



<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast Local Development Plan - Timetable Revision
<b>Date:</b>	11 September 2018
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Keith Sutherland, Development Plans and Policy Manager
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Mark Whittaker, Senior Planning Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Some time in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<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 or Summary of Main Issues</b>
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 agreed the timetable for the preparation and adoption of the new LDP in June 2016. A revised timetable was subsequently agreed by Council in December 2017 and a copy of the current LDP timetable is attached at Appendix 1.
1.3	The LDP draft Plan Strategy was published for consultation on 23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2018 and this is a key milestone in the LDP process. Members previously agreed to keep the timetable under review and the recent milestone presents a timely opportunity to consider progress to date and the next stages in the process. This is important to ensure that the timetable remains as up to date as possible, as this is one of the tests of soundness for the LDP.

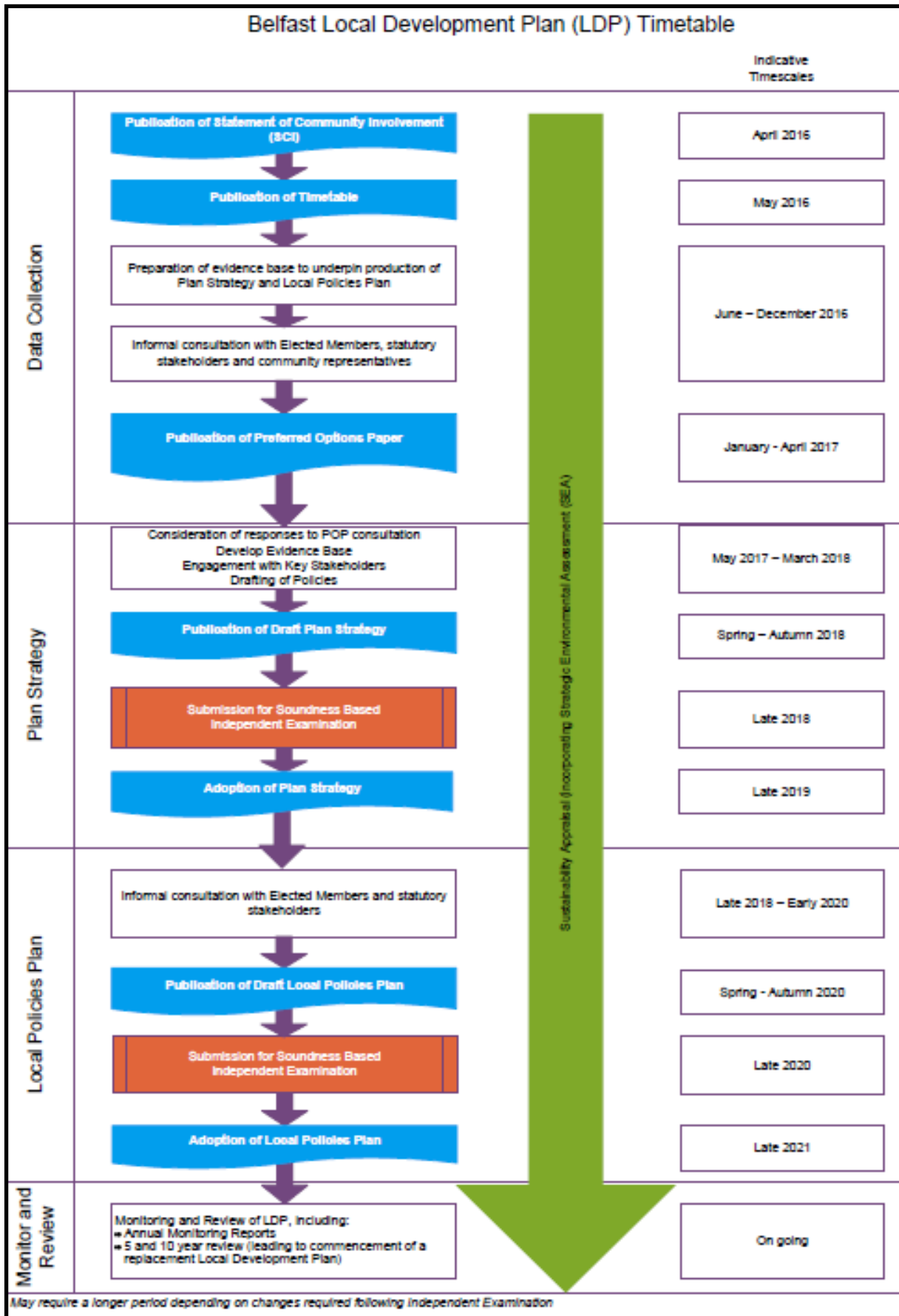
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	It is recommended that the Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• notes the updates set out in the report; and</li><li>• agrees the updated draft LDP timetable set out in Appendix 2.</li></ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The Council agreed the initial timetable for the preparation and adoption of the new LDP in June 2016. Following the public consultation stage of the Preferred Options Paper (POP), a

	<p>revised timetable was agreed by Council in December 2017. This was formally agreed with the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) following consultation with the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) and is attached at Appendix 1.</p>
3.2	<p>The LDP draft Plan Strategy (DPS) was published for consultation on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 and represents a significant milestone in the LDP process. The launch followed a significant period of engagement with Members and party groups. Whilst full approval for publication of the DPS was given at the Council meeting on 4 June, it was agreed to delay the launch until the end of the summer break to enhance the potential engagement in the consultation.</p>
3.3	<p>The current timetable indicates that the DPS would be published for consultation from spring to autumn 2018. Whilst it has been published within this timeframe, the consultation period and subsequent tasks will extend beyond the suggested timeframes within the current timetable. The current consultation stage lasts until 15 November 2018. Following this, we are required to publish all representations received and allow a further 8-week period for counter-representations. Any such counter-representations are also required to be published, although no further submissions can be accepted at that stage.</p>
3.4	<p>Taking account of the revised launch date for the DPS and the next immediate tasks in the process, it is likely that the full DPS consultation stage, including collation of representations and reporting to Members, will run until March 2019. Following this the DPS, all associated documents and all representations received must be collated and submitted to Dfi. This is likely to be in May 2019. Following its consideration of the documents, Dfi then refers the DPS to the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) for the Independent Examination (IE) stage. Dfi has recently indicated that its consideration of should take up to six weeks, meaning that the DPS and all documents will be passed to the PAC by end June 2019.</p>
3.5	<p>The PAC has also advised that the IE process will take 12 months, comprising an initial five month preparation period; a two month public examination; and a further five months for preparation of the final recommendations. The PAC recommendations are passed to Dfi for its final consideration and it then directs the City Council to adopt, modify or withdraw the DPS, potentially in late summer 2020.</p>
3.6	<p>As set out above, the DPS process is complex, lengthy and involves a number of parties. Whilst the timetable generally remains within the Council's control until all documents are submitted to Dfi, after this point the timeframes are largely within the control of Dfi and PAC. Therefore, whilst the DPS could be adopted following the completion of the PAC consideration in late summer 2020, this date is indicative at this stage.</p>
3.7	<p>The LDP Local Policies Plan (LPP) will follow a similar consultative and examination process. The LPP cannot be published for consultation until the DPS has been adopted, although preparatory work can be carried out pending DPS adoption. Having regard to the length of time that the Dfi and PAC stages take, as well as the significant public consultation process in advance of this, the LPP process could take up to two years from its draft publication, the date of which is dependent on the adoption date of the DPS. Therefore, at this time, it is difficult to be specific in relation to when the LPP might be adopted – although our current estimate indicates that this could be late 2022.</p>
3.8	<p>The test of soundness for the LDP includes consideration of adherence to the agreed timetable. Therefore, it is important to ensure that it is regularly reviewed and kept as up to date as possible. There are regulatory provisions to allow the Council to revise the timetable in response to changes in the anticipated timeline for LDP preparation, in consultation with Dfi.</p>

3.9	<p>The progress to date and next tasks outlined above have implications for the approved LDP timetable and it is considered necessary to revise the timetable, in advance of submitting the Draft Plan Strategy for Independent Examination, to maintain a realistic outline of the remaining stages for the other participants in the formal process. This is important for the assessment of the plan and to ensure that stakeholders are able to both plan and adequately resource their ongoing participation.</p>
3.10	<p>The revised timetable is attached at Appendix 2 of this report. It is recommended that the Committee endorses this updated timetable for submission to DfI for formal agreement. The timetable will be kept under review during the LDP process and any further changes will be brought to the Committee for consideration.</p> <p><b><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></b> There are no resource implications associated with this report.</p> <p><b><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></b> None noted.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b> There are no relevant equality or good relations implications attached to this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	<p><b>Appendix 1</b> – Agreed LDP Summary Timetable  <b>Appendix 2</b> – Proposed Revised LDP Summary Timetable</p>

# Appendix 1 – Agreed LDP Summary Timetable



## Appendix 2 – Proposed Revised LDP Summary Timetable

Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP) 2035 Timetable			
	Key Stages	Notes on Proposed Process	Indicative Timescales
<b>Data Collection</b>	<b>Publication of Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final SCI to be submitted to Department for approval</li> </ul>	April 2016
	<b>Publication of Timetable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult Statutory Stakeholders</li> <li>Final Timetable to be submitted to Department for approval</li> </ul>	May 2016
	Preparation of evidence base to underpin production of Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commission specific, specialist studies required (e.g. Population and Housing Growth)</li> <li>Internal Council consultation to develop evidence base and identify key issues</li> <li>Identification of key issues in relation to specific themes for consultation with relevant statutory consultees and key stakeholders</li> <li>Consult consultation body (DAERA) with Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating SEA) Scoping Report</li> </ul>	June – December 2016
	Informal consultation with Elected Members, statutory stakeholders and community representatives		
	<b>Publication of Preferred Options Paper</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 week public consultation</li> <li>Publish Topic Papers and supporting evidence alongside POP, including appraisal of alternative options</li> <li>Publication of Sustainability Appraisal (inc. SEA) Interim Report</li> <li>Initial EqIA and HRA Screening</li> </ul>	January - April 2017
<b>Plan Strategy</b>	Consideration of responses to POP consultation, develop evidence base engagement with key stakeholders and drafting of policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of Public Consultation Report</li> <li>Informal consultation with key stakeholders</li> </ul>	May 2017 – March 2018
	<b>Publication of Draft Plan Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish for viewing (4 weeks)</li> <li>8 week statutory public consultation, followed by 8 week statutory consultation on representations</li> <li>Publication of Sustainability Appraisal (inc. SEA) and Public Consultation Report</li> <li>Publication of EqIA and HRA where required</li> </ul>	August 2018 – Spring 2019
	Soundness Based Independent Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advisory report to Central Government</li> <li>Central Government Issues binding report to Council</li> </ul>	May 2019 – August 2020
	<b>Adoption of Plan Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes made to finalise Plan Strategy</li> <li>Publication of final Sustainability Appraisal (inc. SEA) and Public Consultation Report</li> <li>Publication of final EqIA and HRA where required</li> </ul>	Late summer 2020*
<b>Local Policies Plan</b>	Informal consultation with Elected Members and statutory stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informal consultation with relevant statutory consultees and key stakeholders</li> <li>Consult consultation body (DAERA) with Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating SEA) Scoping Report</li> </ul>	Late 2019 – late 2020
	<b>Publication of Draft Local Policies Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish for viewing (4 weeks)</li> <li>8 week statutory public consultation, followed by 8 week statutory consultation on representations</li> <li>Publication of final Sustainability Appraisal (inc. SEA) and Public Consultation Report</li> <li>Publication of final EqIA and HRA where required</li> </ul>	Early 2021
	Soundness Based Independent Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advisory report to Central Government</li> <li>Central Government Issues binding report to Council</li> </ul>	Late 2021
	<b>Adoption of Local Policies Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advisory report to Central Government</li> <li>Central Government Issues binding report to Council</li> </ul>	Late 2022*
<b>Monitor and Review</b>	Monitoring and Review of LDP, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Monitoring Reports</li> <li>5 and 10 year review (leading to commencement of a replacement Local Development Plan)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advisory report to Central Government</li> <li>Central Government Issues binding report to Council</li> </ul>	On going

Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA))

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

