



<b>Subject:</b>	Draft LDP Engagement and Communications Strategy Draft LDP Engagement and Communications Plan (2024)
<b>Date:</b>	15/10/2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Dermot O’Kane – Acting Development Planning & Policy Manager
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Joanne Doherty - Senior Planning Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b>	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Information relating to any individual</li><li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li><li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li><li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li><li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li><li>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</li><li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li></ol>	
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
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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 purpose of the LPP is to set 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 and the LDP Engagement and Communications Plan for the LPP.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the update.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Background</u></b>
	<b>Engagement and Communications Strategy</b>
3.1	The Engagement and Communications Strategy sets out our approach to engaging and communicating with key stakeholders, interested parties and the community during the production of the Council's LDP.
3.2	The strategy builds on the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and contains methods of engagement that are tailored to each consultation period, the needs of consultees and takes into consideration the Timetable and need to deliver a robust LDP.
3.3	An Engagement and Communications Strategy for the LDP was originally drafted in 2016 to reflect best practice. The LDP Engagement Strategy has been updated to reflect the Council's Corporate Consultation and Engagement Framework published November 2020 and is linked to the Belfast Agenda's vision and outcomes. The Council's Consultation and Engagement Framework recognises the importance of meaningful consultation and engagement and sets out the broad policy as to how this activity will be undertaken by the council. The approach has been tailored to ensure that wider Planning legislative requirements are adhered to.
	<b>Engagement and Communications Plan</b>
3.4	The Engagement and Communications Plan falls from the Strategy. The Plan details the purpose of engagement, the methods of engagement, the communication methods and the communication channels the LDP team will utilise for the draft LPP. Examples of these include a 'launch' media release being issued, promotion on the council's social media channels as well as public engagement events being held to raise awareness of the draft LPP.
3.5	Both documents have been prepared in collaboration with the Corporate Comms Team to ensure that we are utilising best practice and are compliant with Council guidelines.
3.6	The purpose of engagement for this stage is to provide audiences with the appropriate tools and opportunities to provide their representations on the draft LPP stage of plan making. Through the consultation process it is important to manage the audience's expectations of

3.7	<p>how their engagement will impact the draft LPP; what can they influence or change and how they can do this.</p> <p>Both the Engagement Strategy and Plan will continue to be live documents and will be updated as we move through the production of the Plan and will be adapted to reflect any changes to regional policy, regulations and emerging best practice. A further Communication and Engagement Action Plan will set out precise details of events, costs and timescales which will also be updated to reflect the progress of the LDP.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b> There are no resource implications associated with this report.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b> There are no equality or good relations implications arising from this report.</p>
4.0	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	<p><b>Appendix 1</b> – Draft LDP Engagement and Communications Strategy 2024</p> <p><b>Appendix 2</b> – Draft LDP Engagement and Communications Plan 2024</p>