



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

**FERMANAGH AND
OMAGH
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2030
TIMETABLE**

May 2016

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this Timetable is to set out the key stages of and the indicative timescale for the production of the new Fermanagh and Omagh Local Development Plan 2030 (LDP). The Timetable will help ensure that the plan process is efficiently managed and that the key stakeholders such as consultation bodies and the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) are kept informed and can manage their own resources to facilitate involvement in the LDP process. In relation to public consultation, this Timetable should be read alongside the Fermanagh and Omagh Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).
- 1.2 Under Section 7 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Act 2011, a council has a duty to prepare, and keep under review, a Timetable for the preparation and adoption of the local development plan. Sections 8(4) (a) and 9(4) (a) require both the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan to be prepared in accordance with the timetable.
- 1.3 Regulations 5 to 8 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 (LDP Regulations) sets out the requirements for the preparation, form and content, agreement and availability of the Timetable.
- 1.4 The Timetable has been approved by resolution of the Council and has been agreed with the Department of the Environment¹ in accordance with Regulation 7 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

2.0 Purpose and Status of the Local Development Plan

- 2.1 The purpose of the Fermanagh and Omagh Local Development Plan, comprising the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, is to inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested parties of the policy framework and land use proposals that will guide development decisions within the District up to 2030.
- 2.2 The LDP will be prepared within the context of the Council's Corporate Plan and Community Plan to ensure that there is a shared vision for the council area and communities. It will set out the long term social, economic and environmental objectives for the district and ensure that lands are appropriately zoned and that our infrastructure is enhanced to meet future development needs.
- 2.3 The LDP will also take account of the regional policy context set by the Northern Ireland Executive and Central Government Departments. This includes, amongst others, the Sustainable Development Strategy, the

¹ The functions of the DOE transferred to the Department for Infrastructure on 9th May 2016.

Regional Development Strategy, Strategic Planning Policy Statement and Planning Policy Statements.

- 2.4 The LDP will be produced in two stages and will comprise two separate documents – the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan - that will shape development within the District up to 2030. Prior to the preparation of these documents, the council will identify key planning issues in the plan area and formulate a range of options for addressing them. This information will be published as a Preferred Options Paper (POP) which will indicate the Council's preferred options for growth and development in the area and will be the basis for consulting with the public and stakeholders who will have an opportunity to put forward views and influence the local development plan from the outset.
- 2.6 The Plan Strategy will establish the strategic direction of the plan in order to provide a level of certainty on which to base key development decisions in the area as well as the necessary framework for the preparation of the local policies plan. It will set the aims, objectives, overall growth strategy and associated generic policies applicable to the Plan area.
- 2.7 Once the Plan Strategy is adopted, a Local Policies Plan will be prepared which will be consistent with the Plan Strategy. In contrast to the Plan Strategy, it will include site-specific policies and proposals associated with settlement limits, land use zonings and environmental designations required to deliver the council's vision, objectives and strategic policies.
- 2.8 The LDP will, on adoption, replace the current development plans for the District and operational planning policies that were produced by the Department of the Environment. The Plans to be replaced are the Fermanagh Area Plan 2007 and Omagh Area Plan 2002.
- 2.9 The Council will undertake an ongoing process of Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Development Plan which will run parallel to the preparation of the Preferred Options Paper, the Plan Strategy and the Local Policies Plan. This appraisal process aims to ensure that the policies and proposals in the LDP are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. Relevant reports will be published at each of the key stages of the plan making process as detailed in the Timetable at Appendix 1.

3.0 The Timetable

- 3.1 The Timetable for the Fermanagh and Omagh Local Development Plan is set out at Appendix 1. In accordance with Regulation 6 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, the Timetable contains indicative dates only for the key stages in the production of the local development plan.

- 3.2 In addition to the various actions at the key stages of the preparation of the Plan, the Timetable includes actions relating to a number of assessments which the Council is required to carry out to accompany preparation of the local development plan. These include the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment), Habitats Regulations Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment. A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) will be undertaken which will help to assess the sustainability of the LDP proposals and how the plan will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, especially with regard to social, environmental and economic factors.
- 3.3 Habitats Regulation screening will be required to determine if a Habitats Regulation Assessment is required for the Plan. This will consider the potential impact of LDP policies and proposals on European nature conservation sites.
- 3.4 An Equality Impact Screening will be required to assess if the Plan is likely to have an impact on different sections of the community. If so, an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) will be undertaken in relation to the LDP.
- 3.5 Finally, Rural Proofing which is similar to the themes of the EQIA, is a process by which all major policies and strategies are assessed to determine whether they have a differential impact on rural areas. The Rural Needs Bill which was introduced to the NI Assembly on 9th November 2015, will impose a statutory duty on district councils to consider rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans and designing and delivering public services.

4.0 Delivery of the Local Development Plan

- 4.1 There are a number of factors that are outside the Council's control which could potentially impact on the delivery of the Local Development Plan within the indicative timescales indicated. These can include the duration of the Independent Examination and reporting period, subsequent consideration by the Department and the potential for legal challenge. Annual monitoring of the plan will take place and a report will be produced to inform Members and the Department of the Environment² on progress in meeting the Timetable and on the land availability for housing and employment. In the event that progress is not in line with the Timetable, the Council has the power under the Planning Act 2011 to publish a revised Timetable.

² The functions of the DOE transferred to the Department for Infrastructure on 9th May 2016.

Appendix 1: Timetable for the Fermanagh and Omagh Local Development Plan

Local Development Plan Process Key Stages	Sustainability Appraisal and other Assessments	Indicative Timescales
Agree Timetable and Statement of Community Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite comments from Consultation Body (NIEA) on Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating SEA) Scoping Report 	1 st Quarter 2016/2017
Publication of Preferred Options Paper (POP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Interim Report comprising Scoping Report and appraisal of alternatives. 	2 nd Quarter 2016/2017
Statutory Public Consultation (8-12 weeks)		
Publication of draft Plan Strategy (PS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Report (incorporating SEA) Publication of Draft Habitats Regulations (HRA) and Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) 	1 st Quarter 2017/2018
Statutory Public Consultation (8 weeks: For Representations) (8 weeks: For Counter-representations)		
Independent Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Report to Department of the Environment (DOE) DOE issues Binding Report to Council 	4 th Quarter 2017/2018
Adoption of Plan Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Report (incorporating SEA) Publication of HRA and EQIA 	1 st Quarter 2018/2019
Publication of draft Local Policies Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Report (incorporating SEA) Publication of Draft HRA and EQIA 	4 th Quarter 2018/2019
Statutory Public Consultation (8 weeks: For Representations) (8 weeks: For Counter-representations)		
Independent Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Report to DOE DOE issues Binding report to Council 	4 th Quarter 2019/2020
Adoption of Local Policies Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Report (incorporating SEA) Publication of HRA and EQIA 	1 st Quarter 2020/2021
Monitoring and Review of Local Development Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Monitor 5 & 10 Year Review 	Monitoring of Sustainability Appraisal and other Assessments	

Note 1: SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment); HRA (Habitats Regulation Assessment); EQIA (Equality Impact Assessment); SA (Sustainability Appraisal)

Note 2: These timescales are indicative only and do not take account of any factors which may delay the progress of the plan such as any legislative changes, any regional policy changes, the availability of resources and other factors outside the control of the Council.

Note 3: The indicative timescales refer to quarters of the financial year.