate the siting of renewable energy generating facilities in appropriate locations within the built and natural environments.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Planning Policy Statement 10 Telecommunications	2002	DfI	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for telecommunications development. It embodies the Government's commitment to facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunications systems whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum. The PPS also addresses health issues associated with telecommunications development.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Planning Policy Statement 11 Planning and Waste Management (DOE 2002)	2002	DfI	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the development of waste management facilities. It seeks to promote the highest environmental standards in development proposals for waste management facilities and includes guidance on the issues likely to be considered in the determination of planning applications. In addition, it explains the relationship between the planning system and authorities responsible for the regulation and management of waste.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
The Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997	1997	NI Executive	Implements the European Commission (EC) Framework on Waste in NI. The Order makes a number of provisions such as: transfer of responsibility for waste regulation from the district councils to the Department of Environment (DOE), focused within the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) introduction of measures designed to increase control over the processing and handling of waste including Waste Management Licensing, Duty of Care, Registration of Carriers, Special Waste and Producer Responsibility introduction of measures relating to the identification of contaminated land, designation of special sites, duties of enforcing authorities to require remediation, determination of appropriate persons to bear responsibility for remediation, liability of contaminating substances which escape to other land and contaminated land registers.	The Contaminated Land regime which is set out in Part 3 of the Waste Management and Contaminated Land Order (Northern Ireland) 1997, has been enacted but is not yet in force.
North Western Region Partnership 'Review of waste management plan 2006-2020'	2015	NWRWMG	To develop a waste management system that meets the region's needs and contributes to economic and sustainable development. This plan sets out arrangements for waste management and covers the period from 2012 to 2020.	There is a need to facilitate waste management with a focus on waste prevention and minimisation, recycling, composting, residual waste treatment and energy recovery with landfill as the option of last resort.
7. PHYSICAL RESOURCES				
The Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection	2006	Council of Europe	In September 2006 the Commission adopted a Soil Thematic Strategy including a proposal for a Soil Framework Directive. This originated from the need to ensure a sustainable use of soils and protect their function in a comprehensive manner in a context of increasing pressure and degradation of soils across the EU.	The commitment to sustainable soil use is in line with the Seventh Environment Action Programme, (7th EAP) which provides that by 2020 "land is managed sustainably in the Union, soil is adequately protected and the remediation of contaminated sites is well underway" and commits the EU and its Member States to "increasing efforts to reduce soil erosion and increase organic matter, to remediate contaminated sites and to enhance the integration of land use aspects into coordinated decision-making involving all relevant levels of government, supported by the adoption of targets on soil and on land as a resource, and land planning objectives".
Delivering our Future, Valuing our Soils: A Sustainable Agricultural Land Management Strategy for Northern Ireland	2016	independent Expert Working Group on Sustainable Land Management	Improving the health of Northern Ireland's agricultural soils is the central focus of this strategy. Healthier soils will deliver better yields of crops and grass which are higher in quality. This will provide the raw material necessary for the increased productivity and profitability envisaged by 'Going for Growth' and will also deliver environmental improvement simultaneously.	This strategy document is mainly targeted at agricultural practitioners adopting more sustainable land use practices. It contains some information on best practice for sustainable land management which may be translatable to the use of public lands, e.g. blue/green infrastructure and enhancement of biodiversity.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
8. TRANSPORT				
Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways	2016	Dfi	Sets out the plans for a network of greenways, connecting towns and cities to the villages and countryside from east to west and north to south across all eleven councils. Objectives include: improving health and wellbeing, increasing access to greenways, improving safety, improving social inclusion, economic development.	Greenways can produce both environmental and social benefits, because they are easily accessible and can bring nature and people together. The development of traffic free infrastructure, particularly greenways, can also have a positive impact on social inclusion and encouraging new and harder to reach groups to take up cycling and walking. The LDP can help to support these objectives.
Strategic Park & Ride Delivery Programme 2016-2020 (Draft)	2016	Dfi	Department is currently developing a Strategic Park & Ride Delivery Programme for the next four years which will deliver additional Park & Ride and Park & Share spaces	May inform policies relating to provision of park and ride facilities and connectivity between transport modes.
Department for Infrastructure Strategic Plan for Greenways	2016	Dfi	This is the base report for 'Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic plan for Greenways'. It presents a strategic approach and overview to the development of a shared greenway network which is planned at a regional level and allows people to link to places locally, regionally and nationally by active modes of travel.	Greenways can produce both environmental and social benefits, because they are easily accessible and can bring nature and people together. The development of traffic free infrastructure, particularly greenways, can also have a positive impact on social inclusion and encouraging new and harder to reach groups to take up cycling and walking. The LDP can help to support these objectives.
Planning Policy Statement 3 – Access, Movement and Parking (2005) & PPS3 clarification (DOE 2006)	2005	Dfi	Policies for vehicular and pedestrian access, transport assessments, the protection of transport routes and parking. Provides for a sustainable transport system which promotes road safety.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Northern Ireland Changing Gear: A Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland	2015	Dfi	The Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland is the first step in achieving the Minister's vision for cycling. It aims to set out progressively how we can transform Northern Ireland into a place where travelling by bicycle is a healthy, every day activity. It will be supported by a Bicycle Strategy Delivery Plan which will outline specific time bound actions to realise this vision. It takes a 3 pillar approach: 'Build' [a comprehensive network for the bicycle], 'Support' [People who choose to travel by bicycle] and 'Promote' [The bicycle as a mode of transport for everyday journeys].	This strategy is closely linked with 'Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways'. The LDP can help to support the objectives of the strategy by supporting the establishment of new or improved cycle routes and cycling infrastructure.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Railway Investment Prioritisation Strategy May 2014	2015	DfI	The Strategy sets out the strategic direction for future railway investment over the next 20 years and the high level initiatives that need to be delivered to support the Strategy. Objectives include: maintain and improve passenger capacity, remove bottlenecks and assist development along TEN-T (Trans European) core network corridor; enhance or extend TEN-T comprehensive network. The Strategy will also look at new halts and opportunities to develop out-of-town rail-based park and ride at new halts.	The LDP can support aspects of the Strategy, such as the aim to build additional park and ride facilities and station upgrades/ refurbishment which include enhancing accessibility and safety features.
Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future - A New Approach to Regional Transportation.	2011	DfI	How the Department will develop regional transportation beyond 2015, when the current transport plans reach their conclusion. The new approach to regional transportation complements the Regional Development Strategy and aims to achieve the transportation vision: “to have a modern, sustainable, safe transportation system which benefits society, the economy and the environment and which actively contributes to social inclusion and everyone’s quality of life.” The new approach starts with the assumption that the decision to travel has been made. It seeks to provide the infrastructure and services that will ensure that travel and transport are as sustainable as possible.	The SPPS includes seven Subject Policies specific to transport and others that address the 'High Level Transport Aims' and 'Strategic Objectives of Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future', so in meeting the requirements of the SPPS the requirements of this strategy will also be met. Planning to enable people to live and work near the services and facilities they require and policies that allow more people to work from home will support this strategy and the LDP will also need to consider any requirement for new or improved transport infrastructure. The LDP will support this Plan. The need for new or improved infrastructure will need to be assessed against environmental policies, though following good design and sustainable development should achieve the best possible solutions to the need.
Sub-Regional Transport Plan (SRTP)	2007	DfI	While this implementation plan has expired, some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. The Sub-Regional Transport Plan deals with the transport needs of the whole of Northern Ireland with the exception of the Belfast Metropolitan Area and the rail and trunk road networks which are covered in earlier transport plans. The purpose of the SRTP is to study the needs of the designated areas in detail and to confirm a package of transport schemes, consistent with the general principles and indicative levels of spend in the RTS. This package of schemes and initiatives must aim to service the future transport demands taking account of financial allocation, planned developments and any changes in Government policy.	Although expired, the STRP may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.
Planning Policy Statement 13 Transportation and Land Use	2005	DfI	Assists in bringing forward the integration of transportation and land use as per the RDS.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan 2015	2004	DfI	While this implementation plan has expired, some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. The RSTN of Northern Ireland comprises the complete rail network, five Key Transport Corridors (KTCs), four Link Corridors, the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Corridors and the remainder of the trunk road network. The Plan consists of proposals for the maintenance, management and development of this transport network up to the end of 2015.	Although expired, the RTSN may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.
Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) for Northern Ireland 2002-2012	2002	DfI	The Regional Transport Strategy for Northern Ireland 2002-2012 for identifies strategic transportation investment priorities and considers potential funding sources and affordability of planned initiatives over the strategy period.	Although expired, and replaced by 'Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future', the RTS may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.
Translink Strategy 'Get on Board' 2016-2021	2016	Translink	Translink's plan to transform public transport and support the growth and prosperity of Northern Ireland. 'Get on Board' has been developed in the context of the Regional Development Strategy 2035 and The New Approach to Regional Transportation. It aims to deliver a transformation in public transport, providing integrated services which connect people, enhance the economy and improve the environment, enabling a thriving Northern Ireland" Incorporates a number of key goals including: Making services inclusive and accessible to all; Working with all stakeholders to support social inclusion in local communities; Support modal shift toward sustainable transport; and Forging partnerships to deliver cost effective and integrated travel solutions to rural communities.	The LDP will support this strategy and will consider measures to make public transport services and sustainable transport more accessible and more integrated with other transport modes.
Network Utilisation Strategy, Translink NI Railways, (Published October 2015)	2015	Translink	The Network Utilisation Strategy (NUS) seeks to find a balance between supply and demand. It sets out a long Term vision for rail in Northern Ireland for the next 30 years. It provides the evidence base to support targeted investment in infrastructure, rolling stock and services such that the network is fit for the purpose of supporting the growth of the Northern Ireland economy.	Indicates potential future investment in railway infrastructure.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
9. AIR QUALITY				
Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)	2010	EC	The IED aims to achieve a high level of protection of human health and the environment taken as a whole by reducing harmful industrial emissions across the EU, in particular through better application of Best Available Techniques (BAT). Installations undertaking the industrial activities listed in Annex I of the IED are required to operate in accordance with a permit (granted by the authorities in the Member States). The integrated approach means that the permits must take into account the whole environmental performance of the plant, covering e.g. emissions to air, water and land, generation of waste, use of raw materials, energy efficiency, noise, prevention of accidents, and restoration of the site upon closure. For certain activities, i.e. large combustion plants, waste incineration and co-incineration plants, solvent using activities and titanium dioxide production, the IED also sets EU wide emission limit values for selected pollutants.	Location of land for industrial use should be considered in relation to people and sensitive environmental receptors.
Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe	2008	EC	This Directive merged most of existing legislation into a single directive with no change to existing air quality objectives and added new air quality objectives for PM _{2.5} (fine particles). Establishes the need to reduce pollution to levels which minimise harmful effects on human health, paying particular attention to sensitive populations, and the environment as a whole, to improve the monitoring and assessment of air quality including the deposition of pollutants and to provide information to the public. Emissions of harmful air pollutants should be avoided, prevented or reduced.	The LDP should consider the implications of new development on air pollution and take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies contained in the SPPS.
Defra, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and DOE (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	2007	Four Nations (DAERA)	This updated strategy sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues; sets out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved; introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles and identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives. It includes the requirement, under the local air quality management, for every local authority to regularly review and assess air quality in their area which is a statutory requirement under the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002. If national objectives are not met, or at risk of not being met, the local authority concerned must declare an air quality management area and prepare an air quality action plan. This identifies measures that will be introduced in pursuit of the objectives and can have implications for planning.	Local Plans can affect air quality in a number of ways, including through what development is proposed and where, and the encouragement given to sustainable transport. Therefore in plan making, it is important to take into account air quality management areas and other areas where there could be specific requirements or limitations on new development because of air quality. Drawing on the review of air quality carried out for the local air quality management regime, the LDP needs to consider the potential cumulative impact of a number of smaller developments on air quality as well as the effect of more substantial developments; the impact of point sources of air pollution (pollution that originates from one place); and ways in which new development would be appropriate in locations where air quality is or likely to be a concern and not give rise to unacceptable risks from pollution.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
10. CLIMATE CHANGE				
The Paris Agreement	2015	UN	The Paris agreement which entered into force in November 2016 provides an international framework to hold the increase in global temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to keep the more stringent target of below 1.5 degrees in sight. The agreement provides a broad framework for countries to work together, share information and build experience to increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience. It aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change. To reach these ambitious goals, appropriate financial flows, a new technology framework and an enhanced capacity building framework will be put in place, thus supporting action by developing countries and the most vulnerable countries, in line with their own national objectives. The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. This includes requirements that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
The Kyoto Protocol Adopted 1997, came into force in 2005.	2005	UN	The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which commits its Parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets. Recognizing that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity, the Protocol places a heavier burden on developed nations under the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities." The protocol looks at limiting the emission of harmful greenhouses gases. Parties committed to reduce GHG emissions by at least 18 percent below 1990 levels in the eight-year period from 2013 to 2020. It was updated by the Doha Amendment in 2012.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	1994	UN	The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994 and has near-universal membership. The UNFCCC is a “Rio Convention”, one of three adopted at the “Rio Earth Summit” in 1992. Its sister Rio Conventions are the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification. It now also incorporates the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Preventing “dangerous” human interference with the climate system is the ultimate aim of the UNFCCC.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
2030 Framework for climate and energy	2014	EC	EU-wide targets aim to help the EU achieve a more competitive, secure and sustainable energy system and to meet its long-term 2050 greenhouse gas reductions target. The strategy sends a strong signal to the market, encouraging private investment in new pipelines, electricity networks, and low-carbon technology. Targets for 2030 are a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels; at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption; at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.	Local Plans can affect air quality in a number of ways, including through what development is proposed and where, incorporation of energy efficiency, enabling renewable energy and encouraging sustainable transport.
The EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change	2013	EC	The EU Adaptation Strategy encourages all Member States to adopt comprehensive adaptation strategies. It 'Climate-proofs' action at EU level by promoting adaptation actions which include mainstreaming of climate change (mitigation and adaptation) into EU sector policies and funds, including marine and inland water issues, forestry, agriculture, biodiversity, infrastructure and buildings, but also migration and social issues. It supports better informed decision-making through Climate-ADAPT a platform which provides several useful resources to support adaptation policy and decision making, such as a toolset for adaptation planning and promotion of green infrastructure and ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation. Comprises a series of documents on adaption in different situations such as coastal and marine, infrastructure and rural development.	This Strategy aligns with the climate change focus of the SPPS. Adaptation to climate change should be considered for LDP proposals.
Directive 2012 on the energy efficiency 2012/27/EU	2012	EC	Under the Energy Efficiency Directive EU countries make energy efficient renovations to at least 3% of buildings owned and occupied by central government; EU governments should only purchase buildings which are highly energy efficient; EU countries must draw-up long-term national building renovation strategies which can be included in their National Energy Efficiency Action Plans.	The need for energy efficiency will influence the design of new and renovated buildings.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Directive 2010 on the energy performance of buildings 2010/31/EU	2010	EC	Under the existing Energy Performance of Buildings Directive energy performance certificates are to be included in all advertisements for the sale or rental of buildings; EU countries must establish inspection schemes for heating and air conditioning systems or put in place measures with equivalent effect; all new buildings must be nearly zero energy buildings by 31 December 2020 (public buildings by 31 December 2018); EU countries must set minimum energy performance requirements for new buildings, for the major renovation of buildings and for the replacement or retrofit of building elements (heating and cooling systems, roofs, walls, etc.); EU countries have to draw up lists of national financial measures to improve the energy efficiency of buildings. In 2016 the Commission proposed an update to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive to help promote the use of smart technology in buildings and to streamline the existing rules.	The need for energy efficiency will influence the design of new and renovated buildings.
Industrial Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency Roadmaps	2015	BEIS	Reports that set out potential pathways for the eight most heat-intensive industrial sectors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency. The cross-sectoral report suggests clustering as a long term strategy to deliver energy savings and more efficient use of waste and by-products.	Zoning and enabling infrastructure investments (in roads, ports, pipelines, etc.) would strengthen existing clusters and enable new ones to develop.
Climate Change Act 2008	2008	UK Gov.	Covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland established a legislative framework to enable the reduction of UK GHG emissions by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050 and by 34% by 2020. It also introduced legally binding five-year carbon budgets, which set a ceiling on the levels of GHGs the UK can emit on course to the longer-term target. The Climate Change Act 2008 covers all of the UK with targets set at the UK level. Climate Change Risk Assessment is a statutory requirement of the Act.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report, Summary for Northern Ireland	2017	CCC	The objective of the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) is to inform adaptation policy by assessing the current and future risks and opportunities posed by the impacts of climate for NI to the year 2100. The main finding is that extreme weather is still predominant among potential risks related to climate change but that other risks, such as water scarcity are becoming increasingly important. Highlights need for more strategic planning for increased water scarcity in vulnerable locations, including re-evaluation of land use options and if necessary investment in storage infrastructure to maximise use of surplus winter rainfall. Notes that land use planning is mainly based upon protecting prime agricultural land from development, on the assumption that prime land will remain in current locations into the future which may not be the case. Advises that more action is needed to manage current risks to people from cold temperatures through addressing fuel poverty. Highlights that there have been requests for new sea defence structures around the coast. There will need to be a system in place to decide which areas must be protected and where realignment is more appropriate however no shoreline management plans or other policies that assess and plan for changes to coastal communities have been developed for Northern Ireland.	The SPPS states that no development should take place in areas known to be at risk from coastal erosion. The SPPS promotes and encourages developers to use SuDS and also indicates that Councils should continue to promote the use of SuDS through their Local Development Plans. The SPPS recognises the importance of peatlands to Northern Ireland for biodiversity, water and carbon storage. The LDP will need to consider areas at risk from coastal erosion and vulnerable to flooding and to promote use of SuDS and protect peatlands. Measures that help to reduce fuel poverty can help address some social impacts of cold temperatures. Some infrastructure such as clean and waste water treatment may be vulnerable to flooding and therefore may need to be modified or relocated.
The appropriateness of a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act – December 2015 Update	2015	CCC	In October 2015 the Northern Ireland Executive Minister asked the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) to provide an update on a CCC report produced in 2011 on 'The appropriateness of a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act' to inform the case for bringing forward Northern Ireland climate change legislation in the next Assembly term. The Committee concluded that the range of circumstances that are unique to Northern Ireland suggest local legislation is appropriate. However, the benefits of specific legislation only outweigh the costs if it is possible to pass local legislation without adding undue additional costs on to the Northern Ireland Executive, ministries or the wider economy.	None at present but a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act (Bill) could influence future plans.
Efficient Farming Cuts Greenhouse Gases Implementation Plan 2016-2020	2013	DAERA	The plan is focused on encouraging the implementation of a series of on-farm efficiency measures which can improve farm performance and reduce the carbon intensity of local food production and signposts the support available to facilitate this.	Aspects of relevant to planning are promotion of renewable energy, nutrient management including anaerobic digestion, energy efficiency and ventilation in livestock building.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
National Climate Change Adaptation Framework: Building Resilience to Climate Change	2012	DHPCLG	Ireland's first National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (NCCAF) aims to ensure that adaptation actions are taken across key sectors and also at local level to reduce Ireland's vulnerability to climate change. The NCCAF requires the development and implementation of sectoral and local adaptation plans which will form part of the national response to the impacts of climate change. Each relevant Government Department (or State Agency, where appropriate) is required to prepare adaptation plans for their sectors. 12 Sectors were identified in total including Transport, Flood Defence, Agriculture and Energy. The objectives are: providing the policy context for a strategic national adaptation response to climate change; promoting dialogue and understanding of adaptation issues; identifying and promoting adaptation solutions; and committing to actions to support the adaptation process.	Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI plans will support this. This will result in due course to the development of sectoral and local government Adaptation Strategies in Ireland which will also need to be taken into account to ensure that development in Northern Ireland does not conflict. A National Climate Change Adaptation Framework to build on and supersede this framework is being developed for publication by December 2017 and this will also need to be considered.
Discussion Paper – Proposals for Taking Forward NI Climate Change Legislation - DOE on 1 December 2015	2015	DAERA	The aim of a NI Climate Change Bill which is still in development is to establish a long-term framework for future action on climate change to drive greater efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and so help ensure that Northern Ireland is better prepared to adapt to the impacts of unavoidable climate change. Proposals include: setting a long term target of 80% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050 (compared to 1990 baseline levels); setting interim targets that are consistent with achieving the 2050 targets; placing a duty to set limits in 5-year carbon budgets on the total amounts of GHG emissions that can be emitted in NI.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
Planning in the Coastal Area: A developer's guide to planning considerations and environmental responsibilities	2017	DAERA	This guidance document aims to explain how some onshore development may impact on the marine environment. It also describes the legislative and regulatory framework within which we manage our marine area. This document aims to outline how development along our coast can be managed in an integrated manner and how potential impacts of onshore development on the marine environment can be avoided or mitigated through early engagement and collaborative working.	This document has been produced to assist planning authorities, applicants and agents in their understanding of land and sea interactions. In addition, as planning legislation extends to the mean low water mark, there is an area of overlapping responsibilities in the intertidal area. The LDP should aim to align with legislation on the marine environment to achieve an integrated approach to the management of the intertidal area along the coastline.
Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP). 2014-2019	2014	DAERA	Contains the Northern Ireland Executive's response to the risks and opportunities identified in the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) for Northern Ireland, which was published in January 2012, as part of the overall UK CCRA. The Adaptation Programme provides the strategic objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, the proposals and policies by which each department will meet these objectives, and the timescales associated with the proposals and policies identified in the period up to 2019. The priority areas are flooding, natural environment, water and agriculture and forestry.	The LDP will need to consider areas at risk from coastal erosion and vulnerable to flooding. It may consider indirect measures to reduce flood risk such as the use of SuDS and protecting peatlands. Some infrastructure such as clean and waste water treatment will be more vulnerable to flooding therefore may need to be modified or relocated.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action Plan (revised 2016/17 Mitigation Plan)	2012	DAERA	This document sets out a Cross-Departmental Action Plan to tackle the established strategies together, including how Northern Ireland is and will continue to reduce its carbon footprint. Specifically how the Programme for Government target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by 2025 will be delivered. Status is not clear as not available on any departmental website. Plan has been updated with a Mitigation Action Plan in 2016/17	Encouraging sustainable development, good standards of design, renewable energy and overall sustainability will contribute to this action plan. Though a push on economic development could inhibit a reduction in greenhouse gases, the application of sustainability principles in development will lead to more efficient infrastructure. Scope for protection of or increase of carbon sinks in soil and trees.
The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015	2015	Irish Parliament	Ireland's national policy in response to climate change is determined, in part, by legislation. In particular, Ireland's first-ever dedicated climate change law, the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, provides for the making of: five-yearly National Mitigation Plans to specify the policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and a National Adaptation Framework to specify the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change.	While the legislation is for Ireland measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI policy and strategies will also support the objectives of this legislation.
11. WATER				
Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources	2012	EC	The "Blueprint" outlines actions that concentrate on better implementation of current water legislation, integration of water policy objectives into other policies, and filling the gaps in particular as regards water quantity and efficiency. The objective is to ensure that a sufficient quantity of good quality water is available for people's needs, the economy and the environment throughout the EU.	The Blueprint is expected to drive EU water policy over the long term. It is reflected in Sustainable Water.
Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks	2007	EC	Directive aims is to reduce and manage risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity and applies to inland waters as well as all coastal waters across the whole territory of the EU. It required identifying the relevant river basins and associated coastal areas at risk of flooding, drawing up flood maps and establishing flood risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness between 2011 and 2015. This has been coordinated with Water Framework Directive River Basin Planning.	Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive. Integrating flood risk management into development planning will contribute to compliance with this directive.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC	2006	EC	The directive requires each country to identify its most popular bathing waters for regular testing. In Northern Ireland 23 sites are formally identified. It requires Members States to monitor and assess the bathing water for at least two parameters and to inform the public about bathing water quality and beach management, through bathing water profiles.	Designated bathing waters will be taken into account in plan preparation. These sites represent assets for health and well-being and tourism.
The Water Framework Directive - EU Directive 2000/60/EC (the Water Framework Directive)	2000	EC	Introduces 'good status', a more rigorous water quality standard. The Directive requires 'River Basin Management Plans' which should influence Development Plans and be influenced by them.	Contribute, wherever possible and appropriate, to achievement of water targets. Plan policies on the design, location of development & sustainable water management to ensure that the LDP does not create adverse pressures on the aquatic environment.
Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption	1998	EC	Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.	This is reflected in 'Sustainable Water' (see below).
Directive 91/676/EEC on nitrates from agricultural sources.	1991	EC	The Directive seeks to reduce the level of water pollution caused by the run off of nitrates into waterways/ground water from agricultural sources. In particular, it is about promoting better management of animal manures, chemical nitrogen fertilisers and other nitrogen-containing materials spread onto the land.	The LDP will take account of the Directive. The SEA will consider the likely significant effect of the plan on the aquatic environment.
Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment	1991	EC	Protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.	This is reflected in 'Sustainable Water' (see below).
Northern Ireland Message on Water	2011	DfI, DAERA	In 2011 the UKCIP (formerly UK Climate Impacts Programme) decided to create a number of messages which could be used to engage with policy makers across the UK. NI Water, NIEA and Rivers Agency worked together to help prepare a headline message for Northern Ireland focused on Water and climate impacts. This describes the potential impacts of climate change on flood risk and stormwater capacity and identifies the need for investment to provide capacity to store and transfer surface water. This includes measures to deal with surface water runoff such as sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). It also considers potential effects on water quality and supply which may require the construction of more impounding reservoirs and raw water transfer pipelines.	Highlights potential long term problems and relating to water supply and flow including flooding investment needs to mitigate these.
Planning Policy Statement 15 (Revised) – Planning and Flood Risk	2014	DfI	Planning policies to minimise and manage flood risk to people, property and the environment.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015-2040)	2016	Dfi	The Strategy presents a framework for action which will facilitate implementation of a range of initiatives aimed at delivering the long term vision to have a sustainable water sector in Northern Ireland. the following four high level aims have been developed by government to cover the key water needs within a catchment and they form the chapters of the Long-Term Water Strategy: provide high quality sustainable supplies of drinking water to households, industry and agriculture; manage flood risk and drainage in a sustainable manner; achieve the environmental requirements of the Water Framework Directive in a sustainable manner; provide sustainable reliable water and sewerage services that meet customers' needs. A strategy implementation action plan will now be prepared containing actions aimed at delivering the high level proposed measures in the Strategy.	The strategy will inform the provision of infrastructure for water supply and treatment and approaches to flood risk management and environmental protection which will all inform the spatial capacity for development. The plan will need to enable development of infrastructure for example by accommodating investment in power, water and sewerage infrastructure in the interests of public health and to support measures relating to flood risk management and environmental protection.
Social and environmental guidance for Water and Sewerage Services (2015-2021)	2014	Dfi	The purpose of this document is to provide the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation with guidance on the key environmental and social policies the Minister for Regional Development expects it to contribute to in carrying out its role in regulating the water industry during the 2015-21 period. Sets out how NI Water should deliver to meet International, National and Local legislative and strategic commitments.	The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.
Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016	2016	NI Executive	The Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 confers a power on NI Water to require the construction of sustainable drainage systems as a condition of agreeing to adopt a drain or sewer. The Act also introduces new restrictions to the right to connect surface water sewers to the public sewer network. NI Water is able to take account of upstream sustainable drainage systems and is also able to refuse connection to the public sewer network if other suitable alternative means of dealing with surface water exist or could reasonably be provided. Suitable alternative means of dealing with surface water can include natural features or other arrangements known as soft sustainable drainage systems.	The overall aim of the Act is to make sustainable drainage the preferred option for dealing with surface water in all new developments, where possible. This aim should be reflected in all Local Development Plans.
Reservoirs Act (Northern Ireland) 2015	2015	NI Executive	The Reservoirs Act aims to ensure that reservoirs are managed and operated to minimise any risk of flooding due to an uncontrolled release of water resulting from dam failure and therefore protecting people, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. The legislation will apply to reservoirs that are capable of holding 10,000 cubic metres or more of water above the natural level of the surrounding land. These reservoirs will be known as 'controlled reservoirs'.	Reservoirs falling under this Act may require to be identified in the LDP.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Our Strategy for NI Water	2014	NIW	Sets out NI Water's long term strategy for providing water and wastewater services to customers in Northern Ireland. Its goal is 'to provide a range of essential services and associated contact channels which meet the rising expectations of our customers.' The strategy outlines the key challenges and opportunities facing the Northern Ireland water industry in the years to come. It outlines aspirations for customers in 2040 and priorities to 2020/21. Some of the priorities Invest available funding to minimise constraints in development caused by lack of capacity at wastewater treatment works and in sewerage networks. Prioritise investment to address issues in the sewerage system which lead to flooding from sewers. Increase the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). Invest in key water and wastewater treatment works and other critical sites to improve flood resilience. Expand use of sustainable wastewater treatment solutions which protect the environment, improve carbon efficiency and reduce operating costs. Undertake a focused programme of repair and renewal in relation to gravity sewers, CSO structures, pumping stations and syphons. Invest to improve our ability to transfer water from one area to another, remove bottlenecks and increase storage capacity.	The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.
PC 15 NIW's draft expenditure plan 2015-2021	2015	NIW	This sets out NI waters long term strategy for providing water and wastewater services customers throughout Northern Ireland. Over the 6-year PC15 period investment will include 9 water treatment works schemes and upgrades to 19 large wastewater treatment works and 45 small works.	The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.
NI Water Water Resources Management Plan 2012	2012	NIW	The Water Resources Management Plan explains how NIW intends to meet the drinking water needs of the population of Northern Ireland over the period 2010 to 2035. The WRMP takes into account expected demands from forecast changes in population, housing and water usage and incorporates any predicted changes to our climate. The WRMP will be complemented by the company's Drought Plan (not published) that will set out the short-term operational steps that the company will take if a drought develops which increases the risk to security of supplies and whether capital investment is needed to mitigate such events. It provides a strategic plan for managing water resources by setting the framework at the Water Resource Zone level within which investment decisions should be taken. Investment at smaller spatial scales will still need to be justified through other more local studies, such as trunk main studies, detailed zonal studies and targeted leakage initiatives. Preparation of a Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan is currently under way.	The LDP may need to accommodate water supply infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Flood Maps (NI)	2011	DfI - Rivers Agency	Flood Maps highlights the areas throughout Northern Ireland that are prone to flooding and its potential adverse impacts. The map is designed to: help Rivers Agency and others to plan and manage our work to reduce flood risk; encourage people living and working in areas prone to flooding to find out more and take appropriate action; inform anyone applying for planning permission if flooding is likely to be an important consideration.	Provides information on vulnerability to flooding throughout Northern Ireland which informs constraints on development,
Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for NI	2011	DfI - Rivers Agency	A key objective of the PFRA was to identify areas of potentially significant flood risk for which detailed flood maps would be produced. On the basis of the PFRA, it was determined that detailed flood maps should be produced for 20 Significant Flood Risk Areas and 49 Areas for Further Study and this work was completed as required by the EU Directive in December 2013.	Identifies areas of potentially significant flood risk which informs constraints on development.
Eel management plan: North Western International River Basin District	2010	DAERA	Measures to be carried out for the recovery of the stock of European eel including mitigation of hydropower and other barriers to passage.	May inform policies relating to hydropower and in river works.
Eel management plan: North Eastern River Basin District	2010	DAERA	Measures to be carried out for the recovery of the stock of European eel including mitigation of hydropower and other barriers to passage.	May inform policies relating to hydropower and in river works.
Pollution Reduction Programme -Longfield Bank & Balls Point (Lough Foyle)	2015	DAERA	Pollution Reduction Programmes were established under the Shellfish Waters in order to reduce pollution in designated shellfish waters. As the Shellfish Waters Directive has been repealed and subsumed into the Water Framework Directive, the Programme will be reviewed in 2018, in line with the midterm of the second River Basin Cycle under Water Framework Directive (WFD). All Shellfish Water Protected Areas must be managed to ensure that they meet their objectives under WFD and meet at least Class B status under the EU Hygiene Regulations, whilst making progress towards the WFD guideline standard.	Consider any designated shellfish waters and actions required for the pollution reduction programme.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
North Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2015 - 2021	2015	DAERA	River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD), taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile. This plan aims to: Provide at least good status for all water bodies; Prevent deterioration in status; Promote sustainable development; Achieve specific standards for protected areas. The north eastern river basin district (NE RBD) covers an area of around 4000 km ² , including 1000km ² of marine waters. It takes in large parts of Counties Antrim and Down and a smaller portion of Londonderry. The principal river systems are the Lagan, Bush and Quoile as well as the smaller systems draining from the glens of Antrim, and the County Down Coastline. The NE RBD has an extensive coastline including Larne, Belfast and Strangford Loughs, with Lough Mourne, Clea Lakes and Silent Valley the main lakes.	The objectives of this plan will be taken into account in plan preparation so that development does not adversely affect its delivery. The siting and extent of development and measures to prevent pollution can help support delivery of the River Basin Management Plan objectives. Good water quality and aquatic habitats contribute to health and well-being and the economy.
North Western River Basin Management Plan 2015 - 2021	2015	DAERA	River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD), taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile. This plan aims to: Provide at least good status for all water bodies; Prevent deterioration in status; Promote sustainable development; Achieve specific standards for protected areas. The north western river basin district (NW RBD) covers an area of around 4900km ² . It takes in large parts of Counties Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone. The principal river systems are the Foyle (whose tributaries are the Mourne, Derg, Strule and Finn Rivers) and the River Erne which drains the uplands of Cavan, Fermanagh and Monaghan. Lough Foyle is the main coastal water and Upper and Lower Lough Erne, Lough Melvin and Lough MacNea the main lakes.	The objectives will be taken into account in LDP preparation so that development does not adversely affect its delivery. The siting and extent of development and measures to prevent pollution can help support delivery of the River Basin Management Plan objectives. Good water quality and aquatic habitats contribute to health and well-being and the economy.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Neagh Bann River Basin Management Plan 2015 - 2021	2015	DAERA	River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD), taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile. This plan aims to: Provide at least good status for all water bodies; Prevent deterioration in status; Promote sustainable development; Achieve specific standards for protected areas. The Neagh Bann river basin district (NB RBD) covers an area of around 5740 km ² . It includes all of County Armagh, large parts of Counties Antrim, Londonderry, Down and Tyrone and a small area County Fermanagh. The principal river system is the Bann, with its tributaries the Moyola, Ballinderry, Blackwater, Six Mile Water and Main. The Newry river system drains into Carlingford Lough. Lough Neagh, located in the centre of the district is the main lake, with other smaller ones include Lough Fea, Portmore, Ross and Beg. This district has a limited coastline to the north where the River Bann enters the Atlantic and to the south where the Newry system enters Carlingford Lough.	The objectives will be taken into account in LDP preparation so that development does not adversely affect its delivery. The siting and extent of development and measures to prevent pollution can help support delivery of the River Basin Management Plan objectives. Good water quality and aquatic habitats contribute to health and well-being and the economy.
Neagh Bann River Basin Flood Risk Management Plans 2015	2015	DfI - Rivers Agency	The Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) is aimed at reducing the potential adverse consequences of significant floods on human health, economic activity, cultural heritage and the environment. There are three FRMPs which together highlight the flood hazards and risks in the 20 most significant flood risk areas in Northern Ireland from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. The plans identify the measures that will be undertaken over the next 6 years and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together and with communities to reduce the flood risks.	One of the aims of the FRMP is to inform the development planning process to ensure, as far as possible, that new zonings within local development plans are located outside flood risk areas. Northern Ireland's planning policies, informed by PPS15 and the SPPS adopt a precautionary approach to development that aims to prevent future development that may be at risk of flooding or which may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. This will be reflected in the LDP.
North Western River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan 2015 DARD	2015	DfI - Rivers Agency	The Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) is aimed at reducing the potential adverse consequences of significant floods on human health, economic activity, cultural heritage and the environment. There are three FRMPs which together highlight the flood hazards and risks in the 20 most significant flood risk areas in Northern Ireland from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. The plans identify the measures that will be undertaken over the next 6 years and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together and with communities to reduce the flood risks.	One of the aims of the FRMP is to inform the development planning process to ensure, as far as possible, that new zonings within local development plans are located outside flood risk areas. Northern Ireland's planning policies, informed by PPS15 and the SPPS adopt a precautionary approach to development that aims to prevent future development that may be at risk of flooding or which may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. This will be reflected in the LDP.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
North Eastern River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan 2015 DARD	2015	DfI - Rivers Agency	The Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) is aimed at reducing the potential adverse consequences of significant floods on human health, economic activity, cultural heritage and the environment. There are three FRMPs which together highlight the flood hazards and risks in the 20 most significant flood risk areas in Northern Ireland from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. The plans identify the measures that will be undertaken over the next 6 years and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together and with communities to reduce the flood risks.	One of the aims of the FRMP is to inform the development planning process to ensure, as far as possible, that new zonings within local development plans are located outside flood risk areas. Northern Ireland's planning policies, informed by PPS15 and the SPPS adopt a precautionary approach to development that aims to prevent future development that may be at risk of flooding or which may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. This will be reflected in the LDP.
Garron Plateau Sustainable Catchment Area Management Plan (SCAMP)	2014	RSPB	The project is a management plan for 2000 ha of the Garron Plateau ASSI which is owned by NI Water. The project aims to restore the ASSI, secure habitat for wildlife, improve water quality and maximise the bog's potential as a vital carbon store. As a by-product the programme is also expected to improve raw water quality at the treatment works.	LDP can provide policy support for sustainable catchment management. Good water quality and aquatic habitats contribute to health and well-being and the economy.
12. NATURAL RESOURCES				
North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Commission Precautionary Approach Agreement	1982	NASCO	NASCO and its Contracting Parties agree to adopt and apply a Precautionary Approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of salmon in order to protect the resource and preserve the environments in which it lives. Accordingly, NASCO and its Contracting Parties should be more cautious when information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate. The absence of adequate scientific information should not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures.	The LDP will take account of this. Increased fisheries resource will result in increased angling opportunities in the council area with the economic and social benefits this will bring.
North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Commission Convention For The Conservation Of Salmon In The North Atlantic Ocean	1982	NASCO	Aims to promote the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean through international co-operation.	The LDP will take account of this. DAERA is the lead authority in NI to take this forward and reports annually to the commission as to status of populations and actions taken to maintain and enhance them. Increased fisheries resource will result in increased angling opportunities in the council area with the economic and social benefits this will bring.
The Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2024	2016	Ramsar Convention	The Fourth Ramsar Strategic plan lays out a new vision under the Convention mission, with four overall goals and 19 specific targets which are designed to support the efforts of Parties, partners and other stakeholders in preventing, stopping and reversing the global decline of wetlands. The strategic goals are Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss And Degradation; Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network; Wisely Using All Wetlands; Enhancing Implementation.	These objectives are reflected in NI strategies and plans.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
The Ramsar Convention. The convention of Wetland of International Importance (1971 and amendments)	1971	Ramsar Convention	Seeks to protect and conserve wetlands, particularly those established as a habitat for waterfowl. The Convention uses a broad definition of wetlands which includes all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, estuaries, tidal flats, and all human-made sites such as artificial coastal lagoons.	The LDP must reflect the Ramsar designations, and the need to protect and conserve them. Many Ramsar designated sites are also SACs or SPAs.
Action Plan for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic Area	2013	EC	The strategy for the Atlantic covers coastal, territorial and jurisdictional waters of five EU Member States and focuses on: Managing human activities that must deliver a healthy and productive ecosystem, through developing fisheries and aquaculture but also forecasting future change in oceanic circulation and climate; Reducing Europe's carbon footprint through climate change mitigation, for example expansion of offshore wind farms and tidal technology in the Atlantic, but also changes in maritime transport will contribute to carbon reduction; Developing the sustainable exploitation of the Atlantic's seafloor natural resources; and Prepare for threats and emergencies in the Atlantic whether caused by accidents, natural disasters or criminal activity such as oil spills. It promotes the implementation of climate change mitigation and seeks economic and social progress in conjunction with a healthy environment.	There is potential for the LDP to support the objectives of this plan through its own coastal, marine, industrial or natural heritage policies. However, due to the interconnectivity of marine habitats, it is possible for developments or proposals arising under the LDP to have negative impacts on the wider European marine resource, its species and dependent businesses or individuals.
EU Biodiversity Strategy	2011	EC	The EU Biodiversity Strategy aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU and help stop global biodiversity loss by 2020. It reflects the commitments taken by the EU in 2010, within the international Convention on Biological Diversity. The six targets to address the main drivers of biodiversity loss, and reduce the main pressures on nature and ecosystem services include protect species and habitats, maintain and restore ecosystems and combat invasive alien species. The strategy promotes the increased use of green infrastructure. A 2015 European Parliament Resolution on the mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 'notes that the 2020 targets will not be achieved without additional, substantial and continuous efforts' and among many statements 'Stresses that habitat destruction is the most important factor driving biodiversity loss and is a particular priority when it comes to addressing this loss' and 'Deplores the fact that, in Europe, around a quarter of wild species are at risk of extinction and many ecosystems are degraded, giving rise to severe social and economic damage for the EU.'	Natural heritage policies which will afford some protection from inappropriate development are included in the SPPS which informs the context for the LDP.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (Codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended)	2009	EC	The Directive provides a framework for the conservation and management of, and human interactions with, wild birds in Europe. It sets broad objectives for a wide range of activities, although the precise legal mechanisms for their achievement are at the discretion of each Member State. In Northern Ireland, the provisions of the Birds Directive are implemented through the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, and The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & etc.) Regulations 1995.	Any development project or plan likely to have a significant effect (either directly or indirectly) on a Natura 2000 site must be subject to assessment. This will be taken into account through consideration of all SPAs and by Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP.
European Eel Regulation 2007 (EC) No 1100/2007	2007	EC	Aims to establish measures for the recovery of the stock of European Eel and requires member states to prepare and implement eel management plans. As a result, eel fisheries are now managed under long-term plans drawn up by the EU countries at river-basin level.	The LDP will take account of any plan arising from the Regulations
Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	1992	EC	The main aim of the Habitats Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species listed on the Annexes to the Directive at a favourable conservation status, introducing robust protection for those habitats and species of European importance. The Directive creates a network of sites in Europe for the conservation of biodiversity. In applying these measures Member States are required to take account of economic, social and cultural requirements, as well as regional and local characteristics. These sites are designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (collectively known as 'Natura 2000' sites).	Any development project or plan likely to have a significant effect (either directly or indirectly) on a Natura 2000 site must be subject to assessment. This will be taken into account through consideration of all SACs and by Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP.
UK Marine Policy Statement	2011	Four Nations (DAERA)	The MPS will facilitate and support the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives and thereby: Promote sustainable economic development; Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects; Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and our heritage assets; and Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues	Any development arising from the LDP will need to be in conformity with the MPS and NI Marine Plan once the latter is adopted in order to protect the marine environment.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
(draft) Marine Plan for Northern Ireland	2018	DAERA	The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of our marine area through a strategic framework with spatial elements. It will consist of a series of policy statements covering cross-cutting marine planning issues that apply to all decision making in the marine area and to relevant sectors. It will not bring forward new policies governed by other departments but will align with and contribute to the policy objectives for key marine activities as set out in the UK Marine Policy Statement and will support and complement existing plans and policies. The draft Marine Plan was published for consultation in May 2018.	Public authorities taking authorisation or enforcement decisions, which affect or might affect the marine area, must do so in line with marine policy documents, such as Marine Plans and the Marine Policy Statement (MPS), unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise. A public authority must explain any decision not made in line with an adopted marine plan or the MPS.
Ireland's Marine Strategy Framework Directive Article 19 Report Initial Assessment, GES and Targets and Indicators	2013	DECLG, MI	The first step in the implementation of the MSFD in Ireland was an Initial Assessment of Ireland's marine waters and establishment of a comprehensive set of environmental targets and associated indicators for the marine waters so as to guide progress towards achieving Good Environmental Status. Each state is required to ensure they take appropriate action by 2020 to maintain or achieve Good Environmental Status.	Should an LDP have specific proposals for its coastline, including facilitating developments that utilise the marine environment, these could be either supportive or in conflict with the objectives of the Directive.
Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter: safeguarding our rocks and landscape	2017	DfE	Guidance document that sets out a clear ambition to recognise geodiversity as a vital and integral part of the economy, environment heritage and future sustainable development. This is necessary to safeguard and manage geodiversity for both current and future generations.	May inform decision making and support policy at strategic level for the conservation management of geodiversity.
Valuing Nature - A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020	2015	DAERA	A strategy for Northern Ireland to meet its international obligations and local targets to protect biodiversity and ensure that the environment can continue to support our people and economy. Contains 57 actions to impact positively on the loss of biodiversity up to 2020.	Actions include: Restoring ancient woodland and encouraging peatland and wetland habitat restoration with emphasis on an ecosystems approach. LDP proposals and policies should support delivery of actions where appropriate.
Strategy for Marine Protected Areas in the Northern Ireland Inshore Region	2014	DAERA	Aims to help protect and improve ecosystems in the Northern Ireland inshore region (i.e. within 12 nautical miles) and fulfil international and national legal obligations through a network of Marine Protected Areas (SACs, SPAs, ASSIs, Ramsar sites and Marine Conservation Zones). The Department will develop, in consultation with stakeholders, recommendations for management actions and measures necessary to deliver the conservation objectives for MCZ features.	Public authorities have a duty, when carrying out their functions and when permitting others to carry out regulated activities in relation to MCZs, to ensure that such activities are undertaken in a way that furthers the conservation objectives of a site, or where this is not possible least hinders the achievement of these objectives. This will be taken into account in preparing LDP proposals.
DOE (2013) Northern Ireland Invasive Species Strategy	2013	DAERA	In response to the threats posed by invasive alien species the Department of Environment published 'An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Northern Ireland'. The aim of the Strategy is to minimise the risk posed, and reduce the negative impacts caused, by invasive alien species in Northern Ireland.	Invasive species may be a constraint for some sites and consideration will need to be given to measures to minimise the risks caused by invasive species.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Planning Policy Statement 2 – Planning and Nature Conservation	2013	DfI	Policies for the conservation of natural heritage.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000	2013	DAERA	The Prioritised Action Framework sets out the prioritised actions for managing the Natura 2000 network to be taken to address unfavourable conservation status of habitats in Annex I and species in Annex II of the Habitats Directive and Annex 1 of the Birds Directive. These are intended to help achieve the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2000. Priorities include measures such as agri-environmental schemes and an ecosystems approach. It states that the Department will publish guidance ...to advise developers and other key stakeholders ..., especially those who regulate development, to encourage them to minimise adverse impacts on habitats and species and to provide for biodiversity where possible.	This will be taken into account through Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP and planning proposals carried out under it which may have a significant effect on site selection features of European sites. Any advice from the Department will be taken into account.
Draft Northern Ireland Marine Position Paper	2012	DAERA	The Position Paper set out the Executive's objectives and lead departments for the sustainable development of the marine area including energy production and infrastructure development; tourism and recreation; port development; sewerage services; flood risk management and drainage; integrated coastal zone management; climate change; coastal change; and protection of the historic environment. It was intended to identify the policy context within which a Northern Ireland Marine Plan will be developed. The status of this document is not clear.	LDP proposals and policies may directly support natural and cultural heritage aspects of Marine Position Paper, or have an indirect relationship, for example regarding outdoor recreation, access, transportation and sustainable development.
An Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006 – 2026	2006	DAERA	Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) aims to establish sustainable levels of economic and social activity in coastal areas while protecting the coastal environment. ICZM seeks to reconcile the different policies that have an effect on the coast and to establish a framework that facilitates the integration of the interests and responsibilities of those involved in the development, management and use of the coast.	LDP proposals and policies may directly support natural and cultural heritage aspects of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy, or have an indirect relationship, for example regarding outdoor recreation, access, transportation and sustainable development.
Forest Service - Sperrin Forest Plan 2012	2012	DAERA	Forest Management plans set out the management objectives for the forests and woodlands Forest Service looks after. Plans are currently prepared for Down, Armagh, Sperrin, West Tyrone, East Fermanagh and East Tyrone.	Relevant plans may inform land use, landscape and recreational use of forests in the plan area.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Local Biodiversity Action Plan for the Causeway Coast and Glens Council Cluster of Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle Councils	2018	Causeway Coast and Glens Council	Builds on the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011. Aims are to: Conserve and enhance the rich biodiversity of the area – Raise awareness of the variety and importance of the areas biodiversity – Encourage local ownership and guardianship of the area's biodiversity – Where possible, incorporate the sustainable use of biodiversity into all new policies and strategies affecting the area covered by the cluster councils	The LDP may assist with the objectives of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan by affording protection to sites, habitats or species which have been identified as being important in the Plan. It may also assist in delivering plan objectives by supporting the establishment of urban greenspace and wildlife areas in urban/ industrial/ brownfield sites.
13. LANDSCAPE				
European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)	2000	COE	The European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues. It covers all landscapes, including natural, managed, urban and peri-urban areas, and special, everyday and also degraded landscape. Articles 5 and 6 commit signatory states to a number of actions which include the need to recognise landscapes in law, to establish policies aimed at landscape planning, protection and management and the integration of landscape into other policy areas.	The LDP should support the aims of the convention, seeking to protect, manage and enhance the landscape.
Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment	2016	DAERA	The purpose of the Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA) is to provide an evidence base which can be used equally by planners, developers and the public. It describes forces for change through climate change, land use, agriculture, energy and invasive species and outlines the types of ecosystem services provided in each region. The assessment provides a strategic overview of the landscape and subdivides the countryside into 26 Regional Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) based upon information on people and place and the combinations of nature, culture and perception which make each part of Northern Ireland unique. This evidence base can be used to enable informed decisions to be made about the future protection, management and sustainable development of Northern Ireland's landscapes and can be complemented by more detailed local studies.	This is not policy but it provides analysis of all of Northern Ireland Landscapes at a regional level which provides further evidence to inform the LDP.
Northern Ireland Seascape Character Assessment	2014	DAERA	Twenty-four different regional seascape character areas have been identified round the coast of Northern Ireland. The Seascape Character Assessment describes these areas, their key characteristics and the different influences that mould each as a unique part of the coastline.	This can inform planning of development in the coastal zone. The description and mapping of regional seascape character can provide evidence to assist in responding to the increasing demands being placed upon the related marine and terrestrial environments. This can also help to inform the planning, design and management of a range of projects taking place on and around the coastline.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Northern Ireland's Landscape Charter	2014	DAERA	Invites organisations and individuals to sign the charter and commit to delivering its vision by approaches including the following: adopt and promote best practice to ensure all development works with and enhances sense of place; ensure sense of place is central to all decision making about landscape and empower people locally to be involved.	This requires consideration of all landscapes to enhance them, respect sense of place and promote sympathetic design.
Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment	2000	DAERA	The Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment subdivided the countryside into 130 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), each based upon local patterns of geology, landform, land use, cultural and ecological features. For each LCA, the key characteristics were described and an analysis of landscape condition and its sensitivity to change was made. While the original assessment was published in 2000 many landscape character areas have been updated more recently.	This is not policy but it provides a comprehensive analysis of all of Northern Ireland Landscapes, including their vulnerability and sensitivity to change which informs the state of the landscape, capacity for development and areas meriting protection.
Binevenagh AONB Action Plan 2017-22	2017	Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust	This Action Plan is part of a suite of documents relating to the Binevenagh AONB; the Binevenagh AONB Management Plan, Binevenagh AONB Action Plan 2010-2015, and the State of the Binevenagh AONB Report. Identifies which agencies will be responsible for / lead with carrying out actions (grouped under various categories) and timescales for completion. Also identifies funding requirements	This is a non-statutory plan however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan.
Causeway Coast AONB Management Plan 2013 - 2023	2013	Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust	The aim of the draft plan is to conserve and enhance the landscape quality of the Causeway Coast AONB for the benefit of present and future generations. It reflects planning policies and development plans for the region and presents practical guidance for organisations and individuals who have an interest in protection of the AONB.	This is a non-statutory plan however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan.
Giants Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site Management Plan 2013 – 2019	2013	Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust	It is UK government policy to have management plans for all world heritage sites. The management plan has been to aid the National Trust, as sole property managers for the site, in managing the large number of visitor numbers on what is a dynamic site. Aims are: (1) Protect and conserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site and its setting for present and future generations (2) Support & demonstrate good WHS Management (3) Raise public awareness of the Giant's Causeway and its WHS/International status (4) Provide a safe and enjoyable visitor experience that does not compromise the Outstanding Universal Value of the Site (5) Engage local communities with the WHS and enable them to gain greater benefits from the WHS designation	This is a non-statutory plan however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Binevenagh AONB Management Plan 2010-2020	2010	Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust	The over-arching aim of this management plan is to conserve and enhance the landscape quality of the Binevenagh AONB for the benefit of those who live there and those who visit. It presents an evidence base and vision that can help in the formulation of planning policy for the area.	This is a non-statutory plan however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan.
Binevenagh AONB Action Plan 2010-15	2010	Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust	This Action Plan, now superseded by the 2017-22 action plan is part of a suite of documents relating to the Binevenagh AONB; the Binevenagh AONB Management Plan, Binevenagh AONB Action Plan 2010-2015 and the State of the Binevenagh AONB Report. This Action Plan sets out how each objective can be achieved through a series of actions. These actions, with their suggested lead and partner organisations, have been identified through extensive consultation with stakeholder organisations and the community and represent a cohesive approach to the future management of the area.	This is a non-statutory plan however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan.
Antrim Coast & Glens Area of Outstanding Beauty Management Plan 2008 - 2018	2008		Aims to highlight the things that make this area so characteristic and then presents a series of recommendations that collectively will help to conserve and enhance its features, and protect its culture and traditions.	The LDP can help to support these objectives.
14. HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT				
Xi'an Declaration On The Conservation Of The Setting Of Heritage Structures, Sites And Areas	2005	ICMOS	To contribute through legislation, policies, planning processes and management to better protect and conserve the world's heritage structures, sites and areas in their settings.	LDP can assist with implementing the measures outlined in the agreement: Acknowledging the contribution of setting to the significance of heritage monuments, sites and areas; Understanding, documenting and interpreting the settings in diverse contexts; Developing planning tools and practices to conserve and manage settings; Monitoring and managing change affecting setting; Working with local, interdisciplinary and international communities for co-operation and awareness in conserving and managing setting.
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992)	1992	COE	The new text (revision of the 1985 Granada Convention) makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. It is concerned in particular with arrangements to be made for co-operation among archaeologists and town and regional planners in order to ensure optimum conservation of archaeological heritage. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. Protection of the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be investigated archaeologically both on land and underwater. Creation of archaeological reserves and conservation of excavated sites.	Consideration should be given to conservation of archaeological resources including potential archaeological reserves.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
The European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention)	1987	COE	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.	Consideration should be given to conservation of archaeological heritage.
Protection of Military Remains Act 1986	1986	UK Gov.	Under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 all aircraft that have crashed whilst in military service are automatically protected. Maritime vessels (e.g. ships and boats) lost during military service are not automatically protected. The MoD can, however, designate wrecks lost within the last 200 years, whose position is known, as 'controlled sites', and can designate named vessels lost on or after 4th August 1914 (Britain's entry into World War I), whose location is unknown, as 'protected places'. It is not necessary to demonstrate the presence of human remains for wrecks to be designated as either 'controlled sites' or 'protected places'. It also covers vessels of a foreign state e.g., German U-Boats	This may apply to military shipwrecks and aircraft discovered in the nearshore area and the larger freshwater lakes of NI.
UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)	2001	UNESCO	The Convention sets out basic principles for the protection of underwater cultural heritage. Amongst its main principles are an obligation to preserve underwater cultural heritage, with in situ preservation as first option, and a ban on its inappropriate commercial exploitation. While the UK has not ratified the Convention, it publicly supports the majority of its articles and has publicly recognised the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for archaeology	The Local Plan will recognise the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for underwater archaeology.
Historic Buildings of Local Importance: A guide to their Identification and Protection	2017	DfC	This good practice guide aims to assist councils achieve a consistent approach when identifying and protecting Historic Buildings of Local Importance.	One way to protect unlisted historic buildings of local importance is to include a policy in the Local Development Plan.
Regeneration: The Value of our Built Heritage. Position Paper 2017	2017	DfC	This paper sets out the potential value of effective architectural regeneration throughout our villages, towns and cities. It highlights Northern Ireland's unique architectural heritage as well as the social and economic value of older building stock, and the added qualities it can bring to our communities.	Paper recommends that heritage buildings are incorporated and made a priority in new council community planning. The protection and promotion of Heritage should be integrated into community plans and new planning policy. Policy needs to be integrated and support building users.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Planning Policy Statement 23 – Enabling Development	2014	DfI	PPS23 sets out planning policy for assessing proposals for Enabling Development in support of the re-use, restoration or refurbishment of heritage assets such as historic buildings, scheduled monuments, industrial heritage and historic parks, gardens and demesnes. It provides a policy to maintain and enhance the standard of a wide range of community facilities in Northern Ireland including cultural, educational, social, health, built heritage and leisure facilities and the restoration and creation of wildlife habitat.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Living Places - An Urban Stewardship and Design Guide for NI	2014	DfI	Aims to establish the key principles behind good place making to inform those involved in the process of managing (stewardship) and making (design) urban places, with a view to raising standards across Northern Ireland. The focus of the guide is urban areas, by which is meant all of our cities, towns, villages and neighbourhoods. It recognises the wider economic, cultural and community benefits of achieving excellence in the stewardship and design of these important places, be they existing or newly proposed.	Principles inform spatial, design and policy measures that can be incorporated in the LDP to maximise contribution to strengthening society, protecting cultural heritage, promoting well-being, enhancing access and creating economic growth.
Study of the economic value of Northern Ireland's historic environment	2012	DfC	The purpose of this study is to help make the case for investment in the Northern Ireland historic environment. The four objectives of the study are to: (1.) Determine the current value of economic activity generated by Northern Ireland's historic environment and its distribution; (2.) Gauge the level of historic environment-related employment in Northern Ireland, including indirect employment, the distribution of this employment, and its relative importance compared with other sectors; (3.) Conduct a credible analysis of the wider community benefits that Northern Ireland's historical environment provides to the economy using a series of case studies, and (4.) Make an assessment of the potential for the use of Northern Ireland's historic environment to aid sustainable growth of the economy and make recommendations as to how this could be realised.	This document can help to inform the LDP and identify areas where links can be made between the Historic Environment and other themes, e.g. community, economic development, tourism, etc.
Planning Policy Statement 6 – Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage (and Addendum ATC)	1999	DfI	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and features of the built heritage.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995	1995	NI Executive	Article 3 of this Order provides for the scheduling of monuments for protection. Monuments are selected for scheduling on the basis of published criteria, which are found in Annex B of Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS 6): Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage (1999).	Scheduled monuments will be considered in preparing LDP policies.

TITLE	YEAR	CURRENT LEAD ORGANISATION	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Protocol for the Care of the Government Historic Estate Northern Ireland Guidance February 2012	2012	DfC	A document set out by the Executive explaining how departments and agencies will put their commitment into practice for caring and protecting historic estates. Includes protecting heritage assets through regular condition surveys, maintenance and renovation using appropriately experienced practitioners and working to keep buildings in active use.	This document is recommended as good practice for councils to adopt.
Cushendun Conservation Area Booklet	1996	DfI	Designation as a Conservation area not only helps to protect and enhance the special qualities of the village but also extend grant aid to non-listed building. Booklet aims to help portray some of the special qualities that Cushendun has and, as the recovery of tourism in the Glens takes hold, contribute to assisting the recovery.	Supplementary Planning Guidance
Ballymoney Conservation Area Booklet	1994	DfI	The purpose in producing general design guidelines for proposed new building alterations and extensions within Ballymoney is to help ensure that such proposals will enhance the character and special qualities of the area.	Supplementary Planning Guidance
Cushendall Conservation Area Booklet	1993	DfI	The purpose in producing general design guidelines for proposed new building alterations and extensions within Cushendall Conservation Area is to help ensure that such proposals do not detract from the character and special qualities of the area.	Supplementary Planning Guidance
Ballycastle Conservation Area Booklet	1990	DfI	The purpose in producing general design guidelines for proposed new building alterations and extensions within the Town Centre is to help ensure that such proposals do not detract from the character and special qualities of the area.	Supplementary Planning Guidance

APPENDIX 5: SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL GUIDE FOR CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL PREFERRED OPTIONS PAPER

This guide is based upon the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Local Development Plan 2030 draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. Sources for it include the Council's Corporate and Community Plans and the Local Development Plan (LDP) position papers. Other sources of information include data from the Northern Ireland Statistics Research Agency (NISRA). All sources of information are referenced in the Scoping Report.

KEY ISSUES AND APPRAISAL PROMPTS

1. The objective for sustainable development is to improve health and well-being.
Rationale
Public policy seeks to increase healthy life expectancy, reduce preventable deaths, improve mental health and reduce health inequalities. Evidence shows that there is a need to address obesity, increase physical activity and reduce inequalities in health. It is also necessary to provide for the needs of an aging population and minimize the detrimental impacts of noise. This can be achieved by creating an environment that is clean and attractive; encourages healthy lifestyles; protects tranquil and quiet areas and enables access to health care facilities for all.
Key issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends indicate an ageing population with the number of people over 65 years expected to reach 29% of the total population by 2039. Many older people may have to live on low incomes and may have disabilities and reduced mobility. • The increase in the proportion of older people in the population will increase the requirement for care and there is a need to meet the future needs for care and support for older people at home or in communal homes and to improve access to health services and other facilities and services. • Many people are dependent on carers in the home or local community. This may be a particular issue for those living in rural areas. • The main causes of deaths are cancer, heart disease and respiratory disease which account for 70% of all deaths. • Deaths due to respiratory causes are lower than for NI although they have remained at a fairly steady rate from 2004. Census data for 2011 showed higher than average reports of shortness of breath or difficulty breathing therefore it is important to minimise environmental impacts on respiratory conditions. • Wellbeing is generally good compared to NI as a whole and maintaining a high quality environment can continue to support this. • There is an inequality in health with all measures of health being significantly worse in the most deprived areas. • Good spatial planning can help to reduce health inequalities by providing a high standard of design and place making, open space, capacity for any additional services required and accessibility. • Levels of obesity in the Borough, as well as in Northern Ireland and the UK are high by global standards reflecting poor diet and a relatively sedentary lifestyle. • Levels of physical activity are relatively low and much lower than recommended levels. • There is a need to promote physical activity for all age groups through provision of and ensuring good accessibility to sports facilities, open space, green infrastructure and walking and cycling routes. • In particular there is a need for children to have accessible play opportunities in places where they feel safe.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise and environmental quality are not identified as being significant adverse effects at present however they can impact on health and therefore environmental quality should be improved, or sustained where it is good, to minimise adverse health impacts. Radon is naturally present in some areas where it needs to be taken into account in building design. Major transport infrastructure has the potential to cause noise disturbance, air pollution or safety risks which can be reduced through siting and design of development. Ambulance response times have been increasing across Northern Ireland and are high in our area; the location of and access to emergency services can impact on response times. There is a need to plan the relative location of industry and housing, open space and public facilities to minimise use conflicts. 	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Improve access to health care b) Reduce response times for the emergency services c) Provide opportunities for and encourage health lifestyles and physical activity for all ages d) Create open space with public access e) Increase social contact and intergenerational contact (including family cohesion) f) Support those providing care g) Provide suitable accommodation for those with long term health problems or disability h) Maintain good air quality i) Avoid or reduce noise impacts that may affect health j) Improve ability to reach schools and workplaces by active travel k) Reduce the risk of traffic accidents	l) Reduce access to health care m) Increase response times for the emergency services n) Discourage healthy lifestyles and physical activity o) Reduce open space with public access p) Decrease social contact and intergenerational contact q) Lack of support for carers r) Shortage of suitable accommodation for those with long term health problems or disability s) Decrease in air quality t) Increase noise impacts that may affect health u) Make it harder to reach schools and workplaces via active travel v) Increase the risk of traffic accidents

2. The objective for sustainable development is to strengthen society

Rationale

Regional policy is directed towards improving community relations and creating a safe society which is more united. Success will be represented by places which are inclusive, respect culture and identity, promote social integration and create a sense of pride. They will also be designed to feel safe and to reduce opportunity for crime or anti-social behaviour.

Key issues

- The population is predicted to rise to 145,581 by the year 2027 but decline over the following 10 years to 144,128.
- One fifth of the population is under 16 years although this proportion will decline over the plan period.
- The proportion married is above the NI average and the proportion single is below the NI average.
- There is a trend of an increase in the number of single people and single households with 40% of the population being single.
- Single people have different housing needs which need to be planned for.
- A greater proportion of older people will increase the need for suitable housing that is accessible for those who may not drive and enables support to be provided.
- Levels of deprivation vary widely through the Council area with multiple issues in many areas.
- The highest concentrations of deprivation with respect to proximity to services were largely in Coleraine and Moyle legacy districts.
- There is a commitment and need to promote social inclusion through appropriate and accessible shared space and applying place making to make areas inclusive for all backgrounds and income levels.
- Some parts of our area have populations which predominantly reflect one religion or political opinion.
- There will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability.
- The community is not ethnically diverse, however the needs of minority groups should be taken into account.
- There will continue to be a need for childcare facilities, nursery, primary and secondary schools, particularly in the short term, as well as access to community and leisure facilities.
- About one in four of those surveyed considered that leisure centres, libraries and shopping centres are not shared and open to all and more people thought this was the case for parks therefore consideration needs to be given to making new developments more inclusive.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Promote inclusion of all groups b) Retain, create, or enhance shared space c) Increase accessibility to shared space d) Promote positive social interaction e) Give rural communities appropriate access to facilities and services f) Reduce the factors causing inequalities g) Meet identified needs that will reduce inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities	h) Inhibit inclusion of all groups i) Shared space reduced or deteriorates j) Decrease accessibility to shared space k) Decrease positive social interaction l) Rural communities less access to facilities and services m) Exacerbate the factors causing inequalities n) Maintains or increases inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities

3. The objective for sustainable development is to provide good quality, sustainable housing.	
Rationale	
The population is growing and therefore there is ongoing need for new housing in locations that meet regional policy, are accessible and balance the needs of society and the environment. The make-up of households is changing therefore design needs to meet long term requirements with good quality build to be sustainable. This objective should reduce homelessness and ensure decent, affordable homes with a mix of types.	
Key issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predicted household size is to decrease and the type of housing available will need to accommodate this. • Housing growth indicators have significantly reduced between 2008 and 2016. • Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has had one of the lowest increases in housing stock relative to other Councils. • Overprovision of housing allocations was evident in the Northern Area Plan. • Social housing projects have been the driver of new starts since 2015/16 whilst private dwellings/developments have been the driver of completions and social housing completions have significantly decreased during 2015/16. • The waiting list for social housing in the Council is 5% of the overall total for Northern Ireland however this identifies need for almost 2000 units. • Over half the population live in rural settlements and open countryside. • Regional policy directs housing toward hubs but there are a significant number of other settlements within the Council. • Regional policy targets 60% of housing to be provided on brownfield sites in settlements with a population of 5000 or more. • There is an ageing population due to residents living slightly longer than the Northern Ireland average which brings with it the need for access to services, facilities and infrastructure for older people. • Due to our environmental designations, the Council may have an increased need to consider potential impacts on landscape character, amenity value and environmental assets when dealing with rural housing applications, and to help deal with any potential impacts, local policies may be needed to help guide decisions. • At the Council level, countryside build rates made up a significant amount of the total house build from 1999 to 2010. • While figures for new rural builds were available, they showed that at the Council level new urban and rural builds were nearly 50/50. • Housing provision has been consistently higher than household growth since before 2012 but has remained below the housing growth indicator. • Overall households are projected to increase but the average household size is to decrease with two and one person households projected to increase the most. • In the long term, households without children are predicted to also increase. • The former district council with the highest level of fuel poverty in Northern Ireland is Moyle. • Vacancy of dwellings may lead to unfitness of a dwelling and is an issue across housing tenures and types but particularly in isolated rural areas. 	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Enable/encourage a variety of household types and size b) Enable/encourage affordable social housing	h) Inhibits a variety of housing types i) Does not promote affordable social housing j) May increase homelessness

c) Help to reduce homelessness	k) Does not meet the needs of specific groups e.g. single people, couples, retired people, disabled
d) Meet the needs of specific groups e.g. single people, couples, retired people, disabled	l) Housing provision does not meet local needs
e) Provide housing which meets locally identified needs	m) Doesn't help to reduce number of unfit homes or use vacant dwellings
f) Reduce the number of unfit homes	
g) Help to fill any vacant dwellings	

4. The objective for sustainable development is to enable access to high quality education	
Rationale	
Good education improves opportunities for employment and also contributes to avoidance of poverty and healthier lifestyles. The provision of suitable accommodation for educational establishments in appropriate, accessible locations should play a part in making schools more sustainable and reducing inequalities in education.	
Key issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In some areas of our Borough a decline in pupil numbers will have implications for the sustainability of existing schools. • Sharing facilities has been recognised as a way to promote a more cohesive and tolerant society and make better use of the resources available to education. • Although our Borough has a high level of educational achievement at all levels this is not consistent between DEAs. 	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Improve education level and employability of the population b) Promote access to education c) Promote access to skills training d) Help rural communities access education and skills training e) Improve opportunities for multiple use of facilities f) Help educational establishments to provide modern sustainable accommodation	g) Does not help improve education level and employability of the population h) Decrease access to education and skills training i) Makes rural communities access education and skills training harder j) Under use of public facilities k) Inhibit provision of suitable educational facilities

5. The objective for sustainable development is to enable sustainable economic growth.

Rationale

Regional policy seeks to develop a strong, competitive and regionally balanced economy. It is necessary to provide suitable locations for employment, with flexibility where necessary, to reflect current and future distribution of jobs across sectors, encourage new business startups, facilitate innovation, regenerate areas, attract investment and make employment as accessible as possible for all. This will reduce unemployment and poverty by helping more people to earn a living and increase their income.

Key issues

- Identification of and zoning of appropriate land is a vital part of creating the conditions to sustain economic development that meets employment needs and supports economic growth.
- Town centres can be supported by encouraging occupation of vacant buildings
- While the clear focus is on developing and maintaining the tourism offer in the principal tourist towns, it is important that the employment needs of people living in the extensive rural hinterland are also considered. Other types of employment opportunity need to be considered.
- A lower than average percentage of persons in the Council area are economically active (65.9% aged 16-65, NI 74%).
- Median employee salaries within the Council area are among the lowest in NI.
- Causeway Coast and Glens Council area is characterised as a small business economy; there is a relatively low manufacturing base in the area. The development of opportunities for knowledge based and innovation based products with niche markets could be encouraged.
- There is a need to ensure that the Council area is attractive to investors and higher skilled people.
- While the business birth rate and survival rate is better than the rest of the NI, it does not appear to be impacting upon the net employment levels with employee numbers falling since 2009. There is potential to encourage new business to develop, innovate and grow.
- Public sector employment is important, Health, Social Work and Education account for almost a third of employment in the Council area.
- Proposed new employment locations should be readily accessible by active travel and/or public transport.
- Within the retail sector, there have been a number of challenges in recent years, including the rise in popularity of internet shopping which has contributed to shop closures.
- In town centres, a resident population will assist in developing an evening economy alongside additional office workers and students.
- There are a wealth of natural, landscape, heritage and cultural tourism assets within the Council area with significant future potential.
- The Council benefits from significant short term visitor numbers from one-off and recurring world class events. Visitors to such events should be encouraged to return to the Council area and to stay for longer.
- Half the visits and value from tourism are experienced during the four summer months.
- Need to plan for spreading the benefit of tourism across the entire Council area and not just the coastline.
- A strategic approach to visitor infrastructure is required.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Support innovation and competitiveness within the local economy b) Ensure sufficient land supply in appropriate locations for economic growth c) Support creation of a range of job types that are accessible d) Support enhancement of the skills base. e) Help make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest f) Make the best use of location g) Ensure the vitality and vibrancy of city and town centres can be improved h) Increase the number of people coming to the borough to work i) Maximise economic benefits of sustainable tourism j) Reduces pressure on local infrastructure k) Effects are spread throughout the year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> l) Does not promote innovation and competitiveness within the local economy m) Does not support creation of a range of job types that are accessible n) Does not support enhancement of the skills base. o) Does not help make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest p) Does not make the best use of location q) Vitality and vibrancy of city and town centres may deteriorate. r) Does not increase the number of people coming to the borough to work s) Does not enable use of tourism assets. t) Creates/increases pressure on local infrastructure u) Effects are seasonal /restricted to summer months

6. The objective for sustainable development is to manage material assets sustainably.

Rationale

Material assets such as infrastructure and sources of energy production are essential for society and the economy but need careful planning to ensure that they are designed for efficiency and to minimize adverse impacts. The concept of circular economy treats waste as a resource which should be managed sustainably to reduce production and increase recovery, recycling and composting rates; new or adapted facilities may be required.

Key issues

Telecommunications could be improved in areas with relatively poor service, to improve access for all.

A strategic and spatial approach to material assets, including renewable energy projects and associated infrastructure, is recommended to help ensure the most efficient and appropriate technologies and locations are chosen.

Support for enabling renewables and diversification within the market is required to help meet commitments made under the UK Climate Change Act.

There is a lack of financial incentives for renewable projects that may influence developments.

Measures are required to increase municipal waste recycling rates to match/exceed the Northern Ireland average and satisfy the draft Programme for Government waste management target.

A spatial approach to the provision of waste management facilities based upon the proximity principle is recommended to minimise the environmental impact and cost of waste transport.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Sufficient telecommunications can be provided or are feasible b) Electrical infrastructure is fit for purpose c) Enables renewable energy production/connections d) Supports development of renewables e) Increases reusing/recycling/composting rates f) Makes reusing/recycling/composting easier g) Reduces waste production per household h) Uses/encourages the proximity principle for location of material assets i) Reduces the amount of derelict/contaminated land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> j) Existing telecommunications poor or unlikely to become available k) Adequate electrical infrastructure unavailable or unfeasible l) Infrastructure not fit for purpose m) Halts development of renewables n) Unlikely to improve recycling rates or make recycling easier o) Does not adopt the proximity principle for location of material assets p) Doesn't take advantage of derelict/contaminated land

7. The objective for sustainable development is to protect physical resources and use sustainably.

Rationale

Minerals, geothermal energy, land and soil are resources which require protection from degradation and safeguarding for future use. Sustainable agriculture, tourism and sustainable use of minerals and geothermal energy can help to support the economy.

Key issues

Mineral reserves should be safeguarded from inappropriate development and their future use and accessibility protected.

Spatial Joint Mineral Plans with other Councils could be a consideration to help Councils and the industry manage minerals as a regional resource.

Older mineral sites (ROMPs) may be causing undue damage or deterioration to the local environment and could provide multiple benefits with appropriate restoration, including adding to local green/blue infrastructure.

Peat extraction occurs in the Council but peatlands are important for a range of ecosystem services.

The lignite reserve is a fossil fuel source and exploration would not be consistent with carbon reductions.

Promoting the circular economy could reduce the demand for some minerals.

The integration of infrastructure for the potential development of deep geothermal energy could be considered.

Shallow geothermal energy could be incorporated in development.

If sub-surface development is a consideration, potential effects need to be assessed at an early stage to help determine feasibility and to avoid any adverse effects.

Local development pressure from housing, wind energy or other types of development may need to be addressed by specific measures.

Soil quality could be protected (by the relevant authorities) using effective conservation measures.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Earth science features can be protected b) Enables the minerals industry to operate sustainably c) Enables materials to be locally sourced d) Considers minerals across Council boundaries e) Enable future use/benefit of quarries f) Enables potential future use of geothermal energy g) Avoids/minimises loss of greenfield sites h) Retains semi natural land cover/biodiversity i) Avoids soil erosion/pollution j) Potential for sub-surface planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> k) Earth science features unlikely to be protected l) Reduces the ability for minerals industry to operate sustainably m) Considers minerals only within the Council area n) Does not protect potential future use/benefit of quarries o) Inhibits the future use of geothermal energy p) Increases loss of greenfield sites q) Reduces semi natural land cover/biodiversity r) Soil erosion/pollution likely s) Sub-surface planning unlikely due to geology

8. The objective for sustainable development is to encourage active and sustainable travel.

Rationale

There is a common goal to reduce traffic emissions and congestion which means reducing car use and increasing other forms of transport. Better access to public transport and opportunities for active travel may make travel more affordable with added health benefits and also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Measures that help reduce car use and improve accessibility to encourage a shift to travel by public transport, walking and cycling will contribute to this goal.

Key issues

- It is important to plan a transport system with routes and travel options that will help to reduce GHG emissions by reducing journey times and integrating public and active transport options.
- More than half the Council's population reside in the rural area which can create challenges for accessibility.
- A significant number of households in the Council are without access to any private vehicle and therefore more reliant on public transport and active travel options.
- The largest level of car ownership in the Council is the group with access to one vehicle.
- It is important for the Council to consider local transport links and good access provision to key tourist attractions including the coastline that will support regional tourism.
- A spatial approach to the provision of public transport and active travel options could help to ensure adequate provision in the most deprived areas where the households are less likely to have access to own private vehicles.
- Sustainable and active travel access to key services and facilities by alternative modes of transport should enable less able people, deprived communities and people with no vehicular access are not discriminated against.
- Measures such as park and ride/share facilities, accessible greenways and active travel networks, are needed to help people shift their reliance away from the private car and on to other modes of travel like public transport, walking and cycling.
- There are already a significant number of people car sharing and car pooling as well as working from home, which helps to reduce GHG emissions from transport and maintain air quality.
- The majority of workers travel to work by motorised vehicle.
- There is expected to be an increase in electric vehicles and demand for electric charging points.
- New development should be planned with active travel a consideration to enable people to not use the car and be able to access alternative modes of transport.
- There is potential to link local level active travel routes to local and regional recreational routes, including the Ulster Way, and to develop strategic level networks for both walking and cycling.
- The Council will support appropriate sustainable transport infrastructure projects that connect areas together and enable people to use active travel to access their wider environment.
- Potential greenway projects could be developed to help integrate active travel options into local areas for residents and visitors and reduce cars on the road, promote health and well-being, and maintain or improve local air quality.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects

- a) Will help reduce traffic congestion
- b) Encourage modal shift to active travel and/or public transport
- c) Improve access to and efficiency of public transport
- d) Will benefit those without access to a vehicle
- e) Retain, create, or enhance walking or cycling routes

Negative Effects

- f) Unlikely to reduce traffic congestion
- g) Does not promote modal shift to active travel and/or public transport
- h) Unlikely to improve access to and efficiency of public transport
- i) Unlikely to benefit those without access to a vehicle
- j) Does not retain, create, or enhance walking or cycling routes

9. The objective for sustainable development is to improve air quality.

Rationale

Air pollution has serious impacts on human health as well as degrading the natural environment. This objective can be achieved through reducing sources of air pollution. Where air pollution cannot be totally excluded careful siting of development should avoid impacts on sensitive receptors.

Key issues

Key/main transport routes (for e.g. A37, A29, A26, A44, A2, A6, B67, B68), located within the Council link residents and visitors to many of the region's main tourist destinations and will need to be futureproofed to align with any changes in the transport system and the economic sector. The Council should have regard to a future transport system that uses electric charging points and electric or hybrid vehicles in the transition toward no diesel or petrol vehicles. Reasonable and improved access to an adequate amount of public transport is required across the Council, including rural areas, to help reduce transport emissions and improve air quality. Reasonable and improved access to active travel options is required across the Council, including rural areas, to help reduce transport emissions and improve air quality. A modal shift in behaviour to help encourage people away from relying on the car for journeys to work and opt for alternative transport options would help to reduce emissions and may improve air quality. When planning the location of new developments alongside existing or proposed land uses, it is important to consider future air quality in both rural and urban areas. Measures to help reduce ammonia emissions from the agricultural sector could help improve air quality in certain areas. Support for renewables in appropriate locations could help reduce air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel combustion.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Will help achieve AQMA objectives b) Likely to improve air quality c) Able to reduce traffic congestion d) Will encourage other modes of transport to the car e) Promotes/supports/enables projects/behaviour that will improve air quality f) Able to avoid/reduce air pollution g) Will avoid increase of ammonia emissions (near to sensitive receptors) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> h) Unlikely to help meet AQMA objectives i) Unlikely to improve air quality j) Unlikely to reduce traffic congestion k) Maintains/increases car use l) Inhibits/stops projects/behaviour that will improve air quality m) Likely to increase air pollution n) Likely to increase ammonia emissions (near to sensitive receptors)

10. The objective for sustainable development is to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	
Rationale	
International commitments require greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced to lessen their effects on climate. Measures that help reduce energy consumption and enable renewable energy helps mitigate greenhouse gas emissions however adaption is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change.	
Key issues	
<p>Agriculture is a significant contributor to GHG emissions and opportunities to reduce emissions within the scope of the LDP need to be considered.</p> <p>A strategic and spatial approach to the location of appropriate renewables could be developed to support commitments made to the UK Climate Change Act and to increase diversity of renewables to help improve security of supply.</p> <p>There is a need for our Borough to futureproof itself for a low carbon future in anticipation of future energy and climate change policies and planning for electric charge up points and active travel.</p> <p>There is a need to increase active and sustainable travel options across the Borough to help reduce reliance on the car and reduce GHG emissions.</p> <p>Planning could be used to help encourage efficient building design, well-connected developments that reduce GHG emissions from transport and adaptation measures like sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).</p> <p>The waste management hierarchy and the proximity principle could continue to be used to guide waste management facilities and practices based on the principles of sustainable development.</p> <p>Any potential development in flood risk areas needs to be carefully considered against the likely impact of flooding but also the likely impact of the development on adjacent areas.</p> <p>An increased risk of pollution from runoff in urban and rural areas with the increased rainfall and storm events.</p> <p>Once suitable evidence is available Coastal Change Management Areas (CCMAs) could be identified (by the relevant authorities) and policy established in those areas to help manage coastal change over time and any proposed development.</p> <p>It is important to protect habitats, including floodplains and peatlands, which act as natural adaptation measures for climate change and provide habitat for local biodiversity.</p> <p>Provisioning of buffer zones exist around designated sites and priority habitats could help enable movement of species in a changing climate.</p>	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Will reduce greenhouse gas emissions b) Likely to reduce energy consumption c) Likely to reduce the need to travel by vehicle d) Increases/supports/promotes/enables renewable energy e) Enables/promotes public transport, walking/cycling. f) Helps reduce consumption/waste production and increases recycling g) Protects designated sites, locally important habitats and/or wildlife corridors h) Protects floodplains i) Protects peatlands j) Incorporates measures to adapt to climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> k) Likely to increase greenhouse gas emissions l) Unlikely to reduce energy consumption m) Unlikely to reduce vehicle use n) Restricts/inhibits/detracts from renewable energy o) Maintains reliance on vehicles and discourages public transport, walking/cycling. p) Encourages consumption and increases waste levels q) Damages designated sites, habitats and/or wildlife corridors r) Removes/damages/reduces the extent or holding capacity of floodplains

	s) Removes/damages/reduces the peatlands t) Does not consider adaptation for climate change
--	--

11. The objective for sustainable development is to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.

Rationale

This objective encompasses reducing levels of water pollution, sustainable use of water resources, improving the physical state of the water environment and reducing the risk of flooding now and in the future. It meets the requirements of Northern Ireland legislation, strategies and plans in support of the Water Framework Directive and other Directives that relate to water and it takes account of the future impacts of climate change.

Key issues

- Shellfish Waters in Lough Foyle are failing to meet Water Framework Directive microbiological targets.
- Marine water quality in the NE RBD and bathing water quality at Portrush Curran Strand are not meeting 'good' standard.
- By comparison to the rest of Northern Ireland, surface water quality is generally high, this is reflected in designations to protect freshwater species and habitats in much of the Council area. (For example Rivers Roe, Bush, Bann and Glenshesk)
- Development may lead to contaminated runoff which may increase pollution of waterbodies.
- Developments without access to mains sewers can incorporate sewage treatment on site but it is important that there is capacity for safe disposal of treated discharges and for maintenance of the treatment system to ensure that it remains effective in the long term.
- Other wastes may also cause pollution at the point where they are disposed of or utilised, e.g. wastes from livestock production, food processing or primary treatment such as sewage or anaerobic digesters.
- Coleraine is identified as a SFRA and there are seven other settlements at moderate risk of flooding.
- Constructed flood alleviation and defence measures are expensive and should be avoided.
- It is predicted that the risk and extent of flooding will be increased by climate change.
- Development should be planned to avoid areas at significant risk from flooding, now or in the future, or where development may increase the flood risk elsewhere.
- Development may lead to changes in the rate of surface water runoff, or the capacity of a receiving watercourse may be altered which in turn has the potential to increase flood risk.
- There are benefits in retaining and restoring natural flood plains and watercourses as a form of flood alleviation - this can support objectives of the Water Framework Directive.
- A safety issue arises because there are not currently legal requirements relating to impounded water therefore there are considered to be risks in potential inundation zones below reservoirs.
- Sustainable drainage (SuDS) measures could be incorporated and maintained in new development and redevelopment or regeneration schemes.
- Plan proposals should be compatible with the Flood Risk Management Plans published by Rivers Agency in December 2015.
- Development in general requires a water supply therefore can increase demands for sources, treatment and distribution infrastructure. This can be offset by measures to make more efficient use of water.
- Seasonal fluctuations in population numbers due to tourism causes additional pressures on water and wastewater infrastructure.
- Water supply and water treatment capacity has not been raised as an issue in this Council.
- The larger WwTWs generally have good capacity at present. There are significant constraints on WwTW provision for several villages and small settlements. This may limit or delay potential for development.

Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improve the quality of surface and ground water to meet objectives b) Lead to more efficient use of water c) Minimise risks from flooding d) Avoid the need for flood defence e) Protect or enhance floodplains f) Maintain water flows for good ecological quality g) Protect aquatic food resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> h) Reduce quality of surface and ground water i) Fail to meet water quality objectives j) Lead to waste of water k) Increase risks from flooding (now or in future) l) Risk creating a need for flood defence m) Reduce the extent or holding capacity of floodplains n) Water flows/temperature not suitable for good ecological quality. o) Unsustainable impacts on aquatic food resources

12. The objective for sustainable development is to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.

Rationale

International obligations which are adopted in Northern Ireland legislation and policies require the protection of biodiversity including flora, fauna and habitats. This is for their intrinsic value and for the wider services that they provide to people, the economy and the environment for example as carbon stores which lessen the effects of climate change. This objective includes protecting and enhancing biodiversity as well as protection of green and blue infrastructure to enhance the services that natural resources provide.

Key issues

- The only World Heritage Site (WHS) in Northern Ireland is wholly located within our Council and along with its setting, it is a key natural asset that benefits both people and the economy.
- There is a statutory requirement of the Council to further the conservation of biodiversity in its functions.
- Retaining green spaces and natural features is of benefit for local biodiversity but also people's well-being.
- Public engagement has shown a desire for improved public access to the natural environment.
- The LDP could be used as an opportunity to connect natural features and habitats together using green/blue infrastructure and create a natural infrastructure network that helps to reflect several aims of the RDS.
- The coastline is a significant natural feature of the Council that maintains local biodiversity levels but also attracts visitors and tourists.
- A holistic approach to the management of the Borough's coastline could balance competing pressures.
- In addition to the coast, grass and farmland, the marine environment, peat and heathland, urban areas, woodlands and wetlands are among 29 priority habitats for the Council's biodiversity plan.
- Management of development within coastal areas could be approached holistically with the potential risks of flooding, erosion and visual intrusion carefully considered.
- There are a number of ecosystem services projects across the Borough that are helping to protect the natural environment as well as provide an economic service.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Protects and/or enhances designated sites and their buffers	e) Unlikely to protect or enhance designated sites or their buffers
b) Protects and/or enhances local biodiversity	f) Unlikely to protect or enhance local biodiversity
c) Protects/enhances/incorporates green/blue infrastructure (G/BI)	g) Removes/damages/excludes green/blue infrastructure (G/BI)
d) Supports/provides ecosystem services	h) Negatively impacts on ecosystem services

13. The objective for sustainable development is to maintain and enhance landscape character.

Rationale

International and national policies seek to conserve the natural character and landscape of the coast and countryside and protect them from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development. This objective seeks to maintain the character and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes and to protect and enhance open spaces and the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors.

Key issues

There is a wide variety of landscape types across the Council including four Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), 24 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), six Regional Landscape Character Areas (RLCAs) and 11 Seascape Character Areas (SCAs).

The Borough's landscape quality is regionally important for tourism and attractive to investors for housing, recreation and business ventures.

Both strategic and local level approaches to landscape protection are required to manage potential impacts on landscape quality.

Local level measures could be developed to help address local development pressures within the AONBs and other areas particularly sensitive to landscape change.

The Council has a responsibility to accommodate appropriate renewables to help reduce reliance on fossil fuels and to combat climate change but this must be balanced with decisions on the potential environmental impacts.

The Council could consider local level landscape studies or Pressure Analysis to compliment RLCAs and SCAs to help both manage local development pressure and guide planning decisions, and protect local landscape quality.

It is important for the World Heritage Site (WHS) to continue to be considered in the context of its Distinctive Setting and reduce the risk of inappropriate development proposals.

Protection of LLPAs could be reviewed to incorporate their key features and settings.

Many of the designated nature conservation sites in the Borough are also important in landscape.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Continue to protect areas designated for landscape b) Minimise any visual intrusion c) Protect and/or enhance the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors d) Avoid major impacts on coastal views e) Sensitively integrate new development to protect and enhance local distinctiveness f) Able to appropriately consider any impacts on neighbouring landscape designations including AONBs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> g) Negatively impact on areas designated for landscape h) Increase any visual intrusion i) Detract from the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors j) Negatively impact on coastal views k) New development not integrated to enhance local distinctiveness l) Unable to consider relevant landscape related management plans or landscape designations

14. The objective for sustainable development is to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.

Rationale

The historic environment and cultural heritage are resources that inform our history and bring character and sense of place. They also attract visitors and contribute to the economy and bring vibrancy to the places where we live, work and relax. This can be achieved by protecting and enhancing Conservation Areas, townscapes and other sites of historic and cultural value including their setting.

Key issues

The historic environment and cultural heritage play a role in maintaining and enhancing the sense of place in our settlements and rural locations, which can be supported by good building design that recognises historic environment evidence in both urban and rural locations.

Heritage assets are at risk from neglect, decay, development pressures and vacancy.

'Buildings at Risk' could continue to be identified and efforts made by the relevant authority to maintain their regular use and/or support their restoration.

The innovative reuse of existing historic building stock should be promoted. Low carbon buildings are possible through the use of sympathetic materials and application of climate change resilience methods.

The Council area has a rich archaeological heritage, and this could be further explored by the relevant authority through identifying new Areas of Archaeological Potential.

The setting and landscape of the ASAs and any potential new ASAs should be preserved.

Undesignated marine Heritage Assets such as Shipwrecks and Submerged Landscape Sites, whilst not statutorily protected, must be given appropriate evaluation and consideration.

The Council area also has a rich industrial heritage through milling, linen and textiles production and its 19th Century transport engineering.

There are also many defence heritage sites. Defence heritage that has not been designated through other methods (e.g. listed building, scheduled zone) has no planning protection.

Further opportunities could be explored to link heritage assets with tourism and to encourage use / reuse of resources for community / education activities.

Regionally important historic buildings, such as Dunluce Castle and Mussenden Temple, are set in a natural environment. The natural and built environment can add value to each other.

There is ongoing loss of certain non-designated heritage assets such as historic farmsteads and buildings in the countryside, industrial and defence heritage, and historic shopfronts in some towns and settlements. Non-designated assets which are of heritage or architectural importance in the context of overall landscape, townscape or heritage value should be recognised.

Climate change has the potential to cause long term impacts on the historic environment, for example through coastal erosion and more unpredictable or severe weather.

The existing Conservation Areas in Ballycastle, Ballymoney, Bushmills, Coleraine, Cushendall, Limavady and Portrush may be at risk of flooding both with and without the effects of climate change, as they are located within Significant Flood Risk Areas or Areas for Further Study identified by DfI Rivers under the Floods Directive.

There may be opportunities to maintain or reflect historic routeways and townland boundaries.

Traffic pollution, air quality and noise pollution may affect the historic environment.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Protect and conserve built and cultural heritage	j) Loss of built and cultural heritage
b) Enhance built and cultural heritage	k) Lose 'sense of place' in townscape and rural settings
c) Allow 'sense of place' to be conserved in townscape and rural settings	l) Reduce local distinctiveness
d) Protect and enhance local distinctiveness	m) Archaeological features not assessed, recorded and preserved

e) Allow archaeological features to be assessed, recorded and preserved	n) Damage the setting of cultural heritage assets
f) Preserve and enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets	o) Reduce access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment
g) Support access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment	p) Impacts of development on complex and extensive archaeological sites adjacent to settlements not understood
h) Enable assessment of impacts of development on complex and extensive archaeological sites adjacent to settlements	q) Decrease opportunities for cultural activities
i) Provide opportunities for cultural activities	

APPENDIX 6: CONSULTATION BODY COMMENTS ON THE SCOPING REPORT TEMPLATE

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
General Comments	DAERA: NIEA 06/07/17	<p>We are broadly content with the envisaged layout of the SEA report template.</p> <p>A number of baseline data sources and relevant strategies/reports are detailed in the Local Development Plans, DAERA Environmental Evidence and Information Guidance document (which we hope to have updated in the near future) available at: http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/advice/northern_ireland_environment_agency_guidance/evidence_guides.htm</p> <p>There is likely to be some overlap between the information required for the SEA assessment and the information that is gathered for technical LDP papers such as Countryside Assessments. However it should be noted that we have not reviewed technical reports as part of this scoping consultation and there may be additional significant environmental issues affected by new development that should be considered in the environmental report such as cumulative loss of habitat or changes to air quality, both urban and rural.</p> <p>The scope and level of detail of information in the SEA should be proportionate to the content and purpose of the plan. Whilst regional or district based trends and indicators may help to assess certain high level and strategic aspects of the plans more detailed and spatially specific information would be required to assess other elements of the plan, in particular any aspects of the plan with a spatial dimension or influence.</p> <p>The Development Plan Practice Note for Sustainability Appraisal incorporating SEA was produced by the former Department of the Environment in 2015. This document is intended to guide users through the key requirements of a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and SEA and deals primarily with procedures as well as good practice. Some of its content may be useful when developing the SEA documents associated with the LDP such as Preferred Options Papers: http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/advice/practice-notes/dp_practice_note_4_sa.pdf</p>	<p>Noted, data referred to in https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/daera-environmental-evidence-guide-may-2017.pdf has been accessed and where available, information at council level has been sourced. The need to access more spatially specific information to inform spatial designations is noted and will be considered at plan strategy.</p>
Air Quality	DAERA: NIEA 06/07/17	<p>We are not sure to what degree air quality has been considered in technical papers accompanying the LDPs. A general list of things that should be considered in the SA/SEA in terms of air quality are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent Review and Assessment Reports of Air Quality by the Council which should include a review of recent trends in monitored levels of air pollutants and consider some of the points below: • Any Air Quality Action Plans that the Council currently has in place. • Any Air Quality Detailed Assessments that the Council has carried out. • The presence and location of Air Quality Management Areas. • The presence and location of Smoke Control Areas. 	<p>A variety of these sources were used in the Air quality topic. The AQMA is referred to.</p> <p>Transport routes and vehicles, and types of journey made are referred to in the Transport section, which is cross-referenced with the Air Quality section. Transport routes and reliance on car also referred to in Air Quality. Updated the Likely Evolution section to help reflect</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consideration of road traffic (current and projected) and the influence that this has/could have on air pollutant levels. <p>Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance LAQM PG NI(09): http://www.airqualityni.co.uk/news-and-reports/useful-guidance</p> <p>Information is available at the website: www.airqualityni.co.uk which has many of the documents mentioned above, as well as the annual 'Air Pollution in Northern Ireland' report.</p>	potential future traffic levels. This aspect is also noted for future plan stages. Transport strategies are in preparation by DfI and will also inform this section.
Health & Well-being	DAERA: NIEA 06/07/17	<p><u>Noise</u></p> <p>We note that 'Noise' is one of the 'Health and Wellbeing' topics. Considerations should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise maps for Northern Ireland that the Department has produced which can be found at https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/noise Relevant guidance and standards for noise as well as the Noise Policy statement: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doe/noise-policy-statement-ni.PDF The presence and location of any Quiet Areas. 	Noted and information referred to where readily available. There are no Quiet Areas to consider.
Natural Resources	DAERA: NIEA 06/07/17	<p><u>Biodiversity Flora and Fauna</u></p> <p>We welcome the inclusion of Biodiversity, Green and Blue Infrastructure and Landscape within the scope of the Natural Resources SEA topic. We would expect that this will also include designated and protected sites. There are significant interactions between Biodiversity and the topics Health & Wellbeing, Physical Resources, Water, Air, Landscape and Climatic Factors.</p> <p>We acknowledge that most of the information required to inform the SEA will have been collected as part of the preparation of technical papers such as the Countryside Assessment.</p> <p>Baseline information sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NIEA Natural Heritage Digital datasets: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/download-digital-datasets Northern Ireland State of the Environment Report 2013: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/state-environment-report-2013 Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-environmental-statistics-report-2016 National Ecosystems Assessment, Chapter 18 on Northern Ireland: http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=m%2BvhAV3c9uk%3D&tabid=82 	Updated reference to overlap with other sections to include water. All these areas have been covered under Natural Resources but Landscape is in its own SA section. Appendix 7 (HRA) provides baseline information about the European and Ramsar sites.
Natural Resources	DAERA: NIEA 06/07/17	<p><u>Marine/Coastal</u></p> <p>Marine Conservation and Reporting Team has reviewed this Scoping Report template and are generally content with it. One comment is that we would welcome the inclusion of the Skerries and Causeway SCI designated site onto the map in</p>	The Skerries and Causeway SCI was designated an SAC in September 2017 and is detailed in Appendix 7 and shown in Figure 5.12.1.

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<p>Figure 4.1 and for this designated site to be included in any assessment.</p> <p>Table 5.1 shows Baseline evidence for themes which includes Natural Resources and we welcome the inclusion of intertidal and coastal zones as well as marine. This Table also includes a Historical and Cultural Resources topic and we would suggest the inclusion of marine archaeology in this topic.</p> <p>Under section 7, objectives for sustainable development, the objective to reduce causes of, and adapt to, climate change, we would suggest that climatic factors such as coastal flooding, land instability and coastal erosion are considered. The council should carefully consider development in the coastal zone, and identify areas that may be vulnerable to coastal erosion, either now, or in the future.</p> <p><u>Marine Strategy & Licensing</u></p> <p>There is no mention of bathing water quality within the report. Within the Causeway Coast and Glens area there are 10 identified bathing waters (Magilligan, Downhill, Castlerock, Portstewart, Portrush Mill, Portrush Curran, Portrush Whiterocks, Portballintrae (Salmon Rocks), Ballycastle and Waterfoot). This is nearly half of the total number of bathing waters in Northern Ireland. In addition to the Water Framework and other Directives mentioned in the scoping, it is essential that bathing water quality is included. The Local Development Plan must recognise the importance of maintaining bathing water quality at these sites. The excellent bathing water quality at many of the sites is one of the underpinning factors for local tourism. The scoping mentions the Water Framework Directive. It could be strengthened by being specific in that the local development plan must be consistent with ensuring the objectives of the river basin management plans under WFD can be met.</p> <p>DAERA welcomes the reference to the importance of integrating with marine planning and licensing in the intertidal area. Reference to the UK Marine Policy Statement would be useful in this regard. Given the length of coastline CC&G deals with, it is encouraging to see reference to coastal and marine matters and the importance of ensuring that these are taken into consideration in the local development plan.</p> <p><u>Marine Plan</u></p> <p>To ensure the integration between marine and terrestrial planning, in line with the marine legislation and the UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS) the following should be considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Section 3.2 Principles: Connected – suggest reference to ‘neighbouring areas’ includes the marine area due to the physical overlap between the marine and terrestrial planning systems. 2. There is a specific legislative requirement in Section 58 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and Section 8 of the Marine Act 2013 to ‘have regard to appropriate marine 	<p>Marine archaeology is now included in the Historic Environment and Cultural Resources Section 5.14.</p> <p>Coastal flooding, land instability and coastal erosion are considered under climate change in Section 5.10.</p> <p>Bathing water quality is included in the Water topic.</p> <p>The Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plans are referred to in the Water section and in Appendix 4. Marine legislation is referred to in the Natural Resources and Historic Environment section, as well as in Appendix 4.</p> <p>Reference to the NI Marine Plan’s consultation is referred to in Section 4 and will be updated once it is published.</p> <p>The UK MPS, the NI Marine Act and the Marine & Coastal Access Act are referred to in Section 4.3.5 and in Appendix 4.</p> <p>Relevant marine legislation is also referred to in the Natural Resources Section 5.12. Marine, coastal and</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<p>policy documents when taking any decision which related to a function capable of affecting a marine area which is not an authorisation or enforcement decision'. This requirement applies to LDPs. Consequently, it is suggested that the 3rd paragraph of Section 4.2 and Section 5.3 make reference to marine policy documents, such as the UK MPS. Regard will also need to be paid to the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland (once this is adopted).</p> <p>3.It is important to recognise the marine aspect of the SA Topics listed. The marine aspect should also be considered, where appropriate, as part of the evidence gathering. This will help ensure the integration of marine and terrestrial planning as set out in Section 1.3 of the UK MPS is not restricted by an artificial boundary. It will also ensure consistency across terrestrial and marine planning systems. Appendix 4 should refer to: (1) the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (2) the Marine Act (NI) 2013 (3) the UK MPS (4) the Northern Ireland Marine Plan (when adopted).</p>	intertidal zones are all referred to in Table4.1.
Water	DAERA: NIEA 06/07/17	<p><u>Water Quality</u></p> <p>We are not sure to what degree water quality is considered in technical papers accompanying the LDPs. It is key that the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Local Development Plan takes the statutory River Basin Management Plans into consideration and the achievement of the objectives therein. As a public body, the council has a duty to have regard to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the River Basin Management Plan for that district; and • any supplementary plan published under regulation 16 in exercising their duties. <p>River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD), taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile.</p> <p>Revised River Basin Management plans were published in December 2015. The plans relevant to your area will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neagh Bann River Basin Management Plan Summary (December 2015) • North East River Basin Management Plan Summary (December 2015) <p>Updated information on the water quality classifications of surface waters and groundwater in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area should be obtained from nieawaterinfo@doeni.gov.uk.</p> <p>As part of the River Basin Planning process, a Programme of Measures has been established to detail the improvements required to meet 'Good' status, the actions required and the delivery mechanisms. The programme of measures aims to address the key pressures by concentrating efforts on those pressures that pose the greatest threat to the water environment. From pressure assessments conducted we have identified two significant sources of pressure preventing water bodies from achieving good status in the</p>	Noted, information specific to the Council was obtained from NIEA and incorporated in the Water section. Flooding has been addressed under the Water and Climate Change sections and was fully considered in appraisal.

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<p>Neagh Bann and North East RBD. These are diffuse pressures from agricultural sources and point source pressures from WWTWs and industrial discharges. Other pressures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • diffuse and point source pollution – pollution arising from a number of other sources including forestry, sediment, urban catchments, quarries & mines, waste & contaminated land and chemicals; • water quantity and flow – taking too much water from rivers, lakes and groundwater which causes problems for wildlife, reduces the amount of water available for people to use and affects the environmental ecology; • the physical condition of the water environment – man made changes to the natural habitat of rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters, for example flood defences and weirs, and changes to the natural river channels for land drainage and navigation. These modifications alter natural flows, may cause excessive build up of sediment, increase erosion, reduce the quality of habitats and may also present a barrier to fish movement; • invasive alien species – the negative effects on the health of the water environment and native plants and animals from those species originating outside Northern Ireland and introduced to the Northern Ireland water environment; and • other pressures – factors that affect fish populations and habitat not captured above. <p>The Programmes of Measures have been brigaded under topics and each of the documents are available from the DAERA web-site, under the following Programme of Measures topic headings: Agriculture; Sewage & Industry; Forestry; Sediment; Urban Catchment; Quarries & Mines including Oil & Gas exploration; Waste & Contaminated land; Chemicals; Abstraction & Flow Regulation; Morphology; Invasive Alien Species; and Fisheries. The SA/SEA should be proportionate in assessing these measures against the likely impact of Local Development Plan documents. A full list of the measures has been included as an Annex to this letter, for ease of future reference.</p> <p><u>Waste Water Treatment Provision</u></p> <p>A technical paper for the LDP (or the SA/SEA) should identify all the waste water treatment works (WWTW's) and sewerage networks in your Council area and assess them against their current capacity, and environmental performance, and their predicated capacity during the lifetime of the Local Development Plan. This information should be aligned with Northern Ireland Waters infrastructure investment strategy set out in their price Control processes and the Long Term Water Strategy. Sustainable Water – A Long Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (To be published 2016); PC15 (NIW's draft expenditure plan 2015-2021). This information should be used proportionately in the different stages of the LDP SA/SEA process.</p>	<p>Flooding has been retained within the Water section, with the agreement of DfI Rivers Agency.</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<p>At some stage in the process suitable mitigation measures may be required to ensure the zoning of land and the timing of the release of that land for development is aligned with the availability of suitable waste water treatment infrastructure to service the developments to ensure there is adequate protection for the water environment.</p> <p>We would recommend the water topic should be split to form a topic on water quality and resources, and a separate topic on flood risk.</p>	
Water	DAERA: NIEA Water Management Unit 10/07/17	<p><u>Water Quality</u></p> <p>Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)</p> <p>The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) states that the planning system should help to mitigate and adapt to climate change by, among other actions, working with natural environmental processes, for example through promoting the development of green infrastructure and also the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) to reduce flood risk and improve water quality.</p> <p>In managing development, particularly in areas susceptible to surface water flooding, planning authorities should encourage developers to use SuDs as the preferred drainage solution. Such systems are widely used in other UK jurisdictions and have been shown to be more effective than traditional piped drainage in reducing surface water flooding as well as providing other environmental, economic and social benefits. Furthermore using permeable materials for hard landscaped surfaces in new developments can reduce soil sealing.</p> <p>Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) recommends that SuDS are incorporated, where appropriate, into the drainage design of all new developments for the environmental management of rainfall / surface water drainage.</p> <p>Temporary SuDS can also be used during the construction phase as pollution prevention measures for silt management and to prevent erosion. Where possible these should be retained or adapted as part of the final permanent site drainage solution.</p> <p>Surface water should be dealt with as close as possible to where it falls as rain (source control) and the use of two or more SuDS components can be used for the optimal solution to:</p> <p>(i) manage rainfall to mimic natural drainage by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing runoff rates; • reducing additional runoff volumes and frequencies; and • encouraging natural groundwater recharge. <p>(ii) minimise impacts on quantity and quality of runoff by: reducing pollution and protecting the quality of receiving waters;</p>	<p>Noted. SuDS are addressed under the Water topic as a more sustainable drainage option to more traditional piped infrastructure. SuDS are included as a Key Sustainability Issue (KSI) under the Water topic Section 5.11 and Appendix 5.</p> <p>SuDS were also considered in the Climate Change topic and are referred to as an adaptation measure in one of the KSIs under that topic Section 5.10 and Appendix 5.</p> <p>SuDS were referred to in the appraisal using the Appraisal Guide at Appendix 5. Several planning issues were related to flooding and SuDS were discussed as mitigation.</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<p>preventing direct discharge of spillage; and reducing the volume of surface waste runoff to sewers.</p> <p>(iii) maximise amenity and biodiversity opportunity by: contributing to the amenity and aesthetic value of the development; and providing habitat for wildlife and biodiversity.</p> <p>The use of a number of SuDS components within a development such as swales and settlement ponds may enable the better management of ground water.</p>	
Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage	DAERA: NIEA 06/07/17	<p><u>Historic Environment</u></p> <p>We note and welcome the inclusion of Historic Environment Issues as a heading in your scoping template document. The Northern Ireland Monuments and Buildings Record (NIMBR) contains a great deal of information on the historic environment and Historic Environment Division (HED) would encourage local authorities to utilize this resource in LDP preparation. We would highlight the following GIS spatial data evidence bases which are critical for use in your scoping exercise.</p> <p>The attached link https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/historic-environment-digital-datasets makes available spatial evidence on a wide variety of historic environment assets, including Scheduled and State Care monuments, which are afforded statutory protection under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 and Listed Buildings, afforded protection under Article 42 of the Planning Order 1991. Further datasets are available on the Sites and Monuments Record, Industrial Heritage, Historic Parks Gardens and Demesnes, Battlesites, Defence Heritage, ASAs and AAPs. Please ensure to recheck our datasets to download up to date versions as they are subject to change as new sites are designated or recognised.</p> <p>GIS spatial datasets on the marine historic environment, including shipwrecks (the Girona and HMS Drake are both designated for protection) can be requested from Rory McNeary, rory.mcneary@daera-ni.gov.uk</p> <p>The Gazetteer of Nucleated Historic Settlements. Information on request from HED. This is the result of a programme of work undertaken by HED to identify historic settlement centres and from these in some cases, areas of archaeological potential, identifying new ones and potentially modifying others. While the zones are in draft it will nonetheless be a useful tool going forward in the LDP process. We will in due course supply some text in relation to each zone identified and the history of the settlement.</p> <p>This map https://dfcgis.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=725d65ab0b49445e8d5033df6f990afe also allows you to view ASA's in and candidate ASA's in your borough.</p> <p>Historic Ordnance Survey Mapping. We would also highlight the many other sites of heritage interest in your district which are not/are not yet listed in our records. These</p>	<p>Noted, the section on Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage has been expanded to reflect the comments.</p> <p>Information is summarised however it is not considered proportionate to include very detailed information at this strategic stage of plan preparation. It will inform spatial considerations at a later stage.</p> <p>Appendix 3 has been updated to reflect the comment that provision of good quality housing has an uncertain relationship and is not always compatible with the historic environment objectives.</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<p>include historic boundaries such as townland boundaries and some later historic cemeteries.</p> <p>HED highlight the relationship of the historic environment to other headings including health and well-being, education and economic growth (e.g. tourism), and sustainable use of physical resources. In relation to the compatibility matrix in Appendix 3 of your report we comment that Provision of good quality housing has an uncertain relationship and is not always compatible with the historic environment objectives. –For example new housing can sometimes lead to dereliction of historic stock, or large schemes might adversely impact on previously unrecorded archaeological remains.</p> <p>The evidence used in populating your scoping report should cross reference to assessments and LDP documentation which your council area has already prepared (E.g. countryside assessment). The report should also demonstrate consideration and awareness of international conventions, local legislation and policies which provide protection for the historic environment in Northern Ireland. We highlight that there are a very large number of strategic heritage assets in your area, dating from the Mesolithic period through to World War 2. Highlights include the many State Care Monuments, which the Castle and village site at Dunluce. The area is extremely rich in its maritime heritage (e.g. see “Rathlin Island: An Archaeological Survey of the Maritime Landscape”) and several of the settlement patterns have their origins in the medieval period. We stress the opportunity that the local development plan presents to realise the potential of the historic environment in your district, for economic, social and health and environmental benefits.</p> <p>HED will assess via a risk based approach what level of site specific analysis and advice we can provide to Council Planning Authorities on historic environment related matters during the preparation of development plans. Due to current capacity levels our resources will be focused on those sites with the greatest potential risk to historic environment assets and those potentially affecting statutorily protected sites. We maintain an independent role in relation to the drafting of LDPs. Our advice will range from nil responses, pro-forma standing advice, to more detailed advice and analysis, depending upon the individual nature of the site in question. Further information on previous excavations here can be accessed through visiting via appointment the publicly accessible NIMBR, based at the Klondyke Building in Belfast, contact MBR-enquiries@communities-ni.gov.uk</p>	

APPENDIX 7: HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT BASELINE REPORT

Introduction

The requirement for Habitats Regulations Assessment is introduced in section 1.7.1. Habitats Regulations Assessment will be an iterative process carried out in parallel with Local Development Plan (LDP) preparation and will be updated in line with knowledge of potential plan effects and any changes relating to European sites. This report provides a long list of sites for which effects of the plan will be reviewed. These will be considered in the context of how they are connected with the LDP area and potential effects of the LDP on its own and in combination with other plans and projects.

This screening takes a precautionary approach. There will be no conceivable effect on many of the long listed sites, for example on those that are over 10km away and have no ecological or infrastructure connection, therefore a number of these sites will be excluded from further consideration at the next stage of assessment. It must be emphasised that only some of the potential impacts may arise. Mitigation measures to avoid, cancel or reduce impacts will be incorporated in the plan where necessary and feasible or proposals amended to avoid adverse effects on site integrity.

The policies and spatial zonings proposed within the plan will be assessed to determine whether any of the potential impacts could materialise as a result of the plan. This will consider the source of potential impacts, any pathways to European sites and whether the impact could have a significant effect on site selection features, their conservation objectives and site integrity along with any avoidance and mitigation measures identified in the course of assessment and plan preparation. The evidence in Table A.7.1 and further evidence available at each stage of assessment will be taken into account.

Table A.7.1: Evidence to inform baseline data and further Habitats Regulations Assessment

JNCC Standard Data Forms	JNCC Standard Data Forms ⁸⁵ generated from the Natura 2000 Database submitted to the European Commission on 22/12/2015.
NIEA Conservation Objectives	The most recent NIEA Conservation Objectives for each site found on DAERA website ⁸⁶ .
Northern Area Plan 2016 HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment on the Northern Area Plan 2016 ⁸⁷
Spatial Data Local Government	Spatial NI Data Layers for Local Government boundaries 13/3/2018
Spatial Data European and Ramsar sites	NIEA Data Layers for designated and proposed European and Ramsar sites 13/3/2018

⁸⁵ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=4>

⁸⁶ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/biodiversity-land-and-landscapes/protected-areas>

⁸⁷ https://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/development_plans/devplans_az/nap2016-hra.pdf

Overview

This is a summary of the long list of sites to be considered, how they are connected to the LDP area and potential issues. The sites listed are those for which there is a potential pathway allowing a connection with the plan area and those within 15km of the LDP area. In total 37 sites are listed: 22 Special Conservation Areas (SACs) and one candidate SAC, five Special Protection Areas (SPAs) one proposed SPA and five Ramsar sites. One SPA and two SACs are located in the Republic of Ireland. The sites are listed in Table A.7.2, any distances listed are to the nearest 0.5km. Locations relative to the plan area are shown in Figures A.7.1 – A.7.6. All Maps: Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland - © Crown Copyright and Database Right. Definitions of each type of connection follow.

Within or Adjacent

This means all or part of the European or Ramsar Site is within or directly adjacent to the plan area. There are 21 designated sites within or directly adjacent to the Council area. Many are coastal sites covering well over half of the Council coastline. These stretch from Lough Foyle in the west to Red Bay beside Cushendun and the cliffs and waters around Rathlin Island. Inland there are some extensive uplands at Carn-Glenishane Pass and the cliffs and slopes of Binevenagh. There are long established woodlands at Banagher Glen and Breen Wood and lowland raised bog in the Main Valley. Some sites include more than one designation, as is the case for Garron Plateau SAC and Ramsar and Rathlin SAC and SPA. Antrim Hills SPA and Garron Plateau SAC and Ramsar are large upland designated sites within the area which also extend into Mid and East Antrim Borough Council area.

Ecological

This applies where the European or Ramsar Site is ecologically connected to the plan area. Ecological connections include linkages by ecological corridors such as river systems; hydrological links between the LDP area and peatland or wetland sites; known areas of land in the LDP area which are regularly used by birds which also use a SPA or Ramsar; and sites that form part of the coastal ecosystem to which the LDP area is connected. All the sites that are partly or wholly in the council area are ecologically connected. There may be non-designated areas which support species from designated sites in or beyond the council area and this includes whooper swan flight paths along the River Bann. These are also considered to have an ecological connection.

Within 15km

This indicates European or Ramsar sites which are within 15km of the LDP area. This brings a further 9 sites into consideration. Some such as Teal Lough and Owenkillew River SACs have no direct hydrological connection and are too far away for any effects to be possible. On the other hand, Ballynahone Bog SAC, Dead Island Bog and Wolf Island Bog SACs are close enough to require consideration of aerial emissions. There are three sites in Donegal which are also within 15 km and are therefore considered in this long list of sites.

By Infrastructure

These sites are ones where the European or Ramsar Site is connected by infrastructure with the plan area. Infrastructural connectivity is related to the potential linkage of sites to the LDP area by infrastructure services such as water abstraction or waste water discharges.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is supplied with water from nine Impounding Reservoirs/Loughs and four Water Treatment Works. Dungonnell WTW is supplied by a reservoir and catchments within Antrim Hills SPA and Dungonnell Reservoir is also within Garron Plateau SAC. Altnaheglish Reservoir near Dungiven is also a source of water and is upstream of River Roe and Tributaries SAC. The connection between water supply and European sites will be examined further in the Habitats Regulations Assessment at Plan Strategy.

Waste water treatment works (WwTW) may discharge to designated sites and could have impacts if there was insufficient capacity for treatment. NI Water has advised in 2018 that 22 of the WWTWs in

the Council area are 'at or reaching capacity' and eight 'have insufficient capacity'. Affected settlements include Armoy, Dervock, Dunloy, Kilrea, Loughguile and Stranocum. Further growth is also constrained in Foreglen and Greysteel in terms of the capacity of their waste water treatment works. In 2013 a £500,000 WwTW was commissioned on Rathlin Island via the Rural Wastewater Investment Programme (RWwIP). The WwTW was specifically designed to have flexible capabilities to cope with the fluctuating winter and summer needs of the Island. There are therefore significant constraints on services for some settlements and careful consideration also needs to be given to housing not serviced by WwTW. This will be assessed further in the Habitats Regulations Assessment at Plan Strategy.

Table A.7.2: Potential pathways between Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and European Sites

European Site Name	Connection with plan area				Potential Pathways (Summary of features)
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	Within 15 km	By Infra-structure	
Antrim Hills SPA	•	•	•	•	<i>Hen harrier and merlin</i> Within council area and potential for direct impacts and hydrological or aerial pathways for effects. The selection features of hen harrier and merlin also range beyond the SPA so it has an ecological connection with a wider area. Dungonnell Reservoir in this SPA is a source of water for the council.
Rathlin Island SAC	•	•	•	•	<i>Cliff, coastal and marine habitats.</i> Within council area and also intertidal and extensive marine area offshore. Potential for direct impacts or hydrological or aerial pathways for effects. Discharges from wastewater treatment have potential to impact the marine area.
Rathlin Island SPA	•	•	•	•	<i>Breeding seabirds and peregrine falcon.</i> Within council area and also intertidal and extensive marine area offshore. Potential for direct impacts or hydrological or aerial pathways for effects. Discharges from wastewater treatment have potential to impact the marine area.
Red Bay SAC	•	•	•	•	<i>Submerged sandbanks</i> Offshore site immediately adjacent to council area. Discharges from wastewater treatment have potential to impact the marine area.

European Site Name	Connection with plan area				Potential Pathways <i>(Summary of features)</i>
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	Within 15 km	By Infra-structure	
Skerries and Causeway SAC	•	•	•	•	<p><i>Submerged sandbanks, reefs, sea caves and harbour porpoise</i></p> <p>Offshore site immediately adjacent to council area. Harbour porpoise range beyond the site. Discharges from wastewater treatment have potential to impact the marine area.</p>
Lough Foyle SPA	•	•	•	•	<p><i>A number of wintering and breeding bird species.</i></p> <p>Immediately offshore and partly within council area. Also functional habitat inland of site. Potential for direct impacts, recreational disturbance or hydrological or aerial pathways for effects. Discharges from wastewater treatment have potential to impact the marine area.</p>
Lough Foyle Ramsar Site	•	•	•	•	<p><i>Intertidal sand and mudflats, saltmarsh and estuaries.</i></p> <p>Immediately offshore and partly within council area. Also functional habitat inland of site. Potential for direct impacts, recreational disturbance or hydrological or aerial pathways for effects. Discharges from wastewater treatment have potential to impact the marine area.</p>
Garron Plateau SAC	•	•	•	•	<p><i>Blanket bog, wetlands and open water.</i></p> <p>Partly within council area and potential for direct impacts or hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.</p>
Garron Plateau Ramsar Site	•	•	•	•	<p><i>Blanket bog, wetlands and open water.</i></p> <p>Partly within council area and potential for direct impacts or hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.</p>
River Roe and Tributaries SAC	•	•	•	•	<p><i>Watercourses, woods, otter and salmon</i></p> <p>Within council area. Potential for direct impacts or hydrological or aerial pathways for effects. A water supply, Altnaheglis Reservoir, is upstream of the SAC.</p>

European Site Name	Connection with plan area				Potential Pathways <i>(Summary of features)</i>
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	Within 15 km	By Infra-structure	
Bann Estuary SAC	•	•	•		<i>Salt meadows and dunes</i> Within council area and potential for direct impacts as well as hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.
Carn-Glenshane Pass SAC	•	•	•		<i>Blanket Bog</i> Mostly within council area and potential for direct impacts or hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.
Main Valley Bogs SAC	•	•	•		<i>Active raised bog</i> Partly within council area and potential for direct impacts or hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.
North Antrim Coast SAC	•	•	•		<i>Coastal habitats, grassland and snail</i> Within council area and some intertidal habitat. Potential for direct impacts or hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.
Banagher Glen SAC	•	•	•		<i>Oak and ash woodlands</i> Within council area. Potential for direct impacts or hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.
Binevenagh SAC	•	•	•		<i>Grassland, scree and rocky slope vegetation</i> Within council area. Potential for direct impacts or hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.
Breen Wood SAC	•	•	•		<i>Oak and bog woodland</i> Within council area. Potential for direct impacts or hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.
Garry Bog SAC	•	•	•		<i>Active raised bog</i> Within council area. Potential for direct impacts or hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.
Garry Bog Ramsar Site	•	•	•		<i>Active raised bog</i> Within council area. Potential for direct impacts or hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.
Magilligan SAC	•	•	•		<i>Dunes and marsh fritillary</i> Partly within council area. Potential for direct impacts or hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.

European Site Name	Connection with plan area				Potential Pathways <i>(Summary of features)</i>
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	Within 15 km	By Infrastructure	
Sheep Island SPA	•	•	•		<i>Cormorant</i> Offshore site 0.5km from council area but species feeds on inland waters. Potential for recreation disturbance or impacts on functional habitat.
Lough Foyle SPA (ROI)		•	•	•	<i>Wintering birds</i> Nearest point 6.0 km. Potential for hydrological or aerial pathways for effects. Discharges from wastewater treatment have potential to impact the marine area.
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA		•	•		<i>A number of wintering and breeding bird species.</i> Nearest point 11.0 km, hydrological connection via the River Bann which is navigable. River Bann is also a flight path for birds that are site selection features. Some potential for effects arising from recreational activity originating in council area.
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Ramsar		•	•		<i>A number of wintering and breeding bird species, wetlands, rare invertebrates, plants and pollan (fish).</i> Nearest point 11.0 km, hydrological connection via the River Bann which is navigable. River Bann is also a flight path for birds that are site selection features. Some potential for effects arising from recreational activity originating in council area.
River Faughan and Tributaries SAC		•	•		<i>Watercourses, woods, otter and salmon</i> 1.5 km outside council area however part of catchment in council area, this may be functional habitat for salmon. Potential for direct impacts or hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.
The Maidens SAC		•	•		<i>Sandbanks, reefs and grey seals</i> Offshore site 12.5km from council area. Grey seal may range into off shore waters.

European Site Name	Connection with plan area				Potential Pathways <i>(Summary of features)</i>
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	Within 15 km	By Infrastructure	
East Coast (Northern Ireland) Marine pSPA		•	•		<i>Sea birds</i> Offshore site 4.0 km from council area. Potential links through disturbance or to habitats elsewhere on which features depend.
North Channel cSAC		•			<i>Harbour porpoise</i> Offshore site 25.0 km from council area however harbour porpoise may range into offshore waters from council area. Potential links through pollution, disturbance to harbour porpoise or to habitats elsewhere on which the feature depend.
Ballynahone Bog SAC			•		<i>Active raised bog</i> Nearest point 7.0 km, no direct hydrological connection. Potential for aerial impacts.
Ballynahone Bog Ramsar Site			•		<i>Active raised bog</i> Nearest point 7.0 km, no direct hydrological connection. Potential for aerial impacts.
Curran Bog SAC			•		<i>Active raised bog</i> Nearest point 11.0 km, no direct hydrological connection.
Dead Island Bog SAC			•		<i>Active raised bog</i> Nearest point 4.0 km, no direct hydrological connection. Potential for aerial impacts.
Owenkillew River SAC			•		<i>Freshwater pearl mussel, watercourses, woodlands, otter, salmon</i> Nearest point 11.5 km, no hydrological connection.
Teal Lough SAC			•		<i>Blanket bog</i> Nearest point 10 km, no direct hydrological connection.
Wolf Island Bog SAC			•		<i>Active raised bog</i> Nearest point 1.5 km, no direct hydrological connection.
North Inishowen Coast SAC (ROI)			•		<i>Coastal and tidal habitats, otter</i> Nearest point 5.0 km, no direct hydrological connection.
Maheradrumman Bog SAC (ROI)			•		<i>Blanket bog and wet heath</i> Nearest point 11.5 km, no direct hydrological connection.

[illegible]

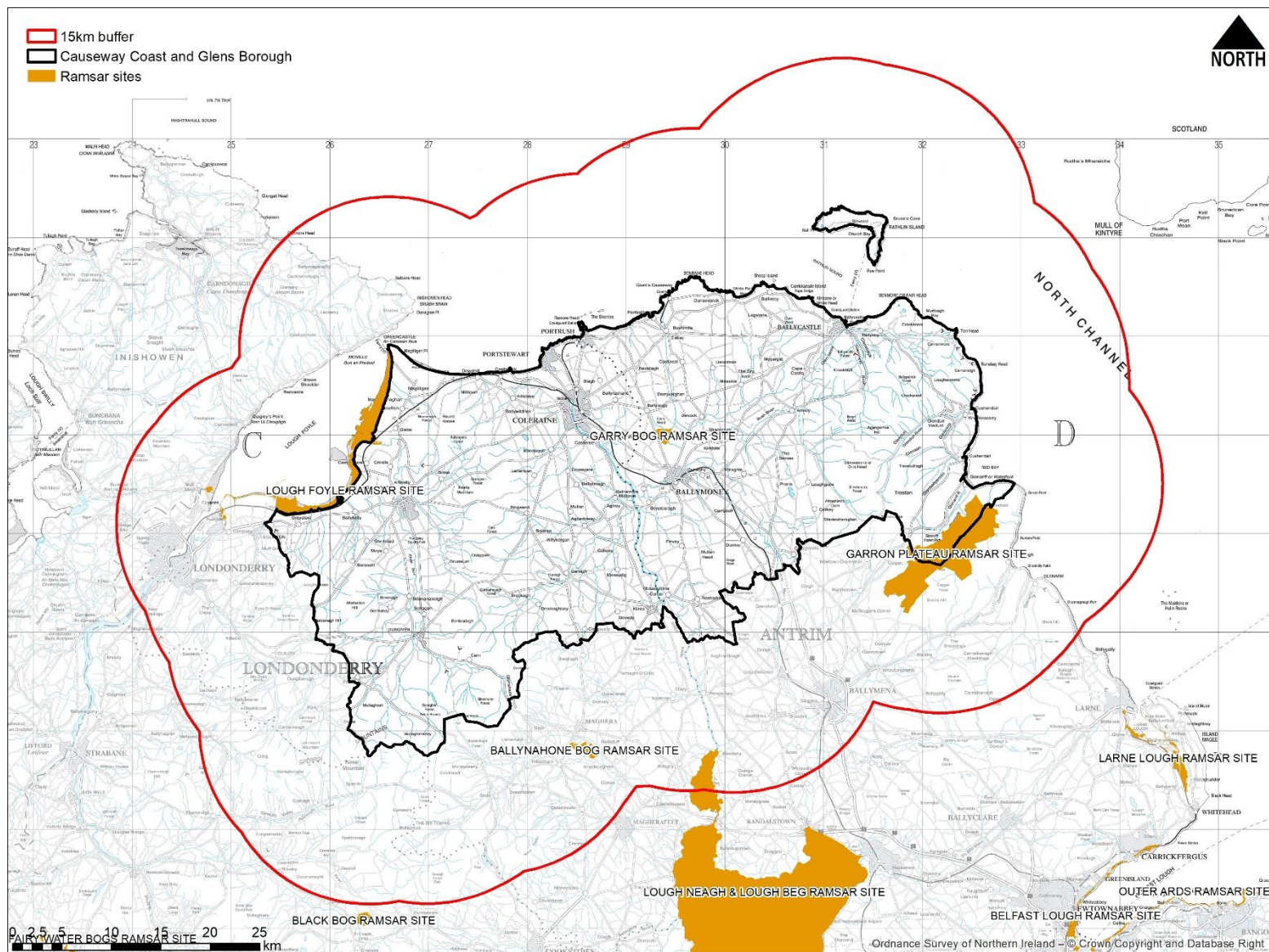


Figure A.7.4: SACs in Ireland sites in or within 15km of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

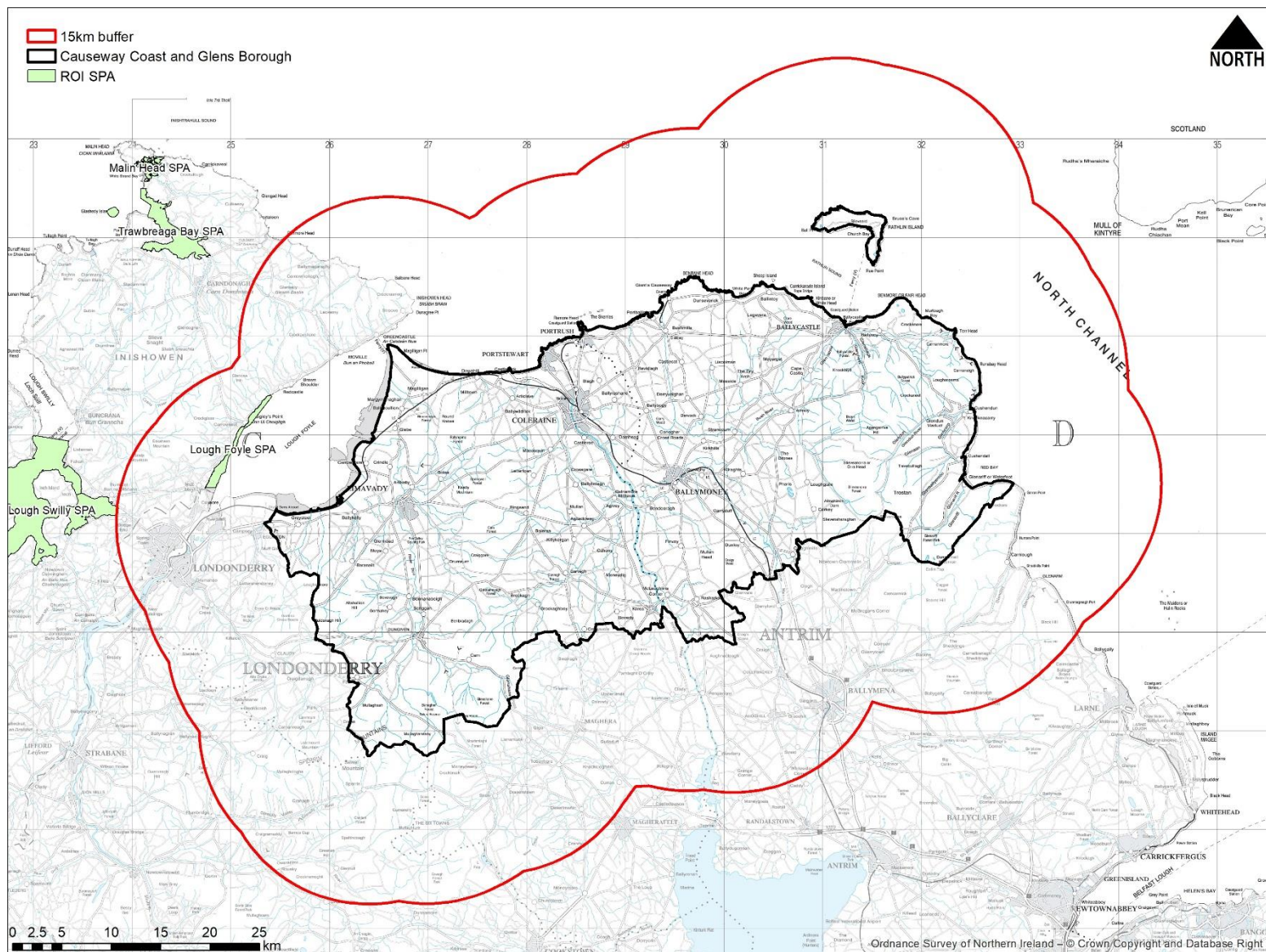
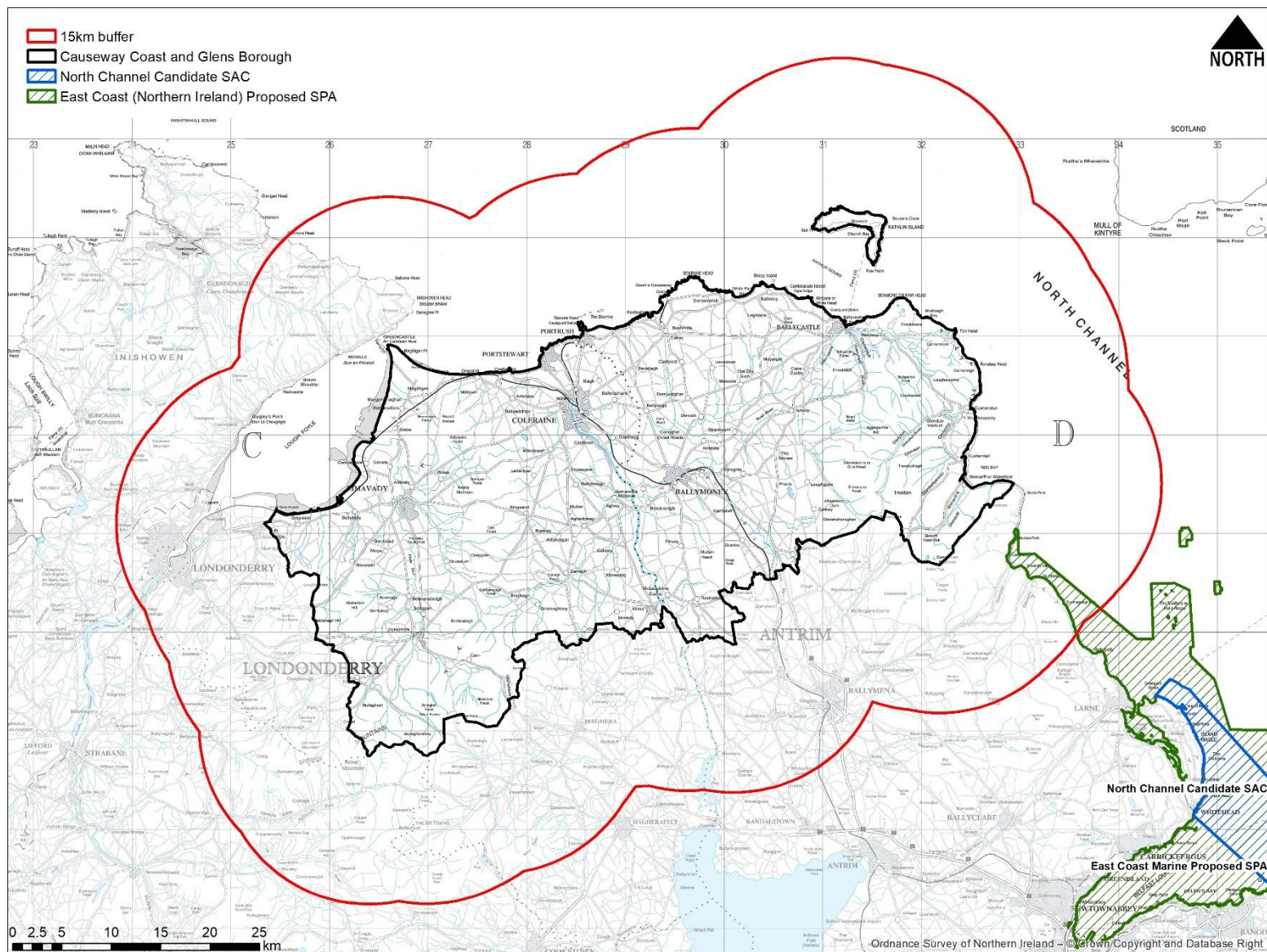


Figure A.7.6: East Coast (Northern Ireland) Proposed SPA and North Channel Candidate SAC



Overall Potential Impacts

More detailed description follows in Table A.7.3 of potential development impacts that could arise as a result of the LDP. As more details of impacts that may arise through LDP delivery emerge these will be assessed in relation to European sites and their features. Note that this is a full list and some of the effects listed may not apply to the selection features of sites connected with the plan area.

Table A.7.3: Potential development impacts to be assessed in relation to European sites

Potential Impacts	Activities arising from the implementation of LDP
Loss, fragmentation, damage of habitats and / or species:	Construction activities associated with LDP could lead to the loss, fragmentation (or obstruction of movement) or damage of habitats and / or species through:
	Direct land take and / or land clearance and the use of machinery/materials.
	Direct and indirect impacts resulting from the construction and operation of built development and required infrastructure.
	Impacts caused during repair and maintenance activities for built development and required infrastructure.
	Direct impacts associated with mineral development in the plan area.
	Removal, fragmentation or physical changes to important connectivity features could create barrier effects to species, alter habitat availability or ecological functioning or result in changes in breeding, roosting, commuting and foraging behaviour.
Disturbance: physical, noise, lighting	Noise or activity during construction and operational activities could have adverse impacts on sensitive species (marine mammals and birds in particular).
	Increased lighting from construction or additional built development could: create barrier effects to species; result in changes in species breeding, roosting, commuting and foraging behaviour; or increase predation.
Biological Disturbance: invasive species, human disturbance	Sensitive habitats and species may experience adverse impacts from the introduction of invasive species, non-native, competitive or predatory species through construction activities and associated machinery, movement of soils and waste or from garden escapes.
	Increased human activity (including recreation; increase in pet ownership; increased incidence in fires) close to sensitive habitats and species may cause disturbance that could impact negatively on these features and lead to displacement of sensitive species from certain locations.
Contamination of land	Waste arising from the operation of developments associated with LDP could cause contamination of land which could have a direct detrimental impact on sensitive habitats or species or indirect impacts if subsequent emissions to water occur.
Emissions by air	The construction and operation of developments associated with LDP (in particular industrial developments) have the potential to generate chemical and dust emissions and could make a contribution to acid rain or nutrient deposition resulting in significant adverse impacts to animals and sensitive habitats for example they could cause localised smothering of vegetation or potential health issues in animals e.g. birds.

Potential Impacts	Activities arising from the implementation of LDP
	Increased traffic generation could lead to increased air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions which could have localized impacts on sensitive habitats or species.
Emissions by water and changes to hydrology	There is potential for an increased transport of chemical contaminants reaching the aquatic environment during the construction and operation of development associated with the LDP. This could range from transportation of fuels to cleaning or waste water treatment materials and associated drainage and discharges into watercourses. Changes to water quality can have harmful effects on fish, invertebrates, and vegetation, e.g. as a result of lowered oxygen levels.
	Surface run off and sediment release from construction works and operational activities associated with LDP can increase sediment deposition and turbidity within aquatic systems. This can adversely impact on associated wildlife by causing shading effects that can inhibit plant and algal growth and smother organisms thereby limiting productivity and survival.
	Water abstraction from streams or lakes required for construction and operation of developments associated with LDP could have physical impacts on water levels, fish species at intakes, affect populations of fish or alter the configuration or availability of breeding gravels.
	Construction and operation of development associated with BDLP could alter the hydrology of sensitive habitats and species by either increasing or decreasing runoff or water percolation into aquifers.
	Increased demands on waste water treatment works or for septic tanks could lead to increased nutrient enrichment of waterbodies which could change water quality and increase eutrophication. This in turn could have a harmful effect on the ecological functioning of these systems.

List of Abbreviations

LDP	Local Development Plan
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation are sites that have been adopted by the European Commission and formally designated by the government of each country in whose territory the site lies.
SCI	Sites of Community Importance are sites that have been adopted by the European Commission but not yet formally designated by the government of each country.
cSAC	Candidate SACs are sites that have been submitted to the European Commission, but not yet formally adopted.
pSAC	Possible SAC
SPA	Special Protection Area
pSPA	Proposed SPA
Ramsar	Sites listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance adopted at Ramsar, Iran in 1971. As a matter of policy these sites are treated in the same way as European sites.
ROI	Republic of Ireland

