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|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Title of Report:</b>                    | <b>Local Development Plan Steering Group<br/>Annual Monitoring Report (2025/26)</b> |
| <b>Committee Report<br/>Submitted To:</b>  | <b>PLANNING COMMITTEE</b>                                                           |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>                    | <b>23<sup>rd</sup> September 2026</b>                                               |
| <b>For Decision or<br/>For Information</b> | <b>For Information</b>                                                              |
| <b>To be discussed In<br/>Committee</b>    | <b>NO</b>                                                                           |

| <b>Linkage to Council Plan (2026-2031)</b> |                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Strategic Priority<br>No.4                 | Sustainability and Managing Our Natural and Built<br>Environment                                 |
| Outcome                                    | A Local Development Plan that balances growth,<br>environmental protection, and community needs. |
| 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                     |                                    |

| <b>Legal Considerations</b>      | <b>Not applicable in this case</b> |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Input of Legal Services Required |                                    |
| Legal Opinion Obtained           |                                    |

| <b>Screening<br/>Requirements</b>                 | Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery<br>Proposals. <b>Not applicable in this case.</b> |        |       |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Section 75<br>Screening                           | Screening Completed:                                                                                                          | Yes/No | Date: |
|                                                   | EQIA Required and<br>Completed:                                                                                               | Yes/No | Date: |
| Rural Needs<br>Assessment<br>(RNA)                | Screening Completed                                                                                                           | Yes/No | Date: |
|                                                   | RNA Required and<br>Completed:                                                                                                | Yes/No | Date: |
| Data Protection<br>Impact<br>Assessment<br>(DPIA) | Screening Completed:                                                                                                          | Yes/No | Date: |
|                                                   | DPIA Required and<br>Completed:                                                                                               | Yes/No | Date: |

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To present the Council's Local Development Plan (LDP) Steering Group Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for the 2025/26 reporting period.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Council's Development Plan team is currently preparing an LDP for the Borough. The Council must provide a 15-year plan framework to support the environmental, economic and social needs of the Borough in line with regional strategies and policies, and with the objective of furthering sustainable development<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.2 The LDP is prepared in three stages, as follows:
- Preferred Options Paper (POP);
  - Plan Strategy (PS); and
  - Local Policies Plan (LPP).
- 2.3 We are currently preparing a draft Plan Strategy (dPS).
- 2.4 The dPS is subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess any potential environmental, economic or social impacts of the Plan against a range of sustainability objectives. This iterative process is carried out at all three stages of LDP preparation.
- 2.5 In line with the Council's published 'Statement of Community Involvement in Planning' (SCI), the LDP Steering Group was established, comprising the Planning Committee and the Head of Planning (see TOR at Appendix 1), to:
- Ensure overview and strategic input in the Plan process, on behalf of the whole community, as well as from planning officials and the wider council.
  - Deliver the LDP in accordance with the published Timetable whilst meeting statutory requirements and various tests of 'soundness'.
  - Ensure the engagement of Elected Members in the LDP process.
  - Agree policy options to be taken forward for assessment under the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- 2.6 At Preferred Options (POP) stage the LDP Steering Group was consulted on key planning issues arising within the Borough and agreement on the POP publication document.
- 2.7 At draft Plan Strategy stage the group will agree draft policies to be appraised through the SA process, and the dPS publication document prior to formal presentation for ratification at Full Council.

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<sup>1</sup> "Sustainable development" was defined in the World Commission on Environment and Development's 1987 Brundtland report 'Our Common Future' as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

- 2.8 The AMR is set out at Appendix 2 (attached).
- 2.9 It is important to note that Northern Ireland has a new LDP process, and although it was anticipated that the new regime would take some time to settle down it has been a much steeper learning curve than was originally anticipated, for all of the 11 councils (both officers and elected members) as well as the key consultees and stakeholders, and the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in its oversight role.
- 2.10 DfI has, during the LDP process to date, issued a suite of guidance documents (including revisions) which the Council has taken account of during its LDP preparation. The Climate Change Act (NI) 2022, Programme for Government (PFG), and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) Revision 2, are now a consideration, as will any further legislation, regional policy and/or guidance updates (including the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland) as we continue through this process.

### **3.0 Recommendation**

- 3.1 **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that the Planning Committee note the attached LDP Steering Group Annual Monitoring Report.

### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1: LDP Steering Group Terms of Reference

Appendix 2: LDP Steering Group: Annual Monitoring Report (01/04/2025 – 31/03/2026)



### Local Development Plan Steering Group

#### Terms of Reference

##### NAME

The name of Steering Group will be the 'Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Local Development Plan (LDP) Steering Group'.

##### PURPOSE

The purpose of the Steering Group is to oversee and co-ordinate the delivery of the Local Development Plan (LDP).

##### OBJECTIVES

- To ensure overview and strategic input in the Plan process, on behalf of the whole community, as well as from planning officials and the wider council.
- To deliver the LDP in accordance with the published Timetable whilst meeting statutory requirements and various tests of 'soundness'.
- To ensure the engagement of Elected Members in the LDP process.
- To agree policy options to be taken forward for assessment under the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment.

##### MEMBERSHIP OF THE STEERING GROUP

In line with Council's published "Statement of Community Involvement in Planning" (SCI) the LDP Steering Group will comprise of:-

- The Planning Committee; and
- Head of Planning.

Heads of Service within the relevant sections of Council will be invited to participate in the Steering Group meetings.

The Head of Planning will chair the Group.

The Plan Manager will act as Secretary to the Group.

## DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members of the Steering Group should declare **any** personal interest that may exist or may be perceived to exist, in relation to any decisions or recommendations made by the group.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality must be maintained at all times.

In the conduct of their duties, members of this group will be privy to material that is confidential, or which should reasonably be regarded as being of a confidential nature. This material must not be distributed outside of the group.

## MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

The Steering Group will normally meet on a quarterly basis. However, there may be occasions when an ad hoc meeting is required to ensure that we meet our published LDP Timetable. In this instance at least one week's notice will be given (via e-mail).

The Steering Group shall take minutes of all meetings. These may be open to public scrutiny, subject to the Environmental Information (EIR) Regulations 2004.

Minutes of the meeting will be circulated to all attendees within one week of the meeting being held.

## REPORTING STRUCTURES

The Group will supply an annual monitoring report to inform Council on progress in meeting the Plan Timetable and identifying the causes of any significant delay.

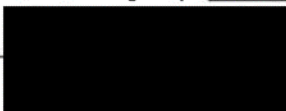
The Group will be required to complete its objectives within the timescale for the adoption of the Plan, as per the agreed LDP Timetable.

## SIGNATURES

1. Chairperson in group: DENISE DICKSON 5/10/17

Signed: 

2. Name and Position in group: ALD KING - VICE CHAIR.

Signed: 

5/10/17

## APPENDIX 2:

### Local Development Plan (LDP) Steering Group: Annual Monitoring Report (01/04/2025 – 31/03/2026)

#### 1.0 LDP Steering Group

- 1.1 The LDP Steering Group (Planning Committee) ensures overview and strategic input into the LDP preparation, on behalf of the whole community. It also ensures Member input into the process as well as LDP delivery in line with the published timetable.

#### 2.0 Steering Group Meetings, Workshops, etc.

- 2.1 Table 1 below sets out the key events within this reporting period relating to the LDP Steering Group:

**Table 1: Key Steering Group Events**

| Date                            | Event                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2025      | LDP Preparation:<br>Quarterly Update to Planning Committee                                                                                                                                                    |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> August 2025    | LDP Preparation:<br>6-month Work Programme to Planning Committee                                                                                                                                              |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> August 2025    | LDP Workshop:<br>UU Housing Study (Interim Report) Presentation to Members                                                                                                                                    |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2025 | LDP Preparation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Quarterly Update to Planning Committee</li><li>LDP Steering Group Annual Monitoring Report (2024/25) Presented to Planning Committee</li></ul>         |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2025  | LDP Workshop:<br>UU Housing Study (Final Study & Recommendations) Presentation to Members                                                                                                                     |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2026   | LDP Preparation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>6-month Work Programme to Planning Committee</li><li>NEXUS Retail &amp; Commercial Leisure Capacity Study Presentation to Planning Committee</li></ul> |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026   | LDP Workshop:<br>UU Housing Study (Final Study & Recommendations) Presentation to Full Council Deputation Workshop                                                                                            |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026      | Plan Manager and Steering Group (Planning Committee) Chair: Cllr Kane, attended British Irish Parliamentary Assembly Meeting.                                                                                 |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2026     | LDP Workshop:<br>Housing Allocation, Distribution and Sustainable Development in the Countryside Policies                                                                                                     |

### **3.0 LDP Preparation**

- 3.1 Members will be aware that, following a request for further information on the necessity for a timetable revision, DfI agreed to Revision 4 on the basis of a requirement for a housing study to inform key elements of the Plan. The Council published the revised timetable in January 2025, setting out an indicative dPS publication date of autumn/winter 2026.
- 3.2 Revision 4 included the procurement of consultants to carry out the housing study. However, a protracted procurement process, resulting from a nil-return to the initial advertisement, a longer than expected project timeline (arising from additional meetings and presentations) and lack of agreement, to date, on key issues affecting the Borough (mainly relating to housing allocation, housing distribution and sustainable development in the countryside policies) has impacted on the ability to meet the indicative dates set out in the Revised LDP timetable i.e. autumn/winter 2026.
- 3.3 The LDP Timetable will be discussed at the upcoming Steering Group (Planning Committee) meeting on 15th September. Any further revision to the published timetable will be presented to members, prior to informing the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) and seeking formal agreement with DfI.
- 3.4 In the meantime, and given the intervening period since the draft policies were last consulted on (2020-2022), officials are in the process of contacting government departments and other key consultees seeking updated contact details.
- 3.5 Officials are also continuing to update the robust evidence base required to inform the LDP preparation and, where necessary, future LDP workshops and Steering Group meetings will be convened.