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All Chief Executives

24 February 2016

Dear Chief Executive

**RE: PLANNING (LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS
(NORTHERN IRELAND) 2016**

The Department has made a minor amendment to the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

In accordance with Part 3 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 councils must prepare local development plans for their areas. Until such time as the council has prepared and adopted its plan strategy and local policies plan the Department had made transitional arrangements to ensure that extant Departmental development plans made under the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 are retained as council local development plan. The transitional arrangements are contained in the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Since making the 2015 Regulations it has transpired that the transitional arrangements did not cover four older Departmental development plans prepared under the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1972. The four Departmental development plans are:-

- Ballymena Area Plan 1986-2001;
- Antrim Area Plan 1984-2001;
- Larne Area Plan 2010; and
- Strabane Area Plan 1986-2001.

Therefore, [the Planning \(Local Development Plan\) \(Amendment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2016](#) which comes in to operation on 29 February 2016, makes a

minor amendment to the transitional provisions in the 2015 Regulations to ensure that those Departmental development plans prepared under both the 1972 and 1991 Orders will be treated as the local development plan for their respective areas until the relevant council adopts its own local development plan.

Yours sincerely



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Director of Planning Policy Division

cc. All Planning Managers