

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 2032 (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 previous progress updated to the Planning Committee – LDP at the meetings in May 2016, September 2016 and again in January 2017.
- 2.2 In summary, a considerable amount of progress has been made over the past year in progressing the LDP up to near the conclusion of Stage 1 of the Plan Preparation Process i.e. LDP Timetable published, Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) published, the Evidence Base undertaken, stakeholder engagement carried out and the Draft Preferred Options Paper has now been prepared, ready for publication and consultation.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 Following the agreement of the Committee structures to take forward the LDP, a Workplan was agreed for preparation of Planning topic papers and related Member involvement over the remainder of 2016. Accordingly, there have been 23 Papers discussed at 10 LDP Workshops as well as the 3 Planning-LDP Committee meetings.
- 3.2 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 Statutory Consultation Bodies, including all the central government departments and our adjoining Councils (Donegal and 3 in NI), to get their input on the various subject areas.
- 3.3 A successful Stakeholder Engagement event was held on 4th April 2017, attended by over one hundred Councillors, officers and many sectoral Stakeholder groups - of organizations who have front-line interest, experience and aspirations for the LDP for our District.

- 3.4 Within the Council, Planning officials have been liaising 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.
- 3.5 Planning officials have also been undertaking the first stage reports on Sustainability Appraisal (SA/SEA, with Shared Environmental Services (SES), see Item 10) as well as Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) and Rural Proofing (RP).
- 3.6 Full Project Management has been put in place to help ensure the successful and timely delivery of the LDP 'project', with the assistance of a dedicated Project Management Adviser from within Council. This has involved a set of Structures being put in place for the consultation, management and approval of the LDP, plus reports on Project Implementation, Resources, Communications Strategy, Budget and Risk Register.
- 3.7 The LDP Project Steering Group met recently, on 5th April, comprising of the Chief Executive, Director of Environment & Regeneration, Head of Planning, Planning Committee Chair and the nominated representatives of the four main political parties. A final Weekly Workplan was agreed, working towards launching the Preferred Options Paper (POP) at the end of May, along with the Community Plan, for consultation during June to August. Please see the revised Timetable Summary at Appendix 1.
- 3.8 A Workshop was held on 13th April, for Members of the Planning Committee, in advance of finalizing the POP document and this meeting of the Planning Committee-LDP. At the Workshop, in the Guildhall, there was discussion around the 'key issues for Members' and a broad consensus was reached on the respective POP preferred options. The Workshop also discussed the timescales and next steps in the process towards publication of the POP.
- 3.9 Today's Committee is an opportunity for Members to raise any outstanding issues or get clarification or final amendments, hopefully agreeing to the Draft POP document presented (Item 9) as well as the Sustainability Appraisal (Item 10).
- 3.10 The next steps would be to bring this matter before Full Council for Approval, as this matter does not fall under the Council's Planning Delegated Scheme. A meeting of Full Council is scheduled for Thursday 27th April, or a Special Meeting could be held on Monday 8th May to discuss the matter, if considered necessary and appropriate.

3.11 Once approved, with any agreed amendments, the POP document would be subject to Graphic design, to make it a publicly 'readable' and presentable as a corporate Council document, and hence to printing in accordance with procurement procedures. A short easy-read 'summary' document will also be produced. The Council's Marketing team will also be involved, to communicate and publicise this POP document accordingly. Subject to final agreement and details, it is proposed to launch the POP, and associated Appraisal documents and Evidence Base, on the 31st May 2017. This would be followed by public consultation over June to August and then working towards producing a Draft LDP Plan strategy in Spring 2018, followed by Local Policies Plan in 2019 thus having the LDP completed in 2020.

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 revised Timetable.

Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Revised Timetable Summary for LDP Preparation