

<p>Title of Report:</p> <p>DOE Update on Status of current Strabane Area Plan 1986 - 2001</p>	<p>Officer presenting:</p> <p>Principal Planning Officer</p>
---	--

1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to update Members to an amendment made by the DOE (Planning Policy Division) to the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. The amendment was required to legislate for the inclusion of four DOE produced Development Plans, including the Strabane Area Plan 1986-2001, which were prepared under the Planning (NI) Order 1972.
- 1.2 The revision, in the form of the Planning (Local Development Plan) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 which came into operation on the 29th February 2016, now clarifies that those DOE produced Plans prepared under both the 1972 (Strabane Area Plan) and the 1991 (Derry Area Plan) Orders will be treated as the local Development Plans for their respective areas until such times as the Council adopts its own Local Development Plan (LDP).

2 Background

- 2.1 The situation arose because under the transitional arrangements set out in the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, the DOE had inadvertently sought to ensure that only the extant development plans, prepared under the Planning (NI) Order 1991 were retained as the council development plans until such times as the Council had prepared and adopted its plan strategy and local policies plan. In effect this left four DOE produced plans, including the Strabane Area Plan, potentially in 'legislative limbo', as they were produced under the earlier 1972 Order.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 Members were therefore concerned that the existing Transitional arrangements left, in effect, the former Strabane District without an extant development plan to be referred to when determining planning applications. The amendment, which is now in force, ensures that the Strabane Area Plan 1986-2001 is now legislatively included within the Transition provisions contained within the 2015 Regulations.

4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR and Other Implications

- 4.1 The amendment now legally ensures that the Strabane Area Plan will be treated as the Development Plan for the former Strabane area until the Council adopts its own LDP for the Derry City and Strabane District in due course.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 It is recommended that Members note the amendment made by DOE (Planning Policy Division) that came into force on 29th February 2016 and which now ensures that the Strabane Area Plan will be treated as the extant Development Plan for the former Strabane area until such times as the Council adopts its own LDP for the Derry City and Strabane District.

Background Papers

Appendix 4 - Letter from DOE Planning Policy Division.