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Regional Planning Policy & Casework

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4th December 2024

Dear Ms Dickson,

Re: Local Development Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council – Revised Timetable – April 2024

Thank you for your letter 29th September 2024 regarding the clarification sought by the Department to the proposed 3-year extension to the Local Development Plan timetable for your council area and the additional works, meetings, research and evidence gathering that has taken place.

The Department notes the information that you have supplied regarding the attempts to secure a consultant, the ongoing efforts to engage the Ulster University (UU) to discuss independent housing research to inform the current plan preparations and the other engagement/research that has taken place regarding second homes, short term lets, farm dwellings and housing need. The Department now understands that UU is now engaged with reviewing the Council's evidence, and the outcome of this will be forthcoming in due course. The Department also acknowledges the Council's commitment to update other subject evidence bases if required as a result of the intervening period.

In accordance with Section 7(2) of The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and Regulation 7 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. The Department hereby agrees the Council's Local Development Plan timetable titled, "Local Development Plan Timetable – Revised 2024".

As previously communicated (20 June 2024), the Department is aware of the PAC position regarding resource capacity issues and their anticipation of being able to facilitate some IEs from 2027 onwards. The Department continue to engage with the PAC and the Department of Justice on the implications of the resourcing issue, and monitoring will be kept under review. I would also encourage you to highlight any concerns you have directly with the PAC also. Given the implications on timeframes, the Department would also urge the Council to keep their timetable under review and provide any necessary updates if circumstances change.

In addition, you will be aware that DfI is seeking additional resources to possibly hold IEs and other hearing with persons appointed by the Department. Updates on the progress of this will be communicated as necessary.

The Council must also be satisfied that any changes made to the timetable are, where necessary, reflected in the Statement of Community Involvement. You are reminded of the publicity requirements regarding availability of the timetable under regulation 8 of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

If you have any further queries regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Susan Wilkin, Suzanne Bagnall or Claire Patton.

Yours sincerely



ALISTAIR BEGGS
Chief Planner &
Director, Regional Planning Policy, and Casework