

Report on	Revised Local Development Plan Timetable
Date of Meeting	25th October 2018
Reporting Officer	Chris Boomer Planning Manager
Contact Officer	Sinead McEvoy Head of Development Plan

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide members with a revised Timetable for the production of the new Local Development Plan (LDP) for Mid Ulster District Council Area. This timetable details the key stages, actions and timescales in the plan preparation process.
2.0	Background
2.1	Legislation, namely the Planning (NI) Act 2011, requires the council to produce and review such a timetable when preparing and adopting a LDP. Regulation 7 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 requires that the timetable is approved by resolution of the council prior to submission to the Department for its agreement.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The revised timetable sets out Mid Ulster Councils programme for the production of its LDP and includes details of the key stages in the process. It will help ensure that the plan process is efficiently managed and that key stakeholders such as consultation bodies and the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) are kept informed and can manage their own resources to facilitate their involvement in the LDP process.
3.2	Members will be aware that there has been slippage in the date for the publication of the draft Plan Strategy (and subsequent dates as a result). There are a number of factors which explain the reason for this slippage including prolonged absence within the Planning Department which has led to the diversion of resources within the planning functions. In addition, as a result of the public consultation on the Preferred Options Paper, further evidence gathering has been undertaken and this has included further detailed work on a landscape review, minerals, renewables and how best to protect our most sensitive landscapes and assets. Mid Ulster has also led the way in working with neighbouring councils setting up planning forums for Lough Neagh, the Sperrins and Cross Border. Additional work has been undertaken to agree shared commons issues with neighbouring councils and this remains ongoing.
3.3	The timetable contains revised <i>indicative</i> dates as well as actions for the various stages of the plan preparation process. A number of assessments are required to be carried out in the preparation of the LDP, including a Strategic Environmental Assessment, a Sustainability Assessment, a Habitats Regulations Assessment and an Equality Impact

	Assessment and Rural Proofing. These are factored into the various key stages in the timetable.
3.4	Informal consultation on the timetable has taken place with the Department for Infrastructure who suggested some changes to the version that had been sent to them and which had been presented to Planning Committee in May 2018. Members will note that the timeframe within the timetable extends significantly beyond the 40 months suggested by the Department in their guidance. This extended timeframe is considered to be a realistic reflection of the actions necessary to ensure the production of a sound and robust LDP for the District and reflective of the timescale that would be necessary to address any issues that may arise during the process. The revised dates also take account of the DFI advice and the Planning Appeal Commissions guidance on 'procedures for independent examination of local development plans' in which they state that their current expectation is that Commissioner involvement will last on average nine to 12 months per plan.
3.5	The next step in the progressing the revised timetable is to submit it to the Department for agreement.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial:
	Human:
	Risk Management:
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are requested to consider and agree the attached revised Timetable which will then be submitted to the Department for its agreement.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revised Timetable.