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Development Plan Team  
Planning Department  
Strule House  
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12<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Re: Counter Representations, FODC Draft Plan Strategy**

Dear Ms Clements,

NED, DAERA welcome the opportunity to comment on the Representations to the Fermanagh & Omagh DC draft Plan Strategy.

**Draft Policy MIN 01**

**Representations: DPS021, DPS024, DPS105, DPS110, DPS111, DPS248, DPS322**

Soundness Test C3 requires the Council to take account of policy and guidance issued by the Department.

Regional Strategic Policy, SPPS 6.153 states: "The following strategic policy must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans (LDPs) and in the determination of planning applications and, SPPS 6.155 states: "In preparing LDPs councils should bring forward appropriate policies and proposals that must reflect the policy approach of the SPPS, tailored to the specific circumstances of the plan area. In particular LDPs should:

"identify areas which should be protected from minerals development because of their intrinsic landscape, amenity, scientific or heritage value (including natural, built and archaeological heritage)".

Therefore, NIEA, DAERA, support, in principle, the designations of site specific Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development referred to in Draft Policy MIN 01 on: the Sperrins Area of Outstanding Beauty, Upper & Lower Lough Erne



Lakelands, West Fermanagh Scarplands SAC, Pettigoe Plateau SAC/ SPA and within the Slieve Beagh Special Protection Area based on criteria in SPPS 6.155: "intrinsic landscape, amenity, scientific or heritage value (including natural, built and archaeological heritage)".

## **Draft Policy L02 Special Countryside Areas**

### **Representation: DPS 252**

Soundness Test C3 requires the Council to take account of policy and guidance issued by the Department.

SPPS 6.75 states that some areas of the countryside exhibit exceptional landscapes ... wherein the quality of the landscape and unique amenity value is such that development should only be permitted in exceptional circumstances and that these areas should be designated Special Countryside Areas.

The Sperrins are recognized as an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' in Northern Ireland and therefore, NIEA, DAERA, support, in principle, the designation of Special Countryside Areas in the Sperrins AONB.

Yours sincerely,



Georgina Thurgate  
Senior Scientific Officer  
Natural Environment Division  
Northern Ireland Environment Agency  
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

