

Title of Report:	Local Development Plan Update
Committee Report Submitted To:	PLANNING COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	26th November 2025
For Decision or For Information	For Noting
To be discussed In Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
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

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

Legal Considerations	Not applicable in this case
Input of Legal Services Required	
Legal Opinion Obtained	

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals. NOT REQUIRED		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes	
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Not required	
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes	
	RNA Required and Completed:	Not required	
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes	
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Not required	

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, the 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 17th November 2025 to discuss. The Study will now inform the LDP preparation.

Retail & Leisure Capacity Study

- 3.3 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.

The Council engaged Nexus Planning to undertake Retail & Commercial Leisure Capacity Study for the Borough. The final draft has been received and is in the process of being signed off. The Study will then be presented for agreement at the Planning Committee.

4.0 Recommendation

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