

Title of Report:	Local Development Plan Update
Committee Report Submitted To:	PLANNING COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	25th February 2026
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, 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.
- 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 6th January 2026 Council Meeting. UU presented the Housing Study at a Deputation Workshop held on 3rd 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 Retail & Commercial Leisure Capacity Study for the Borough. The final Study and accompanying LDP Policy Briefing Note were agreed at the 28th January 2026 Planning Committee.
- 3.6 The Retail and Leisure Capacity Study was made available to view on the Council's website on 4th February 2026. The LDP Policy Briefing Note will inform the LDP Town Centre & Retail Planning Policies.

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 for noting at the 28th January 2026 Planning Committee.
- 4.2 An LDP Member Workshop on the Draft Plan Strategy preparation is scheduled for 11th March 2026.

5.0 Recommendation

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