

YOUR YOUR YOUR Plans Future Say

Issue 3
Sustainability

A New Community Plan and Local Development Plan

Improving **social**, **economic** and **environmental** wellbeing and achieving a better quality of life for our people, communities and place is a key priority for Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.

Sustainability

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal are included so that environmental and sustainability matters are fully considered in the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes, ensuring the promotion of sustainable development.

Overview

As part of the consultation on the Community Plan and Local Development Plan, we will consult on the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal respectively.

The objective of both the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal is to assess the potential environmental impact of the relevant plan, consider viable alternatives and mitigation measures, and identify a method for monitoring the impact. These studies will safeguard the environment and promote sustainable development.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment has carefully considered the potential environmental impact of the outcomes and associated strategic actions of the Community Plan.

The Sustainability Appraisal has considered all of the options outlined in the Preferred Options Paper (POP) of the Local Development Plan, and goes beyond environmental implications, considering the social and economic sustainability of the district that may result from the Local Development Plan.

The Council invites you to consider these important assessments alongside their associated plans.



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What is a Strategic Environmental Assessment

In 2004, the Northern Ireland Assembly issued regulations which require us to assess, consult and monitor the likely impacts of plans, programmes and strategies on the environment. The process, called a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), has three stages:

- 1) Determination Report:** to consider whether the plan is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. This is a short report, with a series of yes/no answers. If the plan is considered to have no significant adverse environmental impact, the process need go no further.
- 2) Scoping Report:** to identify the significant environmental issues and level of detail required. This includes collecting baseline data and outlining an approach to undertaking the assessment.
- 3) Environmental Report:** the final report, citing the issues, alternatives, actions and measures for monitoring the impact on the environment.

Each stage of the process must be consulted on by both the Natural Environment Division of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the Historic Environment Division in the Department for Communities.

What is the Sustainability Appraisal

The Northern Ireland Assembly, through the Planning Act 2011, reinforced the duty of sustainable development that had previously been formalised in 2006. Sustainable development is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Regional Development Strategy 2035).

Thus, a Sustainability Appraisal must be carried out as part of the Local Development Planning process. This will highlight the impacts of the emerging plans against a number of objectives, considering the environmental, economic and social effects of development.

A Sustainability Appraisal is wider in scope than a Strategic Environmental Assessment, but is similar in that it must be carried out from the outset and in parallel with the Local Development Planning process.

The next issue of this bulletin will update you on the forthcoming engagement opportunities to feed into the associated plans, which is due to commence on the 3rd October for a period of 8 weeks.

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RECEIVE THIS INFORMATION IN AN ALTERNATIVE FORMAT:

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