



Mid Ulster District Council

Local Development Plan: Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist for draft Plan Strategy for Independent Examination

(May 2021)

1.0 Introduction – Concept of Soundness

- 1.1 As set out in Development Plan Practice Note 6, Soundness (May 2017), a key feature of the local development plan system is soundness which requires the development plan document (DPD) to be tested in terms of content, conformity, and the process by which it is produced at an independent examination (IE). The concept of testing the soundness of local development plans comes from established practice in England and Wales. The tests of soundness are based on three categories which relate to how the DPD has been produced, the alignment of the DPD with central government regional plans, policy and guidance and the coherence, consistency and effectiveness of the content of the DPD.

Legislative Context

- 1.2 Section 10 of The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 [2011 Act] requires that the Local Development Plan is examined at Independent Examination to ascertain if it is sound. This statement comprises the Councils self-assessment against the twelve tests of soundness contained within DPPN 6. These tests are based on three categories; procedural, consistency and coherence and effectiveness. These tests have a degree of overlap in terms of criteria. In addition, DPPN 6 also suggests that these examples may not constitute an inclusive and definitive list. Therefore, it is a matter for the council to decide the most appropriate evidence to demonstrate how it has met each test of soundness.
- 1.3 As part of the process of submitting the draft Plan Strategy, Section 10 (3) of the 2011 Act Regulation 20 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, the Council is required to provide a range of submission documents. This soundness self-assessment is one of those documents and is provided in accordance with
- 1.4 It is the view of Mid Ulster District Council that the draft Plan Strategy meets all the tests of soundness, including in terms of procedures, consistency, coherence and effectiveness. Therefore, the Council considers that the draft Plan Strategy is ready for submission to the Department of Infrastructure for them to cause an IE. We hereby submit the draft Plan Strategy and supporting documents under Section 10 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and Regulation 20 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Test P1: Has the DPD been prepared in accordance with the Councils Timetable and Statement of Community Involvement?

Key Considerations

Evidence

Timetable

- Does the Timetable detail the main stages of the Plan Strategy process; has it been prepared in accordance with Section 7 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Act 2011 and Regulations 5-8 of the Planning (Local Development Plan Regulations) Northern Ireland 2015?

- Has the Timetable been prepared in consultation with the PAC and other consultation bodies as the Council considers appropriate?

YES – The PS has been prepared in accordance with the LDP timetable. The POP was published on 7th November 2016 in line with the indicative date in the timetable that it would be published in Autumn 2016. The draft Plan Strategy was published in February 2019 in line with the indicative date given in the revised timetable to publish it in Spring 2019.

YES - The timetable was revised on two occasions – November 2018 and September 2020. Consultation was carried out with the PAC and DFI for the initial publication and for each subsequent revision. Consultation was also carried out with other bodies as deemed appropriate by the Council such as NI Water, Invest NI, DFI - Roads, GSNI AND DFI – Rivers.

All details of compliance with Regulations 5-8 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 for the initial publication and the subsequent revisions are detailed in MUDC409

Statement of Community Involvement

- Does the SCI set out how the Council will involve the community in accordance with SCI regulations?

YES – SCI clearly sets out how the public will be involved at each stage of the Local Development Plan process.

YES - The SCI was agreed by the Council on 24th March 2016 before being sent to DFI for approval on 27th April 2016. Agreement was received by the Department on 6th May 2016.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Has the SCI been agreed by Council and by DfI? ➤ Have all relevant consultation / participation procedures set out in the SCI been carried out? 	<p>Subsequent revisions to the SCI were agreed by Council on 25th October 2018 and 2nd June 2020 before being sent to DFI for agreement on 29th October 2018 and 5th June 2020 respectively. Agreement was received on 21st November 2018 and on the 18th June 2020.</p> <p>YES - For details on how the requirements of the SCI were complied with, refer to MUDC408</p>
<p>Test P2: Has the Council prepared its Preferred Options Paper (POP) and taken into account any representations made?</p>	
<p>Key Considerations</p>	<p>Evidence</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Has the POP been prepared and consulted upon in accordance with the Timetable and SCI? ➤ Does the POP set out a distinctive Vision, Objectives as well as a range of options and a preferred option? 	<p>YES - The POP was published on 7th November 2016 in line with the indicative date in the timetable that it would be published in Autumn 2016. For details on how the requirements of the SCI were complied with, refer to MUDC408</p> <p>YES – The POP clearly sets out how the visions and objectives will be in keeping with the vision of the RDS as well as tailored to suit the vision expressed in our Community Plan. The POP also contains a structured set of objectives built around the three key themes of Accommodating People and Places, Creating Jobs and Promoting Prosperity and Enhancing the Environment and Improving the Infrastructure.</p> <p>A range of options are laid out for each important strategic issue and a preferred option is then identified with explanation given. In addition a range of additional questions are posed to stimulate</p>

- Was consultation carried out with the consultation bodies in accordance with regulation 9 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015?

debate on a wide range of additional issues. Examples of such are frequent throughout the POP document.

YES – consultation was carried out in accordance with regulation 9 - preparation of the Preferred Options Paper. For details on compliance with LDP regulations please see MUDC409

The consultation ran for a period of 12 weeks between November 7th 2016 and January 27th 2017 and was publicised through the following channels:

- ✓ A Public Notice was issued in the Mid Ulster Mail, the Tyrone Courier, the Tyrone Times, the Co Derry Post, the Impartial Reporter, the Mid Ulster Observer, the Dungannon Observer and the Belfast Gazette and on the Mid Ulster District Council website (www.midulstercouncil.org) for two consecutive weeks. This notice stated:

- (i) The Council's intention to prepare a Local Development Plan, accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal, including Strategic Environmental and Equality Impact Assessments;
- (ii) Publication of the Prepared Options Paper inviting comment within 12 weeks;
- (iii) Details of community meetings, exhibitions and pop-in information sessions;
- (iv) Publication of the initial stages of Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating SEA, and invite comment as considered necessary.

- ✓ The POP and related Easy Read Guide was published on the Mid Ulster District Council website also made available at the Council Offices in Magherafelt, Dungannon and Cookstown and hard copies provided upon request.
 - ✓ A Press Release was issued in the Mid Ulster Mail, the Tyrone Courier, the Mid Ulster Observer, the Dungannon Observer, the Derry Post, the Impartial Reporter, the Tyrone times and the Belfast Gazette about the intention to prepare a new plan, drawing attention to the Preferred Options Paper and the public consultation.
 - ✓ A Launch and Exhibition was held in The Burnavon Theatre and Arts Centre in Cookstown on November 7th 2016 to announce the publication of the Preferred Options Paper. 4
- | P a g e PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT
- ✓ Public Meetings and Exhibitions with drop in sessions were held in the District towns of Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Coalisland and Maghera. And in a number of other locations distributed across the Mid Ulster District. Appendix 6 details the locations of all the List of Public Meetings and Exhibitions and summarizes the issues raised at each.
 - ✓ We also wrote to Elected Members and MLA's (Department Ministers and Junior Ministers) providing them with a copy of the Preferred Options Paper. x We wrote to 1,754 local community groups and section 75 groups as listed in our Statement of Community Involvement. They were given the opportunity of a meeting with a planning officer to record their views.
 - ✓ In addition to the public meetings a number of focused meeting were facilitated with local groups and some were held in conjunction with the consultation on the draft

<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Was consideration given to representations received from the POP in accordance with Regulation 9 and were regulations 10 and 11 complied with in relation to availability and public consultation on the POP? ➤ Have the Council founded their preferred options on a robust evidence base? ➤ Do options take account of Community Plan, RDS and the SPPS?	<p>community plan. A summary of the comments made at these are contained at Appendix 6.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Engagement with the ‘Consultation Bodies’ has been a key part of the consultation on the POP and SA/SEA Interim Report. The responses from the consultation bodies are summarized at Appendix 5 and consideration of the comments is also provided. <p>YES – Yes, responses to Regulation 9 correspondence were recorded and detailed as they were received. These were subsequently considered in preparation of the POP. Responses were received from a range of consultees including utility providers, government departments and neighbouring councils. For details on compliance with LDP regulations please see MUDC409</p> <p>YES – The POP was underpinned by background evidence in the form of Position Papers across a range of topics covered in the POP</p> <p>YES - The POP clearly sets out how the visions and objectives will be in keeping with the vision of the RDS as well as tailored to suit the vision expressed in our emerging Community Plan. It is self-evident in the POP itself that each section considers what the strategic objectives are as per the SPPS as well as considering what the key issues are for the District. Issues raised in the consultation process for the emerging Community Plan are also given consideration.</p>
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<p>➤ Has the POP been subject to an interim SA?</p>	<p>It is important to note that the Community Plan for Mid Ulster was not published in its final form until May 2017 i.e. after the POP was published.</p> <p>Yes, a Sustainability Appraisal (Incorporating SEA) Interim Report accompanied the POP in November 2019 – see MUDC103</p>
<p>Test P3: Has the DPD been subject to a SA including Strategic Environmental Assessment?</p>	
<p>Key Considerations</p>	<p>Evidence</p>
<p>➤ Has the draft Plan Strategy been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?</p> <p>➤ Has the Council complied with relevant contained within the EAPP (NI) Regulations?</p>	<p>YES – All these requirements have been met. A full SA/SEA assessment has been undertaken for all the strategic and development management policies and proposed designations in the draft Plan Strategy.</p> <p>A copy of the SA/SEA is submitted with the draft Plan Strategy. See MUDC102</p>
<p>Test P4: Did the Council comply with the regulations on the form and content of the draft Plan Strategy and procedure for preparing the draft Plan Strategy?</p>	
<p>Key Considerations</p>	<p>Evidence</p>
<p>➤ Has the Council complied with the relevant requirements contained within the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015?</p>	<p>YES – All details on compliance with the regulations can be found at MUDC409.</p> <p>The draft Plan Strategy clearly sets out the Council’s objectives in relation to the development of land within the District. It contains</p>

<p>➤ Has the Council taken account of any representations received in relation to the POP and considered representations and counter-representations received on the draft Plan Strategy.</p>	<p>specific policies for the implementation of those objectives and also contains maps of strategic designations to show how those policies will be implemented spatially. For example, maps are provided of Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development, Special Countryside Areas and other strategic designations. Separate and distinct justification is provided for each policy along with clear evidence of how the policy approach fits with regional policy and with the vision of the District which is expressed in the Community Plan.</p> <p>YES –</p> <p><u>POP</u></p> <p>In total 657 representations were received to the POP as well as 29 “late” representations which were received after the closure of the consultation period. In January 2019, the Council published its Preferred Options Paper Public Consultation Report. The report was structured around the sections of the Preferred Options Paper.</p> <p>It explained in detail the issues which had been raised by Consultation Bodies and by members of the public. It set out the Councils consideration of these issues which had been raised and what our recommendation was based on the careful consideration of such. It also detailed how the recommendations had been implemented in moving forward with the draft Plan Strategy, where relevant.</p>
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	<p>The Public Consultation Report on the POP was agreed by Planning Committee over 3 separate meetings on 17th October 2017, 2nd November 2017 and 28th November 2017.</p> <p><u>Draft Plan Strategy</u></p> <p>There were 204 representations received to the initial consultation period for the draft Plan Strategy. Following the closure of that consultation period, a consultation report was also completed to consider representations received. This report. In the report, under each chapter/topic heading, the main issues are identified followed by all representations made which are related to that issue. The regional and local policy context are outlined and a response to specific issues, which includes the reference number of each representation, followed by the Council's consideration and suggested action. Consideration of any counter-representation are also included. This report was agreed by Planning Committee over three separate meetings at the end of 2019 and beginning of 2020.</p> <p>Following this, a procedural error was discovered which meant that a re-consultation was undertaken. In total, 36 representations were received to that re-consultation and the report was updated to reflect the issues raised in this process. Again, any counter representations received tot his re-consultation process were included in the report. The report was agreed by Planning Committee on the 12th April 2021.</p> <p>The POP and DPS consultation reports can be found at MUDC114 and MUDC116</p>
<p>Test C1: Did the Council take account of the Regional Development Strategy?</p>	
<p>Key Considerations</p>	<p>Evidence</p>

- Did the Council ensure that the objectives, proposals and policies contained in the dPS have taken account of the RDS and provide evidence of how this has been undertaken?
- Has the Council referred to the RDS throughout the draft Plan Strategy?

YES – The RDS has been considered and taken account of throughout the process of preparing the draft Plan Strategy. The earliest background evidence position papers clearly took account of the RDS and the SPPS and these were discussed in the introduction to each paper.

The spatial Growth Strategy of the DPS has clearly been based on the RDS and this is evidenced in the introduction to chapter 4.0. In addition, each policy chapter of the draft Plan Strategy has a section setting out the regional policy context.

Examples of where the RDS has been taken account of in the DPS include;

- ✓ The RDS aim of concentrating development in the three main hubs of Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt is evidenced through SPF 2.
- ✓ The RDS aim of 60% of new housing to urban centres with >5k population is evidenced through the local housing indicators in the DPS (Appendix 1).
- ✓ The RDS aim of sustaining rural communities in small settlements and the open countryside is evidenced through SPF 5, SPF 6 and our rural housing policy and rural economic policy.
- ✓ The RDS aim of ensuring secure energy supply has been realised through the decision not to bring forward separation distances for single turbines as proposed in the POP – see MUDPS 239 - as this would hinder energy supply

<p>➤ Where an aspect of dPS departs from the approach of the RDS, does the evidence base support a different approach?</p>	<p>✓ Settlement Hierarchy has been defined using the Infrastructure Wheel. See background evidence paper entitled Strategic Settlement Evaluation – MUDC215</p> <p>The background papers and the SA report provide analysis of evidence and justification in support of policy direction. In those policies that represent a slight deviation from regional policy, this is set out either in the PS itself or in the accompanying background papers and studies. The SA Report also provides justification on why certain options were pursued.</p>
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Test C2: Did the Council take account of its Community Plan?

Key Considerations	Evidence
<p>➤ Has the draft Plan Strategy demonstrated how its policies, allocations and strategic designations give spatial expression to the Community Plan?</p>	<p>YES – Para. 1.17 of the DPS states that the Local Development Plan for Mid Ulster supports and spatially represents the vision of the Community Plan. The Community Plan has been a major consideration throughout the creation of the draft Plan Strategy.</p> <p>It is however, important to remember that the Community Plan was not published until after the launch of the POP and therefore,</p>

consideration of its finalised outcomes and goals were not possible in the early phase of evidence gathering. When the Community Plan was published in its final form, later evidence gathering and background studies show clear evidence of considering the themes and outcomes of the Community Plan. See MUDC055, MUDC057 for example.

The POP clearly sets out how its visions and objectives are tailored to suit the vision expressed in our emerging Community Plan. It is self-evident in the POP itself that each section considers what the strategic objectives are as per the SPSS as well as considering what the key issues are for the District. Issues raised in the consultation process for the emerging Community Plan are also given consideration.

Each section of the draft Plan Strategy also contains consideration on what parts of the Community Plan are relevant to the topic in question.

Most of the designations in the DPS are strategic in nature and more specific policies / allocations will be identified at LPP stage. However, planning policies proposed within the strategy do give spatial representation to the outcomes of the Community Plan. For example;

Outcome 3 of Community Plan Theme 3 - "Education and Skills" states that "*we are more entrepreneurial, innovative and creative.*" The DPS seeks to implement this outcome by recognising the strong entrepreneurial spirit in Mid Ulster and therefore allowing greater flexibility for small workshop type development in the rural area and economic development on the edges of a settlement.

Test C3: Did the Council take account of policy and guidance issued by the Department?

Key Considerations	Evidence
<p>➤ Do the policies, objectives and proposals contained within the draft Plan Strategy take account of policy guidance issued by the Department.</p>	<p>YES - As mentioned above, the draft Plan Strategy has taken account of the RDS. The SPPS sets out regional planning policy for the two tier planning system and is in keeping with the RDS. Each section of the DPS includes a consideration of regional policy and how it pertains to the subject matter. This is clear evidence of the SPPS being taken into account when formulating policy.</p> <p>This is also the case for background preparatory papers dating back to the very beginning of the draft Plan Strategy process. Early preparatory papers for baseline evidence gathering have clear linkages to the SPPS (draft SPPS in some instances) as well as other regional policy and guidance such as Planning Policy Statements and the Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland, where relevant and Development Control Advice Notes (DCANs), where relevant.</p>

Test C4: Has the plan had regard to other relevant plans, policies and strategies relating to the Council's District or to any adjoining councils District?

Key Considerations	Evidence
<p>➤ Does the draft Plan Strategy have regard to other plans and policies relating to the District or to any adjoining district.</p>	<p>Other Plans and Policies</p> <p>YES - In preparing background evidence papers, consideration was given to the extant Area plans and how they impacted upon the subject matter in question. For example in the initial evidence</p>

gathering stage for formulation of Minerals Policy, consideration was given to the existing Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development as well as existing Areas of Safeguarding.

Consideration was also given to the Regional Transportation Strategy and the Mid Ulster District Council Local Transport Strategy as well as other overarching Regional Transport Strategies / Plan. For example, the preparatory evidence paper used in the formulation of transport policy, details how the following regional strategies and polices have been considered;

- The Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) 2002-2012
- DRD Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future: A New Approach to Regional Transportation.
- Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan 2015 (RSTN TP)
- Sub Regional Transport Plan 2015 (SRTP)
- Mid Ulster Tourism Strategy

Additionally, we have considered the draft Marine Plan and how our DPS, whilst not relating to a District with a coastline, can help to implement the aims and outcomes of the draft Marine Plan.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of other plans and guidance which have been considered in the formulation of the DPS, rather is intended to provide evidence that consideration was give, to alternative plans / strategies, where appropriate.

Adjoining Districts

	<p>The Council has complied with all statutory obligations to consult with adjoining councils who are classed as “Consultation Bodies” as per the Local Development Plan (Regulations) Northern Ireland 2015. Evidence of this compliance is detailed in MUDC409.</p> <p>The Council has also considered and responded to each adjoining council in respect of their emerging draft Plan Strategy and the proposals within. We have done this directly to each council via statutory consultations, which we have received, and via the Cross Border Forum (Mid Ulster, Fermanagh & Omagh, Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon and Monaghan County Council) and the Sperrins Forum (Mid Ulster, Derry & Strabane, Fermanagh & Omagh and Causeway Coast and Glens). We have worked with both these forums to produce Statements of Common Ground (Sperrins Forum is in draft form), which whilst are not formally signed show that clear agreement has been reached. This will help ensure issues of mutual concern such as protection of landscapes, minerals development, and transport linkages are dealt with by each council in a way that will not undermine the forthcoming proposals in each other’s draft Plan Strategy. (SEE DOCUMENT NUMBERS MUDC 501 & 502).</p> <p>For example, on the issue of protecting our important landscapes, all councils in the Sperrins Forum agreed that we would protect them but that each council would bring forward its own mechanism for doing so.</p>
<p>Test CE1: The DPD sets out a coherent strategy from which its policies and allocations logically flow and where cross boundary issues are relevant, it is not in conflict with the DPDs of neighbouring councils</p>	
<p>Key Considerations</p>	<p>Evidence</p>

<p>➤ Does the DPD have a coherent strategy and set out a distinct Vision, Objectives, strategic policies and, where relevant, allocations which are realistic and founded on a robust evidence base?</p>	<p>YES – The Council is satisfied that it has a coherent strategy. The overarching strategy is considered to be a balanced approach which seeks to focus growth on the three main towns whilst sustaining local towns, smaller settlements and our vibrant rural communities. It is a vision which is in keeping with the vision of our Community Plan and which seeks to spatially represent the aims of the Community Plan.</p> <p>Our strategy is supported by a robust evidence base as shown through the range of preparatory background papers, policy reviews, community engagement and consultation as well as direct consultation with stakeholders such as the minerals industry / operators, Rural Communities Network, NI Water, GSNI and others.</p> <p>The majority of designations in the draft Strategy are strategic in nature with the only site specific allocations being the interim supply of economic land in Dungannon and Granville. These allocations were brought forward to identify a clear shortage of economic land in the locality as identified by Invest NI. The allocations were brought forward in consultation with a range of consultees such as DFI Roads, DFI Rivers and NIEA.</p>
<p>➤ Are the policies in the draft Strategy consistent with one another and do they support the Plans spatial growth strategy.</p>	<p>YES - Strategic policies that have been brought forward are clear in their aims to advance the strategic planning framework, which underpins the Strategy. Each section of the draft Strategy contains a summing up of our strategic approach in relation to the subject area and this can be directly linked to the aims set out in the Growth Strategy and Spatial Planning Framework Strategy.</p>

<p>➤ Where relevant has, the DPS taken account of national and regional policy/strategy.</p>	<p>For example, the first objective of the Plan Strategy IS <i>“To build Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt, as economic and transportation hubs and as main service centres for shops, leisure activities, public administrative and community services including health and education. These are the most populated places and the town centres are the most accessible locations for people to travel including those without a car.”</i></p> <p>This is directly linked to SPF 2 and the associated housing allocations which are explained therein and represented in the local housing growth indicators which indicate the level of available land in the settlements which can help to accommodate this aim.</p> <p>Additionally, strategic policies seek to facilitate this strategic aim by among other things, accommodating housing in settlements, protecting zoned land in settlements and operating a town centre first approach to retail development.</p> <p>In addition, the SA/SEA process has sought to ensure that policies are consistent and coherent.</p> <p>The draft PS has been prepared and presented in a clear and consistent manner. The policy areas have been clearly identified under the three main pillars of sustainable development i.e. Economic, Environmental and Societal policies.</p> <p>YES – In addition to implementing the aims of the RDS, the draft Plan Strategy has also taken into account more specific regional and national targets and are cognisant of the fact that the DPS can act as a vehicle by which to realise these.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Have cross boundary issues been considered to ensure that the Plan Strategy is not in conflict with the PS of neighbouring Councils. ➤ Where applicable, has consultation taken place with planning authorities in the ROI? 	<p>For instance, the Renewable Energy proposals put forward in the DPS are different to those put forward in the POP because it was recognised that the proposals put forward in the POP would hinder our ability to meet regional renewable energy targets. This consideration is evidenced in MUDC239.</p> <p>YES – See above (C4 for breakdown of level of consultation with neighbouring councils on cross boundary issues.</p> <p>YES – Yes, direct consultation has taken place with Monaghan Co Council and as detailed above via the Cross Border Forum. We have also engaged with the North West Regional Assembly (NWRA) in relation to their draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) to ensure that our LDP is not at odds with the proposals contained within their draft document.</p>
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Test CE2: The Strategy, policy and allocations are realistic and appropriate having considered the relevant alternatives and are founded on a robust evidence base.

Key Considerations	Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Is it clear that the Council have considered all relevant alternatives when preparing the DPD? 	<p>YES – The POP clearly sets out a range of options on how policy could be developed to address the main issues. These options were developed from background evidence papers where the main issues and baseline evidence was explored and discussed. The POP was intended to stimulate debate on these options from the general public as well as the consultation bodies. The POP also welcomed suggestions for other options which were not included as preferred options. The findings from the consultation</p>

on the POP was considered as detailed above, in the formulation of the DPS.

An SA/SEA interim report was prepared for the POP. An SA/SEA also accompanies the draft Plan Strategy. The both of these reports provide detailed explanation of how each alternative was considered against a range of economic, social and environmental indicators. The options are described in the SA/SEA as being “reasonable alternatives” and this shows how those options, which are considered as realistic, have been considered.

There is also specific evidence in the SA/SEA that less realistic options less are considered less appropriate. For example, in considering the options for transportation and connectivity, option (ii) is considered the preferred option, partly because it is “a more realistic way of tackling the issue of transportation and connectivity throughout the District.”

The robust nature of the evidence base is laid out in the range of position papers, policy reviews further background papers and technical studies. This evidence base is robust but is also dynamic.

For example, the NISRA population projections that were used as evidence to calculate the amount of jobs required over the Plan Period has changed but the change does not show that we will be unable to accommodate the required number of jobs throughout the Plan Period. Evidence such as this will change over the Plan Period but the Council will monitor it to ensure that we are still able to meet the plan Objectives.

	Likewise, the renewable energy targets for Northern Ireland are likely to be increased over the life of the Plan Period. This is something which will not be exclusive to Mid Ulster but will relate to Northern Ireland as a whole and which will be continually monitored as part of the annual monitoring report.
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Test CE3: There are clear measures for implementation and monitoring.

Key Considerations	Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Does the draft Plan Strategy include mechanisms for monitoring the implementation and delivery of the stated objectives? 	<p>YES – The draft Strategy includes a specific section on how we will monitor the implementation the objectives of the Strategy. These will be used to compete the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) as well as a review that will take place, at a maximum of every years.</p> <p>The monitoring section includes specific outcomes, indicators and measures that will be used to monitor the level to which the objectives of the Strategy are being implemented. These include indicators such as the amount of housing land available and availability of economic land.</p> <p>The AMR will be implemented following the adoption of the Plan Strategy and therefore, it has not been possible to carry out any monitoring, although it is clear that mechanisms are in place monitoring the level to which are objectives are implemented.</p>

Test CE4: It is reasonably flexible to enable it to deal with changing circumstances.

Key Considerations

- How flexible is the draft Plan Strategy to enable it to adapt to unexpected changes in circumstances?

Evidence

The draft Plan Strategy largely reflects established planning policy and the policies contained within it should cover every eventuality. Ongoing monitoring will ensure the Strategy remains relevant and whether there is a need to review or amend it. This includes where there may be unexpected trends or significant changes to regional policy and guidance. The Strategy is flexible to changing economic circumstances and can meet any unexpected increases in future housing demand through existing housing supply commitments.

The LPP will contain phased housing land so that if demand is high then additional land can be made available over and above that which is anticipated.

Evidence which was used in the formulation of the DPS is subject to change. For example, the NISRA population projections that were used as evidence to calculate the amount of jobs required over the Plan Period has changed but the change does not show that we will be unable to accommodate the required number of jobs throughout the Plan Period. Evidence such as this will change over the Plan Period but the Council will monitor it to ensure that we are still able to meet the plan Objectives.

Likewise, the renewable energy targets for Northern Ireland are likely to be increased over the life of the Plan Period. This is something which will not be exclusive to Mid Ulster but will relate to Northern Ireland as a whole and which will be continually monitored as part of the annual monitoring report.

DOCUMENT LIBRARY

PLAN DOCUMENTS

Draft Plan Strategy 2030	MUDC101
SA (Incorporating SEA) Report – February 2019	MUDC102
SA (Incorporating SEA) Interim Report – November 2016	MUDC103
Sustainability Appraisal (Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report - June 2016	MUDC104
EQIA Screening Report – Feb 2019	MUDC105
Rural Needs Impact Assessment – February 2019	MUDC106
Draft Habitats Regulation Assessment – February 2019	MUDC107
Draft Plan Strategy Proposal Maps	MUDC108 – MUDC113
Draft Plan Strategy – Consultation Report – Consideration of Issues Raised in Representations and Counter Representations – April 2021	MUDC114
Preferred Options Paper – November 2016	MUDC115
Preferred Options Paper Public Consultation Report - January 2019	MUDC116

Preferred Options Paper, Easy Read - November 2016	MUDC117
Copies of Representations to the draft Plan Strategy	MUDC118
Copies of Representations received in accordance with Regulation 18(2) of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. ("Counter Representations")	MUDC119

EVIDENCE PAPERS – POSITION PAPERS, POLICY REVIEWS AND OTHER BACKGROUND EVIDENCE

Position Paper 1 – Population Growth, September 2014	MUDC201
Position Paper 2 – Housing, November 2014	MUDC202
Position Paper 3 – Employment and Economic Development, February 2015	MUDC203
Position Paper 4 - Town Centres and opportunity Sites, March 2015	MUDC204
Position Paper 6 – Utilities, May 2015	MUDC205
Position Paper 7 – Open Space, Recreation and Leisure	MUDC206
Preparatory Study – Transportation, May 2015	MUDC207
Position Paper 8 – Tourism, June 2015	MUDC208

Position Paper – Housing Allocation, July 2015	MUDC209
Position Paper – Landscape Assessment, September 2015	MUDC210
Position Paper – Environmental Assets, July 2015	MUDC211
Position Paper – Development Pressure Analysis, September 2015	MUDC212
Position Paper – Minerals, January 2016	MUDC213
Position Paper – Health, Education and Community Uses, January 2016	MUDC214
Position Paper – Strategic Settlement Evaluation – July 2015	MUDC215
Policy Review – Open Space, Recreation and Leisure, April 2015	MUDC216
Policy Review – Waste Management, April 2015	MUDC217
Policy Review – Archaeology and Built Heritage, February 2016	MUDC218
Policy Review – Economic Development, February 2016	MUDC219
Transportation Policy Review, February 2016	MUDC220
Urban Design Policy Review, April 2016	MUDC221

Policy Review – Flood Risk – April 2016	MUDC222
Policy Review – General Planning Policy	MUDC223
Policy Review – Housing in Settlements, Quality Residential Environments, April 2016	MUDC224
Policy Review – Minerals Development, April 2016	MUDC225
Policy Review – Natural Heritage, February 2016	MUDC226
Policy Review – Renewable Energy, April 2016	MUDC227
Policy Review – Sustainable Development in the Countryside, April 2016	MUDC228
Telecommunications and Overhead Cables (Policy Review) – May 16	MUDC229
Policy Review Paper – Tourism, June 2016	MUDC230
Town Centres and Retailing – Policy Review	MUDC231
Addendum to Paper considering TOZ's and TCZ's	MUDC232
Background Evidence Paper – Tourism Opportunity Zones and Tourism Conservation Zones	MUDC233
Addendum – Public Utilities - Revised WWTW figures, January 2019	MUDC234

Addendum to Strategic Settlement Evaluation Paper, January 2019	MUDC235
Position Paper 3 – Addendum – Employment and Economic Development	MUDC236
Background Evidence Paper – Defining Countryside	MUDC237
Background Evidence Paper - Identification of ACMD and Impact on Surface Development, January 2019	MUDC238
Background Evidence Paper – Renewable Energy	MUDC239
Background Evidence Paper – Rural Industrial Policy Areas	MUDC240
Background Evidence Paper – High Sperrins and Clogher Valley AOCWTHS	MUDC241
Background Evidence Paper – Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SCA	MUDC242
Background Evidence Paper - High Sperrins and Slieve Beagh SCA	MUDC243
Background Evidence Paper – Mineral Development, February 2018	MUDC244

STUDIES

Retail and Commercial Leisure Capacity Study, March 2020	MUDC301
Industrial Monitor, October 2018	MUDC302

Urban Capacity Study, March 2021	MUDC303
Review and Audit of Landscape Character Assessment Review, October 2018	MUDC304
Housing Monitor Report 2019-2020 (August 2020)	MUDC305
Housing Monitor Report 2015-2019	MUDC306

SOUNDNESS

Landscape Character Assessment Review	MUDC401
Addendum to Landscape Character Assessment Review, March 2021	MUDC402
Implications of Covid-19 on the draft Plan Strategy, March 2021	MUDC403
Summary of Main Issues – May 2021	MUDC404
Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – May 2021	MUDC405
Proof of Compliance with SCI – May 2021	MUDC406
Self Assessment - Compliance with LDP Regulations, May 2021	MUDC407
Report on draft Plan Strategy and Linkages to the Marine Plan, March 2021	MUDC408

STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND

Cross Border Forum Statement of Common Ground	MUDC 501
Sperrins Forum draft Statement of Common Ground	MUDC 502

OTHER STRATEGIES / DOCUMENTS

Statement of Community Involvement – 3 versions	MUDC601
Mid Ulster Local Development Plan Timetable – 3 versions	MUDC602
Copies of public notices referred to in Regulation 10(a)(iv), 15(a)(iv) and 17 (1)(a)(iii) of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015	MUDC603
Schedule of Minor Corrections	MUDC604