

<b>Local Development Plan (LDP) – Member Workshops</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> October 2016</b>
<b>Planning Committee For Decision</b>	

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b>	
<b>Strategic Theme</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Leadership and Champion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our Elected Members will provide civic leadership to our citizens working to promote the Borough as an attractive place to live, work invest and visit.</li> <li>• We will establish key relationships with Government agencies and potential strategic partners in NI and external to it which helps us to deliver our vision for this Council area.</li> </ul>
Protect the Environment in Which We Live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All environments in the area will benefit from pro-active decision making which protects the natural features, characteristics and integrity of the Borough.</li> </ul>
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Principal Planning Officer/Local Development Plan Manager
<b>Cost:</b>	N/A

## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The responsibility for the preparation of a new Local Development Plan (LDP) for the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough passed to Council on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.
- 1.2 Since then, the LDP team has presented a number of 6 month indicative work programmes to outline the extent of preparatory work being undertaken for the LDP. This work includes desk top studies, research and survey work, data compilation and input and mapping of results.
- 1.3 The findings have been regularly presented to Members as Topic Papers, under the following headings:
- Population & Growth;
  - The Environment;

- Employment and Town Centres;
- Settlement Evaluation;
- Public Utilities;
- Open Space & Recreation;
- The Coast;
- Minerals;
- Education, Health & Community;
- Transportation (on agenda this month); and
- Housing (this month also).

1.4 This area of work is still ongoing and it is anticipated that it will continue throughout the next indicative 6 month LDP work programme (January – June 2017). The papers will be regularly reviewed and updated, as and when required, throughout the LDP process.

## **2.0 Moving forward**

2.1 Council's "Statement of Community Involvement in Planning" (SCI) and its LDP Timetable have been presented and agreed by the Planning Committee. They have also been agreed with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC), as is required under legislation.

2.2 Council's LDP team will now prepare to publish these two documents, signalling the formal commencement of the LDP process. Under the terms of the SCI, the Steering Group for the LDP consists of the Planning Committee and the Head of Planning. This is the high-level co-ordinating body that will ensure overview and strategic input on behalf of the whole community, as well as from the planning professionals.

2.3 A Project Management Team will also be set up. Under the terms of the SCI this will comprise Senior Council Officers and the Principal Planning Officer (LDP Manager). The purpose of the team is to facilitate key consultee co-operation in the LDP process. This team will also be consulted on and act as the screening and scoping group for the Sustainability Appraisal and any other necessary assessments and appraisals.

2.4 The LDP team will also commence a series of Workshops to help inform and guide Members through the LDP process. These will begin in November 2016 and continue into 2017. The topics to be discussed at each workshop have been also listed (see Appendix 1). This will include a review of the existing planning policies for each topic area.

### **Preferred Options Paper**

2.5 The workshops will also build capacity among Elected Members and feed into the preparation of Council's "Preferred Options Paper" (POP), through which we will identify the key issues facing the Borough, a range of options available to address these and highlight Council's preferred option.

## **Reports/Assessments**

- 2.6 Work has also commenced on initiating the many reports required to accompany the LDP. This includes the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA); the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA); Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) and Rural Proofing. This will be an iterative process, ongoing throughout the entire LDP process.

## **The Community Plan**

- 2.7 The Head of Planning and LDP Manager are both involved in the preparation of Council's Community Plan. This will ensure that the LDP is a spatial reflection of the agreed outcomes from the Community Planning process.

## **3.0 Financial Implications.**

- 3.1 None

## **4.0 Other Implications.**

- 4.1 None.

## **5.0 Recommendation**

- 5.1 **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Members:
- Note the content of the report;
  - Agree to the publication of Council's SCI and LDP Timetable; and
  - Agree to the monthly LDP Workshops as detailed at Appendix 1.

## Appendix 1: Member Workshops:

Workshop Date	Topics*
<b>2016</b>	
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LDP Overview</li><li>• Sustainability Appraisal/SEA</li><li>• Settlement Hierarchy</li></ul>
<b>2017</b>	
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Natural Environment</li><li>• Built Environment</li></ul>
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transportation</li><li>• Public Utilities</li></ul>
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Population &amp; Growth</li><li>• Housing</li></ul>
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Town Centres &amp; Employment</li><li>• Education, Health &amp; Community</li></ul>
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Open Space &amp; Recreation</li><li>• Tourism</li></ul>
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Landscape Character Assessment</li><li>• The Coast</li><li>• Minerals</li></ul>

\* The workshop topics may change due to internal/external factors. As such, Members will be advised of the topics to be discussed in advance of each workshop.