



Subject:	Belfast Local Development Plan - Timetable Update
Date:	14 March 2017
Reporting Officer:	Keith Sutherland, Development Plans and Policy Manager
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Is this report restricted?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To update the Members on progress with the new Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP) and to review the timetable for the adoption of the LDP.
1.2	The City Council published its agreed timetable for the preparation and adoption of the new Belfast LDP in June 2016. A summary of the timetable is attached at Appendix 1. The Council has recently published the LDP Preferred Options Paper (POP) for consultation and consideration is being given to the next stages of the LDP process.
1.3	The LDP timetable must be kept under review and this report highlights progress to date.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	It is recommended that the Committee notes the terms of this report and the progress to date in preparing the new LDP.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Work on the LDP commenced through the publication of a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and Timetable in June 2016. These are the first stages in the LDP process and both are statutory requirements under the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. The Council also published its Preferred Options Paper (POP) in January 2017, which is another required stage in the LDP process.
3.2	The LDP timetable (see Appendix 1) covers the entire plan-making process, which takes approximately four years. The timetable was agreed with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in accordance with planning legislation. This also requires the timetable to be kept under review.
3.3	The published timetable programmed the publication of POP for public consultation from September to November 2016. However, there was a slight delay in preparing the POP and it was finalised and published for consultation from January to April 2017. This

<p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p> <p>3.8</p>	<p>represents an overall delay of just under five months to the published timetable.</p> <p>The published timetable programmed the period for consideration of POP consultation responses during “<i>early 2017</i>”. This will now start in late April 2017, following the closing of the current public consultation stage on 20th April 2017.</p> <p>Additional staff resources are now in place to assist with taking the plan preparation forward, which will help to reduce the slippage in the projected timescale for the preparation of the POP. It is envisaged that, subject to the volume of responses and nature of matters raised, the consultation report will be prepared for consideration by the Committee in May 2017.</p> <p>The next key milestone in the LDP process is the publication of the Draft Plan Strategy. The published timetable programmes the publication of the Draft Plan Strategy for the “<i>second half of 2017</i>”. It is anticipated that, having regard to the detailed work involved in the preparation of the POP, the Draft Plan Strategy could be published for consultation within this broad timeframe.</p> <p>The Draft Plan Strategy is likely to be published in accordance with the published timetable, but the delay could have implications for the subsequent stages and require a formal review of the timetable. In view of this, whilst there is no need to review or revise the LDP timetable at this time, the proposal is to engage with the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) and other key stakeholders to explore the implications for the formal process.</p> <p>It is considered that there is potential for the next stages of the LDP process, following the publication of the Draft Plan Strategy, to require an adjustment to the current timetable. This could be required for a number of reasons, including delays at the Planning Appeals Commission’s independent examination or consideration by the Dfi on the soundness of the plan documents. However, it is not possible, with any degree of certainty at this stage, to detail the timetable beyond the publication of the Draft Plan Strategy. The proposal is therefore to ensure that the timetable is kept under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Committee for consideration.</p> <p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u> There are no resource implications associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None noted.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> There are no relevant equality or good relations implications attached to this report.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Agreed LDP Summary Timetable</p>

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Belfast City Local Development Plan (LDP) 2035 - Timetable

	Key Stages	Notes on Proposed Process	Indicative Timescales
Preliminary Work	Publication of Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final SCI to be submitted to Department for approval 	April 2016
	Publication of Timetable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult Statutory Stakeholders Final SCI to be submitted to Department for approval 	May 2016
	Preparation of evidence base to underpin production of Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission specific, specialist studies required (e.g. Population and Housing Growth) Internal Council consultation to develop evidence base and identify key issues Identification of key issues in relation to specific themes for consultation with relevant statutory consultees and key stakeholders Consult consultation body (NIEA) with Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating SEA) Scoping Report 	May – June 2016
	Informal consultation with Elected Members, statutory stakeholders and community representatives		
	Publication of Preferred Options Paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 week public consultation Publish Topic Papers and supporting evidence alongside POP, including appraisal of alternative options Publication of Sustainability Appraisal (inc. SEA) Interim Report Initial EqIA and HRA Screening 	July – September 2016
Plan Strategy	Consideration of responses to POP consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of Public Consultation Report Informal consultation with key stakeholders 	Early 2017
	Publication of Draft Plan Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 week public consultation, followed by 8 week consultation on representations Publication of Sustainability Appraisal (inc. SEA) and Public Consultation Report Publication of EqIA and HRA where required 	Second half 2017
	Soundness Based Independent Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory report to Central Government Central Government Issues binding report to Council 	Spring 2018
	Adoption of Plan Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes made to finalise Plan Strategy Publication of final Sustainability Appraisal (inc. SEA) and Public Consultation Report Publication of final EqIA and HRA where required 	Early 2019*
Local Policies Plan	Informal consultation with Elected Members and statutory stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal consultation with relevant statutory consultees and key stakeholders Consult consultation body (NIEA) with Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating SEA) Scoping Report 	Spring 2018 – Early 2019
	Publication of Draft Local Policies Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 week public consultation, followed by 8 week consultation on representations Publication of final Sustainability Appraisal (inc. SEA) and Public Consultation Report Publication of final EqIA and HRA where required 	Spring - Autumn 2019
	Soundness Based Independent Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory report to Central Government Central Government Issues binding report to Council 	Early 2020
	Adoption of Local Policies Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory report to Central Government Central Government Issues binding report to Council 	Late 2020*
Monitor and Review	Monitoring and Review of LDP, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Monitoring Reports 5 and 10 year review (leading to commencement of a replacement Local Development Plan) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory report to Central Government Central Government Issues binding report to Council 	On going

Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA))

* May require a longer period depending on changes required following Independent Examination