

Title of Report: Overview of LDP Process and Stage towards Delivery	Officer Presenting: Principal Planning Officer
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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 (POP) Stage in the Spring of 2017, in line with the formal LDP Timetable (Item 9).
- 2.2 The second meeting of the Planning (LDP) Committee on 19th September 2016, Item 8, gave an update on the progress made to that time, including:
- the publication of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and LDP Timetable in July 2016
 - the first Committee meeting held on 16th May 2016
 - nominations were made to the LDP Project Management Board, as well as the LDP Consultee Team
 - three successful Workshops had been held in June and July, considering 9 Papers, attended by an average of 11 Councillors
 - negotiations had been held with Shared Environmental Services (SES) to undertake the integrated SA / SEA process

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 Members will be aware that further considerable progress has been made in recent months, in accordance with the Workplan.

3.2 Since September 2016, the LDP team has prepared and presented a further 12 Papers on the main Planning topics, through 5 Member Workshops. For each topic, this has set out good baseline information on legal requirements, existing policies, the current situation in this District and hence the issues and potential options for inclusion in the new LDP. This has been a significant achievement, key for capacity-building on the technical aspects of Planning, as well as increasing our understanding of these Planning issues and the LDP process – from both officers' and members' perspectives. Feedback has been positive about the Workshops and a reasonably balanced attendance achieved, as follows:

- Workshop 4, 12th September, Housing in Settlement Hierarchy, 13 Councillors
- Workshop 5, 26th September, Economic Development, City / Town Centres and Retailing, 16 Councillors
- Workshop 6, 17th October, Urban Design / Townscape and Transport / Movement, 12 Councillors
- Workshop 7, 24th October, Open Space / Recreation, Tourism and Renewable Energy, 16 Councillors
- Workshop 9, 12th December, Public Utilities, Community Infrastructure, Coastal Development, Waste Management and Minerals, 10 Councillors

3.3 Latterly, Planning officials have been widening the involvement and input, by opening the topic-based debate to the public on an informal basis through the Council's website and social media via the IMPROVE project. We have also gone out to the Consultation Bodies, including all the central government departments and our adjoining Councils, to get their input on the various subject areas.

3.4 We will now be writing and meeting with the many sectoral Stakeholder groups - of organizations who have front-line interest, experience and aspirations for the LDP for our District. Within the Council, Planning officials will continue to liaise with the other departments, including Economic Development, Biodiversity, Recreation and the Community Plan teams, in order to utilize their inputs and to ensure co-ordination of projects and Council priorities. Planning officials also need to undertake the first stage reports on Sustainability Appraisal (SA/SEA) as well as Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) and Rural Proofing (RP).

3.5 This input from the Consultees and Stakeholders will be added to the existing and ongoing planning reports, so that the officials and elected members can and discuss and decide during Spring 2017 on the Preferred Options for our LDP. This will be timely, as the Council finalises and launches the Community Plan – which is to be fed into the LDP.

- 3.6 The Chief Executive/Director will shortly be convening a meeting of the LDP Project Management Board to decide on the details of the project management, resourcing and timetabling of the LDP, especially towards the forthcoming publication of the Preferred Options Paper (POP) and subsequent Plan Strategy (PS). Following this Board meeting, Members will be advised of the programme of Workshops and Committee Meetings that are required over the coming months in order to produce and publish the POP.
- 3.7 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 two of 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 over the coming months.

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

None