



Subject:	Update on the LDP engagement and communications
Date:	06/09/2024
Reporting Officer:	Dermot O’Kane – Acting Development Planning & Policy Manager
Contact Officer:	Conor Campfield, Acting Principal Planning Officer

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	The first part of the Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP) 2035, the Plan Strategy (PS), was adopted on 2 May 2023 and sets out the strategic and operational policy framework for the plan area across a range of topics.
1.2	The Council has commenced work on the draft Local Policies Plan (LPP) which is the second part of the two-stage LDP process under the provisions of Part 2 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011. The LPP sets out the Council's local policies and site-specific proposals, designations and land use zonings in relation to the development and use of land in its district required to deliver the Council's vision, objectives and strategic policies.
1.3	The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the ongoing review and refresh of the LDP Engagement and Communications Strategy, Plan and Action Plan and to provide detail around ongoing and upcoming engagement for the LPP.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the update.
3.0	Main Report
	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>3.1 An Engagement and Communications Strategy for the LDP was originally drafted in 2016 to reflect best practice. This strategy is in line with the Council's Consultation and Engagement Framework published November 2020 and is linked to the Belfast Agenda's vision and outcomes.</p> <p>3.2 The Local Government Act 2014 and Planning Act 2011 link the community planning and development plan processes, suggesting that the LDP is intended to be "the spatial reflection of the community plan" with the process working in tandem "towards the same vision for the council area and its communities" by setting "the long term social, economic and environmental objectives".</p> <p>3.3 The LDP team are currently engaging with the Corporate Communications team to produce an updated Engagement and Communications Strategy, Plan and Action Plan for the next stage of the plan development – the LPP.</p> <p>3.4 The purpose of the update is to ensure that the Council's engagement is appropriate for the purposes of the plan and that the LDP Engagement and Communications Strategy, Plan and Action Plan reflect any changes to Regional Policy, Regulations and emerging best practice.</p> <p>3.5 There are a number of stakeholders that we are required to engage with including statutory consultees, professional bodies, the development industry and environmental and community groups. It is important that our approach to engagement is appropriate to the needs of each of these groups whilst still fulfilling our statutory requirements.</p> <p>3.6 Members will be aware the LDP team has commenced engagement with elected members at the Area Working Groups (AWG) which were held in May and June 2024. Further AWG updates have been scheduled and will take place at the end of September.</p> <p>3.7 Further engagement on the LPP has taken place through the recommencement of the LDP Steering group in June 2024. This group was established to ensure overview and strategic input on behalf of the broader community, as well as from planning and other professionals.</p>

3.8	Partnership Board working groups have been set up for various dates throughout September and further engagement with the Metropolitan Spatial Area Working Group took place 10 th September.
3.9	<p>The LDP teams are currently scheduling topic specific working group engagement events for October/November. Further detail and dates will be provided in due course.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no resource implications associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no equality or good relations implications arising from this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Local Policies Plan (LPP) engagement events undertaken and upcoming