

Item/Min Ref:	Title of Report:	Officer presenting:
8	Overview of LDP Process, Workplan and Stage towards Delivery	Principal Planning Officer

1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 The purpose of this Paper is to remind Members about the process of preparing the new Local Development Plan 2030 (LDP) for Derry City and Strabane District, and particularly to update Members on the progress made to-date and hence on the current stage we are at towards the ongoing delivery of the Plan preparation.

2 Background

- 2.1 Members will recall the Papers for Items 7 - 9 of the initial meeting of the Planning (LDP) Committee on 16th May 2016. Item 7 summarised the main component elements involved in preparing the new Local Development Plan 2030 (LDP) for Derry City and Strabane District, as well as setting out the structures to be established to deliver the Plan. At Item 8, Members considered and agreed a LDP Workplan, the immediate programme of Discussion Papers / Workshops and Committees up to Preferred Options Paper Stage in the Spring of 2017, which is also in line with the formal LDP Timetable which was published in July 2016 (Item 9).

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is the agreed LDP Workplan, in which the current stage is highlighted. Members will see that considerable progress has been made to date, in accordance with that Workplan.
- 3.2 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and the Timetable for the LDP Preparation were both published in July 2016, available in hard copy and online on the Council's website.
- 3.3 The first Committee meeting was held on 16th May 2016, at which the Planning Committee took formal 'ownership' of the LDP Preparation and agreed the delivery structures, the Timetable and the Workplan.
- 3.4 The initial invitation letters have been issued to prospective members of the LDP Project Management Team; this membership will be finalised shortly and the first meeting held in September / October 2016. Initial contact and commitment has also been sought from the higher level LDP Steering Group. It should be noted that the actual Member nominee (or named substitute) is still to be confirmed from some of the Parties on the Committee. Again, a first formal meeting will be held in September / October 2016.

3.5 Three successful Workshops have been held, open to all Councillors. These topic-based Workshops and their Discussion Papers have provided a rich source of information for Councillors, part of their capacity-building on the technical aspects of Planning, as well as some very useful discussion and mutual understanding for Council Officers. Feedback has been positive about the Workshops and a reasonably balanced attendance achieved, as follows:

- Workshop 1, 20th June, Population and Growth Strategy, 7 Councillors
- Workshop 2, 4th July, LDP Context and Policy Evaluation, 12 Councillors
- Workshop 3, 25th July, Built Environment, Nature Designations, Countryside Assessment and SA Scoping, 13 Councillors

3.6 A first draft of the Environmental Baseline has been done, as well as a first draft of a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report. Negotiations have been held with a view to securing the assistance of Shared Environmental Services (SES, see Item 14) so that the formal LDP decision-making process can proceed, alongside the parallel, integrated SA process previously described to Members.

3.7 Planning officials are continuing to work on the respective LDP topics as part of the necessary evidence base and the programme of Councillor Workshops and Committees over the coming months. The formal consultations are due to issue shortly to the consultation bodies as well as engagement with the key stakeholder groups. Council officials are also due to commence, as part of the EU-funded IMPROVE project, on a programme of informal, LDP topic-based engagement utilising the website and social media. Comments received from this (and regarding selected key planning applications) will be fed back to the Members in due course.

3.8 This Committee meeting is a further stage in the Plan-making process as set out in the Workplan. The meeting summarises the Discussion Papers from the above-mentioned Workshops, combines feedback from the wider body of Councillors and points towards the identification of Options. The Committee is asked to make preliminary decisions on the proposed Options, regarding these aspects, that the LDP is considering, as we proceed towards further evidence gathering, consultee / stakeholder input and then further Committee meetings (plus full Council approval) to finally decide on the LDP Preferred Options, to be published in the Spring of 2017.

4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement and Other Implications

4.1 There are no financial, equality, legal, HR, Improvement or other implications arising from this report, beyond those already outlined.

5 Recommendations

5.1 Members are requested to note the contents of this Paper, agreeing to proceed with the decision-making process and broad timescales as set out in the Workplan.

Background Papers

Appendix 1 - LDP Workplan