

Title of Report:	Local Development Plan: Topic Review Reports
Committee Report Submitted To:	PLANNING COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	28th October 2026
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Plan (2026-2031)	
Strategic Priority No.4	Sustainability and Managing Our Natural and Built Environment
Outcome	A Local Development Plan that balances growth, environmental protection, and community needs.
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 applicable in this case.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To agree priority/sequencing of LDP topics to be reviewed and presented at the Council's Local Development Plan (LDP) Steering Group for discussion, prior to presentation at the Planning Committee for formal agreement.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Members will be aware of discussions at the following meetings regarding priority LDP topic reviews to be presented for discussion:
- 15th September LDP Steering Group Meeting;
 - 23rd September 2026 Planning Committee Meeting; and
 - 30th September LDP Steering Group Meeting.
- 2.2 Given the number of reports to be reviewed officials sought direction from members on the topic areas they wish to see prioritised. The full list of topics to be reviewed is set out at Appendix 1.
- 2.3 The next LDP Steering Group Meeting is scheduled for 9th December 2026, following which any agreed topic reports will be presented to the Planning Committee for formal agreement.
- 2.4 The next set of topics to be reviewed in advance of the 10th March 2027 Steering Group will also be agreed at that committee meeting. This format will continue until all listed topics have been reviewed, discussed and formally agreed.
- 2.5 Depending on the topics to be discussed, and in line with any revised Terms of Reference (on today's agenda for discussion) invites will also issue to the Chief Executive, Directors and Heads of Service to attend key Steering Group Meetings.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that the Planning Committee note the content of the report and advise officials of the priority/sequencing of topics to be reviewed for the next Steering Group Meeting to be held on 9th December 2026.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: List of LDP topics to be reviewed.

Appendix 1: LDP Draft Plan Strategy: Topic Review Reports (TRRs)*

LDP Topic Review Reports			
Report Number	Report Topic	Briefing Note	Priority
1	LDP Vision, Overarching Principles & Strategic Objectives	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the Council's LDP Vision, Overarching Principles & Strategic Objectives. The original paper dates back to 2021/22. It requires update to include legislative (Climate Change Act) and regional policy (SPPS Edition 2) changes. It will also consider any strategic planning-related matters arising out of the Council's Community Plan.	
2	Control of Outdoor Advertisements	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the Council's draft LDP Policies relating to the Control of Outdoor Advertisements. The original paper dates back to 2021/22 therefore it needs to be updated.	
3	General Principles of Development	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the Council's draft LDP Policies relating to the General Principles of Development. The original paper dates back to 2021/22. It requires update to include legislative (Climate Change Act) and regional policy (SPPS Edition 2) changes.	
4	Developer Contributions	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the Council's draft LDP Policies relating to the Developer Contributions. The original paper dates back to 2021/22 therefore it needs to be updated, particularly in light of the experiences of other councils on this topic.	
5	Transitional Arrangements	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the transitional arrangements affecting existing policy and the new LDP preparation.	
6	Population	This TRR sets out the evidence base relating to updated population figures and any implications for the Borough.	
7	Spatial Growth & Settlement Hierarchy	This TRR sets out the evidence base relating to the LDP spatial growth and settlement hierarchy. It incorporates the UU Housing Study findings. Figures were presented in advance of and discussed at the 11/03/26 LDP Workshop and at the LDP Steering Group Meeting on 15 th September 2026.	

LDP Topic Review Reports			
Report Number	Report Topic	Briefing Note	Priority
8	Health, Education, Community & Cultural Facilities	This TRR sets out the evidence base relating to the Health, Education, Community & Cultural Facilities. The original paper dates back to 2021/22 therefore it needs to be updated. It will also consider any planning-related matters arising out of the Council's Community Plan.	
9	Housing in Settlements	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the Council's draft LDP Policies relating to Housing in Settlements. The original paper dates back to 2021/22 therefore it needs to be updated.	
10	Town Centres & Retailing	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the Council's draft LDP Policies relating to Town Centres & Retailing. The original paper dates back to 2021/22 therefore it needs to be updated to take account of the findings of Council's 2025 Retail and Commercial Leisure Capacity Study.	
11	Archaeology & Built Heritage	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the Council's draft LDP Policies relating to the Archaeology & Built Heritage. The original paper dates back to 2021/22 therefore it needs to be updated.	
12	Economic Development	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the Council's draft LDP Policies relating to Economic Development. The original paper dates back to 2021/22 therefore it needs to be updated. It will consider any planning-related matters arising from the Local Economic Partnership and Coleraine Future Town Fund.	
13	Telecoms & Overhead Lines	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the Council's draft LDP Policies relating to Telecoms & Overhead Lines. The original paper dates back to 2021/22 therefore it needs to be updated.	
14	Transportation	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the Council's draft LDP Policies relating to Transportation. The original paper dates back to 2021/22 therefore it needs to be updated.	
15	Flood Risk Management	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the Council's draft LDP Policies relating to Flood Risk Management. The original paper dates back to 2021/22 therefore it needs to be updated. It will consider any planning-related matters arising from the Climate Change Act.	

LDP Topic Review Reports			
Report Number	Report Topic	Briefing Note	Priority
16	Open Space, Sport & Outdoor Recreation	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the Council's draft LDP Policies relating to Open Space, Sport & Outdoor Recreation. The original paper dates back to 2021/22 therefore it needs to be updated.	
17	Recycling & Waste Management	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the Council's draft LDP Policies relating to Recycling & Waste Management. The original paper dates back to 2021/22 therefore it needs to be updated. It will consider any planning-related matters arising from the Climate Change Act.	
18	World Heritage Site	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the Council's draft LDP Policies relating to the World Heritage Site. The original paper dates back to 2021/22 therefore it needs to be updated.	
19	Rathlin Island	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the Council's draft LDP Policies relating to Rathlin Island. The original paper dates back to 2021/22 therefore it needs to be updated. It will consider any planning-related matters arising from the Rathlin Island Policy and Action Plan.	
20	Coastal Development	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the Council's draft LDP Policies relating to Coastal Development. The original paper dates back to 2021/22 therefore it needs to be updated. It will consider any planning-related climate change matters arising from the Climate Change Act.	
21	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the Council's draft LDP Policies relating to Renewable and Low Carbon Energy. The original paper dates back to 2021/22 therefore it needs to be updated to take account of the Climate Change Act and updated policy contained in the SPSS Edition 2.	
22	Minerals	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the Council's draft LDP Policies relating to Minerals. The original paper dates back to 2021/22 therefore it needs to be updated. It will consider any up to date minerals evidence available.	
23	Tourism	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the Council's draft LDP Policies relating to Tourism. The original paper dates back to 2021/22 therefore it needs to be updated. It will consider any planning-related matters arising from the Council's Destination Management Strategy.	

LDP Topic Review Reports			
Report Number	Report Topic	Briefing Note	Priority
24	Natural Heritage	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the Council's draft LDP Policies relating to Natural Heritage. The original paper dates back to 2021/22 therefore it needs to be updated. It will consider any planning-related matters arising from the Council's Local Biodiversity Action Plan.	
25	Sustainable Development in the Countryside	This TRR sets out the evidence base to support the Council's draft LDP Policies relating to the Sustainable Development of the Countryside. Draft policies were presented in advance of and discussed at the 11/03/26 LDP workshop and the 15 th September 2026 Steering Group Meeting.	
26	Countryside Assessment	The Countryside Assessment consisting of the following, needs to be reviewed: • Environmental Assets Appraisal • Landscape Assessment • Development Pressure Analysis • Settlement Appraisal	

*TRR reviews, which are ongoing, use the most up-to-date evidence base available for each topic area. Officials will then consult, where necessary, with relevant competent authorities and other key stakeholders before formally presenting draft policies to members for agreement. Following agreement the updated policies will be subject to Sustainability Appraisal before being added to an updated (tracked changes) dPS document.

It should be noted that the LDP must take account of any legislation, regional policy and guidance published within this period, including but not limited to, Development Plan Practice Notes (DPPNs) and the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland.