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| <b>Title of Report:</b>                | <b>Local Development Plan: Quarterly Update</b> |
| <b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>  | <b>PLANNING COMMITTEE</b>                       |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>                | <b>27<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>                 |
| <b>For Decision or For Information</b> | <b>For Noting</b>                               |
| <b>To be discussed In Committee</b>    | <b>NO</b>                                       |

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| <b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b> |   |
| Strategic Theme                              | Cohesive Leadership   |
| Outcome                                      | Our elected members work collaboratively and make decisions on an evidence led basis and in line with its policies. |
| Lead Officer                                 | Principal Planning Officer  |

|                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Budgetary Considerations</b>    | <b>Not applicable in this case</b> |
| Cost of Proposal                   |                                    |
| Included in Current Year Estimates |                                    |
| Capital/Revenue                    |                                    |
| Code                               |                                    |
| Staffing Costs                     |                                    |

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|--|--|---------------------|--|
| <b>Legal Considerations</b>              | <b>Not applicable in this case</b>   |                     |  |
| Input of Legal Services Required         |  |                     |  |
| Legal Opinion Obtained                   |  |                     |  |
| <b>Screening Requirements</b>            | Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals. <b>NOT REQUIRED</b> |                     |  |
| Section 75 Screening                     | Screening Completed:   | Yes                 |  |
|  | EQIA Required and Completed:   | <b>Not required</b> |  |
| Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)             | Screening Completed  | Yes                 |  |
|  | RNA Required and Completed:  | <b>Not required</b> |  |
| Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) | Screening Completed:   | Yes                 |  |
|  | DPIA Required and Completed:   | <b>Not required</b> |  |

## 1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on preparation of the Council's Local Development Plan (LDP).

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Under the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 the Council has a statutory duty to prepare an LDP for its Borough, that will, when adopted, replace the current Northern Area Plan (NAP) 2016.

## **3.0 Studies to inform the LDP Preparation**

- 3.1 Members will be aware of the work of the Council's Development Plan team that brought us to the current stage of draft Plan Strategy preparation.

### Housing Study

- 3.2 At the request of Members, Council engaged Ulster University (UU) to carry out independent housing research on the new dwelling requirements in the Borough. An LDP Steering Group (Planning Committee) Workshop was held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025 to discuss.
- 3.3 Subsequently, a Notice of Motion, requesting that the Council asks that the UU Housing Study Report be presented to a meeting of the Full Council, was supported at the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 Council Meeting. UU presented the Housing Study at a Deputation Workshop held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026.

### Retail & Leisure Capacity Study

- 3.4 The Strategic Planning Policy Statement for NI (SPPS) sets out that councils must ensure that both LDPs and planning decisions are informed by robust and up to date evidence in relation to retail need and capacity in its area.
- 3.5 The Council engaged Nexus Planning to undertake a Retail & Commercial Leisure Capacity Study for the Borough. The final Study and accompanying LDP Policy Briefing Note were presented and agreed at the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 Planning Committee.
- 3.6 The Study was made available to view on the Council's website on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026. The LDP Policy Briefing Note will inform the LDP Town Centre & Retail Planning Policies.
- 3.7 The Study was presented, at the request of the Planning Committee Chair, at a pre-Leisure & Development Committee meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026.

## **4.0 LDP Work Programme**

- 4.1 In line with the Council's current published Local Development Plan (LDP) Timetable, the 6-month indicative LDP Work Programme (Jan-Jun 2026) was presented at the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 Planning Committee.
- 4.2 An LDP Member Workshop on the Draft Plan Strategy preparation was held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

4.3 Officials continue to update the robust evidence base required to inform the LDP preparation and, where necessary, further LDP workshops will be scheduled.

## **5.0 Recommendation**

5.1 **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that the Planning Committee note the content of this Report.