

Title of Report:	Local Development Plan – 6-month Indicative LDP Work Programme (Jul-Dec 2024)
Committee Report Submitted To:	PLANNING COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	26th June 2024
For Decision or For Information	To Note

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	

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 present, in line with Section 5 of the Council's current published Local Development Plan (LDP) Timetable, the 6-month indicative LDP Work Programme (attached at Appendix 1) which outlines the range of work to be

carried out by the Council's Development Plan team within this programme¹ (Jul-Dec 2024).

2.0 Background

Local Development Plan

- 2.1 Members will be aware of the suite of LDP Workshops, Steering Group and Project Management Team meetings that brought us to the stage of presenting a draft Plan Strategy (dPS) at the 24th August 2022 Planning Committee, at which members resolved to take the dPS forward to Full Council for ratification.
- 2.2 At its 1st November 2022 Full Council Meeting the Council resolved to defer the dPS for further consideration through Party Group meetings. These were held in November and December 2022 following which, officers considered issues raised, gathered further information and evidence relating to the dPS.
- 2.3 Members sought a further round of Party Group meetings, held in August and September 2023. Based on discussions at the previous meetings (see 2.2 above) a revised dPS and accompanying table of changes were circulated to Members in advance of this round of meetings. Members continued to raise concerns.
- 2.4 An all-Member workshop was convened on 7th December 2023, where it was agreed that an LDP Working Group would be set up to discuss dPS topic areas of concern. A paper was presented to 24th January 2024 Planning Committee, where Members resolved to set up the Working Group.
- 2.5 The first Working Group meeting took place on 19th March 2024, where Members agreed to procure independent research on housing need in the Borough. A paper on this was presented to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), and to the 23rd April 2024 Corporate Policy and Resources (CP&R) Committee, where the Council resolved to appoint consultant(s) to undertake independent research on the new dwellings requirement for the Borough to inform the preparation of the Local Development Plan. This is currently out to tender.

LDP Timetable

- 2.6 The Council's current published LDP Timetable, agreed at its 24th March 2021 Planning Committee Meeting, sets out an indicative date for publication of the draft Plan Strategy (dPS) in spring/summer 2022.
- 2.7 The LDP timetable has been kept under review throughout the ongoing discussions with Members and the Planning Committee (LDP Steering Group) has been regularly updated on progress.

¹ Please note that dates may be subject to change. Additional, ad hoc meetings may be required during this programme, and due to ongoing policy review/discussions, consultation with statutory bodies and key stakeholders may need to re-open.

- 2.8 A revised Timetable was presented and agreed at the 27th March 2024 Planning Committee, following which officers consulted with the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) as required. The timetable is currently with the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) for agreement (as required), prior to formal publication.

LDP Project Management Team & LDP Steering Group

- 2.9 Consultation with the LDP Project Management Team (key consultees and stakeholders) on our draft policy approach closed with the presentation of the dPS to the 1st November 2022 Full Council Meeting. However, given the deferral of the dPS for further consideration, this consultation process may need to be reopened.
- 2.10 Through quarterly verbal updates and the 6-month indicative work programmes the LDP Steering Group (Planning Committee) continues to be updated on Plan-making progress.

Working Groups/Collaborative Working

- 2.11 The Development Plan Working Group will continue throughout this programme. Collaborative work will also be undertaken on the following, as and when required:
- NI Coastal/Marine Group;
 - Cross-Border Development Plan Group;
 - Cross-Boundary Group (adjoining councils); and
 - Sperrin AONB Group.

Sustainability Appraisal

- 2.12 A Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) of the LDP is an iterative process, continuing throughout the entire Plan-making programme. The Council has employed SES to carry out the LDP SA/SEA on its behalf. Any update to the dPS throughout this work programme will also require an updated appraisal.

Annual Monitors

- 2.13 Work will continue on the Council's annual retail, employment and housing monitors within this work programme.

Building Preservation Notices (BPNs)

- 2.14 Ad hoc requests for BPNs will be processed throughout the work programme, as and when required.

Trees

- 2.15 Members will be aware of the recent press release regarding the Planning Department's launch of the new interactive map viewer to help the public

identify trees with preservation orders attached and those located within the Borough's five Conservation Areas.

- 2.16 The map viewer provides information on each of the 80 Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) in the Borough, including a short description of the value of the trees, the status of the TPO, and access to the associated TPO Schedule and maps. Work will continue throughout this programme to publish associated background information on the Council's website.
- 2.17 The website also provides information on trees, generally, within the Planning system, including requests for TPOs, consent for works and other tree related matters relevant to the Planning Department.
- 2.18 Ad hoc requests for TPOs and Works to Trees will continue to be processed throughout the work programme, as and when required.

Community Plan Strategic Partnership Board

- 2.19 Given the statutory link, the Head of Planning and Local Development Plan Manager are part of the Council's Community Plan Strategic Partnership Board and continue to participate in the community planning process, working collaboratively with our council colleagues and other key partners.

Other work

- 2.20 In addition to the items above, officers are undertaking further research to inform the preparation of the LDP, including 'short terms lets' within the Borough.
- 2.21 Officers will continue to assist our development management colleagues on a range of matters including planning application, LDP and Conservation Area consultation responses.
- 2.22 Consultations received from other councils, central government departments, and any other ad hoc papers will be processed and/or presented as and when required throughout this programme.
- 2.23 Attendance at other councils' Independent Examinations (IEs) will continue in line with the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) timetable as this is a crucial learning resource on the evolution of the Northern Ireland Plan-making process.

Evidence Base Update

- 2.24 Members are aware that the LDP must be prepared using robust and up to date evidence base. As such, updates may be required to some or all of the above, depending on the timeframe for bringing an updated dPS to Members.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that the Planning Committee note the content of this report.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: LDP 6-month Work Programme (Jul-Dec 2024)

APPENDIX 1: Local Development Plan 6 Month (Indicative) Work Programme* (Jul-Dec 2024)

Week Commencing	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small; color: red;"> Planning Committee 28th Planning Committee 25th Planning Committee 23rd Planning Committee 22nd </div>																											
	01/07/24	08/07/24	15/07/24	22/07/24	29/07/24	05/08/24	12/08/24	19/08/24	26/08/24	00/09/2024	09/09/24	16/09/24	23/09/24	30/09/24	07/10/24	14/10/24	21/10/24	28/10/24	04/11/24	11/11/24	18/11/24	25/11/24	02/12/24	09/12/24	16/12/24	23/12/24	30/12/24	
Draft Plan Strategy Preparation	Deferred at 1st November 2022 Full Council Meeting - discussion with members ongoing																											
LDP SA/SEA & HRA	Iterative document - to be updated and when required																											
LDP Steering Group Meetings	Quarterly Verbal Updates and 6-month Indicative Work Programmes provided to the Steering Group (Planning Committee)																											
Evidence Updates	This document library to accompany the Draft Plan Strategy publication will be updated throughout this reporting period as required																											
Retail & Leisure Capacity Study	The procurement process will commence within this work programme																											
Research Study - Short term holiday lets	To continue throughout Programme																											
Independent Research - New Dwelling Need in the Borough	Tender process to be completed during this programme. Work will also commence on the research (subject to appointment of successful tender)																											
CC&GBC Landscape Character Study	Informing the LDP Preparation																											
LDP Project Management Team	As required throughout programme																											
Member Workshops/Working Group Meetings - LDP Draft Policies																												
Cross Border Working Group	As required throughout programme																											
Cross Boundary Working Group	As required throughout programme																											
Sperrin AONB Working Group	Further meetings as required throughout programme																											
NI Minerals Working Group	As required throughout programme																											
NI Development Plan Working Group	Meeting scheduled for 5th September 2024																											
Community Plan Strategic Partnership Board	Meetings scheduled for 31st July & 6th November 2024																											
HGI Review	Work to continue throughout programme																											
Housing Land Monitor	Ongoing throughout programme																											
Retail Monitor	Ongoing throughout programme																											
Employment Land Monitor	Ongoing throughout programme																											
Settlement Appraisals	As required throughout programme																											
Settlement Evaluation	As required throughout programme																											
Development Mgmt: assistance (Plg apps/correspondence/complaints, etc), map preparation & LDP/Tree/CAO consultation responses	To continue throughout Programme																											
Duty Planner (calls and reception rota duties)	To continue throughout Programme																											

Week Commencing	01/07/24	08/07/24	15/07/24	22/07/24	29/07/24	05/08/24	12/08/24	19/08/24	26/08/24	00/09/2024	09/09/24	16/09/24	23/09/24	30/09/24	07/10/24	14/10/24	21/10/24	28/10/24	04/11/24	11/11/24	18/11/24	25/11/24	02/12/24	09/12/24	16/12/24	23/12/24	30/12/24	
Place & Prosperity Projects - Planning Input	To continue throughout Programme																											
Council consultations (from adjoining councils/government departments)	To continue throughout Programme																											
Council representative (planning advisor) eg Town Team, AONB, WHS, GIS, Tech Support groups, etc	To continue throughout Programme																											
Building Preservation Notices, TPOs & Works to Trees	To continue throughout Programme																											
Trees - Interactive Map Viewer	Work to continue throughout this programme to publish associated background information on Council website																											
Attendance at other council LDP Independent Examinations (IEs)	To other Councils/PAC timetable																											
Mandatory Staff Training and Continuing Personal Development(CPD)	To continue throughout Programme																											

* Please note that dates may be subject to change. Ad hoc meetings may also be required throughout the programme.